How to make a simple negative sentences in English

Study the following examples and see the difference:

- I like vegetables.
- I do not like vegetables.

_I like vegetables_ is an affirmative sentence, _I do not like vegetables_ is a negative sentence.

How to make a negative sentence in English?

There are three ways:

1 - In a sentence with the verb 'to be' conjugated to the present tense, just add 'not' after 'to be':

- I am from Japan.
- I am _not_ from Japan.
- You are a student.
- You are not a student.
- He is a teacher.
- He is not a teacher.

Il est possible de raccourcir toute les formes au présent du verbe to be (sauf I am): she/he/it is not devient _isn't_, et you/we/they are not devient _aren't_:

It is possible to shorten all forms in the present tense of the verb to be (except _I am_): _she/he/it is not_ becomes _isn't_, and _you/we/they are not_ becomes _aren't_:

- You are not a student. = _You aren't_ a student.
- He is not a teacher. = _He isn't_ a teacher.

2 - In a sentence with an auxiliary verb:

An auxiliary verb or modal helps the main verb to make a complete sentence. It can be can, must, may, have, should, could, will and would:

- I can play the guitar.
- She will go to school.
- We have eaten a lot.

To transform these sentences to the negative form, simply add not after the auxiliary and before the verb:

- I can _not_ play the guitar.
- She will _not_ go to school.
• We have **not** eaten a lot.

It is possible to shorten all auxiliaries and modals except may:

• I can **not** play the guitar. = I **can't** play the guitar.
• She will **not** go to school. = She **won't** go to school.
• We have **not** eaten a lot. = We **haven't** eaten a lot.

3 - In the sentences with all the other verbs:

You must use 'do **not**' just after the subject when it is *I, we, you, you, they* or 'does **not**' just after the subject when it is *he, she, or it*:

• I speak Spanish.
• I **do not** speak Spanish.
• She wants an ice cream.
• She **does not** want an ice cream.
• We live in Germany.
• We **do not** live in Germany.

*Do not* and *Does not* can be shortened: *do not* becomes *don't*, and *does not* becomes *doesn't*:

• I **do not** speak Spanish. = I **don't** speak Spanish.
• She **does not** want an ice cream. = She **doesn't** want an ice cream.
• We **do not** live in Germany. = We **don't** live in Germany.

⚠ Contractions (isn't, aren't, doesn't...) are mainly used orally. They do not change the meaning of the sentence.