

110 Expressing surprise, shock, pleasure, etc.

1 That's/How + adjective

We can use *That's* + an adjective when we think something is very good, very bad or very surprising:
'Jeremy has just asked me to marry him!'
'That's wonderful!'
'My mobile phone was stolen yesterday.'
'Oh, that's awful!'

	GOOD
<i>That's</i>	wonderful! great! fantastic!
	BAD
<i>That's</i>	awful! terrible! horrible!
	SURPRISING
<i>That's</i>	crazy! amazing! incredible!

We can also use *How* + an adjective:
'Last night we heard a knock at the door, but there was no one there.'
'How strange! Was it the wind?'
'She's angry and she's not speaking to me.' *'How silly!'*

2 What a/an + (adjective) + noun

We use *What a/an* + (adjective) + noun when we are disappointed, annoyed, surprised or very pleased:
'We can't come to your party next week, I'm afraid.' *'Oh, what a pity! I'm sure you'd enjoy it.'*
'Karen phoned to say she's coming home for the summer.' *'What a lovely surprise!'*

	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE
<i>What</i>	a (lovely) surprise! a (fantastic) idea! a (wonderful) day!	a pity! an (awful) shame! a pain! (= <i>That's annoying!</i>)

We need a noun in exclamations with *what*. We don't use *what* + adjective; we use *That's* or *How*:

✗ *What fantastic!* ✓ *That's fantastic!*

3 Really?, No!, Wow!

There are also some single words which we use when something is surprising:

'Wow! That's fantastic!'
'I've just got a pay rise of €2,000 a year.' *'No! What a surprise!'*
'Really? Lucky you.'

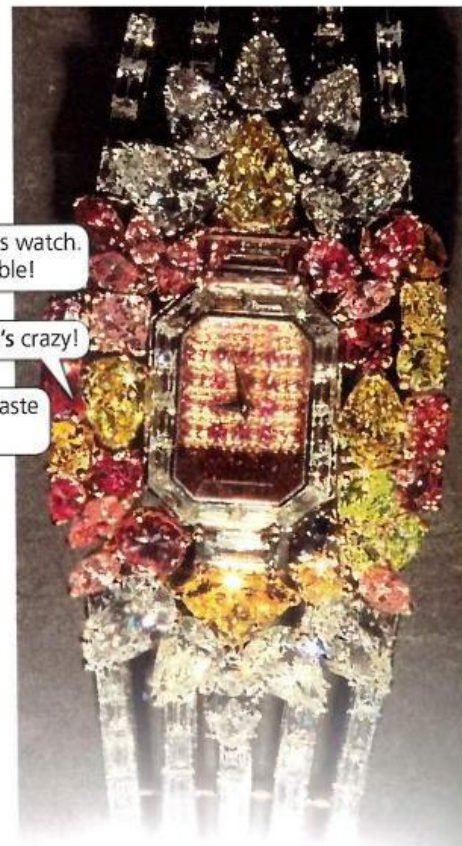
⚠ We use *Wow!* only for something good. *No!* and *Really?* can be used for good or bad news:

✗ *'Wow! I'm really sorry.'*
 ✓ *'No! I'm really sorry.'*
 ✓ *'Really? I can't believe that ...'*

Look at this watch.
How horrible!

That's crazy!

What a waste
of money!



Practice

1 Complete the sentences with *That*, *How* or *What*.

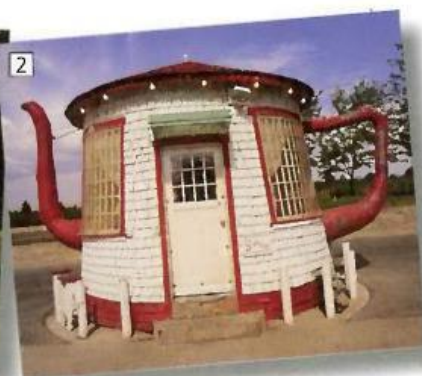
- 0 'Jacob didn't get on the university course he wanted.' '..... *What*..... a shame!'
 - 1 'I've just passed my driving test!' '.....'s great!'
 - 2 'There's been another bank robbery in the city.' '..... awful!'
 - 3 'We decided to sell our house and we sold it to the first person who looked at it.'
 - '.....'s amazing!'
 - 4 'Mum, Jane's expecting a baby!' '..... a lovely surprise!'
 - 5 'The doctor says that I must stop drinking coffee.' '..... a pity!'
 - 6 'I think we should all join together to buy Lucy a really good present.'
 - '..... a fantastic ideal!'
 - 7 'Our car has been stolen again.' '.....'s terrible!'
 - 8 'The engineers are working on the railway this weekend, and it's the busiest weekend of the year.' '..... silly!'
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2 GRAMMAR IN USE Choose the correct words in *italics* in the conversation.

- GREG Holly – have you heard about the office party?
It's going to be at the Norfolk Hotel this year.
- HOLLY How (0) *awful* / *wonderful*! It's a really good hotel.
- GREG Yes, but we can't stay the night. We'll all have to get taxis home.
- HOLLY Oh, that's (1) *nice* / *a pity*. What's happening? Is there a meal?
- GREG A really expensive meal, but we don't have to pay for it, of course.
- HOLLY (2) *Wow!* / *That's crazy!* When is it?
- GREG December 20th – it's a Saturday.
- HOLLY What a (3) *surprise* / *shame*! I'm going away that weekend to visit my parents.
They're having a party.
- GREG (4) *Really?* / *That's awful*. What's the party for?
- HOLLY It's because they've been married for forty years. All the family will be there.
- GREG (5) *What fantastic!* / *How fantastic!* How many people will there be?
- HOLLY Only fifteen, but my brother is coming from Canada – and my parents don't know.
- GREG What a (6) *lovely surprise* / *pain* for them. Oh, I'd better go. I've got a meeting in two minutes!

3 Look at the pictures. Which of the ideas below do you think go with each one?

- A Oh, that's awful!
- B What a silly little thing!
- C How disgusting!
- D How fantastic!
- E That's really nice.
- F Wow! Lovely place!
- G What a horrible photo!



4 Now write your own ideas for each picture.

Picture 1:

Picture 2: