# Changing affirmative to negative without changing the meaning

We can change affirmative sentences to negative sentences in two ways

1. By adding ‘not’ to the auxiliary. However, this will change the meaning of the sentence from positive to negative.
2. All the students liked the program. (Affirmative)

All the students didn’t like the program. (Negative)

1. Chennai is hotter than Mumbai. (Affirmative)

Chennai isn’t hotter than Mumbai. (Negative)

1. James runs faster than Peter. (Affirmative)

James doesn’t run faster than Peter. (Negative)

1. James can write faster than me. (Affirmative)

James can’t write faster than me. (Negative)

1. Without changing the meaning of the original sentence.

Study the example given below.

1. All the students liked the program. (Affirmative) /

None of the students disliked the program. (Negative) / **No** student **disliked** the program. (Negative)

2) Chennai is hotter than Mumbai. (Affirmative) / Mumbai is **not as hot as** Chennai. (Negative)

3) The scorpion is shyer than other wall inhabitants. (Affirmative) / No other **wall inhabitant is as shy as** the scorpion. (Negative)

4) The farmer was too weak to walk. (Affirmative) / The farmer **was so weak that** he could not walk. (Negative)

5) He is always on time. (Affirmative) / He **is never late**. (Negative)

6) James runs faster than Peter. (Affirmative) / Peter **does not run** as fast as James. (Negative)

7) The water is too cold for me to drink. (Affirmative) / The water is **so cold that** I cannot drink it. (Negative

8) James can write faster than me. (Affirmative) / I**cannot write as fast as** James. (Negative)

9) Everyone found the play interesting. (Affirmative) / **No one found** the play uninteresting. (Negative)

10) This medicine is cheap. (Affirmative) / This medicine **is not expensive**. (Negative)

11) Iron is a heavy metal. (Affirmative) / Iron is **not a light** metal. (Negative)

12) Rahim is **the tallest** boy in the class. (Affirmative) / **No other boy** in the class is as tall as Rahim (Negative)

**Affirmative to Negative Sentence Transformation Rules**

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| **Sr.no** | **Affirmative Sentence structure** | **Negative Sentence structure** | **Rule** | **Example** |
| 1 | Subject +always + verb + ext.  OR  Subject + auxiliary verb + always + verb/ adjective/ adverb + ext. | Subject + never opposite verb + ext.  OR  Subject + auxiliary verb + never + opposite verb/ adjective/ adverb + ext. | If there is always in an affirmative sentence, never will be used for ever/always in negative sentence and verb /adjective/adverb will be opposite meaning. | Affirmative:-He always fasted on Monday.  He was always punctual in his duty.  Negative:- He never ate on Monday.  He was never late for his duty. |
| 2 | Subject + verb + too + adjective + to + verb + ext. | Subject + verb + so + adjective + that + subject + can/ could + not + verb + ext. | If there is *present tense* before **too**, ‘***can’*** will be used after **that** and if there is *past tense* before **too**, ‘***could’*** will be used after **that**. Again when there is for + noun/ pronoun after too+ adjective, the noun/ pronoun after for will be the subject after that. | Affirmative:-He is too weak to walk.  It is too heavy for me to carry.  Negative:- He is so weak that he cannot walk.  It is so heavy that I cannot carry it. |
| 3 | Subject + verb + as + adjective + as + noun/ pronoun. | Subject + auxiliary verb + not + less + adjective + than + noun/ pronoun. | In negative sentence as -as is replaced by not less-than. | Affirmative:-He is as wise as his brother.  Negative:- He is not less wise than his brother. |
| 4 | Subject + auxiliary verb + verb/ adjective/ adverb + ext. | Subject + auxiliary verb + not + opposite verb / adjective / adverb + ext. | In order to change an affirmative sentence having an auxiliary verb with a verb/ adjective/ adverb into a negative sentence, we should add not after the auxiliary verb and use the opposite meaning of verb/ adjective/ adverb in negative sentence. | Affirmative:- I shall remember you.  Negative:-I shall not forget you. |
| 5 | Subject + verb + ext. | Subject + auxiliary verb do + not + opposite verb + ext. | If there is no auxiliary verb in an affirmative sentence, to do verb will be used as auxiliary verb to make it a negative sentence. After to do verb ,not will be added and the opposite meaning of verb will used there. This to do verb will be according to the tense of the verb of affirmative sentence. | Affirmative:-She remembered me.  Negative:-She did not forget me |
| 6 | Subject + must + verb + ext. | Subject + cannot but + verb + ext.  or  Subject + cannot help + verb-ing + ext | For making a negative sentence from an affirmative sentence having must, we have to use cannot but/cannot help for must. In this case, basic form of verb will be used after cannot but and present participle (verb-ing) will be used after cannot help. | Affirmative:- We must read attentively.  Negative:-We cannot but read attentively.  We cannot help reading attentively. |
| 7 | Every + noun/ body/ one + verb + ext. | There is no + noun/ body/ one + but + verb + ext | To change an affirmative sentence having every + noun/ body/ one into a negative sentence, we can use there is no for every, then we have to put the word after every and next we should use but before verb+ ext. | Affirmative:-Everybody hates a liar.  Negative:-There is no body but  hates a liar. |
| 8 | As soon as + subject + verb (past), subject + verb(past) + ext. | No sooner had + subject + verb(past participle) + than + subject + verb(past) + ext. | To change an affirmative sentence having as soon as with two clauses, no sooner had will be used for as soon as in negative sentence. than must be used between the two clauses. | Affirmative:-As soon as he arrived, the rain started.  Negative:- No sooner had he arrived than  the rain started. |
| 9 | Only + subject + verb + ext. | None but + subject + verb + ext. | Here only is used before a person, but alone is used after the person word and auxiliary verb. For changing an affirmative sentence into a negative sentence where only is before a person or alone is after the person and auxiliary verb, we have to start the negative sentence with none but for only/alone. | Affirmative:- Only Allah can help us.  Negative:- None but Allah can help us. |
| 10 | Subject + auxiliary verb + alone + ext. | None but + subject + auxiliary verb + ext. | It will be applied when the subjective word is a person word i.e he/ she/ I/ you/ they/ we/ any proper noun. | Affirmative:- He was alone alive in the house.  Negative:- None but he was alive in the house. |
| 11 | Only + subject + verb + ext.  OR  Subject + verb + only + object + ext. | Nothing but + subject + verb + ext.  OR  Subject + verb + nothing but + object + ext. | when only is used before an object/thing, nothing but will be put there to make a negative sentence from an affirmative sentence .  nothing but is used in negative sentence for only when there is an object/thing after only in affirmative sentence. | Affirmative:- Only the monsoon causes rain  in our country.    Negative:- Nothing but the monsoon causes rain  in our country. |
| 12 | Subject + verb + only + number/age + ext. | Subject + verb + not more / less than + number/age + ext. | when only is used before number/ age ,not more / less than will be used in negative sentence for only in affirmative sentence. | Affirmative:- I am only 20.  Negative:- I am not more/less than 20. |