

QUESTION TAG

A **tag question** (also known as tail **question**) is a grammatical structure in which a declarative or an imperative statement is turned into interrogative fragment (the "**tag**"). For example, in the sentence "You're John, aren't you?", the statement "You're John" is turned into a **question** by the **tag** "**aren't you**".

Golden Rules of Question Tags in English Grammar

- **The sentence and the question tag must be in the same tense.**
- **For negative question tag, use the Contracted form of 'helping verb 'and 'not' .E.g. didn't, hadn't, won't etc.**
- **If the Sentence is positive, the question tag must be negative and vice versa.**
- **Always use pronoun in the question tag.**

Rule-1: Some words are negative in meaning . For e.g. hardly, seldom, scarcely, rarely, barely etc. Hence they will take positive question tag after them.

Ex:

- He hardly does any work, does he?
- He found barely anything to eat , did he?
- He is seldom absent, is he?

Rule-2: If a sentence starts with "There", the question tag will have "there" in the place of pronoun.

Ex: There is no water , is there?

There were no good schools in the town, were there?

Rule-3: Question tag is always made in accordance with the main part of the sentence.

Ex: I think, he is right, isn't he?

Rule- 4 : There is no contracted form of 'am not' but 'aren't' is used in question tag.

Ex: I am fine, aren't I?

Rule-5 : Each, every, everyone, everybody, no one, nobody, none are singular and hence will take singular verb/ singular pronoun/ singular adjective with them but their question tag will take plural verb and plural pronoun.

Ex: Everyone has come, hasn't he (Incorrect)

Everyone has come, haven't they (correct)

None of your friends like her, do they (correct)

Rule-6: If the sentence starts with "let us/ let's ", " shall we" is used in the question.

Ex: Let us go to party tonight, shall we?

Rule-7: In Imperative sentences, question tag 'won't you' is used.

Ex: come in, won't you?

Rule-8: Collective noun takes singular verb and singular pronoun in question tag.

Ex: The jury has taken its decision, hasn't it?

Rule-9: If we talk about the individual members of the collective noun or if there is a difference in opinion among the members of the collective noun, plural verb and plural pronoun are used.

Ex: The committee are divided in their opinion, aren't they?

The audience have taken their seats, haven't they?

Rule-10: If in a imperative sentence, somebody is being offered anything, or if someone is being asked to do something, "will you/ would you" is used in the question tag.

Ex: Open the door, would you?

Have some more tea, would you?

EXERCISE

Q1. Which one of the following is the appropriate question tag in the sentence,

“Take a seat, _____”?

- (a) shall you?
- (b) can't you?
- (c) won't you?
- (d) would you?

Q2. “Anyone can make mistakes, _____”?

- (a) isn't it?
- (b) shall they?
- (c) can't they?
- (d) is it?



Q3. It'll rain soon,?

- (A) won't it
- (B) bought it
- (C) isn't it
- (D) may it

Q4. They needn't worry?

- (A) isn't it
- (B) doesn't it
- (C) don't it
- (D) need they

Q5. None of the food was wasted ,.....?

- (A) wasn't it
- (B) was it
- (C) weren't it
- (D) were it

Q6. The hotel was not too expensive?

- (A) was it?
- (B) wasn't it?
- (C) is it ?
- (D) isn't it?

Q7. Your father used to be the principal of this college,

(A) did he?

(B) does he ?

(C) didn't he?

(D) doesn't he?

Q8. I am very happy today,.....?

(A) Aren't I

(B) Are I

(C) Am I

(D) Are not I

Q9. They fought bravely for the freedom of the country.....?

- (A) did they
- (B) don't they
- (C) didn't they
- (D) does he

Q10. The mob has killed the thief,.....?

- (A) haven't it
- (B) hasn't it
- (C) has it
- (D) isn't it

Thank
you

