

Answering Yes and No

Danish distinguishes between two types of yes/no questions: the positive and the negative. Positive questions are devoid of words like "not." Negative questions do contain them.



Positive question: "Can you hear me?"

Negative question: "Can't you hear me?"

In English both questions can be answered either with a "yes" or a "no."

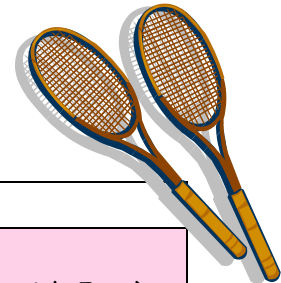
However, in Danish, the "yes" or "no" answer depends on whether a positive or negative question is asked.

	"Yes" answer	"No" answer
Positive question	Ja	Nej
Negative question	Jo	Nej

EXAMPLES

Positive questions

Question	Answer
Kan du spille tennis med Jens? <i>Can you play tennis with Jens?</i>	Ja Yes (I can play tennis with Jens).
Kan du spille tennis med Jens? <i>Can you play tennis with Jens?</i>	Nej No (I can not play tennis with Jens).



Negative questions

Question	Answer
Kan du <u>ikke</u> spille tennis med Jens? <i>Can you <u>not</u> play tennis with Jens?</i> <i>Can't you play tennis with Jens?</i>	Jo! Yes (I <u>can</u> play tennis with Jens).
Kan du <u>ikke</u> spille tennis med Jens? <i>Can you <u>not</u> play tennis with Jens?</i> <i>Can't you play tennis with Jens?</i>	Nej No (I can not play tennis with Jens).