

Everyday English You poor thing!

1 Read the three conversations. What's the problem in each?



Conversation 1

- A** Oh dear! What happened to you?
B Oh, I fell and twisted my ankle.
A ¹ c How did you do that?
B Well, I was walking and texting and I didn't see this bump in the pavement and ...
A ... so you fell while texting. Mmm ... then ² _____

Conversation 2

- A** How was the restaurant?
B ³ _____ We're not going back there again!
A Why not?
B Well, I found a caterpillar in my salad – I nearly swallowed it!
A Ugh! ⁴ _____

Conversation 3

- A** My phone's broken. It fell down the loo.
B Oh no! ⁵ _____ Is it completely ruined?
A No, I've put it in a bag of rice.
B You've done what?! Why?
A Well, someone told me the best way to dry it out, is to leave it in rice for 48 hours.
B Rice!? ⁶ _____ I bet it won't work.

2 Read the conversations again. Complete 1–6 with the phrases a–f.

- a That's such nonsense! d How disgusting!
 b It was so bad! e What a disaster!
 c You poor thing! f you've only got yourself to blame.

3 7.7 Listen and check. Practise the conversations.

Exclamations can be formed with *How, What, so, or such*.

How + adjective: *How awful!* *How absolutely fantastic!*

What + noun: *What bad luck!* *What a surprise!*

so + adjective: *It was so crowded!* *There were so many people.*

such + noun: *He's such an idiot!* *It was such fun!*

4 Complete the lines in **A** with *How, What, so, or such*. Match them with lines in **B**. What could the situations be?

A	B
1 His lectures are _____ boring!	a That's so kind of you.
2 Is it for me? _____ lovely!	b It rained every day.
3 _____ a coincidence!	c I never win anything.
4 You won £1,000! _____ luck!	d I can't help falling asleep.
5 That's _____ a stupid idea!	e It'll never work.
6 We had _____ terrible weather!	f I didn't know Tom was your cousin.

7.8 Listen, check and repeat.

5 Complete these exclamations. Then use them to complete conversations 4–6.

- a _____ a pity! d It's _____ annoying!
 b _____ dreadful! e He's _____ a coward!
 c It'll be _____ fun! f _____ frustrating!

Conversation 4

- A** I hear you aren't coming to Max's 18th. ¹ _____
B Yes it is, but it's my grandpa's birthday, too.
A But everyone's going to Max's. ² _____
B I know, but it's Grandpa's 80th.
A Ah well, – don't worry! Max'll understand. An 80th birthday is more important than an 18th!

Conversation 5

- A** Carl texted Anna to say that he'd dumped her.
B ³ _____ He couldn't tell her face to face?
A Yeah. ⁴ _____
B Well, I think she's well rid of him, don't you?

Conversation 6

- A** My Wi-Fi keeps disconnecting.
B ⁵ _____ But you know what they say ...
A What?
B Just try turning everything off and on again.
A Yeah, I know, but I have to do that two or three times a day. ⁶ _____
B Time to call an engineer!

7.9 Listen and check.

Go online for more speaking practice