



English with Nimafar

Advanced Tag Questions Part III



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Double Positives

As we discussed in part I, we use a *positive main clause* and a *negative tag form*, and vice versa. What if we don't want to ask any questions and we just want to show some reactions?

We use double positives to express **anger, surprise, disbelief, emphasis, sarcasm**, etc.

Heads up! We do **NOT** use double positives to either ask or seek for confirmation. We use double positives *to react to people's statements and sometimes, to check if our assumptions are correct (with a guessing/questioning tone)*

How do we use double positives? We repeat the positive/affirmative sentence and we use a positive tag.
(~~We do **NOT** use double positives for negative sentences like "She can't swim".~~)

Double Positives: Examples

- You are buying a new PS5, are you? (**Surprise**)
- You are sorry now, are you? (**Anger**)
- Oh, you think you are funny, do you? (**Sarcasm**)
- You can speak English better than me, can you? (**Disbelief**)
- **So**, you have been teaching French for 3 years, have you?
(**Interest**)
- **So**, you are a detective, are you? (**Interest**)
- That was the final class of the term, was it? (**Checking if your assumption is correct, we shall say the main clause with a guessing/questioning tone**)

Indefinite Pronouns in Tag Questions

Somebody	Someone	Anybody
Nobody	No one	Anyone
Everyone	Everybody	Subscribe!

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We call these subjects "indefinite pronouns" which don't directly state who the subject is. The verb followed by these subjects are **singular**, but we use the subject "**they**" and a **plural form** of the verb.

- *Someone called me, didn't they?*
- *Somebody is knocking the door, don't they?*
- *Everyone works on Monday, don't they?*
- *No one wants to help me, do they? (Negative Main Clause)*

Indefinite Pronouns in Tag Questions

Something	Anything	Nothing
Everything	www.englishwithnimafar.com	

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These subjects don't directly state **what** the subject is. The verb followed by these subjects are **singular**, but we use the subject "it" and a **singular form** of the verb.

- Something is happening now, isn't it?
- Nothing has been stolen, has it? (Negative Main Clause)
- Everything is okay, isn't it?
- Anything could be done, couldn't it?

Ain't & Innit in Tag Questions

In **American English**, "Ain't + Subject" is used for all negative tag forms.

- *I am reading a book, ain't I?*
- *You can swim, ain't you?*
- *We will move to Canada next year, ain't we?*
- *She had worked as an engineer before she ran her real estate company, ain't she?*

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In **British English**, **Innit** is the shortened form of "isn't it"; however, we can use innit (with no subject) for almost all negative tag forms.

- *He is an engineer, innit?*
- *They can speak Chinese, innit?*
- *It's Tuesday, innit? 😊*

Don't make this mistake!



- A.** Many students use capital letters for tag forms which is wrong.
 - a. He is a teacher, **isn't** he? (**NOT Isn't he**)
 - b. They can swim, **can't** they? (**NOT Can't they**)
- B.** Many students sometimes don't use contractions which is wrong.
 - a. Jack is a singer, **isn't** he? (**NOT is not he**)
 - b. Your father used to play chess, **didn't** he? (**NOT did not he**)
- C.** The Grammar "Tag Questions" is an informal grammar topic; therefore, it is not appropriate to use it in formal occasions. However, we can use tag questions in formal occasions but we had better not.

Universal Tags

As mentioned that this Grammar is informal; we can make it more informal. There are some tags that make your sentences very informal.

Such as right, yeah, ok, okay, hmm, etc...

★ We use nothing after these tags. (No subject)

Examples:

- *You like music, right?*
- *Be quiet, okay?*
- *Let's go to the park, hmm?*
- *You can swim, right?*

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