

# NPI Squish

Below are 42 sentences constructed using the 6 negative triggers *whether, would rather, seldom, not, too*, and *only*, and the 7 negative polarity items *any more, ever, in weeks, take long, at all, yet*, and *until* (w/ punctual verb). Not all are grammatical; is there any pattern?

**HINT:** Try using a 6-by-7 grid. Maximum 1 page.

- 1) *He's seldom ever eaten a mango.*
- 2) *\*He would rather listen to Bach than The Beatles any more.*
- 3) *\*Only Bill thinks it'll take long.*
- 4) *He hasn't slept at all.*
- 5) *\*We want to find out whether they arrived until noon.*
- 6) *\*He'd rather watch TV than finish it yet.*
- 7) *?He's seldom been here in weeks.*
- 8) *He's been too nervous to sleep at all.*
- 9) *He has not ever eaten a mango.*
- 10) *He seldom sleeps during the day at all.*
- 11) *Only Bill has ever eaten a mango.*
- 12) *We have to find out whether they've finished yet.*
- 13) *?He would rather pace the room than sleep at all.*
- 14) *It seldom takes long.*
- 15) *They didn't arrive until noon.*
- 16) *I need to know whether he has slept at all.*
- 17) *\*Only Bill arrived until noon.*
- 18) *Tell me whether he's ever eaten a mango.*
- 19) *?Only Bill got to sleep at all.*
- 20) *Bill doesn't buy his suits there any more.*
- 21) *\*Only Bill has been home in weeks.*
- 22) *They haven't finished the paper yet.*
- 23) *\*He's been too angry to see her in weeks.*
- 24) *He would rather go hungry than ever eat a mango.*
- 25) *He is seldom finished yet at this time of day.*
- 26) *He's too picky to ever eat a mango.*
- 27) *\*They would rather be late than arrive until noon.*
- 28) *He's too lazy to have finished yet.*
- 29) *He hasn't been home in weeks.*
- 30) *\*We have to find out whether he's been home in weeks.*
- 31) *?Only Bill has finished yet.*
- 32) *He seldom buys his suits here any more.*
- 33) *He's too poor to buy his suits there any more.*
- 34) *We have to find out whether he buy his suits there any more.*
- 35) *?Only Bill buys his suits there any more.*
- 36) *This procedure won't take long to do.*
- 37) *It's too simple to take long.*
- 38) *We need to know whether it will take long.*
- 39) *\*He would rather forget about it than take long.*
- 40) *He seldom arrives until noon.*
- 41) *?He's too slow to arrive until noon.*
- 42) *\*She would rather flunk than study in weeks.*