

CHALKIE



# Tag Questions Part 1

Mastering the Basics of English Question  
Tags

# Key Vocabulary



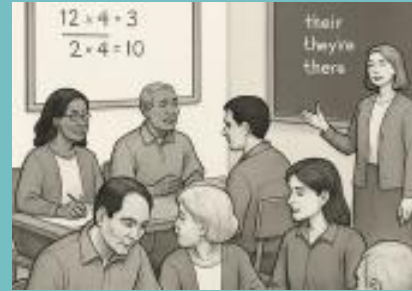
## Auxiliary

Helping verbs assist main verbs to show tense, mood, or voice (e.g., is, have, will).



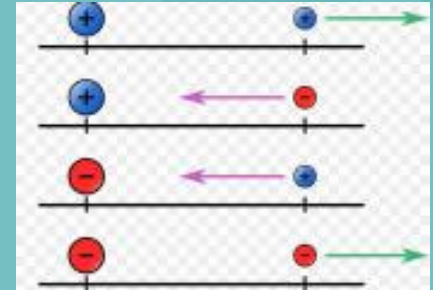
## Modal

A type of auxiliary verb that shows ability, possibility, or necessity. Examples: can, should, must.



## Main Verb

Main verb: shows action/state in a sentence (e.g., eat, run, read).



## Polarity

Describes whether a statement is positive or negative. Example: 'She is here' (positive), 'She isn't here' (negative).

# What Is a Question Tag?

## The Basics

A question tag is a short question added to the end of a statement. It turns a sentence into a quick check or confirmation.

- **Example:**
- You're a student, **aren't you?**
- It's cold today, **isn't it?**

Question tags help keep conversations flowing and make your speech sound natural in English.



# The Role of Auxiliary Verbs

## The Engine of the Tag

Auxiliary verbs (like **be**, **have**, and modals) are the backbone of question tags. They show tense, mood, or voice and help structure the tag.

**Without the right auxiliary, your tag won't work!**

- **Example:**
- She is studying, **isn't she?**
- They have finished, **haven't they?**

### helping verb:

"helps" the main verb in a sentence by adding more details

am	does	ought to
are	had	shall
be	has	should
been	have	was
can	is	were
could	may	will
did	might	would
do	must	

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# Common Auxiliary Families

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helping verb:		
"helps" the main verb in a sentence by adding more details		
am	does	ought to
are	had	shall
be	has	should
been	have	was
can	is	were
could	may	will
did	might	would
do	must	

## The 'Be' Family

Includes: am, is, are, was, were. Use them if they appear in the main sentence. Ex: He was late, wasn't he?

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Auxiliary Verbs				
An <b>auxiliary verb</b> helps the main verb and is also called a helping verb. That action happened in the past or is happening in the present or will happen in the future.				
• am	• been	• shall	• must	• ought to
• is	• be	• will	• can	• dare
• are	• has	• should	• could	• going to
• was	• have	• would	• does	• be able to
• were	• had	• may	• do	• have to
• being	• did	• might	• need	• had better

## The 'Have' Family

Includes: have, has, had. Used for perfect tenses. Example: She has seen it, hasn't she?

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auxiliary verb
a type of helping verb that comes before other verbs to establish verb tense
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jamil <u>is</u> coming to my party.</li><li>• We <u>were</u> studying until midnight last night.</li><li>• My family <u>has</u> traveled to Iceland before.</li></ul>



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## Modals

Includes: can, will, should, must, etc. Always use the same modal in the tag. Example: You can swim, can't you?



# Main Verb or Auxiliary?

## Don't Get Confused!

Auxiliary verbs help another verb (She **is** running), but sometimes they're the only verb (She **is** a doctor).

**Tip:** Whether it's helping or alone, use it for the tag!

- She is running, **isn't she?**
- She is a doctor, **isn't she?**



# When to Use Do/Does/Did

## If There's No Auxiliary...

Use **do**, **does**, or **did** in the question tag when the main verb isn't an auxiliary or modal.

- Present Simple: I/you/we/they → do;  
he/she/it → does
- Past Simple: All subjects → did

### Examples:

- You like coffee, **don't you?**
- She sings, **doesn't she?**
- They left, **didn't they?**



# Positive and Negative Tags



## Positive Statement

Use a negative tag.

You play tennis, **don't you?**



## Negative Statement


Use a positive tag.

You don't play tennis, **do you?**



## Fill in the blanks

If a statement is positive, the question tag is \_\_\_\_\_, and if a statement is negative, the question tag is \_\_\_\_\_.

Word bank 


**positive, auxiliary, neutral, negative**

Answers on the next slide...

## Fill in the blanks



If a statement is positive, the question tag is **negative**, and if a statement is negative, the question tag is **positive**.

Word bank 

**positive, auxiliary, neutral, negative**

# Summary: Key Takeaways

## Review What You Learned

- Identify the auxiliary or main verb for your tag.
- Use the correct pronoun and match the subject.
- Remember the polarity rule: positive statement → negative tag; negative statement → positive tag.
- Practice makes perfect—keep using question tags in real conversations!





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