

Question tag



What is question tags?

In grammar, a question tag is a very short clause at the end of a statement which changes the statement into a question.

For example, in 'She said half price, didn't she?', the words 'didn't she' are a question tag.

The basic structure of a tag question is:

positive statement	negative tag
Snow is white,	isn't it?

negative statement	positive tag
You don't like me,	do you?

Task 1: Positive sentences, with negative tags.	Task 2: Negative sentences, with positive tags.
<p>Examples:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jack is from Spain, isn't he? 2. It was cold yesterday, wasn't it? 3. He had forgotten his wallet, hadn't he? 4. They live in London, don't they? 5. He went to the party last night, didn't he? 6. She will come at six, won't she? 7. He can help, can't he? 8. John must stay, mustn't he? 9. They'll be arriving soon, won't they? 10. She's Italian, isn't she? 	<p>Examples:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We aren't late, are we? 2. She doesn't have any children, does she? 3. The bus isn't coming, is it? 4. She wasn't at home yesterday, was she? 5. They didn't go out last Sunday, did they? 6. She hasn't eaten all the cake, has she? 7. He won't be studying tonight, will he? 8. She can't speak Arabic, can she? 9. They mustn't come early, must they? 10. They won't be late, will they?

Task 3: Negative adverbs:

The adverbs never, rarely, seldom, hardly, barely and scarcely have a negative sense. Even though they may be in a positive statement, the feeling of the statement is negative.

Positive statement treated as negative statement	Positive tag
He never came again,	did he?
She can rarely come these days,	can she?
You hardly ever came late,	did you?
I barely know you,	do I?
You would scarcely expect her to know that,	would you?

Task 4: Fill in the blanks with suitable question tag.



1. Basavaraj is a doctor, _____?
2. You are free, _____?
3. You aren't busy, _____?
4. Sagar broke the glass, _____?
5. Your sister cooks well, _____?
6. Radhika doesn't work hard, _____?
7. They haven't come yet, _____?
8. She can swim well, _____?
9. He can't drive, _____?
10. They couldn't hear him, _____?









Task 5: Match the following question tags.

A	B	Answer
1. The weather is nice outside today,	a. was she?	
2. The clouds aren't coming back,	b. has he?	
3. She wasn't in the parade,	c. is it?	
4. Praveen hasn't gone to the store yet,	d. isn't it?	
5. The zoo isn't closed,	e. were they?	
6. Mom and dad weren't in the car,	f. are they?	
7. You came by train,	g. could you?	
8. You couldn't give me a ride,	h. didn't you?	

Task 6: Rules for Tag Questions.

Rule	Example
1. After "let's", the tag begins with "shall".	Let's invite the neighbours over for dinner on the weekend, shall we?
2. Use "aren't I" in tags to mean "I am not".	I'm on time, aren't I? (correct) I'm on time, am't I? (incorrect)
3. Use "won't" for polite request tags.	You'll bring the other things, won't you?
4. Use "will" or "would" with imperative sentences (commands).	Wait here until I return, will you? Wait here until I return, would you?
5. Use "mustn't" with the modal "must".	This must be the address, mustn't it?
6. Two endings are possible when "have" is the main verb of the sentence.	You have enough money, haven't you? (British English) You have enough money, don't you? (North American English)
7. Use pronouns for people, not proper names, in question tags.	Paul is a good tennis player, isn't he? Betty has a good job, hasn't she?

Task 7: Look at the picture and statement given in the box. Try to write question tag.

Picture	Statement	Write question tag
	<p>Aishwarya is riding a bicycle,</p>	
	<p>Ankush was reading a book,</p>	
	<p>Cat never plays music,</p>	
	<p>Mom went to market with a child,</p>	
	<p>Students are playing volley ball,</p>	
	<p>Arudh had learnt swimming,</p>	
	<p>She prepares a delicious food,</p>	
	<p>He won't ready to tell story,</p>	

Micro test 1

I. Choose the suitable question tag.

1. Nothing can stop us now, ___?

(A) don't it (B) does it (C) can it (D) doesn't it

2. You don't play the piano, _____?

(A) isn't it (B) don't you (C) doesn't it (D) do you

3. There are so many people in the street, ___?

(A) isn't there (B) aren't there (C) aren't they (D) are there

4. There were many mistakes in your dictation, ___?

(A) weren't they (B) aren't there (C) weren't there (D) aren't they

5. The winter hasn't been cold,

(A) Does it? (B) Doesn't it? (C) Has it? (D) Hasn't it?

Micro test 2

A	B	Answer
1. He is coming tonight,	aren't you?	
2. You wouldn't report me,	isn't she?	
3. You are coming with us,	won't he?	
4. Reena is leaving tonight,	isn't he?	
5. He knows it's true,	weren't you?	
6. He will be coming,	would you?	
7. You were there at the party,	doesn't he?	

Micro test 3

I. Choose the suitable question tag.

1. He speaks English well,

(A) Do he? (B) Don't he? (C) Does he? (D) Doesn't he?

2. He has a lot of books,

(A) Has he? (B) Hasn't he? (C) Does he? (D) Doesn't he?

3. We became good students,

(A) Do we? (B) Don't we? (C) Did we? (D) Didn't we?

4. John drinks too much,

(A) Is he? (B) Isn't he? (C) Does he? (D) Doesn't he?

5. He has travelled a lot,

(A) Does he? (B) Doesn't he? (C) Has he? (D) Hasn't he?