

# NEGATIVES IN FRENCH

## When to use them:

- when you would normally say “I cannot...” or “I don’t have...” or “I didn’t want...” in English

To create a negative phrase, we must use **NE** and **PAS** and place them in the correct location in relation to the verb in the sentence.

Here are the most common negatives in French;

English	French
don't / not	<b>ne...pas</b>
never	<b>ne...jamais</b>
nobody	<b>ne...personne</b>
not any more / no more	<b>ne...plus</b>
nothing	<b>ne...rien</b>
neither...nor...	<b>ne...ni...ni...</b>
only*	<b>ne...que</b>
hardly*	<b>ne...guère</b>

\***ne...que** and  
\***ne...guère** are not really negatives in English, but they do follow the same pattern in French as the other negatives

To place the negative correctly, you insert the **NE** and **PAS** around the verb (like a hug!)

*par exemple;*

*je suis anglaise* = I am English

*je **ne** suis **pas** anglaise* = I am **not** English

## TOP TIPS FOR USING THE NEGATIVE PROPERLY

1. Remember the rule for vowels/silent h still applies – replace **NE** with **N'**  
(*je **n'**aime **pas*** is a great example to help you remember this one).
2. Using negatives with reflexive verbs, the **NE** and **PAS** go around the reflexive pronoun + verb =  
*je m'appelle Bob* (I'm called Bob) > *je **ne** m'appelle **pas** Bob* (I'm NOT called Bob)  
*tu te douches?* (Are you having a shower?) > *tu **ne** te douches **pas**?* (Aren't you having a shower?)
3. If using negatives in the past tense or near future tense... the **NE** and **PAS** go around the **1<sup>st</sup> verb**  
*je **ne** vais **pas** aller au restaurant* > I am not going to go to the restaurant  
*je **ne** suis **pas** allé(e) au café* > I did not go to the café