

UNIT 1 LESSON 4A GRAMMAR

Question Tags and Echo Questions

Part 1: Focus on Question Tags

Exercises 1,3,5,



What are Question Tags?

A **question tag** is a short question added to the **end** of a sentence. It is formed using an **auxiliary** or a **modal verb** followed by a **pronoun**. **Question tags are often used to confirm information, invite agreement, or keep the conversation going in a natural and friendly way.**

Question Tag أو الأسئلة التأكيدية هو سؤال قصير يُضاف إلى نهاية الجملة. يتم تكوينه باستخدام فعل مساعد أو ال **modal verbs** متبوعاً بضمير. تُستخدم هذه الأسئلة القصيرة (Question Tags) لتأكيد المعلومات، أو لدعوة المستمع للموافقة على الحديث، أو للمحافظة على استمرارية الحديث بطريقة طبيعية وودية.

I love exploring new places, **don't you?**

You can't come with us, **can you?**

LESSON 4A GRAMMAR

01

- 1  **1.4** Listen to three conversations where people meet for the first time. Which do you think is the best question they use to keep a conversation going?



- 2 Think of three more questions you could ask to get to know someone better.

Question tags and echo questions

- 3 Look at the underlined examples of question tags from the dialogues. Then complete the sentences 1–4 below with the words in the box.

end modal negative positive

It's such a great city, isn't it?

Wow, so you'd never been there before, had you?

I shouldn't be so fussy, should I?

- 1 A **question tag** is a short question added to the _____ of a sentence.
2 We form a question tag using an auxiliary or a _____ verb and a pronoun.
3 A positive statement usually has a _____ question tag.
4 A negative statement usually has a _____ question tag.

- 4  **1.5 PRONUNCIATION** Listen and match what you hear with intonation pattern A or B below.

Which pattern is used for a **wh-** question and which for confirming something the speaker already knows?

A

B

- 5  **1.6** Look at these more unusual question tags. Choose the correct words to complete the sentences. Listen and check.

- 1 This is silly, *isn't it / this?*
2 Nothing ever changes, *do / does it?*
3 Come and look at this, *will / don't you?*
4 Everyone was there, *weren't / wasn't they?*
5 Don't be late, *are / will you?*
6 No one likes him, *do / does they?*

- 6 In pairs, look at the echo question *in italics*. Then answer questions 1–3 below.

Habib Actually, it's my birthday tomorrow.

Faisal *Is it?* Do you have anything special planned?

- 1 What is the function of an echo question?
2 Do we use a positive or a negative question to reply to a positive statement?
3 Which intonation pattern from Exercise 4 do we use with an echo question: A or B?

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- 7  **1.7** Complete the conversation with no more than three words in each gap. Listen and check your answers.

Imad Where would you go on holiday if you could go anywhere in the world?

Jamal ¹ _____ a good question, isn't it? I don't think I've ever really thought about it before. Hmm ... Somewhere with nice beaches, I guess.

Imad But ² _____ are lovely beaches in this country, aren't there?

Jamal Oh yes, there are, but I'd like to go to a beach where it's not too hot in the summer. It can be too hot here, ³ _____?

Imad Actually, I used to live in France.

Jamal ⁴ _____ you? I bet ⁵ _____ too hot there in the summer, was it?

Imad No, it was quite cool, actually.

Jamal That sounds great.

- 8 **SPEAKING** In pairs, write and role play a conversation. Go to page 94.

Now go to Workbook page 9 for the next lesson.

How do we form question Tags?

When the main sentence is **positive**, the question tag is usually **negative**, and when the sentence is **negative**, the tag is usually **positive**.

عندما تكون الجملة **مثبتة**، يكون السؤال القصير عادة **منفيًا**، وعندما تكون الجملة **منفية**، يكون السؤال القصير عادة **مثبتًا**.

Statement Type	Question Tag	Example	
Positive statement	Negative tag	You are coming to the party, aren't you?	عندما تكون الجملة مثبتة، نستخدم سؤالاً منفيًا
Negative statement	Positive tag	You don't understand, do you?	عندما تكون الجملة منفية، نستخدم سؤالاً مثبتًا

Conversation 1

A = Abeer M = Mariam

A: So, Mariam, what was the best thing you did this year?

M: Oh, good question! I think it would have to be my trip to Cairo in the autumn.

A: Oh, it's such a great city, **isn't it?** I love it.

M: Have you been a few times then?

A: Yes, quite a few.

M: Would you believe it was my first visit?

A: Wow! So you'd never been there before, **had you?**

I love exploring new places, **don't you?**

M: Yes, it's great.

Conversation 2

L = Lubna N = Nabila

L: Hey, I know you! You're the girl who won that singing contest last week, **aren't you?**

N: Yes, actually, I am. Ha! I've never been recognised before!

L: **Haven't you?** You mean by someone who has seen you sing? I was actually the sound technician there. Small world, **isn't it?**

N: Yes, it is! So, you're the one responsible for my amazing performance. I'd like to thank you for a job well done then. Are you hungry? Let's go over to the food table, **shall we,** and I'll make you a sandwich to die for!

L: Thank you! The food looks amazing, **doesn't it?**

LESSON 4A GRAMMAR

1 1.4 Listen to three conversations

 where people meet for the first time. Which do you think is the best question they use to keep a conversation going?



Conversation 3

F = Faisal H = Habib

F: What's the best present you've ever received, Habib?

H: Oh, I don't know, maybe concert tickets for my favorite band. But I'm always happy to get any present! I guess everyone feels like that, **don't they?**

F: Oh, I don't know. I quite often get presents I don't like. Actually, I shouldn't be so fussy, **should I?** Or maybe my friends and family just don't know me as well as yours do ...

H: Actually, it's my birthday tomorrow.

F: Is it? Do you have anything special planned?

H: Well, I think ...

Question Tag Examples from Audio Script 1.4

Conversation 1

A = Abeer M = Mariam

A: So, Mariam, what was the best thing you did this year?

M: Oh, good question! I think it would have to be my trip to Cairo in the autumn.

A: Oh, it's such a great city, **isn't it?** I love it.

M: Have you been a few times then?

A: Yes, quite a few.

M: Would you believe it was my first visit?

A: Wow! So you'd never been there before, **had you?**

I **love** exploring new places, **don't you?**

M: Yes, it's great.

المحادثة 1

عبير: إذاً، مريم، ما أفضل شيء قمت به هذا العام؟
مريم: أوه، سؤال جيد! أعتقد أنه سيكون رحلتي إلى القاهرة في الخريف.

عبير: أوه، إنها مدينة رائعة، **أليست كذلك؟**

مريم: هل زرتها عدة مرات إذاً؟

عبير: نعم، مرات عديدة.

مريم: هل تصدقين أنها كانت زيارتي الأولى؟

عبير: واو! إذاً لم تزورها من قبل، **أليس كذلك؟**

أنا أحب استكشاف أماكن جديدة، **ألا تحبين ذلك؟**

مريم: نعم، إنه أمر رائع.

LESSON 4A GRAMMAR

- 1  1.4 Listen to three conversations where people meet for the first time. Which do you think is the best question they use to keep a conversation going?



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Question Tag Examples from Audio Script 1.4

Conversation 2

L = Lubna N = Nabila

L: Hey, I know you! You're the girl who won that singing contest last week, **aren't you?**

N: Yes, actually, I am. Ha! I've never been recognised before!

L: **Haven't you?** You mean by someone who has seen you sing? I was actually the sound technician there. It's a small world, **isn't it?**

N: Yes, it is! So, you're the one responsible for my amazing performance. I'd like to thank you for a job well done then. Are you hungry? **Let's go** over to the food table, **shall we**, and I'll make you a sandwich to die for!

L: Thank you! The food **looks** amazing, **doesn't it?**

لبنى: مرحبًا، أنا أعرفك! أنتِ الفتاة التي فازت في مسابقة الغناء الأسبوع الماضي، **أليس كذلك؟**
نبيلة: نعم، بالفعل، أنا هي. هاها! لم يتعرف عليّ أحد من قبل!

لبنى: **حقًا؟** تقصدين لم يتعرف عليك أحد ممن شاهدك تغنين؟ في الواقع، كنتُ مسؤولة الصوت هناك. العالم صغير، **أليس كذلك؟**

نبيلة: نعم، فعلًا! إذًا، أنتِ المسؤولة عن أدائي الرائع. أود أن أشكرك على عملك الممتاز. هل أنتِ جائعة؟ لنذهب إلى طاولة الطعام، **ما رأيك؟** وسأعد لك شطيرة لذيذة جدًا!
لبنى: شكرًا لك! الطعام يبدو رائعًا، **أليس كذلك؟**

Echo Question not a Question Tag

1 1.4 Listen to three conversations where people meet for the first time. Which do you think is the best question they use to keep a conversation going?



Question Tag Examples from Audio Script 1.4

Conversation 3

F = Faisal H = Habib

F: What's the best present you've ever received, Habib?

H: Oh, I don't know, maybe concert tickets for my favorite band. But I'm always happy to get any present! I guess everyone **feels** like that, **don't they?**

F: Oh, I don't know. I quite often get presents I don't like. Actually, I **shouldn't** be so fussy, **should I?** Or maybe my friends and family just don't know me as well as yours do ...

H: Actually, it's my birthday tomorrow.

F: **Is it?** Do you have anything special planned?

H: Well, I think ...

محادثة 3

فيصل: ما أفضل هدية تلقيتها في حياتك، يا حبيب؟
حبيب: أوه، لا أدري، ربما تذاكر لحفل لفرقتي المفضلة.
 لكنني أفرح بأي هدية! أعتقد أن الجميع يشعرون بهذا، أليس كذلك؟

فيصل: لا أدري. غالبًا ما أحصل على هدايا لا تعجبني. في الواقع، لا ينبغي أن أكون صعب الإرضاء، أليس كذلك؟ أو ربما أصدقائي وعائلتي لا يعرفونني جيدًا مثل أصدقائك وعائلتك...

حبيب: في الواقع، غدًا عيد ميلادي.
فيصل: حقًا؟ هل خططت لشيء مميز؟
حبيب: حسنًا، أظن أن...

Echo Question not a Question Tag

Ex. 3 Tag Question General Rules

- 3 Look at the underlined examples of question tags from the dialogues. Then complete the sentences 1–4 below with the words in the box.

end modal negative positive

It's such a great city, isn't it?

Wow, so you'd never been there before, had you?

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LESSON 4A GRAMMAR

01

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- 4  **1.5 PRONUNCIATION** Listen and match what you hear with intonation pattern A or B below. Which pattern is used for a **wh-** question and which for confirming something the speaker already knows?

A  B 

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Habib Actually, it's my birthday tomorrow.

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Jamal Oh yes, there are, but I'd like to go to a beach where it's not too hot in the summer. It can be too hot here, ³____?

Imad Actually, I used to live in France.

Jamal ⁴____, you? I bet ⁵____ too hot there in the summer, was it?

Imad No, it was quite cool, actually.

Jamal That sounds great.

- 8 **SPEAKING** In pairs, write and role play a conversation. Go to page 94.

Now go to Workbook page 9 for the next lesson.

Question Tag Structure Rules Summary of Grammar Reference

قواعد تركيب الاسئلة التأكيدية

Statement Type	Question Tag	Example
Positive statement	Negative tag	You are coming to the party, aren't you?
Negative statement	Positive tag	You don't understand, do you?

Tense / Structure	Formation Rule	Example	Polarity Rule
Present Simple (be)	is/are + pronoun	This is an amazing house, isn't it?	Positive → Negative
Present Simple (do/does)	do/does + pronoun	She usually comes in late, doesn't she?	Positive → Negative
Present Simple (negative)	do/does + pronoun	You don't understand, do you?	Negative → Positive
Present Continuous	Is/are + pronoun	You are coming to the party, aren't you?	Positive → Negative
Past Simple	did + pronoun	They went to school, didn't they?	Positive → Negative
Present Perfect	have/has + pronoun	They haven't been yet, have they?	Negative → Positive
Past Perfect	had + pronoun	We had met them before, hadn't we?	Positive → Negative
Modal Verbs	Repeat modal + pronoun	I can email my CV, can't I?	Positive → Negative
Imperatives (commands)	will/would/can + pronoun	Write it down, will you?	Positive → Positive
Imperatives (negative)	will you	Don't make a mess, will you?	Negative → Positive
Let's ...	shall we	Let's go to the cinema, shall we?	Positive → Positive
I am (exception)	aren't I	I'm still employed, aren't I?	Positive → Negative
Someone/Everyone no one/no body (indefinite pronoun referring to people)	Auxiliary+they	Nobody came, did they? Everyone came, didn't they?	Negative → Positive Positive → Negative
Nothing and Everything indefinite pronoun referring to a thing.	Auxialry + it	Nothing has happened so far, has it? Everything is fine, isn't it?	Negative → Positive Positive → Negative

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استثنائات القاعدة

Ex. 5 Unusual Question Tags

Unusual Question tags include:

- **Imperative sentences** (e.g., commands)
- **Indefinite pronouns** such as *No one, Nothing, Everyone*
- **Demonstrative pronoun:** *This*

ال question tags الغير عادية تتضمن :

- **imperative** (فعل الامر) جمل
- **Indefinite pronouns** (ضمائر غير محددة) مثل **No one, Nothing, everyone**
- **Demonstrative Pronoun** (ضمير الإشارة) **this**

5  **1.6** Look at these more unusual question tags. Choose the correct words to complete the sentences. Listen and check.



- 1 This is silly, isn't *it / this*?
- 2 Nothing ever changes, *do / does* it?
- 3 Come and look at this, *will / don't* you?
- 4 Everyone was there, *weren't / wasn't* they?
- 5 Don't be late, *are / will* you?
- 6 No one likes him, *do / does* they?

Ex. 5 Unusual Question Tags

ال question tags الغير عادية تتضمن :

- جمل imperative (فعل الامر)
- Indefinite pronouns (ضمائر غير محددة) مثل No one, Nothing, everyone
- Demonstrative Pronoun (ضمير الاشارة) this

5  1.6 Look at these more unusual question tags. Choose the correct words to complete the sentences. Listen and check.

- 1 This is silly, isn't it / this?
- 2 Nothing ever changes, do / does it?
- 3 Come and look at this, will / don't you?
- 4 Everyone was there, weren't / wasn't they?
- 5 Don't be late, are / will you?
- 6 No one likes him, do / does they?

This is silly, isn't it?	We use the pronoun ' it ' in the question Tag when the subject of the sentence is the demonstrative pronoun ' This '	نستخدم الضمير it في السؤال القصير التأكيدي عندما يكون الفاعل في الجملة هو اسم الإشارة. this	هذا سخيف، أليس كذلك؟
Nothing ever changes, does it?	We use the pronoun it in the question tag when the subject of the sentence is an indefinite pronoun that refers to a thing.	نستخدم it في السؤال القصير التأكيدي إذا كان فاعل الجملة ضميرًا غير محدد يشير إلى شيء	لا شيء يتغير أبدًا، أليس كذلك؟
Come and look at this, will you?	We use ' will you ' as a question tag with imperatives (even if the imperative was positive) . **There is an exception. If the imperative was an invitation, we can use : won't you - Come to my party, won't you?	نستخدم will you في السؤال القصير التأكيدي بعد الجمل التي تعطي أمرًا أو طلبًا (حتى لو كان فعل الامر مثبتًا) **هناك استثناء: إذا كانت الجملة الأمرية عبارة عن دعوة، يمكننا استخدام " won't you "	تعال وانظر إلى هذا، حسنًا؟ أو أأنت تفعل؟
Everyone was there, weren't they?	We use the pronoun they in the question tag when the subject of the sentence is an indefinite pronoun that refers to people.	نستخدم they في السؤال القصير التأكيدي إذا كان فاعل الجملة ضميرًا غير محدد يشير إلى أشخاص	كان الجميع هناك، أليسوا كذلك؟
Don't be late, will you?	We use ' will you ' as a question tag with imperatives	نستخدم will you في السؤال القصير التأكيدي بعد الجمل التي تعطي أمرًا أو طلبًا	لا تتأخر، حسنًا؟ أو أأنت تفعل؟
No one likes him, do they?	We use the pronoun they in the question tag when the subject of the sentence is an indefinite pronoun that refers to people.	نستخدم they في السؤال القصير التأكيدي إذا كان فاعل الجملة ضميرًا غير محدد يشير إلى أشخاص	لا أحد يحبه، أليس كذلك؟ (أو: أليسوا كذلك؟)

5  **1.6** Look at these more unusual question tags. Choose the correct words to complete the sentences. Listen and check.

1 This is silly, isn't it / this?

2 Nothing ever changes, do / does it?

فعل امر مثبت

3 Come and look at this, will / don't you?

4 Everyone was there, weren't / wasn't they?

فعل امر منفي

5 Don't be late, are / will you?

6 No one likes him, do / does they?

