

Communication Strategies: Tag Questions

FORM:

Austin has eaten already, hasn't he ?



USE:

A **tag question** can be used as a question if you are uncertain about something (rising intonation), or as a confirmation of something you think you already know (falling intonation), depending on the intonation. Both uses have the same form:

1. Change the noun to a pronoun (*Austin* → *he* in the above example.)
2. Identify the auxiliary verb in the sentence (*has*)
3. Change the affirmative auxiliary to a negative (*has* → *hasn't*)
4. Invert subject and auxiliary verb (*he hasn't* → *hasn't he*)

Use the auxiliaries **do**, **does**, and **did** in the tag question when the sentence has no other auxiliary. Remember to keep the following exceptions in mind:

- **This/that**, although already pronouns, become **it**.

That's George, isn't it?

- **Everyone/body, someone/body, anyone/body, no one** and **nobody** become **they**; but **everything, something, anything, nothing** become **it**.

Somebody knows what happened, don't they?

Everything's all right, isn't it?

- **I am** becomes **am I not** (written) or **aren't I** (spoken).

I'm still on the list, aren't I?

- **Let's** becomes **shall we**.

Let's go, shall we?

Fill in the blanks using TAG QUESTIONS.

1. You played your guitar yesterday, _____?
2. She hasn't seen this movie, _____?
3. Mark won't be back before noon, _____?
4. They can't speak Russian, _____?
5. They go to the supermarket twice a week _____?
6. The bus stops at this corner, _____?
7. He has to work very hard, _____?
8. The cafeteria was open, _____?
9. This is a beautiful view, _____?
10. You will go to the party tonight, _____?
11. You spend a lot of time with them, _____?
12. He took one hour to do his shopping, _____?
13. They have left for the day, _____?
14. There isn't anyone at the door, _____?
15. She looks like her mother, _____?
16. You have read that book, _____?
17. Helen didn't call me yesterday, _____?
18. You won't eat too much, _____?
19. She is on the phone now, _____?
20. Nancy didn't get to work on time, _____?
21. He wasn't driving fast, _____?
22. Let's go out tonight, _____?