

15. Negation

Standard negation in English is formed by inserting the particle *not* 'negativo' between the auxiliary and the verb:

- (105) I will **not** buy carrot-s. 'No compraré zanahorias.'
1SG AUX:FUT NEG comprar zanahoria-PL
- (106) They should **not** act that way. 'No deben actuarse así.'
3PL AUX:DEON1 NEG actuar DEMO2 manera
- (107) Mary has **not** clean-ed the kitchen. 'María no ha limpiado la cocina.'
María AUX:PERF NEG limpiar-PPAS DEF cocina

If the corresponding affirmative sentence has no auxiliary, the 'dummy' auxiliary *do* is used. (cf. yes/no questions, section 13.1):

- (108) I did **not** buy carrot-s. 'No compré zanahorias.'
1SG AUX:PAS NEG comprar zanahoria-PL
(cf. I bought carrots 'Compré zanahorias')
- (109) They did **not** act that way. 'No actúan así.'
3PL AUX:NOPAS NEG actuar DEMO2 manera
(cf. They act that way 'actúan así')
- (110) Mary **doe-s** **not** clean the kitchen. 'María no limpia la cocina.'
María AUX:NOPAS-3SG NEG limpiar DEF cocina
(cf. Mary cleans the kitchen 'María limpia la cocina')

The negative particle *not* is often contracted to *-n't*, spelled *-n't* in the standard orthography:

- (111) They shouldn't act that way. (cf. 106)
Mary hasn't cleaned the kitchen. (cf. 107)
I didn't buy carrots. (cf. 108)
They don't act that way. (cf. 109)
Mary doesn't clean the kitchen. (cf. 110)

When combined with the auxiliary *will* 'futuro', the contracted form is *won't*.

Payne: a brief grammatical sketch of English

(112) I **won't** buy carrots (cf. 108)

The particle *no* is used in phrasal negation:

(113) No dog-s were see-n. 'No se veía ningún perro.'

NEG2 perro-PL ser:PAS:PL ver-PPAS

(114) He saw that the student-s had no eraser-s.

3SG:MASC ver:PAS COMP DEF estudiante-PL tener:PAS NEG2 borrador-PL

'El vió que los estudiantes no tenían borradores.'

Other non-clausal negation strategies include the use of *never* 'nunca' (example 115) and the derivational prefix *un-* (example 116):

(115) a. I **never** eat there. 'Nunca como allí.'

1SG NEG3 comer LDEMO2

b. She **never** saw you. 'Ella nunca te vió.'

3SG:FEM NEG3 ver:PAS 2

(116) a. He is **un-**depend-able. 'El no es confiable.'

3SG ser:NOPAS:3SG NEG-confiar-POT

b. They are **un-**forget-able. 'Ellos son inolvidables.'

3PL ser:NOPAS:PL NEG-olvidar-POT