

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

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>	<i>a (lovely) surprise! a (fantastic) idea! a (wonderful) day!</i>	<i>a pity! an (awful) shame! a pain! (= 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.'

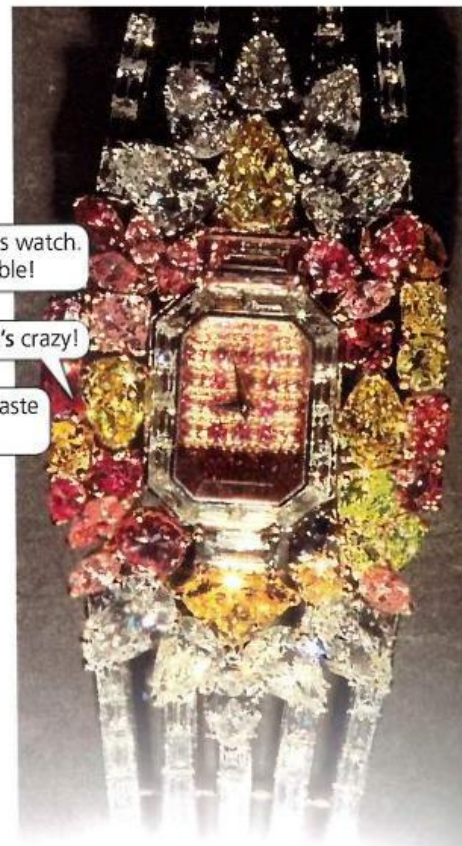
⚠ We use *Wow!* only for something good. *No!* and *Really?* can be used for good or bad news:

✗ *'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 idea!'
- 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.

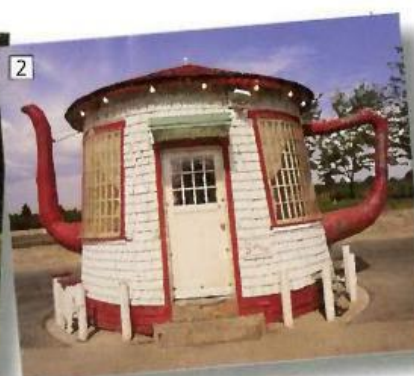
GREG (5) *What fantastic! / How fantastic!* How many people will there be?

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: