

An interjection is simply a word that expresses emotion. It is a reaction that reveals surprise, pain, anger, delight, or a range of similar feelings.

Interjections (words or phrases that convey emotion) are usually set off with punctuation of some kind.

Here is a list of a few common interjections:

Help!	You're kidding!	Indeed!
Ouch!	Ssh!	Oh!
Hah!	OK	Hurray!
Um	Whoops!	Never!
Well	Ah	No way!

The interjections below are italicized.

- *Well*, what do you have to say for yourself?
- *You're kidding!* I'd never do that.
- *OK*, what do you suggest?
- Her essay was, *um*, less than wonderful.
- *Oh*, Mike, I don't know.

Some words exist only as interjections.

- *Whoops!* I dropped the vase.
- I got my report card—*ugh*.
- *Ssh*, don't forget you're in the library.

All kinds of words can be used as interjections.

- *Spike!* You're a bad dog.
- And then—*hey*, don't interrupt me.
- *Fool!*

Since the interjection has no grammatical relation to other parts of the sentence, it is often set off from them by an exclamation point.

A good rule to follow when punctuating interjections is that an emphatic interjection is followed by an exclamation point; a mild or weak interjection is followed by a comma.

Test Yourself!

Underline the interjections in the following sentences and place correct punctuation where needed.

1. Ouch you're stepping on my foot.
2. Oh he dropped his tray.
3. Oh I wouldn't bother with him.
4. Ah I would like to look like Paris Hilton.
5. My goodness what is he doing?
6. Hurray we won!
7. Oh boy I wouldn't try to please her.

(answers are on the back of the page)

Answer Key

1. Ouch! You're stepping on my foot.
2. Oh! He dropped his tray.
3. Oh, I wouldn't bother with him.
4. Ah, I would like to look like Paris Hilton.
5. My goodness! What is he doing?
6. Hurray! We won!
7. Oh boy, I wouldn't try to please her.