

## Question Tags

Question tags are used to show that although we are asking a question, we already have an idea of what the answer is. It's important to notice that a question tag that is in the negative means the person asking thinks the answer is *yes* (e.g. *You have a car, don't you?*)

See the examples below.

Normal Question	Do you have a dog?	Completely unsure
Negative Question Tag	You have a dog, don't you?	Believes the answer is <i>yes</i>
Positive Question Tag	You don't have a dog, do you?	Believes the answer is <i>no</i>

Question tags are formed by taking the auxiliary verb (the first word from the normal question) and putting it at the end of the sentence. This means that the question tag changes depending on which tense is being used. See the examples below.

Present Simple	Do you live alone?	You live alone, don't you?
Past Simple	Did you eat the cookie?	You ate the cookie, didn't you?
Present Progressive	Are you driving?	You're driving, aren't you?
Future Simple	Will you finish the report?	You'll finish the report, won't you?



### 1. Match the questions to their logical answers:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| a) You haven't seen my wallet, have you?        | 1. I have, the food was amazing! <i>d</i>                     |
| b) You're a tax advisor, aren't you?            | 2. Actually, I'm single. <i>f</i>                             |
| c) This is his medicine, isn't it?              | 3. I think I have actually, is that it on the table? <i>a</i> |
| d) You've been to France, haven't you?          | 4. Actually, it's Canberra. <i>h</i>                          |
| e) You'll call tomorrow, won't you?             | 5. Not exactly, I'm a financial advisor. <i>b</i>             |
| f) You have a boyfriend, don't you?             | 6. Huh? I'm sorry what did you say? <i>g</i>                  |
| g) You're not listening to me, are you?         | 7. Of course I will Mom. <i>e</i>                             |
| h) The capital of Australia is Sydney isn't it? | 8. Yes it is, it's got his name on it. <i>c</i>               |

Note: The word "actually" is often used to introduce information that may be surprising, or to politely correct someone. Eg. *"You don't have a cat, do you?" "Actually I have 3 cats"*



## 2. Turn the normal questions into *negative* question tags.

a) Did you like the movie?

*You liked the movie, didn't you?*

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b) Do you have a motorbike?

*You have a motorbike, don't you?*

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c) Is Sam coming to the party?

*Sam's coming to the Party, isn't he?*

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d) Does your father work for the government?

*Your father works for the government, doesn't he?*

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e) Have you had a haircut?

*You've had a haircut, haven't you?*

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f) Are you going to leave today?

*You're going to leave today, aren't you?*

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## 3. Now turn the normal questions into *positive* question tags.

a) Do you drive to work?

*You don't drive to work, do you?*

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b) Have you seen the new James Bond movie?

*You haven't seen the new James Bond movie, have you?*

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c) Do you drink red wine?

*You don't drink red wine, do you?*

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d) Did somebody tell you the answers?

*Somebody didn't tell you the answers, did they? / Nobody told you the answers, did they?*

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e) Are you angry with me?

*You're angry with me, aren't you?*

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f) Is it raining?

*It's not raining, is it?*

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## 4. Pairwork: Make 3 "question tag" questions to ask your partner

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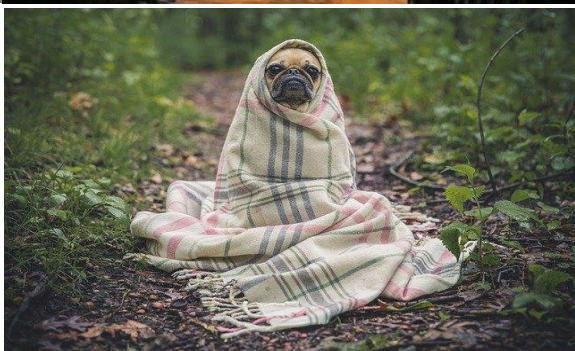
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5. Look at the photos below and create your own question tag questions about them. E.g. *That's dangerous isn't it?*



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6. Listen to the three conversations and mark the statements true or false.

**Conversation 1:**

- a) Toby is looking for his wallet. T / F
- b) Toby is coming to the party. T / F
- c) Marie doesn't think Toby's girlfriend is vegetarian. T / F
- d) Toby loves spicy food. T / F

**Conversation 2:**

- a) Jessica is late because she got lost. T / F
- b) Frank doesn't think the area around the office is confusing. T / F
- c) Frank correctly remembers what Jessica studied. T / F
- d) Frank enjoyed university T / F

Conversation 3

- a) George is pretty sure Sarah has a dog. T / F
- b) Sarah knew about George moving house before the conversation T / F
- c) Sarah thought that George had a dog before T / F
- d) George still thinks getting a big dog is a good idea. T / F

Question Tag Game

Step 1: Write down 3 statement about yourself that are *not true*.

Step 2: Give your false statements to a partner, and take their false statements and turn them into a question tag question. For example, if your partner writes down “I grew up in Italy” you should write down “You grew up in Italy, didn’t you?”

Step 3: Read you question tag questions to your partner, and they will politely correct you using the word “actually”. Feel free to continue the conversation from there.

Example Conversation:

Person 1: “You grew up in Italy, didn’t you?”

Person 2: “Actually I grew up in Greece.”

Person 1: “Ah I see, what’s the food like in Greece?” etc

False Statement 1: .....

False Statement 2: .....

False Statement 3: .....

Question Tag 1: .....

Question Tag 2: .....

Question Tag 3: .....

### Conversation 1

Joe: Hey Marie you haven't seen my wallet have you?

Ellen: I think it's over there on the desk. You're coming to the party tonight aren't you?

Joe: Actually I'm not, I promised my girlfriend I'd cook her dinner.

Ellen: She's a vegetarian isn't she?

Joe: Yeah she is, I'm making her an Indian dish called dahl.

Ellen: Dahl? That's a type of soup isn't it?

Joe: Actually it's a type of curry. I've made it before, it's good but pretty spicy.

Ellen: You love spicy food don't you?

Joe: I do.

### Conversation 2

Frank: Hi Jessica, thanks for coming. My name is Frank.

Jessica: I'm sorry I'm late, I couldn't find your office.

Frank: Yeah the streets around here are very confusing aren't they?

Jessica: They are, and there are 2 streets called Smith street. It's crazy!

Frank: Yeah that confuses everyone. Now I have some bad news, unfortunately we're having some trouble finding your C.V, but I read it yesterday, and I think I remember all the important stuff. You studied Engineering, didn't you?

Jessica: I did, I graduated two months ago.

Frank: I studied engineering too... it wasn't much fun as I remember.

Jessica: Actually I really enjoyed it.

Frank: Oh really? Still, I bet it feels good to be finished.

Jessica: It really does, I'm really excited to start working.

### Conversation 3

George: Hey Sarah, you have a dog don't you? I've been thinking about getting one but I'm not sure what breed to get.

Sarah: I do, I have a really big Saint Bernard. He's amazing, but I would only recommend him to someone with a lot of space and time to take care of a big dog. We have a big garden and I work from home, so it suits me fine.... But you have a big garden don't you? A big dog should be fine for you.

George: Actually I don't have a big garden anymore, I moved to a small apartment in the city centre.

Sarah: In that case a big dog would be a terrible idea. You've had a dog before though, haven't you?

George: No I haven't I grew up with cats.

Sarah: Oh I see, well dogs take a bit more energy than cats. They're a big responsibility, so you should think carefully before getting one.

George: Well to be honest I really wanted a big dog... but I didn't think about the new apartment. It's not a good idea is it?

Sarah: Probably not, no.