

Question tag: uses



# Tag Questions

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Main points:

- You use statements with tags **to show reactions**, to **ask for information**.

*Sasha has been to Great Britain before, hasn't he?*

- You can use negative statement with positive question tag **to make requests**.

*You can't help me, can you?*

- You use some questions tags **to make imperative more polite**.



*You won't be late, will you?*

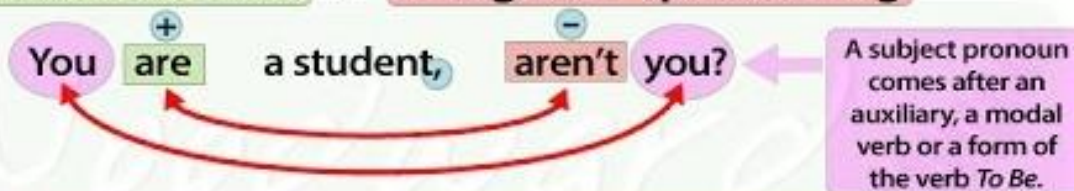


# Question Tags

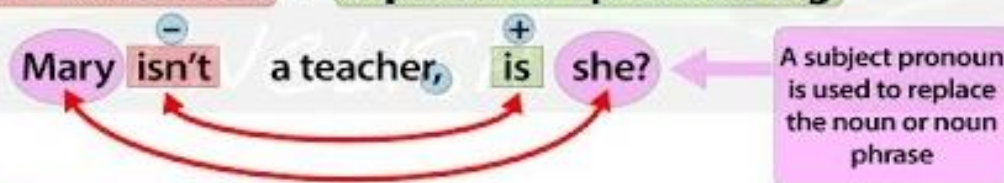


A question tag is a short question at the end of a statement.  
Question tags are used when asking for agreement or confirmation.

a positive statement + a negative question tag



a negative statement + a positive question tag



## Intonation and Meaning

**Intonation** is the rise and fall of the voice in speaking.

**Rising Intonation**

John **doesn't** speak Spanish, **does** he?

If the intonation of the question tag goes **up**, it means you are not sure and you want to know the answer.

**Falling Intonation**

John **doesn't** speak Spanish, **does** he?

If the intonation of the question tag goes **down**, it means you are checking or confirming information that we are sure of.

It can also be used when making conversation.



# 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?    |

# Negative Question Tags



Question tags are used when asking for agreement or confirmation.

a positive statement + a negative question tag

## Positive Statement

## Negative Tag

|      |      |            |               |
|------|------|------------|---------------|
| You  | are  | a student, | aren't you?   |
| He   | is   | very busy, | isn't he?     |
| He   | was  | happy,     | wasn't he?    |
| They | were | surprised, | weren't they? |

|     |         |               |             |
|-----|---------|---------------|-------------|
| You | speak   | English,      | don't you?  |
| He  | studies | Spanish,      | doesn't he? |
| You | studied | for the test, | didn't you? |

|     |        |                         |                |
|-----|--------|-------------------------|----------------|
| You | have   | studied all week,       | haven't you?   |
| You | had    | arrived before he left, | hadn't you?    |
| You | will   | pass the exam,          | won't you?     |
| You | can    | speak two languages,    | can't you?     |
| You | could  | do it for me,           | couldn't you?  |
| We  | must   | be patient,             | mustn't we?    |
| You | should | go now,                 | shouldn't you? |
| You | would  | like a new job,         | wouldn't you?  |

Negative auxiliaries and verbs in tags are usually in their contracted form (= n't)

## Exceptions

|   |       |          |           |
|---|-------|----------|-----------|
| I | am    | late,    | aren't I? |
|   | Let's | go home, | shall we? |

BE CAREFUL



# TAG QUESTION

- You bought a lemon, huh?
- I wish to leave now, may I?
- You are joking, aren't you?
- Awful day, isn't it?
- He's not read this book, has he?
- Take care, won't you?
- Have a seat, won't you?
- This lesson is boring, isn't it?
- Close the door, would you?
- Oh I must, must I?
- Don't forget, will you?

## Let's Practice, shall we?

1. They want to come, don't they ?
2. Elizabeth is a dentist, isn't she ?
3. They won't be there, will they ?
4. You'll be there, won't you ?
5. There aren't any problems, are there ?
6. That's your umbrella, isn't it ?
7. George is a student, isn't he ?
8. He's learned a lot in the last couple of years, hasn't he ?
9. Larry has a bicycle, hasn't he ?
10. Monkeys can't swim, can they ?



Practice your question tags here:

[https://www.liveworksheets.com/worksheets/en/English\\_as\\_a\\_Second\\_Language\\_\(ESL\)/Question\\_tags/Tag\\_questions\\_practice\\_pdf\\_zu78389nd](https://www.liveworksheets.com/worksheets/en/English_as_a_Second_Language_(ESL)/Question_tags/Tag_questions_practice_pdf_zu78389nd)