

Twelve Rules for Tag Questions

Rule	Example
1. After “let’s”, the tag begins with “shall”.	Let’s invite the neighbours over for dinner on the weekend, shall we?
2. Use “aren’t I” in tags to mean “I am not”.	I’m on time, aren’t I? (correct) I’m on time, am’t I? (incorrect)
3. Use “won’t” for polite request tags.	You’ll bring the other things, won’t you?
4. Use “will” or “would” with imperative sentences (commands).	Wait here until I return, will you? Wait here until I return, would you?
5. Use “mustn’t” with the modal “must”.	This must be the address, mustn’t it?
6. Two endings are possible when “have” is the main verb of the sentence.	You have enough money, haven’t you? (British English) You have enough money, don’t you? (North American English)
7. Use pronouns for people, not proper names, in question tags.	Paul is a good tennis player, isn’t he? Betty has a good job, hasn’t she?
8. Use “it” in a question tag when the sentence includes the words “this” or “that”.	This is your pen, isn’t it?
9. Use “they” in a question tag when the sentence includes “these” or “those”.	Those are your sandals, aren’t they?

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10. Use “there” in a question tag when the sentences includes “there + a form of be”.	There is a lot of work to do today, isn’t there?
11. Use “they” in a question tag when the sentence includes indefinite pronouns (nobody, no one, someone, somebody, everyone, everybody).	Everyone is here now, aren’t they? Nobody has eaten yet, have they?
12. Use “didn’t” in a question tag when the sentence includes the verb “used to”.	You used to go skating very often, didn’t you?”