

Question Tags

Question tags are the short questions that we put on the end of sentences – particularly in spoken English. There are lots of different question tags but the rules are not difficult to learn. They are mainly used to confirm whether something is true, or to encourage a reply from another person

Positive/negative

If the main part of the sentence is positive, the question tag is negative

- *He's a doctor, isn't he?*
- *You work in a bank, don't you?*

... and if the main part of the sentence is negative, the question tag is positive.

- *You haven't met him, have you?*
- *She isn't coming, is she?*

With auxiliary verbs

The question tag uses the same verb as the main part of the sentence. If this is an auxiliary verb ('have', 'be') then the question tag is made with the auxiliary verb.

- *They've gone away for a few days, haven't they?*
- *They weren't here, were they?*
- *He had met him before, hadn't he?*
- *This isn't working, is it?*

Without auxiliary verbs

If the main part of the sentence doesn't have an auxiliary verb, the question tag uses an appropriate form of 'do'.

- *I said that, didn't I?*
- *You don't recognise me, do you?*
- *She eats meat, doesn't she?*

With modal verbs

If there is a modal verb in the main part of the sentence the question tag uses the same modal verb.

- *They couldn't hear me, could they?*
- *You won't tell anyone, will you?*

Positive Question Tags



Question tags are used when asking for agreement or confirmation.

a negative statement + a positive question tag

Negative Statement

Positive Tag

You	aren't	a teacher,	are you?
He	isn't	crazy,	is he?
He	wasn't	relaxed,	was he?
They	weren't	late,	were they?
You	don't	speak French,	do you?
You	didn't	study for the test,	did you?
You	haven't	been here all week,	have you?
You	hadn't	done it before then,	had you?
You	won't	fail the exam,	will you?
You	can't	drive a car,	can you?
You	couldn't	do it for me,	could you?
We	mustn't	say anything,	must we?
You	shouldn't	be so busy,	should you?
You	wouldn't	stop me,	would you?

Statements using *barely*, *hardly*, *neither*, *no*, *nobody*, *none*, *nothing* and *seldom* are treated as negative statements.

<u>Nobody</u>	went	to the meeting,	did they?
<u>Nothing</u>	is	ready,	is it?

With 'I am'

Be careful with question tags with sentences that start 'I am'. The question tag for 'I am' is 'aren't I?'

- *I'm the fastest, aren't I?*

Start

You like this game, don't you?

26. You fancy that girl over there.

25. You didn't drink too much last night.

24. You've been naughty lately.

23. You've been skipping class.

22. You haven't done your homework.

21. You're not going to watch a film tonight.

20. You're going to play tennis tomorrow.

19. You're not sleeping.

18. You're studying English.

17. You like pizza.

16. You haven't got a car.

15. You're not hungry.

14. Your dog is a Labrador.

13. You've never been abroad.

12. You don't like watching TV.

11. You have a mobile phone.

10. Your friends speak Chinese.

9. You speak English.

8. You're good at Maths.

7. Your mother is a nurse.

6. Your father is a policeman.

5. You don't smoke.

4. You've got a dog.

3. You can play football.

2. You live near here.

1. You're John.

27. You're in love with your teacher.

28. You went swimming yesterday.

29. Your brother is taller than you.

30. You had a bad dream last night.

31. Your sister is very pretty.

32. Your father was angry last week.

33. Your mother can cook very well.

34. You'll be on time tomorrow morning.

35. We'll never meet aliens.

36. You think you're smart.

37. Climate change could destroy our planet.

Finish

You won, didn't you?

Question Tags

Board Game

You're clever, aren't you?

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