

## Interjections!

### Reading/discussion

Well, you know all about **nouns, verbs, adjectives** and **adverbs**. These are all parts of speech. There are eight of them in all, the other four are **pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions** and **interjections**. This sentence started with an interjection. Let's have a closer look at this particular part of speech.

Although interjection is a rather big word, most of the words which fit into this classification are small, like *oh, ah, hey, well, no, hi, ouch!* An interjection is simply a short exclamation. The Latin meaning is '**thrown in between**'. This is a good description of the word, as an interjection is used in a sentence to express emotions and, unlike the other parts of speech it is not related to any other part of the sentence in a grammatical sense. Some of the emotions expressed using an interjection are *surprise, pleasure, excitement, pity, realization, pain, dismay* and *disgust*.

An interjection is often followed by an exclamation mark – 'Ouch! You hurt me'; 'Hey! What are you doing?'; 'Wow! That's great!'; but can also be used with a comma, like the 'well' at the beginning of this reading. Here are some other examples: 'Hi, how are you?'; 'Ah, so that's what you meant.'; 'Oh, I don't know.' It all depends upon how emphatically you want to express your feelings. Occasionally you can also use a question mark: 'Huh?'

*Um*, another, *uh*, very common interjection is, *er*, a hesitation. These little words have no real meaning, they simply give you a chance to work out what you want to say next!

We don't usually use interjections in formal writing but we use them all the time in speech. Listen to someone speaking and count how many times they use interjections, then see if you can catch yourself out using them!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Interjections! Questions

### A. Identify the interjections.

A part of speech tells us how words are used, so many words can be more than one part of speech. Can you identify the sentences in the following pairs which contain an interjection and underline the interjection?

Hello, what's this?  
Say hello to Aunt Mary.

Oh dear, you dropped your sweets.  
You dropped your sweets, dear.

Great! I look forward to that.  
That was a great meal!

So, what did you do then?  
She was feeling tired so she stayed at home.

Well, there you are!  
Are you well?

### B. Using interjections.

Here is a box of common interjections. Choose ten of them and use them in your own sentences.

ah, dear, duh, eh, er, gosh, great, hello, hey, hi,  
hmm, huh, hurrah, oh, oops, ouch, so, ugh, uh-huh,  
umm, well, yay.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Interjections! Answers

### Activity A.

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So, what did you do then?  
She was feeling tired so she stayed at home.

Well, there you are!  
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### Activity B.

There are no right or wrong answers to this activity, provided that the interjections are used appropriately.