

Grammar: Short answers

- 4** 1 When the examiner asks you a yes/no question, you can begin your response with a short answer. Saying just *yes* or *no* sounds abrupt. In addition, using short answers correctly is one way of showing the examiner you have a good grasp of English.
- Yes answers consist of: *Yes + subject + auxiliary verb or be.*
- *Do you enjoy going on holiday with your parents? Yes, I **do**.*
 - *Can you afford to go on holiday this year? Yes, we **can**.*
 - *Were you skiing when you fell? Yes, I **was**.*
 - *Are you sure? Yes, I **am**.*
- 2 Do not use contracted forms in yes answers: *Yes, I'm./Yes, they've./Yes, we're.*
- 3 You can use other words in short answers:
- *Yes, I **certainly** do.*
 - *Yes, we can – **just about**.*
 - ***Of course** I am.*
 - *I'm **pretty sure** she is.*
- 4 Or you can use other phrases:
- *Did your mum enjoy her holiday? I believe so, yes.*
 - *Would you go back again? Definitely.*
 - *Would you recommend it? Without a doubt.*
- 5 You can use *do, does, did* to respond to statements or questions with no auxiliary verb or non-auxiliary *be*:
- *So, your sister likes action-packed holidays. Yes, she **does**.*
 - *Many people prefer relaxing holidays. I suppose they **do**.*
- 6 For *no* answers, we usually use the contracted form:
- *So, you **didn't** enjoy that holiday. I **didn't**, no.*
 - *Has she got travel insurance? No, she **hasn't**.*
 - *Are they from your hometown? No, they **aren't**.*
 - *Are you going on holiday soon? I'm **not**, unfortunately.*
- 7 You can use other phrases to respond negatively:
- *Is it hot in Norway in the spring? I don't **think so**.*
 - *Do you enjoy camping? No, **not really**.*
 - *Do the local people benefit from tourism? I **doubt it**.*
 - *Would you ever go on a skiing holiday? **Definitely not!***



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Listen to the questions and statements. Respond using a short answer and give some more details.

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Example: *Have you been on holiday yet this year? – No, I haven't, but I plan to go and see my family in Iran later in the year. I'm really looking forward to it because I know they'll spoil me rotten!*