

Advanced Level **You don` t like it, do you?**



Nobuo shows up at the display booth.
He finds Hiro moving the sign. He wonders if something is wrong.

Nobuo : Did you have any trouble getting here?

Hiro : No, none at all.

Nobuo : Good. Well? What do you think of the display?

Hiro : Uh...yes.

Nobuo : You do like it, don` t you?

Hiro : Uh... I don` t know.

Nobuo : You don` t like it, do you?

Hiro : Well, it`s...

Nobuo : What is it you don` t like? Tell me.

Hiro : There`s ...uh...

Nobuo : There`s something that you don` t like, isn` t there?

Hiro : No, there is.... Yes, there isn` t Huh??? "you do like it , don` t you?"
"you don` t like it, do you?"

Tag questions

Tag questions are small questions added to the end of a statement, for example:

That is a dog, isn` t it?

The structure of tags

Here are a range of tag questions:

..., won` t you?

..., can` t you?

..., shouldn` t you?

..., don` t they?

..., isn` t it?

..., won` t it?

Advanced Level

You don't like it, do you?

Note the structural elements:

- The first element contains a verb, often 'to be' or 'to do', and is often a repetition of the verb used in the statement.
- The verb is negated, in the abbreviated form.
- The second element is a pronoun.

Using tag questions

Use tag questions to emphasize and encourage the other person to agree. They turn a bold assertion into a question that is difficult to disagree with.

Gaining agreement

Make an assertion and add a tag question:

They best way to dwill finish, won't they?

I am the best person for the job, aren't I?

This is the o it, isn't it?

Gaining compliance

Start with what you want the other person to do, and then end with a tag such as 'won't you' or 'can't you'.

You will come to the dance, won't you?

You can do this today, can't you?

A question tag is the "mini-question" at the end.

A tag question is the whole sentence.

How do we answer a tag question?

Often, we just say Yes or No. Sometimes we may repeat the tag and reverse it (... , do they? Yes, they do). Be very careful about answering tag questions. In some languages, an oposite system of answering is used, and non-native English speakers sometimes answer in the wrong way. This can lead to a lot of confusion!