18 Question tags

I can use question tags in conversation and to check information.

Question tags

We add a question tag to make a statement into a question. We use question tags to check information, and also as a way of helping conversation by asking someone to respond.
She's Henry's sister, ***isn't she****?*
You don't like fish, ***do you****?*

We form question tags with an auxiliary verb (e.g. **are**, **have**, **can**, **will**) + a pronoun. We use the auxiliary verb and the pronoun to match the statement.

You're good at maths, aren't you?

He'll like this, won't he?

She didn't finish the exam, did she?

When the statement does not include an auxiliary verb (e.g. the present and past simple), we use **do**, **does**, **did** in the question tag.

She reads a lot, doesn't she?

They played well, didn't they?

If the statement is affirmative, we use a negative tag. If the statement is negative, we use an affirmative tag.

Helen has got a new bag, hasn't she?

It isn't very interesting, is it?

You didn't like the film, did you?

We can only use personal pronouns or **it**/**there** in question tags. We do not use names or other words.
Mary is clever, ~~isn't Mary?~~ isn't ***she****?*
That was difficult, ~~wasn't that?~~ wasn't ***it****?*
There isn't much food, is ***there****?*

1 Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

~~aren't~~ aren't can didn't do don't
have haven't isn't weren't won't

▶ You're British, aren't you?

1 You live in Manchester, _____ you?
2 You've got two sisters, _____ you?
3 You haven't got any brothers, _____ you?
4 You went to Greece on holiday last year, _____ you?
5 You'll be sixteen next year, _____ you?
6 You can't drive a car yet, _____ you?
7 You're hard-working, _____ you?
8 You were still asleep at eight o'clock this morning, _____ you?
9 You don't eat meat, _____ you?
10 It's your birthday today, _____ it?

2 18.1 Match the statements 1–10 with the question tags a–k. Listen and check.

▶ You spoke to your teacher, c

1 The meal was nice, ___
2 Max is quite annoying, ___
3 People drive on the right in Britain, ___
4 That phone isn't cheap, ___
5 You can swim, ___
6 You haven't tidied your room, ___
7 They don't believe us, ___
8 We're going to win, ___
9 That wasn't funny, ___
10 You've got your umbrella with you, ___

a don't they?
b haven't you?
c didn't you?
d have you?
e can't you?
f do they?
g aren't we?
h wasn't it?
i is it?
j isn't he?
k was it?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3 **Write the question tags.**

- ▶ Daisy comes from Australia, doesn't she ?
1. She's very tall, _____?
2. You're meeting Jess tonight, _____?
3. That film wasn't very good, _____?
4. Your parents know your teacher, _____?
5. You forgot to close the window, _____?
6. Tom's brother didn't win the match, _____?
7. We won't stay here long, _____?
8. You've learnt something new today, _____?
9. Pete and I can go to the cinema, _____?
10. Your brother likes golf, _____?

Pronunciation and meaning

There are two ways of using your voice in question tags.

The direction of the voice can go **down** at the end of the tag. This means that you know the answer. It isn't a real question. You expect the other person to agree and you are encouraging them to respond. We often use this to start conversations.

*'It's cold, **isn't it**?' 'Yes, it's freezing.'*

*'You come from America, **don't you**?' 'Yes, that's right.'*

The voice can go **up** on the tag. This means that you're not sure but you are checking the information. The other person may agree or disagree with you.

*'I'm not late, **am I**?' 'Actually, the film's already started.'*

*'You'll need an umbrella.' 'Why? It's not raining, **is it**?' 'Yes! Look outside!'*

4 18.2 **Listen to the sentences. Does the voice go up or down on the question tag? Draw an arrow.**

- ▶ It's cold, isn't it? ↘
- ▶ You come from America, don't you? ↘
- ▶ I'm not late, am I? ↗
- ▶ It's not raining, is it? ↗
1. You're Turkish, aren't you? ___
2. The window is open, isn't it? ___
3. You saw the film, didn't you? ___
4. She doesn't like football, does she? ___
5. It wasn't very interesting, was it? ___
6. Bella will pass the exam, won't she? ___
7. There are two train stations here, aren't there? ___
8. You didn't miss the bus, did you? ___

5 18.3 **Complete the dialogues with question tags. Then listen and decide if the voice goes up or down. Draw an arrow.**

A

Emma: Your name is Kim March, isn't it ? ↘
Kim: Yes, that's right.
Emma: You aren't David March's sister, [1]_____? ___
Kim: No, I'm not. I haven't got a brother.

B

Tim: I've met you before, [2]_____? ___
Alex: Have you?
Tim: Yes. You were at Oscar's birthday party, [3]_____? ___
Alex: I remember now. You're in Oscar's football team, [4]_____? ___
Tim: That's right.

C

Mum: Libby will pass her exam, [5]_____? ___
Teacher: Well, she got a good mark in her test, [6]_____? ___
Mum: Yes.
Teacher: And she has done all her revision, [7]_____? ___
Mum: Yes.
Teacher: So, she should be fine.

6 **Write six statements about your partner that you think are true. Then check the information with your partner.**

(not) be	(not) listen to
(not) eat	(not) play
(not) get up	(not) study
(not) like	(not) wear

You don't like maths.

You don't like maths, do you?

Actually, I think maths is OK.

Self-evaluation Rate your progress.

	😊	😊😊	😊😊😊
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

LIVEWORKSHEETS