



## Two old friends meet up again

### Activity

English has a system of tags which speakers can put at the end of what they say. For example:

You're French, *aren't you?*  
He's coming tonight, *is he?*

What do you think these tags are for? Make notes and/or discuss with a partner why you think speakers use tags. Are there other types of tags apart from the two types in the examples above?

### Speakers and setting

<S 01> male (40s)  
<S 02> male (40s)

Two old friends who haven't seen each other for a few years are 'catching up' with each other. They are in a village pub garden on an exceptionally hot summer's evening, talking about <S 01>'s children.

### Transcript

- 1 <S 01> Are you still playing er  
2 <S 02> Gui-tar  
3 <S 01> Irish music, yeah  
4 <S 02> No I don't play very much now, no, not at all  
5 <S 01> I thought you were touring the

- 6 country at one point  
7 <S 02> [laughs] No. I er ... we go, we listen to it quite a lot, every time we  
8 go to Ireland we erm, you know, seek out good musicians and er do  
9 quite a lot of listening and of course we still buy a lot of records.  
10 *red* bought a lot of records over the last few years, but erm, there's not  
11 actually anybody to play with around here, you know [<S 01> mm]  
12 there's a there's a session every Sunday night in Cambridge in a pub  
13 and that's erm about it ... do you still listen to Scottish music?  
14 <S 01> Ver ... since this pair have arrived [<S 02> mm] very very little, cos,  
15 you just don't have the time, and with the new house, and with the  
16 garden [<S 02> Mm] occasionally I take fits of putting stuff on, not as  
17 much as before  
18 <S 02> They do I s'pose take up a lot of time, don't they, kids?  
19 <S 01> ← They take up a lot  
20 of, I mean, normally, you get, if you're lucky they're all tucked up in  
21 bed by eight-thirty [<S 02> mm] ... that's if you're lucky, and then er  
22 <S 02> Do they sleep all night without erm waking up, did they wake up last  
23 night, they didn't [<S 01> no] did they, no, [<S 02> no] didn't hear  
24 a thing  
25 <S 01> Jamie normally, you put him in his cot and he's ... he's gone  
26 [<S 02> mm] he sleeps he's very good at sleeping [<S 02> mm]  
27 Thomas is a bit of a pain [<S 02> ah] all sorts of things frighten him,  
28 you know [<S 02> yeah] wakes up with nightmares and that  
29 [<S 02> does he] yeah some nights we change beds about three or  
30 four times, he comes into our bed and there's not enough room and  
31 so I go into his bed and he comes back in so to my bed and his bed  
32 and chopping and changing  
33 <S 02> It's extraordinary to think they have bad dreams, well, I suppose they  
34 dream of images they've seen during the day, probably dream of that  
35 bloomin' duck or something  
36 <S 01> Or it just might be a car, noisy car going past the window or  
37 something, wakes them up  
38 <S 02> Mm ... it's going to be hot tonight ... in bed, isn't it  
39 <S 01> Mm