questions tags (*endaspurningar*)

Examples:

- You're not hungry, are you?
- They've already done the washing up, haven't they?
- Be quiet, will you?

USE: Questions like the underlined ones above are used either to invite agreement (with falling intonation), or to ask for confirmation of facts (falling intonation).

Examples: It's lovely today, isn't it? (**Don't you agree?**)

You didn't tell her our secret, did you? (**Can you confirm/verify?**)

Form: Question tags consist of an auxiliary verb (do, does, is, are, have, has, must, can, etc.) and a personal pronoun (he, she, it, we, they, you, etc.) There are a few basic rules:

- If there's an auxiliary (do/does, be, have) or modal auxiliary verb (can, must, need, etc.) in the main clause, this is repeated in the question tag.

Examples: Katla **isn't** coming, **is she?** Jóhann **will** be furious, **won't he?**

- If there is an ordinary verb in the main clause, do is used in the question tag.

Examples: Sam **likes** (= *does like*) bananas, **doesn't she?**
They **went** (= *did go*) to Russia last year, **didn't they?**
He **had** (= *did have*) an accident a week ago, **didn't he?**

- Normally an affirmative statement has a negative question, and vice versa:

Statement	Question tag	
affirmative	***negative***	*You're coming,* ***aren't you***
negative	**affirmative**	*He doesn't like heavy metal music,* ***does he?***

Exercise 1. Match the two halves of the sentences below. An example is given.

a)	You usually catch the 9 o'clock train,		1.	aren't you?
b)	You can't speak Spanish,		2.	couldn't you?
c)	You haven't got a car,		3.	had you?
d)	You'd better answer the telephone,		4.	will you?
e)	You could always borrow the money,		5.	can you?
f)	You won't tell anyone,	**4**	6.	don't you?
g)	You didn't wear that to the party,		7.	hadn't you?
h)	You're going to see him tomorrow,		8.	haven't you?
i)	You hadn't been to an opera before,		9.	have you?
j)	You've got some time to spare,		10.	did you?

Special points

- ***I am*** is followed by the question tag ***aren't I?*** (I'm lucky, aren't I?)
- After an imperative (boðháttur), ***will you?*** Or ***would you?*** Are the most common forms. Use ***will you?*** After a negative imperative:
  Example: *Pay attention, will you?* *Shut the door, would you?*
  But *Don't be late, will you?* (not ~~would you?~~)
- Negative expressions like no, nothing, nowhere, and nobody in the main clause are followed by an affirmative question tag.

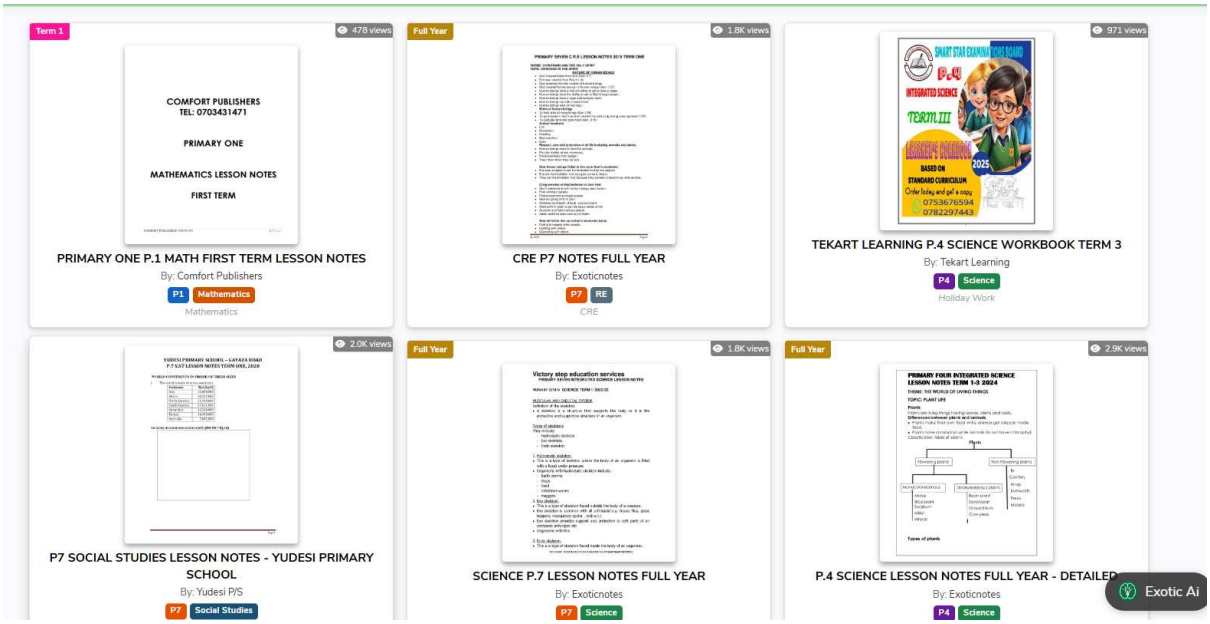
Example : She takes no interest in her studies, does she?

- *Somebody/someone, everybody/everyone* and *nobody/no-one* are followed by **they** in a question tag. For example:
  Nobody called for me, did they?
  Everyone was very pleased, weren't they?
- *Sentences beginning with the directive* ***let's****, we use* ***shall we?***
- *Nothing/anything* in the main clause is followed by **it** in a question tag. For example:
  Nothing could be better, could it?
  Anything could happen now, couldn't it?

Exercise 2. *Add the correct question tags to the following statements.*

1. *We left at dawn, _____?*
2. *You've no idea at all what I'm talking about, _____?*
3. *You'd rather be staying at home, _____?*
4. *Don't tell anyone, _____?*
5. *There are some fantastic bargains, _____?*
6. *No-one managed to escape, _____?*
7. *Take care, _____?*
8. *You shouldn't have made such a fuss, _____?*
9. *They could've told the police, _____?*
10. *We had really some bad luck, _____?*
11. *Nobody heard what you said, _____?*
12. *Switch on the light, _____?*
13. *I'm managing quite well, _____?*
14. *Everyone has to pay taxes, _____?*
15. *You'd be scared if you met a bear in the street, _____?*
16. *Somebody could see you, _____?*
17. *There was nothing wrong with the car, _____?*
18. *Do listen, _____?*
19. *I'm not late, _____?*
20. *This is really boring, _____?*
21. *Listen, _____?*
22. *Your mother's just had an operation, _____?*
23. *You must keep this to yourself, _____?*
24. *No-one knew what to do, _____?*
25. *You couldn't lend me a fiver, _____?*
26. *It was marked yellow on the map, _____?*
27. *The road had been very bad, _____?*
28. *Nothing could save them now, _____?*
29. *You'd better see you dentist about that tooth, _____?*
30. *Let's get some grub, _____?*

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