

Parts of Speech: Interjections

Description of the Lecture This lecture is about interjections as the last parts of speech. It provides the conceptual as well as technical frameworks of interjections to identify their classification and uses in English sentence. The lecture counts on the definitions,

uses and examples. Objectives of the Lecture When students have successfully completed this unit, they should be able, among other things, to; 1. Define the part of speech known as interjections. 2. List the most common interjections. 3. Show the relationship of interjections with other related words in a sentence. 4. Compose correct, meaningful and functional sentences through interjections.

Introduction

Nowadays, students just know interjection as just separate and independent unit. They said that interjection is the simplest of parts of speech because we just have to look at the exclamation mark in the end of words, phrases or sentences to know that it is an interjection but that students did not know that interjection is not as simple as they thought. Interjection has kinds, classification, function, form, meaning and etc. So in speaking English, we have to pay attention in using interjection. In fact, in conversation sometimes students use utterances that grammatically have no connection with the previous or next sentences. They use it to express their feeling or perform a certain sense, it is called interjection.

1. Definition of Interjection

Interjections are words, group of words, sounds or filled pause used to express strong feelings, emotions, sudden sensations, mental state, attitude, communicative intention and fill a pause in a conversation on the part of the speaker when he encounters suddenly events that cause some emotions. They are words or sounds thrown into sentences to express some feeling and state of the mind. Interjections can stand alone as a separate unit or be added to a sentence. When added to sentence, the interjection does not change the meaning of the sentence, and are usually followed by exclamation marks (when the emotion is strong). When woven into a sentence, the interjection usually change or affect the meaning of the sentence, they are usually followed by commas (when the emotion is mild). It is worth to mention that interjections are short exclamations like Oh!, Um or Ah! They have no real grammatical value but we use them quite often, usually more in speaking than in writing.

Furthermore, interjections are sudden outcry or exclamation introduced into a discussion, usually without grammatical connection with the sentences surrounding it. That is why they are the easiest part of speech to find in a sentence. They are straightforward and simple to use because they are not related to any other word in

the sentence. In daily conversation, consciously or unconsciously people always involve interjection in it. Historically, nevertheless, they are often entirely ignored, or at best, regarded as being extremely marginal, anomalous, and grammatically peripheral to the language system itself which is relatively noticeable in modern grammars. See the following examples for more clarification. ☐ Aha, it is there. Here we say this interjection when someone finds something spontaneously. ☐ Wow! Did you see that she wrote in her e-mail message? ☐ Oops! I forgot to send the attachment. ☐ Gracious! It sounds quite good. ☐ Oh! I could not catch it. ☐ My goodness! That is so funny, amazing and interesting.

☐ Interjections = Ignites = "Ignites the message with an exclamation of emotions" ☐ The word "interjection" means "inserting or putting between." ☐ Since interjections are properly linguistic elements, with rich semantic structures. However, whilst the grammarians agreed that since they have real semantic structure; interjections are classified as part of speech.

2. Characteristics of Interjections

Interjections are one of the eight parts of speech. As one of the part of speech, interjections have certain characteristics which can make it easier to recognize them.

☐ Interjections often serve no purpose except to express emotion or to get the attention of other people. They are used in private conversation and informal writing. They are usually not used in business letters and formal writing. ☐ Interjections usually have a position in the beginning of a sentence, but it is also possible to have them in the very end of a sentence. ☐ Interjections are independent that can stand on their own as utterances. ☐ Interjections are context-bound linguistic signs. ☐ Interjections tend to be phonologically anomalous. ☐ Interjections do not normally take inflections or derivations. They are also morphologically anomalous. ☐ Do not overuse interjections. Include only one if you want to make your point.

3. Kinds of Interjections

3. 1. Primary Interjections

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Primary Interjections are little words or non-words which can stand on its own. Primary Interjections may be made up of sounds and sounds sequences that are not found in other parts of the language such as tut-tut, Psst!, Sh!, and etc. They consist of one word and they do not enter into syntactic constructions of the language, they form a fairly a closed set of words. Primary interjections are words that cannot be used in any other sense than as an interjection. Furthermore,

their scale extends from spontaneous onomatopoeic ad hoc formations to conversational lexical items of foreign origin. One of the defining features of a primary interjection is that it is a linguistic sign “which is not homophonous with another lexical item that would be perceived as semantically related to it”, or perhaps “which is not homophonous with other lexical items whose meaning would be included in its own meaning, that is, in the meaning of the interjection. These interjections tend to be phonologically and morphologically anomalous because they are non-productive words or items in the sense that they do not inflect and are not movable between different word-classes. For example, Ouch!, Wow!, Gee!, Oho!, Oops!, etc. Example in sentence: ☐ Oho, I have another cake! Wow! ☐ You look extraordinary today Ouch! ☐ This plant hurts me Oops!

3. 2. Secondary Interjections

Secondary Interjections are those words which have independent semantic values but can be used conventionally as utterances by themselves to express a mental attitude or state. These interjections are fixed unit derived from words or phrases mainly nouns, noun phrases, imperative that have developed pragmatic meaning related to subjectivity or discourse structuring. The examples of secondary interjections are alarm calls and attention getters like Help! Fire! Careful!, etc. Swearing, oaths, pious wishes, greeting formulas and taboo words like damn! Hell!, Heavens!, Christ! And other emotively used words such as Shame! Bother! it is worth to note that both types of interjection are syntactically independent, in that they can constitute an utterance by themselves, and are only loosely integrated into the grammar of the clause containing them.

Examples:

☐ It is very heavy bag. Help! ☐ The dangerous terrorist is there. Fire! ☐ Careful! The car is going to crash.

4. Punctuation Guides for Interjections Strong interjections such as "Good," "Hey," "Hooray," "Ouch," and "Wow" are punctuated with an exclamation point (!). The first word following the exclamation

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point is capitalized because it is the first word of the next sentence. Example: "Hey! What are you doing out there?" "Hey" is a strong interjection and is followed by an exclamation point.

Weaker interjections such as "Ah," "Alas," "Oh," and "Well" are followed by a comma and become part of the following sentence. The word after the comma is not capitalized (unless it is the pronoun "I" or a proper noun) because it is a continuation of the sentence. Examples: "Oh, what a beautiful day!" "Well, I am not surprised."

5. The Most Common Interjections

aw! bravo! dear me! ouch! yuck! oh my goodness! goodness!
gracious! gosh! hey! oh! oh my God! shut up! oops!
ouch! rats! really ugh! ah! thank God! well! whoops wow!
yeh! yes! sorry! yups! ah! owe some! oh boy! super! never! god grief! no way!

Summary

☐ Interjections are little words or non-words which can stand on their own and have their own word class. They can be inserted randomly into any sentence. ☐ Interjections are conventionalized vocal gestures (or more generally linguistics gestures) which express a speaker's mental state, action or attitude or reaction. ☐ Interjection may also be directed at someone to acquire a desired reaction, for example to stop an action or to serve communicative intentions more broadly. ☐ Interjections do not have any particularly well-defined relationship with the rest of the sentences. In fact, when diagramming sentences the interjections are best ignored. However, they are not difficult to spot. In writing interjections are often separated from the rest of the sentence by the punctuation mark. So they that they do not bear grammatical relationships to other phenomena in language. ☐ Interjections are not used in the academic language. They are used only in the personal and private language forms