

# Know “No” Better: A Data-Driven Approach for Enhancing Negation Awareness in CLIP

## Supplementary Material

### A. OpenCLIP Training Dataset Statistics

In this section, we provide additional statistics on negation-related terms in the datasets used for OpenCLIP [1] training, complementing the analysis presented in Sec. 2.2. Specifically, we report the frequency of the negation terms “no,” “not,” and “without” in the DataComp-1B [3] and LAION-2B [13] datasets in Tab. 1. Both datasets exhibit trends similar to those observed in LAION-400M [13]. These findings are consistent with the statistics we reported for LAION-400M, highlighting the insufficient representation of negation in datasets used for OpenCLIP pre-training.

Table 1. Proportion of negation in captions and words within DataComp-1B and LAION-2B.

Dataset	Level	Total Count	Neg. Count	Neg. Ratio
DataComp-1B [3]	Caption	1.38B	10.4M	0.75%
	Word	13.8B	11.8M	0.09%
LAION-2B [13]	Caption	2.08B	19.3M	0.93%
	Word	21.9B	21.1M	0.10%

### B. More Ablation Studies

In addition to the results presented in Sec. 4.3, we further evaluate the impact of using original captions instead of the generated captions for fine-tuning on the same set of images.

The results shown in Tab. 2 demonstrate that incorporating our generated captions consistently achieves the highest performance on both the VALSE and NegRefCOCOg benchmarks, across all architectures. Notably, while fine-tuning with original captions can also lead to degradation, as observed in the ViT-B/32 architecture on the VALSE benchmark, fine-tuning with our generated captions consistently improves performance. This underscores the efficacy of our data generation pipeline in enhancing negation comprehension.

### C. Data Generation Pipelines

We provide additional details on the two data generation pipelines discussed in Sec. 3.1 and Sec. 3.2 of the main paper. Specifically, we include the prompts used with the LLM and MLLM during data generation and provide examples of the generated image-caption pairs. The prompts used in the two pipelines are presented in Tab. 3 and Tab. 4 respectively.

We provide qualitative examples of the data generated by our proposed data generation pipelines in Fig. 1. As shown

Table 2. More ablation results on different data configurations.

Arch.	Data Config.	VALSE $\uparrow$	NegRefCOCOg $\uparrow$
ViT-B/32	Original	70.97	57.73
	+ Original Caption	68.35	60.45
	+ Our Caption	<b>80.15</b>	<b>64.09</b>
ViT-B/16	Original	69.48	58.64
	+ Original Caption	73.97	60.91
	+ Our Caption	<b>80.52</b>	<b>64.32</b>
ViT-L/14	Original	66.85	57.27
	+ Original Caption	74.91	60.00
	+ Our Caption	<b>79.59</b>	<b>62.95</b>
ViT-L/14 @336px	Original	64.61	57.05
	+ Original Caption	73.97	58.41
	+ Our Caption	<b>80.34</b>	<b>62.95</b>

in Fig. 1 (a), captions generated by Pipeline 1 accurately incorporate the absence of objects such as “car,” “ball,” or “curtains,” which are contextually plausible within the scene. This process enhances the training data with negation terms while maintaining alignment with the image content. Fig. 1 (b) demonstrates how Pipeline 2 captures a broader scope of negation, such as negating actions (e.g., “not swimming”), adjectival phrases (e.g., “not in the wild”). These examples highlight the flexibility and effectiveness of this pipeline in generating rich negation-inclusive captions.

### D. NegRefCOCOg Benchmark

In this section, we elaborate details on the construction of our proposed NegRefCOCOg benchmark in Sec. 3.3.

**Selection Criteria** To construct NegRefCOCOg, we begin by selecting samples from the RefCOCOg [17] dataset that meet the following criteria:

- The original image patch  $P_o^+$ , corresponding to the negation-inclusive prompt  $T$ , has a height and width of at least 100 pixels.
- At least one other image patch belonging to the same category as  $P_o^+$  has a height and width of at least 100 pixels and does not overlap with  $P_o^+$ . We then designate one of these patches as  $P_o^-$ .

**Image Patch Maximization** To ensure alignment with  $T$ , we maximize the sizes of  $P_o^+$  and  $P_o^-$  under the following constraints. As a result, we obtain the final patches,  $P^+$  and



Figure 1. Examples of data generated by our proposed pipelines. (a) demonstrates captions augmented through Pipeline 1, and (b) illustrates captions augmented through Pipeline 2. **Blue boxes** represent the original captions, and **red boxes** show the augmented captions with negation terms.

Table 3. Prompts used in our Pipeline 1.

Step 1: Extracting Plausible Object from Caption	
<b>System</b>	You are a helpful chatbot that answers with only one word.
<b>User</b>	Name an object that is not mentioned in the caption, but is likely to be in the image corresponding to the caption '{caption}'.
<b>LLM</b>	{object}.
Step 2: Verifying Object Absence with MLLM	
<b>System</b>	A chat between a curious human and an artificial intelligence assistant. The assistant gives helpful, detailed, and polite answers to the human's questions.
<b>User</b>	<image> Is there {object} in this image? Answer either yes or no.
<b>MLLM</b>	{yes/no}.
Step 3: Augmenting Caption with Negation	
<b>System</b>	You are a helpful chatbot that generates concise caption.
<b>User</b>	Add the absence of the {object} to the caption '{caption}'.
<b>LLM</b>	{updated.caption}.

Table 4. Prompts used in our Pipeline 2.

Step 2: Augmenting Caption with Negation	
<b>System</b>	You are a helpful chatbot that generates concise caption.
<b>User</b>	When the answer to the question {question} is 'no', reconstruct the caption '{caption}'.
<b>LLM</b>	{updated.caption}.

$P^-$ , where  $P^+$  is the expanded version of  $P_o^+$  and  $P^-$  is the expanded version of  $P^-$ .

- The expanded patch must not overlap with the other patch before its maximization, which can be expressed as:

$$P^+ \cap P_o^- = \emptyset, \quad P^- \cap P_o^+ = \emptyset.$$

- Horizontal expansion is limited to the original width of the patch in each direction (left and right).
- Vertical expansion is limited to the original height of the patch in each direction (top and bottom).

We obtain 440 triplets of  $(T, P^+, P^-)$  through this process, where  $P^+$  is well-aligned with  $T$  and  $P^-$  serves as challenging hard negative for evaluation. These 440 samples form the NegRefCOCOg benchmark, which we use to evaluate the ability of models to handle negation comprehensively and accurately.

Fig. 2 illustrates examples from NegRefCOCOg. These examples demonstrate the diversity of negation scenarios in NegRefCOCOg, including object absence, action negation with various negation terms.

## E. Results on Additional Models

Our method is model-agnostic and applies to SigLIP [18], showing consistent gains on negation benchmarks while preserving general performance, as shown in Tab. 5.

Table 5. Comparison of model performance on negation and general benchmarks across different architectures of SigLIP [18].

Model	Arch.	Negation Benchmarks		General Benchmarks	
		VALSE	NegRefCOCOg	ImageNet	COCO
SigLIP	base	67.98	61.59	<b>75.69</b>	72.10
Neg.SigLIP		<b>77.15</b>	<b>68.18</b>	75.10	<b>77.30</b>
SigLIP	large	73.03	62.05	79.73	75.20
Neg.SigLIP		<b>79.40</b>	<b>67.73</b>	<b>79.76</b>	<b>80.10</b>
SigLIP	so400m	75.47	63.18	<b>82.26</b>	76.30
Neg.SigLIP		<b>84.27</b>	<b>67.05</b>	81.68	<b>81.70</b>

## F. Expanded Discussion on T2I Generation

### F.1. Methods

In T2I generation, research has emerged focusing on the removal of unwanted concepts from generated images. [2, 5, 16]. These methods typically preprocess text prompts by identifying and removing negation-related components, reformulating the prompt to exclude negation. For example, given the text prompt “a panda in a forest without flowers,” LMD [5] uses an LLM to identify “flowers” as the negated object and remove it, resulting in a final layout-based prompt that retains only “a panda” and “a forest.”

In contrast, our approach directly uses the original prompt “a panda in a forest without flowers” without any preprocessing, allowing the T2I model to process negation as part of the input text. This provides a different perspective on handling negation, where the model learns to interpret negation within natural language rather than relying on preprocessing to modify the prompt.

### F.2. Evaluation

Existing methods evaluate negation comprehension in T2I models using the LMD [5] Negation benchmark, which consists of 10 prompts structured as “a realistic photo of a scene without [object]” and uses object detectors to verify object absence.

We provide evaluation results of NegationCLIP on the LMD Negation benchmark in Tab. 6. Standard SD strug-

Table 6. Results on LMD Negation benchmark.

Method	LMD Negation
SD	20%
SD w/ NegationCLIP text encoder	94%
SD + LMD [5]	100%

gles significantly with negation, achieving only 20% accuracy, indicating that it often fails to remove the negated object. In contrast, simply replacing SD’s text encoder with NegationCLIP’s text encoder improves accuracy to 94%, successfully removing the negated object in nearly all cases. Unsurprisingly, applying LMD [5] method to SD yields perfect performance, as it heuristically removes the negation-related part from the final prompt, ensuring that the object does not appear in the generated image.

However, while the LMD Negation benchmark effectively evaluates object removal, it does not account for negation beyond object presence or absence, such as actions and attributes. While it can determine whether an object has been successfully removed, it fails to capture cases where negation modifies an entity’s state (e.g., *a dog not running*) or its properties (e.g., *a not blue sphere*). To address this limitation, we introduce more diverse prompts that encompass negation in objects, actions, and attributes as shown in Tab. 8).

Since object detectors are insufficient for evaluating these more complex negation cases, we drew inspiration from the TIFA [4] metric’s MLLM-based VQA system and introduce the Neg Score as a more comprehensive evaluation measure in Sec 5.2.

## G. Experiment Details

### G.1. CelebA Classification

In Tab. 7, we provide attribute-specific prompts for all 40 attributes of CelebA [7] in our experiment in Sec. 2.1. NegationCLIP improves the accuracy from 60.8% to 64.0%, whereas CoN-CLIP [14] sees a decline to 60.6%. We note that achieving significantly higher accuracy on CelebA is inherently challenging, as the dataset includes subjective attributes (e.g., *attractive*).

### G.2. Fine-Tuning Configuration

We detail the fine-tuning configurations used to train our CLIP [11] models with the data generated from the proposed data generation pipeline.

The generated dataset was split into 80% for training and 20% for validation. We used batch sizes of 512 for ViT-B/32, 256 for ViT-B/16, 128 for both ViT-L/14 and ViT-L@336px, and 64 for ViT-BigG/14 which we fine-tuned specifically for the text-to-image (T2I) generation experiment using SDXL-1.0 [10] in Sec. 5.1. All models were



Figure 2. Examples from the proposed NegRefCOCOg benchmark. Each example consists of a textual description containing negation (top) and two image patches: the correct patch aligned with the negated description (green checkmark) and the incorrect patch representing a challenging hard negative (red cross).

fine-tuned using a single NVIDIA L40 GPU.

### G.3. T2I Generation

We provide details on T2I experiments shown in Sec. 5.1.

For generating negation-inclusive prompts, we utilized ChatGPT [9] to construct 107 prompts. To evaluate whether the generated images accurately reflected the given prompts, we employed ChatGPT to create two corresponding questions for each prompt. The first question was designed to assess whether the subject of the prompt was correctly generated, with the expected answer being “yes.” The second question aimed to verify whether the negation-related aspect was properly removed, with the expected answer being “no.” For example, for the prompt “a man not wearing a hat,” the two generated questions were “Is this a man?” and “Is the man wearing a hat?”. The complete list of prompts and their corresponding questions is provided in Tab. 8.

In SD-1.4 [12], we replaced its CLIP ViT-L/14 text encoder with CoN-CLIP text encoder and our fine-tuned negation-aware text encoder of the same architecture. For SDXL, which employs two text encoders (CLIP ViT-L/14 and CLIP ViT-BigG/14), we substituted both encoders with our fine-tuned versions.

### G.4. Referring Image Segmentation

For our experiments in referring image segmentation in Sec. 5.2, we utilized the publicly available weight of CLIPSeg [8] trained on the PhraseCut [15] dataset as our baseline. Without any additional training, we replaced the text encoder in the CLIPSeg architecture with CoN-CLIP ViT-B/16 text encoder and our fine-tuned CLIP ViT-B/16 text encoder.

We followed CLIPSeg to determine the threshold values for binary segmentation, setting it to 0.3 for experiments on the PhraseCut dataset and 0.1 for experiments on RefCOCOg (Neg), which is based on the COCO [6] dataset.

## H. Additional Qualitative Results

Fig. 3 demonstrates additional qualitative examples from T2I task. For each prompt, we include all images generated using 5 different random seeds.

For both SDXL [10] and SD-1.4 [12], substituting the original CLIP text encoder with NegationCLIP text encoder improves the ability to accurately reflect negation in generated images. Notably, SD-1.4, which uses only one text encoder, maintains high-quality image generation despite the substitution, highlighting that the fine-tuned NegationCLIP text encoder preserves overall image quality while enhancing negation comprehension.

Certain challenging prompts, such as “a city without buildings” or “a museum without exhibits,” expose limitations in the model’s ability to remove concepts with strong biases (e.g., buildings in city contexts, exhibits in museum contexts). These limitations may stem from the limited representation of such cases in the training data for generative models. Identifying the underlying causes of these limitations and addressing them constitutes an important direction for future work.

Table 7. CelebA attribute-specific prompts and balanced accuracy

Attribute	Positive Prompt	Negative Prompt
5 o Clock Shadow	a photo of a person with a 5 o'clock shadow	a photo of a person with no 5 o'clock shadow
Arched Eyebrows	a photo of a person with arched eyebrows	a photo of a person with not arched eyebrows
Attractive	a photo of an attractive person	a photo of a not attractive person
Bags Under Eyes	a photo of a person with bags under eyes	a photo of a person with no bags under eyes
Bald	a photo of a bald person	a photo of a not bald person
Bangs	a photo of a person with bangs	a photo of a person with no bangs
Big Lips	a photo of a person with big lips	a photo of a person with not big lips
Big Nose	a photo of a person with a big nose	a photo of a person with a not big nose
Black Hair	a photo of a person with black hair	a photo of a person with not black hair
Blond Hair	a photo of a person with blond hair	a photo of a person with not blond hair
Blurry	a blurry photo of a person	a not blurry photo of a person
Brown Hair	a photo of a person with brown hair	a photo of a person with not brown hair
Bushy Eyebrows	a photo of a person with bushy eyebrows	a photo of a person with not bushy eyebrows
Chubby	a photo of a chubby person	a photo of a not chubby person
Double Chin	a photo of a person with a double chin	a photo of a person with no double chin
Eyeglasses	a photo of a person wearing glasses	a photo of a person not wearing glasses
Goatee	a photo of a person with goatee	a photo of a person with no goatee
Gray Hair	a photo of a person with gray hair	a photo of a person with not gray hair
Heavy Makeup	a photo of a person with heavy makeup	a photo of a person with no heavy makeup
High Cheekbones	a photo of a person with high cheekbones	a photo of a person with not high cheekbones
Male	a photo of a male	a photo of a not male
Mouth Slightly Open	a photo of a person with mouth slightly open	a photo of a person with mouth not slightly open
Mustache	a photo of a person with mustache	a photo of a person with no mustache
Narrow Eyes	a photo of a person with narrow eyes	a photo of a person with not narrow eyes
No Beard	a photo of a person with no beard	a photo of a person with beard
Oval Face	a photo of a person with oval face	a photo of a person with not oval face
Pale Skin	a photo of a person with pale skin	a photo of a person with not pale skin
Pointy Nose	a photo of a person with a pointy nose	a photo of a person with not a pointy nose
Receding Hairline	a photo of a person with a receding hairline	a photo of a person with no receding hairline
Rosy Cheeks	a photo of a person with rosy cheeks	a photo of a person with not rosy cheeks
Sideburns	a photo of a person with sideburns	a photo of a person with no sideburns
Smiling	a photo of a person smiling	a photo of a person not smiling
Straight Hair	a photo of a person with straight hair	a photo of a person with not straight hair
Wavy Hair	a photo of a person with wavy hair	a photo of a person with not wavy hair
Wearing Earrings	a photo of a person wearing earrings	a photo of a person not wearing earrings
Wearing Hat	a photo of a person wearing a hat	a photo of a person not wearing a hat
Wearing Lipstick	a photo of a person wearing lipstick	a photo of a person not wearing lipstick
Wearing Necklace	a photo of a person wearing a necklace	a photo of a person not wearing a necklace
Wearing Necktie	a photo of a person wearing a necktie	a photo of a person not wearing a necktie
Young	a photo of a young person	a photo of a not young person

Table 8. Text-to-image generation prompts and corresponding questions.

Prompt	Question 1	Question 2	Prompt	Question 1	Question 2
a man not wearing a hat	Is this a man?	Is the man wearing a hat?	a woman not wearing a mask	Is this a woman?	Is the woman wearing a mask?
a dog not running	Is this a dog?	Is the dog running?	a bird not flying	Is this a bird?	Is the bird flying?
a not white cat	Is this a cat?	Is the cat white?	a not blue sphere	Is this a sphere?	Is the sphere blue?
a room with no window	Is this a room?	Is there a window in the room?	a dog without a collar	Is this a dog?	Does the dog have a collar?
a cat with no whiskers	Is this a cat?	Does the cat have whiskers?	a child not holding a toy	Is this a child?	Is the child holding a toy?
a park with no benches	Is this a park?	Are there benches in the park?	a bird not perched on a branch	Is this a bird?	Is the bird perched on a branch?
a woman without glasses	Is this a woman?	Is the woman wearing glasses?	a table with no chairs around	Is this a table?	Are there chairs around the table?
a car not parked in the driveway	Is this a car?	Is the car parked in the driveway?	a beach without any umbrellas	Is this a beach?	Are there umbrellas on the beach?
a man with no hat	Is this a man?	Is the man wearing a hat?	a road not crowded with cars	Is this a road?	Is the road crowded with cars?
a garden with no flowers	Is this a garden?	Are there flowers in the garden?	a person not holding an umbrella	Is this a person?	Is the person holding an umbrella?
a lake with no boats	Is this a lake?	Are there boats on the lake?	a house without a roof	Is this a house?	Does the house have a roof?
a tree not in bloom	Is this a tree?	Is the tree in bloom?	a mountain with no snow	Is this a mountain?	Is there snow on the mountain?
a room without furniture	Is this a room?	Is there furniture in the room?	a dog not barking	Is this a dog?	Is the dog barking?
a street with no people	Is this a street?	Are there people on the street?	a kitchen without any food	Is this a kitchen?	Is there food in the kitchen?
a cup not filled with coffee	Is this a cup?	Is the cup filled with coffee?	a forest with no animals	Is this a forest?	Are there animals in the forest?
a phone not on the table	Is this a phone?	Is the phone on the table?	a desk without a computer	Is this a desk?	Is there a computer on the desk?
a man not wearing shoes	Is this a man?	Is the man wearing shoes?	a restaurant with no tables	Is this a restaurant?	Are there tables in the restaurant?
a city skyline with no skyscrapers	Is this a city skyline?	Are there skyscrapers in the city skyline?	a field without crops	Is this a field?	Are there crops in the field?
a woman not smiling	Is this a woman?	Is the woman smiling?	a living room with no couch	Is this a living room?	Is there a couch in the living room?
a car without wheels	Is this a car?	Does the car have wheels?	a stadium with no spectators	Is this a stadium?	Are there spectators in the stadium?
a road with no signs	Is this a road?	Are there signs on the road?	a child not wearing shoes	Is this a child?	Is the child wearing shoes?
a bridge without railings	Is this a bridge?	Does the bridge have railings?	a river with no fish	Is this a river?	Are there fish in the river?
a sky without clouds	Is this a sky?	Are there clouds in the sky?	a cup with no handle	Is this a cup?	Does the cup have a handle?
a playground with no swings	Is this a playground?	Are there swings in the playground?	a man not wearing a tie	Is this a man?	Is the man wearing a tie?
a building without windows	Is this a building?	Does the building have windows?	a book with no cover	Is this a book?	Does the book have a cover?
a shop with no customers	Is this a shop?	Are there customers in the shop?	a garden without any trees	Is this a garden?	Are there trees in the garden?
a bike not leaning against a wall	Is this a bike?	Is the bike leaning against a wall?	a stage with no performers	Is this a stage?	Are there performers on the stage?
a train station with no trains	Is this a train station?	Are there trains at the train station?	a museum without exhibits	Is this a museum?	Are there exhibits in the museum?
a shelf with no books	Is this a shelf?	Are there books on the shelf?	a restaurant not serving food	Is this a restaurant?	Is the restaurant serving food?
a person with no backpack	Is this a person?	Does the person have a backpack?	a market without any vendors	Is this a market?	Are there vendors in the market?
a room not filled with light	Is this a room?	Is the room filled with light?	a path with no signs	Is this a path?	Are there signs on the path?
a school without students	Is this a school?	Are there students in the school?	a car with no headlights	Is this a car?	Does the car have headlights?
a cat without a tail	Is this a cat?	Does the cat have a tail?	a person not holding a bag	Is this a person?	Is the person holding a bag?
a forest with no leaves	Is this a forest?	Are there leaves in the forest?	a house with no doors	Is this a house?	Does the house have doors?
a chair not facing the table	Is this a chair?	Is the chair facing the table?	a bird not singing	Is this a bird?	Is the bird singing?
a beach without sand	Is this a beach?	Is there sand on the beach?	a dog not playing fetch	Is this a dog?	Is the dog playing fetch?
a wall with no decorations	Is this a wall?	Are there decorations on the wall?	a sidewalk with no pedestrians	Is this a sidewalk?	Are there pedestrians on the sidewalk?
a man not reading a book	Is this a man?	Is the man reading a book?	a classroom with no desks	Is this a classroom?	Are there desks in the classroom?
a street with no lights	Is this a street?	Are there lights on the street?	a yard without grass	Is this a yard?	Is there grass in the yard?
a riverbank with no trees	Is this a riverbank?	Are there trees on the riverbank?	a cat not purring	Is this a cat?	Is the cat purring?
a boat with no sails	Is this a boat?	Does the boat have sails?	a woman not holding a purse	Is this a woman?	Is the woman holding a purse?
a stadium with no players	Is this a stadium?	Are there players in the stadium?	a sky with no stars	Is this a sky?	Are there stars in the sky?
a store without shelves	Is this a store?	Are there shelves in the store?	a man not holding a briefcase	Is this a man?	Is the man holding a briefcase?
a city without buildings	Is this a city?	Are there buildings in the city?	a painting without colors	Is this a painting?	Does the painting have colors?
a road without any turns	Is this a road?	Are there turns on the road?	a lawn with no flowers	Is this a lawn?	Are there flowers on the lawn?
a dog not fetching a ball	Is this a dog?	Is the dog fetching a ball?	a bridge without any lights	Is this a bridge?	Are there lights on the bridge?
a car with no passengers	Is this a car?	Are there passengers in the car?	a garden with no vegetables	Is this a garden?	Are there vegetables in the garden?
a child not drinking milk	Is this a child?	Is the child drinking milk?	a person without a shadow	Is this a person?	Does the person have a shadow?
a tree with no leaves	Is this a tree?	Does the tree have leaves?	a bus stop without a bench	Is this a bus stop?	Is there a bench at the bus stop?
a train without passengers	Is this a train?	Are there passengers on the train?	a cafe with no tables	Is this a cafe?	Are there tables in the cafe?
a photo with no people	Is this a photo?	Are there people in the photo?	a street without any trees	Is this a street?	Are there trees on the street?
a river not flowing	Is this a river?	Is the river flowing?	a mountain with no trails	Is this a mountain?	Are there trails on the mountain?
a path without any footprints	Is this a path?	Are there footprints on the path?	a field with no animals	Is this a field?	Are there animals in the field?
a building with no entrance	Is this a building?	Is there an entrance to the building?			



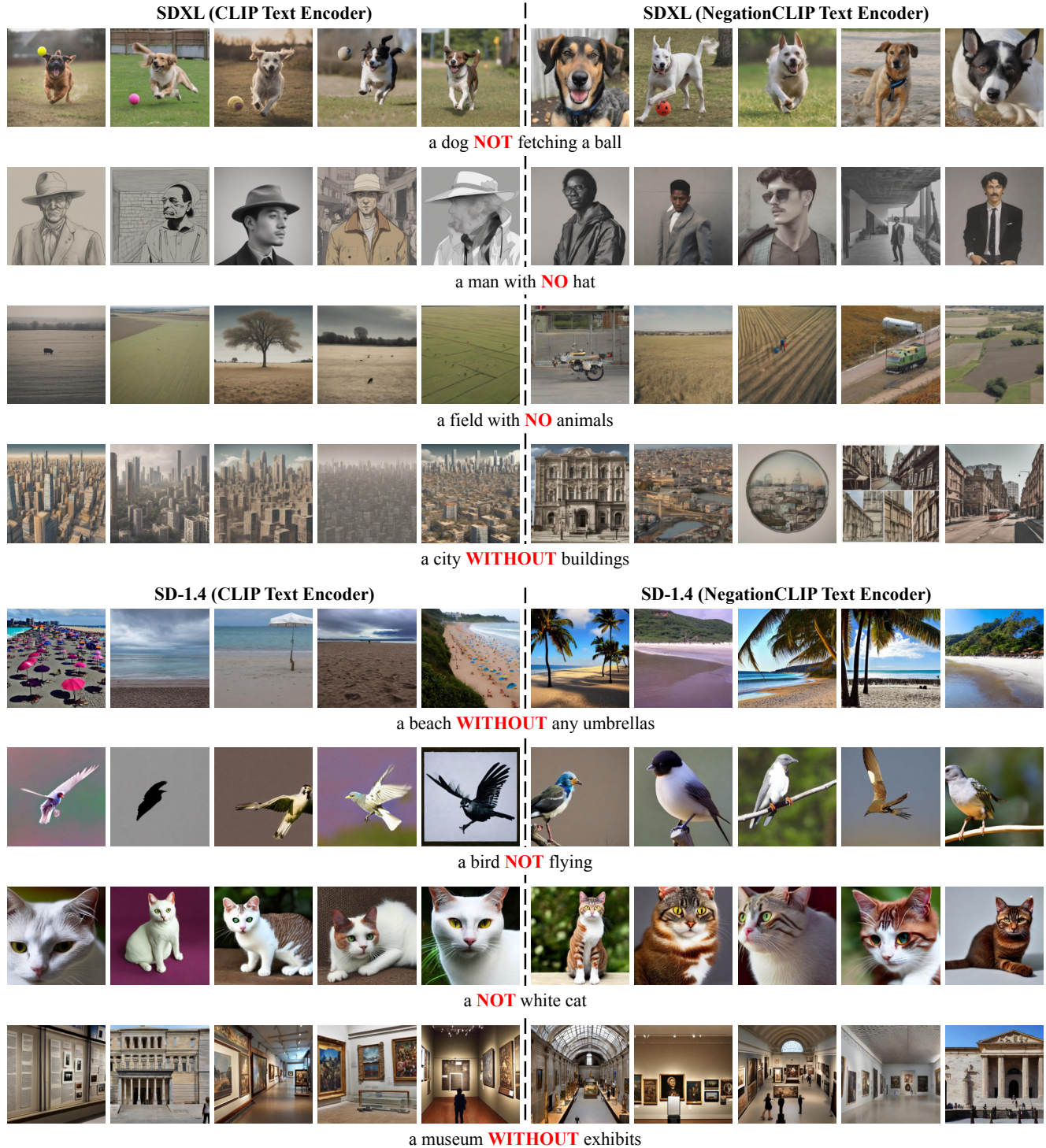


Figure 3. Additional examples for text-to-image generation tasks using Stable Diffusion XL (SDXL) [10] and Stable Diffusion 1.4 (SD-1.4) [12]. Comparisons are shown between models using the original CLIP text encoder and the fine-tuned NegationCLIP text encoder.

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