

Chapter 7

Ways of Expressing Affirmation or Denial and Agreement or Disagreement

Objectives

1. To know how to express affirmation or denial and agreement or disagreement.
2. To use appropriate forms of affirmation or denial and agreement or disagreement in daily conversation.

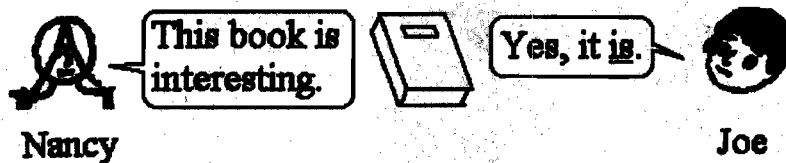
A. Affirmation and Denial

A1. Presentation : Understanding the shortened types of affirmation.

When a speaker wishes to affirm the truth of what has just been said, which can be either in statement or question form, he/she does not need to repeat what has already been said.

Mini-talks 1 : shortened types of affirmation

Study the types of affirmation in the mini-talks below and do the tasks provided.



A1.1 Check your understanding : Can you tell what's happening?

Joe affirms Nancy's positive statement that this book is interesting.

Mini-talk 2 :



Sam

This book isn't interesting.



No, it isn't.



Tom

Check your understanding : Can you tell what's happening?

Mini-talk 3 :



Sherry

EN 305 and 405 are very difficult.

Yes, they are.



Jane

Check your understanding : Can you tell what's happening?

Mini-talk 4 :



Ann

EN 305 and 405 aren't very difficult.

No, they aren't.



Bob

Check your understanding : Can you tell what's happening?

Mini-talk 5 :



Bob

Your mother looks very well.

Yes, she does.



Mike

Check your understanding : Can you tell what's happening?

Mini-talk 6 :



John

Your mother doesn't look very well.

No, she doesn't.



Ed

Check your understanding : Can you tell what's happening?

Mini-talk 7 :



Sue

I assume John will be late.

Yes, he will.



Jim

Check your understanding : Can you tell what's happening?

Mini-talk 8 :



Mary

I assume John won't be late.

No, he won't.



Louise

Check your understanding : Can you tell what's happening?

Mini-talk 9 :



Louise

Have I missed the bus?

Yes, I'm afraid you have.



Paul

Check your understanding : Can you tell what's happening?

Mini-talk 10 :



John

Haven't I missed
the bus?

No, I'm afraid
you haven't.



Pat

Check your understanding : Can you tell what's happening?

A1.2 Key to your pronunciation

The primary stress is on the last word or the verb of the affirmation. Thus the intonation pattern is 3231.

Statements

This book is interesting.

Affirmations

Yes, it is.

No, it isn't.

Write the intonation patterns on all of the affirmations and then practice with your friends.

Yes, they are.

No, they aren't.

Yes, she does.

No, she doesn't.

Yes, he will.

No, he won't.

Yes, I'm afraid you have.

No, I'm afraid you haven't.

A1.3 Explanations

1. Students should learn that both statements and questions whether they are positive or negative can be derived as affirmations. Moreover, they should learn how the affirmations are derived. It should be noted that negative affirmations go with negative statements or negative questions, whereas positive affirmations go with positive statements or positive questions.

2. To derive the affirmation, students must do the following steps.

First, check whether the kind of sentence is simple or complex; a statement or a question; and positive or negative.

Second, if it is a positive simple sentence or question, then say "Yes.". If it is a negative simple sentence or question, then say "No.". If it is a complex sentence, then the scope to be concerned with is in the dependent clause, and then the first part of this step should be applied. If it is a question, then insert the phrase "I'm afraid" after "Yes." or "No".

Third, choose the appropriate pronoun to be substituted for the subject of the sentence or question to be a subject of the affirmation. If the question has pronoun "I" then replace it with "you".

Forth, if the main verb of the statement is "be" and "have", then copy the verb, if not, use "to do" or modals to replace the verb of the statement as appropriate.

Fifth, if the statement is negative, use "not" after the verb, and delete the

rest.

Examples :

1) Statements

This book is interesting.

This book is interesting.

Affirmations

Step 1 : Simple, positive.

Step 2 : Say "Yes".

Step 3 : Replace the subject with "it".

Step 4 : Copy the verb "be".

Step 5 : Delete the word "interesting".

Yes, it is.

2) Complex statements

I assume John won't be late.

I assume John won't be late.

Affirmations

Step 1 : Complex sentence, then only dependent clause is a scope to be derived.

Step 2 : Say "No".

Step 3 : Replace the subject with "he".

Step 4 : Copy the modal "won't".

Step 5 : Delete the rest.

No, he won't.

3) Questions

Have I missed the bus?

Have I missed the bus?

Affirmations

Step 1 : A question.

Step 2 : Say "yes", followed by "I'm afraid".

Step 3 : Replace the subject with "you".

Step 4 : Copy the verb "have".

Step 5 : Delete the rest.

Yes, I'm afraid you have.

A2. Presentation : Understanding the shortened types of denial.

When a speaker wants to deny the truth of something, he uses the negative sentences derived from the positive ones and the positive sentences derived from the negative ones.

Similar to affirmation, denials are normally in shortened forms. Study the mini-talk 11 following.

Mini-talk 11 : Shortened types of denial.



Can you speak Chinese?

I'm afraid I can't.



A2.1 Check your understanding : Can you tell what's happening?

Joe denies the fact that he can speak Chinese.

Mini-talk 12 :



You worry too much.

No, I don't.



Check your understanding : Can you tell what's happening?

Mini-talk 13 :



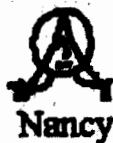
I will probably fail my EN 204 exam.

No, you won't.



Check your understanding : Can you tell what's happening?

Mini-talk 14 :



I won't pass the EN 204 exam

I bet you will.



Check your understanding : Can you tell what's happening?

Mini-talk 15 :



I understand most people didn't agree with me.

Yes, they did.



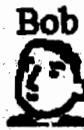
Check your understanding : Can you tell what's happening?

Mini-talk 16 :



Sherry is married, isn't she?

Actually, I don't think she is.



Is she? I thought she was single.



Are you sure? I had the impression that she was still single.



Check your understanding : Can you tell what's happening?

A2.2 Explanation

3. The stylistic denial "Actually, I don't think she is." is a way to express a contrary view or opposite opinion. The students must know its function and must not get confused from its form. The real meaning of this denial is "Actually, I

think she isn't (married)". Eventhough, the negative "not" is placed before the main verb "think", the meaning must be transposed down to the verb in the noun clause "she is married". Consider the example 1 and then complete all of them.

Denial Form

Real Meaning

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 1) Actually, I don't think she is. | = | Actually, I think she isn't. |
| 2) Actually, I don't think they are. | = | _____. |
| 3) Really, I don't think it is. | = | _____. |
| 4) Really, I don't think you are. | = | _____. |
| 5) Actually, I don't think he is. | = | _____. |

A3. Practice

A3.1 Listening / speaking and writing practice.

A3.1.1 Question-Answers Drills. Supply the answers to the following.

- Your friend : Can you speak Portuguese?
You (Denial) : _____.
- Your friend : Is your pen pal Chinese?
You (Polite denial) : _____.
- Your friend : We don't like mathematics.
You (Affirmation) : _____.
- Your friend : I probably will fail my driving test.
You (Denial) : _____.
- Your friend : I won't graduate soon.
You (Denial) : _____.

Your friend : I assume you missed the bus to school this morning.

You (Affirmation) : _____

Your friend : You got very wet in the rain yesterday.

You (Affirmation) : _____

Your friend : I understand you lost your wallet with all your cash and credit cards.

You (Denial) : _____

A3.1.2 Supply the statements of denials and affirmations according to the following statement.

1. You found EN 204 interesting.

2. Students thought EN 204 was boring.

3. Your sister is married, isn't she?

4. You can speak English very well.

5. You have made some plan to go abroad.

6. You don't like reading English newspapers.

7. Your university isn't the biggest.

8. You want to be a millionaire.

A3.1.3 Look at the pictures and then supply the answer for each of them.

1. Friend : This car is in good condition.

You : _____



2. Friend : They are getting ready for the exam.

You : _____



3. Friend : They are going to visit some friends in the countryside.

You : _____



4. Friend : He is working on something urgent in the office.

You : _____



5. Friend : She went for a walk to a waterfall.

You : _____



A3.2 Speaking practices

A3.2.1 Substitution Drills. Substitute the given words or phrases to the underlined words.

1. I thought she was a teacher.

medical doctor.

fortune teller.

university lecturer.

high school principal.

2. I had an impression that she was still single.

it was an adventure story.

it was shark's fin soup.

they were detectives.

3. I will probably fail my EN 305 exam.

give up smoking cigarettes.

take a few days off.

go swimming more often.

get more exercise.

4. I understand most people didn't agree with me.

couldn't get along with me.

agreed with what I just mentioned.

couldn't agree more.

were of the same opinion.

were of a different opinion.

A3.2.2 Rhythmic-grouping drills. Right to left drills. Listen and repeat after the instructor.

1. No, / I'm / afraid / you / haven't.

No, / I'm afraid / you haven't.

No, / I'm afraid you haven't.

2. Actually, / I / don't / think / she is.

Actually, / I don't think / she is.

Actually, / I don't think she is.

3. I / had / an impression / that / she's / still / a single.

I had / an impression / that / she's / still a single.

I had an impression / that she's still a single.

I had an impression that she's still a single.

4. I / understand / most / people / didn't / agree / with / me.

I understand / most people / didn't agree / with me.

I understand / most people / didn't agree with me.

I understand / most people didn't agree with me.

I understand most people didn't agree with me.

B. Agreement and Disagreements

Agreements and disagreements are types of affirmations and denials in which the expression of judgement or opinion rather than the assertion of facts is involved.

B1. Presentation : Understanding the different ways to emphasize the agreement.

Study the mini-talk 17 below. They show what Joe's classmates said in agreeing with Joe that this reexam will satisfy all the students.

Mini-talk 17 :

Joe: This reexam will satisfy all the students.

John: I couldn't agree more.

Bob: Yes, definitely.

Sam: Yes, you're right.

Ed: That's just what I was thinking.

Sue: I absolutely agree.

B1.1 Check your understanding

1. How many persons agree with what Joe said?

2. How many persons disagree with what Joe said?

3. What is the long form of the sentence "Yes, you're right."?

4. What is the long form of the sentence "I quite absolutely agree."?

5. What is the long form of the sentence "That's just what I was thinking.".

B1.2 Key to your pronunciation

Responses in agreement with someone's judgement can be spoken in many different ways. Their structural forms have nothing to do with their relation to the judgements. Students must learn to memorize them and to use them properly.

Their intonation patterns are varied according to the types of the responses.

Practice saying the following agreements.

³Yes, ³definitely.
2 1

³I quite ³absolutely ³agree.
2 1

³Yes, ³you're ³right.
2 1

³That's ³just ³what I was ³thinking.
2 1

³I ³couldn't ³agree ³more.
2 1

B1.3 Explanations

1. The common expressions of agreement are "You're right." or "That's right.". In other common patterns, one might say "yes" followed by adverbs of intensifiers, as shown below.

Judgement	Agreements : Yes + Adverbs
This reexam will satisfy most students.	Yes, absolutely. Yes, certainly. yes, definitely.

2. One might use an adverbs of intensifiers with the expression "You're right." and "That's right." to emphasize their agreements.

Judgement	Agreements
This reexam will satisfy most students.	Yes, you're absolutely right. Yes, you're certainly right. Yes, you're definitely right. Yes, that's absolutely right. Yes, that's certainly right. Yes, that's definitely right.

3. One might use the verb "agree" in his answer. This may seem to be rather formal in speaking however. All of the agreements below have the same meanings.

Judgement	Agreements.
This reexam will satisfy few students.	I agree with you. I completely agree with you. I agree with you entirely. I agree with what you said. I couldn't agree more.

All the agreements above are reduced from the long forms of the following.

<p>I agree with you</p> <p>I completely agree with you</p> <p>I agree with you entirely</p> <p>I agree with what you said</p> <p>I couldn't agree more</p>	}	<p>that this reexam will satisfy few students.</p>
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4. One might also use rather formal expressions to emphasize an agreement, such as : "I'm of the same opinion.", "That's exactly what I think.", and "That's just what I was thinking.". Now, complete the patterns below and practice speaking with friends.

Mini-talk 18 :



Tom

This exam will satisfy only a few students.

That's exactly what I think.

You

Meaning : That's exactly what I think; that is, this reexam will satisfy only a few students.



Tom

This reexam will satisfy only a few students.

You

Meaning : _____



Tom

This reexam will satisfy some students.

You

Meaning : _____

Mini-talk 19 : Study different ways of expressing agreements with a negative opinion or an unfavorable opinion.



Tom

This reexam won't satisfy most students.

Definitely not.



Bob

It certainly won't.



Ed

I agree (that it won't).



Sue

You're absolutely right, it won't.



John

B1.4 Explanations

1. To agree with a negative opinion, one might say "Definitely not." or "Absolutely not." These mean the following :

This reexam definitely won't satisfy most students.

This reexam absolutely won't satisfy most students.

Students should know the different meanings of both sentences and the sentences below. Discuss their differences with your instructor and friends.

This reexam won't definitely satisfy most students.

This reexam won't absolutely satisfy most students.

2. A speaker may use the expression : "It + adv. + V + neg." to indicate his/her agreement. The pronoun "It" replaces the noun subject "reexam" as in the sentences below.

It $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{certainly} \\ \text{absolutely} \\ \text{definitely} \end{array} \right\}$ won't satisfy most students.

Moreover, a speaker may emphasize his agreement with the expressions.

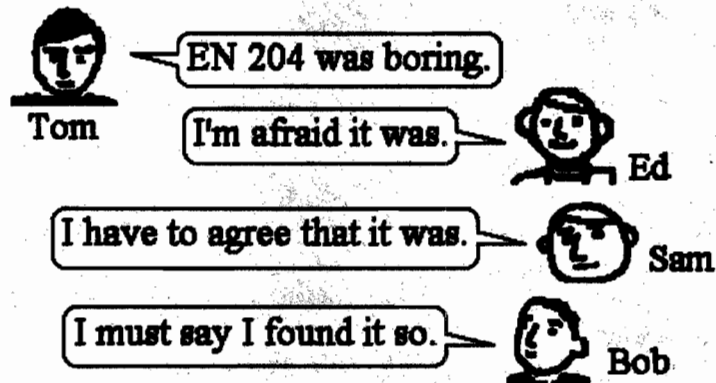
Complete and practice them with friends.

You're absolutely right, it won't _____.

I agree that it won't _____.

I agree _____.

Mini-talks 20 : To be polite, one must qualify the agreement with an expressions of regret when agreeing with an unfavorable opinion.



Supply the long forms of the above agreement. You may do them orally.

Indicate the expressions of regret.

Ted : I'm afraid EN 204 was boring.

Sam : I have to agree that EN 204 was boring.

Bob : I must say I found EN 204 was boring.

B2. Practice : Listening and speaking practice.

B2.1. Sentence Practice. Right to left drills. Listen and repeat after the instructor.

1. That's / exactly / what / I think.
2. This reexam / will / satisfy / only few / students.
3. I understand / most people / couldn't / get along / with me.
4. I / thought / she / was a / high school / principal.

B2.2. Substitution Drills. Substitute the given words or phrases to the underlined words.

1. It certainly won't satisfy most students.

perfectly

definitely

absolutely

2. I'm afraid EN 204 was interesting.

I have to agree that

I must say I found that

B3. Presentation : Understanding the different ways to emphasize disagreements.

When a speaker denies or contradicts what someone else just stated, it would be rather impolite unless the denials are qualified in some ways. Study the mini-talk below.

Mini-talk 21 :



Tom

English is a difficult language to learn.



Sam

I don't think so.



Bob

I'm afraid I don't agree with what you said.



Sherry

I'm not sure I feel the same way.



John

Yes, that's quite true, but Russian is even more difficult.



Ed

Are you kidding?

B3.1 Key to your pronunciation

Practice saying the following expressions of disagreement.

² I /don't think/so. ³

² Are you kidding? ³ ⁴

² I'm afraid I don't agree with what you said. ³

² I'm not sure I feel the same way. ³

² Yes, that's quite true, but Russian is even more difficult. ³

B3.2 Explanations

1. The expressions "I'm afraid _____." is used to qualify the disagreements as well as "I'm not sure__". All of them have the same meaning.

I'm afraid

I don't feel the same way.

I don't agree with you.

I don't agree with what you said.

I disagree with you.

I can't get along with you.

I'm not sure {

- I feel the same way.
- I agree with you.
- I agree with what you said.
- I can get along with you.

2. The common disagreement expression "I don't think so" is a shortened expression of "I don't think that English is a difficult language to learn.". This expression has the meaning; "I think that English is not a difficult language to learn.". Students should learn the real meaning of this expression. Now tell your friend the real meanings of disagreements below.

- 1) Ted : EN 204 is difficult to learn.
 Sam : I don't think so.
 Long form : _____
 Meaning : _____
- 2) Ted : RU is the best university.
 Sam : I don't think so.
 Long form : _____
 Meaning : _____
- 3) Ted : To be a doctor is better than to be a professor.
 Sam : I don't think so.
 Long form : _____
 Meaning : _____

3. For tactful disagreement, a speaker may express an agreement with the speaker's point of view then, disagree with another point. Study the expressions of disagreement below. Complete them.

Agreements		Disagreements
Yes, that's quite true, I agree, I suppose you're right, I appreciate your point, I'm sorry,	but	Russian is even more difficult. <hr/> Its grammar is easy. <hr/> I still think Russian is more difficult.

4. For friendly disagreement, direct disagreement expressions are used. They are :
 "Come off it!", "Are you kidding!", "Really!", "Don't make me laugh !".

B4. Practice : Listening / Speaking and Writing exercises.

B4.1 Questions-Answer drills : Pair-work activity

Your friend : Killing seems to be normal now.

Your (agreement) : _____

(3 possibilities) _____

Your friend : Child labour can not be prevented in Thailand.

Your (disagreement) : _____

(3 possibilities) _____

Your friend : Space travel is a waste of money.

Your (agreement) : _____

(3 possibilities) _____

Your friend : **It's illegal to strike.**

Your (tactful disagreement) : _____

(3 possibilities) _____

Your friend : **EN 204 is useful.**

Your (tactful disagreement) : _____

(3 possibilities) _____

B4.2 Answer Drills : Look at each picture and then supply short affirmations/denials or agreements/disagreements according to the pictures below.

Picture 1

1. This man is coughing.

2. His nose is running.

3. He got wet in the rain yesterday.

4. He often sneezes, doesn't he?

5. He must have a headache now.

6. His temperature is lowering.



7. His throat might be burning.

8. He is coming down with typhoid.

Picture 2

1. Nancy is now on stage.

2. She is singing, isn't she?

3. She looks very young.

4. She wears a long glittering dress.

5. Her fans go wild when listening to her.

6. Her song is emotional.

7. She amazes her fans.

8. She is so beautiful and stylish, isn't she?



B4.3 Dictation : Listen to what your instructor says and then fill in the blanks.

1. I thought she was _____.
2. I had _____ that she was still single.
3. I quite _____ agree.
4. I _____ I don't agree with you.
5. I'm not sure I can _____ you.
6. I _____ agree more.
7. I agree with you _____.
8. _____ what I think.
9. _____, I don't think she is.
10. I will _____ give up smoking cigarettes.

C. Application

C1. Supply the appropriate responses as directed.

1. Mini-talk 22 :



Children learn a lot from watching TV.

(Affirmation) Yes, they do.



Ed

(Denial) No, they don't.



Pat

(Agreement) You're absolutely right.



John

(Disagreement) I don't think so.



Nancy

2. Mini-talk 23 :



I think Charlie Chaplin
is very funny.

Tom

Affirmation :

Denial :

Agreement :

Disagreement :

3. Mini-talk 24 :



The football match
was very exciting.

Tom

Affirmation :

Denial :

Agreement :

Disagreement :

4. Mini-talk 25 :



I'm sure it's going
to rain again.

Tom

Affirmation :

Denial :

Agreement :

Disagreement :

C2. Complete the mini-talks below with words and phrases provided.

particularly / it was / sure / think of / agree

Mini-talk 26 :

Roger : What did you _____ the movie?

Sam : I thought _____ really exciting, _____ at the end.

Roger : Really? I'm not _____ I _____ with you.

every / hot / afraid / don't / What / said / not

Mini-talk 27:

Bob : _____ do you think of green chicken _____ ?

Pat : _____ very good. It's not _____ enough.

Bob : Really? I'm _____ I _____ agree with what you _____.

should / disagree / foreign / absolutely / ready

Mini-talk 28:

Dr. Johnson : Do you agree that we _____ teach English at all levels?

Mrs. Smith : I _____ entirely. I don't think small kids are _____ to learn a _____ language.

Dr. Johnson : You're _____ right.

C3. Similar meaning

Write a sentence which has a similar meaning and similar function for the following.

1. I couldn't agree more.

2. **Yes, that's perfectly right.**

3. **You are absolutely right, it won't.**

4. **I'm not sure I can get along with you.**

5. **I'm afraid I disagree with you.**

6. **Are you kidding?**

7. **I'm sorry, but English grammar is easy.**

8. **Are you sure? I had an impression that she was still single.**

9. **That's just what I was thinking.**

10. **I must say I found it so.**
