

VB035: Question tags

Seminar VIII



1. You have a best friend, _____ you?
2. You had a best friend at school, _____ you?
3. That's just the way life is, _____ it?
4. You can't keep in touch with everybody, _____ you?

A) We usually put negative question tags after affirmative sentences and affirmative tags after negative sentences.

B) If the main sentence has an auxiliary verb, e.g. *is*, *can*, etc., this is repeated in the question tag.

C) If the main sentence has no auxiliary, the question tag is a form of the verb *do*.

Read the interview below between Simon and his boss, Jo. Three of the question tags are incorrect. Find and correct them.

Jo: So, Simon, you've been with the company for nearly a year, aren't you?

Simon: Yes, that's right.

Jo: You worked for Thomson International before then, didn't you?

Simon: Yes, for five years.

Jo: And you feel happy here now, don't you?

Simon: Absolutely, it's a great job and everyone's been really friendly.

Jo: Now, you're clear about your targets for this year, isn't you?

Simon: Yes, I think so. We have to increase last year sales by 15 %, don't we?

Jo: That's right. If that happens then everyone gets a 20 % bonus which everyone will be very happy about, won't they?

Simon: Definitely.

Jo: Now, on the subject of your punctuality. That hasn't been particularly good, was it?

Simon: Ah yes, now I can explain that . . .

1. I'm too late, _____ I?
2. Help yourself to a coffee, _____ you?
3. Let's get a sandwich, _____ we?
4. You never go to the theatre, _____ you?
5. Nothing went wrong today, _____ ?
6. Nobody has complained, _____?

A. The question tag for I am is _____.

B. After imperatives we often use the question tag _____ to invite people to do things.

C. After Let's we use the question tag _____.

D. After negative words like never, no, hardly, etc. we use a positive/negative question tag.

E. After nothing we use it / they in question tags.

F. After nobody, no, never, etc. we use it / they in question tags.

A. The question tag for I am is *aren't I*.

I'm wrong, aren't I?

B. After imperatives we often use the question tag *won't you?* to invite people to do things.

Have a seat, won't you?

C. After Let's we use the question tag *shall we?*

Let's walk along the beach, shall we?

D. After negative words like never, no, hardly, etc. we use a *positive question tag*.

You never want to go to clubs, do you?

E. After nothing we use *it* in question tags.

Nothing happened, did it?

F. After nobody, no, never, etc. we use *they* in question tags.

Nobody wants to go out tonight, do they?

She's getting very tall, _____?

They don't seem to like their present, _____?

You haven't been waiting long, _____?

We can't leave the party early, _____?

Let's go and see a film, _____?

Do sit down, _____?

Nothing seems to be going right, _____?

I'm being a bit silly, _____?

The Perry Bible Fellowship



Top 5 Facts about B.O.



1. He won a Grammy Award in 2006 for Best Spoken Word Recording.

2. He hates ice-cream.

3. He loves playing scrabble.

3. He smokes but wants to quit.

5. He experimented with drugs.