**Question Tags** are the small questions that often come at the end of sentences. Question tags are common in speech and informal writing. They are unusual in formal writing.

- It is very hot, *isn’t it?*
- She can swim, *can’t she?*
- She sings well, *doesn’t she?*

In question tags negatives are usually contracted, but full forms are possible in formal speech.

- That’s the postman, *isn’t it?* (Informal)
- They said they would finish the work in six months, *did they not?* (Formal)

Question tags are used to check whether something is true, or to ask for agreement.

**Negative after affirmative, and vice versa**

Question tags are used after affirmative and negative sentences. They are not used after questions.

Compare:

- You *are* the new Chairman, *aren’t you?*
- You *aren’t* the new Chairman, *are you?*
- (BUT NOT *Are you* the new Chairman, *aren’t you?*)

To check information or ask for agreement, we most often put negative tags after affirmative sentences, and non-negative tags after negative sentences.

- It’s cold, *isn’t it?* (NOT ...is it?)
- It *isn’t* very cold, *is it?* (NOT ...isn’t it?)

**Auxiliaries**

If the main sentence has an auxiliary verb, this is repeated in the question tag.

- You *aren’t* busy, *are you?*
- She *can’t* swim, *can she?*
- They *didn’t* come, *did they?*
• We shouldn’t wait, should we?

If the main sentence has no auxiliary, the question tag has do.

• You like fish, don’t you?
• He likes fish, doesn’t he?
• She came, didn’t she?