



## Everyday English

### Exclamations

Exclamations often begin with *How* or *What*. We use:

- *What* + adjective + plural or uncountable noun  
What fabulous shoes! What awful music!
- *What a/an* + adjective + singular countable noun  
What a lovely surprise! What an idiot!
- *How* + adjective  
How amazing! How incredibly weird!

1 Complete the exclamations with *What*, *What a* or *How*.

- \_\_\_\_\_ silly mistake!
- \_\_\_\_\_ brilliant idea!
- \_\_\_\_\_ utterly ridiculous!
- \_\_\_\_\_ dreadful weather!
- \_\_\_\_\_ rubbish!
- \_\_\_\_\_ mess!
- \_\_\_\_\_ awful!
- \_\_\_\_\_ wonderful!
- \_\_\_\_\_ relief!
- \_\_\_\_\_ terrible thing to say!

Which are positive reactions? Which are negative?

2 8.14 Listen to some situations. React to them using one of the exclamations from 1.

3 8.15 Listen to these sounds used in exclamations. After each one, write it in the correct line.

**Oops! Phew! Yuck! oh! Duh!**  
**Ouch! Wow! Mmm! Eh? Ha ha!**

- \_\_\_\_\_ How amazing!
- \_\_\_\_\_ Very funny!
- \_\_\_\_\_ That really hurt!
- \_\_\_\_\_ That's disgusting!
- \_\_\_\_\_ I'm sorry to hear that! What a shame!
- Oops!** I've spilt it. Sorry about that!
- \_\_\_\_\_ It's absolutely delicious!
- \_\_\_\_\_ What a relief!
- \_\_\_\_\_ What did you say?
- \_\_\_\_\_ You forgot to plug it in!

What sounds do you make in your language with these meanings?

4 8.16 Listen to these lines of conversation and reply with a line from 3.



5 8.17 Listen and check. Complete the extra lines from the conversation.

- Just the \_\_\_\_\_ I like it – spicy, but not too hot!
- You \_\_\_\_\_ be so disappointed!
- What are the \_\_\_\_\_ of that happening?!
- It's a \_\_\_\_\_ being tall sometimes!
- They do work \_\_\_\_\_ with electricity.
- At \_\_\_\_\_ it's white and not red!
- You wouldn't \_\_\_\_\_ me eating any of those!
- You really \_\_\_\_\_ get a job as a comedian.
- It must be a \_\_\_\_\_ off your shoulders!
- Don't talk with your mouth \_\_\_\_\_!

6 Work with a partner. Practise some of the conversations. Act one of them out to the class and make it longer.

7 Write a conversation with your partner, using some of the exclamations on this page. It could be about a holiday, a sporting event, an exam result, a meal, etc. Act it out to the class.

Go online for more speaking practice

