Lecture Notes:
- **Polarity:**
- **Polarity** refers to the grammatical systems associated with distinguishing between positive and negative clauses.
- Basic clauses in English are positive while negative clauses carry explicit marking using words such as "not" and "no". The positive polarity clauses are the default clauses. Clauses with positive polarity are simpler, meaning that they contain fewer items, while clauses with negative polarity usually need extra material.
  E.g.
  He is a nice person. → Positive polarity, default clause
  He is not a nice person. → Negative polarity
- **Negation:**
- **Negation** is the process of turning a declarative sentence to its opposite.
- Negation in English is marked by words such as "no", "not", "never", etc and affixes such as "-n't", "un-", "non-", etc.
  E.g.
  He has <u>not</u> arrived.
  He did<u>n't</u> receive the letter.
  You were <u>un</u>happy with the wallpaper.
- **Note:** A negative element is an affix like "dis-", "un-", "mis-", "-less" or words like no, not or never.
- **Note:**
  Not + verb (Not precedes a verb.)
  No + noun (No precedes a noun.)
- In terms of meaning, negation indicates that some part of the sentence is false.
  E.g.
  The sentence "Billy didn't break the vase." means that something about the positive equivalent "Billy broke the vase." is false.
- Note that negation doesn't indicate that the opposite is true.
  E.g.
  The sentence "The red team didn't beat the blue team." does not mean the red team lost to the blue team. They could have tied.
- There are 2 types of negation:
  1. **Clausal Negation:**
     a. **Verbal:**
        - Insert a negator "not" between the auxiliary and the verb.
          Note: We insert "not" after the first auxiliary.
          E.g.
          John could <u>not</u> hand in his assignment.
          Auxiliary: could
          Negator: not
          Main verb: hand in
        - If there is no auxiliary, insert the dummy "do".
          E.g.
          John did <u>not</u> hand in his assignment.
     b. **Non-verbal:**
        - Does not use "not" to negate the sentence. Instead, it uses absolute negators or approximate negators.

- **Absolute negators:** no one, nobody, nothing, nowhere
  E.g.
  I got <u>nothing</u> in the fridge.
- **Approximate negators:** few, little, rarely, barely, hardly, scarcely
  E.g.
  I <u>rarely</u> eat fish.
  I <u>hardly</u> go to the movies.

2. Non-clausal Negation/Sub-clausal Negation:
- Occurs when the negation fails to make the entire sentence negative.
- Usually negates an adjective or adverb.
- Uses affixes such as "dis-", "in-", "un-", "non-", "im-".
  E.g.
  <u>Im</u>possible
  <u>Un</u>likely
  <u>Non</u>-standard
- E.g.
  He was <u>un</u>faithful.

- **Polarity Tests:**
- Having a negative element inside a clause does not always give the clause negative polarity, so there are 3 tests for polarity, listed below. Positive and negative clauses behave differently with respect to these 3 tests.

1. Test 1 "Not even":
- While negative clauses can be followed by constituents introduced by "not even", this is not possible with positive clauses.
- E.g.
  Bill didn't eat his dinner, <u>not even</u> his dessert. → Negative clause. Adding "not even his dessert" makes grammatical sense.
  Bill ate his dinner, <u>not even</u> his dessert. → Positive clause. Adding "not even his dessert" doesn't make grammatical sense.
- **Note:** A constituent introduced by "not even" cannot follow a positive clause.

2. Test 2 "So, neither, nor":
- Two positive clauses can be connected with the connective "so".
- Two negative clauses can be connected with the connectives "neither" or "nor".
- E.g.
  She ate an apple and <u>so</u> did he. (Positive clauses)
  She didn't eat an apple and <u>neither</u> did he. (Negative clauses)
  She didn't eat an apple; <u>nor</u> did he. (Negative clauses)
- If we try connecting two positive clauses with "neither" or "nor", we get an ungrammatical sentence.
  E.g.
  She ate an apple and <u>neither</u> did he. (Doesn't make sense.)
- Similarly, trying to connect two negative clauses with "so" is ungrammatical.
  E.g.
  She didn't eat an apple and <u>so</u> did he. (Doesn't make sense.)

3. Test 3 "Reversed polarity tags":
- Another way of distinguishing positive clauses from negative clauses is to look at whether they take positive tags or negative tags.
- Positive clauses take negative tags.

- Negative clauses take positive tags.
  E.g.

Clause Polarity	Clause	Tag	Tag Polarity
+	She left	didn't she?	-
-	She didn't leave	did she?	+

- So, clauses want tags of the opposite polarity.
- Notice that if we try to put a negative tag on a negative clause, it's ungrammatical.
  E.g.
  Maria didn't send the letter, didn't she?
- Similarly, positive tags on positive clauses are ungrammatical.
  E.g.
  Maria sent the letter, did she?
- **Polarity Sensitive Items:**
- Some words or expressions are sensitive to the polarity of the clause they're in.
- Some such items prefer to be in positive clauses and have restrictions on how they're used in negative clauses.
- Others prefer to be in negative clauses and have restrictions on how they're used in positive clauses.
- Both types of items are said to be **polarity-sensitive**.
- For instance, "some" has a positive orientation, preferring to be in positive clauses while "any" has a negative orientation.
  E.g.

	Positive Clause	Negative Clause
some	We have <u>some</u> suggestions.	We don't have <u>some</u> suggestions. (Ungrammatical)
any	We have <u>any</u> suggestions. (Ungrammatical)	We don't have <u>any</u> suggestions.

- However, "any" can also occur in interrogative clauses that are not negative.
  E.g.
  Have you seen <u>any</u> birds?
- Words like "any" that occur in either negative polarity clauses or in interrogative clauses but not in positive declaratives are called **non-affirmative items**.
- **Note:** "One" is not polarity sensitive while "ever", "anyone" and "somewhat" are polarity sensitive.

__Textbook Notes:__
- **Polarity:**
- The term **polarity** refers to the grammatical systems associated with distinguishing between positive and negative clauses.
- In English, basic clauses are positive while negative clauses contain an overt marker using negative elements including not and no; The first one is used to negate a verb, and the second one is mainly used to negate a noun.

- Moreover, there are other ways to make particular categories such as adjectives and adverbs negative. One of the strategies is to add a negative prefix such as in-, ir-, im-, non-, dis-, un-, etc. to an adjective or an adverb to create the opposite meaning. Some examples include satisfied (dissatisfied), ethical (unethical), etc.
- There are two main types of negation in English
    1. **clausal negation**
    2. **non-clausal/sub-clausal negation**.
- **Clausal Negation:**
- There are two types of clausal negation:
    1. **Verbal negation**
    2. **Non-verbal negation**
- The difference between the two types of clausal negation is related to the place in the clause where negation occurs. For **verbal negation**, if there is a helping verb or auxiliary in the sentence, you simply insert the negation marker, not, between the helping verb and the main verb.
    E.g.
    He has <u>not</u> finished his meal yet.
    Here the verbal negation marker 'not' is placed between "has", the auxiliary, and "finished", the main verb.
- If there is no auxiliary, you need to insert dummy "do" to make the sentence negative.
    E.g.
    He finished his meal. (affirmative)
    He <u>did not</u> finish his meal. (negative)
    E.g. The same holds true for imperatives:
    Leave early! (affirmative)
    <u>Don't</u> leave early! (negative)
- **Note:** The only verb that does not need "do" when it occurs without an auxiliary is the verb "be".
    E.g.
    He is intelligent. → He is <u>not</u> intelligent.
- **Non-Verbal negation** does not require the insertion of the negation marker "not". There are two types of non-verbal negation markers that make a clause negative:
    1. **Absolute negation markers:** no, none, nobody, no one, nothing, nowhere
    2. **Approximate negation markers:** few, little, rarely, seldom, barely, hardly
    These two groups of negation markers change a clause polarity from positive to negative. However, they are non-verbal.
    E.g.
    I cooked <u>nothing</u> for dinner.
    I have <u>no one</u> to talk to.
    He <u>barely</u> visits us.
    There is <u>none</u> in the basket.

    All of the above clauses are considered negative. However, we do not use 'not' to make these clauses negative. We use other negative markers to negate the clause.
    Remember, 'not' is used to negate the verb, and that's why it is called verbal negation.
- **Non-Clausal Negation:**
- Unlike clausal negation, both verbal and non-verbal, non-clausal negation does not render the clause negative. This means that with non-clausal negation, the sentence

remains positive. As a result, the clause is said to be an example of 'sub-clausal' negation. Examples of this type include the use of negative prefixes such as dis- (dissatisfied), non- (non-existent), un- (unfaithful), in- (intolerant), etc and suffixes such as -less (ruthless) which attach to adjectives and adverbs. Note that these prefixes or suffixes make the adjective or the adverb negative and not the entire clause.
- **Distinguishing Negative and Positive Clauses:**
- As mentioned above, only clausal negation can change the polarity of a clause from positive to negative. Therefore, we need tests to distinguish between negative and positive clauses. There are 3 tests that can help us distinguish between negative and positive clauses:

  1. **Tag Question Test:**
  - Rule: If the tag is positive then the clause is negative and vice versa.
  - E.g.
    Cathy likes fish, <u>doesn't she</u>? (Requires a negative tag → clause is positive)
    Cathy doesn't like fish, <u>does she</u>? (Requires a positive tag → clause is negative)
  - **Note:** Positive clauses may take positive tags, but negative clauses can ONLY take positive tags.

  2. **Not Even Test:**
  - Rule: Add a phrase introduced by "not even" to the clause**.** If it makes sense, then the clause is negative. If it doesn't, most probably, it's a positive clause. Only negative clauses can take this type of phrase.
  - E.g.
    There is no chance of us winning, <u>not even a bit</u>. (makes sense → clause is negative)
    He didn't buy anything for my birthday, <u>not even a rose</u>. (makes sense → clause is negative)
    He dislikes mice, *<u>not even the small ones</u>. (doesn't make sense → clause is positive)

  3. **Neither/Nor Test:**
  - If a clause can be linked by "neither/nor" phrases, we can say it is a negative clause. However, for positive clauses, only the use of 'so' makes sense.
  - E.g.
    I don't like fish, <u>neither does he</u> (makes sense → clause is negative)
    They don't want to talk about the issue, <u>nor do I</u>. (makes sense → clause is negative)
    She doesn't believe in ghosts, *<u>so do I </u>(doesn't make sense → clause is negative)
  - **Note:** Neither/nor are used with negative clauses while so is used with positive clauses.
  - E.g.
    The students are tired, so am I. (makes sense → clause is positive)