

# Negation

## Guided Discussion

**Consider:** Because negation will often be a target of children with early developing language skills, it may be necessary to bypass guided discussion. Some potential topics of discussion have been provided for children with advanced comprehension.

**Say this:** Some of those little words that are easy to leave out are called negatives. A negative completely changes the meaning of a word or group of words.

**Give an example:** You can say "That dog is barking." or you can say "That dog is not barking." The negative word "not" makes the word "barking" completely different. "The dog didn't bark." is completely different from "The dog did bark."

**Add if possible:** Where to put a negative becomes tricky when you're talking about things that have already happened, or things that haven't happened yet. You often have to add helping verbs or contractions.

**Give some examples:** "The dog wasn't barking." or "The dog won't be here tomorrow." or "The dog didn't want to bark."

**Add if possible:** Other things can also make where to put negatives tricky, like questions, and other verbs. For example, "Isn't he barking?" or "He shouldn't be barking."

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## Quick Drill

## Guided Practice Ideas

Use objects in immediate environment or pictures. Say, "I'm looking for a \_\_\_\_\_." where the blank is something known by the child. For example, "I'm looking for a shoe." Point to things that are not the object being looked for, using negatives to state what the object isn't. For example, "That's not a shoe." Point to or hold new objects, each time stating "That's not a shoe." Do approximately five times for each object, or as much as the child's attention will allow. Vary the negative forms.

Possible variations:

Present Tense	Past Tense	Future Tense
I'm looking for something that can write. " " has buttons. " " is blue. etc.	I'm looking for something that was on the table (after taking a pencil off). " " that turned on. etc.	I'm looking for something that will grow up. " " will hold trash. " " might write. etc.
<b>Complex</b> I'm looking for something that would have helped me hold papers together. I'm trying to think of somebody that could have helped me when I was a kid. I'm looking for something that should have been in this room last year. etc.		