

English tenses

Present simple negative

We use the auxiliary verb 'do' or 'does' + 'not' + bare infinitive (infinitive without 'to') to make negative forms with most English verbs.

Full forms (do not/does not):

Compare positive and negative forms.

I go to work on Saturdays. - I do not go to work on Saturdays.
You speak Spanish fluently. - You do not speak Spanish fluently.
He/she/it comes from Liverpool. - He/she/it does not come from Liverpool.
We want to go on holiday in winter. - We do not want to go on holiday in winter.
They study maths at university. - They do not study maths at university.

Short forms (don't/doesn't):

I don't go to work on Saturdays.
You don't speak Spanish fluently.
He/she/it doesn't come from Liverpool.
We don't want to go on holiday in winter.
They don't study maths at university.

We use short forms in informal English and long forms in formal English or when we want to make the negative stronger.

Negative questions:

Negative questions with full forms and short forms are made in a different way. They usually express a surprise of the speaker.

A. In questions with full forms we add 'not' before a verb to form negative questions.

Do you not eat meat?
Does she not help you?

B. Questions with short forms have a different word order.

Don't you come late every day?
Doesn't it suit you?

Verb to be

We use the verb to be (am, is, are) + 'not' to make negative forms.

I am not hungry. - I'm not hungry.

You are not on the list. - You aren't on the list. - You're not on the list.

He/she/it is not right. - He/she/it isn't right. - He/she/it's not right.

We are not from Berlin. - We aren't from Berlin. - We're not from Berlin.

Negative questions:

The word order is different for full forms and short forms.

Am I not quiet?

Are you not surprised? - Aren't you surprised?

Is he not your colleague? - Isn't he your colleague?

Are we not invited? - Aren't we invited?

Are they not from the same school? - Aren't they from the the same school?

Present simple negative exercises:

www.e-grammar.org/present-simple-negative/

Our tip: www.e-grammar.org/pdf-books/ All PDF exercises + grammar rules in one place.