

# TAG QUESTIONS

AFFIRMATIVE	NEGATIVE	
(a) <i>You know</i> Bob Donley,	<b>don't you?</b>	A tag question is a question that is added on to the end of a sentence. An auxiliary verb is used in a tag question. In (a), (b), and (c): When the main verb is affirmative, the tag question is negative.
(b) <i>Mandy is</i> from Chicago,	<b>isn't she?</b>	
(c) <i>Jimmy can play</i> the piano,	<b>can't he?</b>	
NEGATIVE	AFFIRMATIVE	In (c), (d), and (e): When the main verb is negative, the tag question is affirmative.
(d) <i>You don't know</i> Jack,	<b>do you?</b>	
(e) <i>Mary isn't</i> from Chicago,	<b>is she?</b>	
(f) <i>Jimmy can't speak</i> French,	<b>can he?</b>	

Notice in the following: I (the speaker) use a tag question because I expect you (the listener) to agree with me. I give my idea while asking a question at the same time.\*

THE SPEAKER'S IDEA	THE SPEAKER'S QUESTION	EXPECTED ANSWER
(g) I think that you know Bob Donley.	You <b>know</b> Bob Donley, <b>don't you?</b>	<b>Yes</b> , I do.
(h) I think that you don't know Jack.	You <b>don't know</b> Jack, <b>do you?</b>	<b>No</b> , I don't.
(i) I think that Mandy is from Chicago.	Mandy <b>is</b> from Chicago, <b>isn't she?</b>	<b>Yes</b> , she is.
(j) I think that Mary isn't from Chicago.	Mary <b>isn't</b> from Chicago, <b>is she?</b>	<b>No</b> , she isn't.
(k) I think that Jimmy can play the piano.	Jimmy <b>can</b> play the piano, <b>can't he?</b>	<b>Yes</b> , he can.
(l) I think that Jerry can't speak French.	Jimmy <b>can't</b> speak French, <b>can he?</b>	<b>No</b> , he can't.

\*COMPARE: **A yes / no question:**

Part A: Do you know Bob Donley? (*The speaker has no idea. The speaker is simply looking for information.*)

Part B: Yes, I do. OR: No, I don't.

**A tag question:**

Part A: You know Bob Donley, don't you? (*The speaker believes that you know Bob Donley. The speaker wants to make sure that his/her idea is correct.*)

Part B: Yes, I do. (*The speaker expects you to answer yes. You can, however, answer no if you don't know Bob Donley.*)

*Directions: Add tag questions, including punctuation, and give the expected answer:*

1. Part A: You are a student, aren't you?

Part B: Yes, I am.

2. Part A: Ericka lives in the dorm, \_\_\_\_\_

Part B: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Part A: You don't live in a dorm, \_\_\_\_\_

Part B: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Part A: Terry came to class yesterday, \_\_\_\_\_

Part B: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Part A: Cathy will be in class tomorrow, \_\_\_\_\_

Part B: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Part A: Mr. Donovan is at home now, \_\_\_\_\_

Part B: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Part A: Our teacher didn't give us a homework assignment, \_\_\_\_\_

Part B: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Part A: You can speak Russian, \_\_\_\_\_

Part B: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Part A: Tim and Brad can't speak French, \_\_\_\_\_

Part B: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Part A: You should write an email to your dad, \_\_\_\_\_

Part B: \_\_\_\_\_

11. Part A: It snows a lot in Fargo, \_\_\_\_\_

Part B: \_\_\_\_\_

12. Part A: You weren't at home last night around ten, \_\_\_\_\_

Part B: \_\_\_\_\_

13. Part A: This is your pen,\* \_\_\_\_\_

Part B: \_\_\_\_\_

14. Part A: That is Mitch's dictionary, \_\_\_\_\_

Part B: \_\_\_\_\_

15. Part A: Those are your gloves, \_\_\_\_\_

Part B: \_\_\_\_\_

16. Part A: These are Jean's glasses, \_\_\_\_\_

Part B: \_\_\_\_\_

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\*When **this** or **that** is used in the first part of the sentence, **it** is used in the tag question:

This is your book, isn't it?

When **these** or **those** is used in the first part of the sentence, **they** is used in the tag question: These are your shoes, aren't they?

*Directions: Add tag questions, including punctuation, and give the expected answer. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.*

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|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. It's a good restaurant.              | 14. Everyone will be here soon.    |
| 2. Bob isn't at work today.             | 15. Nothing terrible has happened. |
| 3. I'm too late.                        | 16. There's plenty of time.        |
| 4. You haven't seen the paper.          | 17. Pass me that newspaper.        |
| 5. Linda speaks Spanish and French.     | 18. Let's have a cup of coffee.    |
| 6. They didn't go to the play.          | 19. The movie hasn't started.      |
| 7. You'd love to have something to eat. | 20. American football is the best. |
| 8. We're leaving tomorrow.              |                                    |
| 9. You couldn't do me a favor.          |                                    |
| 10. You don't know where Sara is.       |                                    |
| 11. Turn on the TV for me.              |                                    |
| 12. Don't forget to lock the door.      |                                    |
| 13. Nobody was watching TV.             |                                    |