Question Tags, Short Answers

Class Objective: To learn about Question Tags and how to agree or disagree with a question with short answers.

Concept A: Question Tags

It is very common in a conversation to ask a question and follow it up asking for confirmation. Observe these sentences:

- 1. It's raining, isn't it?
- 2. It isn't raining, is it?
- 3. You are free, aren't you?
- 4. You aren't busy, are you?

The short confirmation questions "isn't it", "is it", "aren't you" and "are you" are called Question Tags.

- The subject of a question tag is always a pronoun, never a noun.
- When the question is positive, the question tag is negative and when the question is negative, the question tag is positive.
- In imperative questions, the question tags are used in the positive.

Examples:

- 1. Let's go to the beach, shall we?
- 2. Wait a minute, can you?

Concept B: Short Answers

To give short answers verbally, we use the following:

Examples:

1. Are you going to school?

Yes, I am.

No, I am not.

2. Does Venu work hard?

Yes, he does.

No, he doesn't.

Concept C: Agreement and disagreement with statements:

RULE 1 -

Agreement with affirmative statements:

Yes/so/of course + pronoun + auxiliary

- 1. It is a good film. Yes, it is.
- 2. Mohan has already come. So, he has.

RULE 2 -

Agreement with negative statements:

No + pronoun + auxiliary + n't/not

- 1. The apples aren't good. No, they aren't.
- 2. She doesn't like fish. No, she doesn't.

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