



- A: Let's discuss tomorrow's visit, shall we?  
 B: Sure.  
 A: We're meeting at eight, aren't we?  
 B: That's right – over breakfast.  
 A: Is that too early because Andreas lands at six thirty, doesn't he?  
 B: That's right. As long as his flight is on time, there'll be no problem.  
 A: And someone will pick him up from the airport, won't they?  
 B: That's a good question. Actually, I'm not sure.  
 A: Don't forget to check, will you? We don't want him waiting, do we?  
 B: No, we don't.

## Presentation

Form a tag question by using the auxiliary of the verb in the main sentence or the auxiliary verb *do* to replace the main verb:

*You're Andres, aren't you?*

*Andreas lands at six-thirty, doesn't he?*

*He arrived yesterday, didn't he?*

*She isn't waiting, is she?*

*They've visited Paris before, haven't they?*

*I should call the taxi company now, shouldn't I?*

If the main verb in the sentence is negative (including sentences with words with a negative meaning like *no one, never, hardly*), the tag question is affirmative:

*We don't want him waiting, do we?*

With imperative forms, use *will/won't* in the tag:

*Don't forget to check, will you?*

*Check that, won't you?*

For sentences starting with *Let's*, use *shall* in the tag:

*Let's discuss tomorrow's visit, shall we?*

We often use tag questions in speech or in informal writing to check that something is true or to request agreement. The meaning is shown by the intonation we use. If the tag is a real question to check something is true, we use rising intonation.

*We're meeting at eight, aren't we?*

If we are just requesting agreement, we use falling intonation.

*We don't want him waiting, do we?*

Sometimes we use an affirmative question tag after an affirmative sentence to express interest, surprise or concern.

*Half an hour is enough time from the airport to the meeting, is it?*

### Pronouns in tag questions

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

*Andreas lands at six thirty, doesn't he?*

If the subject is *no one, someone* or *anyone*, the pronoun in the question tag is *they*:

*Someone will pick him up from the airport, won't they?*

**1 Match the tag question (a–i) to the first part of the sentence (1–9).**

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1 You aren't coming tonight, <sup>d</sup> .....       | a haven't you?        |
| 2 Let's book the flight now, .....                    | b shouldn't you?      |
| 3 You should tell them you're going to be late, ..... | c didn't you?         |
| 4 You arrived late last night, .....                  | d <del>are you?</del> |
| 5 You've been before, .....                           | e aren't you?         |
| 6 Don't forget to call before you leave, .....        | f don't you?          |
| 7 You're coming tonight, .....                        | g will you?           |
| 8 You arrive at nine, .....                           | h shall we?           |
| 9 No one else is coming, .....                        | i are they?           |

**2 Complete the tag questions with the pronouns in the box.**

it (x2) she they we you
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- It's starting at nine, isn't ..... ?
- Anyone could have stolen it, couldn't ..... ?
- Let's finish for today, shall ..... ?
- Fifteen minutes is enough time for a meeting, is ..... ?
- Mrs Holden was born here, wasn't ..... ?
- Remember to lock everything, won't ..... ?

**3 Complete the conversation with tag questions.**

- A: You're Andreas Jenshel, <sup>1</sup> ..... ? I'm Shelby Taylor.  
 B: Nice to meet you, Shelby. You work for Nigel Sembler, <sup>2</sup> ..... ?  
 A: That's right. We've spoken on the phone.  
 B: I thought so. You haven't been waiting too long, <sup>3</sup> ..... ?  
 A: No, not at all. Your flight was only slightly delayed.  
 B: Good. OK, let's go, <sup>4</sup> ..... ? We don't want to keep Nigel waiting, <sup>5</sup> ..... ?  
 A: But don't forget to collect your other bag, <sup>6</sup> ..... ?  
 B: It's OK. I only have one bag. I always travel light!  
 A: Right. Well, my car is this way.  
 B: Half an hour is enough time to get from the airport to the company headquarters, <sup>7</sup> ..... ?  
 A: Probably a bit longer but Nigel will understand if we're a few minutes late.  
 B: Maybe, I should give him a quick call, <sup>8</sup> ..... ? To say we're on our way.

**4 Write your own sentences using these tag questions.**

- |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 ....., are you?     | 5 ....., mustn't you? |
| 2 ....., don't you?   | 6 ....., should you?  |
| 3 ....., did you?     | 7 ....., will you?    |
| 4 ....., haven't you? | 8 ....., shall we?    |