QUESTION TAGS

We often use question tags when we expect the listener to agree with our statement. In this case, when the statement is positive, we use a negative question tag.If the statement is negative, we use a positive question tag.

Form Auxiliary verb+ sub pronoun

If there is an auxiliary verb in the statement, we use it to form the question tag.

1) Verb to be (am-is -are- was -were)

If the main verb or auxiliary verb in the statement is am, the positive question tag is am I? but the negative question tag is usually aren't I?:

Positive sentence+ negative tag

-I am a doctor, am I not?

-I'm going to get an email with the details, aren't I?
-It's a nice day, isn't it?

-James is working on that, isn't he?

-The bus stop's over there, isn't it?

-They are British ,aren't they?

-There was a lot of traffic, wasn't there?

-Yesterday was so much fun, wasn't it?

Negative sentence+ positive tag

-I am not a teacher, am I ?

-I'm never on time, am I?

-She isn't a nurse, is she?

-He isn't here, is he?

-We aren't happy, are we?

-The trains are never on time, are they?

-It was raining that day, wasn't it?

-They weren't in London, were they?

-None of those customers were happy, were they?

2) Present simple (Do/does) Past simple (did)

When the verb in the statement is present simple or past simple and is positive. Here we use don't, doesn't or didn't:

Positive sentence+ negative tag

-Ali likes English, doesn't he?

- Jenni eats cheese, doesn't she?

-You have a car, don't you?

-She has long hair, doesn't she?

-You like fish, don't you?

-She looked for the book, didn't she?

-I said that already, didn't I?

Negative sentence+ positive tag

-He doesn't have a car, does he?

-They don't play tennis, do they?

-I don't need to finish this today, do I?

-You don't have a car, do you?

-She doesn't have blue eyes, does she?

-He didn't do the homework, did he?

-The phone didn't ring, did it?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3)Modal Verb (can/will/would should/could/ must)etc

... the verb in the statement is a modal verb. Here we use the modal verb to make the question tag:

Positive sentence+ negative tag

Ali will be here soon, won't he?

She should pass the exam, shouldn't She?

We can climb the tree, can't we?

*** He could answer, couldn't he?***

We must study hard, mustn't we?

They could hear me, couldn't they?

Negative sentence+ positive tag

***They can't jump, can they?**

***You shouldn't stay up late, should you?**

***It won't rain, will it?**

***Soha couldn't answer, could she?**

***We mustn't swim in canals, must we?**

***You won't tell anyone, will you?**

4) Have/ has/ had

Positive sentence+ negative tag

*He has got a car, hasn't he?

*I have done the homework, haven't I?

*He had met her before, hadn't he?

*Your parents have retired, haven't they?

Negative sentence+ positive tag

*Nobody has called for me, have they?

*She hasn't seen the film, has she?

*We haven't got a car, have we?

*I had never seen him before, had I ?

*Your mum hadn't met him before, had she?

Note:

***Let's go** to the cinema, **shall we**?

***Don't open** the door, **will you**?

***Open** the window, **won't you**?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1) Read the conversation below, and use question tags to complete the gaps. Then listen and check your ideas.

Voice 1: Your mother's looking older these days, (1)_____?

Voice 2: I don't think so, but you're being very rude today, (2)_____?

Voice 1: I see your team won the game on Thursday, (3)_____?

Voice 2: Yes, it was a good match.

Voice 1: They must be top of the league now, (4) _____?

Voice 1: You will remember to book a table, (5) _____ ? It's very important.

Voice 2: I couldn't forget, (6)_____ ?.

Voice 1: You didn't forget the exam this morning, (7) _____? You got up very late.

Voice 2: You are joking, (8), _____ ?

Student 1: These question tags are difficult, (9)_____?

Student 2: We use them a lot in English, though, (10) _____?

LIVEWORKSHEETS