

## ***The Yes / No Lesson*** ***A Conversational ESL Lesson for Beginners***

**Yes/No questions are great for English conversation at beginner levels.**

**If you ask a yes/no question, the answer from the other person will be easy.**

e.g. Yes. Or, No.

Do you like skiing? Yes, I do. / No, I don't.

Is this a pencil? Yes, it is. / No, it isn't.

**If you ask an open ended question, the other person's answer can be more difficult to understand.**

A: What is your hobby?

B: Well, ever since I was a kid, I have enjoyed downhill skiing, but i don't really do that much anymore.

**For conversation, many yes/no questions can be made up starting with:**

Can you...?

Do you...?

Are you...?

**For questions that start like this, the answer will always be yes or no. Here are some examples:**

Can you swim?

Can you play baseball?

Can you drive a car?

Can you eat with chopsticks?

Can you eat spicy food?

Are you American?

Are you happy that the Yankees won?

Are you from a big family?

Are you an engineer?

Are you going to the party tonight?

Do you like Chinese food?

Do you travel often?

Do you ever go to the movies?

Do you work for this company?

Do you miss home?

**Note: "Do you...?" questions using the past tense become, "Did you...?". They are also very common. Example:**

Did you see the game last night?

Did you enjoy the party last Saturday?

Did you graduate from this university?

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Did you eat lunch?  
Did you go out yesterday?

**Another form of question that gives yes/no answers and is useful for conversation is the "Have you ever...?" type.**

Have you ever been to Las Vegas?  
Have you ever been to Niagara Falls?  
Have you ever had red wine?  
Have you ridden a horse?  
Have you eaten Mexican food?

### **Conversation Practice**

Turn the following questions into yes/no questions?

- 1) What kind of food do you like?
- 2) Where are you from?
- 3) How about the game last night?
- 4) Where have you visited?
- 5) What kind of drinks have you had?
- 6) What did you do last night?
- 7) Tell me about your family?
- 8) What are you doing tonight?
- 9) What do you do?
- 10) How do you feel about being away from home

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