# 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