

TAG QUESTIONS

(a) Jack <i>can</i> come, <i>can't</i> he? (b) Fred <i>can't</i> come, <i>can</i> he?	A tag question is a question added at the end of a sentence. Speakers use tag questions chiefly to make sure their information is correct or to seek agreement.*
AFFIRMATIVE SENTENCE + NEGATIVE TAG → AFFIRMATIVE ANSWER EXPECTED	
Mary <i>is</i> here, <i>isn't</i> she? You <i>like</i> tea, <i>don't</i> you? They <i>have</i> left, <i>haven't</i> they?	Yes, she is. Yes, I do. Yes, they have.
NEGATIVE SENTENCE + AFFIRMATIVE TAG → NEGATIVE ANSWER EXPECTED	
Mary <i>isn't</i> here, <i>is</i> she? You <i>don't</i> like tea, <i>do</i> you? They <i>haven't</i> left, <i>have</i> they?	No, she isn't. No, I don't. No, they haven't.
(c) <i>This/That</i> is your book, <i>isn't it</i> ? <i>These/Those</i> are yours, <i>aren't they</i> ?	The tag pronoun for <i>this/that</i> = <i>it</i> . The tag pronoun for <i>these/those</i> = <i>they</i> .
(d) <i>There is</i> a meeting tonight, <i>isn't there</i> ?	In sentences with <i>there + be</i> , <i>there</i> is used in the tag.
(e) <i>Everything</i> is okay, <i>isn't it</i> ? (f) <i>Everyone</i> took the test, <i>didn't they</i> ?	Personal pronouns are used to refer to indefinite pronouns. <i>They</i> is usually used in a tag to refer to <i>everyone, everybody, someone, somebody, no one, nobody</i> .
(g) <i>Nothing</i> is wrong, <i>is it</i> ? (h) <i>Nobody</i> called on the phone, <i>did they</i> ? (i) You've <i>never been</i> there, <i>have you</i> ?	Sentences with negative words take affirmative tags.
(j) <i>I am</i> supposed to be here, <i>am I not</i> ? (k) <i>I am</i> supposed to be here, <i>aren't I</i> ?	In (j): <i>am I not?</i> is formal English. In (k): <i>aren't I?</i> is common in spoken English.

A. Type the best tag ending in each item.

- Mathew is a good student, _____?
- She can speak Italian well, _____?
- I'm too fat, _____?
- This is your car, _____?
- There are a lot of people in your company, _____?
- They are your good friends, _____?
- You always buy your clothes at Central, _____?
- Isabel speaks Chinese well, _____?
- They would listen to us, _____?
- John won't be back before noon, _____?
- I am invited, _____?
- There is something wrong with Jane today, _____?
- Everyone can learn how to swim, _____?
- Nobody cheated on the exam, _____?
- Nothing went wrong while I was gone, _____?
- Those aren't Tony's books, _____?
- Peggy would like to come with us to the party, _____?
- This grammar is easy, _____?
- There aren't any problems, _____?
- That's your umbrella, _____?