

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) What is the nicest compliment you have received? What is the nicest compliment you have given?
- 2) Is it common in your country to give a compliment?
- 3) How do you feel when another person gives you a compliment?

LANGUAGE FUNCTION – STARTING A CONVERSATION WITH A COMPLIMENT

I really like your new shoes.
 What a nice sweater you have.
 Those earrings are beautiful.

Where did you buy them?
 Is it new?
 Where did you get them?

**Cultural Note**

In many countries people compliment each other as a way of telling another that you like their appearance or something they have. Compliments make the receiving person feel good, because you noticed something about them.

**Joe starts a conversation with a tag question**

- Joe: The weather is beautiful today, isn't it?
 Gordon: Yeah, it sure is. I love sunny, warm weather.
 Joe: Me too. I'm going to the lake after school for a swim.
 Gordon: I hope I find enough time to go hiking in the mountains. Summer is almost over, so we should make the most of it, shouldn't we?
 Joe: Yeah. Catch you later.

DISCUSSION

- 1) Do you talk to people you don't know? Why or why not?

LANGUAGE FUNCTION – STARTING A CONVERSATION WITH A TAG QUESTION

We have a test today, don't we?
 We are writing a test today, don't we? (Incorrect)
 You are from China, aren't you?
 The teacher likes coffee, doesn't he?
 The teacher likes coffee, likens he? (Incorrect)

Grammar Note:

Tag questions are made from a statement and a tag, which changes the statement into a question. The answer to a tag question is usually yes or no. The structure of a tag is as follows:

STATEMENT	+ NEGATIVE HELPING VERB	+ PRONOUN
The weather is beautiful today,	isn't	it?
We have a test today,	don't	we?

**Pronunciation**

Tag Questions use two kinds of intonation (changes in the level of your voice).

The first is **rising intonation** where the statement is followed by a tag, which is said by raising your voice. We use rising intonation when we don't know the answer.

Listen to your teacher say the following tag questions:

- She likes coffee, doesn't she?
- They went to high school together, didn't they?
- He was at the theatre last night, wasn't he?

The second is **falling intonation** where the tag is said in a lower voice. Falling intonation is used when we think what we are saying is true. Listen to your teacher say these tags:

- You are the best students, aren't you?
- China is beautiful, isn't it?
- You love English, don't you?

**Activities****Individual**

1) Write two starters: one compliment and one tag question for each situation:

- Your teacher is wearing a new pair of shoes.
- It is your first time in Vancouver, and you don't know if the bus goes downtown.
- Your aunt just had a baby, but you aren't sure if you have a new niece or a new nephew.
- The local baseball team played a game last night. Check the score.

Pairs

2) Think of a way to compliment your partner and write it down. Then start a conversation with a compliment. Take turns.