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## SENTENCE STRUCTURE L6 – NEGATION

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## THE THREE DIFFERENT NEGATIONS

In German there are 3 different negations:

- "Nein" – "Willst du ein Eis?" – "**Nein!**"
- "Kein" – "Ich möchte **kein** Eis!"
- "Nicht" – "Ich mag Eis **nicht**."

**In English: All of them mean "no" / "not"**

## USE OF "NEIN"

"Nein" is the negative answer to a question. We use it exclusively to answer questions.

**Examples:**

- „Hast du deine Hausaufgaben gemacht?“ – „**Nein!**“
- „Bist du fertig?“ – „**Nein**, Mami!“

## USE OF "KEIN"

"Kein" can only negate nouns. It is used together with nouns that do not have articles and with nouns with indefinite articles.

"Kein" has to be declined.

**Examples:**

- „Hast du Durst?“ – „Ich habe **keinen** Durst.“
- „Das ist ein Hund.“ – „Das ist **kein** Hund.“

## USE OF "NICHT"

"Nicht" negates an entire sentence or phrase. "Nicht" can be used to negate verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, repositions, proper nouns, and nouns with definite articles.

More simply, everything that can't be negated with "kein" or "nein".

- „Ich esse das **nicht**.“
- „Ich habe das **nicht** gemacht.“
- „Ich mag dich **nicht**.“

## WORDS WITH A NEGATIVE OPPOSITE

Some words have a negative opposite, which is used for negation:

|                                                           |                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jemand → Niemand<br><b>(People)</b>                       | <b>Siehst du jemand(en)?</b><br><b>Ich sehe niemand(en)!</b>                                                    |
| Überall /irgendwo → nirgends/nirgendwo<br><b>(Places)</b> | „Hast du <b>überall</b> nach dem Handy geschaut?“<br>„Ich finde es <b>nirgends/nirgendwo</b> !“                 |
| Etwas → nichts<br><b>(Things)</b>                         | „Darfst du <b>etwas</b> kaufen? Die Serie kommt <b>immer</b> abends.“<br>„Nein, ich darf <b>nichts</b> kaufen!“ |
| immer → nie<br><b>(Time)</b>                              | „Die Serie kommt <b>immer</b> abends.“<br>„Die Serie kommt <b>nie</b> morgens.“                                 |

\* You can find more info about how to use these words and their meanings in the section about indefinite pronouns.

## SUMMARY

- "Nein" negates questions.
- "Kein" negates nouns with indefinite articles or without articles.
- "Nicht" negates everything else.

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