

NATIONAL HEROES

P.28

Aims:

- learn vocabulary for talking about jobs;
- read a text about Kazakh heroes;
- learn how to use question tags.

Our heroes

Mariya and Azamat talk about people for their school project.

M: The man in the photo looks very important, doesn't he? What's his name?

A: His name is Toktar Aubakirov and he's Kazakhstan's first cosmonaut. In 1991, he was part of a team on a Soyuz space mission to do research in space. Toktar was also a test pilot for the Kazakh air force. He tested over 50 planes and he was the first person to fly non-stop over the North Pole. Today, he is retired, but he helps train young people at workshops and conferences and gives advice.



M: That is Roza Baglanova the famous singer, isn't it?

A: Yes, it is. She was born in Kazalinsk in 1922 and became one of the most famous singers in Kazakhstan. She sang in operas and performed popular songs.


She was only 19 years old when she started singing as a soloist with the Song and Dance Ensemble of the Uzbek Philharmonic Orchestra. During her career, she also worked for the Kazakh State Academic Opera and Ballet, and the Kazakh State Philharmonic Society. She toured the world singing and she liked to perform in the language of the country she was in. She died in 2011 at the age of 89.



M: Abilkhan Kasteev's paintings are beautiful, aren't they?

A: Yes, I really like them. He painted over 2,000 paintings, but his first job was a farm worker. Then he worked on the railway. He started studying art when he was 24. He was a great artist because he painted in oils and watercolours, and he was good at painting different types of pictures. Some of his pictures are of people and some are of the countryside. His paintings of the steppe are fantastic. He died in 1973. The art museum in Almaty is now the Kastejev State Museum of Arts.



1  1.23 Look at the photos and answer the questions. Then listen and read the text and check your answers.

- 1 Who are the people?
- 2 What are they famous for?

2 Read the text again. Complete the sentences with the names of the people: Toktar Aubakirov, Roza Baglanova, Abilkhan Kasteev.

- 1 _____ travelled to lots of countries.
- 2 _____ has a lot of experience flying planes.
- 3 _____ painted over two thousand pictures.
- 4 Today, _____ trains young people.
- 5 _____ worked in the countryside.
- 6 _____ started work at 19 years old.

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3 Read the text again. Write the names of jobs for each person.

farm worker ~~test pilot~~ singer painter
trainer performer cosmonaut soloist
railway worker

Toktar Aubakirov	Roza Baglanova	Abilkhan Kasteev
Test pilot	3 _____	6 _____
1 _____	4 _____	7 _____
2 _____	5 _____	8 _____



Question Tags

We use tag questions at the end of statements to ask for confirmation. They mean something like: 'Aright?' or 'Do you agree?' They are very common in English.

We form a question tag with an auxiliary verb (be, have, can, do...) and a pronoun (I, you, she...)

A positive statement + a negative question tag.

You are a teacher, aren't you?

(A subject pronoun comes after an auxiliary or a form of the verb 'to be'.)

NOTE: Negative auxiliaries and verbs in tags are usually in their contracted form (= n't)



A negative statement + a positive question tag.

Richard isn't a doctor, is he?

(A subject pronoun is used to replace the noun or noun phrase.)

Intonation

We can change the meaning of a tag question with the musical pitch of our voice. With rising intonation, it sounds like a real question. But if our intonation falls, it sounds more like a statement that doesn't require a real answer.

You don't know where my wallet is, do you?

(Rising intonation - Real question)

It is a beautiful view, isn't it?

(Falling intonation - not real question)

Answers to tag questions

Answer a tag question according to the truth of the situation. Your answer reflects the real facts, not (necessarily) the question.

Snow is white, isn't it? Yes (it is).

Snow isn't white, is it? Yes it is!



The answer is the same in both cases - because snow IS WHITE!

Snow is black, isn't it? No it isn't!

Snow isn't black, is it? No (it isn't).



The answer is the same in both cases - because snow IS NOT BLACK!

Positive Question Tags

Question tags are used when asking for agreement or confirmation.

a negative statement + a positive question tag

Negative Statement

You aren't
He isn't
He wasn't
They weren't

a teacher,
crazy,
relaxed,
late,

You don't speak
You didn't study

French,
for the test,

You haven't been
You hadn't done
You won't fail
You can't drive
You couldn't do
We mustn't say
You shouldn't be
You wouldn't stop

here all week,
it before then,
the exam,
a car,
it for me,
anything,
so busy,
me,

Positive Tag

are you?
is he?
was he?
were they?

do you?
did you?

have you?
had you?
will you?
can you?
could you?
must we?
should you?
would you?

Statements using *barely*, *hardly*, *neither*, *no*, *nobody*, *none*, *nothing* and *seldom* are treated as negative statements.

Nobody went
Nothing is

to the meeting,
ready,

did they?
is it?

Choose the right tag-ending.



1. He can play golf well, ...?

a ..., doesn't he?

b ..., can he?

c ..., can't he?

2. You are the new secretary, ...?

a ..., aren't you?

b ..., are you?

c ..., don't you?

3. Mr. Evans is speaking over the phone, ...?

a ..., is he?

b ..., isn't he?

c ..., doesn't you?





6 Complete the question tag.

- 1 Exploring space is exciting, ____?
- 2 You want to be a singer, ____?
- 3 You can fly a plane, ____?
- 4 Our maths homework wasn't hard, ____?
- 5 Their songs are cool, ____?
- 6 You can't speak Japanese, ____?