

## 1 You use QUESTION TAGS to make a statement into a question:

You know Bill, don't you?

You didn't understand, did you?

Generally, you use a negative question tag after a positive statement:

You are foreign, aren't you?

They left early, didn't they?

After a negative statement, you use a positive tag:

She hasn't been here before, has she?

They didn't finish on time, did they?

## 2 There are different types of question tags:

a After a main clause with a form of the verb *be*, you make a tag using *be*:

War and Peace wasn't written by an American, was it?

You are going to come to the cinema with us, aren't you?

b After a main clause with an auxiliary or a modal (*has/have/will/would/can/could* etc), you use the same auxiliary or modal in the tag:

He will be there tonight, won't he?

They can't drive, can they?

The film hasn't started, has it?

He didn't go to Spain last year, did he?

c After a main clause without an auxiliary or *be*, you use *do/does/did* in the tag:



## 3 You use a question tag:

a To ask a real question when you do not know the answer. Here, your voice must go up on the tag:

You haven't got £5 I could borrow, have you?

b To check that someone agrees with you, or to check that what you say is true.

Here your voice must go down:

It's Tuesday today, isn't it? She is beautiful, isn't she?

**A Choose the correct tag:**

- 1 'The concert was great, *didn't it/wasn't it?*'
- 2 'You haven't finished already, *haven't you/have you?'*
- 3 'No-one telephoned me, *didn't they/did they?'*
- 4 'Not everyone can drive at eighteen, *can they/can't they?'*
- 5 'There isn't room for another person, *isn't there/is there?'*



**B Look at the following statements, which are all missing tags.**

**a Underline the verb *be*, modal and auxiliary verbs in the statements:**

- 1 You're not from this country, \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 We're going to London tomorrow, \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 The weather was wonderful yesterday, \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 He was very angry because we were late, \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 It snowed last week, \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Inflation used to be a big problem, \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 Young people should get as much exercise as possible, \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 You shouldn't be rude to people, \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 You know you shouldn't shout in restaurants, \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 Her friends from New York didn't visit you, \_\_\_\_\_

**b Now match the tags below to the sentences with modal and auxiliary verbs:**  
shouldn't they? should you? aren't we? wasn't it? are you? wasn't he?

**c Now add the tags using the right form for do for the other statements.**

**C How sure are you? Look at these questions and write your answers following the model:**

e.g. Were Charles Haughey and John Lynch Prime Ministers of Britain or Ireland?

*I think they were Prime Ministers of Ireland, weren't they?*

- 1 Is the population of Oslo more or less than a million?  
\_\_\_\_\_?
- 2 Were the 1976 Olympics held in Moscow or Montreal?  
\_\_\_\_\_?
- 3 Did Henry Ford, the pioneer of the Ford automobile, die in 1947 or 1927?  
\_\_\_\_\_?
- 4 Did the group Status Quo start playing in the 1960s or 1970s?  
\_\_\_\_\_?
- 5 Are there 9, 10 or 11 players on a cricket team?  
\_\_\_\_\_?
- 6 Which city is bigger, Istanbul or Berlin?  
\_\_\_\_\_?
- 7 Does 'photophobia' mean that you have a fear of being photographed, or a fear of light?  
\_\_\_\_\_?