Listening and Speaking:
Intonation: Tag Endings

1. In the Writing & Reading Center, go to the section with computers for listening.
2. Double click on ESL Applications
3. Double Click on American Speech Sounds
4. Click on “Listen & Choose”
5. Select “Intonation: Do I (Tag Endings)” under Exercises
6. Listen and select the word that you hear by clicking on the red button
7. Complete all 26 items
8. Record your score _____ % Correct
9. Practice using rising and falling intonation as directed in parentheses in the following tag questions:
   a. He's from Italy, isn't he? (use rising intonation)
   b. She's living in Chicago, isn't she? (use falling intonation)
   c. There were at the party, weren't they? (use falling intonation)
   d. She speaks Korean, doesn't she? (use rising intonation)
   e. He had a good time, didn't he? (use rising intonation)
   f. She's lived several years, hasn't she? (use falling intonation)
   g. They'd left when you arrived, hadn't they? (using rising intonation)
   h. She can help us, can't she? (use rising intonation)
**Language Note:**

Intonation is the rising or falling pitch in a speaker’s voice. In many languages, changes in pitch reflect a change in meaning of what is being said.

Tag endings with *rising intonation:* the speaker is not certain that the information is correct and is genuinely asking a question

**Example:** RCC is in Riverside, \( \nearrow \) isn't it? \( \searrow \)

Tag endings with *falling intonation:* the speaker is fairly sure that the statement is correct and is simply seeking confirmation.

**Example:** English Grammar is difficult, \( \searrow \) isn't it? \( \downarrow \)

10. Find an instructor or tutor. Ask him/her to listen to your intonation of each tag question and to evaluate the rising and falling intonation by circling “certain” or “uncertain” – refer to the language note as needed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tag Questions</th>
<th>The speaker is…</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. He's from Italy, isn't he?</td>
<td>Certain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. She's living in Chicago, isn't she?</td>
<td>Certain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. There were at the party, weren't they?</td>
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