La négation

INTRO

Negation is a basic construction that allows to counter a statement.
In French, the construction is quite simple.

DETAILS

Ne + verb + pas
Though French commonly eat up the "ne" part when speaking, both tools are necessary to turn a affirmation into a negation.

This structure is particularly useful: French people tend to prefer negative statements over positive ones.
Example:
Ce n'est pas mal (commonly "c'est pas mal")
=> It's not bad.

This form will often be preferred to a positive "c'est bien".

Normal construction:
Tu ne veux pas manger. = You don't want to eat.

MORE

J'aime les fruits. = Je n'aime pas les fruits.
Here, we can see that the pronoun "je" will stay intact (followed by a consonant) but the 'e' from "ne" will disappear.
This is the grammatically correct form. (Whereas the ellipse of "ne" is not grammatically correct but simply an habit of the language)