Avoiding Double Negatives

When two negative words are used in the same sentence, it is called a double negative. Double negatives should be avoided, as only one negative word is needed to express a negative idea.

**DOUBLE NEGATIVE:** I don’t have no friends.

**CORRECT:** I don’t have any friends.

**DIRECTIONS:** Find the double negative in each sentence. Rewrite the sentence so that it has only one negative.

1. I don’t have no reason to complain, but I still do.

2. Jane hasn’t hardly even acknowledged me today.

3. I don’t not think that you forgot about our project.

4. I have never eaten at no restaurant that serves exotic animals.

5. Calling your mother won’t do you no good.

6. I don’t have no time today for your foolishness.

7. Nobody with any taste isn’t going to like your artwork.

8. I can’t find that map nowhere.

9. We haven’t neither seen nor heard from Joey all afternoon.

10. You can’t hear nothing in this auditorium.