

Short answers

- 1 Look at this example:



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

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
He's working hard.	~ Yes, he is.	
She's at work.	~ No, she isn't.	
She loves films.	~ Yes, she does.	

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

- Can you come tonight?
- 1 Will you see Ted tomorrow?
- 2 Have you finished your breakfast?
- 3 Do you drive to work?
- 4 Did she come yesterday?
- 5 Were you tired after the game?
- 6 Can she sing well?
- 7 Did Tom have a holiday?
- 8 Is she studying French?
- 9 Do you play golf?
- 10 Did you buy a new table?
- 11 Are you thirsty?
- 12 Has Jane been to Mexico before?

ANSWERS

- ~ Yes, I can. come tonight.
- ~ Yes, I will see Ted tomorrow.
- ~ No, I haven't finished my breakfast.
- ~ Yes, I do drive to work.
- ~ No, she didn't come yesterday.
- ~ Yes, I was tired after the game.
- ~ No, she can't sing well.
- ~ Yes, he did have a holiday.
- ~ Yes, she is studying French.
- ~ No, I don't play golf.
- ~ Yes, I did buy a new table.
- ~ No, I'm not thirsty.
- ~ 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.

- ▶ 1 Was the film good?
~~~~~  
~~~~~
 - 2 Does he enjoy French food?
~~~~~  
~~~~~
 - 3 Can he swim?
~~~~~  
~~~~~
 - 4 Will they return tonight?
~~~~~  
~~~~~
 - 5 Do you want to buy that shirt?
~~~~~  
~~~~~
 - 6 Are they coming in Mike's car?
~~~~~  
~~~~~
 - 7 Did you ask Sally to come?
~~~~~  
~~~~~
 - 8 Is your headache better?
~~~~~  
~~~~~
 - 9 Were the exams difficult?
~~~~~  
~~~~~

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. ~ ~