

77 Yes/No questions

1 Yes/No questions

Yes/No questions ask if something is true or not:

'Are you English?'

'Yes, I am.' / 'No, I'm not.'

'Was it expensive?'

'No, it wasn't very expensive.'

'Has the post arrived?'

'Yes, it came early today.'

In *yes/no* questions, we put the main verb *be*, an auxiliary or a modal verb BEFORE the subject:

- the main verb *be*

STATEMENT *It is cold outside.*

QUESTION *Is it cold outside?*

- auxiliary verbs *be*, *have* and modal verbs

STATEMENT *It is raining. He has eaten. Chelsea will win. Laura can swim.*

QUESTION *Is it raining? Has he eaten? Will Chelsea win? Can Laura swim?*

- the auxiliary verb *do/does* in the present simple, and *did* in the past simple

STATEMENT *Chris works here. Chris worked here.*

QUESTION *Does Chris work here? Did Chris work here?*

! We usually say *yes/no* questions with a rising intonation (↗): *Are you hungry?*

🔊 Pronunciation ▶ 1.29

2 Short answers

We can answer *yes/no* questions with a short answer:

'Is it cold outside?' 'Yes, it **is**.'

'Have you eaten?' 'No, I **haven't**.'

'Can you watch films on it?' 'Yes, you **can**.'

'Does Natalie live here?' 'No, she **doesn't**.'

We can also say only *yes/no* or *yes/no* with other words:

'Is it the newest one in the shops?' 'No. / No, it's about a year old.'

'Is Max in the office yet?' 'Yes. / Yes, he **arrived** about ten minutes ago.'

! Don't use *I'm*, *she's*, *it's*, etc. in positive short answers:

Are you busy? ~~× Yes, I'm.~~
✓ Yes, I **am**.

Is she ready? ~~× Yes, she's.~~
✓ Yes, **she is**.

! Don't use the main verb in short answers:

Do you like classical music? ~~× Yes, I like.~~
✓ Yes, I **do**.

Does Marianne speak French? ~~× No, she doesn't speak.~~
✓ No, she **doesn't**.

Is it the newest one in the shops?

Was it expensive?

Can you watch films on it?

