

Negation

In English Several different words can be used to make negative sentences, such as **no, not, never, nobody, nothing, none, neither, no one**, and so on.

I **never** wake up so late.

Nobody comes to school on Saturdays.

Nothing is more important to me than music.

I am **not** going to buy anything.

Two negative words cannot be combined to form a negation in English.

INCORRECT: Nobody did not call today. CORRECT: **Nobody** called today.

A Circle the negative words in each sentence.

1. I never go swimming in the evenings.
2. I have not seen anybody around today.
3. I am hungry because I ate nothing this morning.
4. Nobody comes around here anymore.
5. There is nothing to do at my house.
6. I am not going to watch any movies tonight.

In Spanish Several different words can also be used to make negative sentences, such as **no** (*not*), **nunca** (*never*), and **tampoco** (*neither, not either*). **Nunca** and **tampoco** can take the place of **no** before the verb, or they can come at the end of a sentence that already has **no**.

Nunca como chocolate. = **No** como chocolate **nunca**. *I never eat chocolate.*

Tampoco como helado, = **No** como helado **tampoco**. *I don't eat chocolate either.*

The word **nada** can mean *nothing* and the word **nadie** can mean *nobody* when either one comes before the verb. If they come after the verb, however, the word **no** must go before the verb. In that case, **nada** is translated as *not anything* and **nadie** as *not anybody*.

Nada es fácil.

Nothing is easy.

Nadie puede ir al cine.

Nobody can go to the movies.

No quiero beber **nada** ahora.

I don't want to drink anything now.

No hay **nadie** en casa.

There isn't anybody at home.

NEGATION

B Circle the negative word or words in each sentence.

1. Esteban nunca va a la playa.
2. Tampoco le gusta ir al cine.
3. Nadie sabe qué le gusta hacer.
4. No baila nunca en las fiestas.
5. No come con nadie.
6. Nunca hace la tarea.
7. Pero nada es difícil para él: nunca tiene problemas en clase.
8. Parece que no le gusta nada. Pero es muy inteligente y simpático.

C Rewrite the following sentences about school life using the word **no**.

1. Nunca jugamos a fútbol en la escuela.
No jugamos a fútbol en la escuela nunca.

2. Nunca necesito un violín para la clase de matemáticas.

3. Tampoco tengo un escritorio en el gimnasio.

4. Nada empieza tarde en nuestra escuela.

5. En mi familia nadie duerme más de ocho horas.

6. Tampoco yo duermo mucho.

D Compare these sentences:

- a. **No** voy a hacer **nada**. *I'm **not** going to do **anything**.*
 b. **No** quiero **nada** de ti. *I want **nothing** from you.*

What is the translation of **not anything**? and of **nothing**? Why does Spanish use **no** in sentence b? Does it have to do with the position of **nada**?
