

# Listening and Speaking

## Speaking Strategy

### Eliciting Agreement and Signaling Uncertainty

**A.** We use 'tag questions' for two reasons: eliciting agreement (confirming facts) and signaling uncertainty.

- Sam has not come to work. I've heard he's sick, isn't he?
- Oh, yes. He was not well yesterday.
- What's wrong with him?
- The doctors are checking his health condition.
- It isn't something serious, is it?
- I hope not.



#### More examples:

- He's really generous, isn't he?
- They are going to leave here, aren't they?
- This cannot be true, can it?