

QUESTION TAGS



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Question tags are short questions that are asked at the end of a sentence, usually in spoken English. The question tags turn a statement into a question. They are frequently used to verify information that we believe to be correct. Tag questions are made using an auxiliary verb (e.g., am, is, are, have, was, has, should, could etc.) and a subject pronoun (e.g. you, they, she, it etc.)

Rules of Question Tags in English Grammar

Rule-1:

If the sentence starts with let us/ let's, we use "shall we" in the question.

For Example:

- Let us go to the party tonight, shall we?
- Let's meet at the pizza shop, shall we?

Rule- 2:

There is no contracted form of “am not”. We use aren’t in the question tag.

For Example:

- I am fine, aren’t I?
- I am right, aren’t I?

Rule-3:

In Imperative sentences, the question tag “won’t you” is used.

For Example:

- Come in, won’t you?
- Help me in solving the problem, won’t you?

Rule-4: Plural verbs and plural pronouns are used when discussing individual collective noun members or when there is disagreement among the members of the collective noun.

For Example:

- The jury are divided in their opinion, aren’t they?
- The audience have taken their seats, haven’t they?

Rule-5:

Since each, every, everyone, everyone, no one, nobody, and none are singular words, they must be accompanied by singular verbs, singular pronouns, and singular adjectives; however, the words in their question tag must be in the plural for both the verb.

For Example:

- Everyone has left, haven't they?
- None of your friends like me, do they?

Rule-6:

Singular pronouns and singular verbs are used with collective nouns in question tags.

For Example:

- The committee was organizing the programme, wasn't it?

Rule-7:

Always create a question tag in line with the main part of the statement.

For Example:

- I think, he is here, isn't he?
(It is not the primary part of the statement because “I think” is not significant in this context. “he is here” is the fact that needs to be checked or verified)

Rule-8:

“There” will be used for the pronoun in the question tag if the sentence’s first word is “there.”

For Example:

- There is no water, is there?
- There were no good schools in the town, were there?

Rule-9:

Some words are negative in meaning. e.g., hardly, seldom, scarcely, rarely, barely etc. They will therefore use the affirmative question tag.

For Example:

- He hardly ate anything for days, did he?
- He found barely anything to do, did he?
- He is seldom angry, is he?

Rule-10:

“Will you/would you” is used in the question tag when someone is being offered something in an imperative statement or when they are being asked to do something.

For Example:

- shut the door, would you?
- Have some more tea, would you?

Rule-11:

In some cases, the sentence is lacking an auxiliary verb. The verb given in the sentence could be either in present simple or past simple (and is positive). We use don't, doesn't or didn't (as per the tense used in the sentence).

For Example:

- Rita eats cake, doesn't she?
- Rahul hides everything from us, doesn't he?

EXERCISE 1:

Add suitable question tags:

1. Shahina *is* the new lead.
2. They *have confirmed*.
3. Tharun and Varun *are* on their way to the airport.
4. Her father *is* a doctor.
5. The baby elephant that fell into the well *was rescued* by the locals.
6. Arranging transport and accommodation for the guests *had been* their first priority.
7. You *like* cookies.
8. *Bring* me some tissue papers.
9. They *bought* a new LED television.
10. You *have been looking for* an apartment.

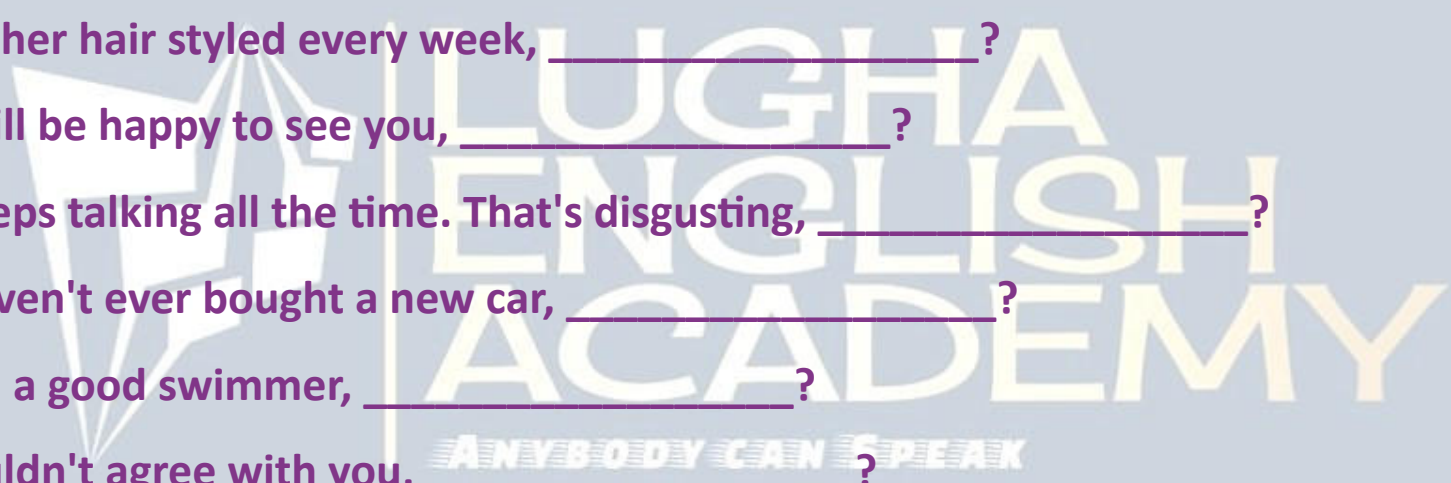
Exercise 2:

Add suitable question tags:

1. Ritu and Brinha *were not* the best of friends from the start.
2. Sheena *will not be attending* the ceremony.
3. She *would not have done* that.
4. They *have not arrived* yet.
5. Buying a new car when you already had a loan *wasn't* a good idea.
6. Making small talk *isn't* your forte.
7. Balu, the bear *isn't* the one that saves Mowgli from the monkeys.
8. All students *have not submitted* their assignments yet.
9. Tina *had not informed* the others about the change of venue.

EXERCISE 3:

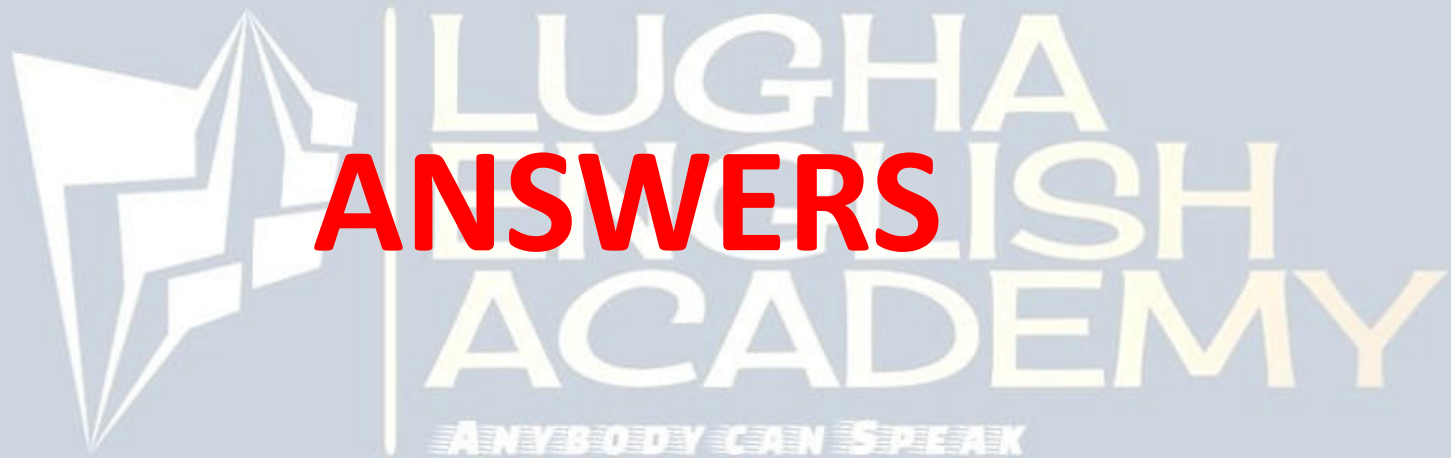
- 1. You're addicted to shopping, _____?
- 2. They weren't part of the regular team, _____?
- 3. You can't give it back to the owner, _____?
- 4. Let's take a day off tomorrow, _____?
- 5. She has her hair styled every week, _____?
- 6. Mum will be happy to see you, _____?
- 7. John keeps talking all the time. That's disgusting, _____?
- 8. They haven't ever bought a new car, _____?
- 9. I'm such a good swimmer, _____?
- 10. He wouldn't agree with you, _____?
- 11. There's really nothing more to say, _____?
- 12. I shouldn't criticise the teacher, _____?
- 13. Please pass me the sugar, _____?
- 14. You mustn't play on the freshly cut grass, _____?
- 15. You don't want him to come with us, _____?



EXERCISE 4:

Add suitable Question Tags:

1. You must be there by 11:30 a.m., _____
2. Gowri is not present today, _____
3. The teacher had asked you to submit an address proof, _____
4. He is the prime suspect, _____
5. Harini and Gowtham were not here, _____
6. Get me the duster, _____
7. I don't think your sister will be pleased to see this, _____
8. You will have waited for me, _____
9. They brought a bottle of wine when they came, _____
10. Dom and Andrea have a baby girl, _____



EXERCISE 1:

Positive Statements with Negative Question Tags

1. Shahina *is* the new lead, *isn't she?*
2. They *have confirmed*, *haven't they?*
3. Tharun and Varun *are* on their way to the airport, *aren't they?*
4. Her father *is* a doctor, *isn't he?*
5. The baby elephant that fell into the well *was rescued* by the locals, *wasn't it?*
6. Arranging transport and accommodation for the guests *had been* their first priority, *hadn't it?*
7. You *like* cookies, *don't you?*
8. *Bring* me some tissue papers, *will you?*
9. They *bought* a new LED television, *didn't they?*
10. You *have been looking for* an apartment, *haven't you?*

Exercise 2:

Add suitable question tags:

1. Ritu and Brinha *were not* the best of friends from the start, *were they?*
2. Sheena *will not be attending* the ceremony, *will she?*
3. She *would not have done* that, *would she?*
4. They *have not arrived* yet, *have they?*
5. Buying a new car when you already had a loan *wasn't* a good idea, *was it?*
6. Making small talk *isn't* your forte, *is it?*
7. Balu, the bear *isn't* the one that saves Mowgli from the monkeys, *is it?*
8. All students *have not submitted* their assignments yet, *have*

EXERCISE 3:

1. You're addicted to shopping, aren't you?
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10. Dom and Andrea have a baby girl, don't they?