English Grammar – Negative Statements

In English, we cannot negate main verbs. We can only negate:

1) the verb 'to be'
2) auxiliary verbs (do, be, have)
3) modal verbs (can, must, should, etc.)

1) **Negate the verb 'to be'** (add "not" or "n't")

I **am** Japanese.	I **am not** Japanese.
Cats **are** timid.	Cats **aren't** timid.
He **is** French.	He **isn't** French.
We **are** the champions!	We **aren't** the champions!
He **was** sick yesterday.	He **wasn't** sick yesterday.
They **were** here on Saturday.	They **weren't** here on Saturday.

2) **Negate auxiliary verbs** (add "n't")

They **will** come here tomorrow.	They **won't** come here tomorrow.
We **have** visited Paris.	We **haven't** visited Paris.
She **has** seen a ghost.	She **hasn't** seen a ghost.
We **are** watching TV.	We **aren't** watching TV.
He **had** seen that film before.	He **hadn't** seen that film before.

3) **Negate modal verbs** (add "n't")

I **can** swim well.	I **can't** swim well.
We **must** go now.	We **mustn't** go now.
He **should** drink a lot.	He **shouldn't** drink a lot

4) **Negate Present Simple & Past Simple** (add "**don't**" or "**doesn't**" or "**didn't**")

I **speak** Japanese.	I **don't speak** Japanese.
Cats **like** dogs.	Cats **don't like** dogs.
She **plays** the piano.	She **doesn't play** the piano.
He **does** his homework every day.	He **doesn't do** his homework every day.
They **have** 6 dogs.	They **don't have** 6 dogs.
She **has** a big car.	She **doesn't have** a big car.
He **got up** at 8.00 today.	He **didn't get up** at 8.00 today.
He **went** to the park yesterday.	He **didn't go** to the park yesterday.
They **did** the housework yesterday.	They **didn't do** the housework yesterday.
He **had** a headache yesterday.	He **didn't have** a headache yesterday.
It **has** a nice house.	It **doesn't have** a nice house.
It **lacks** color.	It **doesn't lack** color.
It **lacked** color.	It **didn't lack** color.

Exercise 1. Make negative statements with the verb 'to be':

Example: He **is** French --> He **isn't** French.

1. You are an animal. _____
2. John is a girl. _____
3. Michael and Emily are sick. _____
4. She is sixteen years old. _____
5. We are from Japan. _____
6. I am happy today. _____

Exercise 2. Make negative statements with auxiliary verbs:

Example: He **has visited** Paris. --> He **hasn't visited** Paris.

1. He has eaten lunch. _____
2. We had seen your new car. _____
3. He will call you tomorrow. _____
4. He is doing his homework. _____

Exercise 3. Make negative statements with modal verbs:

Example: He **can play** football very well --> He **can't play** football very well.

1. She can sing like a professional. _____
2. I must forget the report. _____
3. He should drive quickly. _____
4. We could see clearly. _____
5. I would go if I could. _____even if I could.

Exercise 4. Make negative statements with Present Simple and Past Simple:

Example: He **plays** football every day. --> He **doesn't play** football every day.

1. We like spaghetti. _____
2. He eats meat. _____
3. It likes me. _____
4. Kate has a big house. _____
5. They start work at 9.00. _____
6. Jenny does her job very well. _____
7. They do favors for me. _____
8. We have many kids. _____
9. He did a test last week. _____
10. I had a haircut on Saturday. _____