



## Tag Questions: Advanced Tags: Semi-Negatives & Mixed Practice

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

1. She hardly ever complains, \_\_\_?  
a) doesn't she  
b) does she  
c) has she  
d) is she
2. You used to live in Tokyo, \_\_\_?  
a) don't you  
b) usedn't you  
c) didn't you  
d) did you
3. He never apologises, \_\_\_?  
a) did he  
b) doesn't he  
c) is he  
d) does he
4. We ought to tell them the truth, \_\_\_?  
a) ought we  
b) oughtn't we  
c) mustn't we  
d) don't we
5. You had better leave now, \_\_\_?  
a) had you  
b) didn't you  
c) hadn't you  
d) shouldn't you
6. They seldom go out on weekdays, \_\_\_?  
a) are they  
b) don't they  
c) do they  
d) did they
7. Few people understood the lecture, \_\_\_?  
a) do they  
b) didn't they  
c) were they  
d) did they
8. She can play the piano beautifully, \_\_\_?  
a) can she  
b) doesn't she  
c) couldn't she  
d) can't she
9. There was barely any food left, \_\_\_?  
a) wasn't there  
b) was there  
c) was it  
d) wasn't it
10. He rarely visits his grandparents, \_\_\_?  
a) is he  
b) doesn't he  
c) did he  
d) does he
11. Little progress has been made, \_\_\_?  
a) has it  
b) has there  
c) hasn't it  
d) hasn't there

12. You have been to Paris, \_\_\_?  
a) have you  
b) didn't you  
c) haven't you  
d) don't you
13. She used to be a dancer, \_\_\_?  
a) usedn't she  
b) did she  
c) didn't she  
d) wasn't she
14. I'm invited to the wedding, \_\_\_?  
a) don't I  
b) aren't I  
c) am I  
d) isn't it
15. They had scarcely begun when the fire alarm rang, \_\_\_?  
a) had they  
b) did they  
c) hadn't they  
d) didn't they
16. Nobody told you about the change, \_\_\_?  
a) did they  
b) didn't they  
c) did he  
d) told they
17. We ought not to be late, \_\_\_?  
a) oughtn't we  
b) ought we  
c) should we  
d) shouldn't we
18. He had better not make that mistake again, \_\_\_?  
a) had he  
b) didn't he  
c) hadn't he  
d) should he
19. The children will be playing outside, \_\_\_?  
a) aren't they  
b) will they  
c) don't they  
d) won't they
20. She never used to like vegetables, \_\_\_?  
a) did she  
b) didn't she  
c) does she  
d) used she



## Answers

1. b) does she
2. c) didn't you
3. d) does he
4. b) oughtn't we
5. c) hadn't you
6. c) do they
7. d) did they
8. d) can't she
9. b) was there
10. d) does he
11. a) has it
12. c) haven't you
13. c) didn't she
14. b) aren't I
15. a) had they
16. a) did they
17. b) ought we
18. a) had he
19. d) won't they
20. a) did she



# Explanations

## 1. “does she” (b)

'Hardly' is a semi-negative word — it makes the statement effectively negative. Negative → positive tag: 'does she'. Semi-negatives include: hardly, barely, scarcely, seldom, rarely, never, few, little.

## 2. “didn't you” (c)

'Used to' takes the tag 'didn't you' in modern English. Although 'usedn't you' exists in very formal British English, 'didn't you' is the standard accepted form.

## 3. “does he” (d)

'Never' makes the statement negative. Negative → positive tag: 'does he'. The verb 'apologises' is present simple third person, so we use 'does'.

## 4. “oughtn't we” (b)

'Ought to' is positive. The grammatically matching tag is 'oughtn't we'. 'Ought to' keeps its own form in the tag, just like other modal verbs.

## 5. “hadn't you” (c)

'Had better' uses 'had' as its auxiliary. Positive → negative tag: 'hadn't you'.

## 6. “do they” (c)

'Seldom' is a semi-negative word, making the statement effectively negative. Negative → positive tag: 'do they'.

## 7. “did they” (d)

'Few' (without 'a') is semi-negative — it means 'almost none'. The statement is effectively negative → positive tag: 'did they'. Note: 'a few' would be positive.

## 8. “can't she” (d)

'Can play' is positive. Positive → negative tag: 'can't she'. This is a review of modal verb tags from Set 3.

## 9. “was there” (b)

'Barely' is a semi-negative word, and 'there' is the subject. Negative → positive tag: 'was there'.

## 10. “does he” (d)

'Rarely' is semi-negative, making the statement effectively negative. Negative → positive tag: 'does he'.

## 11. “has it” (a)

'Little' (without 'a') is semi-negative — it means 'almost no'. 'Progress' is uncountable, replaced by 'it' in the tag. Negative → positive: 'has it'.

## 12. “haven't you” (c)

'Have been' is positive present perfect. Positive → negative tag: 'haven't you'. This is a mixed review question.

## 13. “didn't she” (c)

'Used to' takes 'didn't' in the tag. Positive → negative: 'didn't she'.

## 14. “aren't I” (b)

'I'm' = 'I am' (positive). The special tag for 'I am' is 'aren't I'. This is the only exception to the normal pattern.

## 15. “had they” (a)

'Scarcely' is semi-negative. The auxiliary is 'had' (past perfect). Negative → positive tag: 'had they'.

**16. “did they” (a)**

'Nobody' is negative and is replaced by 'they' in the tag. Negative → positive: 'did they'. Review of indefinite pronoun tags.

**17. “ought we” (b)**

'Ought not to' is negative. Negative → positive tag: 'ought we'.

**18. “had he” (a)**

'Had better not' is negative. Negative → positive tag: 'had he'.

**19. “won't they” (d)**

'Will be playing' is positive future continuous. The auxiliary is 'will'. Positive → negative: 'won't they'. Mixed review.

**20. “did she” (a)**

'Never' makes the statement negative, and 'used to' takes 'did' in the tag. Negative → positive: 'did she'. Double challenge: semi-negative + 'used to'.