

Sympathizing with someone

- 1 (1.13) Read and listen to the dialogue. Explain in your own words what three things went wrong for Helen.



Miriam Did you do anything exciting this weekend?
Helen Well, on Saturday we went to the safari park, but it was a complete disaster.
Miriam Why? What happened?
Helen Well, the first problem was actually getting in. There was an enormous queue and we had to wait for over an hour before we got to the gate.
Miriam How awful!
Helen Then, our car got stuck in some sand when we tried to take a short cut. The park warden had to call the rescue service to pull us out.
Miriam What a nightmare!
Helen Yes, it was. The worst thing was that they charged us £250 to get our car back on the road.
Miriam What bad luck!

- 2 What phrases does Miriam use to sympathize with Helen?

LOOK OUT!

Exclamatory sentences

We can use exclamatory sentences beginning **What ...!** or **How ...!** to react sympathetically to bad experiences.

We use **How ...!** with an adjective.

How unpleasant! How depressing!

We use **What ...!** with a noun, even if it has an adjective before it. If the noun is countable, we use 'a/an' before the noun. If it is uncountable, we don't need 'a/an'.

What a mess! What terrible advice!

- 3 Read the **Look out!** box. Complete the chart.

annoying awful disaster dreadful gross
 irritating luck nightmare pain pity shame

How ...!	What ...!

- 4 (1.14) Listen and repeat the exclamations in exercise 3. Try to sound sympathetic.

- 5 (1.15) Listen to two dialogues. What are they about? Choose from a–f.

- a an unpleasant weekend
- b a terrible journey
- c an unsuccessful visit
- d a dreadful day at school
- e an awful day out
- f a disastrous celebration

- 6 (1.15) Listen again to the dialogues. What three things went wrong?

Dialogue 1

1: _____
 2: _____
 3: _____

Dialogue 2

1: _____
 2: _____
 3: _____

- 7 Work in pairs. Choose one of the titles from exercise 5. Make notes on what might have happened and what three things went wrong.

- 8 With your partner, prepare a dialogue using the chart below. Use exclamatory sentences.

A

Ask about B's experience.

B

Give your opinion.

Ask what went wrong.

Explain the first problem.

React sympathetically.

Explain the second problem.

React sympathetically.

Explain the third problem.

React sympathetically.

- 9 Act out your dialogue to the class.

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