



## Fante Handbook for Beginners

by Catherine Flaatten, ProGhana Volunteer 2009-2010

### Lesson 11: Past Negation

Past negation is at least as confusing as future. First, we are back to the usage of both *mm* (for verbs beginning with b, f, m, and p) and *nn* (for all other verbs). Second, the form of the verb changes back to the infinitive, regardless of the presence or absence of an object. Lastly, the pronouns change. Let me give you da as an example to begin:

- mannda (*I did not sleep*)
- annda (*you did not sleep*)
- ɔannda (*he did not sleep*)
- yeanda (*we sleep*)
- hom annda (*you [all] sleep*)
- wɔannda (*they sleep*)

In past tense, the negation syllable is *amm*, *emm*, *ann* or *enn*. The rules for choosing *m* or *n* are the same, as mentioned above. How to choose whether the form uses *a* or *e* to start depends on our good old friend, first person singular pronoun. Refer to the chart below:

First Person Singular Pronoun	Negation Syllable
me	<i>ann</i>
mo	<i>ann</i>
mi	<i>enn</i>
mu	<i>enn</i>

The *a* in *ann* replaces the *e* in both the first and second person singular pronouns. Don't ask why; it just does! It works the same for a verb that takes *mo* as the first person singular pronoun, like *ko*:

- mannkɔ (*I did not go*)
- annkɔ (*you did not go*)
- ɔannkɔ (*he did not go*)
- yeannkɔ (*we did not go*)
- hom annkɔ (*you [all] did not go*)
- wɔannkɔ (*they did not go*)



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Let us now look at *su*, which takes *mu* for first person singular:

- *mennsu* (*I did not cry*)
- *enssu* (*you did not cry*)
- *oenssu* (*he did not cry*)
- *yenssu* (*we did not cry*)
- *hom ennsu* (*you [all] did not cry*)
- *woenssu* (*they did not cry*)

When *enn* is used, it takes the place of *u* in the first person singular pronoun, and the *e* in both second person singular and first person plural (in English, this means the conjugations for “you” and “we”). Verbs taking *mi* for first person singular, like *dzi*, are the same:

- *menndzi* (*I did not eat*)
- *enndzi* (*you did not eat*)
- *oenndzi* (*he did not eat*)
- *yenndzi* (*we did not eat*)
- *hom enndzi* (*you [all] did not eat*)
- *woenndzi* (*they did not eat*)

Notes:

