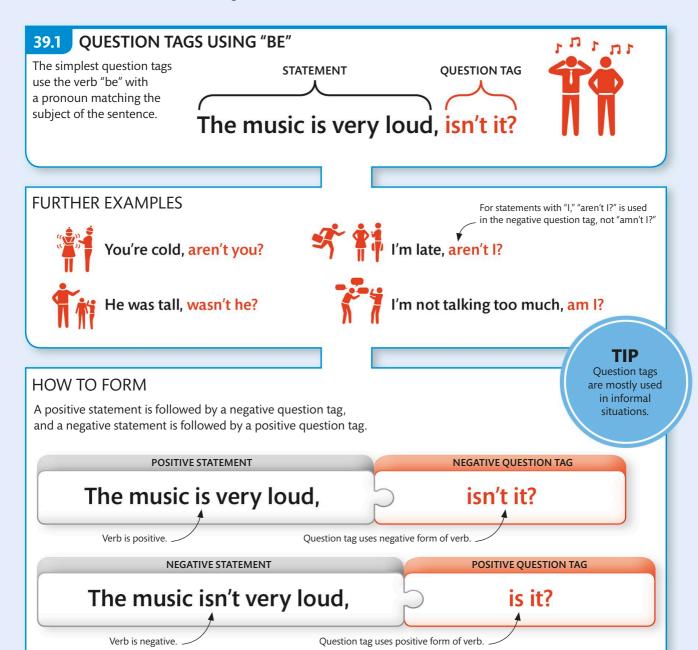
39 Question tags

In spoken English, small questions are often added to the ends of sentences. These are called question tags, and they are most often used to invite someone to agree.

See also:

Present simple 1 Past simple 7
Types of verbs 49 Modal verbs 56



39.2 QUESTION TAGS USING AUXILIARY VERBS

For most verbs other than "be," a present simple statement is followed by a question tag with "do" or "does."



MAIN

A past simple statement is followed by a question tag with "did."





AUXILIARY



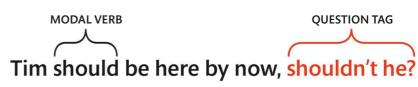
A statement with an auxiliary verb is followed by a question tag with the same auxiliary verb.





Statements with modal verbs such as "could," "would," and "should" are followed by question tags that use the same modal verb.





39.3 INTONATION WITH QUESTION TAGS

If the intonation goes up at the end of the question tag, it is a question requiring an answer.

If the intonation goes down at the end of a question tag, the speaker is just inviting the listener to agree. You'd like to move offices, wouldn't you?

[I am asking whether or not you would like to move offices.]

You've already met Evelyn, haven't you?

[I already know you've met Evelyn.]

auxiliary verb.