Negation in French

The most common negative construction isne…pas, which essentially forms a “sandwich” around the verb and means the verb does NOT happen. For example:

I do want the book → I do NOT want the book Je veux le livre → Je NE veux PAS le livre

There are several other French negative forms that follow the same construction as in *ne…pas*, but replacing *pas* with one of the negatives below.

**Negative Adverbs**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| \*Ne….personne | No one |
| \*Ne…rien | Nothing |
| Ne…jamais | Never |
| Ne…que | Only |
| Ne…ni | Neither…nor |
| Ne…nullement | Not at all |
| Ne…guère | Hardly, barely |
| Ne…plus (de) | Not anymore (of something) |

\*Personne and rien can be used as the subject of a sentence.

Par exemple: Personne ne veut aller avec moi au boume. No one wants to go with me to the party.

Rien n’est dans ma poche. Nothing is in my pocket.