

## RESOURCE VIDEO

# TAG QUESTIONS

## WHAT IS A TAG QUESTION?

It is a kind of “mini-question” at the end of a sentence, used to confirm that the information from the sentence is correct. There are “tag questions” in Portuguese as well, only people often use “não é” or “né” instead of repeating the verb.

## EXAMPLES:

You're Italian, aren't you?  
They don't live in Japan, do they?

**To make a TAG QUESTION, we use the auxiliary verb plus the SUBJECT PRONOUN that corresponds to the subject of the sentence.**

### Remember:

Affirmative sentence, negative tag.  
Negative sentence, affirmative tag.

### Review:

The “Subject Pronouns” are I / you / he / she / it / we / they / you

### Examples of AFFIRMATIVE sentences with NEGATIVE tag questions:

#### Verb to be:

It's hot today, isn't it?

#### Simple Present:

Joana works here, doesn't she?

#### Past verb to be:

It was cold yesterday, wasn't it?

#### Simple Past:

You studied a lot yesterday, didn't you?

#### Past Continuous

She was talking to him, wasn't she?

#### Present Perfect

You have lived here for two years, haven't you?

#### Present Perfect Continuous

Your siblings have been playing soccer for a long time, haven't they?

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### Past Perfect

He had already left the meeting, hadn't he?

### Past Perfect Continuous

Your sister had been working as a spy for many years when she was finally caught, hadn't she?

### Modal verbs

You can come tomorrow, can't you?

Marlon would tell us the truth, wouldn't he?

### Future time

They will miss their flight, won't they?

They are going to miss their flight, aren't they?

### Future Perfect

You will have finished the project by tomorrow, won't you?

### Future Perfect Continuous

At this time next month, they will have been working here for two years, won't they?

### Examples of NEGATIVE sentences with AFFIRMATIVE tag questions:

#### Verb to be:

It's not very hot today, is it?

#### Simple Present:

You don't work here anymore, do you?

#### Past verb to be:

It wasn't very cold yesterday, was it?

#### Simple Past:

You didn't study very much, did you?

#### Past Continuous

She wasn't talking to him, was she?

#### Present Perfect

They haven't travelled much, have they?

#### Present Perfect Continuous

Your siblings haven't been playing soccer very long, have they?

#### Past Perfect:

He hadn't already left the meeting, had he?

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### Past Perfect Continuous

Your sister hadn't been working as a spy very long when she was caught, had she?

### Modal verbs

You can't come, can you?

Marlon wouldn't lie to us, would he?

### Future time

They won't miss their flight, will they?

They aren't going to miss their flight, are they?

### Future Perfect

You won't have finished the project by tomorrow, will you?

### Future Perfect Continuous

At this time next month, they won't have been working here for two years, will they?

**Be careful! When we have an affirmative sentence with a negative tag question using "to be" in present tense with the first person, the structure will be like this:**

I am your teacher, aren't I?

I'm working a lot, aren't I?

\*You could also say "am I not" in these situations, but this sounds very formal and is rarely used.

**When the sentence is negative, with an affirmative tag question, the structure will be normal:**

I am not your teacher, am I?

I'm not working a lot, am I?

**The next time you're listening to an interview or watching TV, try to pay attention to how many times you hear people using tag questions.**

**You'll be surprised by how often they are used!**