

Educational material to learn English

# QUESTION TAGS

## WHAT ARE THEY?

The question tags are **grammatical elements that are placed at the end of a sentence** in the form of a short question, and whose structure is **opposed to the previous sentence**. That is, if a sentence is affirmative, the accompanying question tag will be negative, and vice versa. These phrases are equivalent to: right? Isn't that true? No? Isn't that right? really?

## HOW TO FORM THE QUESTION TAGS?

The two main rules for forming question tags are that **when a sentence is affirmative, the question is negative**. But, **if a sentence is negative, the question is positive**.

The **structures** of the question tags are as follows:

**Case 1: Affirmative sentence + negative question tag.**

### EXAMPLES:



-**She is** an artist, **isn't she?** (Ella es una artista, ¿verdad?)

-**They are** your school mates, **aren't they?** (Ellos son tus compañeros de escuela, ¿cierto?)

-**You are** the new employee, **aren't you?** (Tú eres el nuevo empleado, ¿no?)

**Case 2: Negative sentence + affirmative question tag**

### EXAMPLES:



-My wallet **isn't** here, **is it?** (Mi cartera no está aquí, ¿o sí?)

-He **doesn't** work here, **does he?** (Él no trabaja aquí, ¿no?)

-We **don't** drink wine, **do we?** (Nosotros no tomamos vino, ¿o sí?)

## IMPORTANCE OF AUXILIARY VERBS IN QUESTION TAGS

It is important to underline that **auxiliary verbs** are of great importance in the formation of this type of question. That is why we must pay attention to whether the auxiliary verb appears or not, in order to structure the question in the correct way.

-She **is** studying, **isn't** she? (Ella está estudiando, ¿no?)

-They **were** playing basketball, **weren't** they? (Ellos estaban jugando basquetbol, ¿no?)