Double Negatives

1. We don’t hardly have enough time to finish our homework. No error
   A       B       C       D       E

2. Let’s meet for dinner tonight; we hardly never see each other lately. No error
   A       B       C       D       E

3. Henry said he didn’t see nothing he wanted on the menu.
   (A) didn’t see nothing he wanted on the menu
   (B) sees nothing he wanted on the menu
   (C) saw nothing he wanted on the menu
   (D) didn’t saw anything he wanted on the menu
   (E) didn’t see nothing on the menu that he wanted
Answers and Explanations

1. **The correct answer is A.** *Don’t hardly* is a double negative. We can say either *don’t have* or *hardly have*. Since *don’t* isn’t underlined, the error must be with *hardly*.

2. **The correct answer is C.** *Hardly never* is a double negative. To be correct, the sentence would have to read *we hardly ever see*.

3. **The correct answer is C.** Choice A contains a double negative (*didn’t see nothing*). This double negative is repeated in choice E. Choice B corrects the double negative but adds a verb tense inconsistency (*sees...wanted*). Choice D corrects the double negative in a different way, changing *nothing* to *anything*, but includes the past tense of see (*saw*) which is incorrect. Choice C corrects the double negative without introducing any other errors.