

Confirming or Denying Truths and Lies With Tag Endings

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APPENDIX

Partner A: Confirming or denying truths and lies with tag endings

In conversation, responding with a simple *yes* or *no* to questions and comments in English is not always a good idea, because *yes* and *no* are used differently in English than they are in some other languages. It's a good idea to use tag endings when you want to show agreement or disagreement in short answers.

Examples

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------|---|
| Blueberries are blue. | (Agree) | Yes, they are. |
| Blueberries are yellow. | (Disagree) | No, they aren't! / No, they're not! They're blue! |
| Blueberries aren't yellow. | (Agree) | No, they aren't. / No, they're not. They're blue. |
| Blueberries aren't blue. | (Disagree) | Yes, they are! |

When you disagree

- be careful of your voice inflection.
- use passion in your voice. (Use an exclamation mark!)

Read the statement on the left to your partner. Your partner must agree or disagree and add information if necessary. Give your partner a hint if needed.

| Your Statement | Correct Response (Don't Tell Your Partner!) |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Bananas are yellow. | Yes, they are. (agree) |
| Apples aren't black. | No, they aren't. / No, they're not. (agree) They're red. |
| Carrots are blue. | No, they aren't! / No, they're not! (disagree) They're orange! |
| Lemons aren't yellow. | Yes, they are! (disagree) |
| I am in French class. | No, you're not. / No, you aren't. (agree) You're in English class. |
| You don't speak any English. | Yes, I do! (disagree) |
| Babies cry. | Yes, they do. (agree) |
| Babies don't drink beer. | No, they don't. (agree) They drink water or milk. |
| Babies are very big. | No, they aren't! / No, they're not! (disagree) They are small! |
| Babies don't crawl. | Yes, they do! (disagree) |
| Snow is white. | Yes, it is. (agree) |
| Snow isn't hot. | No, it isn't. / No, it's not. (agree) It's cold. |
| Snow falls in summer. | No, it doesn't! (disagree) It falls in winter! |
| Snow isn't cold. | Yes, it is! (disagree) |
| Penguins have feathers. | Yes, they do. (agree) |
| Penguins can't fly. | No, they can't. (agree) They can only walk or swim. |
| Penguins aren't black and white. | Yes, they are! (disagree) |
| Fish can swim. | Yes, they can. (agree) |
| Fish can't run. | No, they can't (agree). They can swim, though. |
| Fish eat birds. | No, they don't! (disagree) They eat plants or other fish; birds eat fish! |
| Birds don't sing. | Yes, they do! (disagree) |

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Partner B: Confirming or denying truths and lies with tag endings

In conversation, responding with a simple *yes* or *no* to questions and comments in English is not always a good idea, because *yes* and *no* are used differently in English than they are in some other languages. It's a good idea to use tag endings when you want to show agreement or disagreement in short answers.

Example

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------|---|
| Blueberries are blue. | (Agree) | Yes, they are. |
| Blueberries aren't yellow. | (Agree) | No, they aren't. / No, they're not. They're blue. |
| Blueberries are yellow. | (Disagree) | No, they aren't! / No, they're not! They're blue! |
| Blueberries aren't blue. | (Disagree) | Yes, they are! |

When you disagree

- a. be careful of your voice inflection.
- b. use passion in your voice. (Use an exclamation mark!)

Read the statement on the left to your partner. Your partner must agree or disagree and add information if necessary. Give your partner a hint if needed.

| Your Statement | Correct Response (Don't Tell Your Partner!) |
|--|--|
| Tomatoes are red. | Yes, they are. (agree) |
| Strawberries aren't purple. | No, they aren't. / No, they're not. (agree) They're red. |
| Pumpkins are blue. | No, they aren't! / No, they're not! (disagree) They're orange! |
| Bananas aren't yellow. | Yes, they are! (disagree) |
| I am in math class. | No, you're not. / No, you aren't. (disagree) You're in English class. |
| Students usually study. | Yes, they do. (agree) |
| Teachers don't make much money. | No, they don't. (agree) Teachers' salaries are not high enough. |
| Students are all lazy. | No, they aren't! / No, they're not! (disagree) Students often work hard. |
| Teachers don't teach. | Yes, they do! (disagree) |
| Fire is red. | Yes, it is. (agree) |
| Fire isn't cold. | No, it isn't. / No, it's not. (agree) It's hot. |
| Fire is invisible. | No, it isn't! / No, it's not! (disagree) It's visible! |
| Fire isn't dangerous. | Yes, it is! (disagree) |
| Elephants are big. | Yes, they are. (agree) |
| Elephants don't live in North America. | No, they don't. (agree) They live in Africa and Asia. |
| Elephants eat dogs. | No, they don't! (disagree) They eat plants! |
| Elephants aren't grey. | Yes, they are! (disagree) |
| Birds fly. | Yes, they do. (agree) |
| Birds don't eat ice cream. | No, they don't. (agree) They eat worms. |
| Fish can run. | No, they can't. (disagree) They can swim, though. |
| Fish can't swim. | Yes, they can! (disagree) |