



LANGUAGE LINKS

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Here's the Answer

Question Tags

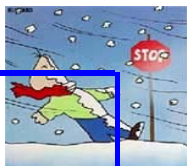


I get confused about how to give a response for a tag with a negative statement. Could you explain?



We answer a tag question according to the **truth** of the situation. Your answer reflects the real facts, not (necessarily) the question.

For example, everyone knows that **snow is white**. Look at these **questions**, and the **correct answers**:

Tag Question	Correct Answer		
Snow is white, isn't it?	Yes, (it is).	The answer is the <i>same</i> in both cases because snow IS WHITE!	 <p>However, notice the change of stress when the answerer does not agree with the questioner.</p>
Snow isn't white, is it?	Yes, it is!		
Snow is black, isn't it?	No, it isn't!	The answer is the <i>same</i> in both cases because snow IS NOT BLACK!	
Snow isn't black, is it?	No, (it isn't).		

In some languages, people answer a question like "Snow isn't black, is it?" with "Yes" (meaning "Yes, I agree with you"). This is the **wrong answer** in English!

Here are some more examples, with correct answers:

- ◆ The moon goes round the Earth, doesn't it? Yes, it does.
- ◆ The Earth is bigger than the moon, isn't it? Yes, it is.
- ◆ The Earth is bigger than the sun, isn't it? No, it isn't!
- ◆ Asian people don't like rice, do they? Yes, they do!
- ◆ Elephants live in Europe, don't they? No, they don't!
- ◆ Men don't have babies, do they? No, they don't.
- ◆ The English alphabet doesn't have 40 letters, does it? No, it doesn't.



Source: <http://www.englishclub.com/grammar/verbs-questions-tag.htm>

Napassawan

Culture Corner



Japanese Eating Etiquette



- It is impolite to eat or drink something while walking down the street.
- If you don't want any more to drink, leave your glass full.
- When sharing a dish, put what you take on your own plate before eating it.



- Don't leave your chopsticks standing up out of your food.
- It is normal in Japan to pick up your rice or miso soup bowl and hold it under your chin to keep stuff from falling.
- Traditional Japanese food is served on several small plates, and it's normal to alternate between dishes instead of fully eating one dish after another.
- Don't leave a mess on your plate – fold your napkins neatly.
- Don't put soy sauce on your rice – it isn't meant for that.



- Don't put sugar or cream in Japanese tea.
- There is no real custom like "help yourself"; wait until the host offers something.
- It is normal to pay a restaurant or bar bill at the register instead of giving money to the waiter/waitress. There is no tipping in Japan.



- It's considered rude to count your change after paying the bill in a store or restaurant, but the Japanese themselves do give it a cursory look over.

<http://www.geocities.com/japanfaq/FAQ-Manners.html>



LEARNING STRATEGIES

How to Control a Conversation



The key to controlling a conversation is using questions well. Good students know how to ask the right question at the right time. The best way to begin a conversation is by using "yes / no" questions. The goal is to find some common topics of interest, so that your conversation is enjoyable for both partners. Think about a topic that interests you, and which you think might interest your conversation partner. Use "yes / no" questions to find out if your new friend is interested in the same thing. For example, if you like a particular kind of music, you could ask questions such as these:

Do you like blues?

Do you know where I can listen to live music?

Are you interested in jazz?



Any question starting with "Do", "Did", "Are", "Is", "Can", "Will", or "Have" can be a good start to a conversation. However, such questions are just the beginning. You must listen for your partner's answer, then "follow-up" with a more specific question, usually using "what", "when", "where", "who" or "why". So, if your partner says that he or she does like the blues, you can then ask, "Whose music do you like?" If your partner does NOT like blues, then you might ask something like, "What kind of music do you like?" You must always have a "follow-up" question ready. If not, the conversation could come to a quick end.

Now, as the conversation moves along, you might have some communication problems. What should you do then? Again, asking the right question is very important. Here are some key questions that you MUST use whenever you have trouble:

Could you repeat that, please?



Often with friends we might only say "What?" Even if you use informal language, you can make it polite by starting with "Excuse me" or "Pardon me".

Could you speak more slowly, please?



This is obviously a good question, but don't use it too often. If you really have trouble understanding somebody, you might think about buying some good cassettes and working to improve your listening comprehension skills. DVDs and VCDs are also good practice for advanced students.

Adapted from: <http://www.teacherjoe.us/LearnEnglish03.html>

FUN WITH ENGLISH

No.3 People

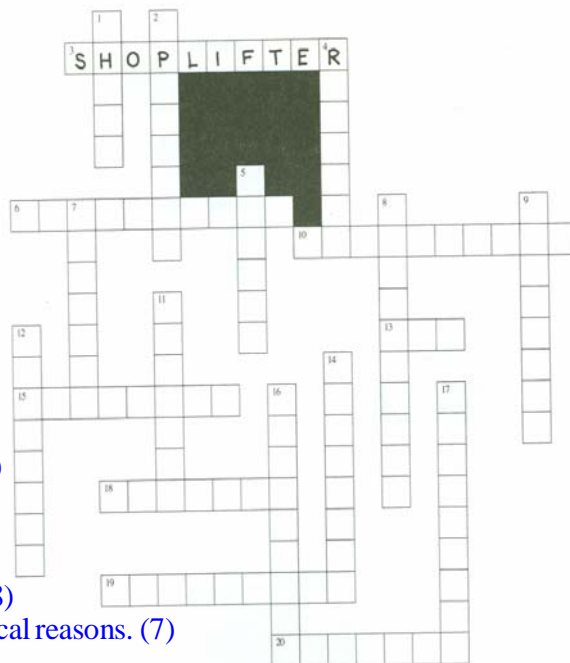
Read the sentences and complete the crossword. (See example)

Across →

- 3 Someone who takes something from a shop without paying for it. (10)
 6 A person who represents his or her country abroad. (10)
 10 Someone who eats fruit and vegetables, but never eats meat. (10)
 13 A person who gets secret information from another country. (3)
 15 A person who has deliberately killed someone. (8)
 18 Someone who sees the person breaking the law. (7)
 19 A person who draws plans for new buildings. (9)
 20 A person who betrays his or her own country. (7)

Down ↓

- 1 Someone who steals. (5)
 2 Someone who always looks for the best in life. (8)
 4 Someone who has left his or her country for political reasons. (7)
 5 Someone who rides a horse in a race. (6)
 7 Someone who breaks into houses, shops, etc. in order to steal. (7)
 8 Someone who is travelling on foot in a street. (10)
 9 An unmarried man. (8)
 11 Someone who visits another country or district for a holiday. (7)
 12 Someone who writes music. (8)
 14 Someone on the other side in a game or a contest. (8)
 16 A shopkeeper who sells newspapers. (9)
 17 Someone who watches a sport or an event without taking part himself or herself. (9)



Answers No.2 Classifications

Across

- 1 languages
 5 jewellery
 6 crimes
 8 vegetables/dates
 12 cutlery
 13 trees
 15 shapes
 16 continents
 17 fruit
 18 vehicles
 19 planets
 20 reptiles

Down

- 2 animals
 3 games
 4 metals
 7 weights
 10 currencies
 11 weapons
 14 insects

Source: Test Your Vocabulary, by Peter Watcyn-Jones

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