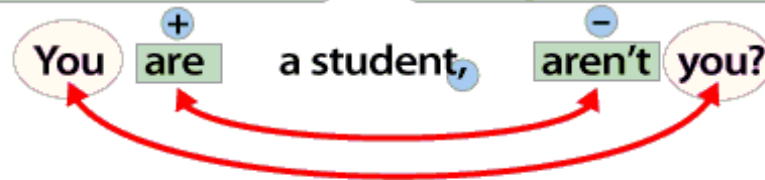


Question Tags

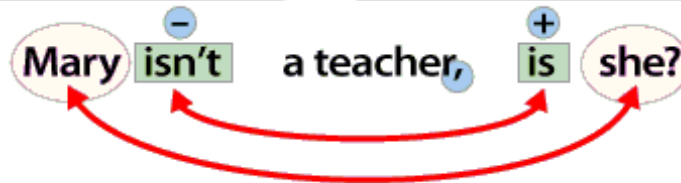
*A question tag is a small question at the end of a statement.
Question tags are used when asking for agreement or confirmation.*

a positive statement + a negative question tag



A subject pronoun comes after an auxiliary or a form of the verb *To Be*

a negative statement + a positive question tag



A subject pronoun is used to replace the noun or noun phrase

Intonation and Meaning

The intonation of a question tag shows the exact meaning of it.

If the intonation of the question tag goes **up**, it means you are not sure and you want to know the answer.

John **doesn't** speak Spanish, **does** he?

If the intonation of the question tag goes **down**, it means you are checking / confirming information or making conversation.

John **doesn't** speak Spanish, **does** he?

Positive Question Tags

Question tags are used when asking for agreement or confirmation.

a negative statement + a positive question tag

Negative Statement

You aren't a teacher,
He isn't crazy,
He wasn't relaxed,
They weren't late,

You don't speak French,
You didn't study for the test,

You haven't been here all week,
You hadn't done it before then,
You won't fail the exam,
You can't drive a car,
You couldn't do it for me,
We mustn't say anything,
You shouldn't be so busy,
You wouldn't stop me,

Positive Tag

are you?
is he?
was he?
were they?

do you?
did you?

have you?
had you?
will you?
can you?
could you?
must we?
should you?
would you?

Statements using *barely*, *hardly*, *neither*, *no*, *nobody*, *none*, *nothing* and *seldom* are treated as negative statements.

Nobody went to the meeting, did they?
Nothing is ready, is it?

Negative Question Tags

Question tags are used when asking for agreement or confirmation.

a positive statement + a negative question tag

Positive Statement

You are a student,
He is very busy,
He was happy,
They were surprised,

You speak English,
He studies Spanish,
You studied for the test,

You have studied all week,
You had arrived before he left,
You will pass the exam,
You can speak two languages,
You could do it for me,
We must be patient,
You should go now,
You would like a new job,

Exceptions

I am late,
Let's go home,

Negative Tag

aren't you?
isn't he?
wasn't he?
weren't they?

don't you?
doesn't he?
didn't you?

haven't you?
hadn't you?
won't you?
can't you?
couldn't you?
mustn't we?
shouldn't you?
wouldn't you?

aren't I?
shall we?

Negative auxiliaries and verbs in tags are usually in their contracted form (= n't)

BE CAREFUL