01 Making conversation

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

⚙ **New language** Question tags
Aa Vocabulary Introductions and greetings
🧩 **New skill** Making conversation

1.1 KEY LANGUAGE QUESTION TAGS

The simplest question tags use the verb "to be" with a pronoun matching the subject of the sentence.

STATEMENT   QUESTION TAG

The music is very loud, isn't it?

1.2 FURTHER EXAMPLES QUESTION TAGS

For statements with "I" use "aren't I?" not "amn't I?" in the negative question tag.

He's tall, isn't he?

You're cold, aren't you?

I'm late, aren't I?

I'm not talking too much, am I?

1.3 HOW TO FORM QUESTION TAGS

A positive statement is followed by a negative question tag, and a negative statement is followed by a positive question tag.

TIP
Question tags are mostly used in informal situations.

STATEMENT	QUESTION TAG
The music **is** very loud,	**isn't** it?

Verb is positive.   Question tag uses negative form of verb.

STATEMENT	QUESTION TAG
The music **isn't** very loud,	**is** it?

Verb is negative.   Question tag uses positive form of verb.

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1.4 ADD QUESTION TAGS TO THE SENTENCES

They're good dancers, *aren't they* ?

1. She's not very well, _____ ?
2. You're not leaving now, _____ ?
3. Her dress is beautiful, _____ ?
4. John's hilarious, _____ ?
5. You're tired, _____ ?
6. The music is fantastic, _____ ?
7. The food isn't healthy, _____ ?

1.5 SAY THE SENTENCES OUT LOUD, ADDING QUESTION TAGS

She's a great guitarist, *isn't she* ?

1. This venue isn't very nice, _____ ?
2. The weather is perfect, _____ ?
3. The food is delicious, _____ ?
4. You're dressed nicely, _____ ?
5. It's very cold, _____ ?

1.6 LISTEN TO THE AUDIO AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

Five people are attending a birthday party.

Uncle Don thinks the party is wonderful.
True ☑ False ☐

1. John is Wilma Barrington's boss.
True ☐ False ☐

2. Wilma only meets one of John's friends.
True ☐ False ☐

3. Julie and Chung are friends with John.
True ☐ False ☐

4. Chung doesn't like the band playing at the party.
True ☐ False ☐

5. Julie looks at the food but says she isn't hungry.
True ☐ False ☐

6. Chung wants to dance before eating.
True ☐ False ☐

1.7 KEY LANGUAGE FORMAL AND INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS

Chatting to friends uses informal language, while greeting people at work may use formal language.

FORMAL

Good morning, Ms. Bescos. How are you?

I'm very well, thank you.

May I introduce Emma Wilson?

I'm very pleased to meet you.

I'm delighted to meet you, too.

INFORMAL

Hi, Jane. How are you doing?

Fine, thanks.

This is Marta.

Great to meet you.

You, too!

Aa 1.8 FILL IN THE GAPS USING THE PHRASES IN THE PANEL

Good evening, Mr. Fisher. _____*How are you*_____ ?

1 Great _____ , too.

2 This _____ .

3 I'm _____ you, Mrs. MacIntosh.

4 Hi Cameron. _____ ?

5 May _____ Dev Chandera?

Panel
~~How are you~~   I introduce
delighted to meet   is Tess
to meet you
How are you doing

Aa 1.9 MARK THE BEST REPLY TO EACH GREETING

All of these replies are correct, but some are more appropriate for formal or informal situations.

Hi, Jo.

Hi, Mandy. ✓

Good afternoon, Mrs. Sullivan. ☐

1. Good evening, Mr. Ri. How are you?

I'm very well, thank you. ☐

Fine, thanks. ☐

2. May I introduce Ruth Tate?

Great to meet you, Ruth. ☐

I'm delighted to meet you, Ms. Tate. ☐

3. I'm delighted to meet you.

I'm very pleased to meet you, too. ☐

You, too! ☐

4. This is Vicky.

I'm very pleased to meet you, too. ☐

Great to meet you. ☐

5. Kayar! Lovely to see you!

I'm delighted to see you, too. ☐

Pete! Great to see you, too! ☐

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💬 1.10 RESPOND TO THE AUDIO, SPEAKING OUT LOUD

May I introduce Mr. Tom Grant?

I'm delighted to meet you. 🗣

1. Hi, Andrew! How are you doing?

🗣

2. Great to meet you, Camilla.

🗣

3. I'm very pleased to meet you.

🗣

4. Jatinda, this is my friend, Amy.

🗣

5. Good morning, Mr. Watt. How are you?

🗣

6. May I introduce Mrs. Girdwood?

🗣

7. This is Shahid.

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01 ✅ CHECKLIST

⚙️ Question tags ☐   Aa Introductions and greetings ☐   🧩 Making conversation ☐