

# [Grammar] Mood Tags

An overview

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/courses/grammar/unit04a/moodtags-druck.pdf](http://www.spence.saar.de./courses/grammar/unit04a/moodtags-druck.pdf)



**Figure:** A gazebo is a pavilion structure commonly found in parks, gardens, and spacious public areas. Gazebos are freestanding, roofed, and open on all sides; they provide shade, basic shelter, ornamental features in a landscape, and a place to rest. — Wikipedia

# Overview

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Comparison with French and German mood tags

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|---------|--------|------------|------------|
| Subject | Finite | Predicator | Complement |
|         |        |            |            |

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  - “You didn’t INTEND to kill him, did you?”
  - —“NO!”

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  - ... , have they?
  - ... , shall we?
  - ... , won't he? (etc. etc. etc.)

# Variables and problems: Summary



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    - is really an Offer (Response: “Oh yes please!”), not a Question (\*Response: \*“Yes you shall.”)
- Always identify the underlying speech function!!

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  - She's got a brother in Amèrica if I remember rightly,

# Typical exam questions (3)

- Here the MoodTag has falling intonation:
  - He hardly èver has sandwiches for lunch, **dòes he**.
  - Plèase remember to put out the garbage before you go to bed, **wòn't you**.
  - The President will know mother has two bravery medals alrèady, **wòn't he**.
  - Plèase don't forget to feed the cat before you leave the house, **will you**.
  - She's got a brother in Amèrica if I remember rightly, **hàsn't she**.



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- Identify the real Polarity (be careful with those special adverbs and with those 'metaphorical' expressions of MODALITY!)

- Did you find this treatment of Mood Tags useful?
  - was it too simple?
  - was it too abstract?
- Did you find the use of data-projector slides as a teaching medium useful?
  - was the experience too “passive”?
  - could the same results have been achieved using other means?