

COMMUNICATION

Question tags

LEVEL

Elementary (A2)

NUMBER

EN_A2_2052X

LANGUAGE

English

Learning outcomes

- I can select the correct question tag for a range of sentences.
- I can use question tags to ask follow-up questions in a simple conversation.



Warm-up



It's such a beautiful day,
isn't it?

**What do you already
know about question
tags?**

**Share your answer with the
rest of the class!**



Review: contractions

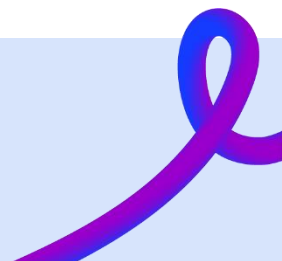
- We often contract **to be** and **not**.
- We use the apostrophe (') to show where the missing letter goes.
- Sometimes, there are more changes than just leaving out a letter, like in **will not = won't**.

Tense	Singular	Plural
Present	is not = isn't	are not = aren't
Past	was not = wasn't	were not = weren't
Future	will not = won't	will not = won't



- There are some other verbs we contract when we use **not**.

Singular	Plural
has not = hasn't	have not = haven't
does not = doesn't	do not = don't
did not = didn't	did not = didn't





Match the contractions

1 is not

2 are not

3 was not

4 were not

5 does not

6 will not

7 have not

a aren't

b won't

c isn't

d haven't

e weren't

f wasn't

g doesn't



Practise pronouncing these contractions

isn't

wasn't

doesn't

hasn't

aren't

weren't

don't

won't

didn't

haven't

Review: question types

- We have many ways to ask questions in English.
 - When we ask **yes/no** questions, we don't know if something is true or not.
 - When we ask **wh-** questions, we are looking for specific information.
 - When we ask **question tags**, we think we know the answer, and we want to confirm that we are correct.

Question type	Question	Answer
Yes/no question	Are you a teacher?	Yes.
Wh-question	What is your job?	I am a teacher.
Question tag	You're a teacher, aren't you?	Yes, I am.



Question tags

- Start with a **positive** statement, and then add a **negative** question tag.
- Use the **same auxiliary verb** for the question tag as the statement, but change the word order.
- Use the same **pronoun**.
- Use the same **verb tense**.

Positive statement	Question tag
You are a teacher,	aren't you?
He is the older brother,	isn't he?
She was born in South Korea,	wasn't she?
We were late for the meeting,	weren't we?
They will eat dinner at home,	won't they?



Question tags with *to do*

- If there is **no** auxiliary verb, and the main verb is not *be*, use **to do** for the question tag.
- Use the same pronoun.
- Use the same verb tense.

Positive statement	Question tag
You work in an office,	don't you?
He knows your older brother,	doesn't he?
She grew up in South Korea,	didn't she?
We started the meeting late,	didn't we?
They ate dinner at home,	didn't they?



Question tags with /

- There is no common contraction for ***am not***, so in question tags we use ***aren't I***.

positive statement	question tag
I'm here,	aren't I?
I'm your neighbour,	aren't I?
I'm funny,	aren't I?
I'm always early,	aren't I?



Multiple choice

Choose the correct question tag for each positive statement.

1 He is a good cook,...

a. doesn't he?

b. isn't he?

c. isn't she?

d. wasn't he?

2 They were watching a movie earlier,...

a. didn't they?

b. aren't they?

c. weren't they?

d. wasn't they?

3 We will go skiing before the end of the day,...

a. won't we?

b. don't we?

c. aren't we?

d. won't they?

4 You need a new winter coat,...

a. aren't you?

b. won't you?

c. doesn't you?

d. don't you?



Complete the sentences

Complete the sentences with a question tag.

1 I was late for that meeting,



wasn't I?

2 I am late for this meeting,



3 You are coming for dinner,



4 We were in the wrong office,



5 They will like this movie,



6 It usually rains a lot in the summer,



Question tags with negative statements

- We can also use question tags to confirm something we think is **not true**.
- For this form, start with a **negative** statement, and then add a **positive** question tag.
- Use the same **auxiliary verb** for the question tag as the statement, with the same **pronoun** and **tense**.

Negative statement	Question tag
You aren't a teacher,	are you?
He isn't the older brother,	is he?
She wasn't born in South Korea,	was she?
We weren't late for the meeting,	were we?
They won't eat dinner at home,	will they?



Question tags with /

- With **negative statements**, there is no problem using **am I** as the question tag.

Negative statement	Question tag
I'm not here,	am I?
I'm not your neighbour,	am I?
I'm not too serious,	am I?
I'm not late,	am I?



Question tags with *to have*

- If **to have** is used to show possession (*We have two cats,...*), then we use **to do** as the auxiliary verb in the question tag (*...don't we?*).
- If **to have** is used as the auxiliary verb in the positive or negative statement, for example in the present perfect tense (*We haven't been to Vietnam before...*), then we use **to have** as the auxiliary verb in the question tag (*...have we?*).

Positive or negative statement	Question tag
We have two cats,	don't we?
We have watched this movie before,	haven't we?
We don't have any milk for breakfast,	do we?
We haven't been to Vietnam before,	have we?



Pronouns in question tags

- We substitute any noun in the positive or negative statement with a **pronoun** in the question tag.

positive or negative statement	question tag
John is a great teacher,	isn't he?
Amelia wasn't born in France,	was she?
Amy and Susan don't want to come,	do they?
Today will be the best day ever,	won't it?

Answering question tags

- When we answer a question tag, we confirm (or deny) the original statement.
- To avoid confusion, **yes** or **no** can be followed by the **pronoun** and **auxiliary verb**.

Question tag question	Answer
You're a teacher, aren't you?	Yes, I am. / No, I'm not.
Amy will move next month, won't she?	Yes, she will. / No, she won't.
It's going to rain, isn't it?	Yes, it is. / No, it isn't.
He's a great teacher, isn't he?	Yes, he is. / No, he isn't.



Matching

Match the correct question tag to each positive or negative statement.

1 Today is a beautiful day,

2 Tomorrow won't be as nice,

3 These summer days are so warm,

4 The kids don't have enough sunscreen,

5 Summer hasn't been this warm in years,

6 Sarah was born in the summer,

7 Jared much prefers winter,

a will it?

b doesn't he?

c has it?

d wasn't she?

e isn't it?

f do they?

g aren't they?

What do you think about celebrities?

Complete the four steps below.



1. Think of a celebrity and **write down** a positive or negative statement about them.

2. Add a question tag.

3. Ask a classmate your question.

4. Take turns asking and answering.

Ex.

Tom Cruise is a great actor, isn't he?

Ex.

No, he isn't!
But Penelope Cruz is great, isn't she?



Practise question tags

In breakout rooms or together as a class, make a sentence with a question tag using the words below. You can be as inventive and silly as you like!

apples

spiders

holidays

swimming
pools

brothers

neighbours



End of the lesson

Idiom

good value (for money)

Meaning: something that is not expensive, or is worth what you pay for it

Example: The holiday package is good value for money.



Additional practice



Complete the sentences

Complete the sentences with a question tag.



1 We don't want to play golf in the rain,...



...do we?

2 You haven't seen this movie yet,...



3 John and Susie are brother and sister,...



4 Kate lived in Austria before moving here,...



5 Last winter, the days were cold and dark,...



6 I'm in the wrong room,...





Matching

Match the correct question tag to each positive or negative statement.

1 That question is easy,...

2 We'll have a test tomorrow,...

3 He left early,...

4 She has visited Paris before,...

5 You're not eating breakfast now,...

6 That didn't go well,...

7 We haven't seen the doctor yet,...

a have we?

b are you?

c hasn't she?

d won't we?

e isn't it?

f didn't he?

g did it?

Writing

Write down **5** tag questions for **positive statements**, and **5** tag questions for **negative statements**.

A graphic of a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal grey lines, resembling notebook paper. The paper is slightly offset to the right and has a folded top-left corner. It is intended for the student to write their tag questions.



Answer key

P.6: 1.) c 2.) a 3.) f 4.) e 5.) g 6.) b 7.) d

P.12: 1.) b 2.) c 3.) a 4.) d

P.13: 2.) aren't I? 3.) aren't you? 4.) weren't we? 5.) won't they? 6.) doesn't it?

P.19: 1.) e 2.) a 3.) g 4.) f 5.) c 6.) d 7.) b

P.25: 2.) have you? 3.) aren't they? 4.) didn't she? 5.) weren't they? 6.) aren't I?

P.26: 1.) e 2.) d 3.) f 4.) c 5.) b 6.) g 7.) a



Summary

Question tags:

- Start with a **positive** statement, and then add a **negative** question tag. Use the **same auxiliary verb** for the question tag as the statement but change the word order. Use the same **pronoun**. Use the same **verb tense**.
- *He is a teacher, isn't he?; She was born in South Korea, wasn't she?*

Question tags with **to do** and **I**:

- If there is **no** auxiliary verb, and the main verb is not *be*, use **to do** for the question tag. Use the same pronoun and the same verb tense, e.g. *You work in an office, don't you?*
- There is no common contraction for **am not**, so in question tags we use **aren't I**, e.g. *I'm here, aren't I?*

Question tags with negative statements:

- We can also use question tags to confirm something we think is **not true**. Start with a **negative** statement, and then add a **positive** question tag. Use the same **auxiliary verb** for the question tag as the statement, with the same **pronoun** and **tense**, e.g. *You aren't a teacher, are you?*
- With **negative statements**, use **am I** as the question tag, e.g. *I'm not happy, am I?*

Question tags with **to have**:

- If **to have** is used to show possession, use **to do** as the auxiliary verb in the question tag, e.g. *We have two cats, don't we?*
- If **to have** is used as the auxiliary verb, use **to have** as the auxiliary verb in the question tag, e.g. *We haven't been to Vietnam, have we?*



Summary

Answering question tags:

- When we answer a question tag, we confirm (or deny) the original statement.
- To avoid confusion, **yes** or **no** can be followed by the **pronoun** and **auxiliary verb**.
- *You are a teacher, aren't you? – Yes, I am/No, I'm not.*



Vocabulary

question tag

aren't you

isn't he

wasn't she

won't they

aren't I

don't you

haven't they

