

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.

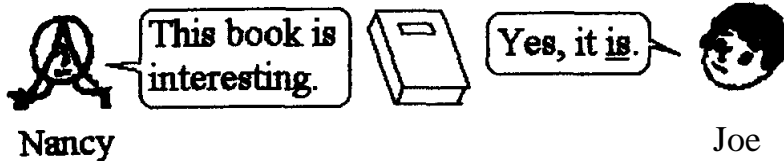
A. Affirmation and Denial

AI. **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**

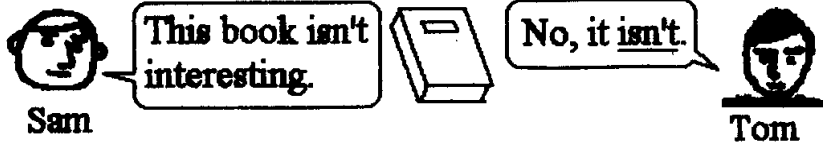
Study the types of **affirmation** in the mini-talks below and do the tasks provided.



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

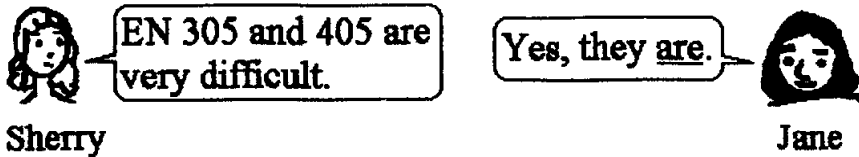
Joe affirms Nancy's positive **statement** that **this** book is **interesting**.

Mini-talk 2 :



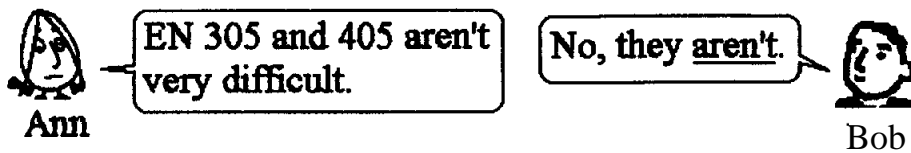
Check your understanding : Can you tell what's happening?

Mini-talk 3 :



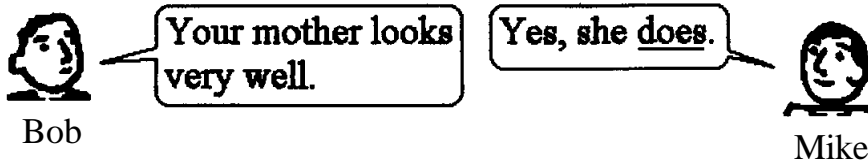
Check your **understanding** : Can you **tell** what's happening?

Mini-talk 4 :



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

Mini-talk 5 :



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?

Mii-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?

Al.2 Key to your pronunciation

The primary **stress** is on the last word or the verb of the **affirmation**. Thus the intonation pattern is 323 1.

Statements

³
2 This book is interesting.

Affirmations

³ Yes, it is.

³ 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".

Fourth, 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.

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.

This book is interesting.

2) Complex statements

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, be **won't**.

I **assume** John **won't** be late.

3) Questions

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 “Wave”.

Step 5 : Delete the rest.

Yes, I’m afraid you have.

Have I missed the bus?

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.



Bob



Is she? I thought she was single.



Sherry

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 answer 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% **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.** Riht 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 2 1

³Yes, ³you're ³right.
2 1

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