

TOPIC NO 7 : SELECT THE CORRECT QUESTION TAG

Rule 1: V+ N'T+S?

EX;

He is a farmer, **isn't he?**

I was busy, **wasn't I?**

They have money, **haven't** they?

Rule 2:

If the verb is in the present tense, use **do or does.**

If the verb is in the past tense, use **did.**

Ex;

They **speak** English, **don't** they?

She **speaks** English, **doesn't** she?

They **came** late, **didn't** they?

Rule 3:

The formal subject **There** is also the subject of the tag.

Ex;

There are four parents in the meeting, **aren't they?**

Rule 4:

(i) I am = aren't I?

I am your friend, **aren't I?**

(ii) Let us or Lets = shall we?

Lets go for a ride, **shall we?**

(iii) Verb + other 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, **will you? Or won't you?**

- (iv) Everybody, everyone, etc +verb(sing) = verb plural + not+ they?

Everyone has come, **haven't they?**

- (v) Some of us = we

Some of us wanted to go out, **didn't we?**

- (vi) Some of you = you

Some of you are learning English, **aren't you?**

Rule 5:

A positive statement takes a negative tag and a negative statement takes a positive tag.

Ex;

He will come, **won't he?**

He won't come, **will he?**

Rule6:

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

None of the food was wasted, **was it?**

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

Little progress has been made, **has it?**

We seldom see them nowadays, **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, **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, **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?**

Winmeen