

English Vocabulary – Interjections

“Interjections” are words used as an exclamation to express emotions such as anger, shock, joy, and confusion. They are usually written with an exclamation mark! In general, they are not used in formal writing, but are very common in informal speech. For example:

- Pain: Ow, Ouch
- Disappointment: Boo, Sh*t, Shoot, Rats, Fiddlesticks, Oh well, Oh no, Oh dear
- Disgust: Ew, Yuck, Ugh
- Mistake: Oh, Oops, Whoops, Whoops-a-daisy
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KBy0uaSCoKo>
- Surprise: Wow, Gosh, Goodness, Good grief, Holy smoke*, What, OMG
- Pleasure: Aha, Yay, Yippee, Hurray, Woohoo
- Fear: Eek, Yikes
- Relief: Phew
- Worry: Uh-oh
- Sarcasm: Huh
- Agreement: OK, uh-huh
<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/uh-huh>
- Disagreement: uh-uh
<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/uh-uh>

* Variants:

- Holy smokes
- Holy cow
- Holy moly
- Holy Moses
- Holy mackerel
- Holy crap

Some people use religious words as interjections, but it's better to avoid them in case you offend somebody. For example:

- Jesus Christ!
- God almighty!
- Oh Lord!

Some people use swear words, but it's better to avoid them for the same reason. For example:

- F**k me!
- F**king hell!
- What the f**k! (written as “WTF”)
- Holy sh*t!

You can use almost anything as an interjection by using an exclamation mark. For example:

- Yes!
- Yo!
- Unbelievable!
- No way!
- Never!
- Great!
- Outrageous!
- Amazing!



Examples of interjections in sentences:

- **Wow!** That alligator is huge!
- **Uh-oh!** A storm is coming!
- Did you see the acrobats? **Amazing!** They were incredible!
- **OMG!** You just won a million dollars! Congratulations!

An interjection can use a question mark if it expresses confusion or curiosity. For example:

- Her birthday is tomorrow? **Huh?** I thought it was next week!
- **What?** The car is not in the garage? Where is it?

We can also use a comma if we want to continue the sentence. For example:

- **Whoops**, I dropped my phone!
- **Yikes**, look at the size of that spider!
- I guess this is as good as it gets, **huh?**
- Mum says we have to, **yuk**, eat cabbage!



Often, invented words are used as interjections. For example:

- **Zoinks!** — Shaggy, Scooby Doo
- **Cowabunga!** — Bart Simpson
- **Bazinga!** — Sheldon Cooper, The Big Bang Theory
- **Doh!** — Homer Simpson
- **Yabba dabba doo!** — Fred Flintstone

Interjections are an good way to make your English sound more natural, and they make conversations more relaxed and interesting.

Sources: <https://www.thesaurus.com/e/grammar/what-is-an-interjection/>
<https://www.easybib.com/guides/grammar-guides/parts-of-speech/interjection/>