Name .... Class .... Date ....

12.10 Avoiding Double Negatives

Key Information

Negative words express the idea of "no." The adverb *not* is a negative word. *Not* is often used as part of a contraction: *isn't, wasn't, weren't, won't, can't, couldn't, don't, didn't, haven't, shouldn't*, and so on. Other words, such as *never, nobody, none, no one, nothing, nowhere, scarcely*, and *hardly*, also express the negative.

Two negative words used together in a sentence create a **double negative.** Avoid double negatives. Correct a double negative by removing one of the negatives or by replacing a negative with a positive, or **affirmative**, word such as *ever, always, anybody, somebody, everyone*, and so on.

She **couldn't** run **no** more. [double negative]

She **couldn't** run **any** more. [corrected]

She **could** run **no** more. [corrected]

Directions

Underline the word that correctly completes each sentence.

None of us (can, can't) go with you.
None of us (<u>can</u>, can't) go with you.

1. There weren't (no, any) apples left in the bag.

2. Scarcely (no one, anyone) can swim faster than he.

3. The library had hardly (anything, nothing) on the topic the scientist was researching.

4. No one (could, couldn't) help the poor seal.

5. Rain was never (any, no) surprise in the jungle.

6. The dog didn't have (anywhere, nowhere) to go.

7. Reiko (wouldn't, would) hardly (ever, never) sing in public.

8. That zoo is (never, ever) closed.

9. The cast members (haven't, have) had any chance to rehearse yet.

10. There is hardly (nothing, anything) left in the refrigerator.