Tag Questions

What is a tag question?

How are they formed?

Why do we use them?

What is a tag question?

A tag question is a short question added to the end of a positive or negative statement:

- He is, isn't he?
- ❖ He does, doesn't he?
- ❖ He will, won't he?
- He can, can't he?

How are they formed?

Normally a positive statement is followed by a negative tag, and a negative statement is followed by a positive tag:

You're English, aren't you?

You're not German, are you?

The statement and the tag are always separated by a comma.

Treat any statements with nothing, nobody etc like negative statements.

The verb in the statement should be the same tense as the verb in the tag.

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Present tense | present tense | You are a good singer, aren't you?
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<u>Past tense</u> <u>past tense</u> You didn't go to work yesterday, did you?

Present perfect present perfect You have been to London, haven't you?

Why do we use them?

to verify or check information that we think is true or to check information that we aren't sure is true;

for effect, when we are trying to be sarcastic, or to make a strong point. So be sure to use them with care. We show the meaning of the tag question through intonation

(a rising intonation).

Rule Nº1

V (+), tail (-)?

V (-), tail (+)?

Rule Nº2

Each sentence has its own "tail"!

<u>САМОДОСТАТОЧНЫЕ</u> <u>глаголы</u>

IS, ARE, HAS GOT, HAVE GOT, CAN, MUST, SHOULD, WILL, SHALL, HAVE

My brother IS a very good doctor, ISN'T he?

Bob CAN NOT run fast, CAN he?
Helen HAS GOT five kittens, HASN'T she?

<u>СЛАБЫЕ</u> <u>глаголы</u>

OPEN, SAW, WASHED, COOKED, GAVE, VISITED, DECORATED...

Peter MET a friend yesterday, DIDN'T he? Your sister DOESN'T LIKE bananas, DOES she?

<u>ИСКЛЮЧЕНИЯ</u>

АМ и HAVE

- I AM right, AREN'T I?
- I AM singing well, AREN'T I?
- I HAVE A good IDEA, DON'T I?
- My uncle HAS DINNER in the cafe, DOESN'T he?

http://festival.1september.ru/articles/10394 5/

http://www.learnenglish.de/grammar/tagquestions.htm