

INTERJECTIONS (OR EXCLAMATIONS)

Interjections (sometimes called Exclamations) are words or short phrases which express sudden or strong emotion.

Some interjections are used for the purpose of salutation (i.e., greeting others) or to acknowledge other related thoughts. Pauses such as um, er, hmmm, etc. are regarded as interjections. Additionally, profanity or word-level expletives are considered interjections. Oftentimes, interjections are found at the beginning of sentences (followed by a comma or an exclamation point).

Common Interjections:

Ah

Bye

Gosh

Goodness

Gosh

Great

Hello

Hi

Hurray

Indeed

Oops

Ouch

No

Well

What

Whoa

Wow

Yes

Interjections may be placed as individual words and/or short phrases.

Alright!

Heck no!

Congratulations!

Happy Birthday!

USING INTERJECTIONS IN SENTENCES

Exclamations may occur by themselves or within a sentence. The suggestion is that the interjection be mild and not powerful.

Example:

Ah, I see the new building is finished.

Uh-oh, I do not like the expression on her face.

FOLLOWED BY A COMMA

Exclamations may be present in declarative sentences when followed by a comma. This use shows the exclamation as being less emphatic (or softer).

Example:

Hello, my name is Reuben.

FOLLOWED BY AN EXCLAMATION POINT

Interjections are commonly used in exclamatory sentences when followed by an exclamation mark. Note that exclamatory sentences only need to have a single interjection to be a complete sentence. Furthermore, when an exclamation point is used, the interjection is thought to be more emphatic (or louder).

Example:

Hello!

Hi! My name is Reuben.

Both placements convey the salutation.

STRONG AND WEAK EXCLAMATIONS

Remember, interjections are used to show strong emotion (in writing and in dialogue).

You may choose an acceptable fragment if you want to show weak emotion.

Example:

Hello. (Less Emphatic)

Vs.

Hello! (More Emphatic)

-or-

Good luck on your performance. (Less Emphatic)

Vs.

Good luck on your performance! (More Emphatic)