

1 On a separate sheet of paper, write six French sentences, using the negative expression given each time. Take care with the verb tenses. Mention:

- a something you have never done.
- b something you no longer do.
- c something you don't do.
- d something you only do at weekends.
- e something you have never liked doing.
- f something you won't ever do.

2 Write a–f in French.

- a Nobody could get out. _____
- b Nothing happened. _____
- c Neither my friends nor I can speak Italian.

- d None of his friends has a car. _____
- e None of their songs was a success. _____
- f No one saw us. _____

3 French sentences occasionally contain more than one negative, which can seem strange to English-speakers. Translate a–f into English.

- a Ni lui ni ses frères n'ont jamais pu s'entendre avec son père.

- b Elle n'a jamais rien fait au collège.

- c Personne ne lui a jamais dit qu'il fallait qu'elle aille à l'université.

- d Il n'a plus jamais chanté. _____
- e Il ne dit jamais rien. _____
- f On n'a plus jamais entendu parler de lui.

4 Reorder the words to make correct sentences.

- a ne il rien faire préfère _____
- b a de ne elle marier se choisi pas _____
- c il ne risque de plus voir la _____
- d il faut les jeunes à encourager à jamais fumer ne commencer

Grammaire

The negative words (*ne ... pas*) are normally placed around the verb.

In compound tenses, however, they are placed around the auxiliary: *Elle n'a pas téléphoné.* She didn't phone.

Note that with *ne ... personne/ aucun/ que*, the negative words go around both parts of the verb: *Il n'a rencontré personne.* He didn't meet anybody.

When a negative starts a sentence, the second part of the negative expression comes first:

Rien n'a changé. Nothing has changed.

To make an infinitive negative, the negative expression comes before it: *J'ai envie de ne rien faire.* I feel like doing nothing.

