

## UNIT 11

- 2 We repeat the auxiliary verb in the tag. If there is no auxiliary, use *do/does/did*.

*You haven't been here before, have you?*

*You can speak French, can't you?*

*We should take the children out, shouldn't we?*

*Banks close at four, don't they?*

*She eats meat, doesn't she?*

*You went to bed late, didn't you?*

### Note

For negative question tags with *I'm ...*, use *aren't*.

*I'm late, aren't I?* NOT ~~*I'm late, am't I?*~~

But,

*I'm not late, am I?* NOT ~~*I'm not late, aren't I?*~~

- 3 Notice the meaning of *Yes* and *No* in answer to question tags.

*'You're coming, aren't you?'* 'Yes.' (= I am coming.)

'No.' (= I'm not coming.)

### 11.1 Indirect questions

- 1 Indirect questions have the same word order as the positive and there is no *do/does/did*.

Tom lives in California.

Do you know where Tom lives?

NOT ~~Do you know where does Tom live?~~

- 2 We often make direct questions into indirect questions to make them sound 'softer' or more polite.

#### Direct question

*What time do the banks close?*

#### Indirect question

*Could you tell me*

*Do you know*

*Do you happen to know*

*Have you any idea*

*Do you remember*

*Would you mind telling me*

*what time the banks close?*

If there is no question word, use *if* or *whether*.

*I don't know if I'm coming or not.*

*I wonder whether it's going to rain.*

Here are some more expressions that introduce indirect questions:

*I don't know*

*I wonder*

*I can't remember*

*I've no idea*

*I'd like to know*

*I'm not sure*

*how long the journey takes.*

### 11.2 Question tags

#### Form

- 1 Question tags are very common in spoken English. The most common patterns are:

positive sentence – negative tag

*You're Jenny, aren't you?*

or negative sentence – positive tag

*It isn't a very nice day, is it?*



# 11

## Tell me about it!

Indirect questions • Question tags • The body • Informal English



### TEST YOUR GRAMMAR

- 1 All of these sentences are correct. Why is there no *does* in sentences 2 and 3?
- 1 Where does she live?
  - 2 I know where she lives.
  - 3 Can you tell me where she lives?

- 2 Choose the correct question tag.

- |                              |   |              |
|------------------------------|---|--------------|
| 1 It's a beautiful day,      | 4 | did he?      |
| 2 You like learning English, | 1 | isn't it?    |
| 3 You've been to Australia,  | 5 | didn't they? |
| 4 Henry didn't say that,     | 2 | don't you?   |
| 5 They had a good time,      | 3 | haven't you? |

It's a beautiful day, isn't it?



## A STRANGER IN TOWN

### Indirect questions

- 1 **TIP** Flavia has just checked into her hotel in Toronto. Look at the information she wants, then listen to the conversation. Complete her sentences.

What Flavia wants to know	What Flavia says
1 Could you help me?	I wonder if <u>you could</u> help me.
2 Are we near the CN Tower?	I'm not sure <u>if we are</u> near the CN Tower.
3 Are there any good restaurants nearby?	Can you tell me <u>if there are</u> any good restaurants nearby?
4 What time do the banks close?	I don't know what time <u>the banks close</u> .
5 Which restaurant did you suggest?	I'm sorry, but I can't remember which restaurant <u>you suggest</u> .

2 Complete the conversation between Karen and her assistant with a question tag from the box.

didn't I? isn't it? am I? haven't I?

K Now, what's happening today? I've got a meeting this afternoon, haven't I?

A Yes, that's right. With Henry and Tom.

K And the meeting's here, isn't it?

A No, it isn't. It's in Tom's office at 3 o'clock.

K Oh! I'm not having lunch with anyone, am I?

A No, you're free for lunch.

K Phew! And I signed all my letters, didn't I?

A No, you didn't, actually. They're on your desk, waiting for you.

K OK. I'll do them now. Thanks a lot.

**T 11.3** Listen and check. Does Karen's intonation go up or down on the question tags?