



## Two old friends meet up again

### Activity

English has a system of tags which speakers can put at the end of what they say. For example:

You're French, *aren't you?*  
He's coming tonight, *is he?*

What do you think these tags are for? Make notes and/or discuss with a partner why you think speakers use tags. Are there other types of tags apart from the two types in the examples above?

### Speakers and setting

<S 01> male (40s)  
<S 02> male (40s)

Two old friends who haven't seen each other for a few years are 'catching up' with each other. They are in a village pub garden on an exceptionally hot summer's evening, talking about <S 01>'s children.

### Transcript

- 1 <S 01> Are you still playing er
- 2 <S 02> [Gui-tar
- 3 <S 01> Irish music, yeah
- 4 <S 02> No I don't play very much now, no, not at all
- 5 <S 01> [I thought you were finding the

- 6 country at one point
- 7 <S 02> [laughs] No, I er ... we go, we listen to it quite a lot, every time we go to Ireland we erm, you know, seek out good musicians and er do quite a lot of listening and of course we still buy a lot of records, bought a lot of records over the last few years, but erm, there's not actually anybody to play with around here, you know [<S 01> mm] there's a there's a session every Sunday night in Cambridge in a pub and that's erm about it ... do you still listen to Scottish music?
- 13 Ver ... since this pair have arrived [<S 02> mm] very very little, cos you just don't have the time, and with the new house, and with the garden [<S 02> Mm] occasionally I take fits of putting stuff on, not as much as before
- 17 They do I s'pose take up a lot of time, don't they kids?  
[They take up a lot
- 20 of, I mean, normally, you get, if you're lucky they're all tucked up in bed by eight-thirty [<S 02> mm] ... that's if you're lucky, and then er
- 21 Do they sleep all night without erm waking up, did they wake up last night, they didn't [<S 01> no] did they, no, [<S 02> no] didn't hear a thing
- 24 Jamie normally, you put him in his cot and he's ... he's gone
- 25 <S 01> [<S 02> mm] he sleeps he's very good at sleeping [<S 02> mm]
- 26 Thomas is a bit of a pain [<S 02> ah] all sorts of things frighten him, you know [<S 02> yeah] wakes up with nightmares and that
- 27 [<S 02> does he] yeah some nights we change beds about three or four times, he comes into our bed and there's not enough room and so I go into his bed and he comes back in so to my bed and his bed and chopping and changing
- 28 It's extraordinary to think they have had dreams, well, I suppose they dream of images they've seen during the day, probably dream of that bloomin' duck or something
- 29 Or it just might be a car, noisy car going past the window or something, wakes them up
- 30 Mm ... it's going to be hot tonight ... in bed, isn't it
- 31 Mm
- 32
- 33 <S 02>
- 34
- 35
- 36 <S 01>
- 37
- 38 <S 02>
- 39 <S 01>

- A 46 **IVÉA** ■  
 B 47 which he had for [ði] - **DIADŌMA** ■ - 48 the **IKÁIN** people ■  
 A 49 **ION** ■ -  
 B 50 and I suppose they're doing the same ones this **ΔΥΕΑΡ** ■ 51 and then you'd have a whole **ΕΒΕΝΙΝΓ** (beating **ON**) ■ - - - -  
 ? 52 «4 to 5 sylls» - - -  
 B 53 **INŌ** ■ 54 **ISESSIONS** ■ 55 **ISEVERAL** sessions ■ 56 on **MINOMINAL** \* **ΔΓΡΟΥΡ** of **SŌMETHING** ■ 57 «then» you can  
 A 58 \***IM** ■ \*  
 >B 57 **IPRICK** up 'til the **JARCON** ■ 59 and  
 A 60 **IVÉA** ■ - -  
 B 61 and then sort of **IGET** the hang of 'what they're **ATLAKING** about ■ 62 **II** should **ASK** him (if there are any **ISEMINARS** you **DOUGHT** to **GO** to ■)  
 A 63 **IVÉA** ■ -  
 B 64 he has a way of **AVANG** them at a **ADORTIBLE** **ATIME** ■  
 A 65 **IVÉA** ■ -  
 C 66 (- laughs) like **IFIVE** **FRATEEN** ■ 67 \*(laughs - -) \*  
 B 68 \*like **IFIVE** \* **FRATEEN** ■ 69 when you want to **GO** **HŌME** ■  
 C 70 (- - laughs)  
 B 71 **FOR** **FRÉN** [ŋe] «the [found] last **YÉAR** ■ 72 that that **IFIVE** **FRATEEN** one ■ -  
 C 73 **ICLASHED** ■ 74 with (they) **ISOME** of them had **PHŌNATICS** or **SŌMETHING** ■  
 A/C 75 «[mhm]» -  
 B 76 and he said **WÉLL** ■ - 77 'what about half past **SEVEN** ■  
 A/C 78 (- laughs)  
 >B 79 **IWHO** **CAN'T** manage ■ 80 [half past seven] ■ 81 and **ISOME**body **IMMIBLED** **ASUPPER** ■ 82 but (that) **IDONT** 't **WASH** ■  
 A 83 **IVÉS** ■  
 C 84 (- - laughs) - - -  
 B 85 and I went to **ADŌNE** of **THŌSE** ■ 86 it lasted till about nine **FRATEEN** ■  
 A 87 by (which) everybody was **ABSOLUTELY** \* ( - laughs) \*  
 88 \*( - laughs) \* - - - **IVÉS** ■ 89 well I may get **ASHARP** **REAPROOF** ■ 90 if I **ISYART** going to these things ■ 91 and said **IWÉLL** ■ 92 I can't come Monday or **ATUESDAY** evening ■ 93 **COS** - I **ISING** ■ 94 (- - \* - \* laughs)  
 B 95 \***INO** **QUITE** \* 96 «but I mean» I've **IALWAYS** **IED** ■ 97 (that sort of) **LIFE** ■  
 A, C 98 (- - laughs) - - -  
 A 99 (what in fact did you **ADŌ** ■ 100 if you (hadn't) done - [ɜ:m] - English since - - \***Ō**-**LEVELE** ■ \*

- B 101 \***IMATHS** and \* **PHYSICS** ■  
 A 102 «they're both» **ANALYTIC** ■  
 B 103 **IM** ■ - - - 104 but I've **IALWAYS** believed in having a sort of you **KNŌW** ■  
 - - - 105 **BEVENINGS** ■ 106 for (doing one's **DHŌBIERS** ■  
 A 107 **IVÉS** ■ - 108 **IWÉLL** ■ - 109 I (like to) **IDO** more than **ŌNE** ■ - 110 **FRTHING** ■  
 111 «in my **IFE**» ■ - - -  
 B 112 **II** **ADND** this group's pretty **ADÉICATED** ■ 113 and they sort of (work all \***DAY** \*  
 A 114 \***IVÉS** ■ \*  
 >B 113 and work all **ΔÉVENING** ■ 115 «well» **II** can't **STÁND** that ■  
 ? 116 **IM** ■ - - -  
 B 117 and (part you've got to stand **UP** to ■ 118 «**IMÁVEN'T** you») \*  
 A 119 **IVÉS** ■ 120 I've **ICŪTHERED** **THÁT** ■ 121 **ALREÁDY** ■ 122 \*( - laughs) \*  
 ? 123 \*( - laughs) \*  
 B 124 he's **IALWAYS** **II**'ve never had I **ADONT** suppose **AYŌU**'VE had any **TRŌUBLE** (have you) ■  
 C 125 (well) **ANŌ** ■ - 126 well (his manner **ADÉPÁLED** to me ■  
 A 127 **IM** ■  
 B 128 **IVÉS** ■ 129 \*(**II** \* **III**) \*  
 C 130 \*I can see that if you **ADŌN'T** ■ 131 \*(**IS**) \* (get **ION** with it) \* \*  
 B 132 \*(**YES**) **IQŪTE** ■ 133 **ISŌME** **PEŌPLE** \* \* 134 [em] **IBEVI** \* **MÁKTIN** (for **INSTÁNCE**) ■ \*  
 C 135 \*I should (think you either love him or \* **DHÁTE** \* \* him) \* \*  
 B 136 \* \* I \* \* (WORRIED her) **ATÉRRIBLY** ■ 137 + because +  
 C 138 + **IVÉS** +  
 >B 137 she used to (come in late in the **MŌRNING** ■ 139 and he'd say good **IMÁTERNOON** ■ 140 **IBÉRYL** ■ - 141 which (used to) make her **ADERTIBLY** **WŌRRIED** ■ 142 and if you're (going to) 'come \* in \* **LÁTE** ■  
 A 143 \* **IVÉS** \* 144 **IVÉS** ■ - 145 [k(1) syll] good evening + syll **SYLL** ■ 146 «5 to 6 sylls) +  
 B 147 + «(every) couple of **MŌNTHS** 2 sylls) + 148 [ə] he (used to) **ASAY** to **AGRÁCE** **ACTŪALLY** ■ 149 [ɜ:m] - **IVŌU** know **GRÁCE** -  
 150 \*( - - - phone ting) \*  
 B, C 151 \***IM** **SYLL** ■ 152 (5 to 6 sylls) **ILL** ■ \*  
 A 153 [ɜ: əj]  
 B 154 and he (used to) **SÁX** to her ■ (where have you **BÉEN** (if she was a (few minutes **LÁTE**) ■