



- Jim: It's Lisa, isn't it?  
 Lisa: Yes, Lisa Rogers. Have we met before?  
 Jim: Once, but it was a long time ago. I'm Jim Smythe. I work for KMC.  
 Lisa: You don't work with León Alvarez, do you?  
 Jim: That's right.  
 Lisa: Oh, I remember now. You were at that meeting with León in Barcelona, weren't you?  
 Jim: Yes, about two years ago. There was that wonderful reception, wasn't there?  
 Lisa: Yes! Well it's nice to meet you again. Anyway, what do you think of the conference? It's been interesting, hasn't it?

## Presentation

Tag questions are used for asking for information, or for checking and confirming information. They are used in informal speech at the end of affirmative or negative sentences:

*It's Lisa, **isn't it?***

*There was a meeting, **wasn't there?***

Do not use them after questions:

*Is it Lisa, ~~isn't it?~~*

*Was there a meeting, ~~wasn't there?~~*

Always use contracted forms in the tag.

Don't say: *It's Lisa, ~~is not~~ it?*

When the main verb is affirmative, the tag question is negative:

+ —

*It's **been** an interesting conference, **hasn't it?***

When the main verb is negative, the tag question is affirmative:

— +

*You **don't** work with León Alvarez, **do you?***

When the subject is a pronoun, repeat the pronoun:

*It's Lisa, **isn't it?***

When the subject is a noun, use an appropriate pronoun:

*The conference has been interesting, **hasn't it?***

## Punctuation

When you write tag questions, put a comma between the main sentence and the tag: *It's Lisa, isn't it?*

For the following verbs or verb forms, use the auxiliary (given in parentheses) in the tag question.

Verb or verb form + (auxiliary)	Examples
to be (is, are, was, were)	<i>It's Lisa, <b>isn't it?</b></i> <i>I'm late, <b>aren't I?</b>*</i> (*With I am ..., don't say I'm late, <del>am not</del> I? ) <i>You were at that meeting with León in Barcelona, <b>weren't</b> you?</i> <i>There was that wonderful reception, <b>wasn't</b> there?</i>
Present simple (do/does)	<i>You work for KMC, <b>don't</b> you?</i> <i>You don't know my colleague, <b>do</b> you?</i>
Past simple (did)	<i>He went to the conference, <b>didn't</b> he?</i> <i>They didn't enjoy the presentation, <b>did</b> they?</i>
Perfect and continuous (the same auxiliary verb)	<i>The conference has been interesting, <b>hasn't</b> it?</i> <i>You aren't listening to me, <b>are</b> you?</i>
Modal verbs (the same modal auxiliary verb)	<i>I should leave now, <b>shouldn't I?</b></i> <i>I couldn't buy you a drink, <b>could I?</b></i>
Imperative (will/won't)	<i>Send me your contact details, <b>won't</b> you?</i> <i>Don't forget to call me, <b>will</b> you?</i>
Let's (shall)	<i>Let's go out for dinner again sometime, <b>shall</b> we?</i> <i>Let's not spend too long discussing this, <b>shall</b> we?</i>

# 1 Write the tag questions in the conversation.

are you   didn't you   do you   haven't we   isn't it   shall we   shouldn't I  
wasn't it   weren't you   will you   won't you

- A: We've met before, <sup>1</sup>.....?
- B: Sorry, you'll have to remind me.
- A: You were in a training course with me in Bristol, <sup>2</sup>.....?
- B: Yes! That was a long time ago, <sup>3</sup>.....? I remember now. You aren't Malcolm,  
<sup>4</sup>.....?
- A: That's right. Malcolm Savage.
- B: Peter Franks. Nice to meet you again. It's funny how you meet people again at these events,  
<sup>5</sup>.....?
- A: Well, it's a small world. You worked for Haversham Plastics then, <sup>6</sup>.....?
- B: Yes. I still do. You don't do any business with us, <sup>7</sup>.....?
- A: No, I'm afraid not. But I have a colleague here who works in your industry. In fact he's looking for a supplier.
- B: I should meet him, <sup>8</sup>.....?
- A: Yes, but we can't see him at the moment. Never mind. You'll be here later, <sup>9</sup>.....?
- B: Actually I have to go in a minute.
- A: OK. Well, let's keep in touch about this, <sup>10</sup>.....? Here's my card with my phone number. Don't forget to call me, <sup>11</sup>.....?
- B: No, I won't. Thanks. It was nice meeting you again.

# 2 Write the missing tag questions.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 You're Marie, .....                             | 9 He'd already asked her to marry him before, .....        |
| 2 It's my turn to pay, .....                      | 10 Sheila's going to be angry about the mess, .....        |
| 3 They don't work here, .....                     | 11 Don't forget to give this package to your mother, ..... |
| 4 She likes sugar in her tea, .....               | 12 All you students can work harder, .....                 |
| 5 When I lived here, there was a tree here, ..... | 13 Let's take a taxi home, .....                           |
| 6 They've closed the post office, .....           | 14 It's been a lovely day, .....                           |
| 7 I'm in your group, .....                        |  |
| 8 I couldn't borrow a pen, .....                  |  |

# 3 Think of someone you know who you haven't seen for a long time. Imagine you meet again. Write questions using these tags.

- 1 ....., aren't you?
- 2 ....., don't you?
- 3 ....., haven't you?
- 4 ....., didn't you?