

Negative replies

Negative replies have the following structure: No, subject + auxiliary verb + not

Read the following sentences.

Have they lodged a complaint?

No, they haven't lodged a complaint?

Short answers are preferred in everyday speech.

No, they haven't.

Note that the 'not' is usually contracted and becomes a part of the auxiliary verb.

Have you finished the job?

No, I haven't finished the job. OR No, I haven't.

Has she given her consent?

No, she hasn't given her consent. OR No, she hasn't.

Are they joining us?

No, they aren't joining us. OR No, they aren't.

Were you worried about his safety?

No, I wasn't worried about his safety. OR No, I wasn't.

Notes

The form of the auxiliary verb has to agree with the number and person of the subject. The pronouns and the auxiliary verbs used with them are given below.

I – am, was, have, had

He / she / it – is, was, has, had

We – are, were, have, had

You – are, were, have, had

They – are, were, have, had

Negative replies in the simple present and simple past tenses are made with do + not.

Negative replies

Does she live with her parents?

No, she doesn't.

Do is used even when we repeat the whole sentence.

No, she doesn't live with her parents.

Does he have a job?

No, he doesn't. OR No, he doesn't have a job.

Did she call the police?

No, she didn't call the police. OR No, she didn't.

Did they accept the invitation?

No, they didn't accept the invitation. OR No, they didn't.

Note that after do, does and did, we use the infinitive (first or base form of the verb) without to.

Did she come?

No, she didn't come. (NOT No, she didn't came.)