

# How to make a simple negative sentences in English

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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.