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 actuar 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 actuan así.'
3PL AUX:NOPAS NEG actuar DEMO2 manera
(cf. They act that way 'actuan 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 -nt, 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:
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(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 comí 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:NOPI3:3SG NEG:confiar-POT

    b. They are un-forget-able.     'Ellos son inolvidables.'
    3PL ser:NOPI3:PL NEG:olvidar-POT