

**named**

502

× His first wife was named as Cilla.

✓ His first wife was called Cilla.

✓ The name of his first wife was Cilla.

We use **named** (= having the name) immediately after a noun: 'a horse **named** Black Rock'. Compare: 'The baby **was named** Steven James.' (= was given the name)

**nationality**

503

× His wife, Mareta, is from Finnish nationality.

✓ His wife, Mareta, is of Finnish nationality.

A person is **of** a particular **nationality**. Note that in everyday conversation it is more natural just to say 'His wife **is/comes from** Finland', or 'His wife **is** Finnish'.

**nationality words**

504

1

× Her husband is a typical English.

✓ Her husband is typically English.

✓ Her husband is a typical Englishman.

We can say 'the English', meaning 'all the people of England', but we cannot say 'an English'. To refer to one person, we use the countable nouns **Englishman** and **Englishwoman**. To refer to the group, we use **the English**, which is always plural: 'Is it true that **the English** are not as romantic as **the French**?'

COUNTRY	ADJECTIVE	GROUP NOUN	PERSON NOUN
Britain	British	the British	Briton (rare)
England	English	the English	Englishman, -woman
France	French	the French	Frenchman, -woman
Holland	Dutch	the Dutch	Dutchman, -woman
Ireland	Irish	the Irish	Irishman, -woman
Spain	Spanish	the Spanish	Spaniard (rare)
Wales	Welsh	the Welsh	Welshman, -woman

Note that, when there is a choice of structure, we often avoid using the person noun. For example, instead of saying 'She is a **Welshwoman**', we would normally say 'She is **Welsh**' or 'She is **from Wales**'.

Note also that **Briton** is used very little except in news reports. Instead, we use phrases such as 'a **British woman**', 'two girls **from Britain**'. Similarly, **Spaniard** is not common and is rarely applied to a woman.

2

× I had never spoken to a Swedish before.

✓ I had never spoken to a Swede before.

× I found the Scottish very friendly.

✓ I found the Scots very friendly.

With some nationality words, both the group noun and the person noun are different from the adjective.

COUNTRY	ADJECTIVE	GROUP NOUN	PERSON NOUN
Denmark	Danish	the Danes	a Dane
Finland	Finnish	the Finns	a Fin
Poland	Polish	the Poles	a Pole
Scotland	Scottish	the Scots	a Scot, a Scotsman, -woman
Sweden	Swedish	the Swedes	a Swede
Turkey	Turkish	the Turks	a Turk

3

× Swiss are very fussy about hygiene.

✓ The Swiss are very fussy about hygiene.

✓ Swiss people are very fussy about hygiene.

When we refer to all the people of a country, **the** is normally optional:  
'(The) **Americans** are very fond of baseball.'

However, we always use **the** if the nationality word ends in **-sh**, **-ss**, **-ese** or **-ch**:  
'**The French** are lucky to have such a beautiful country, and so are **the British** for that matter.'

4

× In the boat there were about sixty Vietnamesees.

✓ In the boat there were about sixty Vietnamese.

Most nouns of nationality have a singular form and a plural form: 'a **Dane**' – 'two **Danes**', 'a **Frenchman**' – 'two **Frenchmen**'. However, some of them have just one form: 'a **Vietnamese**' – 'two **Vietnamese**'. Nouns with just one form include: **Burmese**, **Chinese**, **Japanese**, **Portuguese**, **Vietnamese** and **Swiss**.

## nature

505

× We must try harder to stop these people from destroying the nature.

✓ We must try harder to stop these people from destroying nature.

⇒ 782.5

## near

506

1

× A police officer came near me and asked me to describe what I had seen.

✓ A police officer came up to me and asked me to describe what I had seen.

When we approach someone, we **go**, **come**, **walk**, etc., **up to** them, (NOT **near** or **near to** them).

2

× I drove the car to a **near** garage.✓ I drove the car to a **nearby** garage.

As an adjective meaning 'a short distance away', **near** may be used after a linking verb ('The garage is quite **near**') but not immediately before a noun. In this position, we use **nearby**.

Note that, unlike **near**, **nearest** may be used immediately before a noun: 'I drove to the **nearest garage**.'

3

× I sat down in the **nearest** chair to the door.✓ I sat down in the chair **nearest** (to) the door.

When the meaning of **nearest** is completed by a **to**-phrase, we put **nearest** immediately after the noun. Compare: 'How far is the **nearest petrol station**?' 'We'll stop at the **petrol station nearest** (to) the motorway.'

## nearby

507

× The new supermarket is **nearby** the bank.✓ The new supermarket is **near** (to) the bank.

**Nearby** is not used as a preposition. Compare: 'We stayed in a **nearby** hotel'. (= adjective) 'My parents live **nearby**, about a mile away'. (= adverb)

## nearly

508

1

× The car **nearly** had hit a man on the pavement.  
 × She **nearly** is too old to apply for the job.

✓ The car had **nearly** hit a man on the pavement.  
 ✓ She is **nearly** too old to apply for the job.

⇒ 29.1–2

2

× I slept very little and ate **nearly** nothing.✓ I slept very little and ate **almost** nothing.

Before **no**, **nobody**, **nothing**, etc, we use **almost**, (NOT **nearly**). Compare: 'She knew **almost/nearly everyone** at the party.'

## need: noun

509

1

× It is no need to lock the door.

✓ There is no need to lock the door.

Note the structure: **There + be + no need + to**-clause. Compare: '**It is not necessary** to lock the door.'

2

× There is a general need of better communication.

✓ There is a general need for better communication.

We talk about a **lack/shortage of** something but a **need for** something. Note, however, the phrase **in need of**. 'The roof of the house is **in need of** repair.'

need: verb

510

1

× You need not to sign the form if you prefer not to.

✓ You need not sign the form if you prefer not to.

✓ You don't need to sign the form if you prefer not to.

In questions and negative sentences, **need** can be used as a full verb or as a modal (auxiliary) verb. As a modal verb, it is followed by a bare infinitive: 'You **needn't worry**.' 'Need I pay now?' As a full verb, it is followed by a **to**-infinitive: 'You don't **need to worry**.' 'Do I **need to pay** now?' ⇨ 198.2 Note that in American English, 'don't need to' is far more common than 'needn't'.

2

× I need speak to her immediately.

✓ I need to speak to her immediately.

In statements, **need** is used as a full verb and is followed by a **to**-infinitive:

3

× The car is needing to be repaired before you can drive it.

✓ The car needs to be repaired before you can drive it.

**Need** is not normally used in progressive tenses.

⇨ 627.3

4

× You needn't any money to get into the concert.

✓ You don't need any money to get into the concert.

**Needn't** ('need not') is a modal verb and must be followed by a full verb: 'You **needn't pay** for the tickets until you get them.'

5

× We need that everyone takes more interest in their environment.

✓ We need everyone to take more interest in their environment.

We **need** someone **to do** something. The verb **need** cannot be followed by a **that**-clause. Compare: 'It is **necessary that** ...'

**needless to say**

511

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | × Needless for me to say, these highly skilled workers are in great demand. | ✓ Needless to say, these highly skilled workers are in great demand. |
|---|---|--|

**Needless to say** is a fixed expression. Compare: 'There is no need for me to say that these highly skilled workers are in great demand.'

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | × Needless to say that many people have complained about the new legislation. | ✓ Needless to say, many people have complained about the new legislation. |
|---|---|---|

**Needless to say** (an adverbial expression), is followed by a comma and a main clause, NOT by a *that*-clause. ➞ 779.2

**negative sentences**

512

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | × Sometimes our teacher not allow us to use a dictionary.<br>× She told me that she not liked her job and wanted to change it. | ✓ Sometimes our teacher does not allow us to use a dictionary.<br>✓ She told me that she did not like her job and wanted to change it. |
|---|--|--|

When there is no auxiliary verb (e.g. *have, can, must*), we form a negative with **do + not**. Compare:

She wants to come with us.  
 She **doesn't/does not** want to come with us.  
 She liked the film.  
 She **didn't/did not** like the film.

Tense is shown by **do** and the main verb is a bare infinitive.

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | × David doesn't likes small cars.<br>× I don't understand why you didn't received the parcel. | ✓ David doesn't like small cars.<br>✓ I don't understand why you didn't receive the parcel. |
|---|---|---|

After **don't, didn't, does not**, etc, the main verb is always a bare infinitive ('like', 'receive').

- |   |                                  |                              |
|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 3 | × My mother does never eat meat. | ✓ My mother never eats meat. |
|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------|

The auxiliary verb **do** is used before **not** but NOT before **never, rarely, seldom**, etc. Compare: 'She **doesn't** answer my letters.' 'She **never/rarely/seldom** answers my letters.'

4

- × Turning on the radio, I was surprised to not hear the faintest sound.
- × I prefer to not watch violent films.

- ✓ Turning on the radio, I was surprised not to hear the faintest sound.
- ✓ I prefer not to watch violent films.

We put **not** and **never** in front of the **to** of a **to**-infinitive (NOT after it).

5

- × I think I can't afford a holiday this year.
- × I suppose you don't know her address?

- ✓ I don't think I can afford a holiday this year.
- ✓ I don't suppose you know her address?

Verbs of thinking and feeling (e.g. *think*, *suppose*, *feel*) are often followed by a **that**-clause. Instead of making the verb in the **that**-clause negative, we normally make *think*, *suppose*, etc., negative.

Two common exceptions to this rule are **hope** and **wish**: 'I **hope** she **doesn't** recognize me.' 'I **wish** you **wouldn't** do that.'

6

- × Everybody couldn't understand what he was saying.
- × All of the trees didn't have any leaves.
- × Both of the children didn't want to go to school.
- × Almost all of the classrooms are not air-conditioned.

- ✓ Nobody could understand what he was saying.
- ✓ None of the trees had any leaves.
- ✓ Neither of the children wanted to go to school.
- ✓ Hardly any of the classrooms are air-conditioned.

Some positive words have negative equivalents. Compare:

## POSITIVE

all  
almost (all/everyone/etc)  
both  
everybody  
everything

## NEGATIVE

none  
hardly (any/anyone/etc.)  
neither  
nobody  
nothing

Instead of using a positive word ('Everybody') with a negative verb ('couldn't'), we normally use the negative word ('Nobody') with a positive verb ('could').

7

- × Nobody in the office could not give me the information.
- × None of her children never visit her.

- ✓ Nobody in the office could give me the information.
- ✓ None of her children ever visit her.

Only one part of a clause can be negative. When the subject is negative (e.g. *nobody*, *nothing*, *none*), the verb is positive.

8

- × Sitting at the back, I couldn't hear nothing at all.
- × Then he went into the bank, trying not to be seen by nobody.

- ✓ Sitting at the back, I couldn't hear anything at all.
- ✓ Then he went into the bank, trying not to be seen by anybody.

Only one part of a clause can be negative. After a negative subject or negative verb, we use *any*, *anybody*, *anything*, etc. ➞ 733.2-4

9

- × The bag was so heavy that I couldn't hardly lift it.
- × I won't never forget how kind you have been.

- ✓ The bag was so heavy that I could hardly lift it.
- ✓ I won't ever forget how kind you have been.
- ✓ I will never forget how kind you have been.

Only one negative adverb may be used with a verb. Negative adverbs include *not*, *never*, *barely*, *hardly*, *rarely*, *scarcely* and *seldom*.

10

- × Hardly I had sat down when the doorbell rang.
- × Not only computers are faster today, but they are also cheaper.

- ✓ Hardly had I sat down when the doorbell rang.
- ✓ Not only are computers faster today, but they are also cheaper.

When a sentence begins with a negative meaning (e.g. 'hardly', 'not only'), the subject and verb change places. ➞ 31.1, 169.5

neither

513

1

- × Neither programmes was suitable for children.

- ✓ Neither programme was suitable for children.
- ✓ Neither of the programmes was suitable for children.

➞ 640.4

2

- × Neither letter were properly addressed.
- ! Neither of the governments are willing to give way.

- ✓ Neither letter was properly addressed.
- ✓ Neither of the governments is willing to give way.

➞ 44.13

3

× He hasn't written to me. Neither he has telephoned.

✓ He hasn't written to me. Neither has he telephoned.

⇒ 169.5

## neither ... nor ...

514

1

! Neither the bank nor the post office were open.

✓ Neither the bank nor the post office was open.

⇒ 44.18

2

× Neither Helen nor David is not old enough to travel alone.

✓ Neither Helen nor David is old enough to travel alone.

A clause normally has only one negative word.

⇒ 512.7

3

× She neither finds him handsome nor intelligent.

✓ She finds him neither handsome nor intelligent.

The two units linked by **neither ... nor ...** must be grammatically equal.

⇒ 178.9

4

× Some people can neither read or write.

✓ Some people can neither read nor write.

**Neither** is always followed by **nor**. Compare: 'You can **either** wait **or** come back tomorrow.'

## never

515

1

× None of her children never visits her.

✓ None of her children ever visits her.

⇒ 512.7

2

× I won't never forget how kind you have been.

✓ I won't ever forget how kind you have been.

✓ I'll never forget how kind you have been.

⇒ 512.9



- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 3 | × They do never really cause us any trouble. | ✓ They never really cause us any trouble. |
|---|--|---|

⇒ 512.3

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 4 | × Never I had met such a lazy person before. | ✓ Never had I met such a lazy person before. |
|---|--|--|

⇒ 31.3

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 5 | × She said that she never had seen a ghost.<br>× As a teacher, you never must lose your temper. | ✓ She said that she had never seen a ghost.<br>✓ As a teacher, you must never lose your temper. |
|---|---|---|

⇒ 29.1

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 6 | × She advised me to never point my finger at anyone. | ✓ She advised me never to point my finger at anyone. |
|---|--|--|

We put **never** and **not** in front of the **to** of a **to**-infinitive (NOT after it).

## nevertheless

516

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| × Most criminals realize that they may be caught nevertheless they are prepared to take the risk. | ✓ Most criminals realize that they may be caught. Nevertheless, they are prepared to take the risk.<br>✓ Most criminals realize that they may be caught, but nevertheless they are prepared to take the risk. |
|---|---|

⇒ 28.3

## news

517

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | × I've just received a very good news. | ✓ I've just received some very good news. |
|---|--|---|

**News** is an uncountable noun and is not used with **a/an**.

⇒ 2.1

- |   |                                     |                                    |
|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2 | × The news are always bad nowadays. | ✓ The news is always bad nowadays. |
|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|

**News** takes a singular verb.

⇒ 530.1

## nice

518

× I had always wanted a nice and comfortable bed.

✓ I had always wanted a bed that was nice and comfortable.

Adjectival expressions beginning **nice and** (e.g. 'nice and comfortable', 'nice and tidy') always go after the noun. Compare: 'I had always wanted a **nice, comfortable** bed.'

## night

519

× It was very late in the night and the streets were empty.

✓ It was very late at night and the streets were empty.

We say 'in the daytime', 'in the morning', 'in the afternoon', 'in the evening' but **at night**: 'I'd rather travel in the daytime than **at night**.' 'Sometimes she works until eleven o'clock **at night**.'

## nobody/no one

520

1

× Nobody were allowed to see him, not even his parents.

✓ Nobody was allowed to see him, not even his parents.

× Apart from us, no one else were asked to move.

✓ Apart from us, no one else was asked to move.

**Nobody** and **no one** (also spelt **no-one**) take a singular verb.

⇒ 44.11

2

× He closed the door quietly so that nobody wouldn't hear him.

✓ He closed the door quietly so that nobody would hear him.

× The man ran into the bank, taking care not to be seen by no one.

✓ The man ran into the bank, taking care not to be seen by anyone.

A clause normally has only one negative word.

⇒ 512.7–8

3

× Almost no one believes in ghosts nowadays.

✓ Hardly anyone believes in ghosts nowadays.

⇒ 51.2

## noise

521

× There were a lot of noises in the classroom and I couldn't concentrate.

✓ There was a lot of noise in the classroom and I couldn't concentrate.

⇒ 529.2

## no matter

522

× No matter you have a lot of experience, qualifications are essential.

✓ No matter how much experience you have, qualifications are essential.

**No matter** is always followed by **how, what, who, where**, etc: '**No matter what** people say about Jill, I like her.' '**No matter where** you go, you won't find a better hotel.'

## none

523

1

× None of the food were fit for human consumption.

✓ None of the food was fit for human consumption.

When **none of** is followed by an uncountable noun ('food'), the verb is singular.

2

! None of these murders have been solved yet.

✓ None of these murders has been solved yet.

When **none of** is followed by a plural count noun ('murders'), the verb may be either singular or plural. When we mean 'not a single one', the verb is singular: '**None of** these essays **is** worthy of a distinction.'

When we mean 'all ... not', the verb is plural: '**None of** the shops **are** open today.'

In formal styles, careful users generally prefer a singular verb.

3

! I can't lend you any money because I have none.

✓ I can't lend you any money because I don't have any.

A positive verb ('have') + **none** sounds very formal or literary. Instead, we normally use a negative verb + **any**.

4

× None of the two applicants had suitable qualifications.

✓ Neither of the two applicants had suitable qualifications.

We use **none** when we are talking about three or more people or things. When there are just two people or things, we use **neither**.

## nor

524

× He doesn't want to study, nor he wants a job.

✓ He doesn't want to study, nor does he want a job.