

QUESTION TAGS

Question tags are used in spoken English, but not in written English. They are put at the end of the sentence.

To make a question tag, use the first auxiliary (forms of to be, have) or modal verb (must, can, will). If there isn't an auxiliary or modal verb, use do, does or did.

Positive or negative

If the sentence is positive, the question tag must be negative.

They **left** yesterday afternoon, **didn't** they? He **is** good at dancing, **isn't** he?
She **was** surprised, **wasn't** she?

If the sentence is negative, the question tag must be positive.

They **didn't** leave yesterday, **did** they? He **isn't** good at dancing, **is** he?
She **wasn't** surprised, **was** she?

Auxiliary verbs

They **haven't** met him before, **have** they? He **is** in the park, **isn't** he?
They **are** studying at the moment, **aren't** they? They **were** in Paris last week, **weren't** they?

Modal verbs

She **can** help him, **can't** she? They **should** study for the test, **shouldn't** they?
He **will** tell me, **won't** he? It **can't** be true, **can** it?

No auxiliary or modal verb

She **left** last Friday, **didn't** she? He **works** in your company, **doesn't** he?
You **don't know** him, **do** you?

NOTE:

With I am you have to use "aren't I".
I **am** the best, **aren't** I?

She **has** a brother, **hasn't** she? (possession) **BUT** Peter has a terrible cold, **doesn't** he? (idiomatically)

There is a new restaurant next to your company, **isn't there**?
Let's go to the shopping mall, **shall** we?

Use the same auxiliary, modal verb or do, does or did to reply:

Your holidays **were** really relaxing, **weren't** they? Yes, they **were**. We really enjoyed them.
She **visited** her aunt last week, **didn't** she? Yes, she **did**. She went to her last Saturday.
You **couldn't** help him in the garden, **could** you? No, I **couldn't**. I had to work in the office.