

## Informal English: AIN'T

The word “**ain't**” is an extremely informal word, and its use is considered to be bad grammar. It has 7 possible meanings:

### **am not, isn't, aren't, hasn't, haven't, there isn't, there aren't**

#### Examples:

am not	I <b>ain't</b> gonna tell ya again.	(I'm <b>not</b> going to tell you again.)
isn't	It <b>ain't</b> up to you.	(It <b>isn't</b> up to you.)
aren't	They <b>ain't</b> doing nothing.	(They <b>aren't</b> doing anything.)
hasn't	He <b>ain't</b> seen nothing.	(He <b>hasn't</b> seen anything.)
haven't	We <b>ain't</b> arrived yet.	(We <b>haven't</b> arrived yet.)
there isn't	<b>Ain't</b> nobody here.	( <b>There isn't</b> anybody here.)
there aren't	<b>Ain't</b> no books on the table.	( <b>There aren't</b> any books on the table.)

The word “**ain't**” is commonly used in a sentence with another negative word, forming a “double negative”, which is also bad English grammar. Many people say that “**ain't**” isn't a real word, but it appears in many dictionaries. The word can make you sound “uneducated”, so it is recommended that you don't use the word in academic or professional contexts.

You can hear "ain't" in many songs, such as:

- 1) Bob Dylan- It ain't me, Babe (1964)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YoagldK69U0>
- 2) Marvin Gaye and Tammi Terrell - Ain't no mountain High Enough (1967)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-C\\_3eYj-pOM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-C_3eYj-pOM)
- 3) Bill Withers - Ain't No Sunshine (1971)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CICIOJqEb5c>
- 4) Bon Jovi - This ain't a Love Song (1995)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vsPv3EwkEgE>
- 5) Bachman-Turner Overdrive - You Ain't Seen Nothing Yet (1974)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g9S93bE06H0>
- 6) Louis Jordan - Is you is or is you ain't my baby? (1944)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XKOWxIYrf8s>

**Exercise 1.** Write the correct English for the song titles above.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise 2.** Write the correct English for:

1. It ain't raining today. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Ain't nothing I can do about it. \_\_\_\_\_

3. They ain't got no idea. \_\_\_\_\_

4. You ain't right. \_\_\_\_\_

5. He ain't got no kids. \_\_\_\_\_

6. I ain't got nothing. \_\_\_\_\_

7. I ain't never been to Japan. \_\_\_\_\_