



REAL ENGLISH

GET ENGLISH USEFUL FOR YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE!

DATE July 18, 2023

Volume 4

Aomori Prefecture English Education
Society

タグって便利？簡単そうで実は奥深い付加疑問文の世界

Tag Questions は便利な用法であり、ラーメン好きだったよね？ちがったけ？など、日本語でもよく使われている表現です。そういった理由からでしょうか。個人的には、生徒には定着しやすいイメージを持っています。さておき、Negative yes/no Questions はまあまあ困りますね。今でも混乱する時があります。日本語に置き換えない英語を英語で指導する意味を問われる表現なのではないでしょうか。

Questions: Tag Questions and Negative yes/no Questions

Tag questions and *Negative yes/no questions* allow the speaker to: (1) comment on a situation – either neutrally or with surprise or some other emotion and (2) check on information or background.

Let's look at four sample questions:

Suppose I am talking to you about lunch. I say:

1. "I'll treat you to lunch. I know a good ramen restaurant. Do you like ramen?"
2. "I'll treat you to lunch. I know a good ramen restaurant. You like ramen, don't you?"
3. "I'll treat you to lunch. I know a good ramen restaurant. Oh, that's right ...
You don't like ramen, do you?"
4. (at the restaurant ... we are eating our ramen ... you have a strange look on your face)
"What's the matter? Don't you like ramen?"

So ... what is happening?

Question 1 is a neutral question – I really don't know, so I want to ask a pure question.
Question 2 is based on my assumption (from the verb *to assume*) that everyone likes ramen, so while I think you must like ramen, I will just check.

Question 3 is based on the fact that at some time in the past, you said you didn't like ramen ... or I heard from someone that you didn't like ramen ... so now I need to check this

information in order to consider my restaurant choice.

Question 4 expresses my surprise and disbelief that you might not like ramen. I mean ... everyone likes ramen, don't they?

A communication problem can sometimes come in the response. It can be confusing: is the response *an answer to the question* or is the response *a statement of the truth*?

"I'll treat you to lunch. I know a good ramen restaurant. Oh, that's right ...
You don't like ramen, do you?"

1. No. I don't like ramen ... unfortunately.
2. No. That is not true ... I love ramen ... especially pineapple ramen.
3. Yes. That is true. I don't like ramen ... unfortunately.
4. Yes I do!!! I love ramen ... especially chocolate ramen.

So, you should be careful about using just 'yes' or 'no' in your response ... unless the meaning is obviously clear between the speaker and listener.

Here are some common patterns ... think how you might use them:

Rising intonation means a question ... Falling intonation means a statement.

They are ..., aren't they? You haven't ..., have you? We need (to) ..., don't we.

This is going to be ..., isn't it? You'll be ..., won't you? Learning things is ..., isn't it?

Here is a page that has more explanation and more examples:

[https://byjus.com/english/question-tags/#:~:text=The%20Collins%20Dictionary%20definition%20of,%27%20are%20a%20question%20tag."](https://byjus.com/english/question-tags/#:~:text=The%20Collins%20Dictionary%20definition%20of,%27%20are%20a%20question%20tag.)

Next REAL ENGLISH: AUGUST !

◇新しい知事と教育長も就任され青森県も新時代を迎えるのでしょうか。本県の外国語教育においてもまさにチャンス到来かもしれません。新型コロナウイルス感染症も収束し、真に必要な教育活動の精査が求められています。英語を指導するに当たってのムリ・ムダを省き、子どもたちのため、授業改善を進め、英語教育を発展させて行きましょう。本学会はそのために存在しています。のびしろしかないぞ、青森県。(文責 伴)

青森県英語教育学会Real English 第2号

2023年(令和5年)7月18日発行

発行者 青森県英語教育学会(ASELE)

代表者 丹藤永也

発行所 〒036-8560 弘前市文京町1 弘前大学教育学部英語教育講座内

青森県英語教育学会 広報(担当 Anthony Rausch & 伴 一聡)

TEL&FAX : 0172-39-3448 E-mail : telesomori@gmail.com