

Masen

Do get the negative form of -masu, turn it to --masen.

O-sake wa nomimasen. 'I don't drink.'

O-niku wa tabemasen. 'I don't eat meat.'

/ Tabako o / wa suimasen. 'I don't smoke.'

Gohan wa arimasen. 'There is no food.'

Ima, haha wa imasen. 'Mother's not in now.'

Kyou wa shigoto o shimasen. 'I'm not working today.'

Mokuyoubi wa hatarakimasen. 'I don't work on Thursday(s).'

Asa wa shinbun o yomimasen. 'I don't read a newspaper in the morning(s).'

Vocab

o-niku 'meat'. Men sometimes miss out o- in informal speech.

tabako o suu. Set expression meaning 'to smoke'. Suu on its own means 'suck'.

gohan 'rice; food'

shigoto 'work (noun)'

hataraku 'to work (verb)'

asa 'morning'

shinbun 'newspaper'

Notes

In general statements topic wa often replaces object o. These sentences are also possible:

O-sake o fudan nomimasen. 'I don't usually drink.'

O-niku o fudan tabemasen. 'I don't usually eat meat.'

Gohan ga arimasen. 'There's no rice. (implying 'There should be, etc.').' has an interesting focusing effect in this sentence.

Be careful with: Haha wa imasen. 'Mum is not in. / Mum is dead.'

When topic wa is used after time and place expressions, the nuance is that they are either old information being echoed in the conversation, or that there is some kind of contrast. For example, " Mokuyoubi wa hatarakimasen." may imply that you do work on other days.