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Tag Question Checklist

We use tag questions in spoken English to check information and to invite others to agree with us

Tag questions consist of statements followed by tags

You like musicals, don't you?

Statement

The statement is what the speaker expects to be true

Tag

The tag is almost always a contracted form

You don't like horror movies, do you? She hardly talks to you, does she?

Negative statements include **not** or other words like **hate**, **never**, or **hardly**



Positive statements have negative tags, and vice versa



The verb in the tag is the helper verb from the statement or **Be**

You want tea, **don't** you?

I **shouldn't** smoke, **should** !?

Where there is no helper verb, use **do** as if the sentence is emphatic (you do want tea)

They didn't have a chance, did they?

We haven't been there, have we?

Finnegan will teach your class, won't he?



The tense is the same in the statement and tag



Tags include a subject pronoun or there

Heinrich doesn't eat meat, does **he**?

There's a lot to say, isn't **there**?

Someone is crying, aren't **they**?

You've been to Europe, haven't you? ↗ ↗ = I suspect you've been to Europe - am I right?

It was a great film, wasn't it? \(\) \(\) = I thought the film was great, please agree



In the tag, rising intonation indicates a real question