

STUDY REFERENCE

GRAMMAR **Meet the neighbors**

Language Summary

Question tags

- You add a *question tag* to a statement to seek confirmation or agreement from another person, particularly in spoken English.

*You've just moved in, **haven't you?***

*It's a nice area, **isn't it?***

*They finished redeveloping the town center recently, **didn't they?***

- Generally, when a statement is positive, the *question tag* is negative.

You've** just moved in, **haven't you?

- When a statement is negative, the *question tag* is positive.

*You **don't** like that, **do you?***

Auxiliary verbs in question tags

- When you use an *auxiliary verb* in a statement, you use the same verb in the question tag. The tense of the question tag is also the same as the auxiliary verb.

be

*It's a nice area, **isn't it?***

*It was about two weeks ago, **wasn't it?***



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Question tags cont.

have *You've just moved in, **haven't you?***

will *We'll see you soon, **won't we?***

no auxiliary

When there is no auxiliary verb in a statement, you use *do* in the *question tag*.

*And they just finished redeveloping the city center, **didn't they?***

Question tags: exceptions

Some question tags are irregular and differ from the usual structures. The *question tag* for the subject *I am* and *I'm* is **aren't**.

*I'm coming tonight, **aren't I?***

Note: the question tag for *I am not* / *I'm not* is regular.

*I'm not playing football for the team this week, **am I?***

- When a negative adverb such as *hardly ever*, *never*, *rarely*, or *seldom* is used in a positive sentence, it acts like a negative sentence, and the *question tag* that follows is also positive.

*She never called him, **did she?***

*You hardly ever drink soda, **do you?***

