



QUESTION TAGS

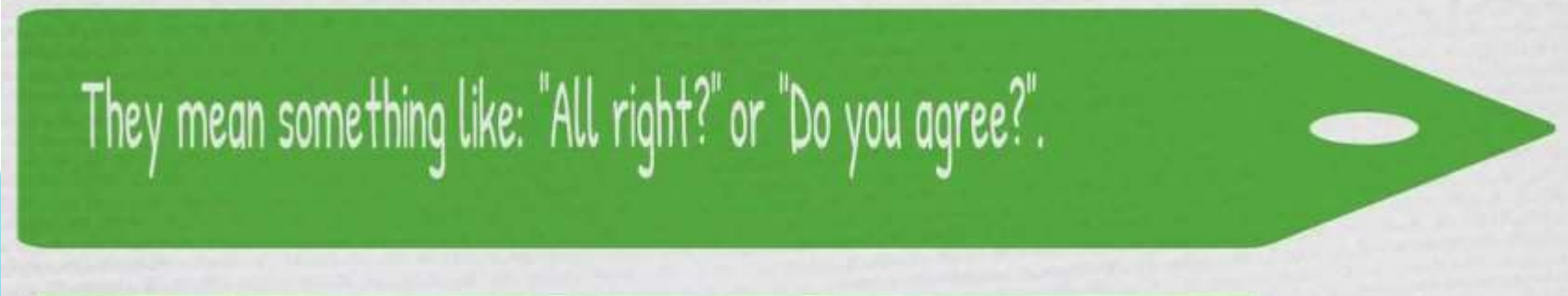


Tag questions (or question tags) turn a statement into a question. They are often used for checking information that we think we know is true.

A tag question is a special construction in English. It is a statement followed by a mini-question.



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



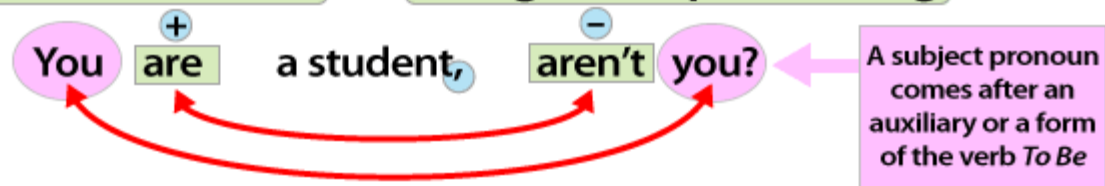
They mean something like: "All right?" or "Do you agree?".

Question Tags

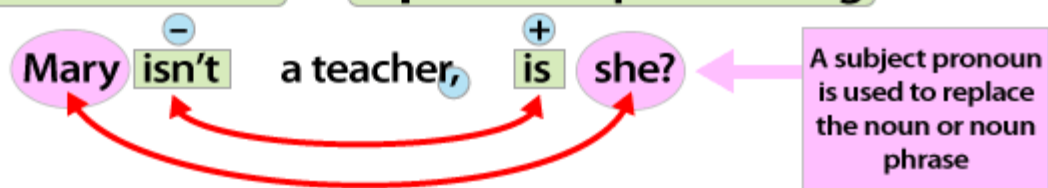


*A question tag is a small question at the end of a statement.
Question tags are used when asking for agreement or confirmation.*

a positive statement + a negative question tag



a negative statement + a positive question tag



Intonation and Meaning

The intonation of a question tag shows the exact meaning of it.

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

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

If the intonation of the question tag goes **down**, it means you are checking / confirming information or making conversation.

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

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	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

Verb Tense

Present be

Present simple

Past simple

Past continuous

Present Perfect

Past Perfect

Will

Modal Verbs

+ sentence → - tag

She is American, isn't she?

You study English, don't you?

You were at home, weren't you?

Tom was watching TV, wasn't he?

He has written 5 letters, hasn't he?

You had had lunch, hadn't you?

He'll read this book, won't he?

He can read this book, can't he?

- sentence → + tag

She isn't American, is she?

You don't study English, do you?

You weren't at home, were you?

Tom wasn't watching TV, was he?

He hasn't written 5 letters, has he?

You hadn't had lunch, had you?

He won't read this book, will he?

He can't read this book, can he?

Exceptions

Some verbs / expressions have different question tags. For example:

I am - I am attractive, **aren't** I?

Positive imperative - Stop daydreaming, **will / won't** you?

Negative imperative - Don't stop singing, **will** you?

Let's - Let's go to the beach, **shall** we?

Have got (possession) - He has got a car, **hasn't** he?

There is / are - There aren't any spiders in the bedroom, **are there**?

This / that is - This is Paul's pen, **isn't** it?