

Absolute beginner #7 - Swedish negations

ABE

LESSON CONTENT

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|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| ● Hej! | Jag heter inte Sven. |
| ● Jag är inte 20 år gammal. | Jag är inte norsk. |

In our seventh absolute beginner lesson, we are going to take what we have learned and flip everything upside down with the negation

Negative statements

Inte is put, just like in English, after the verb in a sentence, however Swedish does not use the helper verb (to do) with a negation to construct negated sentences. This makes Swedish sound a bit like bible English, however, it's the same for a multitude of languages, like German, French, Spanish, etc.

Negative subclauses

In subclauses, a fancy term for sentences that begin with so-called subjunctions (another fancy term for words like

because
and

that
) , Swedish make use of the so-called

BIFF rule. It's an acronym for "I bisats kommer

framför det finita verbet" and just means that the verb that is conjugated will have the negation placed in front of it.

The *BIFF* rule does not only apply to but is valid for sentence adverbs in general.

Negative questions

The negation

turns a bit magical when it comes to questions and can be moved around a lot. Putting it in the first position, instead of the word, gives it the same feeling as putting

surely

in front of a statement in English:

Having

after the verb or after the subject gives the sentence roughly the same neutral feeling. What you need to know at this point is that you can construct negative questions in the same way as you construct your negative

statements: by putting

directly after the verb.

Recap conversation