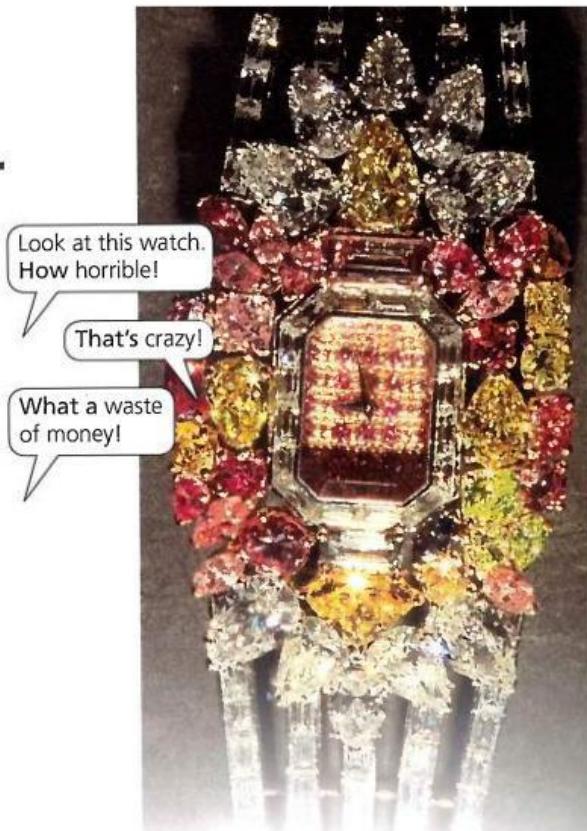


# 110 Expressing surprise, shock, pleasure, etc.

## 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

*That's* wonderful! great! fantastic!

### BAD

*That's* awful! terrible! horrible!

### SURPRISING

*That's* 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

*What* a (lovely) surprise! a (fantastic) idea!  
a (wonderful) day!

### NEGATIVE

a pity! an (awful) shame!  
a pain! (= That's annoying!)

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 ...'

## 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.'
- 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.'
- 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!'

### 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: .....