



## TEP MODULE FOR THE STRATEGY 4: BE CAREFUL OF NEGATIVE EXPRESSIONS

Negative expressions also appear in Listening part A. Answer can pay attention to the correct response to a negative statement, it is a positive statement that has a word with an opposite meaning.

### Example

On the recording, we hear:

- (man)            How did he arrive to their uncle's house in Jakarta only four hours?  
(woman)        He didn't drive slowly to Jakarta.  
(narrator)      What does the woman say about the journey?

In your test book, we read:

- (A) He drove quickly.  
(B) He couldn't have driven slowly.  
(C) He wanted to travel to Jakarta.  
(D) He took a morning flight to Jakarta.

The correct answer is answer (A). If he *did not* drive *slowly* to Jakarta, this means that he drove *quickly*. Notice that the correct answer uses *quickly*, the opposite of *slowly*. The answers that use *slowly* are not correct.

The following chart outlines the types of negative expressions that we should be careful of:

TYPES OF NEGATIVE EXPRESSIONS		
Expression	Example	Correct Answer
<b>Regular negative: not or n't</b>	Tom is not sad about the results.	not sad = happy
<b>Other negatives: nobody, none, nothing, never</b>	Nobody arrived on time. Salma never works hard.	nobody ... on time = late never works hard = lazy
<b>Negative prefixes: un-, in-, dis-</b>	The patient was insane.	insane = not sane = crazy

## EXERCISES

In this exercise, underline the negative in the second line of each short conversation. Then read the question and choose the best answer to that question. Remember that the best answer is one that uses an opposite meaning.

1. (man) I can't seem to get the door unlocked.  
(woman) That isn't the right key for the door.  
(narrator) What does the woman mean?  
  
(A) The key in the drawer is on the right.  
(B) The man should write the message on the door.  
(C) The man has the wrong key.  
(D) The right key isn't in the drawer.
  
2. (man) Were you pleased with last week's convention?  
(woman) Nothing went as planned.  
(narrator) What does the woman mean?  
  
(A) The convention was disorganized.  
(B) She didn't plan to attend the convention.  
(C) She planned the convention last week.  
(D) She wasn't pleased with the last week of the convention.
  
3. (woman) Are you planning to go to college next year?  
(man) I'm really unsure about the idea.  
(narrator) What does the man mean?  
  
(A) He definitely wants to go to college.  
(B) He is certain about his plans.  
(C) He's hesitant about attending college.  
(D) His idea is to go to college.

## EXERCISES

*Now we can try to listen carefully to each short conversation and question from the recording, and choose the best answer. Please be careful of negative expressions.*

1. (A) She is very busy.  
(B) She has lots of free time.  
(C) It is not necessary to take out the trash.  
(D) She will do it if she has time.
  
2. (A) The interview is very important.  
(B) He is worried about the interview.  
(C) What he's wearing to the interview is important  
(D) He is not concerned about the interview.
  
3. (A) He has almost all the notes.  
(B) His attendance was perfect.  
(C) He went to all lectures but one  
(D) He missed more than one psychology class.
  
4. (A) The passed the library at 06.00.  
(B) The library opens at 06.00 in the summer.  
(C) The library closes at 06.00  
(D) You can't check out more than six books in the summer.
  
5. (A) Water the plants once a day.  
(B) Give the plants no more water.  
(C) Water the plants often while the man is gone.  
(D) Give the plants a limited amount of water.
  
6. (A) The service satisfied her.  
(B) The food was worse than the service.  
(C) She thought the service was bad.  
(D) Neither the food nor the service were satisfying.

7. (A) He told his kids to leave.  
(B) He seriously wanted the woman to go.  
(C) He was joking when he told the woman to go.  
(D) He left with the woman.
8. (A) The project will take all their effort.  
(B) They have no other work to do.  
(C) It's impossible to finish.  
(D) They aren't even close to finishing the project.
9. (A) She doesn't mind an hour more.  
(B) She'd rather stay more than an hour.  
(C) It's better to stay than go.  
(D) She prefers to leave.
10. (A) The service at the hotel wasn't too good.  
(B) This hotel gave excellent service.  
(C) The service at the hotel could have been improved.  
(D) This hotel's service was the same as the service at other hotels.

*(from Longman TOEFL Preparation Book)*

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DON'T  
STOP  
UNTIL  
YOU'RE  
PROUD

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## STRATEGY 5: UNDERSTANDING EXPRESSIONS WITH DOUBLE NEGATIVES

In listening comprehension, whether it is listening test or not, we sometimes find double negative expressions. This sometimes makes quite confusing to understand its meaning.

There are three common situations when this case happens as the table below shows:

Situation	Example	Meaning
<b>Negative word (e.g., not, no none) and a negative prefix (e.g., in-, un-, dis-)</b>	She didn't like the unclean room	Did not like unclean room = liked clean room
<b>Two negative verbs</b>	It isn't snowing, so they are not going to the mountains.	Implies that they would go if it were snowing
<b>Neither or not ... either</b>	Tom didn't like travelling, and neither did Ana.	Both did not like travelling

Example:

- (man) I couldn't believe the news I heard from the concert.  
(woman) Well, it isn't impossible for the concert to be held.  
(narrator) What do you think about the woman say related to the concert?

- (A) There is no possibility that the concert will hold.  
(B) The concert will not be definitely held.  
(C) The concert may be held.  
(D) The concert can't be held.

The correct answer to the question is answer (C). If isn't impossible for the concert to be held, then it is possible, and the modal can indicate possibility.

## EXERCISES

1. (man) Chasey, you worked so hard to finish the assignment. (A) She expects her lecturer happy.  
(woman) I hope my lecturer is not disappointed with the result. (B) She thinks everyone is unhappy.  
(narrator) What does Chasey mean? (C) She finished her assignment terribly.  
(D) Her friends were pleased with the assignment.
2. (woman) Did you see the beautiful panorama during your trip? (A) He saw some views during the trip.  
(man) I was not well tired, so I did not awake in the bus. (B) He was awake and took some photos.  
(narrator) What does the man mean? (C) He saw some views although he was tired  
(D) He could not enjoy the scenery.
3. (man) Are you and your brother coming to the party tonight? (A) Although the man was not invited, his brother was.  
(woman) I didn't get any invitation, and neither did my brother. (B) Both were not invited.  
(narrator) What does the woman mean? (C) Neither the man nor his brother wants to attend the party.  
(D) The man wants to attend the party, but his brother doesn't.



## EXERCISES

Listen and choose the best answer from questions based on what you listen to.

1. (A) He'll definitely be elected.  
(B) The selection is now complete.  
(C) She has high hopes for his chances.  
(D) It may happen.

2. (A) Both parts of his game were bad.  
(B) He served better than he volleyed.  
(C) Some parts of his game were better than the others.  
(D) He played rather well.
  
3. (A) It is surprised that he was prepared.  
(B) He was not ready, as usual.  
(C) He prepared a rally big surprise.  
(D) His strong preparation came as no surprise.
  
4. (A) She felt good enough to go out.  
(B) She went out to get some medicine.  
(C) She felt like dancing, so she went out with everyone.  
(D) She stayed home because she was sick.
  
5. (A) She has problems that others aren't aware of.  
(B) Others aren't aware of her problems.  
(C) She she's been a problem.  
(D) She doesn't have a care in the world.