

Unit 12: TAG QUESTIONS

We can use tag questions in speaking, and sometimes in writing, at the end of a sentence. We use only the first auxiliary verb—the same as with short answers (Unit 11).

Affirmative sentences

With **AFFIRMATIVE SENTENCES (+)** use a **NEGATIVE TAG (-)**.

He was on the team last year,	wasn't he?
She has been swimming,	hasn't she?
We should have left earlier,	shouldn't we?

With one-word verb formations, use the correct form of the verb **do** (Unit 15):

You like rock music,	don't you? NOT <i>liken't</i> you?
He studies hard,	doesn't he?
They went yesterday,	didn't they?

Negative sentences

With **NEGATIVE SENTENCES (-)** use an **AFFIRMATIVE TAG (+)**.

John is not an accountant,	is he?
You don't like classical music,	do you? NOT <i>like</i> you?
She hasn't been playing tennis,	has she?
The students couldn't do the test,	could they?

Using tag questions

a TO CHECK SOMETHING

You play football, **don't** you?
John doesn't like milk, **does** he?

b WHEN YOU WANT SOMEONE TO DO SOMETHING

It's a lovely day, **isn't** it? I want you to agree.
You're a mechanic, **aren't** you? I want help with my car.

c TO SHOW SURPRISE (WITH NEGATIVE STATEMENTS ONLY)

You don't play football, **do** you?
I have just learnt that you play football, but this surprises me.