



Worksheet No. ()

Name :

Subject:

Question tags

Class:

Eight

Date:

Question tags

A tag question is a special construction in English. It is a statement followed by a mini-question. We use tag questions to ask for confirmation. They mean something like: "Is that right?" or "Do you agree?"

Question tags are the short questions that we put on the end of sentences – particularly in spoken English. There are lots of different question tags but the rules are not difficult to learn.

Positive/negative

***If the main part of the sentence is positive, the question tag is negative**

e.g. He's a doctor, isn't he?

You work in a bank, don't you?

***If the main part of the sentence is negative, the question tag is positive.**

e.g. You haven't met him, have you?

She isn't coming, is she?

***With auxiliary verbs**

The question tag uses the same verb as the main part of the sentence. If this is an auxiliary verb ('have', 'be') then the question tag is made with the auxiliary verb.

e.g. They've gone away for a few days, haven't they?

They weren't here, were they?

He had met him before, hadn't he?

This isn't working, is it?

***Without auxiliary verbs**

If the main part of the sentence doesn't have an auxiliary verb, the question tag uses an appropriate form of 'do'.

e.g. I said that, didn't I?

You don't recognise me, do you?

She eats meat, doesn't she?

***With modal verbs**

If there is a modal verb in the main part of the sentence the question tag uses the same modal verb.

e.g. They couldn't hear me, could they?

You won't tell anyone, will you?

***With 'I am'**

Be careful with question tags with sentences that start 'I am'. The question tag for 'I am' is 'aren't I?'

e.g. I'm the fastest, aren't I?

***suggestions**

After a sentence with Let's... we use "shall we?"

e.g. Let's go out for a walk, shall we?

Let's study tomorrow morning, shall we?

***imperatives**

After an imperative we use "will you?" (always affirmative). We can consider "will you?" as an equivalent to "please" (more or less)

e.g. Open the door, will you?

Don't smoke in this room, will you?

Come to my party, will you?

Have a coffee, will you?

Don't look at me like that, will you?

***We use an affirmative tag question after a sentence containing a negative word such as never, hardly, seldom, rarely, nobody.**

e.g. Nobody lives in this house, do they? You've never liked me, have you?

Exercises

Exercise 1. Choose the correct tag question to complete each sentence.

1. I'm right,?

am I aren't I amn't I

2. Shut up,?

will you can't you can you

3. Don't forget,

won't you can you will you

4. Let's go for a walk,?

should we shall we can we

5. You never say what you are going,?

do you don't you did you

6. There is little we can do about it,?

is there isn't there has there

7. Somebody wanted a pizza,?

did they didn't they hadn't they

8. He has a daughter,?

hasn't he does he doesn't he

9. There weren't any issues,?

were there weren't there were they

10. Ravi wants to be an actor,?

does he doesn't he hasn't he

11. Julia visited you yesterday,?

did she didn't she doesn't she

2. Complete with the correct tag question.

1. She looks very pretty,?

2. He doesn't smoke,?

3. They are very fond of each other,?

4. George can't speak German,?

5. Someone must clean this mess ,?

6. She can swim very well,.....?

7. You hadn't done the homework,.....?

8. They won't understand,.....?

9. You had a very busy day yesterday,.....?

10. Let's go shopping,.....shall we.....?

11. Stop giving me advice,?

12. Pass me the salt,?

13. Nobody has agreed on that question,?

14. Harvey lives in Paris,?

15. This is a new book,?
16. She is collecting stickers,?
17. We often watch TV in the afternoon,?
18. You have cleaned your bike,?
19. John and Max like maths,?
20. Peter plays handball ,?
21. They are going home from school,?
22. Mary didn't do her homework last Monday,?
23. Martha bought a new car,?
24. Kevin will come tonight,?
25. I'm clever,?
26. I am not clever,?
27. You have a car,?
28. You have finished,?
29. The drivers mustn't park here,?
30. Tom should be more careful,?

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Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today