

TAG QUESTIONS



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- Tag question is a special construction in English. It is a statement followed by a mini-question. The whole sentence is a "tag question", and the mini-question at the end is called a "question tag".

TAG QUESTIONS

- We use tag questions at the end of statements to ask for confirmation. They mean something like: "Am I right?" or "Do you agree?" They are very common in English.

TAG QUESTIONS

BASIC STRUCTURE

+	-
Positive statement	Negative tag?
It is a great day,	isn't it?
-	+
Negative statement	Positive tag?
You don't know her,	do you?

TAG QUESTIONS



Examples with positive statements

Positive statement [+]				Negative tag [-]		
Subject	Auxiliary	Main verb		Auxiliary	Not	Personal pronoun (same as subject)
She	is	cooking,		is	n't	she?
You		like	ice-cream,	do	n't	you?
They	will	stay	home,	wo	n't	they?
He	can	play	chess,	can	n't	he?
We	should	go	home,	should	n't	we?
Jenny		was	busy,	was	n't	she?
You		are	French,	are	n't	you?
They	have	finished		have	n't	they?

Examples with positive statements



You went to New York,
didn't you?



Examples with negative statements

Negative statement [-]						Positive tag [+]	
Subject	Auxiliary		Main verb			auxiliary	Personal pronouns
It	is	n't	snowing,			is	It?
You	have	never	been	there		have	you?
She	does	n't	like	pork,		does	she?
they	did	n't	practice	today		did	they?
he	can	n't	come,			can	he?
We	should	n't	drink	much,		should	we?
They			are	n't	home,	are	they?
Jane			was	n't	sick	was	she?

Special cases

I am right, aren't I?	aren't I (<i>not amn't</i> I)
You have to go, don't you?	you (do) have to go...
I have been answering, haven't I?	use first auxiliary
Nothing came in the post, did it? Nobody called me, did they? Everyone/everybody came, didn't they? Hardly I hardly check my email, do I? You never read books, do you?	treat statements with nothing, nobody etc like negative statements
Let's go, shall we?	let's = let us
He'd better do it, hadn't he?	he had better (no auxiliary)

I'm right,

aren't I?



MIXED EXAMPLES

- But you don't really love her, do you?
- This will work, won't it?
- Well, I couldn't help it, could I?
- But you'll tell me if she calls, won't you?
- We'd never have known, would we?
- The weather's bad, isn't it?
- You won't be late, will you?
- Nobody knows, do they?

INTONATION

	intonation		
You don't know where my wallet is,	do you?	rising ↗	real question
It's a beautiful view,	isn't it?	falling ↘	not a real question

