



Partial Negation and Complete Negation

Grammar > Intermediate 6



Exercise 1 – Learning

You know that the opposite of the sentence "**I eat meat**" is "**I don't eat meat**".

However, what if you eat beef and chicken but not pork? Or if you want to emphasize that you eat zero kinds of meat? You can express these ideas using a few expressions:

- I don't eat every kind of meat. (*I eat some kinds of meat.*)
- I don't eat any meat. (*I never eat meat. I don't eat meat at all.*)

Partial Negation

Partial negation refers to negation that applies to **some** members of a category but not to other members.

For example in the sentence, "**I don't eat every kind of meat**", the category is "**meat**", so this sentence could mean "**I do not eat pork, but I do eat beef and chicken.**"



To partially negate something, use:

'not' with 'all'/'every'/variations of 'all' or 'every' (such as: **'always'**, **'all the time'**, **'every day'**, **'every minute'**)

- I do **not** eat **all** kinds of meat. (*Category: "kinds of meat". I eat some kinds of meat but not others*)
- I do **not** eat **every** kind of meat.
- I do **not** **always** eat meat. (*Category: time. I eat meat sometimes but not all the time*)
- I do **not** eat meat **every day**. (*Category: day. I eat meat some days but not all days*)
- I do **not** eat meat **at every meal**. (*Category: meal. I eat meat at lunch or dinner but not for breakfast*)

Complete Negation

Complete negation refers to negation that applies to **all** members of a category.

For example in the sentence, "**I don't eat any meat**", the category is "**meat**", so this sentence means "**I do not eat pork, beef, chicken, veal, or other kinds of meat.**"



To completely negate something, use:

'(do) not' with 'any/at all'

- I do **not** eat **any** meat.
- I do **not** eat meat **at all**.
- I do **not** eat **any** meat **at all**.

You can also use **'never'**:

- I **never** eat meat.

To completely negate a sentence with a plural noun, such as "**My friends do not eat meat**", you can use:

"none of [plural noun]"

- **None of my friends** eat meat.

To completely negate a sentence that has two options, use:

'not' with 'either'

- I don't like **either** chicken or beef.
- I don't like **either**.



Exercise 2 – Identifying

Identify if the following statements are examples of partial or complete negation.

Example: I do not like any of the drinks here. → Complete negation.

Content:

1. Not all my friends are teachers, but most of them are.
2. Not everyone can be as strong as him.
3. Nobody can be as strong as him.
4. Even John does not always win his battles. He loses sometimes.
5. John does not win all his battles. He loses some.
6. He does not win every battle. He loses some.
7. Nobody can win all their battles.
8. Neither of my parents is working.



Exercise 3 – Sentence Construction

Answer the following questions using partial negation and complete negation.

Example: Do you cook often? → Yes, but not every day./No, I don't cook at all.

Content:

1. Do you like the cities you've lived in?
2. Is the weather nice in your city?
3. Do you like horror movies?
4. Do you exercise a lot?
5. Is anyone going to celebrate his birthday?
6. Do good things happen to you?