

Exclamations are a most primitive expression of communication. They are most useful in everyday language, showing the speaker interest and responsiveness from the listener.

▼ Get into the habit of responding with exclamations to a variety of situations in life [!] ▼

▣ A very simple way of making an exclamation is by using “**HOW + an adjective/adverb**”

*How nice!                      How fast!*

▣ There are other more sophisticated forms of exclamations...

▣ They often involve **question-tags**:

*Rather cold, isn't it!*

▣ **Negative** questions are frequently heard as exclamations:

*Wasn't it a surprise!*

▣ Americans use positive **questions**, too:

*Boy, am I hungry!                      Was I furious!*

▣ Sometimes, we simply use a statement after an **interjection**:

*Gee! It's pouring!                      Wow! That's brilliant!*

▣ Most frequently, we make exclamations involving a combination of **adjective+noun**, in which case we have to discriminate between singular/plural, countable/uncountable nouns.

<i>What a nice dress!</i>	<i>What an easy exam!</i>
<i>What smart shoes!</i>	<i>What nonsense!</i>

▣ The same rules for HOW/WHAT above apply to exclamations with **SO/SUCH**:

It's **so** kind of you!

**How** kind!

She's **such a** helpful fellow

**What a** helpful fellow!

They talk **such** rubbish!

**What** (a lot of) rubbish they talk!

They're **such** friendly folks!

**What** friendly folks!

▣ Change the sentences below into exclamations with **How...!** or **What...!**

- |                                       |                         |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1) That's a strange picture...        | What a strange picture! |
| 2) That's interesting!                | How interesting!        |
| 3) Isn't it odd!                      |                         |
| 4) Those children are noisy...        |                         |
| 5) That's disgusting...               |                         |
| 6) He cooks well...                   |                         |
| 7) I was a such a fool...             |                         |
| 8) She works so hard...               |                         |
| 9) This is a pathetic performance...  |                         |
| 10) He made up such a silly excuse... |                         |
| 11) It was such a disappointment...   |                         |
| 12) Gee! Was I embarrassed!           |                         |