

Before you start

1 Review these intermediate grammar points and check you know them.

Question tags

- 1 We can add a question tag to the end of a statement to turn it into a question. We use
- *do/does/did* (in the present/past simple tense): *You already know Harriet, don't you?*
 - a form of *be*: *There weren't many people at the concert, were there?*
 - an auxiliary verb: *She hasn't had the baby yet, has she?*
 - a modal verb: *Tax returns can be submitted online now, can't they?*

In most cases, if the sentence is positive, we use a negative form in the question tag. If the sentence is negative, we use a positive form.

- 2 We answer these questions in the following way:

POSITIVE TAG *John isn't experienced enough to do this job, is he?*

ANSWER *No, I don't think he is.* (agreement) *Actually, yes, he is.* (contradiction)

NEGATIVE TAG *You're staying away for two weeks, aren't you?*

ANSWER *Yes, that's right.* (agreement) *No, it's three weeks.* (contradiction)

Indirect questions

- 1 An indirect question is one question within another question or a statement:

introductory phrase

indirect question

Can you tell me how long I'll have to wait to see the doctor?

- 2 Other common introductory phrases are *I'd like to know ...*, *Do you know ...*, *I wonder ...* :
- I'd like to know if that car is abandoned or not.*
- Do you know where the cash machine is?*

Making adjectives and adverbs stronger

In spoken English we can use the adverbs *really* and *pretty* to make the meaning of adjectives stronger:

That film was really exciting.

It's really freezing in here!

I think their songs are pretty good.

In informal American English *real* can be used instead of *really*:

That watch looks real expensive.

Stance and sentence adverbs

- 1 Adverbs such as *clearly*, *honestly*, *obviously*, *surprisingly*, *understandably* can express our attitude towards an action:

You've obviously been eating too many sweets, young man! (This is a logical deduction which is clear to anybody.)

- 2 We can also use these adverbs in conversation to introduce, extend, or make a comment on a topic or opinion:

Obviously, I had absolutely no idea of how expensive it would turn out to be.