

16

Question tags

We've planned to save more money first, **haven't we?** Also, your skin gets dark easily in the sunshine, **doesn't it?** Then you won't be happy, **will you?**

Easy Travel

Maldives is a good place for our honeymoon, **isn't it?** There aren't too many people also, **are there?** Let's go there, **shall we?**



Usage

We can change a statement into a question by adding a question tag to the end of it. Question tags are usually used in speaking and informal writing. We use question tags:

1. to check if something is true.

e.g. You are Jackie Chan, **aren't you?**

e.g. There isn't anything to eat, **is there?**



2. to seek agreement.

e.g. Jamie is a bit short, **isn't he?**

e.g. That hat doesn't look good, **does it?**



Educator's Tips

We can only use question tags after **statements**, but not questions.

✗ Is the bag heavy, isn't it?

✓ The bag is heavy, isn't it?





Part 1 Form

We need to do the following changes when adding a question tag to a statement:

Step	Statement	Question Tag
1. Put a negative question tag after a positive statement, or put a positive question tag after a negative statement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The story <u>is</u> frightening, Ken <u>doesn't</u> like Barbie, 	<p>isn't it?</p> <p>does he?</p>
2. Use the same auxiliary verb (e.g. verb <i>to be</i> , verb <i>to do</i> , <i>can</i> , <i>will</i> and <i>have</i>) of the statement in the question tag, or use verb to do (<i>do / does / did</i>) in the question tag when there is no auxiliary verb in the statement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dog <u>is</u> eating the bone, Jack <u>doesn't</u> like football, She <u>can't</u> live without her husband, We <u>won't</u> eat on the train, You <u>have</u> seen a firefly before, The kids <u>like</u> the gifts, Mr Tam <u>teaches</u> class 2B, Juliet <u>cried</u> at the wedding party, 	<p>isn't it?</p> <p>does he?</p> <p>can she?</p> <p>will we?</p> <p>haven't you?</p> <p>don't they?</p> <p>doesn't he?</p> <p>didn't she?</p>
3. Use the same tense of the statement in the question tag.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The children <u>weren't</u> sleeping, We <u>will</u> be fine, 	<p>were they?</p> <p>won't we?</p>
4. Use pronouns in the question tag.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Mario</u> is kind and brave, 	<p>isn't he?</p>

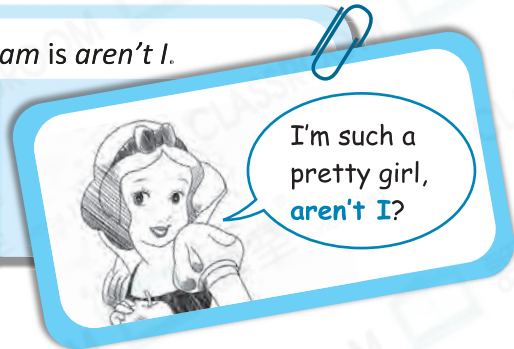


Educator's Tips

Remember, the negative question tag for *I am* is *aren't I*.

✗ I am clever enough to be the president, amn't I?

✓ I am clever enough to be the president, aren't I?



Exercise 1

Correct the underlined mistakes by writing the correct words in the spaces provided.

- Rex can hold his breath underwater for two minutes, can he? 1. _____
- The ice cream will not melt in the fridge, is it? 2. _____
- Jade scored full marks in the test, wasn't she? 3. _____
- I am going to win the singing competition, amn't I? 4. _____
- Bonnie and Brad are twins, isn't he? 5. _____
- You have two Persian cats at home, haven't you? 6. _____





Part 2 There, This / That, These / Those & Let's

We can also add question tags to statements that begin with *there, this, that, these, those* and *let's*. We add question tags to these kinds of statements as follows:

Statements with	Question tag	Example
There	verb + there	<u>There</u> isn't any food in the basket, is there?
This / That	verb + it	<u>This / That</u> is the best pastry shop in town, isn't it?
These / Those	verb + they	<u>These / Those</u> aren't your books, are they?
Let's	shall we	<u>Let's</u> go surfing, shall we?

Exercise 2.1

Underline the correct words in brackets.

- These vases are fragile, (aren't these / aren't they)?
- This isn't my fault, (is this / is it)? I think they shouldn't blame me.
- A: Look! That is a really beautiful bird, (isn't that / isn't it)?
B: Let's take a photo of it, (shall we / shall not we)?
- There was a car accident in Central this morning, (wasn't there / wasn't it)? I saw it on TV. Those victims weren't injured badly, (were those / were they)?



Exercise 2.2

Fill in the blanks with the correct question tags.

- Babies cannot eat French fries, _____?
- Mr Kwong always finishes his work on time, _____?
- You have met a film star before, _____?
- Sarah went to the coffee shop yesterday, _____?
- Joey: That's your school bag, _____? You left it in the classroom.
Ross: No, it isn't. I'm not that careless, _____?



Theme: Technology
Text Type: Conversation

Unit Recap

Carmen and Paul are discussing the pros and cons of online shopping. Complete their conversation with the correct question tags.

This pair of boots looks very good, (1) doesn't it? I want to buy them!

You're not going to buy them online though, (2) _____? Those online shops aren't **reliable**, (3) _____?

I guess you haven't tried it before, (4) _____? You can buy many things at home easily and they'll be posted to you in a few days. It's very convenient, (5) _____?

But you can't see the real products before you buy them, (6) _____? How do you make sure that their quality is good?

I usually read the comments of other buyers to find out about the quality of the products before I buy them. Besides, the prices of goods on online shops are really attractive, (7) _____?

Yes, you're right. But you won't pay by credit card, (8) _____? There were people stealing others' credit card information to buy things, (9) _____?

Don't worry. We can always shop on more **reputable** sites, (10) _____? I'm buying this pair of boots!

Hang on! You already have a similar pair of boots, (11) _____? Besides, there isn't any space in your closet for another pair, (12) _____? Let's stop buying so many things, (13) _____?



Vocabulary:

reliable (adj.): someone or something that can be trusted
reputable (adj.): receiving good opinion and respect from others