

Short answers

Introduction



"Do you like chocolate?" "Yes, I do."

Definition

Short answers are brief responses to a variety of closed questions.

Construction

| 'to be' | Other verbs |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 'Yes' + subject + 'to be' | 'Yes' + subject + 'to do' |
| Is she French? | Does she work in a bank? |
| Yes, she is. | Yes, she does. |
| 'No' + subject + 'to be' + 'not' | 'No' + subject + 'to do' + 'not' |
| Is she French? | Does she work in a bank? |
| No, she isn't. | No, she doesn't. |

Note that

1. In affirmative forms, we don't use contractions: Yes, I'm.
2. The correct forms for 'have' and 'have got' are:

Do you have any children? Yes, I do./No, I don't.

Have you got any children? Yes, I have./No, I haven't.

3. Remember to use 'to do' with main verbs:

Do you like tea? Yes, I like.  Yes, I do. 

Uses

We use them in conversation in different tenses. Short answers are more polite than 'Yes' or 'No' alone.

"Does she work in a bank?"

"No." [too short and direct]

"**No, she doesn't**". [more polite]

Sometimes, we add more information:

"Does she work in a bank?"

"**No, she's in advertising.**" / "**No, she doesn't. She's in advertising.**" [these are better]

Examples



"Are you tired?" "**No, I'm not.** Are you?" "**Yes, I am!** Let's take a break!"



"Is it raining again?" "**Yes, it is.** But it's nice and warm."

See all other tenses and **modal verbs** for more information and examples.

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