



# English with Nimafar

*Advanced Tag Questions Part II*



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## Negative Adverbs of Frequency in Tag Questions

*In part I, we talked about how we form a tag question, let's have a glance, shall we?*

Positive Main Clause	Negative Tag Form	You are a teacher, aren't you?
Negative Main Clause	Positive Tag Form	She isn't a doctor, is she?

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*But, what if we use a negative adverb of frequency? Don't know what negative adverbs of frequency are? Well, it's fine, you're here to learn!*

## *Negative Adverbs of Frequency in Tag Questions*

*Adverbs of frequency show how often we do something. For example: Always, Sometimes, Often, Hardly ever, Rarely, Usually, Never, etc.*



*But, we are talking about those which have a negative meaning. Look at this sentence.*

*She never reads books. Doesn't it mean: She doesn't read books?*



*So, when our adverbs of frequency have a negative meaning, we call them negative adverbs of frequency. Like: Never, Hardly, Hardly ever, Rarely, Barely, Scarcely, Seldom, etc.*

## *Negative Adverbs of Frequency in Tag Questions*

*When we use negative adverbs of frequency, our sentences will get a negative meaning, therefore, our main clauses are no longer positive, and we consider them as negative clauses. Means that we should use positive tags! Interesting, isn't it? 😊*

- *She never reads books, does she?*
- *He is never late, is he?*
- *You hardly ever watch soccer, do you?*
- *They have seldom done their assignments, have they?*
- *I was never rude to you, was I?*

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## Opinions (I think) in Tag Questions

*I think he is a doctor, .....? 🤔 What do you think?*

*Sometimes, we use “I think + .....” to talk about our opinions. But should we use “don’t I” as the tag?*

*Well, you’re right. No, we cannot. Because that would be meaningless, you are asking yourself? Are you crazy? I’m joking 😏*

*So, what should we do? We make the tag based on the clause after “I think”. Hmm!*

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*For example: I think he is a doctor, isn't he?*

*More examples? Look at the next slide.*

## [Examples] Opinions (I think) in Tag Questions

- *I think they are late, aren't they?*
- *I don't think he is a good actor, is he? (Here, the main clause is negative (I don't think), so we use a positive tag. (is he))*
- *I think we will get there on time, won't we?*
- *Uh, I don't think she can pass her exams, can she?*
- *I think David could be a good comedian, couldn't he?*

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## Can you? Vs Can't you? in Tag Questions

When "can't" is used in an imperative tag question, it generally implies irritation or frustration on the part of the speaker. On the other hand, when "can" is used in an imperative tag

question, it can convey a more neutral or polite tone and often seeks agreement or confirmation.

- Be quiet, can't you?
- Turn off the TV, can you?
- Shut up, can't you?
- Oh my God! Stop speaking loudly, can't you?!

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## Can you? Vs Can't you? in Tag Questions

However, the tone and intention of the speaker can vary depending on the context of the conversation and the relationship between the speaker and listener.



**Note:** In written English, we can use a question mark + an exclamation mark to express the feeling for "can't." (?!)

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