



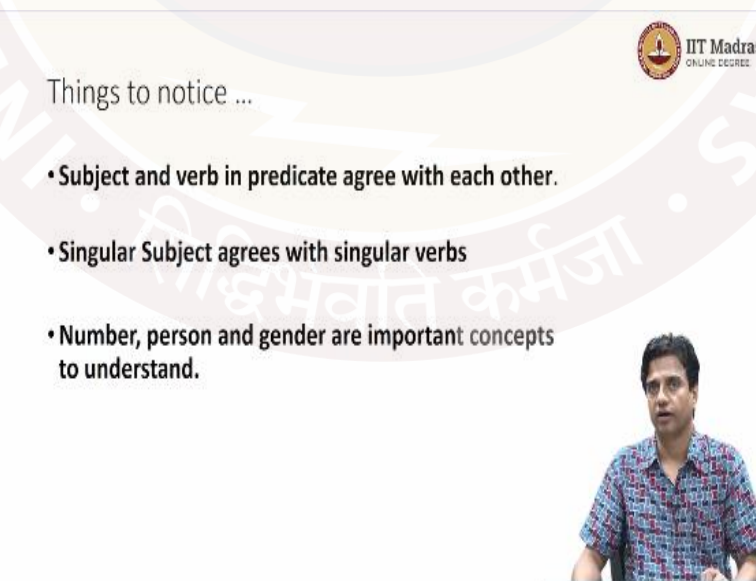
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Basic English
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Lecture No. 25
Negative Sentences in English

Welcome to the class. Today, we are going to look at negative sentences in English. By negative sentences, we mean the use of negation in a sentence in the English language. It is important to look at negative sentences because it reveals several underlying intricacies that are important for us to learn the language for the purpose of accuracy. We are going to look at each one of these things in quite some detail.

And then I recommend you to do a little bit of practice and to pay attention to such things to be able to import them to your practices and to your understanding so that your language becomes impressive hereafter. So, when we are looking at negative sentences, we are also going to underline the use of agreement and form different forms of be.


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Things to notice ...

- Subject and verb in predicate agree with each other.
- Singular Subject agrees with singular verbs
- Number, person and gender are important concepts to understand.

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So, in order to look at negation agreement and the components of discussions for today, let us look at certain things that we need to notice in order to discuss a sentence that subject and

predicates agree with each other in a sentence. Singular subject agrees with some markers of singularity on the verb. So, when we say singular subject requires a singular verb we simply mean if the subject has a singular feature on that, the subject has a singular number on that, then we need to indicate some sort of marking on the verb as well in terms of its singularity, or if the subject is plural, then we need to mark it as a plurality.

Number, person and gender are important concepts to understand in general, but particularly for understanding the notion or concept of agreement in English, it is important to know the interplay of number and person. Remember two numbers singular and plural and three persons first person, second person and the third person you know the details of these forms.

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Please observe ... (not good/correct!)

- John ~~like~~ pizza.
- ~~I~~ ~~likes~~ pizza.
- We ~~likes~~ pizza.
- They ~~likes~~ pizza.

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So, we are going to look at some sentences straight. So, look at some of the sentences and write upfront I can tell you these are not correct or grammatical sentences these are incorrect sentences, but at this point I just want you to read these sentences and find out what is wrong with the sentences and how do we correct these sentences. So, we know that we do not say 'John like pizza'. We do not say 'I likes pizza', we do not say 'we likes pizza', we do not say 'they likes pizza'. So, when we look at the ungrammaticality of these things, we realize that the actual forms of the sentences are these.

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Correct Sentences

- John likes pizza. Pres
- I like pizza.
- We like pizza.
- They like pizza.



They are 'John likes pizza' so look at this. We need this marker on the verb here because this indicates singularity because the subject was singular. This is singular, but here in the first person, we are not indicating anything like that. Similarly, for plurality, we indicate plurality which is basically 0. This is also plural we indicate plurality by 0. So, when we do not add anything, it is like the marker of plurality. When we add something like s at the end of it, then that indicates singularity, and that takes care of the agreement.

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Agreement ...

- John loves Mary.
- I like0 pizza.
- We like0 pizza.
- John likes pizza with his friends.
- John and Mary0 like pizza.



So, the way it works is we say 'John loves Mary' so this is the marker of the singularity because John is singular. We like pizza the absence of any marker indicates plurality, so we take it as a plural. So, we say 'John likes pizza with his friends' and 'John and Mary like pizza'

because this is plural we have here some sort of plurality as well. So now we understand what was ungrammatical, what was causing ungrammaticality with these sentences.

So, when we say 'John like' then we are treating this 'John' as plural whereas John being singular we have to treat it as singular by adding 's' to this. I has a special status so, we just need to say 'I like pizza', 'we like pizza', 'they like pizza'. So we need to say these sentences in the following way for its accuracy. This is to demonstrate the role of the agreement as a singular subject, singular verb, plural subject, plurality on the verb to you.

So, this is how we talk about subjects, predicates, agreement, tense. What marks tense here, there are no obvious markers of tense. We know 'John likes pizza' is present tense rather all these are instances of the present tense, but there is no over marker of present tense available in the sentence because we do not need over marking for the present tense in these types of sentences.

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The slide is titled "Negative Sentences" and features a list of sentences with handwritten corrections in red ink. The sentences are:

- John does not like pizza. (Handwritten: John ~~likes~~ pizza.)
- I do not like pizza. (Handwritten: I ~~likes~~ pizza.)
- We do not like pizza. (Handwritten: We ~~likes~~ pizza.)
- They do not like pizza. (Handwritten: They ~~likes~~ pizza.)

The slide also includes a small video inset of a man speaking in the bottom right corner. The IIT Madras logo is visible in the top right corner.

So, when we look at negative sentences in English, we find negative sentences appearing in the following way. Let us look at the examples on your screen. We are using same examples for the purpose of focusing your attention on the main point that I want to show you. So, the affirmative sentence is 'John likes pizza', the negative sentence is 'John does not like pizza' look at it here, on the verb, you do not have a marker of singularity.

So, what does this tell us and what is crucial for us to notice when we are using a negative sentence. This is not the marker of negative, but before we use not what we do is we remove tense and number as part of the agreement and put it before a negation. In other words, we can say negation has to come after tense. So, we do not say 'John not likes pizza'. Remember that we have a sentence 'John likes pizza' that was an affirmative sentence.

When we wanted to make a negative sentence out of it we do not say 'John not likes pizza' we do not say that. The word negation 'not' still comes before the verb. So, this is not enough for us to say negation proceeds the verb rather we need to pay attention to one more specific aspects to learn this accurately for our accuracy of the sentences for learning accuracy to produce sentences in speaking or writing.

So, what do we need to pay attention to, what we are paying attention to is the correct sentences 'John does not like pizza'. So, does what it is doing is its tense plus agreement which is basically number is getting out of this verb, and then we are getting a negative sentence. So we have 'I do not like pizza' again we have taken tense out before we bring a negative sentence.

'We do not like pizza' taking tense and agreement here that is present tense plus plural agreement out of this verb, and then we are using not. Again we say 'they do not like pizza' meaning we are taking tense out and then bringing in negation. This is an important factor to notice in present tense negative sentences in English.

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Negation, Tense, and Agreement

- John likes pizza
- John **does not** like pizza.
- I like pizza
- I **do not** like pizza.
- We like pizza.
- We **do not** like pizza.
- They like pizza
- They **do not** like pizza.



You will see, look at this again, this is what I was trying to describe 'John likes pizza'. Sentences "John does not like pizza. 'I like pizza', 'I do not like pizza', 'we like pizza', "we do not like pizza, 'they like pizza', 'they do not like pizza". On this slide, you see affirmative and negative sentences both together, but what is important to notice that for a negative sentence in present tense in English we have to take tense and agreement out of the verb to bring negation in between and then we get a grammatically accurate sentence of in negatives in English.

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Imperative Sentences and Negation

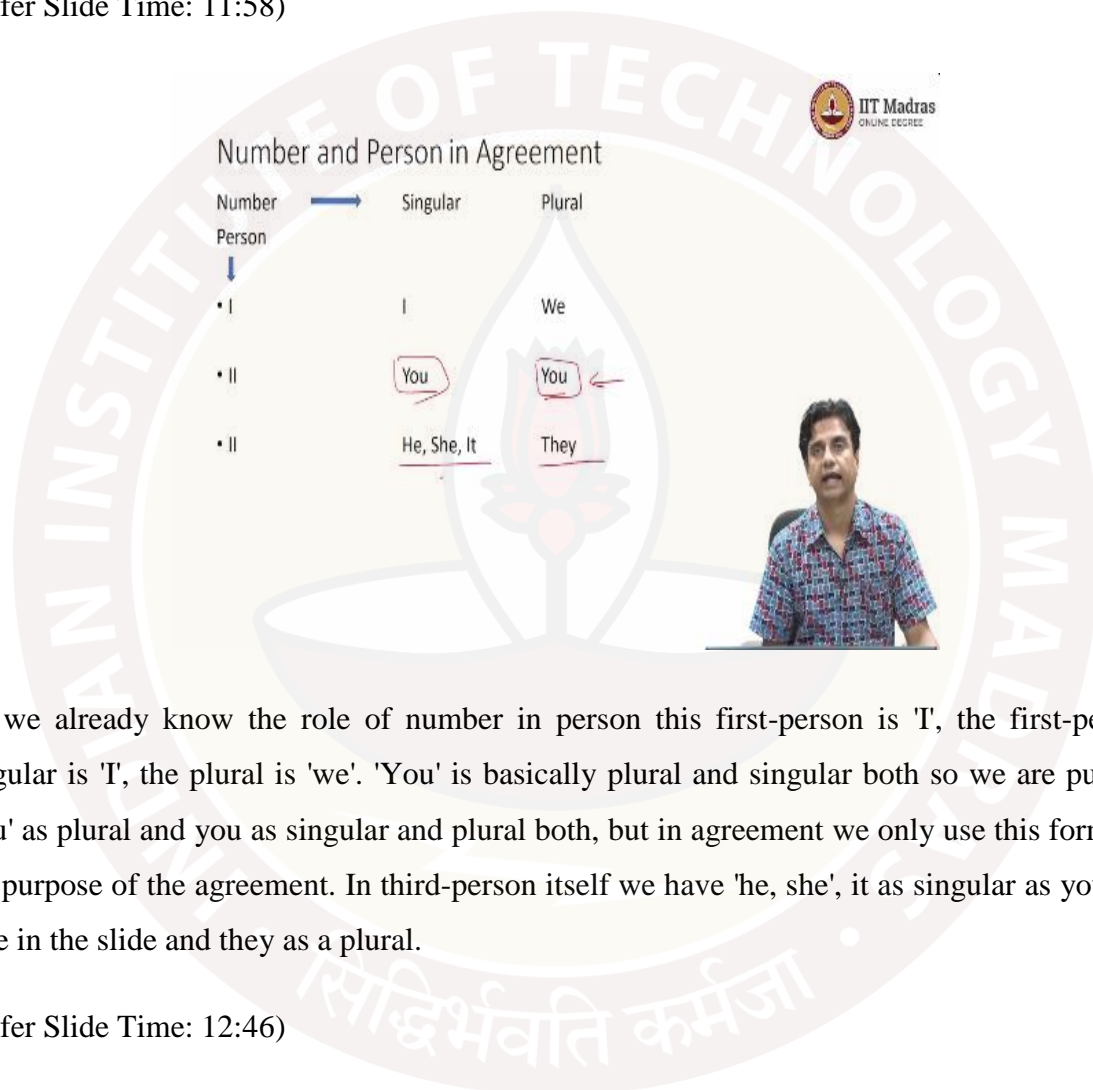
- (You) come here.
- Do not (don't) come here.
- (You) sit down.
- Do not (don't) sit down
- (You) drink a glass of water.
- Do not (don't) drink a glass of water.



In imperative sentences, we see similar patterns when we say 'come here'. We use in the negative we say 'do not come here' we can either say 'do not come here', or we use a

contracted form don't. So, 'don't' is a contracted form that is do and not merged together and we use this thing, we use the plural form remember you is the subject of imperative sentences all the time. So, we use a plural marking for that. So, we remove do not sit down, do not drink a glass of water. This is the use of negation in imperative sentences. Remember, we are taking tense out, we are taking the number out and then only we are bringing negation. So, we are taking it out of the verb.

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As we already know the role of number in person this first-person is 'I', the first-person singular is 'I', the plural is 'we'. 'You' is basically plural and singular both so we are putting 'you' as plural and you as singular and plural both, but in agreement we only use this form for the purpose of the agreement. In third-person itself we have 'he, she', it as singular as you see here in the slide and they as a plural.

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Negation and Verb - be:

- I ~~am~~/was not a doctor.
-
- We ~~are~~/were not students.
-
- You ~~are~~/were not a teacher.
-
- He/She ~~is~~/was not a teacher.
-
- They ~~are~~/were not teachers.



So, when we look at negative use of negation in the context of a form of we say 'I was a doctor' or 'I am a doctor', but in negative we say 'I am not a doctor'. 'We are a doctor' or 'we are a student' or 'we were a student' when we want to make it a negative we say 'we were not students'. 'You are not a teacher', 'she is not a teacher', 'they are not teachers'. Please pay attention to the position of negation in these sentences and, was all these forms of be are markers of tense.

So, in the sentence where you have markers of tense appearing in the sentence separately there is no need to remove tense from the verb and still negation comes after tense. So negation precedes the verb in English, but it has to follow tense, so it has to come in a sentence after tense and that is what we notice from this pattern.

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More on negation in agreement ...




- 1. Rekha and her brothers (is, **are**) not in Delhi.
P pl
- 2. The dog or the cats (is, **are**) not outside.
s
- 3. Neither my shoes nor my coat (**is**, are) always on the floor.
- 4. Rekha and Amala (doesn't, **don't**) want to see that movie.
do not



Again when we look at the use of sentences, I am again using the similar sentences for you to pay attention to bring your notice, to focus 'Rekha and her brothers are not in Delhi'. Look this is the marker of tense, this is the marker of plurality that is present tense, plural number, but negation follows the tense. 'The dogs or cats are not outside' this is plural present tense negation follows that. 'So, Rekha and Amala do not want to see that movie'. So, 'do' is separated out of this verb as tense in the present tense and then we use 'not', 'do not wanted to see the movie'.

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- 6. Rekha (doesn't, don't) know the answer.
 - 7. One of my sisters (is, are) not going on a trip to France.
 - 8. The man with all the birds [?] (live, lives) on my street.
does not live
 - 9. The movie, including all the previews, [?] (take, takes) about two hours to watch.
does not take
 - 10. The players, as well as the captain, [?] (want, wants) to win.
do not



Everywhere you see the same pattern. 'Rekha does not know the answer' so tense gets separated out of the verb and then appears a negation.' One of my sisters', here tense is already preceding therefore not going on a trip. So, when we say 'one of my sisters is not going on a trip' what we see here again is negation the correspondence between negation and the tense is tense comes first and then negation later.

So look at this sentence, what do you predict here? The man with the birds we are saying 'the man with the birds'. So, here we are talking about the man which is a singular; therefore, we say 'lives on my street'. So, when we make it a negation when we want to make it a negative sentence, what do we want to say; therefore, I am asking you to indicate here. So, this as a singular and this is present tense.

So, what we need to do is we need to say 'does', and in the negation, we will have to say does not live and then this one will become live. So, you have to say 'does not live on my street'. 'The movie including the preview does not take about 2 hours to watch'. 'The players as well as the captains here we are talking about the players', so we have want so we say do not want to win.

So, the things to notice and to observe from this discussion is there is something significant that we notice in the context of a negative sentence and we need to remember only two things for that. One is a negative marker not comes before the verb in English it precedes the verb, but in order for us to make a sentence negative, we need to take tense out of the verb and

every time whether it is in the context of a regular verb, Action verb or in the context of the different forms of we, which, are themselves the markers of tense may see tense always comes before negation. These are the two things that we need to notice, and with that, we are adding one more element to our discussion on the agreement. So, with the help of these examples, we learned agreement, verb, be that is different forms of be which are also markers of tense.

And what happens to these things when they appear in the context of a negative marker in a sentence in English. When you are looking at these things together or separately, you are only adding to your confidence about the accuracy of your language. Remember, accuracy is an important aspect of language, which is going to make you more impressive. Thank you.

