TOPIC NO 7: SELECT THE CORRECT QUESTION TAG

Rule 1: \[ V + N'T + S? \]

**EX:**
He is a farmer, \textit{isn’t he}?
I \textit{was} busy, \textit{wasn’t I}?
They \textit{have} money, \textit{haven’t} they?

Rule 2:
If the verb is in the present tense, use \textit{do} or \textit{does}.
If the verb is in the past tense, use \textit{did}.

**Ex:**
They \textit{speak} English, \textit{don’t} they?
She \textit{speaks} English, \textit{doesn’t} she?
They \textit{came} late, \textit{didn’t} they?

Rule 3:
The formal subject \textit{There} is also the subject of the tag.

**Ex:**
There \textit{are} four parents in the meeting, \textit{aren’t they}?

Rule 4:

(i) \textit{I am} = aren’t I?
I am your friend, \textit{aren’t I}?

(ii) \textit{Let us} or \textit{Lets} = shall we?
Lets go for a ride, \textit{shall we}?

(iii) \textit{Verb} + \textit{others words} = will you? or won’t you?

1. Short forms:
- Can + not = can’t
- Will + not = won’t
- Shall + not = shan’t

2. Verbs like am, is, are, was, were, do, does, did, has, have, had, will, would, can, could, shall, should, may, might, must, etc are repeated.
Do this work, \textbf{will you? Or won’t you?}

(iv) Everybody, everyone, etc +verb(sing) = verb plural + not+ they?
Everyone has come, \textbf{haven’t they?}

(v) Some of us = we
Some of us wanted to go out, \textbf{didn’t we?}

(vi) Some of you = you
Some of you are learning English, \textbf{aren’t you?}

\textbf{Rule 5:}
A positive statement takes a negative tag and a negative statement takes a positive tag.

Ex;

He will come, \textbf{won’t he?}

He won’t come, \textbf{will he?}

\textbf{Rule6:}

(i) No, none, no one, nothing, nowhere, etc., are negative. So it takes positive tag.

None of the food was wasted, \textbf{was it?}

(ii) Little, few, hardly, scarcely, rarely and seldom are treated us negatives and take a positive tag.

Little progress has been made, \textbf{has it?}

We seldom see them nowadays, \textbf{do we?}

(iii) Though few and little are negative, a few and a little are positive and therefore need a negative tag.

A few people knew the answer, \textbf{didn’t they?}

(iv) The adverb ‘only’ may take either a positive or a negative tag.

( the positive is more usual)

There were only six people present, \textbf{were they?}
There were only six people present, weren’t they?

(v) Used to = did
She used to be a good singer, didn’t she?

(vi) I am = aren’t?
I am not = am I?
I am your friend, aren’t I?
I am not your friend, am I?