



Haji Muhammad Mohsin Government High School (Since 1874)

Online Emergency Eng Class/Activity – 10

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Exclamatory/Exclamative Sentences

Exclamative sentences make **exclamations**. They express strong feelings or opinion in one of two forms:

form	function	example
How!	make an exclamation	How silly I am!
What!		What a great car you have!
Exclamative Sentence = EXCLAMATION !		How cute she is!
		What a liar the leader is!

Note that **exclamation** can **ALSO** mean **any expression of strong emotion including one-word interjections like ouch! hey! wow!** Sentence examples are:

- *That hurts!* (declarative—statement)
- *Who the hell are you?!* (interrogative—question)
- *Don't be so stupid!* (imperative—command)

But the above sentences are NOT "exclamative sentence types". They are simply various sentence types **made with emotion** and given an exclamation mark/point to show that emotion.

But here, we consider **only** the real **exclamatory sentence**, which begins with **What or How** and usually ends with an exclamation mark, for example:

- **What a liar he is!** (exclamative—exclamation)
- **How he lies!** (exclamative—exclamation)

What is the form of an exclamative sentence?

The typical form (structure) of an exclamative sentence is:

What		
What	a noise [noun]	they made!
What	a silly man [adjective + noun]	he is!
How		
How	sad [adjective]	it was!
How	softly [adverb]	she spoke!
How	he [subject]	Lies!

The final punctuation is usually, but not necessarily, an **exclamation mark (!)**.

Exclamative sentences can be in **any tense**.

What is the function of an exclamative sentence?

The usual function (job) of an exclamative sentence is to help the speaker express a strong (often extreme) opinion about a situation—an "exclamatory statement". It expresses our personal and magnified assessment of the situation.

Look at these examples:

exclamative sentence	The speaker believes:
What a mess you've made!	You've made one hell of a mess!
What a handsome man he is!	He is an extremely handsome man.
How disgusting it was!	It was totally disgusting.

How do we use exclamative sentences?

Generally, we use exclamatory sentences less than the other sentence types (declarative/assertive, interrogative, imperative). Certainly, we use exclamatory sentences more in speaking than in writing. Look at these examples:

- What a mess you've made!
- What a handsome man he is!
- What an idiot I've been.
- How strange it was!
- How quickly he understands!
- Darling, how I love you.

Exclamative sentences with interjections

Sometimes we may reinforce an exclamative sentence with an interjection in front of it (example: God, Oh, Wow). See these examples:

- Hey! What a brilliant idea that is!
- Oh, how I wish I were there now!
- Oh Granny, what big teeth you have!
- Wow! What a cool car you've got!

Elliptical exclamatives

Very often we "cut" exclamative sentences to make short versions of them, usually without a verb. If they don't have a verb, technically they are not sentences, but they are certainly common expressions in English.

short form	long form (sentence)
What a brilliant idea!	What a brilliant idea that is!
What a cool car!	What a cool car you've got!
How lovely!	How lovely those flowers are!

Mini Quiz:

1. An exclamative sentence starts with -
 - a. How or Who
 - b. Who or Why
 - c. What or How
2. We use the exclamative form to -
 - a. express strong opinions
 - b. ask questions
 - c. make statements
3. Exclamatives usually end with -
 - a. a question mark
 - b. a comma
 - c. an exclamation mark

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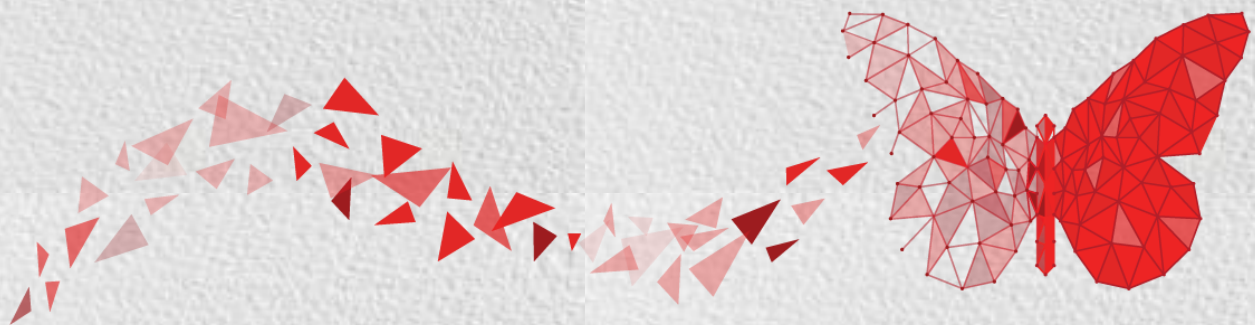
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