

Lesson Plan: The verb 'to be' – negative form

Level: Beginner (A1)

Time: 45–60 minutes

Language Focus: Grammar – *to be* (am / is / are) in the negative

Skills: Speaking, Listening, Reading, Writing

Lesson Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Recognize negative forms of *to be*
- Use **am not / is not (isn't) / are not (aren't)** in simple sentences
- Say and write basic negative sentences about themselves and others

Target Language

Affirmative → Negative

I am → **I am not**

He is → **He is not / He isn't**

She is → **She is not / She isn't**

It is → **It is not / It isn't**

You are → **You are not / You aren't**

We are → **We are not / We aren't**

They are → **They are not / They aren't**

Materials

- Whiteboard / markers
- Pictures of people (optional)
- Handout or slides (optional)

Lesson Procedure

1. Warm-up (5–7 minutes)

Review affirmative form

1. Write on the board:

I am a student.

He is a teacher.

2. Ask simple yes/no or repetition questions:

"Am I a student?"

"Is he a teacher?"

2. Presentation (10 minutes)

Introduce the negative

1. Write:

• I am **not** a teacher.

2. Underline **not**.

3. Show pattern:

Subject + am/is/are + not

4. Present examples:

I am not tired.

She is not here.

They are not students.

5. Introduce contractions (optional but recommended):

is not → **isn't**

are not → **aren't**

Explain: "*am not*" has no contraction

3. Controlled Practice (10–15 minutes)

Activity 1: Fill in the blanks

I ____ not from Canada. (am)

He ____ not happy. (is)

We ____ not late. (are)

Activity 2: Sentence correction

She am not a doctor. X

She **is not** a doctor. ✓

4. Speaking Practice (10 minutes)

Activity: True or False

1. Students say one sentence about themselves:

"I am not 20."

"I am not from Brazil."

2. Class listens and says: *True or False*

OR

Pair practice

Student A: "Are you a teacher?"

Student B: "No, I am not."

5. Freer Practice / Personalization (5–10 minutes)

Write or say 3 sentences

- One about yourself
- One about a friend or family member

Example:

- I am not tall.

- My sister is not a student.
- We are not tired.

6. Review & Feedback (5 minutes)

- Quick oral review:

"Negative of *he is*?"

"Negative of *they are*?"

- Correct common errors:

✗ I not am happy

✓ I am not happy

Common Beginner Errors to Watch For

✗ I not am...

✗ She aren't...

✗ He not...

Optional Homework

- Write 5 negative sentences using *to be*
- Change affirmative sentences into negative ones
- Which is most common in academic or professional writing?