

W3c. Can use exclamation marks accurately for surprise, excitement and shock. Does not over use exclamation marks.

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Example 2017

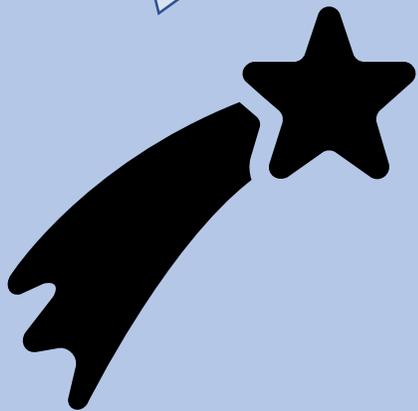
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Teachers' Notes

- This therapy models the use of exclamation marks to express surprise, shock or excitement.
- It begins by modelling sentences which require the use of this punctuation mark. This is modelled both in separate sentences and in a paragraph.
- The use of the exclamation mark for interjections is also covered.
- Finally, the overuse of the exclamation mark is referred to and modelled with reference to formal and informal contexts.
- Throughout the therapy, pupils will have the opportunity to practise the taught skills.

An exclamation mark is used to show surprise, astonishment or any other strong emotion.

Wow! Look
at that
firework.



Surprise!

Oh no!



The exclamation mark tells the reader how to read a sentence. It could be with a loud or excited voice.

Suddenly everyone
jumped out from
behind the sofa!

In this case, an exclamation mark is used to show the reader that this is SURPRISING and to stress the excitement. It also guides the reader to SAY the sentence in an excited voice.

Jamie hid behind
the sofa.

In this case, the sentence is a STATEMENT. It is giving the reader some information but there is no need to stress excitement or surprise, so a FULL STOP is used.

Read each sentence out loud. Decide if they should have a full stop or an exclamation mark.

Kate walked to school

.

The lion has escaped

!

The Headteacher has dyed her hair
bright pink

!

The rugby match ended in a draw

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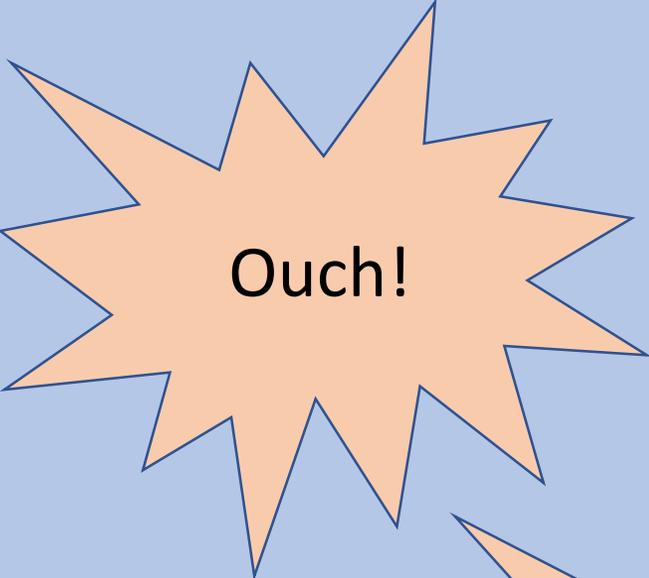
Read the following paragraph and decide where you might put an exclamation mark to show surprise or excitement.

As I swam under the crystal-clear water, I could see so many beautiful things. The only sound was my breathing, as it echoed in my snorkel and mask. Peering ahead, I could see a shoal of black and orange striped fish. Suddenly, something loomed up in front of me. I panicked. Quickly, I swam to the surface. When I looked around me, I realised that it had only been a large piece of plastic.

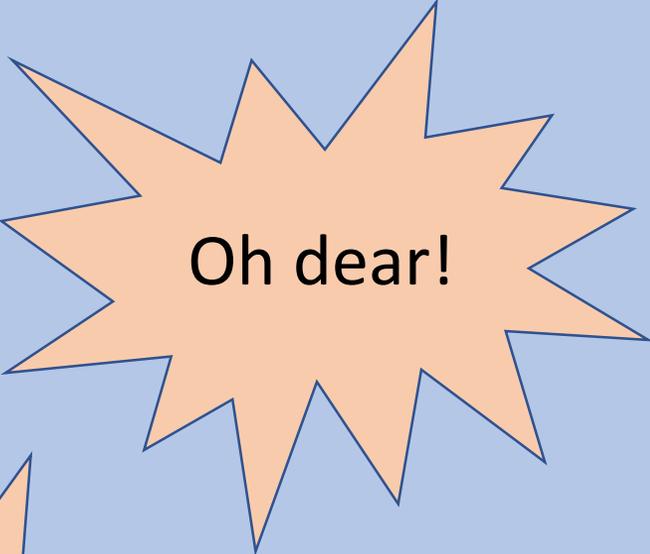
As I swam under the crystal-clear water, I could see so many beautiful things. The only sound was my breathing, as it echoed in my snorkel and mask. Peering ahead, I could see a shoal of black and orange striped fish. Suddenly, something loomed up in front of me! I panicked! Quickly, I swam to the surface. When I looked around me, I realised that it had only been a large piece of plastic.

An exclamation mark can be used at the end of each of the highlighted sentences. The first three sentences are descriptions of the setting and all seems calm and beautiful. The SUDDEN appearance of something in front of the character is SURPRISING (and perhaps frightening). By using the exclamation mark, the writer tells the reader that it is surprising. It also guides us to read it with appropriate expression.

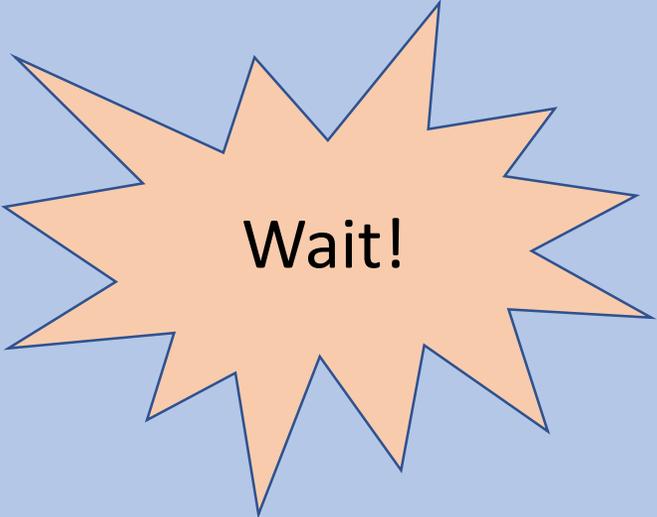
The exclamation mark can also be used for short words or phrases to show strong feelings. These are sometimes called **interjections**.



Ouch!



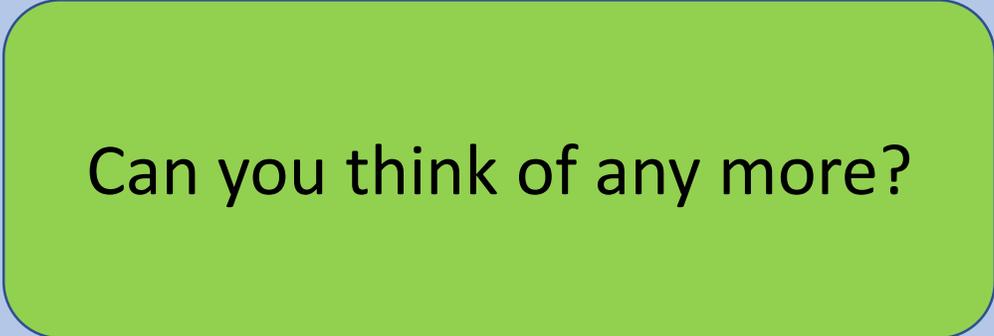
Oh dear!



Wait!



What a
mess!



Can you think of any more?

Which of these words or phrases would need an exclamation mark? Can you explain why?

Catch the
ball

Look out

Eat your
cake

Mind the
gap

Don't

Your turn: write down four short words or phrases which would need an exclamation mark.

When we use the exclamation mark for words or short phrases, it can be used to separate it from the rest of a sentence.

“**Oh!** I didn’t realise that,” said Jamie.

In this sentence, the exclamation mark comes after the word ‘oh’ (the interjection) to show that Jamie is surprised. It also separates the word from the rest of what Jamie says.

Here are some more examples:

“**Great!** That was the best cartwheel today,” said the coach.

“**Wow!** What a fabulous present,” exclaimed Jenny.

“**Hey!** Don’t barge into our game,” shouted Owen.

Your turn: write two examples of using the exclamation mark as an interjection in dialogue.

Your turn: rewrite these sentences to include capital letters, full stops and exclamation marks.

mr. burgess drove to school

wow what a great bike

in front of them was the most astonishing creature

the clock ticked loudly in the room

what a dreadful thing to say

Sometimes people overuse the exclamation mark !!!!!!!

If we decide that an exclamation mark is needed, we only need to use one. This is especially important if we are writing formally – for example, in a letter of complaint.

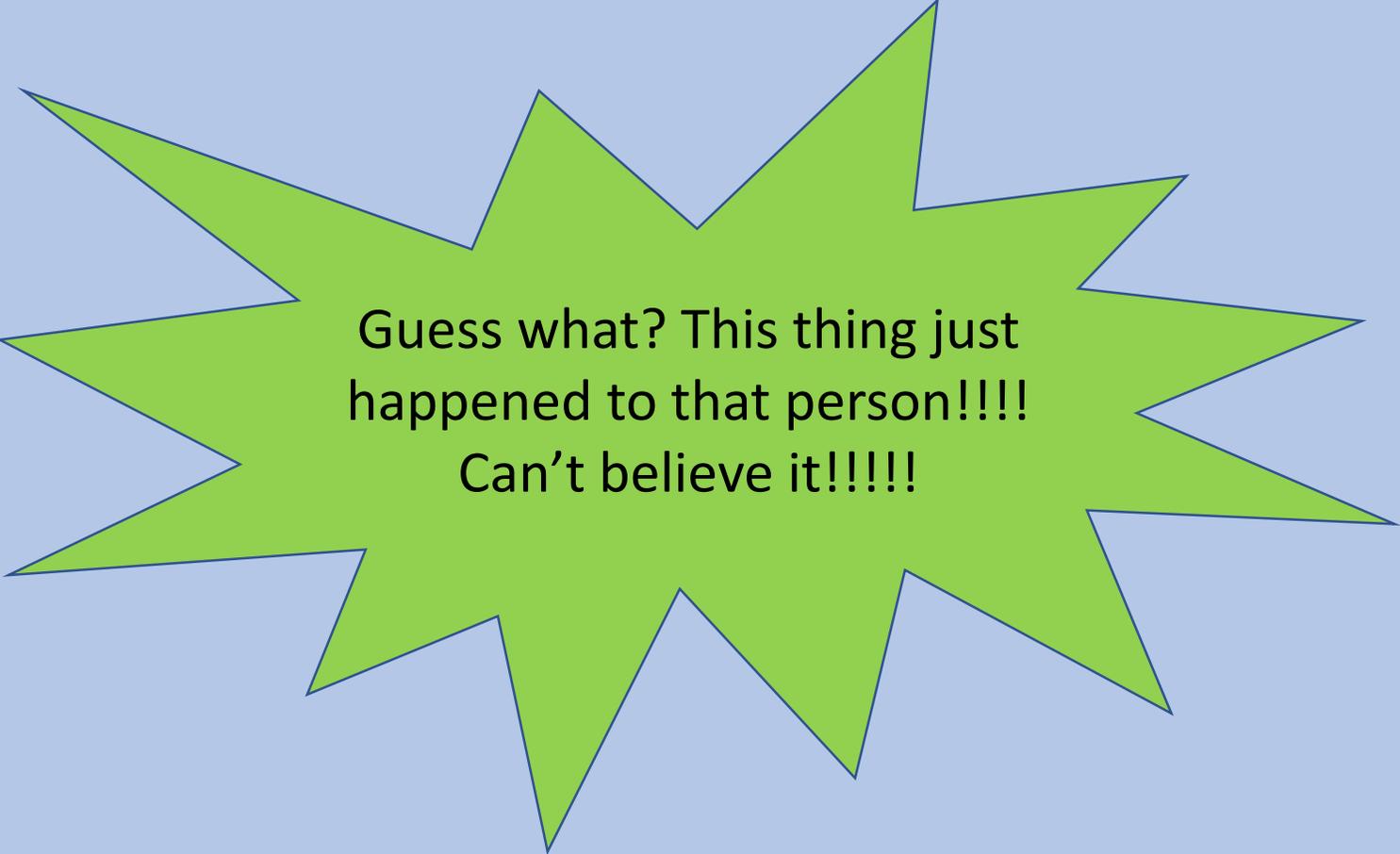
When I visited your theme park, I was disgusted by the amount of litter!

This is meant to be formal so one exclamation mark is **appropriate.**

When I visited your theme park, I was disgusted by the amount of litter!!!!!!

This is meant to be formal so several exclamation marks is **inappropriate.**

You may see people using several exclamation marks in informal writing such as text messages and on social media.



Guess what? This thing just
happened to that person!!!!
Can't believe it!!!!!!

So, when you are writing, remember to think about when you want your reader to be surprised or shocked.

When you do, use an exclamation mark to give the writing impact and to guide your reader as to how to read it.

