During conversation it is common to make a statement and then ask for confirmation. For example, in the sentence ‘It is very hot, isn’t it?’ we make a statement and then ask for confirmation. Here the later part (isn’t it?) is called a question tag.

In question tags we use the following patterns:

**Auxiliary + n’t + subject** (If the statement is positive)
**Auxiliary + subject** (If the statement is negative)

Examples are given below:

- You are coming, aren’t you?
- He is your friend, isn’t he?
- It is raining, isn’t it?
- She can speak English, can’t she?
- John broke the window, didn’t he?
- You aren’t coming, are you?
- He isn’t your friend, is he?
- She can’t speak English, can he?

Note that the subject of a question tag is always a pronoun, and not a noun.

- John is your friend, isn’t he? (NOT isn’t John)
- Alice is a doctor, isn’t she? (NOT isn’t Alice)

Note the special cases given below:

- I am right, aren’t I? (NOT amn’t I?)
- Let’s go for a walk, shall we?
- Wait a minute, can you?
- Have some coffee, will you?
- There is a library in that street, isn’t there?
- There are some boys in your class, aren’t there?

**Short answers**

Short answers to questions beginning with an auxiliary verb have the following structures:

- **Yes + pronoun + auxiliary**
- **OR**
- **No + pronoun + auxiliary + n’t (not)**

Are you coming with us? **Yes, I am. OR No, I am not.**
Can you drive a car? **Yes, I can.** OR **No, I can’t.**
Does he work? **Yes, he does.**
Did he say anything? **No, he didn’t.**

Agreements with affirmative sentences are made with ‘**yes + pronoun + auxiliary**’.

She is a good girl. **Yes, she is.**
He looks honest. **Yes, he does.**

Agreements with negative statements are made with ‘**no + pronoun + auxiliary + n’t/not**’.

He isn’t very intelligent. **No, he isn’t.**
She doesn’t like fish. **No, she doesn’t.**
They didn’t play well. **No, they didn’t.**