



Target Develop all responses further by adding complex negatives.

Step 1 Where to start.

Practise at home by revising the resources in your book and the sheets explaining the different formations below.

Try teaching someone in your family the rules. Did you know that you we Learn 10% of what we read, 20% of what we hear but 95% of what we teach others?

Step 2 Putting it into practice

Your challenge is to include at least one of these structures in every piece of work. When you do this highlight it in your work and get your teacher to check it. Avoid using the same structure more than one a week to ensure you practise a variety of forms.

What else can I do to help me learn it?

Practising regularly is the key to success here. Use the websites suggested above but also experiment with other techniques that you know. Flashcards are great for learners who work very well with visual clues.

What are these and when do I use them?

The key negative used in French is *ne ... pas*. It is used when you want to make a verb negative, i.e. when you want to say what isn't the case or didn't happen. Other negative expressions are used to say things like 'nothing', 'never', and 'no one'.

Why are they important?

You really need to be able to say that you don't like something or that you didn't do something. You also need to spot negatives when you are reading or listening to French: you don't want to confuse 'I love you' with 'I don't love you any more', for example!

Things to look out for

In English, negative sentences include words like 'don't', 'haven't' or 'didn't'. But these sorts of word don't exist in French. Instead, you need to spot that these are examples of negative verbs, and use *ne ... pas* to translate what you want to say into French.

Je ne joue pas au tennis. I don't play tennis.

How does *ne ... pas* work?

- Put *ne ... pas* around the verb to make it negative:
Elle ne travaille pas le samedi. She doesn't work on Saturdays.
Note that *ne* shortens to *n'* before a vowel or *h*.
Nous n'allons pas à Paris. We are not going to Paris.
- After *pas*, the article used is *de*.
Elle n'a pas de stylo. She hasn't got a pen.
- When there are two verbs in a sentence and one is the infinitive (e.g. in the near future tense or with modals), *ne ... pas* goes around the first verb.
Elle ne va pas aimer cette robe. She is not going to like this dress.
- In the perfect (and pluperfect) tense, *ne ... pas* forms a sandwich around the auxiliary verb.
Ils n'ont pas oublié leur visite. They haven't forgotten their visit.
Je ne suis pas allée à Berlin. I didn't go to Berlin.

Other negative expressions

- These negative expressions work in the same way as *ne ... pas*:

ne ... jamais never *ne ... rien* nothing
ne ... plus no longer *ne ... personne* nobody
ne ... que only *ne ... ni ... ni ...* neither ... nor ...
ne ... aucun(e) not any, none

Il n'a jamais visité Londres. He has never visited London.

Je ne fume plus. I no longer smoke./I don't smoke any more.

Ils n'aiment ni le sport ni la lecture. They like neither sport nor reading.

- *Personne* and *rien* can be used as the subject of the sentence. Both are followed by *ne*:
Personne ne vient. Nobody is coming.
Rien ne s'est passé. Nothing happened.
- *Ni ... ni ... ne ...* can also start a sentence.
Ni Amy ni Paul ne va gagner. Neither Amy nor Paul is going to win.
- *Aucun* agrees with the noun it goes with.
Il n'y a aucun magasin et ***aucune*** poste. There is no shop and no post office.

À vos marques ...

1 Rearrange the words to make correct sentences. Then translate each sentence into English.

- 1 au je ne pas joue rugby
- 2 elle va ne Édimbourg pas à
- 3 chien nous n' pas avons de
- 4 ne famille la regarde ma pas télé
- 5 ne elles sont contentes pas
- 6 on parle ne ici pas anglais
- 7 plus fume elle ne
- 8 je ce ne rien fais soir
- 9 vous l' n' arrivez à jamais heure
- 10 parents ne ni ni mes parlent espagnol français



Prêts?

2 Make these sentences negative by putting the negative expression in brackets in the correct place. Then translate each sentence into English.

- 1 Je vais souvent à Lyon. (*ne ... pas*)
- 2 J'ai visité la France. (*ne ... pas*)
- 3 Je suis très fatigué. (*ne ... pas*)
- 4 Hier soir, je suis allée au club de basket. (*ne ... pas*)
- 5 Je resterai à la maison. (*ne ... pas*)
- 6 Je fume. (*ne ... plus*)
- 7 J'ai fumé. (*ne ... jamais*)
- 8 J'ai 10 euros. (*ne ... que*)
- 9 J'aimais les films et la musique. (*ne ... ni ... ni ...*)
- 10 Je mange à midi. (*ne ... rien*)

Partez!

3 Translate these sentences into French.

- 1 I didn't go out yesterday.
- 2 I won't phone my dad tomorrow.
- 3 I wouldn't do that if I were you.
- 4 We didn't drink anything yesterday.
- 5 She won't see anybody today.
- 6 They only had 20 euros.
- 7 I no longer live in Britain.
- 8 Neither my brother nor my sister is coming tonight.
- 9 Nobody looked after the garden.
- 10 Nothing is more important.