

N'EST-CE PAS ?

LESSON FOCUS

LEVEL: A1

OBJECTIFS DE LA LEÇON

1. to learn how to use the question tag: **n'est-ce pas**

INTRODUCTION

What is a question tag?

It is a word or an expression added at the end of a statement to turn it into a question.

Question tags are used mostly in conversation, to encourage a reply or to confirm that something is true or false.

So in English, we would say:

He is here, *isn't he?*

I did my homework, *didn't I?*

We have done our homework, *haven't we?*

If, in English, the question tag changes according to the verb of the statement, this is not the case in French.

UTILISATION DE "N'EST-CE PAS ?"

The question tag **n'est-ce pas ?** which, translated literally, means "is it not", is used at the end of a statement to turn it into a question, usually answered by yes.

n'est-ce pas does not change according to the verb of the main statement.

non ? is a more informal question tag.

EXEMPLES

- ▶ C'est un beau poème, **n'est-ce pas ?** (formal)
- ▶ C'est un beau poème, **non ?** (informal)
- ▷ It is a beautiful poem, isn't it?

▶ Vous accompagnerez les enfants à l'école demain, **n'est-ce pas ?**

▷ You will take the children to school tomorrow, won't you?

▶ Natasha et Louis sont venus le mois dernier, **n'est-ce pas ?**

▷ Natasha and Louis came last month, didn't they?

▶ J'ai mangé des pommes au déjeuner, **n'est-ce pas?**

▷ I have eaten apples for lunch, haven't I?

NOTE: as you can see in these examples, the question tag remains unchanged, whether the verb of the main statement is in the future or the past tense.

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