

Double negatives

'He didn't want to share nothing.'(p.24)

This is an example of Gee speaking Aboriginal English using the example of a double negative. There are two negative words in his sentence: 'didn't' and 'nothing'. If Gee was speaking in Standard Australian English, this would be considered grammatically incorrect.

The usual way to code-switch is to change 'no' to 'any', or 'won't' to 'will', e.g. 'nothing' becomes 'anything'.

So, Gee's sentence, in Standard Australian English, becomes: *He didn't want to share anything.*

What Gee said was not wrong or incorrect if you really think about it. He was speaking as an Aboriginal person using Aboriginal English. If he used the Standard Australian English version to an Aboriginal person, it might sound wrong or out of place.

Before proceeding with this task, make sure you are familiar with the definitions on the sheet provided.

Your task:

Code-switch the following Aboriginal English sentences that use double negatives

Aboriginal English sentence for spoken dialect use	Standard Australian English sentence
"It doesn't mean I won't swear no more."	
"She used to, but she don't no more."	
"No one didn't answer the phone."	
"She aint got nothin' to do with it."	
"It don't mean nothin'."	
"I'm not gonna do nothin'."	
"She don't give me nothin' to do."	
"I never said it wasn't rainin'."	
"No-one wasn't walking when you said."	