

## MEETING XII

### LISTENING: NEGATIVES

#### A. OBJECTIVES

After studying this material, students are able to:

- 12. 1 Recognize and understand various types of negatives
- 12.2 Recognize and understand the expressions for every negative

#### B. MATERIAL DESCRIPTION

##### 1. INTRODUCTION

Negative expressions frequently appear in listening section. The answers for this kind of question may appear either in positive statement or in negative statement. But, it can be said that they are mostly positive statements which contains negative meaning words.

To gain better understanding on this topic, we firstly need to divide types of negatives appearing in TOEFL Listening. They are as following:

##### a. NEGATIVE

There are some negative markers or expression you will find in listening section. To be clear, look at this following table:

Expression	Example	Correct answer / meaning
Regular negative: <b>not</b> or <b>n't</b>	My brother cannot pass the test	Cannot pass = fail
<b>Nobody, none, nothing, never</b>	Nobody hates you. Sam never works hard.	Everybody loves you. Never works hard = lazy
Negative prefixes: <b>un-, in-, dis-</b>	The staff was really irresponsible.	Irresponsible = ignorant

Now listen to these following examples. Underline the negatives and pick the best answer for every question below!

- |   |            |   |   |
|---|------------|---|---|
| 1 | (Woman)    | <i>Was Harry successful at his new venture?</i>                                     | a. He sold no magazines.  |
|   | (Man)      | <i>He spent five hours knocking on doors, but he didn't sell a single magazine?</i> | b. he sold only one magazine.                                       |
|   | (Narrator) | <i>What does the man say about Harry?</i>   | c. he has never sold as many as magazines as he sold today.         |
|   |            |   | d. he sold five magazines at one house.                             |
| 2 | Woman)     | <i>Do you think Gloria will come with us?</i>                                       | a. She goes to a movie every year.                                  |
|   | (Man)      | <i>I understand she hasn't gone to a movie in years?</i>                            | b. She hasn't gone to a movie yet this year, but last year she did. |
|   | (Narrator) | <i>What does the woman say about Gloria?</i>  | c. She doesn't go to a movie unless she has the time.               |
|   |            |   | d. She doesn't go to a movie for a long time.                       |
| 3 | Woman)     | <i>Where are your keys?</i>   | a. His keys are lost forever.                                       |
|   | (Man)      | <i>I can't find them, but I'm sure they'll show up soon.</i>                        | b. He expects to find his key soon.                                 |
|   | (Narrator) | <i>What does the man say about his keys?</i>  | c. His keys were lost, but now he has found them.                   |
|   |            |   | d. Someone showed up with his key soon after he had lost them.      |

**Exercises on negatives:** In this exercise, listen carefully to the short conversation and question in the recording program, **and** then choose the best answer to the question. You should be careful of negative expressions.

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | a. She is very busy.                                | 6 | a. The service satisfied her.                     |
|   | b. She has lots of free time.                       |   | b. The food was worse than the service.           |
|   | c. It is not necessary to take out the trash.       |   | c. She thought the service was bad.               |
|   | d. She will do it if she has time.                  |   | d. Neither the food nor the food was satisfying.  |
| 2 | a. The interview is very important.                 | 7 | a. He told his kids to leave.                     |
|   | b. He is worried about the interview.               |   | b. He seriously wanted the woman to go.           |
|   | c. What he's wearing to the interview is important. |   | c. He was joking when he told the woman to leave. |
|   | d. He is not concerned about the interview          |   | d. He left with the woman.                        |
| 3 | a. He has almost all the notes.                     | 8 | a. The project will take all their effort.        |
|   | b. His attendance was perfect.                      |   | b. They have no other work to do.                 |
|   | c. He went to all the lectures but one.             |   |   |

- d. He missed more than one psychology class.
- c. It is impossible to finish.  
d. They aren't even close to finishing the project.
- 4 a. They passed the library at 6:00.  
b. The library opens at 6:00 in the summer.  
c. The library closes at 6:00.  
d. You can't check out more than six books in the summer.
- 9 a. She doesn't mind an hour more.  
b. She'd rather stay more than an hour.  
c. It's better to stay than go.  
d. She prefers to leave.
- 5 a. Water the plants once a day.  
b. Give the plants no more water.  
c. Water the plants often while the man is gone.  
d. Give the plants a limited amount of water.
- 10 a. The service at the hotel wasn't too good.  
b. This hotel gave excellent service.  
c. The service at the hotel could have been improved.  
d. This hotel's service was the same as the service at other hotels.

## b. DOUBLE NEGATIVES

Just like in Mathematics, when a negative meets a negative, it will result a positive. In English, the existence of two negative expression will create a positive meaning. For example:

*It is not impossible = It is possible.*

*I don't like uncomfortable sofa = I like comfortable sofa.*

*I don't hate chicken = I love chicken.*

Look at this following table. This will provide you where the double negatives can occur.

Double Negatives		
Situation	Example	Meaning
Negative words, ex: <b>not, no, none</b> Negative prefixes: <b>In-, un-, dis-</b>	<i>I can't</i> left it <i>unfinished</i> it tonight. <i>Nobody isn't</i> at home. <i>I did not disrespect</i> you.	I can left it finished. Everybody is at home. I respected you.
<b>Two negative verbs</b>	She doesn't bring the ATM, so she cannot withdraw.	Implies that she can withdraw money if she brings the ATM.
<b>Neither or not...either</b>	The shop won't open tomorrow, and neither the restaurant.	Both won't open tomorrow.

Now listen to these following examples. Underline the negatives and pick the best answer for every question below!

- |   |            |  |  |
|---|------------|--|--|
| 1 | (Man)      | <i>How is your boss feeling about this retirement?</i>   | a. He is eager to leave his job.               |
|   | Woman)     | <i>Oo, he isn't too unhappy to be retiring.</i>          | b. He is unhappy at the thought of retiring.   |
|   | (Narrator) | <i>What does the woman imply about her boss?</i>         | c. He couldn't be unhappier about retiring.    |
|   |            |  | d. He is retiring too soon.                    |
| 2 | Woman)     | <i>We seem to have a difficult problem to solve.</i>     | a. A solution is not apparent.                 |
|   | (Man)      | <i>The problem is not unrepairable.</i>                  | b. The problem can be fixed.                   |
|   | (Narrator) | <i>What does the man mean?</i>                           | c. There is really a pair of problems.         |
|   |            |  | d. The problem is difficult to solve.          |
| 3 | Woman)     | <i>I think it's impossible for me to pass this class</i> | a. It's not possible to pass the class.        |
|   | (Man)      | <i>You should never say "impossible"</i>                 | b. She'll definitely fail.                     |
|   | (Narrator) | <i>What does the man mean?</i>                           | c. It's always possible.                       |
|   |            |  | d. She shouldn't say anything about the class. |

**Exercises on double negatives:** In this exercise, listen carefully to the short conversation and question in the recording program, and then choose the best answer to the question. You should be careful of double negatives.

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1 | a. He'll definitely be elected.        | 6 | a. Steve wanted to finish his paper, and so did Paul.              |
|   | b. The election is now complete.       |   | b. Both Steve's and Paul's papers were incomplete.                 |
|   | c. She has high hopes for his chances. |   | c. Steve and Paul were busy doing their papers term.               |
|   | d. It may happen.                      |   | d. When Steve wasn't able to finish his paper, Paul couldn't help. |
| 2 | a. Both parts of his game were bad.    | 7 | a. It wasn't George's responsibility to pay the bill.              |
|   | b. He served better than he            |   | b. Bill was irresponsible about paying                             |

- volleyed.
- c. Some parts of his games were better than others.
- d. He played rather well.
- 3 a. It is a surprise that he was prepared.
- b. He was not ready as usual.
- c. He prepared a really big surprise.
- d. His strong preparation came as no surprise.
- 4 a. She felt good enough to go out.
- b. She went out to get some medicine.
- c. She felt like dancing, so she went out with everyone.
- d. She stayed home because she was sick.
- 5 a. She has problems that others aren't aware of.
- b. Others aren't aware of her problems.
- c. She knows she's been a problem.
- d. She doesn't have a care in the world.
- George's rent.
- c. George acted carelessly by not taking care of the bill.
- d. George took responsibility for the unpaid bill.
- 8 a. It's fortunate that he was accepted.
- b. It's good that he wasn't admitted.
- c. Fortunately, the university didn't admit him.
- d. It's too bad he was rejected.
- 9 a. The first essay was better than the second.
- b. The first and second drafts couldn't be better.
- c. The second draft of the essays was much better than the first.
- d. Both versions were poorly written.
- 10 a. Roger has been bothered.
- b. Roger wasn't the least bit disturbed.
- c. The problem s have had little effect on Roger.
- d. Roger hasn't been disturbed.

### c. ALMOST NEGATIVES

*Almost negative* means that something is not fully or not 100% negative. In English we can recognize this by expressions such as *hardly*, *seldom*, etc. For better understanding, look at this sentence:

*She rarely goes home by bus.*

➔ The word "rarely" means that she almost never (not never) goes by bus.

Common Almost Negative Expressions		
Meaning	expression	Example
<b>Almost none</b>	<i>Hardly, barely, scarcely, only</i>	There is <i>hardly</i> any food in the refrigerator.

<b>Almost never</b>	<i>Rarely, seldom</i>	He <i>seldom</i> books flight by Traveloka.
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Now listen to these following examples. Underline the almost negatives and pick the best answer for every question below!

- |   |            |   |   |
|---|------------|---|---|
| 1 | (Woman)    | <i>How was your meat at the banquet?</i>  | a. His meat wasn't tender                           |
|   | (Man)      | <i>My meat was so tough I could hardly cut it.</i>  | b. The speaker did not have a good character        |
|   | (Narrator) | <i>What does the man say about his experience at the banquet?</i>                                 | c. It was difficult to meet new people in the crowd |
| 2 | Woman)     | <i>I hope we don't have a quiz today. I'm not really very prepared on the material for today.</i> | d. The meeting was cut short                        |
|   | (Man)      | <i>I don't think we will. This professor rarely, if ever, gives quizzes.</i>                      | a. The professor gives quizzes regularly.           |
|   | (Narrator) | <i>What does the man mean?</i>  | b. The woman is really quite prepared.              |
| 3 | Woman)     | <i>Did you get to the airport in plenty of time?</i>  | c. It is unusual for this professor to give quizzes |
|   | (Man)      | <i>There was scarcely enough time to get there?</i>   | d. He doesn't think there's a class today           |
|   | (Narrator) | <i>What does the man imply?</i>   | a. The plane took off just after he arrived         |
|   |            |   | b. He arrived just after the plane took off.        |
|   |            |   | c. He wasn't in time to catch the plane.            |
|   |            |   | d. He arrived too late to catch the plane.          |

**Exercises on almost-negatives:** In this exercise, listen carefully to the short conversation and question in the recording program, and then choose the best answer to the question. You should be careful of almost-negative expressions.

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1 | a. There's little rain in July.            | 6 | a. He rarely spends time on his courses.   |
|   | b. In July it never rains.                 |   | b. He's an excellent student.              |
|   | c. It rains hard in July.                  |   | c. He never studies.                       |
|   | d. When it rains in July, it rains hard.   |   | d. His books are always open.              |
| 2 | a. The university accepted three students. | 7 | a. He finished the exam in plenty of time. |
|   | b. None of the students is going to        |   | b. He was scared he wouldn't               |

- the university.
- c. John was not accepted.
- d. Two were admitted
- 3 a. Although he did pass, Mark's exam grade wasn't too good.
- b. Mark failed his history exam.
- c. The highest grade on the history exam went to Mark.
- d. Professor Frank didn't pass Mark on the history exam.
- 4 a. He often has long waits in Dr. Robert's office.
- b. He must wait patiently for Robert.
- c. Dr. Robert is generally punctual.
- d. He doesn't mind waiting for Dr. Roberts.
- 5 a. Betty often takes vacation in winter.
- b. Betty prefers to take vacation in winter.
- c. Occasionally Betty works one week during vacation.
- d. A winter vacation is unusual for Betty
- finish.
- c. He used every possible minute to finish.
- d. He was unable to complete the exam.
- 8 a. This was a very long staff meeting.
- b. This was the only staff meeting in a long time.
- c. The meeting lasted only until one o'clock.
- d. The one staff meeting should lasted longer.
- 9 a. Meat tasted delicious to him when it's cooked rare.
- b. He isn't sure if the meal is delicious.
- c. This meat is the best he's tasted in a long time.
- d. He'd like to eat some meat from delicatessen.
- 10 a. He broke his arm trying to move it.
- b. He only hurt the broken arm.
- c. He only tries to move the broken arm.
- d. There's no pain if he rests quietly.

#### d. Comparatives with Negatives

In short dialogue, negatives can be used with comparatives. A sentence with a negative and a comparative has a superlative meaning. This signifies strong stress on the sentence, which means "superlative" may replace with other words such as extremely, very, etc. Look at this example below:

I do not find naughtier kid than Tom in this class.

- ➔ The negative “do not” is followed by comparative “naughtier” means that the Tom is the naughtiest kid in this class. “the naughtiest” can also be replaced by “extremely naughty” or “highly naughty”, etc.

Comparatives with negatives		
<i>more</i>	<i>No one is more diligent than Sukma.</i>	Sukma is the most diligent.
<i>-er</i>	<i>He couldn't be more thankful.</i>	He is the most thankful.

Now listen to these following examples. Underline the negatives with comparative and pick the best answer for every question below!

- 1 (Man) *A change has sure come over you.* a. She is disappointed with the result.  
 (Woman) *I finally had my annual review with my boss. It couldn't have gone better.* b. She likes her job very much.  
 (Narrator) *What does the woman mean?* c. She is hoping for some improvements in her workplace.  
 d. She is very pleased with the outcome of her meeting
  
- 2 (Woman) *Would you like Swiss cheese or American?* a. It is no longer delicious.  
 (Man) *There is no better cheese than Swiss cheese.* b. It makes delicious butter.  
 (Narrator) *What does the man say about Swiss cheese?* c. It is the best cheese.  
 d. There are many better cheese.
  
- 3 (Woman) *Woman: Did your nieces and nephews like the gifts you got for them?* a. They were disappointed  
 (Man) *They couldn't have been more excited when they saw what I got them.* b. They didn't get any gifts.  
 (Narrator) *What does the man say about his nephews and nieces?* c. They were unexcited.  
 d. They were really pleased.

**Exercises on comparatives with negatives:** In this exercise, listen carefully to the short conversation and question in the recording program, and



then choose the best answer to the question. You should be careful of comparatives with negatives.

- |   |   |    |   |
|---|---|----|---|
| 1 | a. She's not very happy.<br>b. She didn't do very well on the exam.<br>c. She could be somewhat happier.<br>d. She's delighted with the results.<br>e.  | 6  | a. They were not very lucky.<br>b. No one was hurt.<br>c. The accident was unfortunate.<br>d. She wanted to have better luck.   |
| 2 | a. Paula is always lazy.<br>b. Paula didn't work very hard this semester.<br>c. Paula made a strong effort.<br>d. Paula could have worked harder.   | 7  | a. Nothing was very difficult.<br>b. The exam wasn't at all easy.<br>c. The exam couldn't have been easier.<br>d. The exam had nothing difficult on it.   |
| 3 | a. The prices were great.<br>b. The prices were too high.<br>c. She didn't buy much because of the prices.<br>d. The prices could have been lower.  | 8  | a. She wants that job very much.<br>b. No one is going to get the job.<br>c. Everybody else wants that job as much as she does.<br>d. She is not sure about taking the job.                                 |
| 4 | a. She is not very smart.<br>b. She always tells him everything.<br>c. He doesn't know her very well.<br>d. She's extremely intelligent.  | 9  | a. She was second in the race.<br>b. She was almost the slowest person in the race.<br>c. She won the race.<br>d. She was not faster than anyone.   |
| 5 | a. The patient absolutely didn't need the surgery.<br>b. The necessity for the surgery was unquestionable.<br>c. The surgeon felt that the operation was necessary.<br>d. It was essential that the surgery be performed immediately. | 10 | a. This math project was extremely complex.<br>b. This math project was less complicated than the last.<br>c. They seldom complete their math projects.<br>d. Complicated math projects are often assigned. |

**C. EXERCISES: Complete exercises on Negatives**

**Review Exercise on negatives:** In this exercise, listen carefully to the short conversation and question in the recording program, then choose the best answer to the question.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1 a. She can try a little harder.<br/>b. There is a lot more that she can do.<br/>c. She's doing the best that she can.<br/>d. It is impossible for her to do anything?</p>   | <p>6 a. Neither Tim nor Sylvia is taking care of Art.<br/>b. Sylvia likes modern art even less than Tim does.<br/>c. Sylvia doesn't care for anything Tim does.<br/>d. Sylvia and Tim agree in their opinion of modern art.</p>   |
| <p>2 a. She's always been late for the bus.<br/>b. The bus has always been late.<br/>c. The bus left on time.<br/>d. Only on his trip has the bus been on time.</p>  | <p>7 a. They always work hard in the afternoon.<br/>b. They don't do much after lunch.<br/>c. After noon they never work.<br/>d. It's never hard for them to work in the afternoon.</p>   |
| <p>3 a. There wasn't enough soup to go around.<br/>b. We had so much soup that we couldn't finish it.<br/>c. Everyone got one serving of soup, but there wasn't enough for seconds.<br/>d. Everyone around the table need a lot of soup.</p> | <p>8 a. It's hard for him to work when it gets warm.<br/>b. Whenever it gets warm, he turns on the air-conditioner.<br/>c. The air conditioner only works when it isn't needed.<br/>d. He likes to use the air conditioner when it is warm.</p>   |
| <p>4 a. She does want to see the movie.<br/>b. It's extremely important to her to go.<br/>c. She doesn't want to go there anymore.<br/>d. She really couldn't move there</p>   | <p>9 a. He did really poorly.<br/>b. He's felt worse before.<br/>c. The results couldn't have been better.<br/>d. He's not too unhappy with the results.</p>  |
| <p>5 a. She handed the paper in on time.<br/>b. She was able to complete then paper, but she didn't turn it in.<br/>c. The paper was unfinished.</p>   | <p>10 a. With so many members present, the committee couldn't reach a decision.<br/>b. The committee should've waited until more members were present.<br/>c. The issue shouldn't have been decided by all the committed members.<br/>d. The issue wasn't decided because so many members were absent</p> |

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