Tag Question (Part 1)

Prepared by

Khaled Mahmud

English Teacher

Tag Question

• We use Question Tags to ask for confirmation after a statement by adding an interrogative fragment. The statement can be declarative or imperative. In the interrogative fragment, we use the pronoun of the subject after the verb.

Statement Interrogative Fragment

They are playing cricket in the ground, <u>aren't they</u>?

He left the place without informing us, <u>didn't he</u>?

- When a statement is negative, we use a positive question and when a statement is positive, we make a negative question. For examples,
 - He is not a good doctor, is he?
 - (Negative Statement + Positive Question)
 - Henry has solved the problem, <u>hasn't he</u>?
 (Positive Statement + Negative Question)

- When there is no auxiliary verb in the statement, we use <u>don't/</u> <u>doesn't/ didn't</u> in the interrogative fragment. When the statement is in present tense, we write <u>don't/ doesn't</u> according to the subject and when the statement is in past tense, we use <u>didn't</u>.
 - They like me, <u>don't they</u>? (Present Tense)
 - The moon shines at night, <u>doesn't it</u>? (Present Tense)
 - My grandfather helped the man, <u>didn't he</u>? (Past Tense)

- If <u>everyone/ everybody/ someone/ somebody/none/ no one/</u> <u>nobody</u> is a subject of a statement, we write <u>they</u> as their pronoun in the interrogative fragment where according to the pronoun, we place a verb.
 - Everybody supports me, <u>don't they</u>?
 - Everyone understood the fact, <u>didn't they</u>?
 - None believes a liar, <u>do they</u>?
 - No one helped me, <u>did they</u>?

- When <u>everything/ anything/ something/nothing</u> is a subject of a statement, we write <u>it</u> as their pronoun in the interrogative fragment where according to the pronoun, we place a verb.
 - Everything is clear here, isn't it?
 - Nothing is certain, <u>is it</u>?