Interjections

Interjections are expressions of exclamation that show emotion. The words themselves often do not have any other meaning. An interjection is often followed by an exclamation point, but not always.

There are many kinds of interjections. Many interjections such as “hey!” or “cool!” are well known. Sometimes writers invent them according to the emotions they wish to express. See examples of interjections below in boldface.

Ouch! That really hurt!
Hey, that wasn’t nice.
Dang! I meant to change that light bulb.
Wow! What a great idea!
Yikes! I’m scared of heights!

Complete the sentences below by placing an interjection in each blank. Brainstorm examples of interjections with a partner before beginning.

1. Jenna shrieked, “__________!” when she saw Nick’s spider collection.
2. __________! I hate when I mess up on a project when I am almost done.
3. __________, you really should sing this song for the whole class.
4. “__________, you make me so mad,” Kyle said. “Why won’t you help with the dishes?”
5. Isn’t this exciting? __________, I can’t wait to go on this trip!

Challenge: Think of a situation where you and a partner might be making something. You could be cooking a meal, doing yard work, or some other activity. Write a short scene that you and a partner can perform for another pair. Use at least four interjections. Have your audience identify the interjections.