

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

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

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

### Negative sentences

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

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