

Learning About Interjections

Reading and Discussion

What is an **interjection**?

You probably use interjections every day without even knowing it. For example:

- **Ouch!** That hurt my foot.
- **Hey!** Wait for me.
- **Wow!** Our soccer team just won the game.

An **interjection** is like a shout at the beginning of a sentence. We put strong feeling or emotion into one word to express things like:

- **happiness, sadness, excitement, anger, disgust, horror, shock**

You can even invent your own interjections. For example:

- **Jumping toads!** Did I really run that fast?
- **Bonkers!** What a dumb thing to do.

You might think of an interjection as a pinch of spice to add zing to a sentence or story. But, be careful. Too many interjections can lose their punch and make your sentences sound silly. Using too many interjections is like using too much spice. It's too much! For example:

- **Wow!** She dropped that book on my toes. **Ouch!** That hurt. **Yikes!** Why don't you be more careful?

You might have noticed that some interjections have an exclamation point after them. This is because the emotion is very strong. If we wanted to show an emotion or feeling that isn't as strong, we would use a comma after the interjection, like this:

- Gee whiz, I wanted to go too.
- Oh, that's the book I wanted.

When we use an interjection, we have to decide whether we want to show strong or weak emotion. Is the emotion a shout or a sigh? Once we decide, we use either an exclamation point or a comma. Interjections have no grammatical connection to the rest of the sentence. They are simply thrown into or interjected into the sentence.

Name _____

Date _____

Activities

Activity A: Let's Review

1. Name the part of speech that often begins a sentence with a shout and is followed by an exclamation point.

2. Name two emotions this part of speech might express.

3. When we want to show strong emotion with an interjection, what punctuation mark should we use? _____

4. When we want to show quieter emotion with an interjection, what punctuation mark should we use? _____

Activity B: Let's Create. Write your own sentences using an interjection. Use an interjection from the lesson or invent one of your own.

1. _____

2. _____

Name _____

Date _____

Answer Key

Activity A

1. Name the part of speech that often begins a sentence with a shout and is followed by an exclamation point. Interjection
2. Name two emotions this part of speech might express.
Answers will vary. happiness, sadness, shock, anger, horror
3. When we want to show strong emotion with an interjection, what punctuation mark should we use? Exclamation point.
4. When we want to show quieter emotion with an interjection, what punctuation mark should we use? Comma

Activity B

1. Answers will vary.
2. Answers will vary.