

The exclamation in English grammar

The exclamation is often made with *what*, *so*, *such* and *how*.

With How and So

How and **so** are followed by an adjective or adverb:

- *How ludicrous it was!*
- *She is so nice! She has so many friends!*

⚠ don't confuse *How old are you?* (= *What's your age?*) and *How old you are!* (= *You are really old!*)

The structure **how + subject + verb** is also possible:

- *How you have grown!*
- *How he loves you!*

We often use *how* followed only by an adjective:

- *How sweet!*
- *How beautiful!*

In informal style, we can also use *How + adjective + verb + subject* (especially in American English):

- *How clever am I!*
- *How crazy is that!*

Finally, keep in mind that *How* can cover an entire statement:

- *How she loves him!*

With Such and What

What and **such** are followed by a name. There are several possible structures:

- *What an amazing car!*
- *They're such nice people!*
- *Such delicious cooking!*

Such is not necessarily used in an exclamation:

- *such situations: de telles situations, des situations pareilles...*

Remember to put **a** or **an** in front of countable names:

- *She is such a lovely girl! (NOT She is a such lovely girl!)*
- *What a beautiful flower! (NOT What beautiful flower!)*

Some uncountables are preceded by a in fixed exclamations:

- *What a pity!*
- *What a shame!*
- *What a mess!*
- *What a relief!*

Be careful not to invert the verb at the end: What + object + subject + verb:

- *What a beautiful smile you have! (NOT What a beautiful smile have you!)*
- *What a beautiful day it is! (NOT What a beautiful day is it!)*

Common expressions

Here are some common expressions used in English for exclamation:

- *That's insane!*
- *Help!*
- *Wow!*
- *No way!*
- *Gosh!*
- *That's amazing!*
- *That's unbelievable!*
- *Get out!*
- *Look out!*