

Name Day 4**Lesson 28****Negatives****Learn**

- a. My little sister don't have no front teeth anymore.
 b. Although she doesn't really believe in the tooth fairy, she won't say this out loud.

Which sentence, a. or b., uses too many negative words? _____

Which sentence, a. or b., uses negatives correctly? _____

A **negative** is a word that means "no" or "not." The words *no*, *not*, *nothing*, *none*, *never*, *nowhere*, and *nobody* are negatives. The negative word *not* is found in contractions such as *don't* and *wasn't*. Use only one negative in a sentence to express a negative idea. Use the contraction **doesn't** with singular subjects, including *he*, *she*, and *it*. Use the contraction **don't** with plural subjects, including *we* and *they*. Use *don't* with *I* and *you*, too.

Practice

Underline the word in parentheses that correctly completes each sentence.

- Nobody had (ever/never) told me about the magic mouse who trades children's teeth for money.
- You don't know (nothing/anything) about him either?
- Many Mexican children don't believe in (any/no) tooth fairy.
- Nobody in Mexico needs (no/a) tooth fairy, because they have El Raton.
- Although El Raton (doesn't/don't) look like an English tooth fairy, he acts the same way.
- Mexican children don't leave their teeth (nowhere/anywhere) on their beds.
- El Raton wouldn't be able to find (any/no) teeth there, so teeth go into a small box by the bed.
- Some other countries have a magic rat, but nobody uses (any/no) box.
- People in Haiti throw a tooth up on the roof, but they (don't/don't never) get money.

- 10. A child in Oman throws a tooth at the sun and hopes the sun will send (a/no) new one.
- 11. A German child usually (don't/doesn't) do anything with an old tooth.
- 12. In Pakistan, if there (is/isn't) no river nearby, a child will throw a tooth into a garden.
- 13. I (don't/doesn't) know how these customs started.
- 14. In a few countries, you (will/won't) never find a single custom that everyone follows.

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Strategies for Writers—Conventions & Skills Practice Unit 3