

Business English 8: Present Simple Negatives



1. Read about Marie's job below and answer the following questions.



My name is Marie. I work for a big company in London called *Indico*.

I don't like my job. I don't make a lot of money and I have too many things to do and too much stress!

My boss isn't very nice. She is always late for things and she is always stressed. She doesn't have good organisation skills.

My colleagues aren't happy either but I don't think they will look for a new job. I apply to new jobs every week. I hope I find something soon!

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|---|--|
| 1. Does Marie work for a company called Indico? | 2. Is Indico a big company? |
| a. Yes, she does. | a. Yes, it is. |
| b. No, she doesn't. | b. No, it isn't. |
| 3. Does Marie like her job? | 4. Does she make a lot of money? |
| a. Yes, she does. | a. Yes, she does. |
| b. No, she doesn't. | b. No, she doesn't. |
| 5. Is her boss nice? | 6. Are her colleagues happy? |
| a. Yes, she is. | a. Yes, they are. |
| b. No, she isn't. | b. No, they aren't. |
| 7. Does she apply for new jobs every week? | 8. Do you think Marie needs a new job? |
| a. Yes, she does. | a. Yes, I do. |
| b. No, she doesn't. | b. No, I don't. |

Making Negatives

To make a negative in the *Present Simple* we use the auxiliary verbs **don't** or **doesn't** + the **base form** of the verb.

For example:

Positive	Negative
I work at Google.	I don't work at Google.
She likes her colleagues.	She doesn't like her colleagues. <i>*NOTE: no S on verb</i>
We eat lunch in the canteen.	We don't eat lunch in the canteen.



2. Put the following positive sentences into the negative form.

1. Peter and Julien work in marketing.

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2. Our manager starts work at 6:30 am.

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3. The accountant comes from Australia.

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4. My colleague speaks Spanish.

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5. I go to work by bus.

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6. She has 10 colleagues.

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7. They work on Saturdays.

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8. We sell computers.

.....

9. Paula and Jane eat lunch in the canteen.

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10. Peter works with Julien.

.....

Making Negatives with the verb BE

To make a negative in the *Present Simple* with the verb be we can't use the auxiliary verb do. When we have the verb **BE (am/is/are)** we should add **not** to the verb.

For example:

Positive	Negative
I am hungry.	I am not hungry. or <i>I'm not hungry.</i>
Jane is late.	Jane is not late. or <i>Jane isn't late.</i>
Peter and Jeff are from England.	Peter and Jeff are not from England. or <i>Peter and Jeff aren't from England.</i>
	<i>*Note the short form is used more when speaking and writing informally</i>



3. Put the following positive sentences with the verb BE into the negative form.

1. Mr. Smith is early for the meeting.

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2. Mary is from London.

.....

3. We are open on Sundays.

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4. I am at work Monday to Friday.

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5. They are in the meeting room.

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4. Mixed Exercise: Put the following sentences into the negative form.

1. They finish work late on Thursdays.

2. The postman delivers letters in the morning.

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3. The salesman is from Japan.

4. The receptionist starts work at 5am.

5. The managers are from China.

6. The headquarters is in Amsterdam.

7. John and Ally work for Google in Dublin.



5. Work with a partner: Look at the following pictures and make sentences in the positive and negatives. Use the prompts above the photo to help you.

Extra: Come up with 5 more sentences about any of the pictures.

For example: 1. He is a postman. He is not a police officer.

Extra sentence: He works on Saturdays. He doesn't work on Sundays.

1. postman (+) police officer (-)	2. by car (+) by train (-)
	
3. England (+) Italy (-)	4. in the evening (+) in the morning (-)
	
5. marketing (+) accounts (-)	6. in a meeting (+) at lunch (-)
	
7. late (+) early (-)	8. employer (+) employee (-)
	

Now share your sentences with the class!