

Short answers

1 Look at this example:



QUESTION	+	SHORT ANSWER
<i>Is he at work?</i>	~	<i>Yes, he is.</i>
<i>Can I come?</i>	~	<i>No, you can't.</i>
<i>Do you like it?</i>	~	<i>Yes, I do.</i>
<i>Does she live here?</i>	~	<i>No, she doesn't.</i>

We call these 'short answers' because they are not 'full' answers:

Is she sick? { *Yes, she is sick.* (full answer)
 Yes, she is. (short answer)

We use short answers to reply to 'yes/no' questions (see Unit 29):

Are you coming? { *Yes, I am.*
 No, I'm not.

2 We form short answers by not using the main verb from the question:

Have they gone? ~ *Yes, they have gone.*
Did he go to Paris? ~ *Yes, he did go.*
Is she waiting? ~ *Yes, she is waiting.*

When the main verb is **be**, we use **be**:

Are you tired? ~ *Yes, I am.*

When we answer **No**, we use a negative verb:

Will they win? ~ *No, they won't.*

Did Paul come? ~ *No, he didn't.*

Are you cold? ~ *No, I'm not.*

We never use positive short forms in short answers:

Are you tired? ~ *Yes, I am.* (NOT *Yes, I'm.*)

Is he happy? ~ *Yes, he is.* (NOT *Yes, he's.*)

3 We can also use short answers to reply 'yes' or 'no' to statements:

STATEMENT	+	REPLY
<i>He's working hard.</i>	~	<i>Yes, he is.</i>
<i>She's at work.</i>	~	<i>No, she isn't.</i>
<i>She loves films.</i>	~	<i>Yes, she does.</i>

Note that with Present Simple or Past Simple verbs, we use **do**, **does** or **did** in the reply:

She loves films. ~ *Yes, she does.*

He liked the book. ~ *Yes, he did.*

4 When we write, we normally put a 'comma' (,) after **Yes** or **No** in short answers:

He lives in London. ~ *No, he doesn't.*

Practice

A Make short answers by putting in a 'full stop' (.) and a line (—).

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
► Can you come tonight?	~ Yes, I can. come tonight.
1 Will you see Ted tomorrow?	~ Yes, I will see Ted tomorrow.
2 Have you finished your breakfast?	~ No, I haven't finished my breakfast.
3 Do you drive to work?	~ Yes, I do drive to work.
4 Did she come yesterday?	~ No, she didn't come yesterday.
5 Were you tired after the game?	~ Yes, I was tired after the game.
6 Can she sing well?	~ No, she can't sing well.
7 Did Tom have a holiday?	~ Yes, he did have a holiday.
8 Is she studying French?	~ Yes, she is studying French.
9 Do you play golf?	~ No, I don't play golf.
10 Did you buy a new table?	~ Yes, I did buy a new table.
11 Are you thirsty?	~ No, I'm not thirsty.
12 Has Jane been to Mexico before?	~ Yes, she has been there before.

B Write the correct answers to the questions. Use the phrases in the box.

Yes, she did.	No, he doesn't.	No, she wasn't.	Yes, he has.	No, I can't.
Yes, I will.	Yes, they have.	Yes, I do.	No, they aren't.	

- Have they all left? ~ Yes, they have.
- 1 Does Steve work hard? ~
- 2 Do you like this music? ~
- 3 Are they listening? ~
- 4 Did she enjoy her holiday? ~
- 5 Was Mary at the concert? ~
- 6 Will you phone this weekend? ~
- 7 Can you play the guitar? ~
- 8 Has he gone to bed? ~

C Write positive short answers and then negative short answers for the questions.

- Was the film good? { ~ Yes, it was.
~ No, it wasn't.
- 1 Does he enjoy French food? { ~ Yes,
~ No,
- 2 Can he swim? { ~ Yes,
~ No,
- 3 Will they return tonight? { ~ Yes,
~ No,
- 4 Do you want to buy that shirt? { ~ Yes,
~ No,
- 5 Are they coming in Mike's car? { ~Yes,
~ No,
- 6 Did you ask Sally to come? { ~Yes,
~ No,
- 7 Is your headache better? { ~Yes,
~ No,
- 8 Were the exams difficult? { ~Yes,
~ No,

D Bill always says Yes. Tom always says No. Write their answers.

- | | Bill: | Tom: |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| ► Japanese people eat a lot of fish. | ~ Yes, they do. | ~ No, they don't. |
| 1 The sun always shines in England. | ~ | ~ |
| 2 New York is the capital of America. | ~ | ~ |
| 3 Italy will win the next World Cup. | ~ | ~ |
| 4 Bananas are delicious. | ~ | ~ |
| 5 Cats can sing beautifully. | ~ | ~ |
| 6 The English speak very slowly. | ~ | ~ |