



## GRAMMAR: YES/ NO QUESTIONS

Yes or no questions are questions whose expected answer is either "yes" or "no".

### HOW TO FORM YES-NO QUESTIONS: RULES

**1. If the main verb of the sentence is *To be*, simply invert the subject and the verb:**

#### Examples

- He is the headmaster of the school. -> Is he the headmaster of the school? Yes, he is./ No, he isn't.
- They are American. -> Are they American? Yes, they are./ No, they aren't.

**2. If the sentence includes a main verb and an auxiliary verb, invert the subject and the auxiliary verb.**

#### Examples

- She can speak several languages. -> Can she speak several languages? Yes, she can./ No, she can't.
- I have got two brothers. -> Have you got two brothers? Yes, I have./ No, I haven't.
- You should eat healthier. -> Should you eat healthier? Yes, you should./ No, you shouldn't.
- They are visiting Paris. -> Are they visiting Paris? Yes, they are./ No, they aren't.
- I was sleeping when you phoned me. -> Were you sleeping when I phoned you? Yes, I was./ No, I wasn't.

- He is going to travel to Italy next month.-> Is he going to travel to Italy next month? Yes, he is./ No, he isn't.
- She has done the housework. -> Has she done the housework? She, she has./ No, she hasn't.
- Nancy had worked all night long. -> Had Nancy worked all night long? She, she had./ No, she hadn't.

**3. If the sentence includes a verb which is not the verb *To be* and doesn't include an auxiliary verb, the transformation is more complex:**

a) If the verb is in the **present tense**, add either **do** or **does** and put the main verb in its base form:

- o **Do** if the subject is the first person singular, second person singular, first person plural, second person plural and third person plural (I, you, we, they).

Examples

I like apples. -> Do you like apples? Yes, I do./ No, I don't.

They go to a high school. -> Do they go to a high school? Yes, they do./ No, they don't.

- o **Does** if the subject is the third person singular (he, she, it).

Examples

- He hates basketball. -> Does he hate basketball? Yes, he does./ No, he doesn't.

- Nancy reads a lot. -> Does Nancy read a lot? Yes, she does./ No, she doesn't.

**b) If the verb is in the past tense, add *did* and put the main verb in its base form:**

Examples

- He discovered the truth. -> Did he discover the truth? Yes, he did./ No, he didn't.
- She wrote a nice essay. -> Did she write a nice essay? Yes, she did./ No, she didn't.
- They did the homework. -> Did they do the homework? Yes, they did./ No, they didn't.

c) If the verb is in the future tense, add *will* and put the main verb in its base form:

Examples

- He will go to University in three years. -> Will he go to University in three years? Yes, he will./ No, he won't.
- They will buy a new car next year. -> Will they buy a new car next year? Yes, they will./ No, they won't.

4. As you have seen in the previous examples, the structure of all the answers are *yes/ no + subject + first verb of the question in its affirmative or negative form.*

**GRAMMAR PRACTICE**

Transform these sentences into a Yes or No question and write an affirmative or negative short answer.

Example: He loves swimming -> Does he love swimming? Yes, he does./ No, he doesn't.

1) They are nice.

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2) She can drive a lorry.

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3) We have got a big car.

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4) They should revise their lessons.

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5) We are taking a plane tomorrow.

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6) I was watching TV when you came home.

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7) He is going to study German next August.

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- 8) We have visited Paris twice.  
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- 9) I had read that book before you told me.  
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- 10) They like soccer.  
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- 11) She wastes her money on jewellery.  
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- 12) They went to the swimming-pool yesterday evening.  
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- 13) He decided to move to a bigger city.  
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- 14) She will move to England in 2017.  
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- 15) We will help him later.  
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