

Exclamatives: A questionnaire

(based on the questionnaire in: Natalia Zevakhina. 2012. The syntax of exclamative constructions. Ph.D. Dissertation, Moscow State University; translated into English by Marina Rakhilin)

The questionnaire contains sentences to translate into a particular language. The sentences are accompanied by relevant contexts in brackets {} that needn't to be translated. The primary goal of the questionnaire is to detect which pronouns can be used in unsubordinated and subordinated exclamatives and interrogatives. The other goal is to answer two questions: which pronouns are used in exclamatives with gradable adjectives and adverbs and whether the latter might be elided. Moreover, the questionnaire enables us to investigate word order in assertives, unsubordinated and subordinated exclamatives and interrogatives. For that, all the possible word order variations of all sentences have to be probed. Though the main scope of the questionnaire includes languages with *wh*-strategy of exclamatives forming, it can also reveal other strategies, in particular noun phrases with and without relative clauses, nominalizations, *wh*-strategy with relative clauses, subject-verb inversion, anaphoric *such*-strategy (changing *wh*-pronouns into *such*-pronouns), and some others. To examine other thematic roles and grammatical cases, analogous sentences and contexts might be added. The same goes for number and other grammatical features. I tried to construct exclamatives so that they express the emotion of surprise that I find the most important for exclamatives research.

{A/B/C} means mutually exclusive alternatives that should be tried one by one.

Words in brackets () are optional. It is recommended to try without them and with them.

1. My sister bought a beautiful dress.

2. I know {what/which/what sort of} dress my sister bought.

{My brother sees the dress that our sister bought. He didn't expect the dress to be so beautiful, and exclaims, addressing his friend}:

3. Wow, what a beautiful dress my sister bought!¹

¹ Another option is to try *wh*-words "which" and "what sort of" in all the sentences here. The contexts, however, should be changed in a proper way.

4. Wow, what a dress my sister bought!

5. Wow, what a dress!

{My brother sees the woolen dress that our sister bought. He didn't expect the dress to be so beautiful, and exclaims, addressing his friend}:

6. Wow, what a beautiful woolen dress my sister bought!²

7. Wow, what a woolen dress my sister bought!

8. Wow, what a woolen dress!

{My brother likes the dress that my sister put on, and he exclaims, addressing his friend}:

9. How beautiful this (woolen) dress is!

10. How beautiful!

{My brother really likes the dress that our sister bought, and he exclaims, addressing his friend}:

11. You won't believe what a beautiful (woolen) dress my sister bought!

12. You won't believe what a (woolen) dress my sister bought!

13. You won't believe how beautiful this (woolen) dress is!

{The father came home after the conversation with a teacher who teaches his children and whom he liked a lot and is telling his wife about the teacher exclaiming}:

14. Oh, what a (nice) person!

15. Oh, what a (nice) person teaches our children!

16. You won't believe what a (nice) person teaches our children!

17. How fast does your brother run?

18. I know how fast your brother runs.

{My friends are surprised by the speed with which my brother runs, and they exclaim, addressing me}:

² Another option is to try function instead of material. For instance, one might try "summer dress". However, the context should be changed in a proper way.

19. How fast your brother runs!

20. How fast!

{My friends are surprised by the speed with which my brother runs, and they exclaim, addressing me}:

21. You won't believe how fast your brother runs!

22. How does your brother dance?

23. I know how your brother dances.

{My friends are surprised at how my brother dances and they exclaim, addressing me}:

24. Oh, how your brother dances!

{My friends are surprised at how my brother dances, and they exclaim, addressing me}:

25. You won't believe how your brother dances!

26. {How many/how few} apples did the kids eat?

27. I know {how many/how few} apples the kids ate.

{Mom came home and found out that the kids ate many apples. She was surprised and, addressing the father, she exclaimed}:

28. How many apples the kids ate!

29. {How/so} many apples!

30. {How/so} many!

31. You won't believe how many apples the kids ate!

{My parents are sitting in the garden and regret that there is no crop of apples this year. Mother exclaims}:

32. Ah, how few apples there are this year!

33. Ah, {how/so} few apples!

34. Ah, {how/so} few!

{My Mom regrets that there is no crop of apples this year. Mother exclaims, addressing the father}:

35. Ah, you won't believe how few apples there are this year!

36. {How much/how little} (money) did you pay for this book?

37. I know {how much/how little} (money) you paid for this book.

{The brother paid a significant sum of money for the book. Realizing this, Mom was surprised and exclaimed, addressing the brother}:

38. How much (money) you paid for that book!

39. {How/so} much (money)!

{The brother paid a significant sum of money for the book. Realizing this, Mom was surprised and exclaimed, addressing the father}:

40. You won't believe how much (money) our son paid for this book!

{The father has earned a very small sum of money this month. Realizing this, Mom was surprised and exclaimed, addressing the father}:

41. How little (money) you have earned this year!

42. {How/so} little (money)!

{The father has earned a very small sum of money this month. Realizing this, Mom was surprised and exclaimed, addressing the elder brother}:

43. You won't believe how little (money) your father has earned this year!

44. How much taller is your brother than your sister?

45. My friends asked me how much taller my brother is than my sister.

{My friends thought that my brother and my sister are of the same height. When they saw my brother and my sister for the first time, they were surprised and exclaimed}:

46. How much taller your brother is than your sister!

47. Oh, {how/so} much taller!

48. {How/so} much!

{My friends thought that my brother and my sister are of the same height. When they saw my brother and my sister for the first time, they were surprised. Afterwards they exclaimed, addressing their parents who know me}:

49. You won't believe how much taller his brother is than his sister!

50. What happened?

51. I know what happened.

{My brother, looking worried, runs into the house and exclaims, addressing me}:

52. Oh, (guess) what happened!

53. You won't believe what happened!

54. What did Mom bake?

55. I know what Mom baked.

{My sister comes into the room and exclaims, addressing me}:

56. Oh, (guess) what Mom has baked!

57. You won't believe what Mom baked!

58. Who danced all evening?

59. I know who danced all evening.

{My sister has come home after the dances and is telling of how our mutual friend, who doesn't like dancing, danced all evening. My brother exclaims}:

60. Wow, (that's) who danced all evening!

{My sister came home after the dances and exclaimed, addressing the brother}:

61. You won't believe who danced all evening!

62. Who(m) did you see today?

63. I know who(m) you saw today.

{The husband came home after the fair, where he did not expect to see his neighbor. He exclaims, addressing his wife}:

64. Oh, (guess) who(m) I saw today!

65. You won't believe who(m) I saw today!

66. Where were your friends dancing?

67. I know where your friends were dancing.

{The brother ran to the sister and told her that his friends had been dancing in the main theatre in town. The sister did not expect to hear this and exclaims, addressing the brother}:

68. Wow, (that's) where your friends were dancing!

{The brother found out that the sister's friends danced in the main theatre in town. He runs to the sister and exclaims, addressing her}:

69. You won't believe where your friends were dancing!

70. When will we dance?

71. I know when we'll be dancing.

{The girl learns that she and her fiancée will be dancing at night, which for her is entirely unexpected. She tells this news to her fiancée, to which he exclaims in surprise}:

72. Wow, (that's) when we'll be dancing!

{The girl learns that she and her fiancée will be dancing at night, which for her is entirely unexpected. Addressing her fiancée, she exclaims in surprise}:

73. You won't believe when we'll be dancing!

74. Why do you sleep so little?

75. I know why you sleep so little.

{Mom was surprised at why her son sleeps so little. When she found out the reason, she exclaimed, addressing her son}:

76. Wow, (that's) why you sleep so little!

{Then she came to the husband and exclaimed, addressing him}:

77. You won't believe why our son sleeps so little!

78. Amazing the difference!

79. The silly questions these students ask!

80. Wow, a gift!

(version August 19, 2014)