LLT 346: Module 13
Operators & not negation
Before you can understand negation, you need to understand operators. So, let’s learn about them together!
There are three types of operators: The first auxiliary verb in a verb phrase, the copula “be,” and the dummy auxiliary verb “do.”

To find the operator in a clause, look for the first auxiliary verb. If there isn’t one, look for the copula “be.” If there still isn’t one, you’ll need to insert dummy “do” as the operator. Once you find the operator, to make a negative clause, you insert “not” directly after the operator.

Let’s look at some examples.
Let's follow the steps to finding the operator in order on this example. First, check for an auxiliary verb. See if there is one before going on to the next slide!
Did you find the auxiliary verb “have”? Of course, “been” is also an auxiliary verb, but we are only interested in the first one as the operator. That was an easy example since we only had to do step one. To make the clause negative, just add “not” directly after the operator.

Let’s try another example.
Follow the steps in order to find the operator. When you’re ready to see the answer, go on to the next slide.
In the first step, there is no auxiliary verb, so we try the second step. Aha, there is a form of “be”! In this sentence, “are” is the operator. So, to make the sentence negative, just insert “not” after the operator.
Are you ready for the next example?
Follow the steps in order to find the operator. When you’re ready to see the answer, go on to the next slide.
In the first step, there is no auxiliary verb, so we try the second step. There is also no form of “be,” so we go to the third step. We have to add “do” as an operator.

When we make the negative sentence, the tense is transferred to the operator “do” from “pushed,” and “not” is inserted after the operator.

Do you understand operators and negation? Test yourself next!