

Interjections

Interjections are exclamatory phrases (including commands) that convey strong feelings and stand alone as sentences. They occur suddenly and often interrupt the normal flow of conversation.

Interjections are key conversational tools. If they are not part of your Spanish vocabulary, your conversations will sound stilted and may even be interpreted as confusion, insensitivity, or arrogance.

A simple interjection makes light work of an emotion that would require much more work to clarify. For example, the American interjection “Meh” is a convenient way to say “*I could really care less for/about [x]*” and since it is shorter, it seems less deliberate and is less likely to offend.

Interjections also add color and authenticity to your conversations. Here are some examples.

¡Al contrario!	Quite the contrary! Not at all!
¡Anda, ya!	Come on, already!
¡Ándale!	Hurry up!
¡Así es la vida!	That's life!
¡Ay mi madre!	Oh, my goodness!
¡Ay, ay, ay!	Wow! Oh, no!
¡Bah!	Naw! Not interested!
¡Bien hecho!	Well done!
¡Bravo!	Good job!
¡Buena suerte!	Good luck!
¡Caramba!	Wow! Darn!
¡Chacho!	Man!
¡Claro que sí!	Certainly!
¡Claro!	Clearly! Of course!
¡Cómo no!	Why not?! Of course!
¡Cuidado!	Careful!
¡Dale!	Go for it!
¡En absoluto!	Absolutely not!
¡Felicidades!	Congratulations!
¡Gracias a Dios!	Thank God!
¡Hijole!	Geesh! Good grief!
¡Huy!	Ouch!
¡Lo siento [tanto]!	I'm [so] sorry!
¡Madre mía!	Oh my gosh!
¡Menos mal!	Whew! Could be worse!
¡No es justo!	That's not fair!
¡No me digas!	Don't tell me! You don't say!
¡Ojalá!	I wish! I hope so! If only!
¡Ojó!	Watch out!
¡Órale!	Come on! Listen up!
¡Porfís...	Pretty please!
¡Por supuesto!	Of course!
¡Qué cara tiene!	He/she's got a lot of nerve!
¡[Qué] guay!	[How] cool!
¡Qué horror!	How horrible!
¡Qué lástima!	What a pity! What a shame!
¡Qué [mala] suerte!	What [bad] luck!
¡Qué va!	No way! Absolutely not!
¡Qué vergüenza!	How shameful! How inappropriate!
¡Uf!	Oops!
¡Un momento!	Just a minute!
¡Vale!	Ok!
¡Vaya!	Get outta here! No way!
¡Yo qué sé!	What do I know?! How should I know?!



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