

# Question tags



are you?                      mustn't he?  
was she?                      won't she  
do you?                      hadn't we?  
did she?                      haven't they?  
have I?                      didn't he?  
had they?                      don't they?  
will you?                      wasn't he?  
should I?                      isn't it?

We use question tags at the end of statements to ask for confirmation.

They mean something like: "All right?" or "Do you agree?".

**Structure:** → A positive statement + A negative question tag.

Example: You are a technician, aren't you?

→ A negative statement + A positive question tag.

Example: You are not a technician, are you?

# QUESTION TAGS

- Question tags are **short questions** added to the end of a statement in order to turn it into a question or to **confirm information** or **seek agreement**.
- They are typically used to:
  1. check information,
  2. confirm assumptions,
  3. solicit a response from the listener.

For example, "You're coming with us, **aren't you?**"  
The question tag in this sentence is "**aren't you?**", which seeks confirmation or agreement from the listener.





You didn't go  
to sleep, did  
you?



This is an example of a  
tag question, too !





# Tag structure

Hence, a tag question is a **statement** followed by a **mini-question**. They mean something like: "**Is that right?**" or "**Do you agree?**" They are very common in English.

The basic structure of a tag question is:

Positive statement	Negative tag
Snow is white	isn't it?

Negative statement	Positive tag
You don't like me,	do you?

<https://www.engelsgemist.nl/aangeplakte-vragen-hgtvh1-ex-1/>

<https://learningapps.org/187038>





STATEMENT	TAG
Jane is pretty,	isn't she?
These pics aren't in focus,	are they?
That room looks dirty,	doesn't it?
Those pizzas don't smell good,	do they?
Jack didn't call you,	did he?
They didn't like gambling,	did they?
She cannot make it out,	can she?
She shouldn't apologize,	should she?
Bob didn't turn out well,	did he?

**BUT.....**





If I say: «I am running late.....»

What is the correct tag?

ain't I? is very used both in the U.K. and in the U.S., but it is very informal.

- a. Amn't I?
- b. Aren't I?
- c. Don't I ?





# Other exceptions

- Statements with **Negative Adverbs**

The adverbs *never, seldom, hardly, rarely, ...* have a negative sense. We treat statements with these words like negative statements, so the question tag is normally positive.

Example: We have **never** seen that, have we?

- Statements begin with **Let's**

- We use "**shall we**" after sentences with **Let's**.

Example: "**Let's** take the next bus, **shall we?**"



## some more exceptions

Statements with **Nobody/No one, Somebody/Someone, Everybody/Everyone** as the subject.

We use the pronoun **they** in question tags after statements with nobody/no one, somebody/someone, everybody/everyone as the subject.

Example: **Somebody** wanted to borrow Jack's bike, **didn't they?**

Statements with **Nothing/Something/Everything** as the subject

When the subject is nothing/something, we use it in the tag question.

Example: **Something** happened at Jack's house, **didn't it?**







## And a few more

### Statements with "this"

When the subject is "this", we use "it" in the tag question.

Example: *This will work, won't it?*

Note: We can use affirmative tag questions after affirmative sentences to express a reaction such as surprise or interest.

Example: *You're moving to London, are you?*



## Question tag - Special cases

With "I'm", the tag questions in informal language is "aren't I?".

I am intelligent, aren't I?

With an imperative, the tag question is 'won't you' for invitations, 'can you/can't you/will you/would you' for orders.

Open the window, will you?

With "let's", the tag question is "shall we?".

Let's go home, shall we?

After statements containing negative words (never, nothing, or hardly...) we normally use a positive tag.

We have never seen that, have we?

When the subject is "there", we use "there" in the tag question.

There is nothing wrong, is there?

We use the pronoun "they" in question tags after statements with "nobody/no one", "somebody/someone", "everybody/everyone" as the subject.

Someone has come, haven't they?

When the subject is "nothing/something", we use "it" in the tag question.

Something happened in your house, didn't it?

When the subject is "this", we use "it" in the tag question.

This will work, won't it?

We can use affirmative tag questions after affirmative sentences to express a reaction such as surprise or interest.

You are moving to London, are you?

