

## THE NEGATIVE FORM IN FRENCH

**Goal:** By the end of this lesson, you should be able to say in French that an action  
 Does NOT occur (**NE... PAS**)  
 NEVER occurs (**NE...JAMAIS**)  
 NOT YET occurs (**NE ...PAS ENCORE**)  
 does not occur ANY MORE (**NE ...PLUS**)

I think the best way to do this is by studying actual sentences first, and then providing the formulas afterwards.

### NOT

- I am NOT William Shakespeare. *Je NE suis PAS William Shakespeare.*
- They DO NOT have any money. *Ils/Elles N'ont PAS d'argent.*
- She does NOT drink wine. *Elle NE boit PAS de vin.*
- We do NOT speak Russian. *Nous NE parlons PAS russe.*

**Formula 1 = Subject + NE + Verb + PAS (+ Object).**

**Important:** As seen in example b) above NE also = N' in front of vowels or silent "h". Also, you may sometimes encounter "**NE + Verb + POINT**" or "**NE + Verb + GUÈRE**". These are other (rare) variants of **NE + Verb + PAS**. Use them if you wish to place more emphasis on the negation in the sentence. If I say "*Je NE suis POINT or GUÈRE Shakespeare*", it simply shows that I'm trying very hard to make clear that I am not Shakespeare. I personally use it very rarely. But you may encounter these 2 negative forms in French literature.

### NEVER

- I am NEVER William Shakespeare. *Je NE suis JAMAIS William Shakespeare.*
- They NEVER have any money. *Ils/Elles N'ont JAMAIS d'argent.*
- She NEVER drinks wine. *Elle NE boit JAMAIS de vin.*
- We NEVER speak Russian. *Nous NE parlons JAMAIS russe.*

**Formula 2 = Subject + NE + Verb + JAMAIS (+ Object).**

### NOT YET

- I am NOT YET William W. Shakespeare. *Je NE suis PAS ENCORE W. Shakespeare.*
- They do NOT have any money YET. *Ils/Elles N'ont PAS ENCORE d'argent.*
- She does NOT drink wine YET. *Elle NE boit PAS ENCORE de vin.*
- We do NOT speak Russian YET. *Nous NE parlons PAS ENCORE russe.*

**Formula 3 = Subject + NE + Verb + PAS ENCORE (+ Object).**

**NOT ANY MORE**

- a) I am NOT W. Shakespeare ANY MORE. *Je NE suis PLUS W. Shakespeare.*
- b) They do NOT have money ANY MORE. *Ils/Elles N'ont PLUS d'argent.*
- c) She does NOT drink wine ANY MORE. *Elle NE boit PLUS de vin.*
- d) We do NOT speak Russian ANY MORE. *Nous NE parlons PLUS russe.*

**Formula 4 = Subject + NE + Verb + PLUS (+ Object).**

Feel like doing an [exercise](#) now?☺