

## 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? |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|

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.**