

## Questions asked negatively

These are used where the **expected** answer would be **positive**, but when we want to make sure that it's positive.

- “Is Kitty happy?” → “Isn't Kitty happy?”,  
we **expect** Kitty to be happy, but there are signs that she is not.

## Questions asked negatively

These expect a “yes” / “no” answer

But often a “yes” or “no” answer would be confusing ... so use a short sentence to answer:

- **Aren't you tired?**

*Response)* Yes, I am tired / No, I'm fine.

- **Hasn't she been to Edinburgh?**

*Response)* No, she hasn't / Yes, she has.

## Examples of questions asked negatively

- “May, you’re drunk, **aren’t you?**”
- “**Hasn’t the postman come** yet?”
- “**Can’t I have** an ice cream?”
- “**Don’t you drive** a car?”
- “**Isn’t she** still in hospital?”
- “**Aren’t they** vegetarians?”

## Invitations asked negatively

Because we are adding an **expectation** of a **positive** answer, we make invitations more forceful.

- “Would you like something to eat?” →  
“Wouldn’t you like something to eat?”,

We now **expect** the person to say “yes”, so they may find it more difficult to say “no”.

## Examples of invitations asked negatively

- “**Why don’t you** come to the cinema with me?”
- “I know you’re on a diet, but **can’t you eat** just one of my cookies?”
- “**Won’t you join** our English Conversation Club?”

These invites are almost like saying:

- “You should ... come to the cinema / eat one of my cookies / join our Conversation Club”