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Tag questions (or question tags) turn a statement into a question. They are often used for checking information that we think we know is true. Tag questions are made using an auxiliary verb (for example: be or have) and a subject pronoun (for example: I, you, she). Negative question tags are usually contracted: It's warm today, isn't it (not 'is it not')? Usually if the main clause is positive, the question tag is negative, and if the main clause is negative, it's positive. For example: It's cold (positive), isn't it (negative)? And: It isn't cold (negative), is it (positive)? If the main clause has an auxiliary verb in it, you use the same verb in the tag question. If there is no auxiliary verb (in the present simple and past simple) use do / does / did (just like when you make a normal question). There is one weird exception: the question tag after I am is aren't I. For example: I'm in charge of the food, aren't I? Positive sentences, with negative tags Present simple 'be' She's Italian, isn't she? Present simple other verbs They live in London, don't they? Present continuous We're working tomorrow, aren't we? Past simple 'be' It was cold yesterday, wasn't it? Past simple other verbs He went to the party last night, didn't he? Past continuous We were waiting at the station, weren't we? Present perfect They've been to Japan, haven't they? Present perfect continuous She's been studying a lot recently, hasn't she? Past perfect He had forgotten his wallet, hadn't he? Past perfect continuous We'd been working, hadn't we? Future simple She'll come at six, won't she? Future continuous They'll be arriving soon, won't they? Future perfect They'll have finished before nine, won't they? Future perfect continuous She'll have been cooking all day, won't she? Modals He can help, can't he? Modals He must stay, mustn't he? Negative sentences, with positive tags Present simple 'be' We aren't late, are we? Present simple other verbs She doesn't have any children, does she? Present continuous The bus isn't coming, is it? Past simple 'be' She wasn't at home yesterday, was she? Past simple other verbs They didn't go out last Sunday, did they? Past continuous You weren't sleeping, were you? Present perfect The hasn't eaten all the cake, has she? Present perfect continuous He hasn't been running in this weather, has he? Past perfect We hadn't been to London before, had we? Past perfect continuous You hadn't been sleeping, had you? Future simple They won't be late, will they? Future continuous He won't be studying tonight, will he? Future perfect continuous He won't have been studying tonight, will he? Future perfect continuous He won't have been working before six, will she? Future perfect continuous He won't have been travelling today, will he? Modals She can't speak Arabic, can she? Modals They mustn't come early, must they? Try an exercise about tag questions with the answer key. Do you know how to use tag questions? You might be surprised at how common they are in daily conversation. You probably already use them. My guide is sure to teach you all about tag questions, including their uses and examples. Plus, I've even provided a handy worksheet to help you practice using them yourself. Lets get started! A tag question is very easy to identify because its placed at the end of the statement and is very short. Tag questions are often employed to seek confirmation or reinforce a statement. We use positive tag questions with negative statements and vice-versa. You'll find them as a short phrase that typically appears at the end of a sentence. It makes a statement sound more interrogative by adding a questioning element to it. There are many different types of question tags, which can be used to communicate various meanings and feelings. For example, an expression like you wouldn't believe how well my dog is doing might be followed by a positive-sounding question tag such as would you? Alternatively, an assertion such as she is bothering you could be followed with a negative or uncertain-sounding question tag such as isn't she? In addition to their grammatical function, question tags can also help to convey the speakers attitude or tone of voice. Whether they express surprise, doubt, or disbelief, question tags enable us to add extra nuance and feeling to our statements and questions. Tag questions can usually be replied to with a direct answer of yes or no. When offering a simple answer, know that negative tag questions usually expect a positive answer, while positive tag questions imply that the person is expecting a negative answer. You can also answer by adding an auxiliary verb after yes or no. Lets look at some examples with a correct answer: You took the car keys last night, didn't you? Yes, I did. Im not being intrusive by asking all these questions, am I? No, youre not. When forming tag questions, there are a few simple rules to remember. The first rule is always to have an identical subject for the tag question and the original statement. For example: Correct: I am not imposing, am I? Notice how I is the same subject used in both constructions. Incorrect: You didnt listen to a word I said, did I? (It should be did you?) The second rule is to have the verb in the statement match the verb in the tag. Both verbs must have the same tense. Examples: You have been feeling better these past few days, havent you? Sarah cant afford to pay rent if she loses her job, can she? The third rule is to always use a positive tag question with a negative statement (and vice-versa). Examples: Correct: John has been studying really hard for this exam, hasnt he? Incorrect: John has been studying really hard for this exam, has he? Correct: Tina didnt miss a single school day this year, did she? Incorrect: Tina didnt miss a single school day this year, didnt she? Here are some more question tag examples: Youre not used to cold temperatures, are you? Gabriel can speak Spanish fluently, cant he? Dont talk too loud, do I? The use of question tags is a common feature of many different languages and dialects. Question tags are short phrases or words that follow a declarative statement and function to reflect the speakers attitude or level of certainty about the statement. In English, for example, question tags might include isnt it?, arent they?, or didnt we?. There are several reasons these types of questions are used, such as to express uncertainty, check listener comprehension, or sharpen an affirmative statement. Question tags can also increase verbal fluency and help listeners engage more actively with the speakers message. The purpose of question tags is to facilitate communication and help people to share their thoughts and opinions clearly and effectively. To add a tag question, you need to start with an affirmation in the main clause. Add a comma at the end of that affirmation and use the verbs reverse form (negative or positive) in the main clause. The most straightforward formula is positive/negative main clause statement + comma + negative/positive verb from the main clause. Examples: You like lasagna, dont you? Nancy is Dwights first cousin, isnt he? Bob doesnt like going to parties, does he? A tag question is a short sentence or phrase at the end of another sentence that expresses doubt or uncertainty. To identify a tag question, you need to look for these particular words and examine whether the rest of the sentence has a different level of certainty than what is expressed at the end. For example, consider the following sentence: Hes never in on time, is he? The statement is he is a tag question because it expresses uncertainty about whether or not its main point that hes late all the time is valid. Other clues that you might be looking at a tag question include statements like arent I and structures such as imperatives followed by an explicit question like arent we or shouldnt we. Positive tag question endings are a type of grammatical construction in which a clause or sentence is followed by a question that reinforces or contradicts the original idea. This type of tag question can be quite effective, allowing speakers to quickly test their ideas and adapt their wording to communicate effectively. Because positive statement tag questions require speakers to make declarative statements followed by a direct inquiry, they are usually used when asking for confirmation or verification of information. Examples of positive sentences with question tags: Mother is always right, isnt she? You will help me finish my essay, wont you? Negative question tags are a common feature of everyday speech, used to express doubt or uncertainty about a particular statement. For example, you might say, they arent happy with the current situation, are they? when expressing your own skepticism about a decision that has just been made. Using the word arent makes the statement negative. While negative statement tag questions can help us to appear more forthcoming and engaging in conversations, research suggests that they can also be perceived as dismissive or judgmental if used too frequently. A tag question is a short, grammatical unit used to express uncertainty or ask for confirmation. Typically, it consists of a statement followed by what appears to be a question. In reality, however, this question part states what is already implied in the original statement. Tag questions can also be used to convey politeness or modesty. I hope this helped you better understand them! Index of contents Question tags: 1 Question tags: 2 Worksheets - handouts Home Content Question tags PDF worksheets Online exercises Grammar rules English grammar books PDF PDF book 1: English grammar exercises PDF PDF book 2: English grammar rules PDF Question tags exercises PDF worksheets with keys: PDF exercises to download for free. Question tags PDF exercise 1 Make questions tags. Question tags PDF exercise 2 Complete the dialogue. Question tags PDF exercise 3 Correct mistakes. Online exercises with answers: Question tags exercise 1 Complete sentences with question tags. Question tags exercise 2 Complete the conversation with question tags. Question tags exercise 3 A multiple choice quiz. Grammar rules PDF: Question tags rules PDF Grammar rules with examples to download for free. English grammar PDF All PDF rules on this website. Question tags Question tags are very common in spoken English. We usually use them when we more or less know the answer, but we want the listener to agree with us or confirm some information. It is also a way of involving the listener in the conversation. The subject is always expressed by a pronoun. Kate is younger than Jim, isnt she? Your parents dont speak Spanish, do they? Affirmative sentences in affirmative sentences, the verbs in question tags are negative. Verb to be: you're from Leeds, aren't you? Ken is ill, isn't he? The negative form of I am is aren't. I am your best friend, aren't I? Modal verbs: Karen can swim, cant she? He'd like to have a rest, wouldn't he? You should apologize to her, shouldn't you? The negative form of must is mustn't. I must help you now, mustn't I? The question tag of let's is shall we. Let's go home, shall we? Auxiliary verbs: Your parents have been here before, havent they? You will deliver the parcel tomorrow, wont you? Main verbs in sentences with main verbs (play, read, live...) we make the question tags with do or did. Shops close at six, dont they? They arrived in the morning, didnt they? Everybody, everyone, somebody, someone: If the subject of a sentence is everybody, everyone, somebody, someone, we use they to make the question tags. Everyone was tired, weren't they? Somebody called you, didnt they? Negative sentences in negative sentences, the verbs in question tags are positive. Illl isn't working now, is she? Bobby shouldn't eat so much, should he? You hadn't met him before, had you? Nobody, nothing, hardly ever, scarcely... Expressions such as nobody, nothing, no one, neither, hardly, hardly ever, scarcely, rarely, seldom have a negative meaning. That is why the verbs in the question tags have positive forms. Nothing was said, was it? You hardly ever go dancing, do you? She seldom works overtime, does she? If the subject of a sentence is anyone, anybody, no one, nobody we use they to make the question tags. I don't think anyone will accept it, will they? No one wanted to go there, did they? Rising and falling intonation: Rising intonation: The question tags with rising intonation are similar to normal questions. We want the listener to confirm some information, because we are not certain about it. You live in Ghana, don't you? She is twenty, isnt she? We can also use the question tags if we want to make polite requests. In such cases, the intonation is rising. You wouldn't take me with you, would you? You cant help us with the luggage, can you? Falling intonation: The question tags with falling intonation are not real questions. We just want the listener to agree with us. It's so cold today, isnt it? Tim has been to India, hasnt he? Our tip: English grammar books PDF All PDF exercises and grammar rules from this website. top

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