

What are tag questions?



- ✦ Question at the end of a statement used by the speaker to:
- ✦ Comment on something
- ✦ Ask for more information
- ✦ Check information they know/believe to be true

There is a good chance you use question tags in English without realising what they are, right?

Question tags are another way of maintaining a conversation.

Question tags are common in spoken language.

In writing they should only be use with informal or transactional texts.

Intonation and Meaning

Intonation is the rise and fall of the voice in speaking.

Rising Intonation

John **doesn't** speak Spanish, **does** he?

If the intonation of the question tag goes **up**, it means you are not sure and you want to know the answer.

Falling Intonation

John **doesn't** speak Spanish, **does** he?

If the intonation of the question tag goes **down**, it means you are checking or confirming information that we are sure of.

It can also be used when making conversation.

Intonation is important in spoken English and Indonesian.

There are two types of question tags in English:

1) single words like right, ok.

You're coming to the movies, right?

2) shortened question which are connected to a statement.

You are coming to the movies, aren't you?



In Indonesian there are three words used to create a question tag:

ya bukan yakan

In English there are rules about how to form a question tag:

- A positive statement + A negative question tag.
Example: You are a technician, aren't you?
- A negative statement + A positive question tag.
Example: You are not a technician, are you?

In Indonesian the main thing to consider is if we are seeking a response or just confirming an opinion/statement.

Seeking a response use – **bukan**

Confirming a statement use - **ya / yakan**

Question tags are attached to a statement:

Teknologi hebat sekarang, yakan?

Mestinya ada wifi gratis dimana-mana, yakan?

Liburan keluarga sangat penting, bukan?

Mencegah ketergantungan pada gawai penting, bukan?

When responding to question tags we can;

Agree/not agree

Ya / Tidak / Bukan / Belum / Jangan

Add a statement

Ya, karena

Tidak, lebih penting ...

OR

Give own opinion

Saya pikir ...

Pada pendapat saya ...

Mestinya ada wifi gratis dimana-mana, yakan?

Ya betul!

Ya, semua orang pakai gawai sekarang jadi wifi diperlukan.

Saya pikir wifi penting tetapi tidak dimana-mana. Kadang-kadang pakai gawai itu bahaya mislanya saat menyeberang jalan.

Review

- ✦ Tag questions are used to comment on information, find out more information, or check information.
- ✦ Intonation is important!

Consider using question tags to maintain a conversation, avoid them in writing unless they specifically fit the text type (transactional text).