

Unit 12: TAG QUESTIONS

We can use tag questions in speaking, and sometimes in writing, at the end of a sentence. We use only the first auxiliary verb—the same as with short answers (Unit 11).

Affirmative sentences

With **AFFIRMATIVE SENTENCES (+)** use a **NEGATIVE TAG (-)**.

He was at work yesterday,	wasn't he?
She has been sick lately,	hasn't she?
We should meet later,	shouldn't we?

With one-word verb formations, use the correct form of the verb **do** (Unit 15):

You like working here,	don't you? NOT <i>liken't</i> you?
He studies hard,	doesn't he?
They went yesterday,	didn't they?

Negative sentences

With **NEGATIVE SENTENCES (-)** use an **AFFIRMATIVE TAG (+)**.

John is not an a pharmacist,	is he?
You don't like exercising,	do you? NOT <i>like</i> you?
She hasn't been taking her medicine,	has she?
The students couldn't do the test,	could they?

Using tag questions

a TO CHECK SOMETHING

You play hockey, **don't** you?
Mina doesn't like milk, **does** she?

b WHEN YOU WANT SOMEONE TO DO SOMETHING

It's a lovely day, **isn't** it? I want you to agree.
You're a doctor, **aren't** you? I want medical advice.

c TO SHOW SURPRISE (WITH NEGATIVE STATEMENTS ONLY)

You don't play hockey, **do** you?
I have just learnt that you play hockey, but this surprises me.