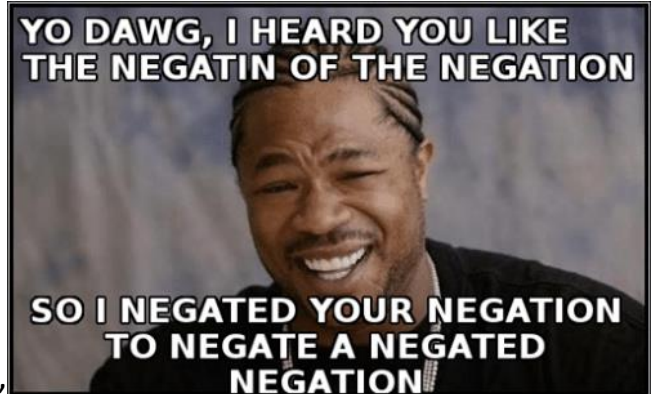


## Grammar Guidance

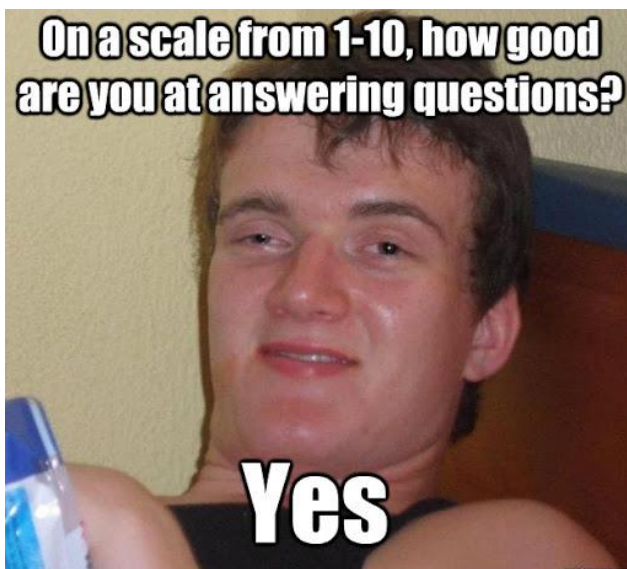
### Expressing Negation/Affirmation and Agreement/Disagreement

- In Auslan, you often aren't required to use a separate sign to indicate disagreement or negation. Instead, non-manual features such as shaking or nodding the head, coupled with facial expressions such as furrowed brows, frowning or pouting, or a wrinkled nose, can change the meaning of the sentence which uses the same manual signs. E.g. To sign 'I'm **not** happy', you would sign 'I Happy' while shaking your head negatively and frowning. The shaking or nodding of the head should continue for the duration of the sentence being signed. Other examples include understand/don't understand, coming/not coming, working/not working, etc.
- Another way that Auslan demonstrates negation is by negative incorporation or reversal of direction of the sign, i.e. doing the opposite of the sign. For example, 'want' is signed with a downward movement, whereas 'don't want' is signed with an upward movement. Other examples include, like/don't like, agree/disagree, believe/don't believe, true/untrue, will/won't, have/don't have, etc.



### Answering Questions

In English, it is common to answer questions with 'yes' or 'no'. In Auslan, answering questions with 'yes' or 'no' often earmarks you as a beginner. It is not wrong, but the custom is to answer with an appropriate verb if possible.



For example:

- If someone asks me, do I have my phone with me, I would answer 'HAVE'.
- If someone asks, do I have a pencil they can borrow, I would sign, 'DON'T-HAVE, SORRY'.
- If someone asks whether I can play the guitar, my answer would be 'CAN'.
- If someone asks whether I'm going to email the handouts, I would answer 'WILL'.
- If they ask if I'd like a cup of coffee, I would sign 'WANT/DON'T WANT THANK YOU'.

