

1 You often give short answers to questions in spoken English. Short answers are more polite than just saying Yes or No:

- a** When there is a modal in the question, you repeat the modal in your answer:

Would you like some more tea? Yes, I would.

Can you come tonight? Yes, we can.

No, I'm afraid we can't.

- b** When there is an auxiliary in the question, you repeat it in your answer:

Will your parents be at home tonight? Yes, they will.

Do you always work on Saturdays? No, I don't.

- c** When *be* is the main verb in the question, you use *be* in your answer:

Are you married? Yes, I am.

No, I'm not.

Is there any more milk in the fridge? Yes, there is.



2 For questions about the past, you use the past tense in your short answer:

Had they gone to bed when you got home?

Yes, they had.

Were they angry with you?

No, they weren't.

Did you have an argument?

No, we didn't.

Did I tell you that my father was a policeman?

Yes, you did.

3 When you want more information about something, you can use *where?*, *why?*, *when?*, *how?*, or *which?* + *noun*:

Harry's at university now.

Which university? OR Which one?

I'm going to town tomorrow.

When?

I think they live abroad.

Where?

The concert was cancelled.

Why?

She put your stuff by the door.

Which door?

4 You use *so* with some common verbs and expressions of opinion in short answers:

Is this where they live?

POSITIVE

I think so.

NEGATIVE

I don't think so.

Are the banks open now?

I expect so.

I don't expect so.

Will it rain tomorrow?

I'm afraid so.

I'm afraid not.

Is Jane coming tonight?

I hope so.

I hope not.

A Match the questions and short answers:

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| 1 Do you see your friends often? | No, I'm not. |
| 2 Are you new here? | Yes, you can. |
| 3 Have you had breakfast today? | No, I don't. |
| 4 Is the sun shining? | Yes, I do. |
| 5 Are those your friends? | Yes, I have. |
| 6 Do you know London well? | No, they aren't. |
| 7 Can we go home early today? | Yes, it is. |
| 8 Is there anything good on tv? | No, there isn't. |

B Write short answers to these questions:

- Can lions climb trees? _____
- Is Bonn the capital of Germany? _____
- Do they speak English in New Zealand? _____
- Does rice grow in Wales? _____
- Has the weather been good this week? _____
- Was Marilyn Monroe an actress? _____
- Did the Aztecs live in Spain? _____
- Was the television invented by Einstein? _____
- Were you born before 1950? _____
- Are the Rocky Mountains in Europe? _____

C Each of these statements can have TWO different short questions. Match the questions to the statements:

e.g. We met Paul recently. Where? / When?

Why? Where? When? Which one?

- I'm going on holiday soon. _____
- We saw a brilliant video last night. _____
- She refused to answer one of my questions. _____
- Did you know that the last time I went abroad I was arrested? _____
- My parents saw Princess Diana in a restaurant last night. _____
- Jack gave away all his books except one. _____

D Answer these questions in the positive using the word in brackets:

- Is this jacket expensive? (expect) _____
- Are museums open on Sunday? (think) _____
- Is the weather going to be the same tomorrow? (hope) _____
- Was there any food left after the party? (afraid) _____

Now rewrite the same answers in the negative.