

# 9 TYPES OF FRENCH NEGATION IN THREE TENSES



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## FRENCH NEGATION - 3 TENSES

When you want to make an affirmative statement or question negative, you need to do a little more than the way we do it in English. In this lesson, you will learn nine of the most commonly used forms of negation in the present, passé composé, and futur proche tenses.

French negation has two parts: **NE** goes before the verb, and **PAS** or another form of negation goes after the verb (see the chart and examples below).


\*In informal spoken French, **NE** is very commonly left out. For example, someone might say *Je sais pas* (*I don't know*) instead of *Je ne sais pas*.

\* When there's an indefinite article like **UN - UNE** or a partitive article like **DU - DE LA - DES** being used to mean **SOME** after a negative, the article changes to **DE or D'**. We do the same sort of thing in English when the word

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**SOME** changes to **ANY**: *Do you have some money? No, I don't have any money. Tu as de l'argent? Non, je n'ai pas d'argent.*

## EXAMPLES

<p>NE (VERB) PAS</p>	<p>SIMPLY NEGATES THE VERB</p> <p>PRESENT:</p> <p>Je <u>ne</u> vois <u>pas</u> mes amis.</p> <p><i>I do not see my friends.</i></p> <p>PASSÉ COMPOSÉ:</p> <p>Je <u>n'</u>ai <u>pas</u> vu mes amis.</p> <p><i>I did not see my friends.</i></p> <p>FUTUR PROCHE:</p> <p>Je <u>ne</u> vais <u>pas</u> voir mes amis.</p> <p><i>I am not going to see my friends.</i></p>
<p>NE (VERB) JAMAIS</p>	<p>NEVER</p> <p>PRESENT:</p>

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	<p>Je <u>ne</u> vois <u>jamais</u> mes amis.</p> <p><i>I never see my friends.</i></p> <p>PASSÉ COMPOSÉ:</p> <p>Je <u>n'</u>ai <u>jamais</u> vu mes amis.</p> <p><i>I never saw my friends.</i></p> <p>FUTUR PROCHE:</p> <p>Je <u>ne</u> vais <u>jamais</u> voir mes amis.</p> <p><i>I am never going to see my friends.</i></p>
<p>NE (VERB) RIEN</p>	<p>NOTHING / ANYTHING</p> <p>PRESENT:</p> <p>Je <u>ne</u> vois <u>rien</u>.</p> <p><i>I do not see anything.</i> <i>I see nothing.</i></p> <p>PASSÉ COMPOSÉ:</p>

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	<p>Je <u>n'</u>ai <u>rien</u> vu.</p> <p><i>I did not see anything. I saw nothing.</i></p> <p>FUTUR PROCHE:</p> <p>Je <u>ne</u> vais <u>rien</u> voir.</p> <p><i>I am not going to see anything.</i></p>
<p>NE (VERB) PERSONNE</p>	<p>ANYONE / NOBODY</p> <p>PRESENT:</p> <p>Je <u>ne</u> vois <u>personne</u>.</p> <p><i>I do not see anyone. I see nobody.</i></p> <p>PASSÉ COMPOSÉ:</p> <p>Je <u>n'</u>ai vu <u>personne</u>.</p> <p><i>I did not see anyone. I saw nobody.</i></p>

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	<p>FUTUR PROCHE:</p> <p>Je <u>ne</u> vais voir <u>personne</u>.</p> <p><i>I am not going to see anyone.</i></p>
<p>NE (VERB) QUE</p>	<p>ONLY</p> <p>PRESENT:</p> <p>Je <u>ne</u> vois <u>que</u> mes amis.</p> <p><i>I only see my friends.</i></p> <p>PASSÉ COMPOSÉ:</p> <p>Je <u>n'</u>ai vu <u>que</u> mes amis.</p> <p><i>I only saw my friends.</i></p> <p>FUTUR PROCHE:</p> <p>Je <u>ne</u> vais voir <u>que</u> mes amis.</p> <p><i>I am only going to see my friends.</i></p>

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<p>NE (VERB) PLUS</p>	<p>ANYMORE</p> <p>PRESENT:</p> <p>Je <u>ne</u> vois <u>plus</u> mes amis.</p> <p><i>I do not see my friends anymore.</i></p> <p>PASSÉ COMPOSÉ:</p> <p>Je <u>n'</u>ai <u>plus</u> vu mes amis.</p> <p><i>I didn't see my friends anymore.</i></p> <p>FUTUR PROCHE:</p> <p>Je <u>ne</u> vais <u>plus</u> voir mes amis.</p> <p><i>I am not going to see my friends anymore.</i></p>
<p>NE (VERB) PAS ENCORE</p>	<p>NOT YET</p> <p>PRESENT:</p>

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	<p>Je <u>ne</u> vois <u>pas encore</u> mes amis.</p> <p><i>I do not see my friends yet.</i></p> <p>PASSÉ COMPOSÉ:</p> <p>Je <u>n'ai</u> <u>pas encore</u> vu mes amis.</p> <p><i>I have not yet seen my friends.</i></p> <p>*The <i>futur proche</i> is not possible using <i>pas encore</i>.</p>
<p>PERSONNE NE (VERB)</p> <p>*<i>Personne</i> can take the place of a subject and <i>ne</i> follows it.</p>	<p>NOBODY</p> <p>PRESENT:</p> <p><u>Personne ne</u> voit mes amis. <i>Nobody sees my friends.</i></p> <p>PASSÉ COMPOSÉ:</p> <p><u>Personne n'a</u> vu mes amis. <i>Nobody saw my friends.</i></p>

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	<p>FUTUR PROCHE:</p> <p><u>Personne ne</u> va voir mes amis.</p> <p><i>Nobody is going to see my friends.</i></p>
<p>RIEN NE (VERB)</p> <p><i>*Rien</i> can take the place of a subject and <i>ne</i> follows it.</p>	<p>NOTHING</p> <p>PRESENT:</p> <p><u>Rien n'est</u> perdu.</p> <p><i>Nothing is lost.</i></p> <p>PASSÉ COMPOSÉ:</p> <p><u>Rien n'a été</u> perdu.</p> <p><i>Nothing was lost.</i></p> <p>FUTUR PROCHE:</p> <p><u>Rien ne</u> va être perdu.</p> <p><i>Nothing is going to be lost.</i></p>

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Read the underlined clues in the following questions to determine how to reply to them negatively when you don't want to use simple negation (ne...pas).

QUESTION	RÉPONSE
Tu lis <u>tout le temps</u> ? <i>Do you read all the time?</i>	Non, je ne lis <u>jamais</u> . <i>No, I never read.</i>
Tu as vu <u>tout le monde</u> ? <i>Did you see everyone?</i>	Non, je n'ai vu <u>personne</u> . <i>No, I didn't see anyone.</i>
Tu veux <u>encore</u> de la salade? <i>Do you want more salad?</i>	Non, je ne veux <u>plus</u> de salade. <i>No, I don't want any more salad.</i>
Tu as <u>beaucoup</u> mangé? <i>Did you eat a lot?</i>	Non, je n'ai <u>rien</u> mangé. <i>No, I didn't eat anything.</i>
Tu es <u>déjà</u> parti(e)? <i>Have you already left?</i>	Non, je ne suis <u>pas encore</u> parti(e). <i>No, I haven't yet left.</i>
Tu as <u>plus</u> d'argent que lui?	Non, il n'a <u>que</u> cinq euros.

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<i>Do you have more money than him?</i>	<i>No, he only has five euros.</i>
<u>Tout</u> est prêt? <i>Is everything ready?</i>	Non, <u>rien</u> n'est prêt. <i>No, nothing is ready.</i>
<u>Tout le monde</u> est arrivé? <i>Has everyone arrived?</i>	Non, <u>personne</u> n'est arrivé. <i>No, nobody has arrived.</i>


## MORE EXAMPLES

ne...pas	Je ne mange <u>pas</u> ce matin. <i>I am not eating this morning.</i>
ne...jamais	Je ne mange <u>jamais</u> le matin. <i>I never eat in the morning.</i>
ne...personne	Je ne vois <u>personne</u> . <i>I don't see anyone.</i>
ne...plus	Je ne joue <u>plus</u> . <i>I don't play anymore.</i>
ne...rien	Je n'écris <u>rien</u> . <i>I'm not writing anything.</i>

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ne...pas encore	Je ne pars <u>pas encore</u> . <i>I am not leaving yet.</i>
ne...que	Je n'ai <u>que</u> 5 euros. <i>I only have 5 euros.</i>
Rien...ne	<u>Rien</u> n'est parfait. <i>Nothing is perfect.</i>
Personne...ne	<u>Personne</u> n'est là. <i>Nobody is here.</i>

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