**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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Question tag</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>affirmative</td>
<td>negative affirmative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You’re coming,</td>
<td>He doesn’t like heavy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aren’t you?</td>
<td>metal music, does he?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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, ____________________________?