



## Wesley Teaches How to Make Negatives with X-Words

Wesley is very curious, but he also understands that there are some things he should **not** do. He understands the need for the word “**not**.” Wesley recognizes that scratching Stacey is **not** a good idea. Sometimes, he just **can’t** help it because his talons are sharp! Stacy does **not** get angry at Wesley. She loves Wesley, and she knows that he **doesn’t** mean to hurt her!

Here are the X-Words that get connected to the **not** or the **n’t**. You can also see some of them in the above paragraph, **can’t** you?

have, has, had  
do, does, did  
am, is, are, was, were  
can, could/shall, should/will, would  
ALSO  
must, might, may  
Hey!

### **There is one rule to make a negative with “not” or “n’t”**

Attach the “not” or the contraction “n’t” to the x-word. They are always linked arm-in-arm.

Wesley can’t imagine a world without his mice.  
Wesley would not be alive without Stacey.

### **If the decision is to make a negative with “never,” it goes between the x-word and the main verb.**

Wesley will never say “no” to play.  
In the beginning, Stacy was worried about Wesley.

### **When the x-words aren’t visible, they must be made visible to form the negative.**

Wesley likes his life in the science lab. (hidden “does”)  
He doesn’t like to be scared.

Wesley and Stacey play a lot. (hidden “do”)  
They don’t get angry at each other.

Stacy saved Wesley’s life. (hidden “did”)  
Wesley didn’t have to be alone.