

QUESTION TAGS

Question tags are short questions at the end of statements.

They are mainly used in the speech when we want to

- Confirm that something is true or not
- To encourage the reply from the person we are speaking to.

Question tags are formed with the auxiliary or modal verbs from the statement and the appropriate subject.

A positive statement is followed by the negative question tag.

1. You are an expert, aren't you?
2. I am a doctor, aren't I?
3. You are Indian, aren't you?

A negative statement is followed by positive question tag.

- He will never know, will he?
- Ann hasn't cleaned the plates, has she?
- This won't do perfectly, will it?
- My car is not a new model, is it?

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

Formation

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

- I am late, aren't I ?
- The boy is from Kottayam , isn't he?
- Anu and Manu will arrive tomorrow, won't they?

- The painters are cleaning the wall, aren't they?
- The mechanic is repairing the car, isn't he?
- We can't stay here, can he?
- You have been driving fast, haven't you?
- London is not a big city, is it?
- It is a super match, isn't it?
- Your friend is a teacher, isn't he?
- We are students in this school, aren't we?
- It was not a thrilling match, was it?
- We were not working well, were we?
- There is fish for our lunch, isn't there?
- Computer games are not good for children, are they?
- These are not easy questions, are they?
- My sister has been living in London for 10 years, hasn't she?
- They have been arranging a party for us, haven't they?

When the verb in the main sentence is in the **simple present**, we form the question tag with **do / does**

- Dogs like meat, don't they?
- They watch football, don't they?
- Rfanan plays cricket, doesn't he?

If the verb is in the **simple past** we form the tag with **did**

- Mohan played cricket, didn't he?
- We liked to spend our time there, didn't they?
- Mohan played cricket, didn't he?
- Sheba wrote a letter, didn't he?

When the statement contains a word with a negative meaning, the question tag needs to be positive.

1. She hardly speaks. Does she?
2. We have never gone there, have we?
3. Few students came to the class, did they?
4. No one has done the work, have they?
5. We did little work, did we?
6. I have scarcely passed the test, have I?
7. We seldom play the match, do we?

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

- It is a big house, isn't it?
- I don't like juice, do I?
- The students have already left school, haven't they?
- I have not passed my examination, have I?
- The boy will cross the road, won't he?

Simple Present tense

1. My friend often goes out, doesn't he?
2. I drink a cup of coffee, don't I?
3. His parents work aboard, don't they?
4. We love pets, don't we?

Simple Past tense

1. The man left the party, didn't he?
2. My mother cooked food, didn't she?
3. I passed my examination, didn't I?
4. Vivek played foot ball yesterday, didn't he?

Questions for practice

1. You were absent yesterday
2. My brother can do it easily.

3. We are not going to hospital now
4. A tortoise is like a turtle
5. There is a programme
6. The doctors have attended the meeting
7. Machine hasn't become cheap
8. They will meet me tomorrow
9. We won't win this match
10. She went early
11. The students had planned well.
12. we shall pay for it
13. Sheela has been running the race
14. The servant was sweeping the room.
15. We were working in this company

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