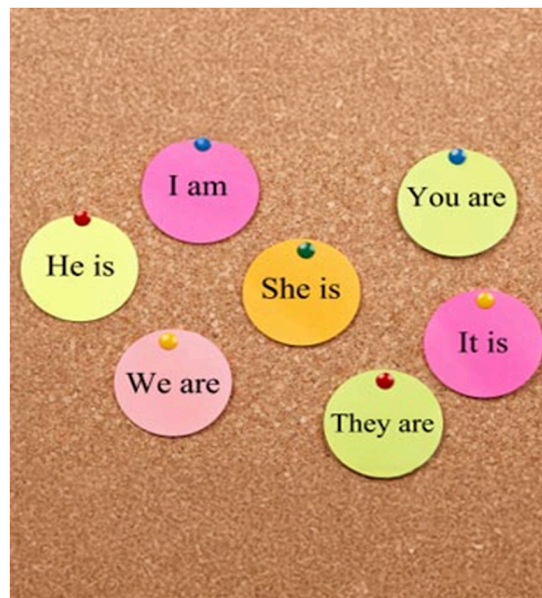


# English Grammar

## STUDY NOTES

### Question tags (I)



## Question Tags I

- **Question tags** are short phrases added to the **end** of a statement to turn it into a question.
- They are used to confirm **information**, seek **agreement**, or express **surprise**.
- They are used only in conversation and in letters.
- Though tags nominally ask the opinion of the person to whom they are addressed.

### The basic structure of a question tag follows the following rules:

- A positive sentence is followed by a negative question tag.

**Example:**

He is coming to the party, isn't he?

(Positive statement → Negative question tag)

- A negative sentence is followed by a positive question tag.

**Example:**

You aren't going to school today, are you?

(Negative statement → Positive question tag)

### **Important rules of question tags:**

1. In question tags, only pronouns are used.
2. Pronouns should be used according to the subject.
3. The question tag does not repeat main verbs; Instead, auxiliary verbs, according to the tense of the sentence, are used.
4. In negative question tags, a contracted form of helping verbs is used.

### Contracted forms of auxiliary verbs + not

Helping Verb	Contraction	Examples
am not	aren't I?	
is not	isn't	She is not → She isn't
are not	aren't	They are not → They aren't
was not	wasn't	He was not → He wasn't

were not	weren't	You were not → You weren't
have not	haven't	We have not → We haven't
has not	hasn't	He has not → He hasn't
had not	hadn't	I had not → I hadn't?
will not	won't	I will not → I won't
would not	wouldn't	She would not → She wouldn't
shall not	shan't	We shall not → We shan't
should not	shan't	He should not → He shouldn't
can not	can't	You cannot → You can't
could not	couldn't	He could not → He couldn't
may not	mayn't (not preferable)	
might not	mightn't	He might not → He mightn't
must not	mustn't	You must not → You mustn't
do not	don't	I do not → I don't
does not	doesn't	She does not → She doesn't
did not	didn't	They did not → They didn't
dare not	daren't	You dare not - You daren't
need not	needn't	I need not - I needn't
used not	usedn't	He used not - He usedn't

- **A negative statement means any negative word in the sentence, like “no, nothing, never, not, none”.**

- a. For question tag, a negative sentence means a sentence having any part negative that is subject, object, or work.

Example

He did not see anyone, did he?

You go nowhere these days, do you?

- **Semi-negative words**

1. These words are considered negative words: little, few, hardly, scarcely, rarely, seldom.
2. These sentences are followed by a positive tag.

Example

They seldom play cricket, do they?

Few people pay the tax honestly, do they?

Little progress has been made, has it?

- **“A few, a little” are positive words; therefore, they are followed by a negative tag.**

Example

**A little** exercise every day will make you healthy, won't it?

**A few** students attend the classes regularly, don't they?

- **If a sentence has a noun as a subject, then a suitable pronoun should be used in the question tag for that noun**

Example

Ramesh is an army officer, isn't he?

Priyanka Chopra is a beautiful actress, isn't she?

- **“Everyone, everybody, no one, none, each, every, etc.” are in singular form; they are used with singular verbs and singular pronouns. But in question tag, they are considered plural form.**

Example

Incorrect: Everyone has come, hasn't he?

Correct: Everyone has come, haven't they?

Incorrect: Everybody can speak English, can't he?

Correct: Everyone can speak English, can't they?

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