



# QUESTION TAGS



## Question Tags



A question tag is a short question at the end of a statement.  
Question tags are used when asking for agreement or confirmation.

**a positive statement + a negative question tag**

You **are** a student, **aren't** you?

A subject pronoun comes after an auxiliary, a modal verb or a form of the verb To Be.

**a negative statement + a positive question tag**

Mary **isn't** a teacher, **is** she?

A subject pronoun is used to replace the noun or noun phrase

### Intonation and Meaning

**Intonation** is the rise and fall of the voice in speaking.

**Rising Intonation** John **doesn't** speak Spanish, **does** he?

If the intonation of the question tag goes **up**, it means you are not sure and you want to know the answer.

**Falling Intonation** John **doesn't** speak Spanish, **does** he?

If the intonation of the question tag goes **down**, it means you are checking or confirming information that we are sure of. It can also be used when making conversation.

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## Negative Question Tags



Question tags are used when asking for agreement or confirmation.

**a positive statement + a negative question tag**

### Positive Statement

You **are** a student,  
He **is** very busy,  
He **was** happy,  
They **were** surprised,

### Negative Tag

**aren't** you?  
**isn't** he?  
**wasn't** he?  
**weren't** they?

You **speak** English,  
He **studies** Spanish,  
You **studied** for the test,

**don't** you?  
**doesn't** he?  
**didn't** you?

You **have** studied all week,  
You **had** arrived before he left,  
You **will** pass the exam,  
You **can** speak two languages,  
You **could** do it for me,  
We **must** be patient,  
You **should** go now,  
You **would** like a new job,

**haven't** you?  
**hadn't** you?  
**won't** you?  
**can't** you?  
**couldn't** you?  
**mustn't** we?  
**shouldn't** you?  
**wouldn't** you?

Negative auxiliaries and verbs in tags are usually in their contracted form (=n't)

### Exceptions

I **am** late,  
**Let's** go home,

**aren't** I?  
**shall** we?

BE CAREFUL

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Ex.1 Add a tag question to each sentence. (не тест)

- We're nearly there, \_\_\_\_\_.
- You haven't got a spare pen, \_\_\_\_\_.
- You're coming to my party, \_\_\_\_\_.
- You won't be late, \_\_\_\_\_.
- Harry's fifteen, \_\_\_\_\_.
- Kate and Pat live in Leeds, \_\_\_\_\_.
- You don't feel well, \_\_\_\_\_.
- You like fish, \_\_\_\_\_.
- Richard's bought a new bike \_\_\_\_\_.
- I shouldn't tell you this, \_\_\_\_\_.

Ex.2 Make a new sentence with a tag question, which has the same meaning as the first sentence, beginning as shown. Make any necessary changes. (не тект)

1) I'm sure that Paul doesn't like football.

Paul \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

2) I'm checking that you've got a sister.

You \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

3) I don't think that you've done your homework!

You \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

4) I'm angry that you sat next to Ellen!

You \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

5) I'm surprised that the guests have arrived.

The guests \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

6) I'm checking that your name is John.

Your name \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

7) I'm surprised to meet you and think that your name might be John.

Your name \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

8) You're certain that you didn't leave your wallet on the desk.

I \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

9) You're surprised that William has got married. William.

William \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

10) You're checking that this book is by Martin Amis.

This book \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

Ex.3 Underline the best sentence in each context.

a) Why did you forget your keys! You are silly!

1 I didn't tell you to forget them, did I?

2 I told you not to forget them

b) Ugh! I can't believe it! I'm sure they must taste horrible!

1 You like eating snails, don't you?

2 You don't like eating snails, do you?

c) If we go to Brazil, we might have problems with the language.

1 You speak Portuguese, don't you?

2 You don't speak Portuguese, do you?

d) I told you to keep the party a secret. It's supposed to be a surprise for Stella. So, I just want to make sure.

1 You didn't tell her, did you?

2 You told her, didn't you?

e) Well, Mr. Robinson, I think it's time you told the police the truth. You see, we've found your fingerprints on the murder weapon.

1 You didn't murder Lord Chumley, did you?

2 You murdered Lord Chumley, didn't you?

f) Only two minutes to the end of the match and United are still 3-1 in the lead. It looks certain now.

1 United aren't going to win, are they?

- 2 United are going to win, aren't they?
- g) 1 haven't see Ann for ages. She's working abroad I think.  
 1 She's got a job in France, hasn't she?  
 2 She hasn't got a job in France, has she?
- h) I just can't answer this question. It would be nice to have some help.  
 1 You could help me, couldn't you?  
 2 You couldn't help me, could you?

<b>Alternative question</b>	
Вспомогательный (модальный) глагол	подлежащее    сказуемое    ... <b>or</b> ...    ?
<b>To be</b>	<b>Am I</b> at work <b>or</b> at home? <b>Is she</b> a nurse <b>or</b> a driver? <b>Are you</b> at home <b>or</b> at school?
<b>Present Simple</b>	<b>Do you</b> <u>discuss</u> difficult <b>or</b> easy grammar rules at school? <b>Does Mary</b> <b>or</b> Dina <u>take care</u> of the little kitten?
<b>Past Simple</b>	<b>Did you</b> <u>take</u> a picture of a lizard in the zoo <b>or</b> in the country last week?
<b>Future Simple</b>	<b>Will Mary</b> <u>arrange</u> a picnic for her friends tomorrow <b>or</b> next Saturday?
<b>Can</b> <b>May</b> <b>Must</b>	<b>Can you</b> <u>drive</u> a car <b>or</b> a motor bike? <b>May I</b> <u>close</u> the window <b>or</b> the door? <b>Must I</b> <u>read</u> <b>or</b> <u>learn</u> the poem? 

Ex. 4 Put the questions in order

- 1) people/our/house/by/pass/many/or/ cars?/buses/in/Do
- 2) like/ Do/milk?/you/tea/lemon/with/or?
- 3) usually/he/a/meat/or/have/piece/ of/cutlet/a/dinner?/for/Do
- 4) prefer/sunny/Alice/weather/Does/or/rainy?
- 5) my/for/walk/grandmother/does/goe/a/alone/with/or/friend/her?

Ex.5 Make questions to the following sentences. (не текст)

- 1) English breakfast includes tea with toast and jam or marmalade.
- 2) You can complete your work right now or tomorrow morning.
- 3) I enjoy reading fantasy or detective stories in my free time.
- 4) I feel sharp pain when I am taking a deep breath or bending.
- 5) Mike usually does his shopping at the supermarket or at the market near his house.
- 6) We buy tickets for a train on the day of departure or book in advance.
- 7) It's always warm or even hot in summer.
- 8) When I visit a theatre I prefer to take seats in the stalls or on the balcony.

### Indirect Questions

We can be more polite by beginning a question with a short phrase like:

*Could you tell me ... ? Do you know ... ?*

The word order of an indirect question is like a statement, not like a direct question.

direct: *Where **is the post office**?*

indirect: *Could you tell me where **the post office is**?*

direct: *When **does the film start**?*

indirect: *Do you know when **the film starts**?*

Yes/No questions use *if*

direct: ***Is this** the right street?*

indirect: *Do you know **if this is** the right street?*

Ex. 6 Change the direct questions into indirect questions. (HE TEST)

- 1) Where does she play tennis?
- 2) Does he live in Paris?
- 3) Is she hungry?
- 4) What is this?
- 5) Do they work in Canada?
- 6) When do John and Luke meet?
- 7) Is he a lawyer?
- 8) When is the party?
- 9) Do they often go out?
- 10) What does he do at the weekend?
- 11) Are the children on holiday this week?
- 12) Who is she?
- 13) Why do you like travelling so much?
- 14) Does Lizzie like ice cream?
- 15) Are they from Chile?
- 16) Where is the station?
- 17) Where do you study Chinese?
- 18) Where is the nearest supermarket?
- 19) Do you drink coffee?
- 20) Is Richard always late?



Ask me a question

Type something....

What is your attitude to this option?  
What question would you write there?