

INTERJECTIONS

An interjection is a word used to express a particular burst of emotion or sentiment. An interjection can be a single word, phrase or clause which conveys facial expression and body language. It can go either at the beginning or at the end of a sentence, or can stand alone and is almost always followed by either an exclamation mark or a question mark.

Primary interjections do not belong to any word category. Presumably, they originate from animal or human noises.

Examples: *Oops! Ouch!*

Secondary interjections are words with another meaning, most often nouns. They are used by themselves and express mental attitudes or states.

Examples: *Damn! Hell!*

As an **adjective**: Great! Michael has a new girlfriend.

As a **noun**: Congratulations!

As a **noun phrase**: Holy macaroni! His new girlfriend is a top model.

As a **phrase**: However, she doesn't speak English yet. Oh, my god!

Hello! Hi!

Goodbye! Bye!

Cheers! (To toast before drinking)

Sorry!

Alas! It was not to be. Shame. Maybe next time.

Oh dear! What a shame.

Wow! That's amazing.

Crikey! She's gorgeous.

Goodness gracious! Gosh! You've changed so much since I last saw you.

Gee whiz! Do I look as if I really care?

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English 4 Professionals Englischunterricht GmbH., Firmensitz: Ratschkygasse 22/2/23, 1120 Wien
Office: Europaplatz 2, 1150 Westbahnhof, Wien + 43 699 121 500 75 info@e4p.at www.e4p.at
FN. 407742 x UID: ATU68334545, Handelsgericht: Wien, Sitz: Wien
Bank Austria, Schönbrunner Straße 263, BIC: BKAUATWW IBAN: AT06 1200 0100 0546 3541



Pooh! That stinks.

Hey! ... Watch out. That nearly hit me.

Huh! ... So there. That's told him. He won't do that again.

Huh? Oh, really? ... I had no idea.

Uh-huh! Yes. I see what you're saying.

Uh-huh! (Derogatory: Oh, god. You're boring me to death.)

Er! Um! (I can't think what to say next - looking for the words).

Hooray! You've passed your interview. Well done.

Phew! Whew! That was close. It nearly hit us.

Ugh! Yuks! That tastes awful.

Ow! Ouch! That hurts.

Oh! ... That's not what I was expecting.

Oh no! You must be joking. It's not true.

Oops! That wasn't meant to happen.

Uh-oh! Her boss is coming this way and he looks really angry.

Yippee! He said "Yes". I've got a date with him next week.

Yikes! You're joking, aren't you? Have you ever met his mother?

Ha-ha Yes, but I don't care.

Hallelujah You're saved. You'll never have to work again.

Lo and behold! ... Just when you thought it was safe to go back in the water ...

Hey presto! I've managed to open it.

Voila! There you are. Finished it. God, I'm good.

Yes!

Thanks!

Please!

Extracts from: **English Grammar in Use**, Raymond Murphy, 2012, Cambridge/Klett, **Eats, shoots & leaves**, Lynne Truss, 2003. Profile books Ltd and **Correct English**, J.E. Metcalfe and C. Astel, Clarion books.

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