



## GRAMMAR

### QUESTION TAGS

#### 1. Definition

A question tag is a very short clause at the end of a statement that changes the statement into a question. For example, in the sentence *You're John, aren't you?*, the statement *You're John* is turned into a question by the tag *Aren't you*.

#### 2. Use

Question tags:

- can be considered as an indicator of politeness, emphasis or irony
- may suggest confidence or lack of confidence

#### 3. Form

Question tags vary according to different factors, such as the choice of the auxiliary verb and the affirmation or negation. The structure is generally as follows:

**auxiliary/ modal verb + subject pronoun**

If the verb is affirmative in the sentence, it has to be negative in the question tag and vice versa.

Affirmative statement	Negative Tag
He likes him,	doesn't he?
Negative statement	Affirmative Tag
She doesn't care about him,	does she?

**Be careful** with the question tags of sentences that start with *I am*. The question tag for *I am* is *Aren't I*. For example, *I am the fastest, aren't I?*

#### 4. Examples

Affirmative statement	Negative tag
He is excellent at languages,	isn't he?
You were late,	weren't you?
She writes good poems,	doesn't she?
They are working on a new project,	aren't they?
He called her,	didn't he?
We have worked hard to earn this money,	haven't we?
You will help us,	won't you?
You should see a doctor,	shouldn't you?
He can drive,	can't he?

Negative statement	Affirmative tag
He isn't an athlete,	is he?
They weren't early,	were they?
She doesn't work in a hospital,	does she?
You aren't writing a new book,	are you?
You didn't visit the museum,	did you?
He hasn't found the solution,	has he?
You won't tell her,	will you?
We shouldn't sleep late,	should we?

## WORKSHEET

### 1. Write the correct question tag for each sentence.

- We often watch TV in the afternoon, \_\_\_\_\_?
- You have cleaned your bike, \_\_\_\_\_?
- John and Max don't like Maths, \_\_\_\_\_?
- Peter played handball yesterday, \_\_\_\_\_?
- They are going home from school, \_\_\_\_\_?
- Mary didn't do her homework last Monday, \_\_\_\_\_?
- He could have bought a new car, \_\_\_\_\_?
- Kevin will come tonight, \_\_\_\_\_?
- I'm clever, \_\_\_\_\_?
- She is collecting stickers, \_\_\_\_\_?
- Mr McGuinness is from Ireland, \_\_\_\_\_?
- The car isn't in the garage, \_\_\_\_\_?
- You are John, \_\_\_\_\_?
- She went to the library yesterday, \_\_\_\_\_?
- He didn't recognize me, \_\_\_\_\_?
- Cars pollute the environment, \_\_\_\_\_?
- Mr. Pritchard has been to Scotland recently, \_\_\_\_\_?
- The trip is very expensive, \_\_\_\_\_?
- He won't tell her, \_\_\_\_\_?
- Hugh had a red car, \_\_\_\_\_?