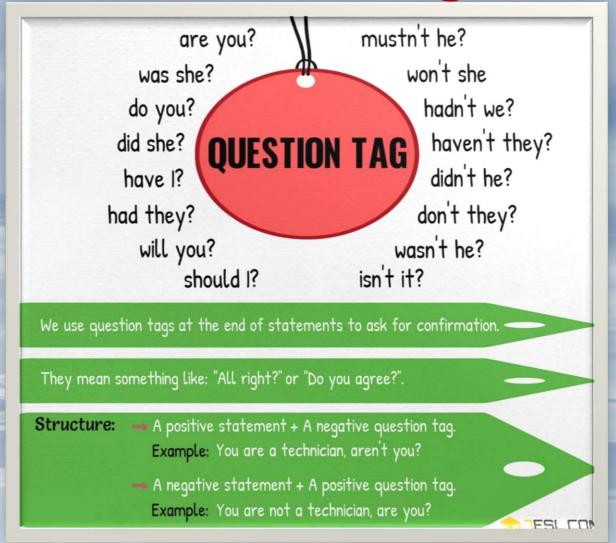
Question tags



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.

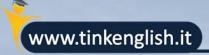


You <u>didn't</u> go to sleep, <u>did</u> <u>you</u>?



This is an example of a tag question, too!





Tag structure

Hence, a tag question is a statement followed by a miniquestion. 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:

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

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.....

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

What is the correct tag?

- 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 <u>affirmative tag</u> questions after affirmative sentences to express a reaction such as <u>surprise</u> or <u>interest</u>.

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



Question tag - Special cases

With "I'm", the tag questions in informal language is "aren't 1?".

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We can use affirmative tag questions after affirmative sentences to express a reaction such as surprise or interest. I am intelligent, aren't 1?

Open the window, will you?

Let's go home, shall we?

We have never seen that, have we?

There is nothing wrong, is there?

Someone has come, haven't they?

Something happened in your house, didn't it?

This will work, won't it?

You are moving to London, are you?

