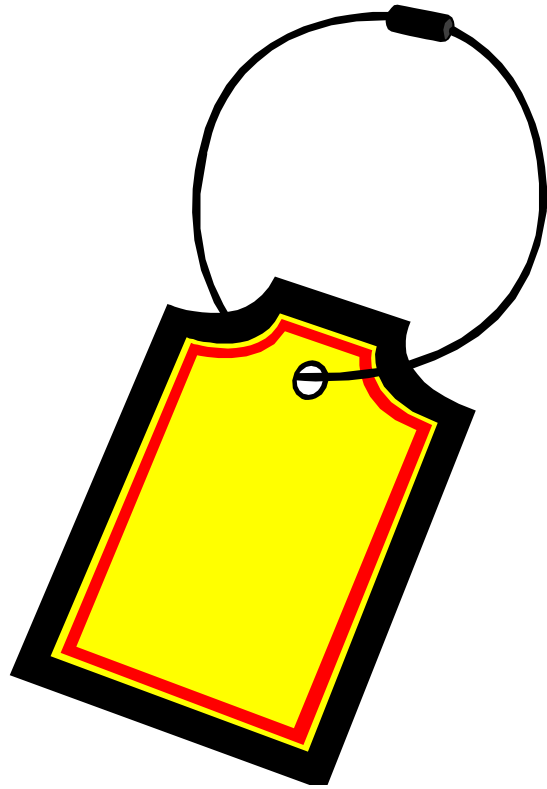


Tag Questions



A *tag question* is a question added at the end of a sentence.

Maria is here, *isn't she?*

Maria isn't here, *is she?*

We use tag questions for two reasons:

1. To make sure our information is correct or
2. To seek agreement.

Forming tag questions

Positive sentences—*Mary is here*—take a negative tag question—*isn't she?*

Negative sentences—*Mary isn't here*—take a positive tag question—*is she?*

+ sentence

- tag

+ answer

Mary *is* here,

isn't she?

Yes, she *is*.

You *like* tea,

don't you?

Yes, I *do*.

They *have* left,

haven't they?

Yes, they *have*.

- sentence

+ tag

- answer

Mary *isn't* here,

is she?

No, she *isn't*.

You *don't* like tea,

do you?

No, I *don't*.

They *haven't* left,

have they?

No, they *haven't*.

Crazy complications

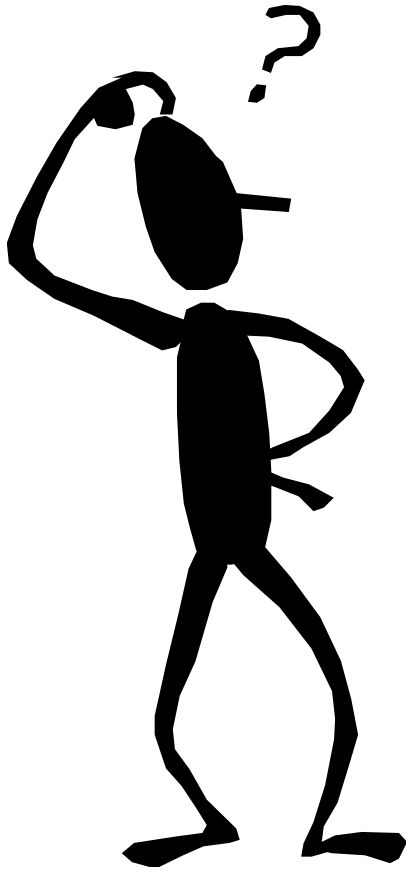
- *This/That* is your book, isn't *it*?
- *These/Those* are your books, aren't *they*?

- *There is* a meeting tonight, *isn't there*?

- *Everything* is okay, isn't *it*?
- *Everyone/somebody* took the test, didn't *they*?

- *Nothing* is wrong, *is* it?
- *Nobody* called, *did* they?
- You've *never been* there, *have* you?

The problem with *I*




- *I am* supposed to be here, *am I not?*
(formal English)
- *I am* supposed to be here, *aren't I?*
(spoken English)

Intonation

- Mary is here, *isn't she?* 

Rising intonation: you are asking if your information is correct.

- Mary isn't here, *is she?* 

Falling intonation: you think your information is correct, and you are almost certain the listener will agree.