

Reacting to what people say

English with Kim. 2017, May 2. *Different ways to say "Really?!"* [Video]. YouTube. <https://youtu.be/3HYEt76eE1k>

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1. TYPES OF REACTIONS – Categorize the following reaction phrases.

Congratulations!	Don't worry about it.	How fantastic!
I don't believe it.	Keep up the good work!	Never mind.
Oh my gosh!	Oh no! (2x)	Really? (3x)
That's a pity.	That's all right.	That's great news!
What a great idea!	What a surprise!	Words fail me.
You don't say.	You must be joking.	You what? (2x)
You're kidding.	You're pulling my leg, aren't you?	

Expressing surprise	Reacting to good news	Reacting to bad news

2. YOUR TURN – In pairs, one reads out a sentence and the other one reacts to it with one but always a different phrase (from above). Take turns.

A1) I collect old English teacups.

A2) I spilled some coffee on my laptop last night and it doesn't work now.

A3) I'm going to New York next weekend.

A4) Someone stole my bike yesterday.

A5) My dog can open the kitchen door by himself.

A6) My father's going to be interviewed on TV tomorrow.

A7) My grandmother's just bought a sports car.

A8) My parents met when they were only 15.

A9) I've just won € 2,000 in the lottery.

- B1) I failed my driving test yesterday.
- B2) I lost my wallet on the way to class.
- B3) I met George Clooney at a party last week.
- B4) I think I saw a ghost last night.
- B5) I won a salsa competition last weekend.
- B6) I'm going to be on a new edition of Big Brother.
- B7) My dog died yesterday.
- B8) My grandfather has a black belt in karate.
- B9) My uncle is 104.

3. REALLY? – Intonation is used to show attitude. (Watch [the video](#).) Match the intonation of “really” with the appropriate use.

→ Really?	↗ Really?	↶ Really?	↔ Really?
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1) showing disbelief

“John thinks that the Earth is flat.” – “_____”

2) showing surprise

“Jane’s grandmother is 100 years old.” – “_____”

3) open to more information

“I found out something about Joe.” – “_____”

4) showing boredom or lack of interest

“I read a history fact in the lexicon.” – “_____”

4. YOUR TURN – In pairs, one reads out a sentence and the other one reacts to it with “really.” Take turns.

- A1) *Shakespeare was in fact a Cuban woman.
- A2) My grandmother is Covid positive.
- A3) Birds can fly.
- A4) The Mariana Trench is about 11 km deep.
- B1) The giant ant-eater has the longest tongue in relation to its body size: it’s about two feet.
- B2) The sky is blue.
- B3) Once I’ve broken my spine.
- B4) *The presence or absence of a gene decides whether you like chocolate or not.

5. HOW NICE! WHAT A NICE IDEA! – Deduce the rule for using “how” or “what” at the beginning of reaction phrases and complete the following phrases with either one appropriately.

- 1) _____ fantastic!
- 2) _____ a fantastic idea!
- 3) _____ sad!
- 4) _____ a pity!
- 5) _____ great news!
- 6) _____ lovely weather!
- 7) _____ surprising!
- 8) _____ a surprise!

6. YOUR TURN – Look at the sentences in 2. In pairs, one reads out a sentence and the other one reacts to it starting with either “how” or “what.” Take turns.