

Exclamations with **WHAT** and **HOW**



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We use exclamations to express surprise or shock or a strong emotion about something. The type of phrase or clause associated with exclamations is called exclamative.

We usually form exclamatives with WHAT or HOW. In writing, we usually put an exclamation mark (!) at the end of the exclamative:

Exclamations with **WHAT**

What a/an + Adjective + Singular Countable Noun

What an interesting person!
What a big car!
What a lovely couple!

+ Subject + Verb

What an interesting person you are!
What a big car your brother has !
What a lovely couple you make!

What + Noun (+ Subject + Verb)

What rubbish! / What beauty! / What rubbish that was!

What + Adjective + Uncountable/Plural Noun

What lovely weather!
What beautiful flowers!
What big eyes!

+ Subject + Verb

What lovely weather we had today!
What beautiful flowers she brought!
What big eyes you have!

Exclamations with **HOW**

How + Adjective

How wonderful!
How noble!
How cute!

+ Subject + Verb

How wonderful it is to see you!
How noble of him to do that!
How cute the babies are!

How + Adverb + Subject + Verb

How beautifully she sang! Everyone was delighted.
How quickly he speaks! I can't understand what he's saying!

How + Subject + Verb

How we love New York! / How I love the summer holidays!
How you've grown!

Structure : How + adjective + verb + subject.

This structure is used in informal styles. It is particularly common in American English:

How clever am I! / How crazy is that!