vhs Volkshochschule Rhein-Sieg

Question tags

Hiking is fun, isn't it?

You don't have a car, do you?

Question tags

Principles

Question tags are short questions that follow a statement.
Their German equivalents are truisms/set phrases (Floskeln) like "…, nicht wahr?", "…, ja?".
They are often used to confirm information or to seek agreement or confirmation from the listener.

Question tags are formed using the the statement's auxiliary or modal verb plus a (personal) pronoun. If there is no auxiliary or modal verb, *to do* is used.

A positive statement is used with the short form of a negative question tag and a negative statement is used with a positive question tag.

You know Jim, don't you?
He can't swim, can he?

Modal verbs

Examples of modal verbs include *can, will, should, ought to….*
Modal verbs do not have an infinitive with "to" and, used in a statement or question, need another verb to complete a sentence.

2. Halbjahr 2026
Englisch am Abend B1-3
262-40643, Mi, 18.00 – 19.30 Uhr

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Add the corresponding question tag:

The sofa wasn't too expensive,	***was it?***
Lisa's new flat is lovely,	***isn't it?***
They didn't spend a lot of time looking for a new car,	**did they?**
We could visit my mother tomorrow,	***couldn' t we?***
You like icecream,	***don't you?***
You haven't waited very long,	***have you?***

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Imperatives

When combined with the imperative form of a verb, question tags serve a specific purpose in communication.

When a question tag is added to the end of an imperative sentence, it can soften the command or request, make it sound more polite, or seek confirmation or compliance from the listener.

Close the door, will you?

Please pass me the salt, would you?

Don't forget to call me, okay?

When combined with the imperative form of a verb, question tags have the positive format.