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Tag Questions Grammar

Definition

• Tag questions (or question tags) turn a statement into a question. They are often used for checking information that we think we know is true.

Structure

- A) positive main clause, negative tag question
- **B)** negative main clause, positive tag question

Example

- It's cold (positive), isn't it (negative)?
- It isn't cold (negative), is it (positive)?

Note

• If the main clause has **an auxiliary verb** in it, you use the **same verb** in the tag question. If there is **no auxiliary verb** (in the present simple and past simple) use **do / does / did** (just like when you make a normal question).

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Common tenses with tag questions		
Present simple 'be'	• She's Italian, isn't she?	
Present simple 'action verbs'	• They live in London, don't they?	
Past simple 'be'	It was cold yesterday, wasn't it?	
Past simple 'action verbs'	 He went to the party last night, didn't he? 	
Present continuous	We're working tomorrow, aren't we?	
Past continuous	 We were waiting at the station, weren't we? 	
Present perfect	They've been to Japan, haven't they?	

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Common tenses with tag questions		
Future sim	ple	She'll come at six, won't she?
Modal verbs		 He can help, can't he? John must stay, mustn't he? I should go to the gym, shouldn't I?
Exceptions		
Note	There is one weird exception: the question tag after I am is aren't I.	
Example	 I am right, aren't I? I am at the right place, aren't I? 	