Double Negatives

Two negative words used in the same sentence is called a **double negative**. In a sentence, only one negative word is needed to express a negative idea.

example of a double negative: I don't need no new clothes.

However, double negatives can be fixed. Simply remove one of the negative words from the sentence, or change one of the words into a positive.

example of a **correct sentence**: I <u>don't</u> need any new clothes.

Read the sentences below. Choose and circle the correct word in parenthesis. Be sure you don't create a double negative sentence.

- 1. There aren't (any, no) cookies left to eat.
- 2. I didn't do (nothing, anything) over the weekend.
- 3. My dad can't find (anywhere, nowhere) to park the car.
- **4**. There isn't (no, any) time left to go to the supermarket before it closes.
- 5. Emma said she didn't need (either, neither) of those ingredients to make cupcakes.
- 6. The mission was so top secret that Evan couldn't tell (nobody, anybody) about it.
- 7. I can't wait until Saturday because I haven't (ever, never) been to a concert before.
- 8. The store didn't have (none, any) of the presents I was looking for.

ANSWER KEY

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