

## QUESTIONS – No.2

We've already looked at the basic types of questions using the verb to be and questions using other verb tenses. There are however other types of questions that we use in English such as **QUESTION TAGS** and questions where we focus on the **SUBJECT**.

**QUESTION TAGS** are mini questions that we often put on the end of a sentence. We use them with an auxiliary verb (have, was, will, etc.).

We normally use a negative tag after a positive sentence:

**Positive sentence**

Stephen will be here soon,  
There was a lot of traffic,  
Jim should pass the exam,

**Negative tag**

**WON'T** he?  
**WASN'T** there?  
**SHOULDN'T** he?

If you use a positive tag after a negative sentence you are usually asking for things, information or to ask someone to do something. Generally, the person's voice would go up at the end:

**Negative sentence**

Stephen won't be late,  
They don't like us,  
You haven't got a car,  
You couldn't do me a favour,

**Positive tag**

**WILL** he?  
**DO** they?  
**HAVE** you?  
**COULD** you?

The meaning of a tag depends on how you say it. If your voice goes down you are not really asking a question. You are just inviting the listener to agree with you:

It's a nice day, **ISN'T** it? Yes, lovely.

If you hear the person's voice going up then it's a 'real' question:

You haven't seen Robert today, **HAVE** you? No, I'm sorry I haven't.

**SUBJECT** questions are used where we ask to find out about the subject. These questions are asked using 'who' and 'what' where we ask about the **subject** of the sentence.

There is no auxiliary and we do not change the word order of the question.

**ANSWER**

GINA is fixing the computer.  
AN ACCIDENT happened last week.

**QUESTION**

WHO is fixing the computer?  
WHAT happened last week?