

QUESTION TAGS



Double Positives

(both the sentence and the question tag are positive)

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Double positives are used to express interest, concern, surprise, anger or some other emotional emphasis, but not to ask real questions. The speaker most often repeats the information they've just heard and adds the question tag.

You're going to become a pilot,
are you?
(this expresses surprise)

A: I'm getting married in May.
B: You're getting married, **are you?**
(this expresses surprise)

You think you're funny, **do you?**
Well, I don't.
(this expresses sarcasm)

You are sorry now, **are you?**
Well, you should have said so much
earlier. (this expresses anger)

He's going to do it today, **is he?**
He has been saying that for
weeks!
(this expresses sarcasm and disbelief)

You can run faster than me, **can you?**
Let's have a race then!
(this expresses disbelief)

When a tag is used to show interest in something,
the sentence is often begun with SO.

Oh, **so** you've been here all the
time, **have you?**

So you're having a baby soon, **are you?**
Congratulations!

Oh, **so** this is your house, **is it?**

So you've opened a restaurant, **have
you?** That's wonderful!

Double positives to ask if our assumption is correct.

When double positives are used to ask a question, we use the main clause to make
a guess and then add the tag to ask if our assumption is correct.

She's been training to be an
anaesthetist, **has she?**

So you think she'll sue for divorce,
do you?

So she's going to marry him, **is she?**

This is the final match of the season,
is it? - Yes, that's right.