Question Tags

- **Question tags are short questions which we add at the end of a statement. We use them to ask for confirmation of or agreement with our statement.** *It's hot today,* ***isn't it****?*
- **Question tags are formed with an auxiliary or modal verb and an appropriate pronoun. They take the same auxiliary or modal verb as in the statement if there is one, otherwise they take do / does (Present Simple) or did (Past Simple).** *She* ***was working*** *at home,* ***wasn't she****? He* ***left*** *late,* ***didn't he****?*
- **A positive statement is followed by a negative question tag whereas a negative statement is followed by a positive question tag.** *She plays tennis well,* ***doesn't she****? He hasn't come yet,* ***has he****? He's always late,* ***isn't he****? She is never late,* ***is she****?*
- ***Everyone / someone / anyone / no one*** **form their question tags with an auxiliary or modal verb + they.** ***Somebody*** *should help her,* ***shouldn't they****?*
- **Question tags can be said with a rising intonation (when we are not sure and we expect an answer) or a falling intonation (when we don't expect an answer).**
  He works in a bank, doesn't he? (not sure) *She looks tired, doesn't she? (sure)*

Study the following question tags:

"I am"	**"aren't I?"**	*I am older than you,* ***aren't I****?*
"I used to"	**"didn't I?"**	*They used to work here,* ***didn't they****?*
Imperative	**"will/won't you?"**	*Please help me,* ***will/won't you****?*
"Let's"	**"shall we?"**	*Let's play tennis,* ***shall we****?*
"Let me/him", etc.	**"will/won't you?"**	*Let him buy it,* ***will/won't you****?*
"Don't"	**"will you?"**	*Don't do that again,* ***will you****?*
"I have" (= possess)	**"haven't I?"**	*She has your book,* ***hasn't she****?*
"I have" (used idiomatically)	**"don't I?"**	*She had an operation yesterday,* ***didn't she****?*
"There is/are"	**"isn't/aren't there?"**	*There are some seats left,* ***aren't there****?*
"This/That is"	**"isn't it?"**	*That pen is Mary's,* ***isn't it****?*

8 Underline the correct item.

1 Carol has a car, **doesn't she** / **hasn't she**?
2 She used to play tennis, **didn't she** / **wasn't she**?
3 Let her do it, **aren't you** / **won't you**?
4 Peter isn't going to be late, **isn't he** / **is he**?
5 Let's sit down for dinner, **will you** / **shall we**?
6 Open the window, **won't you** / **don't you**?

9 Read the situations and write sentences with questions tags. In each situation, you are asking the person to agree with you.

1 You and your friend have just come from a concert. You really enjoyed the music. What do you say to your friend? **(fantastic)**
The concert .was fantastic, wasn't it?.....

2 There is a new film playing at the cinema and you fancy going. You want your friend to come with you. What do you say to your friend? **(go/cinema)**
Let's .....

3 You are studying in your room. Your little brother is making too much noise and you can't concentrate. What do you say to him? **(quiet)**
Be .....

4 You want to go shopping with your sister. She is still doing her homework. What do you say to her? **(not/finish/homework)**
You .....

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15 Questions and Answers

10 Add the question tags then read them with a rising or falling intonation.

Sure	not Sure
✓	
	✓
	✓
	✓
	✓
	✓
✓	
✓	

1 She's late today, ..isn't she..... ?
2 He's an actor, ... ?
3 You stayed in last night, ... ?
4 Stop laughing, ... ?
5 You know where the supermarket is, ... ?
6 Let's go for a walk, ... ?
7 The boys went out with you, ... ?
8 Paul should apologise, ... ?

Short Answers

Short answers are used to avoid repetition of the question asked before. Positive short answers are formed with Yes + subject pronoun + auxiliary verb (*do, can, will, have, may,* etc.). *Will she call us?* ***Yes, she will.*** **Negative short answers are formed with No + subject pronoun + auxiliary verb (in negative).** *Did he give you anything?* ***No, he didn't.***

11 Fill in the correct questions tags and short answers.

1 A: He plays the piano, ...doesn't he..... ?
B: No, ...he doesn't.... . He plays the flute.

2 A: John is coming to the party, ... ?
B: Yes, ... He should be here soon.

3 A: I told you about my new car, ... ?
B: Yes, ...; about ten times!

4 A: That bag is yours, ... ?
B: No, ... It belongs to my sister.

5 A: There are some tickets left for the play, ... ?
B: No , I'm sorry ..... . It's sold out.

6 A: Henry will leave tomorrow, ...?
B: Yes, ... His plane leaves at noon.

So – Not

So and not can be used after: *think, hope, expect, suppose, I'm afraid, guess, it seems, say, tell sb, it appears, believe* or *imagine* in short answers.

I think so – I don't think so / I think not **I hope so – I hope not** **I expect so – I don't expect so / I expect not** **I suppose so – I don't suppose so / I suppose not** **I'm afraid so – I'm afraid not** **It appears so – It doesn't appear so / It appears not**	**It seems so – It doesn't seem so / It seems not** **He said so – He didn't say so** **He told me so – He didn't tell me so** **I guess so – I guess not** **I believe so – I don't believe so / I believe not** **I imagine so – I don't imagine so / I imagine not**
"Will he come?" ***"I think so."***	*"Can you do the crossword?"* ***"I'm afraid not."***

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