

Grammar in Context: Tag Questions

Common statements that are used to initiate small talk are often followed by mini questions, for example *It's a beautiful day, isn't it?*, or *You don't live in this building, do you?* These are called tag questions. More colloquial ways of saying tags include *Beautiful weather, eh?/no?/right?* Tag questions are used in small talk to seek confirmation or agreement from another person and are spoken with a falling intonation when used for this purpose.

- 1** Listen as your teacher models the following short dialogues. Then practise the dialogues with your partner.

A: It's a lovely day, isn't it? B: Yes, it's absolutely gorgeous.	A: This is nasty weather, isn't it? B: Yes, it certainly is.	A: This rain is awful, isn't it? B: Yes, it is.
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- 2** Add a tag to the following statements used to initiate small talk. Then write an appropriate response. Practise reading your exchanges with a partner. Use falling intonation for the tag question and to express agreement when you respond.

- Example: The food is really great here, isn't it? Yes, it is.
- Roberta performed really well, _____?
- They sure know how to throw a party, _____?
- The new office isn't very big, _____?
- Harold did a great job with the presentation this morning, _____?
- This is such a lovely wedding, _____?
- That wasn't a great movie last night, _____?
- Mirella dresses really well, _____?
- Ms. Jones was a really good teacher, _____?
- Bonnie is a good friend of yours, _____?
- They've done a nice job of decorating this place, _____?
- The music is always so loud in this place, _____?