

Yes/No Questions

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Grammar Notes

YES/NO QUESTIONS

A. Introduction

Yes/No (Y/N) questions are very common in English conversations. The answer to these questions is almost always “Yes” or “No.” These questions have two patterns: one for the Be verb, and one for other types of verbs.

Key		
Symbol	Part of Speech	Meaning
Aux	auxiliary verb	a word that “helps” the main verb (<i>do, be, have, will, can, etc.</i>)
S	subject	the person or thing doing the action
V	main verb	the action
O	object	the person or thing receiving the action

B. Be Verb

When the main verb of a Y/N question is *Be*, the pattern is VSO. The Be verb comes first in the question and there is no auxiliary verb.

Pattern	Question
V + S (+ O)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Am I late? • Are you okay? • Is he a teacher? • Are we there yet? • Are they from Italy? • Is your dog a pit bull? • Are the children hungry?



Grammar Notes cont.

B. Be Verb cont.

How do we answer Y/N questions in English?
We usually use a **short answer** with "Yes" or "No."

1. Positive Short Answers

We never use a contraction in a positive short answer.
For example, "Yes, I am" is correct, but "Yes, I'm" is incorrect.

Question	Short Answer ✓	Never Use ✕
Are you tired?	Yes, I am .	Yes, I'm. (<i>incorrect!</i>)
Is she from Canada?	Yes, she is .	Yes, she's. (<i>incorrect!</i>)
Is he a teacher?	Yes, he is .	Yes, he's. (<i>incorrect!</i>)
Are we ready?	Yes, we are .	Yes, we're. (<i>incorrect!</i>)
Are they students?	Yes, they are .	Yes, they're. (<i>incorrect!</i>)

2. Negative Short Answers

We often use a contraction in a negative short answer.
There are two correct forms in most cases.

Question	Short Answer	
	Form 1	Form 2
Are you busy?	No, I'm not .	—
Is he a student?	No, he's not .	No, he isn't .
Is she tired today?	No, she's not .	No, she isn't .
Are we on time?	No, we're not .	No, we aren't .
Are they from Japan?	No, they're not .	No, they aren't .

Grammar Notes cont.

C. All Other Verbs

For every Y/N question with a verb other than Be, the first word of the question is an auxiliary verb such as *do*, *be*, *can*, or *did*. The short answer uses the same auxiliary as the question.

Pattern	Question	Positive Answer	Negative Answer
Aux + S + V (+ O)	Do you like junk food?	Yes, I do .	No, I don't .
	Does the class start at 9:00 am?	Yes, it does .	No, it doesn't .
	Are you studying now?	Yes, I am .	No, I' m not .
	Is your sister calling you?	Yes, she is .	No, she isn't .
	Can you ski ?	Yes, I can .	No, I can't .
	Can he play the guitar?	Yes, he can .	No, he can't .
	Did she bring her lunch?	Yes, she did .	No, she didn't .
	Did your parents drive you here?	Yes, they did .	No, they didn't .

Exercise 1

FILL IN THE BLANKS

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the Be verb (*am, are, is*).







- Ex. Are you happy?
- _____ he a teacher?
 - _____ I late?
 - _____ you nervous?
 - _____ we on time?
 - _____ she from Korea?
 - _____ they your children?
 - _____ your friend a nurse?
 - _____ the students tired?
 - _____ the dogs at the park?
 - _____ the book on the table?

Exercise 2

ASK & ANSWER







A. Questions with Be

Write questions with "Are you..."

#	Feeling	Question
Ex		<i>Are you tired?</i>
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

B. Short Answers

Write short answers with *yes* or *no* based on the emoji.

#	Feeling	Question & Answer
Ex		Is she happy? <i>No, she isn't.</i> _____
1		Is he nervous? _____
2		Are they angry? _____
3		Is she scared? _____
4		Are they happy? _____
5		Are you nervous? _____

Feelings

- happy
- sad
- angry
- scared
- nervous
- tired

Exercise 3

LIKES & DISLIKES

What does Amalia like to do? Look at the chart and write the answers.

 Amalia	 ✓	 ✓	 ✗	 ✓	 ✗
 ✗	 ✓	 ✗	 ✓	 ✗	 ✓

Ex. Does Amalia like to ski?

No, she doesn't.

1. Does Amalia like to jog?

2. Does Amalia like to watch TV?

3. Does Amalia like to sing?

4. Does Amalia like to swim?

5. Does Amalia like to dance?

6. Does Amalia like to snowboard?

7. Does Amalia like to cook?

8. Does Amalia like to read?












9. Does Amalia like to work out?

10. Does Amalia like to play the guitar?

Exercise 4

FIND SOMEONE WHO

Write Yes/No questions below using "do" or "can."
Then walk around the class and ask your classmate questions.
When a classmate answers "Yes," write his or her name below.

#	Activity	Question	Classmate
1		<i>Do you like to watch TV?</i>	
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			

Exercise 5

DIALOGUES

A. Language School

Read the dialogue out loud with a partner.
Underline all the questions in the dialogue.

Christina: Hi, I'm Christina.

Miguel: Hi, I'm Miguel. It's nice to meet you, Christina.

Christina: Nice to meet you too, Miguel. Are you from Mexico?

Miguel: Yes, I am. Are you American?

Christina: No, I'm not. I'm Canadian. Are you a student at this school?

Miguel: Yes, I'm studying English. Are you a student here too?

Christina: Yes, I am. I'm learning Spanish.

Miguel: Do you like Spanish?

Christina: Yes, I do. It's a beautiful language. Do you like English?

Miguel: No, not really. I think English is very difficult.

Christina: Maybe I can help you. Do you want to be study partners?

Miguel: Yes, I do! Can we start today?

Christina: Yes, we can!

Exercise 6

BINGO!

Walk around the class asking your classmates these questions. Draw an X through the square when someone answers "Yes." If you get a complete horizontal (—), vertical (|), or diagonal (/ or \) line, yell "Bingo!"

Do you like pizza?	Can you swim?	Can you count to 20 in English?	Do you study every day?	Are you happy?
Do you often eat healthy food?	Did you watch TV last night?	Are you a student?	Do you have any pets?	Did you study last night?
Are you wearing black socks?	Did you go to the movies last weekend?	Free Space	Do you like sushi?	Are you tired today?
Did you go to school yesterday?	Do you have any brothers or sisters?	Do you like to read?	Can you play the piano?	Can you ski?
Are you hungry right now?	Are you wearing any jewelry?	Do you usually wake up at 7:00 am?	Are you married?	Can you cook?

Exercise 7

QUIZ

Listen to the recording and circle the correct answer.

1. a) Yes, he is.
b) Yes, he does.
c) Yes, he can.
2. a) No, I'm not.
b) No, I don't.
c) No, I didn't.
3. a) Yes, they are.
b) Yes, they do.
c) Yes, they can.
4. a) No, she isn't.
b) No, she doesn't.
c) No, she didn't.
5. a) No, they're not.
b) No, they don't.
c) No, they didn't.
6. a) Yes, I am.
b) Yes, I do.
c) Yes, I did.
7. a) No, I'm not.
b) No, I don't.
c) No, I can't.
8. a) Yes, it is.
b) Yes, it does.
c) Yes, it can.
9. a) Yes, they are.
b) Yes, they do.
c) Yes, they can.
10. a) Yes, he is.
b) Yes, he does.
c) Yes, he did.
11. a) Yes, they are.
b) Yes, they do.
c) Yes, they can.
12. a) No, I'm not.
b) No, I don't.
c) No, I can't.

Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

In this lesson, students learn how to form Yes/No questions. They practice asking and answering questions through various writing and speaking activities.

LEVEL: Beg – Low Int

TIME: 2 hours

TAGS: questions, question formation, yes/no questions, grammar, grammar exercises, grammar practice worksheets, present, past, present progressive, can

Exercise 1

- | | | | | |
|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1. Is | 3. Are | 5. Is | 7. Is | 9. Are |
| 2. Am | 4. Are | 6. Are | 8. Are | 10. Is |

Exercise 2

A. QUESTIONS WITH BE

- Are you happy?
- Are you angry?
- Are you scared?
- Are you sad?
- Are you nervous?

B. SHORT ANSWERS

- No, he isn't.
- Yes, they are.
- Yes, she is.
- No, they aren't.
- Yes, I am.

Exercise 3

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. No, she doesn't. | 6. Yes, she does. |
| 2. Yes, she does. | 7. No, she doesn't. |
| 3. Yes, she does. | 8. Yes, she does. |
| 4. Yes, she does. | 9. Yes, she does. |
| 5. No, she doesn't. | 10. No, she doesn't. |

Exercise 4

Answers will vary.

Exercise 5

A. LANGUAGE SCHOOL

Christina: Hi, I'm Christina.

Miguel: Hi, I'm Miguel. It's nice to meet you, Christina.

Christina: Nice to meet you too, Miguel. Are you from Mexico?

Miguel: Yes, I am. Are you American?

Christina: No, I'm not. I'm Canadian.
Are you a student at this school?

Miguel: Yes, I'm studying English. Are you a student here too?

Christina: Yes, I am. I'm learning Spanish.

Miguel: Do you like Spanish?

Christina: Yes, I do. It's a beautiful language. Do you like English?

Miguel: No, not really. I think English is very difficult.

Christina: Maybe I can help you.
Do you want to be study partners?

Miguel: Yes, I do! Can we start today?

Christina: Yes, we can!

(continued on the next page...)

Answer Key cont.

Exercise 5 cont.

B. NICE TO MEET YOU

Answers will vary.

Exercise 6

Answers will vary.

Exercise 7

- | | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| 1. a | 3. b | 5. a | 7. b | 9. c | 11. a |
| 2. c | 4. a | 6. c | 8. a | 10. b | 12. c |

Transcript:

1. Is he wearing glasses?
2. Did you hear a noise?
3. Do the children like ice cream?
4. Is your roommate messy?
5. Are the students working hard?
6. Did you study last night?
7. Do you have a pet?
8. Is the class over?
9. Can your friends play tennis?
10. Does he want to pass the test?
11. Are they eating dinner now?
12. Can you swim?

SPELLING NOTE:

This lesson shows the American spelling of the word *Jewelry*.
Most other English-speaking countries spell it this way: *Jewellery*.
Make it a challenge for your students to find this word in the
lesson and see if they know the alternate spelling.