

# **TAG QUESTIONS**

# Tag Question or Question Tag

- **Mini-questions that we often put at the end of a sentence in spoken English**
- **In question tags, we use an auxiliary verb (have, was, will, do, does, did)**
- **Example: Karen plays the piano, doesn't she?**
- **You didn't lock the door, did you?**

# Structu

re

- **Normally we use a *negative* question tag after a *positive* sentence:**
- **Mary will be here soon, won't she?**
- **There was a lot of traffic, wasn't there?**
- **Jim should pass, shouldn't he?**

□ ... *And a p o s i t i v e* **question tag after**  
*a n e g a t i v e*  
**sentence:**

□ **Mary** won't **be late**, will **she**?

□ **They** don't **like us**, do **they**?

□ **You** haven't **got a car**, have **you**?



# And the answer

**means...**

- **You're not going out today, are you?**
- **Yes = Yes, I am going out.**
- **No = No, I am not going out.**

# And the question

## means...

- **Depends on how you say it:**
- **If the voice goes down, you're not really asking a question, you're just inviting the listener to agree with you:**
- **It's a nice day, isn't it?**
- **If the voice goes up, it is a real question:**
- **You haven't seen Mary today, have you?**

# After

- ■ ■  
□ Let's ...**the question tag is** shall we? **Let's go out,** shall we?
- Imperative...**the tag is usually** will you?  
**Open the door,** will you?
- First person in the simple present of to be...  
**The question tag is...** Aren't I?  
**I'm too fast,** aren't I?

# Always

## use...

- **A pronoun to do the tag:**
- **He won't come, will he?**
- **If the subject is *no thing*, use it:**
- **Nothing else matters, does it?**
- **If the subject is everybody, somebody, nobody, use they:**
- **Nobody liked it, did they?**
- **Because of negative meaning in the first sentence, the tag is positive:**
- **He never studies for the test, does he?**



# Practi

## ce:

- 1. Tom won't be late, \_\_?
- 2. You're tired, \_\_?
- 3. You've got a camera, \_\_?
- 4. You weren't listening, \_\_?
- 5. Sue doesn't know Ann, \_\_?
- 6. Jack's on holiday, \_\_?
- 7. Ann's applied for the job, \_\_?
- 8. You can speak German, \_\_?
- 9. He won't mind if I use his phone, \_\_?
- 10. There are a lot of people
- here, \_\_?
- 11. Let's go out tonight, \_\_?
- 12. This isn't very interesting, \_\_?
- 13. I'm too impatient, \_\_?
- 14. You wouldn't tell anyone, \_\_?
- 15. Listen, \_\_?
- 16. Don't drop the vase, \_\_?
- 17. He'd never met her before, \_\_?

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