



Fante Handbook for Beginners

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Lesson 9: Present Negation

It's time to learn how to say no – by mastering the negation of verbs in present tense. Negations go between the pronoun and the verb and are either *mm* or *nn*. Verbs that take *mm* are those beginning with b, f, p and m; all other verbs take *nn* for their negation. Let's take pra as our example for negation in the present tense:

- memmpra (*I don't sweep*)
- emmpra (*you don't sweep*)
- ɔmmpra (*he doesn't sweep*)
- yɛmmpra (*we don't sweep*)
- hom mmpra* (*you [all] don't sweep*)
- wɔmmpra (*they don't sweep*)

*If the verb here was ma, for instance, you would only add one extra *m*: hom mma.

There is one exception here, bra. When negating bra, the *r* drops out: memmba, emmba, etc. To illustrate the *nn* negation, let's look at gyina:

- minngyina (*I don't stop*)
- inngyina (*you don't stop*)
- onngyina (*he doesn't stop*)
- yenngyina (*we don't stop*)
- hom nngyina* (*you [all] don't stop*)
- wonngyina (*they don't stop*)

If the verb here was nyim, for instance, you would only add one extra *n*: hom nnyim.

Notes:

