Proverb of the day: One man's meat is another man's poison.

Proverb of the day: A Rolling Stone Gathers No Moss

Use of "far", "long" and "a long time", "a long way"

"far" and "long" are used in negative and interrogative sentences while "a long way" and "a long time" are used in positive sentences only. In affirmative instead of " far" we say "a long way" and instead of "long" we say "a long time".

"far" and "a long way" deal with distance while "long" and "a long time" deal with time.

Examples

1. Pos: It is a long way from our home to school.

   Neg: It is not far from our home to school.

   Int: Is it far from our home to school?

2. Pos: It has been a long time without my friends.

   Neg: It has not been long without my friends.

   Int: Has it been long without my friends?

3. Pos: It will be a a long way from Mbarara to Kampala.

   Neg: It will not be far from Mbarara to Kampala.

   Int: Will it be far from Mbarara to Kampala?

4. Pos: John can take a long time in town

   Neg: John cannot take long in town.

   Int: Can John take long in town?

5. Int: Was it far from Kalangala to Nansana?

   Neg: It was not far from Kalangala to Nansana.

   Pos: It was a long way from Kalangala to Nansana.

6. Int: Could Jane spend long with the patient?

   Neg: Jane could not spend long with the patient.

   Pos: Jane could spend a long time with the patient.

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7. **Pos**: It is a long way from Jinja to Kampala.

   Neg: It isn't far from Jinja to Kampala.

   Int: Is it far from Jinja to Kampala?

8. **Int**: Is it far from here to China?

   Neg: It is not far from here to China.

   Pos: It is a long way from here to China.

9. **Int**: Is that hill far from the railway?

   Neg: That hill is not far from the railway.

   Pos: That hill is a long way from the railway.

10. **Neg**: She hadn't gone far when she met somebody.

    Pos: She had gone a long way when she met somebody.

    Int: Had she gone far when she met somebody?

Long - A long time

Long is used in negative and interrogative sentences whereas a long time is used in affirmative sentences only.

Examples

1. **Pos**: The candidates took a long time writing the exam.

   Neg: The candidates didn't take long writing the exam.

   Int: Did the candidates take long writing the exam?

2. **Pos**: He takes a long time to finish that work.

   Neg: He doesn't take long to finish that work.

   Int: Does he take long to finish that work?

3. **Pos**: They took a long time to cross the river.

   Neg: They didn't take long to cross the river.

   Int: Did they take long to cross the river?

Exercise:

Make the following sentences affirmative.

1. It's not far from London to Lagos.
2. Will he take long doing that?
3. Is it far from here to China?
4. The play didn't last long.
5. Will they stay long in the hotel?
6. You are not far from the river.
7. Is that hill far from the railway.
8. Did she take long to finish the work?
9. She hadn't gone far before she met somebody.

Exercise:

Make the following (a) negative, (b) interrogative.

1. I am a long way from home.
2. It takes a long time to write out these sentences.
3. You spend a long time reading your lesson books.
4. It's a long way from Paris to Moscow.
5. The railway station is a long way from the market.

Proverb of the day: One Good Turn Deserves Another

Summary table

Words which completely change from affirmative to negative or interrogative.

Positive	Negative	Interrogative
some	any	any
someone	anyone	anyone
somebody	anybody	anybody
somewhere	anywhere	anywhere
something	anything	anything
a great deal of	much	much
a lot of	many/much	many/much
a long way	far	far
a long time	long	long
already	yet	yet

Activity:

Change from positive to negative then to interrogative.

1. Timbe bought some oranges yesterday.

   Neg: Timbe did not buy any oranges yesterday.

   Int: Did Timbe buy any oranges yesterday?

2. Aida had a lot of money.

   Neg: Aida did not have much money.

   Int: Did Aida have much money?

3. It has been a long way from Akasombo Dam to Owen falls Dam.

Neg: It has not been far from Akasombo Dam to Owen falls Dam.

Int: Has it been far from Akasombo Dam to Owen falls Dam?

4. It must be a long time since we last ate meat.

   Neg: It must not be long since we last ate meat.

   Int: Must it be long since we last ate meat?

5. There is some water in the pot.

   Neg: There isn't any water in the pot.

   Int: Is there any water in the pot?

6. They have got someone in the army.

   Neg: They haven't got anyone in the army.

   Int: Have they got anyone in the army?

7. I felt something cold.

   Neg: I didn't feel anything cold.

   Int: Did I feel anything cold?

8. It is a long way from Masaka to Kabale.

   Neg: It is not far from Masaka to Kabale.

   Int: Is it far from Masaka to Kabale?

9. They have a lot of money.

   Neg: They don't have much money.

   Int: Do they have much money?

10. There were a lot of people in the market.

    Neg: There weren't many people in the market.

    Int: Were there many people in the market?

11. He has already gone.

    Neg: He has not yet gone.

Int: Has he gone yet?

12. They stayed for a long time.

    Neg: They did not stay for long.

    Int: Did they stay for long?

Point to note:

In the present simple tense, the negative form uses "does not" or "do not" . When the subject of the sentence is singular, we use **does not** and then drop the "s" or "es" ending on the main verb.

Examples

1. She greets people.

   Neg: She does not greet people.

   Int: Does she greet people?

2. Lule works very hard nowadays.

   Neg: Lule does not work very hard nowadays.

   Int: Does Lule work very hard nowadays?

Point to Note:

When the subject of the sentence is plural, we use **do not** and leave the main verb unchanged.

Examples

1. They greet people.

   Neg: They do not greet people.

   Int: Do they greet people?

2. Those children fetch water every evening.

   Neg: Those children do not fetch water every evening.

   Int: Do those children fetch water every evening?

Point to Note:

In the past simple tense, the negative words used are "**did not**". When changing a sentence to negative or interrogative, the verb is changed from the past to the present.

Examples

1. We saw some wild animals.

   Neg: We did not see any wild animals.

   Int: Did we see any wild animals?

2. The boys collected all the books.

   Neg: The boys did not collect all the books.

   Int: Did the boys collect all the books?

3. Susan performed very well.

   Neg: Susan did not perform very well.

   Int: Did Susan perform very well?

Other forms of negative and interrogative words.

(Use of prefixes)

A prefix is a beginning part that is added to a simple word.

The negative words below are prefixes "in", "un", "im", "dis", and "mis". Prefixes can also help us to make negative statements.

Examples

Affirmative	Negative
He drew an accurate angle.	He drew an inaccurate angle.
She was happy yesterday.	She was unhappy yesterday.
Bwindi is a penetrable forest.	Bwindi is an impenetrable forest.

They guided us.	They misguided us.

The prefix "in", which has been added to the word "accurate", has made it to mean "not accurate", "unhappy" means "not happy", "impenetrable" means "not penetrable", and so on.

Management:

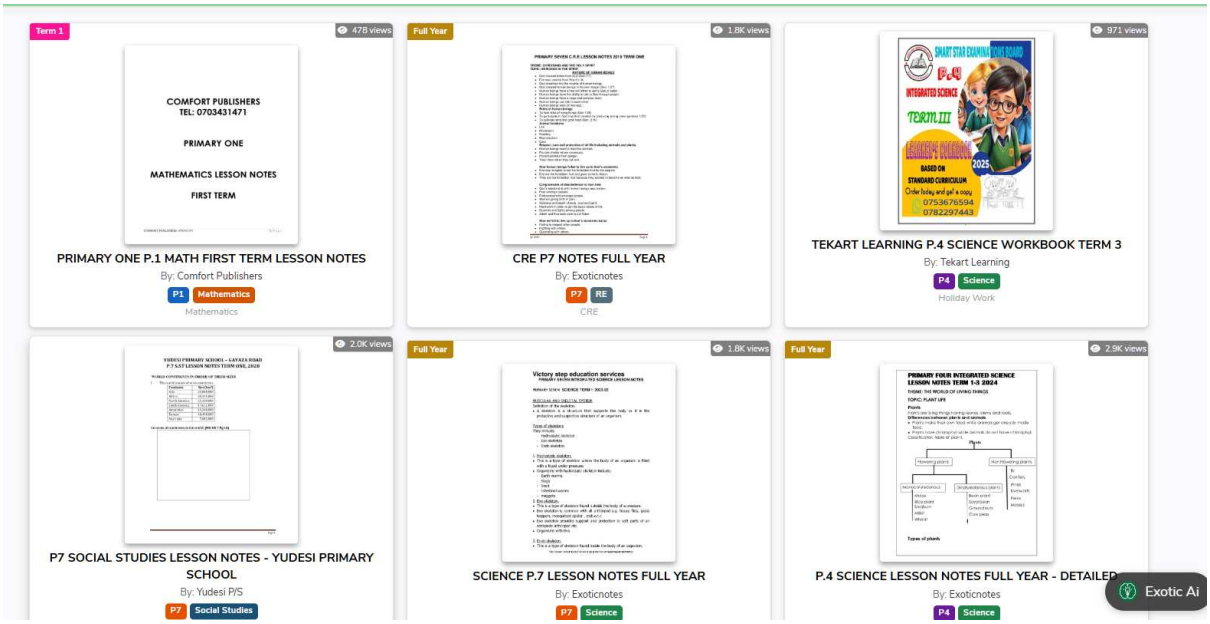
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