

16. INTERJECTIONS

Hurrah! We are almost finished with this book.

How does the writer feel about almost finishing this book? Sad? Angry? Happy? Yes, probably like you, the writer feels happy. What word conveyed the emotion the writer felt? *Hurrah*, of course. Some words (like *wow*, *gosh*, *darn*, and all swear words) just express feeling and have no other job in the sentence.

Definition

Words that express sudden emotion and have no grammatical relation to other words in a sentence are called **interjections**. They are interjected—or put into—the sentence.

Because they have no relationship with the other words in the sentence, interjections are sometimes used alone. For example, people often say “Wow!” or “Darn!” in conversation and assume the listener will know what they are talking about.

Notice that each of the previous interjections has an exclamation point after it. Because it has no relationship with the rest of the sentence, an interjection always has some form of punctuation, either a comma or an exclamation point, following it. If an interjection expresses very strong emotion like “Hurrah!” or “Ouch!” it is followed by an exclamation point and sometimes a new sentence. If an interjection expresses less strong feelings like “Gee whiz,” it is followed by a comma and the rest of the sentence:

1. *Ouch!* I stubbed my toe!
2. *Gee whiz,* that sunlight is bright.

As sentence 2 shows, interjections sometimes consist of two or more words:

1. *Dear me,* I forgot the kangaroo.
2. “*Oh, no!*” she cried. “I lost my history notes!”

HINT

- A. An interjection usually comes at the beginning of a sentence.
- B. An interjection must be followed by either a comma or an exclamation point.

For practice, underline the interjection in each of the following sentences:

1. Wow! This gift is exactly what I wanted.
2. Eureka! Henry decoded the cryptogram.
3. Oh, I thought you didn't want the last piece of cake, so I ate it.

INTERJECTION EXERCISES

- A. *Directions:* Underline each interjection.

EXAMPLE: Gee, I didn't come up with the same answer.

1. Oh, no! I forgot to study for the test!
2. Well, there's no way I'm ever going to pass this one.
3. Hey, why don't they ever ask something I know?
4. Ouch! All this writing is hurting my hand.
5. Oops! My pen just leaked all over my paper.
6. Oh well, that answer was wrong anyway.
7. Aha! I just figured out what the question means.
8. Phooey, I can't remember the answer.
9. Horrors! Time is up, and I just got started.
10. Whew, am I glad that's over.

- B. *Directions:* Using either the interjections listed below or others that you know, write a sentence for each of the following situations.

EXAMPLE: You are surprised that a friend has a motorcycle.
By Jove! I didn't know you rode a motorcycle.

whew	ouch	help
hurry	my goodness	alas
ah	oh	tsk, tsk
zounds	wow	dear me
eek	aha	eureka
all right	darn	oh, no
shoot	gee whiz	ah me

1. You are relieved that you passed the examination.

2. You are somewhat surprised that you finished your homework early.

3. You are disappointed that your favorite program is not on T.V.

4. You are having difficulty with your homework.

5. You have just received your report card.

6. You have just won an important game.

7. Your pet has run away.

8. You just found the homework that you thought you had lost.

9. You have just discovered that you do not have the homework that you thought you had put in your notebook.

10. You are confused about what the teacher covered in English class today, and your homework is on today's lesson.
