

DJ Mark Walsh was sacked yesterday by 321 Radio. Mark had been given the job of DJ a month ago. Yesterday morning he had an argument with a caller, Craig Harris. The argument was heard by the director of the radio station, Andrew Hopkins. The programme was immediately stopped, Mark was told to leave and songs were played for the rest of the show. The morning show on 321 Radio is listened to by over one million people. Mr Hopkins commented: 'Our listeners must be treated with respect. Mr Harris shouldn't have been insulted. Mark hasn't been given his job back. If he'd apologised, he wouldn't have been sacked. A new DJ will be chosen soon and a letter of apology is being sent to Mr Harris.' Mark later agreed to be interviewed by the local newspaper. He told the reporter: 'I hope to be offered a job by another radio station. I was sacked for no good reason. I was being insulted by that man. I was called a lot of rude names. So I insulted him back. What's wrong with that?'

Step 1 Forms of the passive

- 321 Radio sacked Mark Walsh is an active sentence.
Mark Walsh was sacked by 321 Radio is a passive sentence.
The object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence.

	Subject	+	verb	+	object
Active:	321 Radio		sacked		Mark Walsh.
Passive:	Mark Walsh		was sacked by		321 Radio.

- We form the passive with the verb *be* (*is, was, has been, etc.*) + a past participle (*heard, stopped, etc.*)

Subject	+	verb	+	past participle
The argument		was		heard by the director.

- The tense of the verb *be* changes to form the different tenses in the passive.

Present simple:	The show is listened to by one million people.
Present continuous:	A letter is being sent to Mr Harris.
Past simple:	The argument was heard by the director.
Present perfect:	Mark has not been offered his job back.
Past continuous:	I was being insulted .
Past perfect:	He had been given the job a month ago.
Future:	A new DJ will be chosen soon.

EXERCISES 1

Make the sentences passive.

- 1 A lot of people listen to Mark's show.
- 2 321 Radio have received a lot of complaints.
- 3 They won't allow Mark to work for them again.
- 4 A lot of people read the report in the newspaper.

Step 2

Passive infinitives

- Some verbs are followed by an infinitive, for example modal verbs (*can, must, should, will, would, etc.*). When these verbs are used in a passive construction, we use a passive infinitive (*be + past participle*).
Active: We must treat our listeners with respect.
Passive: Our listeners **must be treated** with respect.
Note the past form of the passive infinitive (*have been + past participle*).
Active: He shouldn't have insulted Mr Harris.
Passive: Mr Harris **shouldn't have been insulted**.
- We also use a passive infinitive construction after verbs like *want to, expect to, agree to, hope to, etc.*
Mark **agreed to be interviewed** by the local newspaper.
I **hope to be offered** a job by another radio station.

CHECK QUESTIONS 2

Make passive sentences.

- DJs **mustn't insult** their listeners.
- I **don't think they should have sacked** Mark.
- Mark **doesn't expect that they'll give him his job back**.

Step 3

Main uses of the passive

- We use the passive when the person or thing doing the action isn't important or known, or is understood.
*The programme **was immediately stopped**.*
(It isn't necessary to say who stopped the programme.)
*Mark **was told** to leave the studio.*
(We understand that the director told him to leave.)
*Songs **were played** for the rest of the show.*
(We don't know who played them, but it isn't important.)
- A passive sentence is usually more formal than an active one. Compare:
We'll choose a new DJ soon. (Active. Informal comment)
*A new DJ **will be chosen** soon.* (Passive. Formal statement)
- The passive is very common in English, especially in news reports, signs and notices, scientific and technical descriptions. In these contexts we're more interested in the things that happen rather than what/who makes them happen.
- In a passive construction we can mention the person or thing that does the action (the agent) after the word *by*.
*He was sacked **by** 321 Radio. I was being insulted **by** that man.*

CHECK QUESTIONS 3

A or B: Which is better?

- A: They opened 321 Radio in 1973.
B: 321 Radio was opened in 1973.
- A: They told Mark to apologise to Mr Harris.
B: Mark was told to apologise to Mr Harris.
- A: Mark will be paid until the end of the month.
B: They'll pay Mark until the end of the month.

ANSWERS TO CHECK QUESTIONS 1, 2 AND 3

- 1 Mark's show is listened to by a lot of people.
2 A lot of complaints have been received by 321 Radio. 3 Mark won't be allowed to work for them again. 4 The report in the newspaper was read by a lot of people.
- 1 Listeners **mustn't be insulted** by DJs.
2 I **don't think Mark should have been sacked**.
3 Mark **doesn't expect to be given his job back**.
3 1 B 2 B 3 A

Practice

	Active	Passive
Present simple:	It breaks	It's broken
Present continuous:	It's breaking	It's being broken
Past simple:	It broke	It was broken
Past continuous:	It was breaking	It was being broken
Present perfect:	It's (has) broken	It's (has) been broken
Past perfect:	It had broken	It had been broken
Future <i>will</i> :	It'll break	It'll be broken
Future <i>going to</i> :	It's going to break	It's going to be broken
Modal (present):	It may break	It may be broken
Modal (past):	It might have broken	It might have been broken

1 The town of Ivybridge has changed a lot in the last five years. Rewrite these sentences using a passive construction.

- They've built a new hospital.
.....
- They're building a new shopping centre.
.....
- They'll finish it next October.
.....
- They knocked down the old leisure centre last week.
.....
- They're going to build a new one soon.
.....

2 Read about the origin of the word 'jacuzzi'. Put the verbs into the passive.

Candido Jacuzzi (1 be born) in Italy in 1903. In 1913 he (2 take) to the USA by his parents. The family built a factory and made aeroplane parts which (3 use) by the US army. Then they invented pumps which (4 buy) by many firms. A bath with a water pump (5 invent) by Candido to treat his son's arthritis. The company (6 lend) money by the bank to manufacture the bath which (7 install) now in many American homes.

3 Complete the text using passive forms.

Sean (1 send) just to prison. Yesterday he (2 give) a six-month sentence for stealing a car. The conditions in the prison are terrible. Sean (3 shock) by them. His cell (4 not paint) for years. The walls (5 cover) in graffiti. He (6 wake up) every morning at 6.30. He (7 allow) only to leave his cell for two hours a day. If he behaves himself, Sean (8 let out) of prison after four months. But if he breaks any prison rules, he (9 keep in) for over six months.

4 Erica is 16. She thinks young people are treated badly by adults. Rewrite the sentences using passive infinitive constructions.

Example: I don't want people to treat me like a child. *I don't want to be treated like a child.*

- I don't want people to tell me what to do.
.....
- I'd like people to listen to me.
.....
- My parents and teachers should have given me more freedom.
.....
- They ought to have allowed me to be more independent.
.....

Bill is too old to look after himself. He's in a care home called Merrifield. A nurse has to feed him. He hates being fed. She tells him he's very difficult. He doesn't like being criticised, so he gets angry. She tells him to stop shouting, but he's tired of being told what to do. He remembers being treated like this when he was a child.

Step 1 The passive -ing form

- We can use the *-ing* form of a verb in the passive. We use *being* + past participle.
*He hates **being fed**.*
 (Active: He hates people feeding him.)
*He's tired of **being told** what to do.*
 (Active: He's tired of people telling him what to do.)
*He remembers **being treated** like this when he was a child.*
 (Active: He remembers people treating him like this.)

CHECK QUESTIONS 1

Make passive sentences.

- 1 The nurses call him 'Billy'. He doesn't like ... 'Billy'.
- 2 They tell him he's difficult. He's tired of ... he's difficult.
- 3 A doctor examines him every month. He hates ...

Step 2 Passive verb + infinitive with to

Bill is said to be difficult, but he had a difficult childhood. His parents are thought to have died when he was 14. He went to work on a farm. He was expected to get up at 5.30 and to work for 12 hours. He was considered to be a good worker. But when he was 16, he was found to have polio, and he's believed to have spent two years in hospital.

- We often use an infinitive (*to have*) or a perfect infinitive (*to have had*) in passive constructions with these verbs:
believe consider expect fear feel find
intend know report say think understand
 Passive: *Bill's said **to be** difficult.*
 (Active: People say Bill is difficult.)
 Passive: *He was considered **to be** a good worker.*
 (Active: They considered he was a good worker.)
 Passive: *He's believed **to have spent** two years in hospital.*
 (Active: They believe he spent two years in hospital.)
 Passive: *His parents are thought **to have died** when he was 14.*
 (Active: They think his parents died when he was 14.)

- Note the difference between the infinitive and the perfect infinitive. Compare:
*When he was 16, he was found **to have** polio.*
 (= At the age of 16 he had polio.)
*When he was 16, he was found **to have had** polio.*
 (At the age of 16 he didn't have polio. He had it before he was 16.)

CHECK QUESTIONS 2

Make passive sentences.

- 1 People know that Bill is very independent.
- 2 People say that Bill has no brothers or sisters.
- 3 People think that Bill had a difficult childhood.

Step 3

It's said .../It's known .../It's reported ... , etc.

It's thought that there are over one million old people in Britain who can't look after themselves. It was reported that more than 200 old people died of cold last winter. It's feared that many of them died because they had nobody to look after them. It's often said that this is one of society's biggest problems. It's expected that more care homes will be built in the future.

- We can use *it* + a passive verb + a *that* clause to talk about what people in general say or think or feel about a situation. It can be used with these verbs: *agree, announce, decide, expect, fear, feel, find, hope, intend, know, mention, regret, report, say, suggest, think, understand.*

It's thought (that) *there are over one million old people.*

(= There are thought to be over one million old people.)

It's often said (that) *this is one of society's biggest problems.*

(= This is often said to be one of society's biggest problems.)

It was reported (that) *more than 200 old people died of cold last winter.*

(= More than 200 old people were reported to have died.)

CHECK QUESTIONS 3

Rewrite the sentences using *It* + a passive verb.

- 1 People think that many old people die because no one looks after them.
- 2 The authorities have announced that more care homes will be built.
- 3 People hope that the situation will improve.

Step 4

Be supposed to

Merrifield is supposed to be a very good care home. The nurses are supposed to be well-trained and kind. But Bill doesn't like them. If he gets out of bed at the wrong time, he's told: 'Billy, you're supposed to be in bed.' When he watches a late night film, they say: 'Billy, you aren't supposed to watch television after 10.30.' Bill often gets very angry. 'This is supposed to be a home, not a prison!'

- *Be supposed to* has two different meanings. It can mean that something is the general opinion of most people.
*Merrifield **is supposed to be** a good care home.*
 (= People say that Merrifield is a good care home.)

- It can also mean that something should happen because it's the rule or because it's been planned.
You're supposed to be in bed.
 (=You should be in bed because that's the rule.)
This is supposed to be a home, not a prison.
 (=Merrifield was intended to be a home, not a prison.)
- We use the negative form to say that something isn't allowed.
You aren't supposed to watch television after 10.30.
 (=This isn't permitted.)

CHECK QUESTIONS 4

Rewrite the sentences using *be supposed to*.

- 1 Bill has to get up at 6.30; that's the rule.
- 2 Bill sometimes stays up late watching TV, but the nurses tell him off.
- 3 People say the nurses at Merrifield are nice.

Step 5

He was given .../He's been offered ... , etc.

Last Thursday Bill was given a boiled egg for his breakfast. 'I've been given an egg three times this week. You know I don't like eggs!' He got very angry. He was promised some toast and marmalade but he just got angrier, so he was given a cup of tea to calm him down. He's been offered a room at another home and he was shown his new room this morning.

- When a verb has two objects (indirect and direct: see Unit 37) it's possible to have two passive sentences.
 (Active: They gave Bill a boiled egg.)
 1 *Bill was given a boiled egg.*
 2 *A boiled egg was given to Bill.*
 But we normally make the person the subject, as in sentence 1.
He was promised some toast and marmalade.
He's been offered a room at another home.
- We can use this construction with these verbs: *allow, give, hand, lend, offer, owe, pay, promise, sell, send, show, teach, tell.*

CHECK QUESTIONS 5

Make passive sentences.

- 1 The authorities have sent Bill a letter saying he can leave.
- 2 They've offered Bill a better room at the new home.
- 3 They'll give him the kind of food he likes.

ANSWERS TO CHECK QUESTIONS 1, 2, 3, 4 AND 5

- 1 He doesn't like being called 'Billy'. 2 He's tired of being told he's difficult. 3 He hates being examined.
- 1 Bill is known to be very independent. 2 Bill is said to have no brothers or sisters. 3 Bill is thought to have had a difficult childhood.
- 1 It's thought that many old people die because no one looks after them. 2 It's been announced that more care homes will be built.
- 3 It's hoped that the situation will improve.
- 1 Bill's supposed to get up at 6.30. 2 Bill isn't supposed to stay up late (watching TV). 3 The nurses at Merrifield are supposed to be nice.
- 1 Bill's (has) been sent a letter saying he can leave. 2 Bill's (has) been offered a better room at the new home. 3 He'll be given the kind of food he likes.

Hans **used to** collect golf balls. He **used to** walk with his dog every day on the local golf course, and his dog **used to** find a lot of balls. Hans took them home and put them in boxes, then in drawers, then in cupboards. 'I **didn't use to** play with them,' Hans said, 'although I **used to** be quite a good player when I was younger. I simply **used to** enjoy counting them. But when I'd collected 15,389 there were no more drawers and no more cupboards left, so I **used to** put them in the bath. My wife **didn't use to** like that.'

Step 1

The forms of *used to*

Affirmative: *used to* + infinitive

Negative: *didn't use to* + infinitive

Questions: *did* + subject + *use to* + infinitive

Affirmative

I used to go
You used to go
He used to go
She used to go
It used to go
We used to go
You used to go
They used to go

Negative

I didn't use to go
You didn't use to go
He didn't use to go
She didn't use to go
It didn't use to go
We didn't use to go
You didn't use to go
They didn't use to go

Questions

Did I use to go?
Did you use to go?
Did he use to go?
Did she use to go?
Did it use to go?
Did we use to go?
Did you use to go?
Did they use to go?

- Note the final *-d* in the affirmative (*used to*).
*Hans **used** to collect golf balls.* (NOT *Hans use to collect*)
But note that there's no final *-d* in the negative and question forms (*didn't use to/*
did he use to?).
*I **didn't use** to play with them.*
(NOT *I didn't used to play with them.*)
*Where **did he use** to put them?*
(NOT *Where did he used to?*)
- Note the short answers.
*Do you collect golf balls, Hans? No, but I **used to**.*
*Do you wear glasses now, Hans? Yes, but I **didn't use to**.*
- Note that the *-s-* in *used to* is pronounced [s], *to* in *used to* is pronounced [tə] before a consonant and [tu:] before a vowel sound.
*I **used to** [tə] be ... I **used to** [tu:] enjoy ...*
- We use the negative form *never used to* for emphasis:
*I **never used to** play with them* is a stronger version of *I didn't use to play with them*.

CHECK QUESTIONS 1

Write three sentences with *use(d) to*.

- (affirmative) His wife/find golf balls in the bath
- (negative) She/play golf
- (question) Why/Hans/collect golf balls?

Step 2

Used to to describe regular actions in the past

- We use *used to* to talk about a habit or regular activity in the past that doesn't happen now. *Used to* emphasises that the activity was repeated many times.
*Hans **used to** collect golf balls.*
*His dog **used to** find a lot of balls.*
If we use the past simple here, the idea that the action happened many times isn't emphasised.
He collected golf balls. His dog found a lot of balls.
Note: If we describe a number of regular activities in the past, it isn't necessary to repeat *used to* each time. We can use the past simple instead.
*Hans **took** them home and **put** them in boxes.*
(= Hans used to take them home and he used to put them in boxes.)
- We can also use *would* + infinitive without *to* to talk about past habits. When we use *would*, we usually say when or how often the action happened.
*He **used to walk** with his dog every day on the local golf course.*
or *He **would walk** with his dog every day on the local golf course.*
Note: *Would* is generally more formal and less common.

QUESTIONS 2

Answer these questions with either **Yes** or **No**.

- 1 Does Hans collect golf balls now?
- 2 Did he regularly collect golf balls in the past?
- 3 Does he still put golf balls in the bath?
- 4 Did his dog often find balls for him?

Step 3

Used to to describe situations in the past

- We also use *used to* to talk about situations in the past which don't exist now.
*Hans **used to be** quite a good player.*
*All the drawers in the house **used to be** full of golf balls.*
Note: We don't use *would* when we talk about a past situation. We can't say: 'Hans would be quite a good player.'

QUESTIONS 3

Answer these questions with **Yes** or **No**.

- 1 Is Hans a good player now?
- 2 Was he quite a good player when he was younger?
- 3 Are the drawers full of golf balls now?
- 4 Were the drawers full of golf balls at one time in the past?

ANSWERS TO CHECK QUESTIONS 1, 2 AND 3

- 1 1 His wife used to find golf balls in the bath.
2 She didn't use to play golf.
3 Why did Hans use to collect golf balls?
- 2 1 No. 2 Yes. 3 No. 4 Yes.
- 3 1 No. 2 Yes. 3 No. 4 Yes.

I used to drink coffee = I drank coffee regularly in the past, but I don't drink coffee now.

My brother didn't use to drink coffee. = Drinking coffee wasn't his habit in the past.

He might drink coffee now. We don't know.

Did you use to drink coffee? = Was drinking coffee one of your habits in the past?

1 An man remembers the time when he was younger. Complete these sentences.

Example: His hair/be/black. Now/grey. *His hair used to be black. Now it's grey.*

1 He/play/cricket. Now/watch/on television.

.....
.....

2 He/stay up till 12 o'clock. Now/go to bed/at 9.30.

.....
.....

3 He/ride/a motorbike. Now/drive/a car.

.....
.....

4 He/not wear glasses. Now/wear glasses all the time.

.....
.....

2 Gemma and Paul used to go out together. But then Gemma moved away. Describe how things have changed.

Example: see each other every day/never *They used to see each other every day, but now they never see each other.*

1 Gemma/go out with Paul/go out with Ben

.....
.....

2 Paul/go out a lot/stay in in the evening

.....
.....

3 Gemma/be friends with Paul's sister/never ring her

.....
.....

4 Paul/not think about her much/miss her a lot

.....
.....

3 Stefano used to be a professional football player, but then decided to change career and become a chef. Complete the journalist's questions and Stefano's answers where necessary using *used to*.

1 Which team/you play for? – Manchester.

.....
.....

2 How much/you/earn? – About £150,000 a week.

.....
.....

3 Be/good player? – I/the best.

.....
.....

4 Where/live? – I/big house.

.....
.....

5 What kind of car/have? – A Mercedes.

.....
.....

6 How many fans/have? – I/thousands.

.....
.....

Daniel, an engineer from Guatemala, has started his new job at a company based in Canada. At first things were very strange. Getting around the city was a problem at first, but now he's got used to it. All the machinery at the company is very different, but he's getting used to it slowly. He's also getting used to speaking English all the time. But he hasn't got used to the long working hours. He hasn't got used to having short lunch breaks either.

Step 1

to get used to + a noun/pronoun OR + -ing

- We use *get used to something* or *get used to doing something* when we talk about the process of becoming accustomed to something. Something that was strange and unfamiliar at first becomes more familiar and normal.

He's getting used to the machinery. (+ a noun)

(At first the machinery was different, but it's becoming less different.)

He's getting used to it slowly. (+ a pronoun. *it* = the machinery)

He's also getting used to speaking English. (+ the -ing form)

(When he speaks English, he now finds it easier than before.)

He's (has) got used to getting around the city.

(The process of getting to know the city has finished. Now it isn't strange.)

- Note the forms of *get used to*.

Affirmative

Negative

Questions

Present continuous

I'm getting used to

I'm not getting used to

Am I getting used to?

He's getting used to

He isn't getting used to

Is he getting used to?

Present perfect

He's got used to

He hasn't got used to

Has he got used to?

Past simple

He got used to

He didn't get used to

Did he get used to?

Future

He'll get used to

He won't get used to

Will he get used to?

- We don't use an infinitive after *get used to*. *To* is a preposition here, so it is followed by the -ing form of the verb.

He's also getting used to speaking English all the time.

(NOT *He's also getting used to speak English all the time.*)

- Used* is pronounced /ju:st/.

CHECK QUESTIONS 1

Put in forms of *get used to*.

- Daniel hasn't ... the long working hours yet.
- Getting around the city was a problem, but after a few days he ... it.
- Slowly he ... (live) in Canada.

Step 2

be used to + a noun/pronoun OR + -ing

Daniel has been in Canada for six weeks now, and he's used to a lot of things that were strange at first. He's used to speaking English all the time. He's used to the Canadian weather. The machinery at work doesn't worry him any more - now he's used to using it. But there are some things he still isn't used to. He still isn't used to having short lunch breaks and he's not used to drinking instant coffee. And he isn't used to living so far from the sea.

- We use *be used to* + a noun or a pronoun or + the *-ing* form of a verb when we say that something isn't strange any more.

He's used to the Canadian weather.

(The Canadian weather doesn't surprise him any more.)

He's used to speaking English all the time.

(This was a problem, but it isn't now.)

He's not used to drinking instant coffee.

(In Guatemala he drinks fresh coffee. So instant coffee is strange to him.)

- Note the forms of *be used to*.

Affirmative

Negative

Questions

Present

I'm used to

I'm not used to

Am I used to?

He's used to

He isn't used to

Is he used to?

Past simple

He was used to

He wasn't used to

Was he used to?

Future

He'll be used to

He won't be used to

Will he be used to?

- Note that we don't use an infinitive after *be used to*. *To* is a preposition here, so it is followed by the *-ing* form of the verb.

He's used to speaking English all the time.

(NOT He's used to speak English all the time.)

- Compare:

A Daniel **is used to living** in Canada.

B Daniel **used to live** in Canada.

Note: These two sentences have completely different meanings.

A means 'Living in Canada isn't strange to him any more.'

B means 'He used to live in Canada, but he doesn't live there now.'

(For the verb *used to* see Unit 34.)

CHECK QUESTIONS 2

Put in forms of (not) *be used to*.

- Daniel's ... (hear) English now.
- He still ... (eat) his lunch so quickly.
- He lived near the sea. So he ... (live) so far from the sea.

ANSWERS TO CHECK QUESTIONS 1 AND 2

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Daniel hasn't got used to the long working hours yet. 2 Getting around the city was a problem, but after a few days he got used to it. 3 Slowly he's getting used to living in Canada. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Daniel's used to hearing English now. 2 He still isn't used to eating his lunch so quickly. 3 he isn't used to living so far from the sea. |
|--|--|

Practice

be	used to	something
get		doing something

I'm not used to the Canadian weather.
I'm not used to carrying an umbrella.
I'm getting used to living here.
I'm getting used to the city.

1 Three months ago Matthew was a university student. Now he has just started his first job and he is finding it difficult. Why is it difficult?

Example: get up/6.45 *He isn't used to getting up at 6.45.*

- 1 travel/to work
- 2 start work/8.30
- 3 wear/a suit and tie
- 4 sit/at a desk all day
- 5 work/eight hours a day
- 6 have/money to spend

2 Damir and Renata emigrated to Australia a year ago. Kerry, a journalist on a local newspaper, interviewed them. Complete the interview using forms of *get used to* or *be used to* + noun or *-ing*.

Kerry: Was it difficult when you first arrived in Australia?

Damir: Yes, some things were difficult to (1) Other things were easy. We soon (2) the Australian accent, for example. That wasn't a problem. And of course we (3 drive) already on the left. But we had to (4) the road signs and distances in kilometres, not miles.

Kerry: How did you find the climate when you first arrived?

Renata: We (5 not be) the heat. When we were in England, we (6 be) short, warm summers. But now here in Australia we're trying to (7) long, hot summers.

Kerry: Is there anything else you find strange?

Renata: Yes, we still (8 not be) the feeling of space.

Damir: And I (9 not see) kangaroos!

Renata: And I'll never (10 have) my birthday on the beach, in the middle of summer!

3 Kenta is 78. His wife died last year and now he is living on his own. He is not finding it easy. Complete the text using *get/be used to* + noun, pronoun or *-ing*.

We were married fifty years ago, so I (1 share) everything. I (2 do) everything with my wife. Now it's very different. I (3 not be) (live) on my own. I'm trying to (4) it, but it isn't easy. I can't (5 have) nobody to talk to. I (6 be) (cook) for myself, that isn't a problem. But the biggest problem is in the mornings. I (7 not be) still (wake up) and finding nobody in the house. I (8) never that.

Question tags: You're American, aren't you?

Two young people are at Melbourne Airport waiting for their plane back to Denver.

A: You're American, aren't you?

B: Yes, I am.

A: Our plane's late, isn't it?

B: Yes, I'm afraid so.

A: The flight back takes 24 hours, doesn't it?

B: No, I think it's 26 actually.

Step 1

Use of question tags

- A question tag is an expression like *aren't you?* / *isn't it?* or *doesn't it?* at the end of a sentence. We use question tags in conversation to ask if what we said is true or not, or if the other person agrees or not.

- If we use a rising intonation (if our voice goes up) with a question tag, we're asking a real question. We're not sure if the answer is yes or no.

You're American, aren't you? ↗

The flight back takes 24 hours, doesn't it? ↗

(In each question his voice rises at the end because he isn't sure if it's true or not.)

- If we use a falling intonation (if our voice goes down), we're expecting the other person to agree with what we've just said.

Our plane's late, isn't it? ↘

(He means 'I'm sure you agree'.)

- Question tags are much less common in American English. Americans often use tag words like *Right?* or *OK?* instead.

You're American, right? (instead of *You're American, aren't you?*)

CHECK QUESTIONS 1

Are these 'real' questions or not?

- 1 You're not Australian, are you? ↗
- 2 It's hot, isn't it? ↘
- 3 They take US dollars on the plane, don't they? ↗

Step 2

Positive or negative question tag?

A: It's been hot, hasn't it?

B: Yes, very hot. And dry! It hasn't rained for weeks, has it?

A: No, it hasn't.

- If we say something positive, the question tag is usually negative.

Positive **Negative**

It's been hot, hasn't it?

- If we say something negative, the question tag is positive.

Negative **Positive**

It hasn't rained for weeks, has it?

Choose the correct question tag.

- 1 Australia's a big country, isn't it?/is it?
- 2 Things here aren't expensive, aren't they?/are they?
- 3 Food's cheap, isn't it?/is it?

Step 3

Forms of question tags

- A: You're pretty brown.
 B: Yes, I am, aren't I? I spent most of the time on the beach.
 A: But many Australians don't get brown, do they?
 B: No, they often wear hats and T-shirts, don't they?
 A: Yes. Everybody's worried about skin cancer, aren't they?
 B: Yes, they are. You didn't see any sharks, did you?
 A: No, no sharks. But I saw plenty of snakes.
 B: There are quite a lot of snakes, aren't there?
 A: Yes. They've got poisonous spiders too, haven't they?
 B: Yes, but I didn't see any. Australian food's quite good, isn't it?
 A: Yes, very good. Especially Australian meat pie. You've tried it, haven't you?
 B: Oh yes. I've eaten some of that.
 A: Our plane should be leaving soon, shouldn't it?
 B: Yes, let's ask what time it's going, shall we?
 A: You go. I'll stay here.
 B: Look after my bag, will you?
 A: Yes, of course.

- Question tags always have two words: an auxiliary verb (*are, can, have, will, etc.*) + a pronoun (*it, he, they, etc.*). The pronoun refers to the subject of the sentence.
*Many Australians don't get brown, **do they?*** (they = many Australians)
- Note the verbs which we use in question tags.
 Present simple: *do/does, don't/doesn't*
*They often wear hats and T-shirts, **don't they?***
 Past simple: *did/didn't*
*You didn't see any sharks, **did you?***
 Present perfect: *have/has, haven't/hasn't*
*You've tried Australian meat pie, **haven't you?***
 Have got: *have/has, hasn't/haven't*
*They've got poisonous spiders, **haven't they?***
- Note the form of the negative question tag after *I am*.
*You're pretty brown. Yes, I am, **aren't I?*** (NOT *am't I?*)
- If a statement has a modal auxiliary verb (*will, should, would, might, can, etc.*), we use the same auxiliary verb in the question tag.
*Our plane should be leaving soon, **shouldn't it?***
- After *There is/There are* the question tags are *is there?/isn't there?* and *are there?/aren't there?*
*There are quite a lot of snakes, **aren't there?***

Step 3

- The question tag after *Let's* is *shall we*?
Let's ask what time our plane's leaving, shall we?
- After an imperative we can use the following question tags: *can you/can't you?*
will you/won't you? would you? could you?
Look after my bag, will you?
- After *everybody/somebody/nobody*, etc. we use the pronoun *they* in the question tag. (See also Unit 66 Step 1.)
Everybody's worried about skin cancer, aren't they?

CHECK QUESTIONS 3

Add question tags.

- 1 Australians surf a lot, ...
- 2 Everybody's friendly, ...
- 3 I suppose you met a lot of nice people, ...
- 4 Let's have an ice cream, ...

Step 4

Other uses of question tags

- A: Are you feeling OK?
B: No, not really. I went out to dinner last night.
A: And you had too much to eat, did you?
B: Yes, I did.
A: And now you've got indigestion, have you?
B: Yes, I have. You couldn't lend me five dollars, could you? I need some coffee and I haven't got any Australian money left.
A: Yes, here you are.
B: You don't know where the nearest toilet is, do you?
A: Yes, there's one over there.

- We can use a positive question tag (with a rising intonation) after a positive statement to express interest, sympathy, surprise or sarcasm.

Positive statement

Positive question tag

You had too much to eat, did you? ↗
Now you've got indigestion, have you? ↗

- We sometimes use a negative statement followed by a positive question tag (with a rising intonation) when we make a request or ask for information.

You couldn't lend me five dollars, could you? ↗
You don't know where the nearest toilet is, do you? ↗

CHECK QUESTIONS 4

Complete the sentences.

- 1 Someone has lost their plane ticket. Show your concern. You've lost ...
- 2 Ask somebody to help you with your luggage. You couldn't ...
- 3 Ask somebody if they know when the plane gets to Denver. You don't know when ...

ANSWERS TO CHECK QUESTIONS 1, 2, 3 AND 4

- 1 1 No. 2 No. 3 Yes.
- 2 1 isn't it? 2 are they? 3 isn't it?
- 3 1 don't they? 2 aren't they? 3 didn't you?
4 shall we?

- 4 1 You've lost your plane ticket, have you?
2 You couldn't help me with my luggage, could you?
3 You don't know when the plane gets to Denver, do you?

Practice

Positive

I'm right,
She's got it,
She can drive,
She's driving,
She drives,
She'll drive,
She drove,
She's driven,

Negative

aren't I?
hasn't she?
can't she?
isn't she?
doesn't she?
won't she?
didn't she?
hasn't she?

Negative

I'm not right,
She hasn't got it,
She can't drive,
She isn't driving,
She doesn't drive,
She won't drive,
She didn't drive,
She hasn't driven,

Positive

am I?
has she?
can she?
is she?
does she?
will she?
did she?
has she?

Help me, would you? Let's go, shall we?

You couldn't lend me €10, could you? You want to go to bed, do you?

1 Add the correct question tag to the following statements.

- 1 It's cold, ?
- 2 But it isn't as cold as yesterday, ?
- 3 It was very cold yesterday, ?
- 4 It hasn't been so cold for a long time,
..... ?
- 5 It's snowing in the north, ?
- 6 It often snows there, ?
- 7 There was over 10 centimetres of snow last
week, ?
- 8 They haven't had that much snow for a long
time, ?
- 9 They didn't have much snow last winter,
..... ?
- 10 But it'll be spring soon, ?

2 Zoe's parents do not like her cat. Match her statements with the question tags.

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1 You don't like Scruffy, | a aren't you? |
| 2 You've never liked him, | b can you? |
| 3 You didn't want me to
get him, | c do you? |
| 4 You think he's dirty, | d did you? |
| 5 You won't let him come
in the house, | e have you? |
| 6 You're hoping I'll get
tired of him, | f will you? |
| 7 But you can't stop me
keeping him, | g don't you? |

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

3 Fill in the missing question tags.

Passenger: Take me to the station please,

(1) ?

Taxi driver: Yes, OK.

Passenger: There's a lot of traffic,

(2) ?

Taxi driver: Yes, it's terrible,

(3) ?

Passenger: It gets worse every year,

(4) ?

Taxi driver: Yes, it seems to.

Passenger: It'll be quicker to walk soon,

(5) ?

Taxi driver: You're right. You said your train
leaves at 10, (6) ?

Passenger: Yes, that's right. We haven't got
long, (7) ?

Taxi driver: Less than 10 minutes.

Passenger: You couldn't drive a bit faster,
(8) ?

Taxi driver: No, I can't. You can see how bad
the traffic is, (9) ?

Passenger: I'm going to miss my train,
(10) ?

Taxi driver: Probably.

Passenger: Let's try another route,
(11) ?

- 4 1 as if/as though (informal: like) 2- 3 like 4-
5 as if/as though (informal: like) 6- 7 as if/as
though (informal: like) 8- 9 as if/as though
(informal: like) 10 as if/as though (informal: like)
11 as if/as though (informal: like)

Unit 34

- Football*
- 1 1 He used to play ~~cricket~~. Now he watches it on television.
2 He used to stay up till 12 o'clock. Now he goes to bed at 9.30.
3 He used to ride a motorbike. Now he drives a car.
4 He didn't use to wear glasses. Now he wears glasses all the time.
- 2 1 Gemma used to go out with Paul, but now she goes out with Ben.
2 Paul used to go out a lot, but now he stays in the evening.
3 Gemma used to be friends with Paul's sister, but now she never rings her.
4 Paul didn't use to think about her much, but now he misses her a lot.
- 3 1 Which team did you use to play for? - I used to play for Manchester.
2 How much did you use to earn? - I used to earn about £150,000 a week.
3 Did you use to be a good player? - I used to be the best.
4 Where did you use to live? - I used to live in a big house.
5 What kind of car did you use to have? - I used to have a Mercedes.
6 How many fans did you use to have? - I used to have thousands.

Unit 35

- 1 1 He isn't used to travelling to work.
2 He isn't used to starting work at 8.30.
3 He isn't used to wearing a suit and tie.
4 He isn't used to sitting at a desk all day.
5 He isn't used to working eight hours a day.
6 He isn't used to having money to spend.
- 2 1 get used to 2 got used to 3 we were already used to driving 4 get used to 5 We weren't used to 6 we were used to 7 get used to 8 we still aren't used to 9 I'm not used to seeing 10 I'll never get used to having
- 3 1 I was used to sharing 2 I was used to doing 3 I'm not used to living 4 get used to 5 get used to having 6 I'm used to cooking 7 I'm still not used to waking up 8 I'll never get used to

Unit 36

- 1 1 What do you need 2 We need 3 we need to win 4 I need to buy 5 do you need? 6 I don't need 7 we don't need 8 I don't need
- 2 1 You needn't have waited up for me.
2 But you needn't have worried.
3 But you needn't have rung her.
4 You needn't have phoned him.
5 You needn't have given me the money.
- 3 1 he didn't need to get up early 2 He didn't need to get there so he didn't need to worry 3 He needn't have taken 4 he didn't need to read 5 He needn't have looked at them 6 he didn't need to worry

Unit 37

- 1 1 She gave her husband a new car.
2 And she bought her daughter some new clothes.
3 Did she give them anything?
4 she booked them a holiday in Thailand (or She booked a holiday in Thailand for them).
5 She bought him a new laptop.
6 Oh, and she got some flowers for all her neighbours.
7 and she gave the rest to charity.
8 She sent £3,000 to Save the Children.
9 and she gave £2,000 to the Red Cross.
10 She didn't give me anything.
11 She just showed me the £50,000 cheque!
- 2 1 for 2 to 3 for 4 for 5 for 6 to 7 for 8 for 9 for

Unit 38

- 1 1 go 2 will be 3 will be 4 go 5 won't be 6 will be 7 take 8 will take 9 we'll be able 10 will be 11 will cost 12 won't see
- 2 1 had we'd be able to 2 We'd produce were 3 We'd save made 4 was/were would invest 5 wouldn't be took
- 3 1 want 2 were/was 3 I'd spend 4 went 5 I'd have to 6 would you go 7 you didn't have to 8 you'd be able to 9 I'll email 10 like 11 stayed 12 I'd have to 13 wouldn't be 14 gave 15 you'd be able to

Unit 39

- 1 1 I'd known 2 I'd have made/I would've made 3 I'd have phoned/I would've phoned 4 I'd had 5 I'd phoned 6 it wouldn't have been 7 what would you have done 8 I hadn't been 9 I'd have gone/I would've gone 10 I'd stayed 11 I'd have gone/I would've gone
- 2 1 If she hadn't been wearing her seat belt, she might have been killed.
2 If the lorry's brakes had been working properly, the driver could have stopped in time.

- 4 1 they'd been jogging 2 she'd been playing
3 he'd been eating 4 she'd been studying

Unit 14

- 1 A6 B5 C1 D3 E2 F4 G7
2 1 Will 2 will 3 won't 4 won't 5 Will 6 I'll
7 Will 8 I'll 9 I'll 10 won't 11 won't
3 1 I'll make them. 2 I'll go and buy some.
3 I'll read (tell) them a story. 4 I'll take him.
5 I'll look after them.
4 1 Shall I open the windows?
2 Shall I put/turn the radio on?
3 Shall we stop at the next service station?
4 Shall I drive?

Unit 15

- 1 1 Will you come 2 I won't be 3 I'll be
4 What are you going to do 5 I'm going to see
6 When will you be 7 I'll be
8 what are you going to do 9 I'll text 10 I'll see
2 1 I'll take 2 I'll be 3 Will that be 4 I'll pick you up
5 What are you going to buy 6 I'm going to buy
7 I'm going to get 8 That'll be 9 I'm not going to buy
10 will be 11 I'm going to borrow 12 I'll see
3 1 He's going to jump.
2 He's going to drop the plates.
3 He's going to play tennis.
4 The rope's going to break.
5 The boat's going to sink.

Unit 16

- 1 1 I'll be listening to music.
2 The sun will be shining. 3 It won't be raining.
4 I won't be working.
5 I won't be sitting in this boring office.
2 1 I'll have finished my exams. 2 I'll have left home.
3 I'll be living in my own flat. 4 I'll have got a job.
5 I'll be earning a lot of money.
6 I'll be going out every night.
3 1 he'll have walked 2 He'll have passed through
3 He'll have eaten 4 He'll have drunk
5 He'll have used 6 He won't have seen
4 1 She'll be sitting on the balcony.
2 And she'll have forgotten to put the answering
machine on.
3 Or she'll be watching TV.
4 And she won't have heard her phone.
5 Or she'll be having a bath.

Unit 17

- 1 1 A new hospital has been built.
2 A new shopping centre is being built.

- 3 It'll be finished next October.
4 The old leisure centre was knocked down last week.
5 A new one is going to be built soon.
2 1 was born 2 was taken 3 were used 4 were
bought 5 was invented 6 were/was lent 7 is now
installed
3 1 has just been sent 2 was given 3 is shocked / has
been shocked 4 hasn't been painted 5 are covered
6 He's (is) woken up 7 He's (is) only allowed 8 will be
let out 9 he'll be kept in
4 1 I don't want to be told what to do.
2 I'd like to be listened to.
3 I should have been given more freedom by my
parents and teachers.
4 I ought to have been allowed to be more
independent.

Unit 18

- 1 1 She enjoyed being taken to the cinema to see her
films.
2 She didn't like being asked how old she was.
3 She hated being seen when she wasn't wearing any
make-up.
4 She was afraid of being forgotten when she was
dead.
2 1 At first no one was said to have been killed.
2 But now 250 people are thought to have died in the
earthquake.
3 More survivors are expected to be found.
4 Three coastal villages are reported to have
disappeared completely.
3 1 British people are supposed to be careful drivers.
2 Passengers are supposed to wear a seat belt.
3 You aren't/You're not supposed to exceed the
speed limit.
4 You aren't/You're not supposed to park on the
pavement.
4 1 Nurses aren't paid much money.
2 They are being offered a 1% pay rise (by the
government).
3 They've been promised a further rise next year (by
the Minister).
4 They might be given a 2% rise then.
5 The Minister has been sent a letter (by the
nurses). OR A letter has been sent to the Minister.

Unit 19

- 1 1 I had my watch repaired. 2 I had my hair cut.
3 I had my shoes mended. 4 I had my teeth checked.
5 We had a burglar alarm installed.
6 We had stronger locks fitted to the doors.
7 I had my passport renewed.
8 We had two new tyres fitted to our car.

Answer KEY

- 2 1 He had his pockets searched. 2 He had his hair cut.
3 He had his blood tested. 4 He had his photo taken.
5 He also had his socks stolen.
6 Then he had his nose broken and ...
7 he had one of his teeth knocked out in a fight!
- 3 1 I'm having it done. 2 I had them painted.
3 I'm going to have it repaired. 4 I had it fitted.
5 I'm going to have it built.
- 4 1 She has her hair done 2 She has her apartment
cleaned 3 She also has her apartment redecorated
4 She has all her clothes specially made 5 She has
her body and her face massaged 6 She has the
sheets on her bed changed 7 She has breakfast
brought

Unit 20

- 1 1 Have you ever seen a ghost?
2 Were/Weren't you afraid? 3 Can you describe it?
4 Did you know her? 5 Did the ghost speak to you?
6 Have you seen it again?
7 Would you like to see it again?
- 2 1 Where do you come from?
2 Why have you come to England?
3 When did you arrive?
4 What do you do in Tokyo?
5 How long are you staying in England?
6 Who do you know in England?
- 3 1 Wasn't the weather good?
2 Didn't you take your credit card?
3 Didn't you get a new one?

Unit 21

- 1 1 isn't it? 2 is it? 3 wasn't it? 4 has it? 5 isn't it?
6 doesn't it? 7 wasn't there? 8 have they?
9 did they? 10 won't it?
- 2 1c 2e 3d 4g 5f 6a 7b
- 3 1 will you?/would you?/can you?/could you?
2 isn't there? 3 isn't it? 4 doesn't it? 5 won't it?
6 didn't you? 7 have we? 8 could you? 9 can't you?
10 aren't I? 11 shall we?

Unit 22

- 1 1 Who did you invite 2 Who invited him?
3 who brought him? 4 Who did Rick bring?
5 what happened? 6 What did he throw?
7 what did Sam do?
- 2 1 What 2 Which 3 Which 4 What 5 Which 6 what
7 Which 8 which
- 3 1 Do you know where I can find a chemist's?
2 Could you tell me how I get there?
3 Do you know where the town hall is?

- 4 Have you any idea what time they close?
5 Do you know if they are (they're) open now?

Unit 23

- 1 1 I think so. 2 I believe so. 3 No, I don't expect so./I
expect not. 4 No, I'm afraid not. 5 Yes, I suppose so.
6 No, I don't think so. 7 No, I don't suppose so./No, I
suppose not. 8 I'm afraid so.
- 2 1 So did I. 2 Neither/Nor did I. 3 Nor/Neither do I.
4 So am I. 5 Neither/Nor do I. 6 So would I.
7 So do I. 8 Neither/Nor have I. 9 Neither/Nor can I.

Unit 24

- 1 1 can't 2 isn't 3 doesn't 4 isn't 5 won't 6 isn't
7 does 8 hasn't 9 did 10 didn't
- 2 1 He might have. 2 somebody must have
3 I would have 4 I might.
5 I haven't yet 6 I will
- 3 1 Are you? 2 Has she? 3 Haven't you? 4 Is it?
5 Did she? 6 Do they? 7 Will you?

Unit 25

- 1 1 can 2 he'll be able to 3 be able to 4 can't 5 can't
6 I haven't been able to 7 I'll be able to 8 I won't be
able to
- 2 1 could 2 could 3 couldn't 4 could 5 could
6 could 7 could 8 couldn't 9 couldn't
- 3 1 Were you able to 2 couldn't/wasn't able to
3 was able to 4 Were you able to 5 could
6 couldn't/wasn't able to 7 couldn't/wasn't able to
8 couldn't/weren't able to 9 were able to
10 couldn't/wasn't able to 11 was able to

Unit 26

- 1 1 Can I/Could I/May I open the window? 2 Yes, you
can/may. 3 Can I/Could I/May I give you my
homework next week? 4 No, you can't.
5 Can I/Could I/May I give it to you tomorrow?
6 Yes, you can/may. 7 Can I/Could I/May I go outside
for a moment? 8 Yes, you can/may. 9 Would you like
me to explain it again? 10 Can I/Could I/May I
borrow your calculator? 11 you can't 12 Would you
like to borrow mine?
- 2 1 Can you/Could you/Would you 2 Can I/Could I/
May I 3 Can you/Could you/Would you 4 Can I/
Could I/May I 5 you can't 6 Can you/Could you/
Would you 7 Can I/Could I/May I/Would you like me
to 8 Can you/Could you/Would you 9 would you/
could you/can you 10 Can I/Could I/May I
11 Yes, you can/may.