NEGATIVE AND TAG QUESTIONS FOR GIVING OPINIONS

Technology: Are We Too Dependent on Our Devices?

Smartphones and other digital devices have become an essential part of everyday life. **Isn't it** surprising how much information we can access with just one device? We can communicate, study, work, shop, and even control our homes from our phones. However, this convenience can also create problems.

Don't you think people sometimes spend too much time looking at their screens? Many people check their phones constantly, even when they are having conversations with friends or family. This can affect their concentration and relationships. Digital devices are useful, **aren't they?** However, shouldn't we be more careful about how much time we spend using them?

Technology can also affect the way we communicate. People often send messages instead of having face-to-face conversations. **Wouldn't it be** better if we sometimes put our phones away and focused on the people around us? After all, technology is supposed to make our lives easier, **isn't it?**

GRAMMAR: NEGATIVE AND TAG QUESTIONS FOR GIVING OPINIONS

We can use negative questions and tag questions to:

- express an opinion
- suggest an idea
- invite someone to agree or disagree
- encourage someone to react to what we are saying

They are especially common in conversations and informal discussions.

1. NEGATIVE QUESTIONS

We can use negative questions when we expect the listener to consider or agree with our opinion.

Present simple:
Isn't / Aren't + subject + verb...?

- Isn't it surprising how much time people spend online?

With do / does:
Don't / Doesn't + subject + base verb...?

- Don't you think people use their phones too much?

With modal verbs:
Shouldn't + subject + base verb...?
Wouldn't it be + adjective + if...?

- Shouldn't we take regular breaks from our screens?
- Wouldn't it be better to have a phone-free evening?

3. TAG QUESTIONS

A tag question is a short question added to the end of a statement. We use tag questions to check information, invite agreement, or encourage a reaction.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Positive statement → negative tag
- Smartphones are useful, aren't they?
- Technology has changed our lives, hasn't it?
- People spend a lot of time online, don't they?

Negative statement → positive tag
- Smartphones aren't always necessary, are they?
- People don't always use technology responsibly, do they?
- Technology hasn't solved every problem, has it?

4. TAG QUESTIONS WITH MODALS

Use the same modal verb in the tag.

- We should take breaks, shouldn't we?
- People can become addicted to their phones, can't they?

5. TAG QUESTIONS WITH "I AM"

The special form is:
I'm responsible for my screen time, aren't I?

Not: amn't I?

⋆ IMPORTANT: THE SPEAKER'S INTENTION

Negative questions often communicate an opinion, not simply a request for information.

Compare:
Do you think smartphones are useful?
→ This is a neutral question.

Don't you think smartphones are useful?
→ The speaker probably believes they are useful and is inviting the listener to agree or respond.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercise 1 – Choose the Correct Option

1. _____ people spend too much time on their smartphones?
a) Don't you think b) Doesn't you think c) Aren't you think

2. Smartphones are extremely useful, _____?
a) aren't they b) don't they c) isn't it

3. _____ we should take regular breaks from our screens?
a) Doesn't b) Shouldn't c) Aren't

4. Technology has changed the way we communicate, _____?
a) hasn't it b) doesn't it c) hasn't they

5. _____ it be better to have some phone-free time every day?
a) Shouldn't b) Wouldn't c) Doesn't

Exercise 2 – Complete the Tag Questions

1. Smartphones can be very distracting, _____?
2. People don't always use social media responsibly, _____?
3. Technology has made communication easier, _____?
4. We shouldn't spend all day looking at screens, _____?
5. Online learning can be very effective, _____?

Exercise 3 – Complete the Negative Questions

1. _____ you think people are becoming too dependent on technology?
2. _____ it seem like people check their phones constantly?
3. _____ we spend less time on social media?
4. _____ it be better to turn off notifications during meals?
5. _____ it surprising that so many people work from their phones?

Exercise 4 – Give Your Opinion

Complete the questions and then answer them with your own ideas.

1. Don't you think people _____?
Your answer: _____

2. Isn't it surprising that _____?
Your answer: _____

3. Shouldn't we _____?
Your answer: _____

4. Technology is changing very quickly, isn't it?
Your answer: _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS