



Negative Confirmation

Welcome to Digimar videos!

In this video, we will examine the most common phrases used to express that the provided information is not correct, to express disagreement, or to say 'no' to a request.

After watching this video, you will be able to recognize how negative answers should be given.

This video uses examples from real-life scenarios. They may have been kept in their authentic form to support learning, even when they include mistakes or deviate from maritime communication standards.

Let us start with an example. Digimar VTS provides Motor Vessel Sunrise with anchoring information.

VTS	VESSEL
Good morning, Sunrise, Digimar VTS. Information on arrival. Drop the anchor on position Bravo one, Bravo one.	Digimar VTS. I will drop anchor on arrival. Anchorage area Bravo one.
Captain, negative, not anchorage area. Position Bravo one.	

Do you think that Digimar VTS has clearly expressed that Bravo 1 is not an anchorage area but a precise position? Also, the word 'negative' does not belong to standard VTS phraseology.

Let us consider this alternative way to convey the same meaning. Digimar VTS provides Motor Vessel Sunrise with anchoring information.

VTS	VESSEL
Good morning, Sunrise, Digimar VTS. Information. On arrival drop the anchor on position Bravo one, Bravo one.	Digimar VTS. I will drop anchor on arrival. Anchorage area Bravo one.
Captain, that is not correct. Bravo one is an anchorage position, not an anchorage area.	

In this case, it is first clearly stated that what the vessel said is not correct. The correct information is then repeated, and the incorrect information clarified.

Here is another real-life example. In this second authentic example, a vessel asks for permission to drop the anchor for bunkering.

VESSEL	VTS



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Good morning, Sir, this is Motor Vessel Sunrise requesting permission to drop anchor for bunkering. For this reason, I request your permission.

Captain, wait, Motor Vessel Moonshine is leaving, and another vessel is incoming. I will let you know.

Has the VTS operator clearly stated that permission is not yet granted?

An alternative way of communicating the same content is:

VESSEL	VTS
<p>Good morning, Captain. Good morning, Sir, this is Motor Vessel Sunrise requesting permission to drop anchor for bunkering. For this reason, I request your permission.</p>	<p>Captain, no. Due to traffic, do not drop anchor. You will receive permission in the afternoon. Stand by on channels zero eight, one six. Over.</p>

In this case, it is clearly stated that the permission is not granted, when it will be granted, and if limitations will apply. Also, when a vessel is not given permission, the proword 'permission' should be avoided to mitigate misunderstanding.

These examples show how contrast and negative confirmation can be clearly expressed by:

- Using "that is not correct" and stating the correct information.
- Using "no" and stating the correct information.

In the VTS Voice Communications and Phraseology published by the International Association of Lighthouse Authorities you will find more suggestions on how to express contrast or negative confirmation on pages 16–17, and 21.

We hope that this video has been useful and that it will help you to successfully complete the chatbot exercises available at: <https://digimar.si/category/digital-tools/chatbots/>

Thank you for watching and stay tuned for more DigiMar videos on effective maritime communication!