

Rule – 1

A positive statement is followed by a negative question tag.

Examples:

- Jack is from Spain, isn't he?
- Marry can speak English, can't she?

Rule – 2

A negative statement is followed by a positive question tag.

Examples:

- They aren't funny, are they?
- He shouldn't say things like that, should he?

Rule – 3

When the verb in the main sentence is in simple present, we form the question tag with do/does.

Examples:

- You play the guitar, don't you?
- Sania likes tennis. doesn't she?

Rule – 4

If the verb is in the simple past, we use 'did'.

Examples:

- They went to the cinema, didn't they?
- She studied in New Zealand, didn't she?

Rule – 5

When the statement contains a word with a negative meaning, the question tag needs to be positive.

Examples:

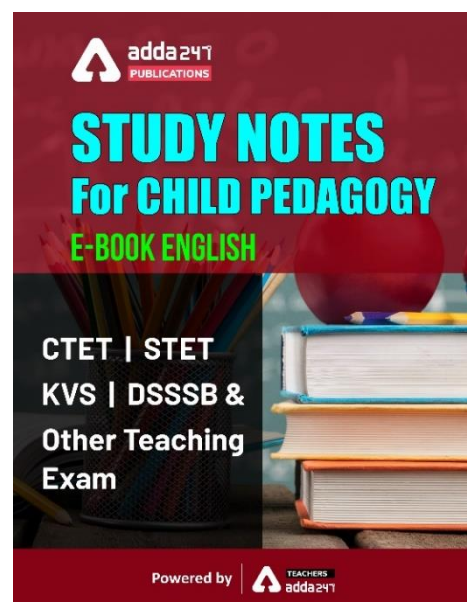
- He hardly ever speaks, does he?
- They rarely eat in restaurants, do they?

Rule – 6

If the statement has a modal, It is repeated in the tag.

Examples:

- Parul can go herself, can't she?
- You should get up early, shouldn't you?
- You wouldn't do that, would you ?
- We must help them, mustn't we?



Rule – 7

With the Simple Present tense, we use 'do', 'does', 'don't', 'doesn't', while with the simple past tense, we use 'did', 'didn't'. With the present perfect we use, 'have', 'haven't'.

Examples:

- They like going to the movie theatre, don't they?
- You don't take sugar in tea, do you?
- Raju listens to music, doesn't he ?
- You all watched TV during the night, didn't you?

Rule – 8

Question tags with 'have' and 'do' are often possible after the auxiliary 'have' or 'has'.

Examples:

- Kumar has two cars, hasn't he? Or doesn't he?
- She has a nice kitten, hasn't she? Or doesn't she?
- You haven't a house, have you? Or Do you?
- They have a garden, haven't they? Or don't they?

Rule – 9

If the statement contains words, such as no, no one, nothing, nobody, scarcely, hardly, hardly ever, never, neither, seldom, under no circumstances, etc, it is considered a negative statement and followed by an affirmative tag.

Examples:

- Julia hardly ever drinks Coke, does she?
- Nothing will cure his illness, will it?
- He never acts like a gentleman, does he?
- She is hardly the right person for the job, is she?
- It is no good, is it?

Rule – 10

If the subject of the statement is somebody, anybody, nobody, everybody, no one and neither – you use the pronoun 'they' in question tag.

Examples:

- Somebody entered the garden, didn't they?
- Everybody was upset, weren't they?
- No body objects to the plan, do they?


Rule – 11

When the subject of the statement is 'that' or 'this' the pronoun in the tag is 'it'. the pronoun 'they' is for their plural forms – these and those.

Examples:

- This is expensive necklace, isn't it?
- Those are very naughty children, aren't they?
- That wasn't big surprise, was it?
- These weren't yours, were they?

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Rule – 12

When we use a 'there + be' combination in a sentence, the pronoun in the tag is 'there'.

Examples:

- There isn't a hotel next to the museum, is there?
- There won't be any trouble, will there?
- There is a bus to Atlantic City every hour, isn't there?
- There weren't any children at school, were there?

Rule – 13

When 'let's' is used in a sentence, the question tag used is 'shall we?'

Examples:

- Let's go to the movie theatre, shall we?
- Let's have a party, shall we?
- Let's drink tea, shall we?

Rule – 14

'Have to' is considered Simple Present and 'had to' is considered Simple past.

Examples:

- Your father has to wear glasses, doesn't he?
- They don't have to come early, do they?
- We had to borrow some money to buy a new house, didn't we?
- They didn't have to read the story book, did they?

Rule – 15

Some introductory phrases such as 'I am afraid', 'I think', 'I believe', 'I am sure', 'I suspect', 'I suppose', 'It appears that', 'It seems that', 'It looks if', 'as far as I remember', 'as far as I can see', etc. don't affect question, except for the transfer of negation.

Examples:

- I suppose you are not serious, are you?
- I think my mom returned home, didn't she?
- I don't suppose you are serious, are you?

Rule – 16

If the subject of the sentence is everything, nothing, something, anything the pronoun in the tag is 'it'.

Examples:

- Everything is ready, isn't it? ; Nothing has the end, has it?
- Anything is possible, isn't it?



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Rule – 17

After positive imperatives, we use 'will you', 'won't you', 'can you', 'can't you', 'could you', etc. Yet for the negative imperatives we only use 'will you?'

Examples:

- Open the door, will you/ won't you, can you, could you, etc.
- Don't play with your toys, will you?

Rule – 18

After 'I am', the tag used is 'aren't'.

Examples:

- I am your father, aren't I? ; I am a bit late, aren't I? ;
- I am a teacher, aren't I?

