**How is…….? Or What is…… like?**

***How is* …?**

We use  ***How is …?*** to ask about **someone’s health (news)** or about the **condition or state of something**, or **how people experience something:**

**A: How’s** your mother these days?

**B:** She’s fine, thanks.

**A: How 's** Zahra **?**

**B:** She has recovered.

**A**: **How was** the film?

**B:** It was great.

**A: How** **are** the walls in the kitchen? (What is the state of the walls?)

**B:** Well, they need redecorating .

**[[[[**

***What is* … *like*?**

On the contrary, we use  ***What is … like****?* to ask for **a description of** **someone or something** (e.g. **their appearance, their character, their behaviour):**

**A: What’s** her house **like**? **(description)**

**B:** It’s new, quite big, with a nice garden.

**A: What’s** London  **like**?

**B:** It’s big and it's very interesting.

**A: What’s** Ali **like**? **OR What does** Ali **look like?**

**B:** He’s nice. He’s very good-looking!

**→ To ask about the weather, you can use both questions:**

**How's** the weathertoday**?** It's warm and sunny .

**How was** the weatheryesterday**?** It was cold and rainy.

**What's** the weather **like** outside**?**  It's really cold.

**→ Be aware of the difference in meaning:**

**What's** your sister **like?**  She is tall with brown hair.

**What does** your sister **look like?** She is tall with brown hair.

**Versus**

**What does** your sister **like?→** She **likes** pizza. **Or** She **likes** orange juice.

**Note:** "**like'** here ( in these sentences above) is a **verb.**

**Tail Questions / Tag Questions**

We can add question tags like *isn't it?*, *can you?* or *didn't they?* to a statement to make it into a question. Question tags are more common in speaking than writing.

We often use question tags when we expect the listener to agree with our statement. In this case, when the statement is positive, we use a negative question tag.

She**'s** a doctor, **isn't** she?  
Yesterday **was** so much fun, **wasn't** it?

If the statement is negative, we use a positive question tag.

He **isn't** here, **is** he?  
The trains **are never** on time, **are** they?  
**Nobody has** called for me, **have** they?

If we are sure or almost sure that the listener will confirm that our statement is correct, we say the question tag with a falling intonation. If we are a bit less sure, we say the question tag with a rising intonation.

**Formation**

auxiliary verb + subject

1. We use the same auxiliary verb in the tag as in the main sentence. If there is no auxiliary verb in the main sentence, we use *do* in the tag.
   * You live in Spain, **don’t you?**
2. If the auxiliary verb in the sentence is affirmative, the tag is negative.
   * You’**re** Spanish, **aren’t you?**
3. If the auxiliary verb in the sentence is negative, the tag is affirmative.
   * You’**re not** Spanish, **are you?**

**Meaning**

1. We use tag questions to confirm or check information or ask for agreement.
   * You want to come with me, **don’t you?**
   * You can swim, **can’t you?**
   * You don’t know where the boss is, **do you**?
   * This meal is horrible, **isn’t it?**
   * That film was fantastic, **wasn’t it?**
2. We use tag questions to check whether something is true.
   * The meeting’s tomorrow at 9am, **isn’t it**?
   * You won’t go without me, **will you**?

**Additional points**

1. In the present form of *be*: In an affirmative statement, if the subject is “I”, the auxiliary changes to *aren’t* in the tag.
   * I’m sitting next to you, **aren’t I?**
   * I’m a little red, **aren’t I?**
2. With *let’s*, the tag is *shall we*?
   * Let’s go to the beach, **shall we?**
   * Let’s have a coffee, **shall we?**
3. With an imperative, the tag is *will you*?
   * Close the window, **will you?**
   * Hold this, **will you?**
4. We use an affirmative tag after a sentence containing a negative word such as *never, hardly, nobody*.
   * Nobody lives in this house, **do they?**
   * You’ve never liked me, **have you?**
5. When the subject is *nothing*, we use “it” in the tag.
   * Nothing bad happened, **did it?**
   * Nothing ever happens, **does it?**
6. If the subject is *nobody, somebody, everybody, no one, someone or everyone*, we use “they” in the tag.
   * Nobody asked for me, **did they?**
   * Nobody lives here, **do they?**
7. If the main verb in the sentence is *have* (not an auxiliary verb), it is more common to use *do* in the tag.
   * You have a Ferrari, **don’t you?**
   * She had a great time, **didn’t she?**
8. With *used to*, we use “didn’t” in the tag.
   * You used to work here, **didn’t you?**
   * He used to have long hair, **didn’t he?**
9. We can use affirmative tags after affirmative sentences to express a reaction such as surprise or interest.
   * You’re moving to Brazil, **are you**?

**Exercise 1**

**Complete these sentences with question tags.**

**1**. You are late for school,. ………. I?  
**2**. You don't like red skirts,. ………… Jane?   
3. My children go to St Johana's School,. ………….yours?  
**4**. Paul should behave more carefully,. …………… Kathrin?

**5**. Students were not tired at the end of the day,. ………..the teachers?  
**6**. Ahmed speaks English very well,. …………Ulla?  
**7**. I am a teacher,. ……. You?  
**8**. George can never get rich,. ……. Paul?  
**9**. I am not expecting any prize,. …………. You?   
**10**. I will be at the party,. ………Alfred?   
**11**. Karim studied in the U.S.A,. …….. Henry?   
**12**. You didn't see him,. …………I?  
**13**. Sam should not have left school so early,. ………Lillian?  
**14**. They must obey the instructions,. …….we?  
**15**. We won't be long,. …….. they?  
**16**. Mary goes by train at 3 pm,. ……… I ?  
**17**. I did not wash my car yesterday,. ……… Kan?  
**18**. Camin is a computer scientist,. ……… you?

**19**. Catherine has eaten rice, . …….they?

**20**. You like him,………….?

**Exercise 2**

**Add question tags to the following sentences with answer.**

**1**. You're addicted to shopping, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

2. They weren't part of the regular team, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**3**. You can't give it back to the owner, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**4**. Let's take a day off tomorrow, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**5**. She has her hair styled every week, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**6**. Mum will be happy to see you, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**7**. John keeps talking all the time. That's disgusting, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**8**. They haven't ever bought a new car, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**9**. I'm such a good swimmer, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**10**.He wouldn't agree with you, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**11**.There's really nothing more to say, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**12**.I shouldn't criticize the teacher, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**13**.Please pass me the sugar, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**14**.You mustn't play on the freshly cut grass, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**15**.You don't want him to come with us, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**16**.She hardly said anything, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**17**.You do have a receipt, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**18**.Peter and Jenny want to be alone, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**19**.You weren't ill last week, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**20**.I needn't come with you, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**21**.I didn't have a chance to thank you, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**22**.You had the car repaired, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**23**.She never met anyone else, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**24**.Let's go to the cinema, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**25**.They could make it to the train in time, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**26**.Dad won't be with us next week, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**27**.If we had more money, we would travel a lot, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**28**.You have lunch with your family on Sundays, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**29**.It got very late yesterday, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**30**.I am not going to have to tell you again, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?