

Negation

It is easy to make a verb negative in Persian. The prefix “نـ” negates all of the verbs. If the verb starts with “می”, the negative prefix changes into “نـ”.

I came to your house but you weren't [there].	به خانه‌تان آمدم اما نبودی.
I don't eat meat.	من گوشت نمی‌خورم.
They don't have money.	آنها پول ندارند.
The postman didn't come this morning (literally: today morning).	امروز صبح پستیچی نیامد.

When the prefix “نـ” is attached to a verb starting with a vowel like “آمد”, a consonant “ی” (sounding like “y”) comes in between to prevent two vowels being pronounced right after each other. (See the last example above.) In negative verbs, the stress is always on the “نـ” syllable.

The verb “to be” (بودن) somehow undergoes a stem change when being conjugated in the present tense negative form:

[I] am not	نیستم
[you] are not	نیستی
[he/she/it] is not	نیست
[we] are not	نیستیم
[you (pl.)] are not	نیستید
[they] are not	نیستند

As you can remember, there are two different ways for conjugating the verb “to be” in the present simple tense. But the negative form is always the same. Here are some examples:

Zahra is not [here/there].	زهرا نیست.
There's no place to sit in the room.	در اتاق جای نشستن نیست.
You are not alone.	تو تنها نیستی.

The suffix “ی” in negative sentences

In a negative sentence, the object can be followed by “ی”. The suffix “ی” here means “any”.

I don't know anything.	چیزی نمی‌دانم.
We didn't eat any food.	غذایی نخوردیم.
No problem! (Literally: It doesn't have any problem.)	اشکالی ندارد.