# Life

## **Upper Intermediate Unit 6b(2)**

### **Question forms 2: tag questions**



Jim: It's Lisa, isn't it?

Lisa: Yes, Lisa Rogers. Have we met before?

Jim: Once, but it was a long time ago. I'm Jim Smythe. I work for KMC.

Lisa: You don't work with León Alvarez, do you?

Jim: That's right.

Lisa: Oh, I remember now. You were at that meeting with León in Barcelona,

weren't you?

Jim: Yes, about two years ago. There was that wonderful reception, wasn't there?

Lisa: Yes! Well it's nice to meet you again. Anyway, what do you think of the

conference? It's been interesting, hasn't it?

#### **Presentation**

Use question tags for asking for information, or for checking and confirming information. They are used in informal speech at the end of affirmative or negative sentences:

It's Lisa, isn't it?

There was a meeting, wasn't there?

Do not use them after questions:

Is it Lisa, isn't it?

*Was there a meeting, wasn't there?* 

Always use contracted forms in the tag.

Don't say: It's Lisa, is not it?

is negative:

It's been an interesting conference, hasn't it?

When the main verb is negative, the tag question is

affirmative:

You don't work with León Alvarez, do you?

When the subject is a pronoun, repeat the pronoun: *It's Lisa, isn't it?* 

When the subject is a noun, use an appropriate pronoun:

The conference has been interesting, hasn't it?

#### **Punctuation**

When you write question tags, put a comma between the main sentence and the tag: *It's Lisa*, *isn't it?* 

For the following verbs or verb forms, use the auxiliary (given in brackets) in the question tag.

	-
Verb or verb form + (auxiliary)	Examples
to be (is, are, was, were)	It's Lisa, isn't it? I'm late, aren't I?* (*With I am, don't say I'm late, am not I?) You were at that meeting with León in Barcelona, weren't you? There was that wonderful reception, wasn't there?
Present simple (do/does)	You work for KMC, <b>don't</b> you? You don't know my colleague, <b>do</b> you?
Past simple (did)	He went to the conference, didn't he? They didn't enjoy the presentation, did they?
Perfect and continuous (the same auxiliary verb)	The conference has been interesting, hasn't it? You aren't listening to me, are you?
Modal verbs (the same modal auxiliary verb)	I should leave now, <b>shouldn't</b> I? I couldn't buy you a drink, <b>could</b> I?
Imperative (will/won't)	Send me your contact details, won't you? Don't forget to call me, will you?
Let's (shall)	Let's go out for dinner again sometime, <b>shall</b> we? Let's not spend too long discussing this, <b>shall</b> we?

## **Exercises**

1  $\bigcirc$  Write the question tags in the conversation. Then listen and check.

а	are you didn't you do you haven't we isn't it wasn't it weren't you will you w			
A:	We've met before, <sup>1</sup> ?			
	Sorry, you'll have to remind me.			
	You were on a training course with me in Bristol, <sup>2</sup>		?	
В:	Yes! That was a long time ago, <sup>3</sup> ?	? I 1	remember now. You aren't Malcolm,	
A:	That's right. Malcolm Savage.			
В:	Peter Franks. Nice to meet you again. It's funny ho	w you n	meet people again at these events,	
A:	Well, it's a small world. You worked for Haversham	Plastic	es then, <sup>6</sup> ?	
B:	Yes. I still do. You don't do any business with us, 7		?	
A:	No, I'm afraid not. But I have a colleague here who a supplier.	works i	in your industry. In fact he's looking for	
B:	I should meet him, 8 ?			
A:	Yes, but I can't see him at the moment. Never mind	l. You'll	l be here later, 9?	
B:	Actually I have to go in a minute.			
A:	OK. Well, let's keep in touch about this, <sup>10</sup> Don't forget to call me, <sup>11</sup> ?		? Here's my card with my phone	number.
B:	No, I won't. Thanks. It was nice meeting you again			
Wı	rite the missing question tags.			
1	You're Marie,?	9	He'd already asked her to marry him l	pefore,
2	It's my turn to pay,?	40	?	
3	They don't work here,?	10	Sheila's going to be angry about the m ?	ess,
4 5	She likes sugar in her tea,? When I lived here, there was a tree here,	11	Don't forget to give this package to you	ur mother
6	They've closed the post office, ?	12	All you children must work harder,?	
7		13	Let's take a taxi home,	?
8	I couldn't borrow a pen,?	14	It's been a lovely day,	?
8 Th	I'm in your group,?  I couldn't borrow a pen,?  nink of someone you know who you haven't serite questions using these tags.	14 en for	Let's take a taxi home,  It's been a lovely day,  a long time. Imagine you meet a	gai
			, u	on t you:
2				