

# exclamations How beautiful! What a surprise!

Level 2

Exclamations with *how* and *what* are constructed differently.

HOW + ADJECTIVE	WHAT (+ ADJECTIVE) + NOUN
How beautiful!	What a beautiful day!
How stupid!	What a fool!
How strange they are!	What strange people they are!

We do not drop articles after *What*.

What a stupid idea! (NOT *What stupid idea!*)

## 1 Change the sentences into exclamations with *how* or *what*.

- ▶ That's a strange picture. *What a strange picture!*
- ▶ That's interesting. *How interesting!*
- ▶ Those are beautiful flowers.
- ▶ That's a stupid hat.
- ▶ He's a star.

## 2 DO IT YOURSELF

In exclamations with verbs, what is the order of the following?

A expression with *how/what* B verb C subject

Look at the examples and complete the rule.

How beautiful she is! (NOT *How she is beautiful!*)

How hard he works! (NOT *How he works hard!*)

What a lot of languages your sister speaks!

RULE FOR WORD ORDER IN EXCLAMATIONS WITH VERBS

1	2	3
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## 3 Change the sentences into exclamations with *how* or *what* and verbs.

- ▶ Those children are noisy. *How noisy those children are!*
- ▶ You've got big eyes, grandmother. *What big eyes you've got, grandmother!*
- 1 He cooks well.
- 2 We were wrong.
- 3 He talks a lot of nonsense.
- 4 She wears funny clothes.
- 5 She plays badly.
- 6 I was a fool.

We can use **negative questions** (see page 11) as exclamations.

*Isn't she beautiful! Doesn't he work hard! Wasn't it a surprise!*

## 4

Change the sentences from Exercise 3 into exclamations with negative questions.

- ▶ *Aren't those children noisy!*
- ▶ *Haven't you got big eyes, grandmother!*

- ..... 6
- ..... 5
- ..... 4
- ..... 3
- ..... 2
- ..... 1

In some answers, both contracted forms (for example *I'm, don't*) and full forms (for example *I am, do not*) are possible. Normally both are correct.