Negative Simple Present Tense

Let's see what is necessary to express negation in the following sentence:

"I *DO* **NOT** LIKE VANILLA."

① **②** **③**

① The auxiliary 'to do'

To express negation, we must use the auxilary verb 'to do'. **'To do' is an auxiliary verb because it relieves the main verb of its conjugation.** This is most apparent when looking at negations with the pronouns he, she and it. For example:

He/She/It likes vanilla.

He/She/It does not like vanilla.

② The negation particle 'not'

'Not' is placed between the auxiliary verb and the main verb. You can **contract** the auxiliary verb 'do/does' and the particle 'not' in order to get 'don't' or 'doesn't'.

I don't like vanilla.

He doesn't like vanilla.

③ The main verb in its base form

If we change a statement from affirmative to negative, we conjugate the auxiliary verb while the **main verb returns to its base form.**

He likes vanilla.

He [do not] likes vanilla.

He does not like vanilla.

✳ Negation with the verb 'to be'

The negative form of 'to be' does not require an auxiliary verb, so the main verb remains conjugated. Simply add 'not' after 'be'.

You are not a student.   **He/She/It is not a student.**