

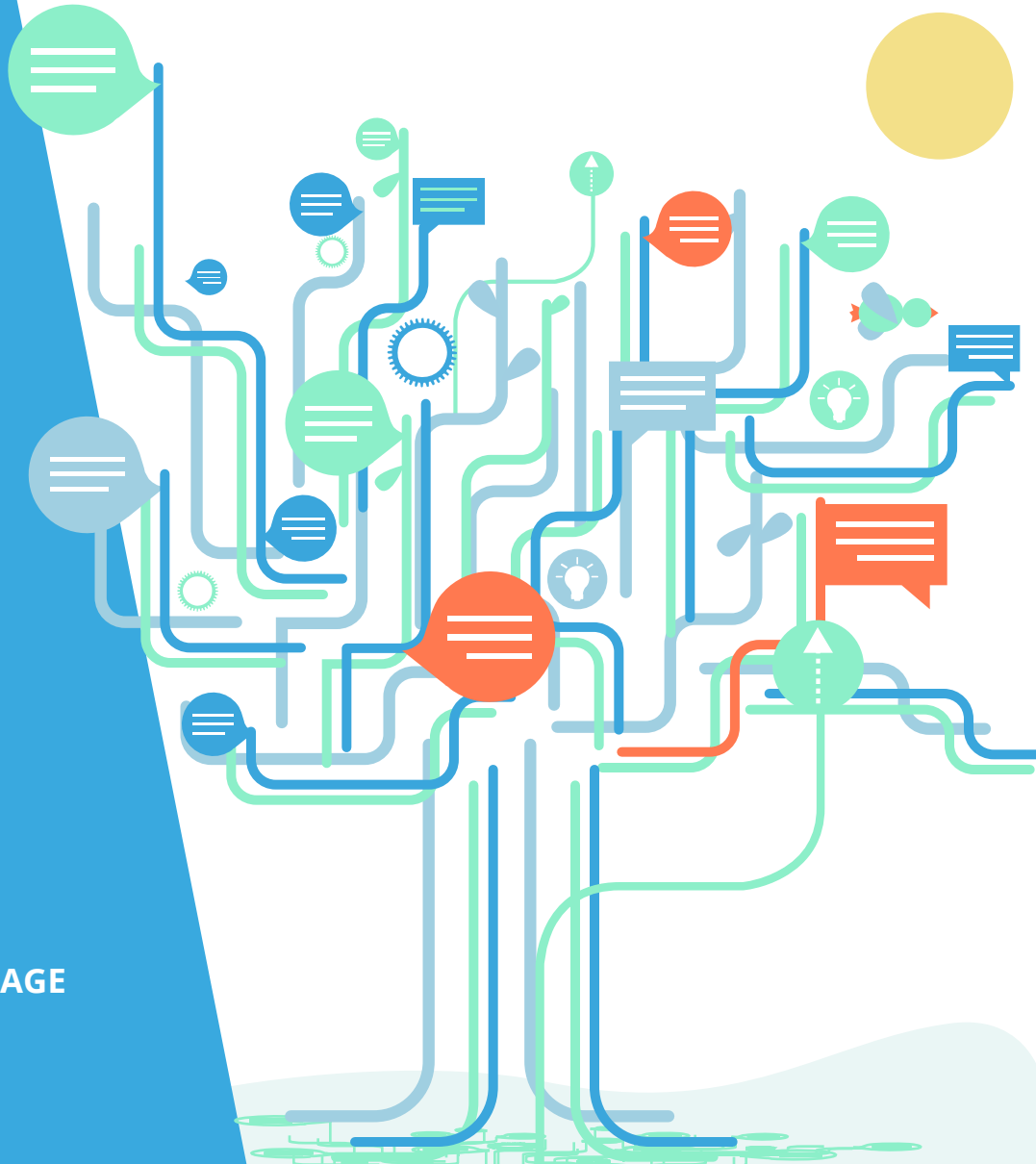
# Question tags

COMMUNICATION

LEVEL  
Beginner

NUMBER  
A2\_2032X\_EN

LANGUAGE  
English





## Goals

- Can select the right question tag for a range of sentences.
- Can use question tags to ask follow-up questions in a simple conversation.



You like pizza, **don't you?**  
Yes, I do. It's good, **isn't it?**  
Yes, it is. You don't want to have some  
tonight, **do you?**  
Yes, of course, I do! Let's go!



## Question tags

- What do you already know about question tags? Tell your teacher!



It's such a beautiful autumn day, isn't it?



## Review contractions

- Remember: we often contract **to be** and **not**.
- We use the apostrophe (') to show where the missing letter goes.
- Sometimes there are more changes than just leaving out a letter, like in **will not = won't**.

tense	singular	plural
present	is not = <b>isn't</b>	are not = <b>aren't</b>
past	was not = <b>wasn't</b>	were not = <b>weren't</b>
future	will not = <b>won't</b>	will not = <b>won't</b>



## Review contractions

- **Remember:** there are some other verbs we contract when we use **not**.

tense	singular	plural
present	has not = <b>hasn't</b>	have not = <b>haven't</b>
present	does not = <b>doesn't</b>	do not = <b>don't</b>
past	did not = <b>didn't</b>	did not = <b>didn't</b>





## Match the contractions

1. is not

2. are not

3. was not

4. were not

5. does not

6. will not

7. have not

a. aren't

b. won't

c. isn't

d. haven't

e. weren't

f. wasn't

g. doesn't



## Practise pronouncing these contractions

A

isn't  
wasn't  
doesn't  
hasn't

B

aren't  
weren't

C

don't  
won't

D

didn't  
haven't





## Review question types

- Remember: we have many ways to ask questions in English.
  - When we ask **yes/no** questions, we don't know if something is true or not.
  - When we ask **wh-** questions, we are looking for specific information.
  - When we ask **question tags**, we think we know the answer, and we want to confirm that we are correct.

question type	question	answer
yes/no questions	Are you a teacher?	Yes.
wh- questions	What is your job?	I am a teacher.
question tags	You're a teacher, aren't you?	Yes, I am.



## Question tags

- Start with a positive statement, and then add a negative question tag.
- Use the same auxiliary verb for the question tag as the statement, but change the word order.
- Use the same pronoun.
- Use the same verb tense.

positive statement	question tag
<b>You are</b> a teacher,	<b>aren't you?</b>
<b>He is</b> the older brother,	<b>isn't he?</b>
<b>She was</b> born in Austria,	<b>wasn't she?</b>
<b>We were</b> late for the meeting,	<b>weren't we?</b>
<b>They will</b> eat dinner at home,	<b>won't they?</b>



## Question tags with *to do*

- If there is no auxiliary verb, and the main verb is not *be*, use **to do** for the question tag.
  - Use the same pronoun.
  - Use the same verb tense.

positive statement	question tag
You <b>work</b> in an office,	<b>don't you?</b>
He <b>knows</b> your older brother,	<b>doesn't he?</b>
She <b>grew up</b> in Austria,	<b>didn't she?</b>
We <b>started</b> the meeting late,	<b>didn't we?</b>
They <b>ate</b> dinner at home,	<b>didn't they?</b>



## Question tags with /



- There is no common contraction for **am not**, so in question tags we use **aren't I**.

positive statement	question tag
I'm here,	aren't I?
I'm your neighbour,	aren't I?
I'm funny,	aren't I?





## Choose the correct question tag for each positive statement

1. He is a good cook, ...

**a. doesn't he?**

**b. isn't he?**

**c. isn't she?**

**d. wasn't he?**

2. They were watching a movie earlier, ...

**a. didn't they?**

**b. aren't they?**

**c. weren't they?**

**d. wasn't they?**

3. We will go skiing before we go to bed, ...

**a. won't we?**

**b. don't we?**

**c. aren't we?**

**d. won't they?**

4. You need a new winter coat, ...

**a. aren't you?**

**b. won't you?**

**c. doesn't you?**

**d. don't you?**



## Add the correct question tag at the end of each positive statement

1. I was late for that meeting,

→ **wasn't I?**

2. I am late for this meeting,

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. You are coming for dinner,

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. We were in the wrong office,

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. They will like this movie,

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. He eats breakfast before work every day,

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. She ate breakfast before work today,

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. It usually rains a lot in the summer,

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Make your own question tags

Look at the photos below, and imagine a sentence and question tag for each photo.



think



imagine



## Question tags with negative statements

- We can also use question tags to confirm something we think is not true.
- For this form, start with a negative statement, and then add a positive question tag.
- Use the same auxiliary verb for the question tag as the statement, with the same pronoun and tense.

negative statement	question tag
You aren't a teacher,	are you?
We don't want to watch a movie,	do we?
She wasn't born in Austria,	was she?
He didn't see your older brother,	did he?
They won't eat dinner at home,	will they?





## Question tags with /



- With negative statements, there is no problem using **am I?** as the question tag. It's not an exception like using **aren't I?** with positive statements.

negative statement	question tag
I'm not there yet,	am I?
I'm not your manager,	am I?
I'm not wrong,	am I?





## Question tags with *to have*



- question tags with **to have** can be tricky.
- If **to have** is used to show possession, then we use **to do** as the auxiliary verb in the question tag.
- If **to have** is used as the auxiliary verb in the positive or negative statement, for example in the present perfect tense, then we use **to have** as the auxiliary verb in the question tag.

positive or negative statement	question tag
We <b>have</b> two cats,	<b>don't</b> we?
We <b>have</b> watched this movie before,	<b>haven't</b> we?
We don't <b>have</b> any milk for breakfast,	<b>do</b> we?
We <b>haven't</b> been to Austria before,	<b>have</b> we?



## Pronouns in question tags

- We substitute any noun in the positive or negative statement with a pronoun in the question tag.

positive or negative statement	question tag
<b>John</b> is a great teacher,	isn't <b>he</b> ?
<b>Amelia</b> wasn't born in Austria,	was <b>she</b> ?
<b>Amy and Susan</b> don't want to come,	do <b>they</b> ?
<b>Today</b> will be the best day ever,	won't <b>it</b> ?
<b>Summer days</b> tend to be warm,	don't <b>they</b> ?



## Answering question tags

- When we answer a question tag, we confirm (or deny) the original statement.
- To avoid confusion, **yes** or **no** can be followed by the pronoun and auxiliary verb.

question tag	→	answer
You're a teacher, aren't you?	→	Yes, I am.
You're a teacher, aren't you?	→	No, I am not.
You're not a teacher, are you?	→	Yes, I am.
You're not a teacher, are you?	→	No, I'm not.
John will be a teacher when he graduates, won't he?	→	Yes, he will.



## Match the correct question tag to each positive or negative statement

1. Today is a beautiful day,

a. will it?

2. Tomorrow won't be as nice,

b. doesn't he?

3. These summer days are so warm,

d. has it?

4. The kids don't have enough sunscreen,

c. wasn't she?

5. Summer hasn't been this warm in years,

e. isn't it?

6. Susie was born in the summer,

f. do they?

7. John much prefers winter,

g. aren't they?



## Fill in the gaps



You've seen this movie before, \_\_\_\_\_?

You haven't eaten dinner yet, \_\_\_\_\_?

No, actually, \_\_\_\_\_! You're surprised,  
\_\_\_\_\_?

Yes, \_\_\_\_\_, but I want to watch it again with you.

No, \_\_\_\_\_. You want to go to that new Mexican restaurant, \_\_\_\_\_?

Yes, \_\_\_\_\_. I thought you always want to eat there. Let's go eat at the Italian restaurant instead!



Add the correct question tag to each statement

You haven't seen this  
movie yet,

We don't want to  
play golf in the  
rain,

John and Susie are  
brother and sister,

Amelia has two  
sons,

This winter won't  
be any colder than  
last winter was,

Kate lived in  
Austria before  
moving here,

Tomorrow will be  
much warmer than  
today,

Last winter, the  
days were cold and  
dark,

I'm not eating  
lunch with you,

I'm in the wrong room,



## What do you think about famous people?

Tom Cruise is a very handsome man, isn't he?

Think of a famous person and make a positive or negative statement about that person that you think is true. Then make add a question tag. Have your teacher or classmate answer the question. Keep going with different famous people, taking turns asking and answering.

No, he's not. He's a good actor, though, isn't he?





## Practise question tags

Now think again about the celebrity you were talking about before. You are going to make a sentence with a question tag using the words below. You can be as inventive and silly as you like!



apples

spiders

holiday

brothers

beer

swimming pool

policeman



## Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

no




## Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson.  
What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



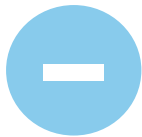
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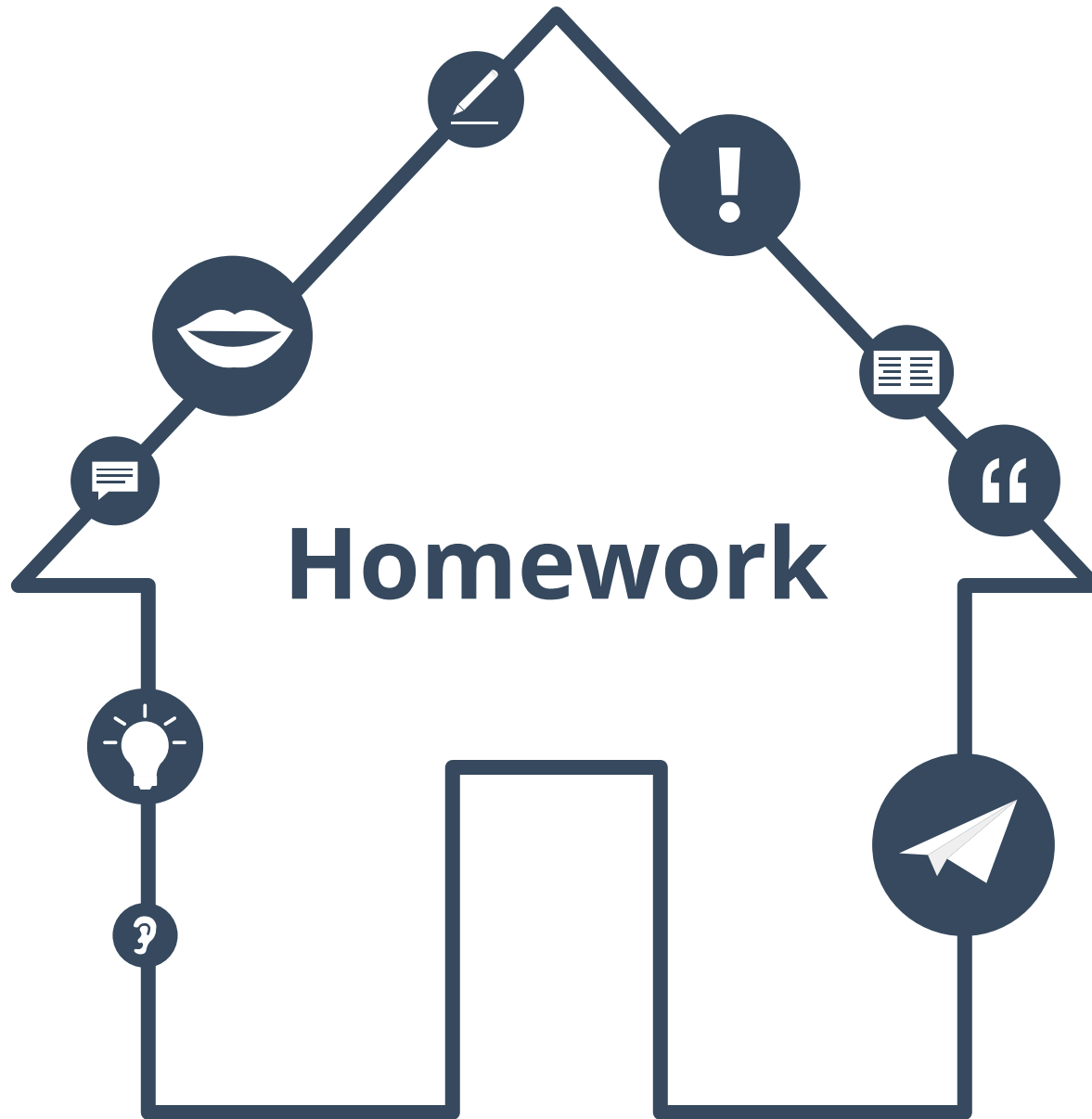
If you have time, go over  
the most difficult slides again





## Answer key

- Exercise p. 7:** 1. d 2. a 3. f 4. e 5. g 6. b 7. c
- Exercise p. 13:** 1. b 2. c 3. a 4. d
- Exercise p. 14:** 2. aren't 3. aren't you? 4. weren't we? 5. won't they? 6. doesn't he? 7. didn't she? 8. doesn't it?
- Exercise p. 21:** 1. e 2. a 3. g 4. f 5. d 6. c 7. b
- Exercise p. 22:** haven't you?, I have, have you?, I haven't, don't you?, I don't, aren't you?, I am.
- Exercise p. 23:** You haven't seen this movie yet, have you? John and Susie are brother and sister, aren't they? Amelia has two sons, doesn't she? Kate lived in Austria before moving here, didn't she? Last winter, the days were cold and dark, weren't they? I'm in the wrong room, aren't I? I'm not eating lunch with you, am I? Tomorrow will be much warmer than today, won't it? This winter won't be any colder than last winter was, will it? We don't want to play golf in the rain, do we?





## Fill in the gaps

1. That question is easy, ...
2. We'll have a test tomorrow, ...
3. He left early, ...
4. She has visited Paris before, ...
5. I'm going to be late, ...
6. You're not eating breakfast now, ...
7. That didn't go well, ...
8. We haven't seen the doctor yet, ...
9. It doesn't look like rain, ...

have we?

are you?

hasn't she?

won't we?

isn't it?

didn't he?

aren't I?

did it?

does it?



## Write tag questions

**Write 5 tag questions for positive statements on List 1 and 5 tag questions for negative statements on List 2.**

List 1: \_\_\_\_\_

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List 2: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Make flashcards

**Make flashcards out of paper, and copy down four rules for question tags from this lesson that are hard for you.**







## Sentences in the third person plural

**Choose five example sentences from this lesson.  
Copy them and rewrite them about  
a group of people (or using the pronoun *them*).**



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Examples:

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She is a doctor, isn't she?

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→ Hannah and James are doctors, aren't they?

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He spoke English and French, didn't he?

---



→ They spoke English and French, didn't they?

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...

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## Homework answer key

**Exercise p. 30:** 1. isn't it? 2. won't we? 3. didn't he? 4. hasn't she? 5. aren't? 6. are you? 7. did it? 8. have we? 9. does it?

