

Nn

name 1

- ✗ This beautiful village is named 'Cadaques'.
- ✓ **This beautiful village is called 'Cadaques'.**
- ✗ I stayed in and watched a film named 'The Clockwork Orange'.
- ✓ **I stayed in and watched a film called 'The Clockwork Orange'.**
- ✗ What we used to name 'the Cold War' is now over.
- ✓ **What we used to call 'the Cold War' is now over.**

When you mention the name by which someone or something is known, use **call/be called** (NOT **name/be named**): 'Most people call him Bob but he prefers to be called Robert.'

Compare: 'They've named/called the baby Louise.' (= the name they have chosen for the baby is Louise)

2

- ✗ They named their children from their grandparents.
 - ✓ **They named their children after their grandparents.**
- name** a child **after sb**: 'We've decided to name her Sarah, after her grandmother.'
- In American English **name** a child **for sb** is also possible, although not very common.

narrow

- ✗ When immersed in water, the cloth narrows.
 - ✓ **When immersed in water, the cloth shrinks.**
- narrow** (of roads, rivers etc) = become less wide: 'Just beyond the bend, the river begins to narrow.'
- shrink** (especially of cloth) = become smaller as a result of being wet or placed in water: 'I suggest you buy the larger size just in case it shrinks.'

nation

- ✗ It's hard to tell which nation he comes from.
 - ✓ **It's hard to tell which country he comes from.**
- A person comes from, lives in, or feels part of a particular **country** (NOT **nation**): 'Some people in this country think that the leadership is too weak.' 'People living in former Soviet bloc countries are undergoing a difficult period of transition.'
- Nation** is less common than **country** and is mainly used when a country is considered as a political or economic structure: 'Japan has become the richest nation in the world.' 'Representatives from the world's leading industrial nations will meet next month in Geneva.'
- Note the alternative: 'It's hard to tell his nationality.'

nationality

- ✗ My name is Iman Jalil and my nationality is Iraqi.
 - ✓ **My name is Iman Jalil and I come from Iraq.**
- The usual way of referring to someone's nationality is to use **come from**: 'Most of the students in my class come from Oman or Bahrain.'
- Nationality** is used mainly in formal styles: 'Visitors of Swedish

nationality do not require a visa.' 'Despite being born in Germany, these children do not have an automatic right to German nationality.'

native

- x The airport extension is strongly opposed by the natives.
- ✓ **The airport extension is strongly opposed by the local residents.**

Nowadays the noun **native** is usually used in formal styles to refer to the place where someone was born: 'His real name was Harvey Pepper, a native of Montreal.' or to the country/region where a particular animal or plant has always grown: 'This useful herb is a native of southern Europe, but has adjusted well to colder climates.'

To refer to the people who live in and around a village, town or city, and have shared interests and activities, use **local residents**, **local population** or (in informal styles) **locals**: 'Local residents are against the motorway proposal.'

nature

- x I have always found the nature fascinating.
 - ✓ **I have always found nature fascinating.**
- Nature** (= the natural world of birds, trees, rivers etc) is never used with **the**: 'We must stop destroying nature before it is too late.'

near 1

- x He decided to visit a friend who lived very near from where he was at that moment.
- ✓ **He decided to visit a friend who lived very near (to) where he was at that moment.**

near or near to (NOT **near from**): 'The post office is near (to) the bank.' 'If we moved to Dallas, we would be nearer to my parents.'

2

- x I went near to the girl and told her my name.
 - ✓ **I went up to the girl and told her my name.**
- See note at to 2

3

- x I sometimes meet friends in a near restaurant.
- ✓ **I sometimes meet friends in a nearby restaurant.**
- x I ran to the telephone box which was near to call an ambulance.
- ✓ **I ran to the telephone box nearby to call an ambulance.**

To say that something is only a short distance from a place, use **nearby**: 'I stopped at one of the nearby cottages and asked the way.' 'It's very convenient having a supermarket nearby.'

nearby

- x Their house is nearby the new airport.
 - ✓ **Their house is near the new airport.**
- Nearby** is used as an adjective or adverb: 'We flew from a nearby airport.' 'There is an airport nearby.'
When you need a preposition, use **near**: 'The hotel is near the sea.'

nearly

- x In the countryside there is nearly no pollution.
 - ✓ **In the countryside there is hardly any pollution.**
- Instead of saying **nearly no/nobody/never** etc, use **hardly any/anybody/ever** etc: 'Hardly any of my friends are married.' 'Hardly anybody objected to the idea.'

necessity

- x It was then that I felt the necessity to improve my English.
- ✓ **It was then that I felt the need to improve my English.**



If something is a **necessity**, you must have it or do it, or it must happen: 'If you saw the terrible conditions in which these people are living, you would appreciate the necessity to step up foreign aid.' 'For anyone who runs a large business, a computer is an absolute necessity.'

Need has a similar meaning to **necessity** but it is also used in connection with something that you want to do/have/happen (although it is not essential): 'I began to feel the need for a change of life style.'

'Don't you ever feel the need to do something more creative?'

need 1

- ☐ It is no need to tell the police about the accident.
- ☒ **There is no need to tell the police about the accident.**
there is no need to do sth (NOT it is ...): 'There's no need to start getting upset.'

2

- ☐ There is a great need of international understanding.
- ☒ **There is a great need for international understanding.**
a need for sth (NOT of): 'The government is conscious of the need for more schools.' See **NEED 3**

3

- ☐ We have an urgent need of a new secretary.
- ☒ **We are in urgent need of a new secretary.**
- ☐ I'm in urgent need for a loan.
- ☒ **I'm in urgent need of a loan.**
be in need of sth (= require): 'The car is in need of a good clean.' 'Are you in need of any assistance?'

4

- ☐ For a long time I have felt the need of improving my French.
- ☒ **For a long time I have felt the need to improve my French.**
a need to do sth (NOT of/for doing): 'I don't understand their need to sell the house.'

5

- ☐ Tina needs leave her house at seven o'clock every morning.
- ☒ **Tina needs to leave her house at seven o'clock every morning.**
In affirmative sentences, use **need to do sth** (WITH to): 'I need to get to the airport by seven at the latest.'
Compare (1) the negative forms: 'She doesn't need to stay if she doesn't want to.' 'She needn't stay if she doesn't want.'
(2) the question forms: 'Does she need to stay any longer?' 'Need she stay any longer?'

need not/ needn't 1

- ☐ During the day I need not work.
- ☒ **During the day I don't need/have to work.**
- ☐ They need not get a job if their parents are rich.
- ☒ **They don't need/have to get a job if their parents are rich.**
Use **needn't/need not** (or **don't need/have to**) to refer to the situation 'now' (at the moment of speaking): 'You needn't rush. I'm not in a hurry.'
To refer to general situations, you usually use **don't need to** or **don't have to**: 'You don't need/have to drive everywhere if there is a good bus service.'

2

- ☐ They need not to feel ashamed of themselves.
- ☒ **They needn't feel ashamed of themselves.**
- ☒ **They don't need to feel ashamed of themselves.**

- ✗ Catherine told her husband he needn't to worry.
 ✓ **Catherine told her husband he needn't worry.**
 ✓ **Catherine told her husband he didn't need to worry.**
needn't/need not do sth (WITHOUT to): 'You needn't wait if you're in a hurry.'
don't need to do sth (WITH to): 'You don't need to wait if you're in a hurry.'
 Note that **need not** is used mainly in formal styles. In other styles, the usual form is **needn't**.

needless to say

- ✗ Needless to say that his films are very popular with children.
 ✓ **Needless to say, his films are very popular with children.**
Needless to say (an adverb meaning 'of course') is NOT followed by a **that** clause: 'Needless to say, I was delighted to see that I had passed.'

neglect

- ✗ Some teachers neglect how much a student can take in during one lesson.
 ✓ **Some teachers forget how much a student can take in during one lesson.**
neglect = (1) fail to look after someone or something properly: 'The garden has been badly neglected and will require a lot of attention.'
 (2) (formal) fail to do something, especially something that you ought to do: 'The public are demanding to know why the government neglected to warn them of the oil shortage.'
forget = fail to realize something (and be guided by it): 'Children tend to forget that their parents like to have fun too.'

negligent

- ✗ There was a negligent amount of liquid in the test tube.
 ✓ **There was a negligible amount of liquid in the test tube.**
negligent = failing to take proper care, especially in your job; careless: 'The court decided that the pilot of the crashed aircraft had been negligent.'
negligible = (of an amount) so small that it has no effect and can be ignored: 'The cost of maintaining the machine is negligible.'

neither 1

- ✗ Inside the examination room we could neither smoke or talk.
 ✓ **Inside the examination room we could neither smoke nor talk.**
 ✗ His parents neither shouted at him or smacked him.
 ✓ **His parents neither shouted at him nor smacked him.**
neither ... nor ... (NOT **neither ... or ...**): 'The sales assistant was neither friendly nor helpful.'
 Compare: 'You can either come with me or wait here.'

2

- ✗ Neither John's father nor mine couldn't understand the problem.
 ✓ **Neither John's father nor mine could understand the problem.**
 After **neither** and **neither ... nor ...** the verb is affirmative (NOT negative): 'Neither applicant had the right qualifications.' 'Neither the teachers nor the students had been informed.'
 See Language Note at NOT

3

- ✗ I have neither studied the language nor the culture.
 ✓ **I have studied neither the language nor the culture.**

Neither should be placed immediately before the first of the connected items and **nor** immediately before the second. Compare: 'I have neither studied nor experienced the culture.'

- 4 ☐ Neither teachers are coming.
 ☒ **Neither teacher is coming.**
 ☒ **Neither of the teachers is coming.**

After **neither** + singular noun, the verb is singular: 'Neither player wants a transfer.'

After **neither of** + plural noun, careful users prefer a singular verb: 'Neither of the players wants a transfer.' Some people use a plural verb, especially in informal styles: 'Neither of the players want a transfer.'

- nervous 1 ☐ Thinking she might be hurt, I felt very nervous.
 ☒ **Thinking she might be hurt, I felt very anxious.**

nervous = worried and unable to relax, especially because you lack confidence: 'There's no need to be so nervous. It's only an interview.'

anxious = very worried about something which may happen or may have happened: 'I knew that there were no sharks around but all the same I couldn't help feeling anxious.'

- 2 ☐ What really made me nervous was the way he kept pulling my sleeve.
 ☒ **What really irritated me was the way he kept pulling my sleeve.**

nervous = worried and unable to relax: 'I hate the way the teacher watches me when I'm working - it makes me feel nervous.'

irritate (of something unpleasant that happens repeatedly or continuously) make someone feel slightly angry; annoy: 'His attempts to sound important irritate people.'

Note the alternative: 'What I found really irritating was the way ...'

- never 1 ☐ I asked him to never arrive late.
 ☒ **I asked him never to arrive late.**

Never and **not** usually go immediately in front of a **to** infinitive: 'He's promised never to do it again.'

- 2 ☐ You never can get really good beef in our local supermarket.
 ☒ **You can never get really good beef in our local supermarket.**
 See Language Note at ALWAYS

- 3 ☐ My father did never have the opportunity to go to university.
 ☒ **My father never had the opportunity to go to university.**
 Do is often used with **not** to make negative statements: 'I didn't answer the letter.' 'She doesn't invite strangers.' However, **do** is NOT used in this way with **never**: 'I never answered the letter.' 'She never invites strangers.'
 The exception to this rule is when **do** is used for emphasis: 'You never did tell me why you decided to leave your last job.'

- 4 ☐ She said some of the rudest things I have never heard in all my life.
 ☒ **She said some of the rudest things I have ever heard in all my life.**
 never = at no time: 'I've never met his wife.' 'I had never met his wife before yesterday.'

ever = at any time: 'Have you ever met his wife?'

Note that **ever** is often used after a superlative: 'His wife is the kindest person I've ever met.'

- 5 ☐ 'Nobody will never find me,' he thought.
 ☒ **'Nobody will ever find me,' he thought.**

After **nobody/nothing/rarely** and other words with a negative meaning, use **ever** (NOT **never**): 'After she won the national lottery, nothing was ever the same again.'

See also Language Note at NOT

- 6 ☐ Never I had seen such an ugly face.
 ☒ **Never had I seen such an ugly face.**

See Language Note at NOT

- nevertheless** ☐ I was born and grew up in Switzerland, nevertheless Italy is the country that I have grown to love and where I now live.
 ☒ **I was born and grew up in Switzerland. Nevertheless, Italy is the country that I have grown to love and where I now live.**
 ☒ **I was born and grew up in Switzerland but (nevertheless) Italy is the country that I have grown to love and where I now live.**

Unlike **but**, **nevertheless** is an adverb (NOT a conjunction): 'The survey was conducted on a very small scale. Nevertheless, the information gathered is likely to prove very useful.' 'As you may have heard, the existing workforce is soon to be reduced by 40 per cent. The management is nevertheless committed to maintaining the present level of production.' See also HOWEVER, THEREFORE

- news** ☐ The news are never very good nowadays.
 ☒ **The news is never very good nowadays.**
 ☐ I'm looking forward to hearing a good news from you.
 ☒ **I'm looking forward to hearing some good news from you.**
 News is an uncountable noun: 'Why do Clive's letters never contain any news?' 'There's one piece of news that I'm sure will interest you.'

- next** ☐ I'm looking forward to seeing you on next Sunday.
 ☒ **I'm looking forward to seeing you next Sunday.**
 ☐ I have some spare time this week but the next week I'll have to start work.
 ☒ **I have some spare time this week but next week I'll have to start work.**

See Language Note at TIME

- nice** ☐ There is a nice and quiet room where I do my work.
 ☒ **There is a nice quiet room where I do my work.**
 ☒ **The room where I do my work is nice and quiet.**

Two-part adjectival phrases with **nice** such as 'nice and quiet' and 'nice and clean' are always placed after the noun they modify: 'The house is always nice and tidy.' Do not use **and after nice** when it comes in front of a noun: 'Right now I could do with a nice cold drink.'

- night 1** ☐ I don't like driving in the night.
 ☒ **I don't like driving at night.**

- ✗ It was about nine o'clock in the night when we heard a noise outside.
 ✓ **It was about nine o'clock at night when we heard a noise outside.**

See Language Note at TIME

2

- ✗ 'Where were you in the night of June 3rd?' he asked.
 ✓ **'Where were you on the night of June 3rd?' he asked.**

See Language Note at TIME

no

See NO ONE 1

no matter 1

- ✗ No matter he tries hard, he never succeeds.
 ✓ **No matter how hard he tries, he never succeeds.**

no matter how/who/whether etc + subject + verb: 'No matter how much you help him, he never seems grateful.' 'No matter how late you set off, the roads are always busy.' 'No matter who you ask, they all say the same thing.'



2

- ✗ After the sauna they run and jump in the river, no matter if it's freezing or not.
 ✓ **After the sauna they run and jump in the river, no matter whether it's freezing or not.**
 ✗ No matter they are rich or poor, they all come to us for advice.
 ✓ **No matter whether they are rich or poor, they all come to us for advice.**

no matter + wh-word (NOT if/nothing): 'I'm not interested in the job, no matter how much they offer me.' 'No matter what you ask her to do, she's always ready to help.'

Note that **no matter whether** tends to sound awkward and there are usually simpler alternatives: 'After the sauna they run and jump in the river, whether it's freezing or not.' 'Rich or poor, they all come to us for advice.'

3

- ✗ No matter the recession, sales remained high.
 ✓ **In spite of the recession, sales remained high.**

No matter is always followed by a **wh-** clause: 'No matter what they did, they couldn't put the fire out.' 'No matter how cold it gets, we'll keep warm somehow.'

In front of a noun phrase, use **in spite of/despite**: 'In spite of the temperature outside, we managed to keep warm.'

no more

- ✗ My wife had left the hotel and I no more needed a double room.
 ✓ **My wife had left the hotel and I no longer needed a double room.**

When talking about time, use **no longer** (NOT **no more**): 'The offices are no longer occupied.'

Note the alternative: 'My wife had left the hotel and I didn't need a double room any more.'

no one 1

- ✗ No one of us regrets volunteering.
 ✓ **None of us regrets volunteering.**
 ✓ **Not one of us regrets volunteering.**

When you mean 'not one', use **none** or (for emphasis) **not one**: 'None of the children could tell the time.' 'Not one of the trainees has a medical background.'

No one and **nobody** cannot be followed by **of** unless the phrase introduced by **of** is descriptive: 'No one of any importance was at the meeting.'

2 See **NOBODY/NO ONE**

no sooner *x* No sooner we had arrived than it began to rain.
 ✓ **No sooner had we arrived than it began to rain.**
 See Language Note at **NOT**

nobody/ no one 1 *x* Nobody have complained about the noise.
 ✓ **Nobody has complained about the noise.**
x When I arrived, there were nobody at home.
 ✓ **When I arrived, there was nobody at home.**

nobody/no one + singular verb: 'Is nobody going to help you?'

2 *x* He closed the door quietly so that nobody wouldn't hear him.
 ✓ **He closed the door quietly so that nobody would hear him.**
 See Language Note at **NOT**

3 *x* Nobody has done something yet.
 ✓ **Nobody has done anything yet.**
 See Language Note at **NOT**

noise 1 *x* I turned on the radio but there was no noise.
 ✓ **I turned on the radio but there was no sound.**
x He was woken up by the noise of broken glass.
 ✓ **He was woken up by the sound of broken glass.**

noise = (1) loud unpleasant sounds heard as a single mass: 'The noise of the traffic gave me a headache.' 'People were making such a lot of noise that I couldn't hear what she was saying.' (2) a sound that is unpleasant and/or without meaning: 'The radio started making a funny noise.' 'What was that noise?'

sound = something that is heard or received by the ear, especially something that you recognize or can give a meaning to: 'I've always loved the sound of a classical guitar.' 'I could hear the sound of someone crying in the next room.'

2 *x* I was woken up by a big noise outside the room.
 ✓ **I was woken up by a loud noise outside the room.**
loud noise (**NOT big**): 'Habitual exposure to loud noises can damage the ear.'

3 *x* The restaurant was full and there was a loud noise.
 ✓ **The restaurant was full and there was a lot of noise.**
x You can talk as long as you don't make a loud noise.
 ✓ **You can talk as long as you don't make a lot of noise.**
A loud noise (countable) describes what you hear when, for example, somebody slams a door or drops a plate. To refer to continuous noise made during an activity, use **noise** as an uncountable noun: 'They don't know the difference between music and noise.'

nominate *x* Mr Tong was nominated manager of the company in 1984.
 ✓ **Mr Tong was appointed manager of the company in 1984.**

nominate = suggest someone for election or selection (for a job or position): 'We need to nominate someone to take over from Harry as our new public relations officer.'

appoint = give someone a job or position: 'Mr H. Wilks has been officially appointed as the society's new public relations officer.'

none 1

- ✗ I checked the essay for mistakes but I couldn't find none.
 ✓ **I checked the essay for mistakes but I couldn't find any.**

See Language Note at NOT

2

- ✗ I told the police officer that in my opinion none of the two drivers was responsible.
 ✓ **I told the police officer that in my opinion neither of the two drivers was responsible.**

When talking about two people or things, use **neither**. For three or more, use **none**.

noon

- ✗ The cafeteria is always crowded in the noon.
 ✓ **The cafeteria is always crowded at noon.**

See Language Note at TIME

North

- ✗ I am now living in North England.
 ✓ **I am now living in the north of England.**

North + noun, **South** + noun, etc. are mainly used in the names of countries and their internal divisions: 'North America', 'South Carolina'.

To refer to approximate locations, use **the North/South, the north/south of** + noun, or **northern/southern** + noun, etc: 'They've bought a cottage in the south of France.' 'Northern England is supposed to be colder than the South.'

not 1

- ✗ He told me to not spend too long in the sun.
 ✓ **He told me not to spend too long in the sun.**

Not and **never** usually go immediately in front of a **to** infinitive: 'Try not to worry about anything.' 'It's hard not to feel sorry for him.'

2

See Language Note opposite

not only 1

- ✗ He not only was a talented pianist but also a great composer.
 ✓ **He was not only a talented pianist but also a great composer.**

The position of **not only** should be the same as the position of **but also** (i.e. immediately before an object, immediately before a main verb, etc). Compare: 'He injured not only his shoulder but also his elbow.' ('his shoulder' and 'his elbow' are both objects) 'He not only injured his back but also hurt his head.' ('injured' and 'hurt' are both verbs)

2

- ✗ Not only I passed, but I got a distinction.
 ✓ **Not only did I pass, but I got a distinction.**

See Language Note opposite

nothing

- ✗ It was so dark that I couldn't see nothing.
 ✓ **It was so dark that I couldn't see anything.**

See Language Note opposite

Using negative words

- Do not use two negative words in a clause. **No, nobody, nothing etc** cannot be used with **not, never, hardly, seldom, etc**.

Nobody could see me. (NOT 'couldn't see')

Nobody ever asks me for my opinion. (NOT 'never asks')

I checked the essay for mistakes but couldn't find any. (NOT 'find none')

- After negative words, you usually use **any, anyone, anything, etc** (NOT **some, someone, something, etc**).

I hadn't seen anyone for over a week.

Nobody is doing anything to help them.

Follow the same rule if the context has a negative meaning.

He managed to get on the train without anyone seeing him.

By six o'clock I am too tired to do anything else.

- As a general rule, use **nobody/nothing etc** with an affirmative verb instead of **everybody/everything etc** with a negative verb.

Nobody is allowed to wear shoes in the mosque. (NOT 'Everyone isn't')

None of the children are at school today.

Compare: 'All the children aren't at school today.' This means that some of the children are at school today, but not all of them.

- When a sentence begins with **never, hardly, seldom, rarely, scarcely, nowhere, no sooner, not only, only when, by no means, under no circumstances etc**, the subject and auxiliary verb change places.

No sooner had we arrived than it began to rain.

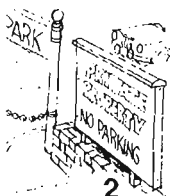
Under no circumstances should you wait any longer.

- When there is no auxiliary verb, use **do**:

Only then did I realize that I was completely alone.

Rarely do you meet such polite children nowadays.

notice 1



✗ I wrote him a notice saying that the package had arrived.

✓ **I wrote him a note saying that the package had arrived.**

notice = a short written statement giving information or directions, usually found in a public place: 'There was a notice on the wall saying "Private property. No parking."'

note = a short informal letter or written message from one person to another: 'Just a quick note to say that Helen had a baby boy yesterday.'

✗ It was so crowded that at first I didn't take any notice of him.

✓ **It was so crowded that at first I didn't see/notice him.**

take notice of = pay attention to: 'Nobody ever takes any notice of what I say.'

notice = become aware of; see: 'I didn't suspect anything until I noticed that my chequebook was missing.'

- 3
- x I could notice that he was not enjoying himself.
 - ✓ **I noticed that he was not enjoying himself.**
 - ✓ **I could see that he was not enjoying himself.**

Notice is not used with **can/could**: 'They were so busy that they didn't notice how late it was getting.'

now 1

- x I'm sure you'll be happier from now.
- ✓ **I'm sure you'll be happier from now on.**
- x From now I shall make all the decisions myself.
- ✓ **From now on I shall make all the decisions myself.**

from now on (WITH **on**): 'From now on I'm going to work really hard and make sure I pass.'

2

See UNTIL NOW

nowadays 1 x People live longer in nowadays.

- ✓ **People live longer nowadays.**

nowadays (WITHOUT **in**): 'More women have executive jobs nowadays, especially in publishing.' 'Nowadays, computer skills are essential.'

2 x This is a major problem for nowadays society.

- ✓ **This is a major problem for today's society.**

Nowadays is an adverb (NOT an adjective): 'Video cameras are very popular nowadays.'

number 1

- x The number of heavy smokers are decreasing.
- ✓ **The number of heavy smokers is decreasing.**

the number of ... + singular verb: 'The number of people claiming unemployment benefit has risen by 5 per cent in the last three months.'

- 2
- x A large number of cars was parked outside the school.
 - ✓ **A large number of cars were parked outside the school.**

a number of ... + plural verb: 'A number of viewers have complained about the excessive violence in the film.'

- 3
- x Harsher punishments will not reduce the number of crime.
 - ✓ **Harsher punishments will not reduce the number of crimes.**
 - ✓ **Harsher punishments will not reduce the amount of crime.**

See note at AMOUNT 1

- 4
- x In England I met a big number of women in senior positions.
 - ✓ **In England I met a large number of women in senior positions.**

a large/considerable number (NOT **big**): 'A large number of fatal accidents are caused by drunken drivers.'