

Pre-Intermediate 1
Unit 5: Grammar
Presented by Mohammad Rajabpur

Tag Questions

A tag question is a short question added to the end of a statement to confirm or check information. It's often used to seek agreement or clarification. For example, in the sentence "You're coming to the party, aren't you?", "aren't you?" is the tag question.

Tag questions typically consist of an auxiliary verb (like "is," "are," "do," "have") or a modal verb (like "can," "will," "must") and a pronoun that matches the subject of the main sentence. If the main statement is positive, the tag question is usually negative, and vice versa.

How to Add a Tag Question to a Sentence:

1. In writing, we should replace the period with a comma.
period (American) = full stop (British) = a dot at the end of the sentence
2. Use the proper helping verb according to the tense of the sentence. If the sentence is positive, our helping verb should be negative and vice versa.
helping verb = auxiliary verb proper = suitable
3. Add a subject pronoun to the tag question according to the subject of the sentence.
4. Use a question mark at the end of the sentence.

Examples:

The Verb "to be" (am, is, are, was, were):

They **are** from Chicago, **aren't** they?
They **aren't** from New York City, **are** they?
He **was** tired, **wasn't** he?
He **wasn't** fresh, **was** he?

The Simple Present Tense:

The students **study** hard, **don't** they?
You **don't** waste your time, **do** you?
Sally **works** hard, **doesn't** she?
Sally **doesn't** waste her time, **does** she?

The Simple Past Tense:

Jack **went** to Harvard University, **didn't** he?
Jack **didn't** go to Cambridge University, **did** he?
We **guessed** the right answer correctly, **didn't** we?
We **didn't** guess the right answer wrongly, **did** we?

The Future Simple:

You **will** leave next week, **won't** you?
You **won't** stay here for long, **will** you?

Modal Verbs:

I can't do it, can I?

I can do it, can't I?

He should go, shouldn't he?

He shouldn't stay, should he?

Point:

If the intonation is rising, the tag question is a real question and we should answer it, but if the intonation is falling, the tag question is just for emphasis and we don't need to answer it.

intonation = the rise and fall of the voice in speaking, especially as this affects the meaning of what is being said

rising = increasing

falling = decreasing

emphasis = special importance that is given to something

Examples:

- You made a robot last year, didn't you?
- Of course, I did. It was a robotic firefighter.

- Time flies, doesn't it?

Exceptions & Difficult Cases:

- I'm late, aren't I? (Formal)
- I'm late, ain't I? (Very Informal & Not Acceptable in Standard English)
- I'm not on time, am I?

- Nobody is ready, are they?
- Everyone is ready, aren't they?

- This is expensive, isn't it?
- That is cheap, isn't it?
- These/Those are beautiful, aren't they?

- There is a car in the yard, isn't there?
- There isn't a motorcycle in the yard, is there?
- There aren't two windows in the room, are there?
- There are three monkeys in the cage, aren't there?

- Let's go to the park, shall we?

- They ought to be careful, shouldn't they?
- They ought not to waste their time, should they?

- They have a big house, don't they? => "Have" is a main verb here. It means "possess".

- He has a motorcycle, doesn't he? => "Has" is a main verb here. It means "possess".
- She doesn't have a BMW, does she? => "Have" is a main verb here. It means "possess".
- They have gone to London, haven't they? => "Have" is a helping verb for the present perfect.
- He has done his homework, hasn't he? => "Has" is a helping verb for the present perfect.
- They haven't eaten dinner yet, have they? => "Have" is a helping verb for the present perfect.

Point:

When has or have means "possess", it is a main verb.

When we use has or have with the present perfect tense, it is a helping verb.

Magic Word:



The Grammar Wizard

There is a magic word that we can use instead of all tag questions.

The grammar wizard knows the magic word, how about you?

Please answer me.

What is the magic word?

If you don't answer me, the grammar wizard will put you under a spell.

spell = a piece of magic that happens when somebody says the magic words

And nobody will be able to break your spell.

Then please use your brain and find the answer.

What is the magic word?

What is the magic word?

What is the magic word?

What is the magic word?

The Magic Word => Right?

Right? = Is that right?

Examples:

Tom Jackson is from Chicago, right?

You got an A on the math exam, right?

Our grammar was funny, wasn't it?

Source:

[Pre-Intermediate 1 \(anglophone.ir\)](http://anglophone.ir)