

4.2 Grammar

Question tags and reply questions

I can use question tags and reply questions.



- CD-2.5 MP3-58** Listen to a conversation between Laura and her mum. What is Laura's mum concerned about?
- CD-2.5 MP3-58** Read GRAMMAR FOCUS I and complete the examples from the conversation with auxiliary verbs. Then listen again and check.

GRAMMAR FOCUS I

Question tags

You form question tags with an auxiliary/modal verb + a pronoun.

Positive statement + negative tag

I'm always careful when I borrow your things, ¹aren't I?

You know it's risky buying tickets online, ²_____ you?

Negative statement + positive tag

He hasn't passed his driving test, ³_____ he?

But you never wear them, ⁴_____ you?

Note: Pay attention to these special cases:

Don't lose them, ⁵_____ you?

That's Jamie at the door, isn't it? Let's go, shall we?

Everybody had a good time, didn't they? Nothing happened, did it?

- CD-2.6 MP3-59** Complete the conversation between Laura and Jamie with appropriate question tags. Then listen and check. What was Laura concerned about?

Laura: This is the place he told you to meet him, ¹isn't it?

Jamie: Yes, it is. He said he'd be waiting at the main entrance.

Laura: Did he? So why are we waiting at the staff entrance?

Jamie: Oh no, you're right! Come on, we'd better hurry.

Laura: Let's call him, ²_____? I'm sure he'll wait ten minutes. You took his phone number, ³_____?

Jamie: No, but he's got mine. If he's wondering where we are, he'll call me, ⁴_____?

Laura: Yes – I suppose he wants his cash. Don't lose it, ⁵_____?

Jamie: What cash?

Laura: For the tickets! You haven't paid him yet, ⁶_____?

Jamie: Yes, I have – I transferred the money to his account online.

Laura: Did you? Hey, that's him over there, ⁷_____?

Jamie: Is it? How do you know?

Laura: He's holding up a piece of paper with your name on it.

- CD-2.7 MP3-60** Complete some things Jamie said at the concert with question tags. Then listen, check and answer the questions.

1 We can go in now, can't we? ↗

2 There's a support band on first, _____?

3 This is a great concert, _____?

4 Beyoncé toured the UK last year, _____?

5 Don't forget where we're sitting, _____?

6 Excuse me, nobody's seen a silver earring, _____?

- Which tags have a rising intonation (↗) and show you expect the listener to answer your question?
- Which tags have a falling intonation (↘) and show you expect the listener to agree with you?

- Read GRAMMAR FOCUS II. Find three reply questions in the conversation in Exercise 3.

GRAMMAR FOCUS II

Reply questions

You use reply questions to react to what somebody has said and to show interest. They usually have rising intonation.

Positive statement + positive reply question

'We're going to a concert.' 'Are you?' ↗

Negative statement + negative reply question

'Beyoncé hasn't played here before.' 'Hasn't she?' ↗

- Write true sentences about you. Then, in pairs, take turns to read your sentences to your partner for him/her to respond with a reply question.

1 I / need / a new phone

A: *I don't need a new phone.*

B: *Don't you?*

2 my dad / give / me money for my last birthday

3 I / go / shopping recently

4 I / think / I'm a very lucky person

5 my mum / usually / do / the shopping online

6 I / have got / a credit card

- Write four more true sentences about you. Then, in pairs, take turns to read them to your partner for him/her to respond with a reply question.

A: *I'm saving up to buy a new laptop.*

B: *Are you?*

- You are going to write a conversation between a teenager and a parent. In pairs, follow the instructions.

- Think of a situation. Choose from the box or use your own ideas.

The teenager wants to:

form a band get a tongue piercing
give up a sport or a musical instrument
get more pocket money
go to a music festival
go abroad with friends
open a bank account

- Include at least five different question tags and/or reply questions in the conversation.
- Practise your conversation and then act it out.