

Negative but Polite Sentences

In this task, we ask you to create negative but still polite sentences.

You will be given a part of a sentence that we ask you to complete.

Here are some examples that may give you some idea what we are aiming for:

- Given part of the sentence: *You always forget to...*
- Completed sentence: *You always forget to think of the negative side-effects.*

- Given part of the sentence: *You could be more...*
- Completed sentence: *You could be more direct when requesting help.*

- Given part of the sentence: *You always seem to ...*
- Completed sentence: *You always seem to worry about successfully implementing a plan.*

- Given part of the sentence: *You spend too...*
- Completed sentence: *You spend too much time discussing some detail.*

- Given part of the sentence: *You don't...*
- Completed sentence: *You don't appreciate my housework.*

- Given part of the sentence: *You always forget...*
- Completed sentence: *You always forget to be careful when crossing the road.*

It is important that the sentences you invent are **not insulting**. By "insulting" we understand all those utterances that are perceived as hurtful on the part of the addressee. There are many seemingly polite utterances that are actually insulting. For instance, *You always forget to think of others* actually means *You are selfish*; *You are intellectually challenged* is basically synonymous to *You are stupid*; *You are good at bending the truth* means *You are a liar*; and *I am not a particular fan of you* is (almost) synonymous to *I hate you*.

Here is a list of sentences that are actually insulting. In this survey, **you should not come up with sentences that have a similar tone:**

- *You are not very attractive.*
- *You are good at idolising yourself.*
- *You would not say boo to a goose.*
- *You are so devoid of anything.*
- *You should drink less alcohol.*
- *You are good at manipulating the truth.*
- *You have very light fingers.*
- *You lack a sense of fashion.*
- *You really enjoy other people's pain.*

Please also **avoid sentences that may be insulting in a very specific situation**. For example, the sentence *Deodorant is not expensive* may not only be used in the context of discussing prices of drugstore products. This utterance may also be used as a paraphrase for *You smell*.

For your completion, you should **comply with the following rules:**

- **The overall sentiment of the sentence should be negative.** The presence of negative words may not suffice. For example, the sentence *You are not evil* is overall positive since the negative word *evil* is negated.
- Vary your vocabulary. We will reject responses in which the sentences are always completed in the same way.
- Write fully grammatical sentences.
- Write sentences that sound like proper English. In other words, write sentences one would really use in everyday English.
- Sentences should be understood by anyone. Do not refer to any events or persons that are not known by everyone.
- Do **not use** the words of the examples above.
- Write a **short remark**. Your completion should be as short as possible. At all costs you should just stick to one sentence.
- **Avoid** ambiguous utterances.
- **Avoid** any comparisons (e.g. *You tremble like a leaf in the wind*, *You walk like an old man* etc.)

It is really important that your invented sentences have an **overall negative tone**.

Here is a hint that may help you in accomplishing this:

Once you have completed a sentence, close your eyes and imagine the situation that is described in the sentence. Try not to think of individual words of that sentence (this may distract you). Only if the image that arises in your mind appears to be negative (for instance, some criticism or some negative emotional state is expressed), then your sentence is probably acceptable. If this is not the case, you should revise your sentence.

There may be sentences you feel unable to complete given the above requirements. For example, there may be sentences, where you feel that every completion you could imagine would end in an insulting remark. In those cases, you may type in *NO IDEA* as your response. However, notice that if you excessively use this option, we will reject your response.