



Question Tag

Read the following sentences.

- (i) Rituja is very intelligent, isn't she?
- (ii) The heat has become scorching, hasn't it?
- (iii) The guests have not arrived yet, have they?

We often use these kind of sentences in our daily conversations. These sentences contain a statement and a question part for confirmation. This part containing a question is called 'question tag'.

Types of a Question Tag

A question tag is of two types

1. Positive question tag
2. Negative question tag

Positive Tags

When the statement is negative, the question tag is positive.

- e.g. (i) Sahil is not home, is he?
(ii) I don't often make mistakes, do I?

Negative Tags

When the statement is positive, the question tag is negative.

- e.g. (i) You don't need any medicine, do you?
(ii) This machine does not speak, does it?

General Rules for Question Tags

Rule 1

The subject of a question tag can never be a noun. If the subject of statement is a noun, then it must be changed into pronoun of same number and gender when it is to be used in the tag part.

e.g. (i) Rohit is deceiving us.

QT Rohit is deceiving us, isn't he?

Here Rohit is the subject of statement and it is a noun. When tag is made Rohit is changed into 'he'

(ii) Sayali is not mad.

QT Sayali is not mad, is she?

Rule 2

When a negative tag is formed, then the contracted form is used in the tag part.

- e.g. (i) She is eating, is not she? (Incorrect)
She is eating, isn't she? (Correct)

Expanded Form	Contracted Form
do not	don't
does not	doesn't
did not	didn't
is/am/are + not	isn't amn't → am't aren't
has/have + not	hasn't + haven't
was/were + not	wasn't/weren't
had + not	hadn't
shall/will + not	shall't/won't
can + not	can't
may + not	mayn't
could + not	couldn't

might + not	mightn't
need + not	needn't

Am + Not → Aren't

Note Amn't is not accepted in usage. Whenever am + not is used in the sentence then its contracted form is aren't.

Rule 3

If the statement has V₁, V₂ or V₁ + s/es then during the tag formation the auxiliary will be as follows.

V₁ → do

V₂ → did

V₁ → s/es → does



Practice Exercise

Directions (Q.Nos. 1-10) In the questions given below there are four options for each sentence. Choose the option which is correct.

- He did everything quite speedily,.....?
(a) did he (b) didn't he
(c) does he (d) don't he
- He.....blame anybody, did he?
(a) does (b) is not
(c) didn't (d) was not
- These topics were taught in the class,.....?
(a) were they (b) wasn't it
(c) were they not (d) weren't they
- Raghav's joy knew no bounds,.....?
(a) did he (b) didn't he
(c) did it (d) None of these
- Pixie didn't find the remark very offensive,.....?
(a) did she
(b) didn't she
(c) was she
(d) wasn't she
- Happy wasn't picking up the call,.....?
(a) was he (b) were he
(c) wasn't he (d) None of these
- Indian culture.....loved by everyone, isn't it?
(a) was (b) is (c) were (d) does
- London airport has the highest number of escalators in the world.....it?
(a) was (b) isn't
(c) is (d) doesn't
- The cat moved its tail to indicate something,.....?
(a) didn't it (b) did it
(c) didn't she (d) did she
- Saree is the most graceful Indian dress,?
(a) is it not (b) is not it
(c) isn't it (d) None of these

Answers

1	(b)	2	(c)	3	(d)	4	(c)	5	(a)	6	(a)	7	(b)	8	(d)	9	(a)	10	(c)
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