

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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