FRENCH TABLE
Negation

Common negative expressions using *pas*

N'est-ce pas ?	Right? Isn't it so?
Pas comme ça !	Not like that!
Pas de problème !	No problem!
Pas du tout.	Not at all.
Pas encore.	Not yet.
Pas maintenant.	Not yet, not now.
Pas si vite.	Not so fast.
Pas souvent.	Not often.
Pas sûr.	Not sure.
Pas trop.	Not too much.
Pas un seul.	Not a single one.
Pas vrai ?	Isn't it true?
Pas vraiment.	Not really.
Pourquoi pas ?	Why not?

LANGUAGE IS AN ADVENTURE

FRENCH TABLE

Negation

French Negative Structures

French	English	Example	Comment
ne ... pas encore	not yet	*Elle ne parle pas encore couramment portugais.* She is not yet fluent in Portuguese.	
ne ... pas du tout	not at all	*Tu ne manges pas du tout de viande ?* You don't eat meat at all?	
ne ... aucun / nul	no whatsoever	*Je n'ai aucune envie de voter pour ce candidat !* I have no desire to vote for this candidate whatsoever!	*ne...aucun / nul* is always followed by a noun. *Aucun* and *nul* agree in gender and number with the noun that follows.
ne ... nulle part	nowhere	*Elle ne trouve ses lunettes nulle part !* She can't find her glasses anywhere!	
ne ... ni ... ni	neither nor	*Ils n'aiment ni le rap ni la musique classique.* They don't like rap nor classical music.	With them *ne...ni...ni*, ne always precedes the verb in French, which is different to English with "neither."
ni ... ni ... ne + verb	neither nor	*Ni le rap ni la musique classique ne me plaisent.* Neither rap nor classical music appeal to me.	The expression *ne...ni...ni...* can be swapped around with *ni...ni...ne*, with *ni...ni...* used as the subject.
ne ... guère	not, hardly, scarcely	*Nous n'avons guère l'intention de nous rendre à cette conférence.* We have no intention of going to this conference.	Used in a formal situation.
ne ... nullement	in no way	*Elle ne veut nullement vous parler !* She in no way wants to speak to you!	
ne ... pas non plus	neither ... not either	*Je n'aime pas le fromage non plus !* I don't like cheese either!	
ne ... point	not, not at all	*Elles ne peuvent point se défendre.* They cannot defend themselves.	

FRENCH TABLE
Negation

How to express restriction with *ne...que*

Although you can often see **ne...que** as part of negation lists online or in grammar books, it is not actually a true negation, grammatically speaking. It's actually a **restriction**, which corresponds to the affirmative **seulement** [only].
You can apply the restrictions to different parts of the sentence. Let's look at some examples:

1. You can apply the restriction on the direct object:
   *Elle **ne** veut **que** s'amuser. = Elle veut **seulement** s'amuser.*
   She only wants to have fun.

   *Ne sois pas trop dur avec lui, ce **n'**est **qu'**un débutant ! = Ne sois pas trop dur avec lui, c'est **seulement** un débutant !*
   Don't be too hard on him, he's only a beginner!

2. You can apply the restriction on the indirect object:
   *Tu **ne** penses **qu'**à tes concerts ! = Tu penses **seulement** à tes concerts !*
   You only think about your concerts!

   *Tu **ne** rêves **que** de partir à l'étranger. = Tu rêves **uniquement** de partir à l'étranger.*
   You only dream of going abroad.

3. You can apply the restriction on the adverbial phrase of time:
   *Tu **ne** t'es levé **qu'**à 13h30 ?*
   You only got up at 1:30 pm?

4. You can apply the restriction on the adverbial phrase of place:
   *Ils **ne** partent en vacances **qu'**au bord de la mer.*
   They only go on holiday at the seaside.

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