EXCLAMATIONS

Exclamations (sometimes called Interjections) are words or short phrases which express sudden or strong emotion.

Some exclamations are used for the purpose of salutation (i.e., greeting others) or to acknowledge other related thoughts. Pauses such as um, er, hmmm, etc. are regarded as interjections. Additionally, profanity or word-level expletives are considered exclamations. Oftentimes, exclamations are found at the beginning of sentences (followed by a comma or an exclamation point).

Common Exclamations:

Ah
Bye
Gosh
Goodness
Gosh
Great
Hello
Hi
Hurray
Indeed
Oops
Ouch
No
Well
What
Whoa
Wow
Yes

Exclamations may be placed as individual words and/or short phrases.

Alright!
Heck no!
Congratulations!
Happy Birthday!

USING EXCLAMATIONS IN SENTENCES

Exclamations may occur by themselves or within a sentence.

FOLLOWED BY A COMMA

Exclamations may be present in declarative sentences when followed by a comma. This use shows the exclamation as being less emphatic (or softer).

EX:
Hello, my name is Reuben.

FOLLOWED BY AN EXCLAMATION POINT

Exclamations are commonly used in exclamatory sentences when followed by an exclamation. Note that exclamatory sentences only need to have a single exclamation to be a complete sentence. Furthermore, when an exclamation point is used, the exclamation is thought to be more emphatic (or louder).

EX:
Hello!
Hi! My name is Reuben.

Both placements convey the salutation.

STRONG AND WEAK EXCLAMATIONS

Remember, exclamations are used to show strong emotion (in writing and in dialogue). You may choose an acceptable fragment if you want to show weak emotion.

EX:
Hello. (Less Emphatic)
Vs.
Hello! (More Emphatic)

-or-

Good luck on your performance. (Less Emphatic)
Vs.
Good luck on your performance! (More Emphatic)