"Hardly", "Rarely" and "Never"

Exercise 1 – Learning

We have learned to negate verbs by adding '**not**' or '**do not**'.

We can also negate verbs using **adverbs of time** such as '**hardly**', '**rarely**' or '**never**'.

These adverbs tell us that the action expressed by the verb doesn't happen very often or happens to a very minimal extent.

For example, other ways to say "**Tom does not come late**" are:

- Tom **never** comes late. (*Tom always comes on time.*)
- Tom **hardly ever**/**rarely** comes late. (*Tom almost always comes on time.*)

When we use these adverbs with a helping verb like '**be**', they come after the helping verb:

- Tom is **never** late.

Hardly

Hardly means '**barely**', '**minimally**', or '**almost not**'. It is often used with '**can**':

- His voice is so soft, you can **hardly** hear him.
- You can **hardly** see him in the crowd.

'**Hardly ever**' means '**almost never**':

- She is **hardly ever** in the country.

Rarely

'**Rarely**' means '**hardly ever**' or '**almost never**':

- She is **rarely** in the country.
- Since his accident, he **rarely** goes outside.

Exercise 2 – Fill in the Blanks

Fill in the blanks with hardly, hardly ever, rarely, or never. There can be more than one correct answer.

1. Our Math teacher _____ smiles. He is not very friendly.

2. I _____ understand them. They talk so fast.

3. You _____ eat. You're getting thinner and thinner.

4. Have some more food. You _____ ate a bite.

5. It _____ rains in California.

6. He can _____ walk. Of course he can't climb stairs.

7. My father _____ watches TV.

8. She _____ goes to the gym nowadays.

Exercise 3 – Sentence Construction

Example: walk her dog. → She never walks her dog.

Content:

1. come to work on time.
2. exercise.
3. spend time with family.
4. hang out with friends.
5. eat healthy.
6. use a computer.