

I Said Yes Too Fast

Four small phrases that sound like yes, maybe, or giving in on a crowded train.

| Learn one phrase per page.

| Play **phrases.mp3** and say each phrase out loud. You'll hear it twice.

| Try the quick check at the end.

Yeah, sure

A quick, easy way to say yes. People say it fast, but sometimes they are not completely sure or not very happy about it.

Examples

- Yeah, sure, I can drive you to the airport.
- Yeah, sure, I'll send you the file tonight.

You can also say

- Sure thing.
- Of course.

A slow, stretched “yeah, suuure” can mean the opposite: no, or I doubt it. Your tone matters a lot.

I guess so

You say yes, but you are not excited or not fully sure. The other person may hear “maybe,” so use it when your yes is weak.

Examples

- Are you coming to the party? I guess so.
- Is this the right bus? I guess so.

You can also say

- I suppose so.
- Probably, yeah.

For a clear yes, say “Definitely” or “Yes, for sure.” Said slowly, “I guess so” can sound unhappy.

If you say so

You think the other person may be wrong, but you don't want to argue. People use it to end a topic, sometimes with a little attitude.

Examples

- He says this shortcut is faster. Well, if you say so.
- If you say so, but I still think we're lost.

You can also say

- I'll take your word for it.
- Okay, if you're sure.

With a flat voice it can sound rude or sarcastic. Be careful using it with your boss or someone you don't know.

That's fine

Usually it means no problem. But with a flat voice, it can mean you are a bit upset and are just accepting the situation.

Examples

- Don't worry about the late reply. That's fine.
- That's fine, I'll take the smaller room.

You can also say

- No problem.
- It's okay.

If you really mean it, add a smile or "honestly," as in "Honestly, that's fine." Without it, people may think you're annoyed.

Quick check

1. Can I borrow your pen? _____, here you go.
No, sure / Yeah, never / Yeah, sure
2. Do you want pizza? I _____ so, but I'm not very hungry.
guess / know / wonder
3. If you _____ so, but I really doubt it.
say / speak / tell
4. Sorry I'm late! That's _____, I just got here.
fine / heavy / tall

Answers: 1 Yeah, sure, 2 guess, 3 say, 4 fine

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