Week 6
Expressing pleasure/displeasure;
Expressing surprise;
Telling bad/good news;
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Expressing pleasure

Examples of neutral expressions
1. I’m very pleased with ...

Context: Someone you have just met has just received a telegram from her son-in-law. It says my daughter has just had a son, and they’re both doing well.

1. (Oh,) how marvelous!
2. (Oh,) ...’s wonderful / marvelous etc.
3. (Oh,) ... is good news.
4. I’m (very) pleased / (really) delighted.
5. I’m (very) pleased / (really) delighted about ... 
6. It’s good/wonderful/splendid etc. news.
7. ...’s the best thing/news I’ve heard for a long time/ I’ve heard in years.

Examples of informal expressions

Context: A friend, Jon, has been trying to get tickets for the Wimbledon tennis championships. “Pew! I had to queue for hours, but I got them.”

1. Great!
2. Terrific
3. Fantastic
4. Super!
5. Smashing!
6. Hey, that’s terrific / great etc.

Examples of formal expressions

Context: You are at a reception. Your host, whom you don’t know very well, informs you that his son has just become engaged to be married. “Yes, they plan a June wedding and a honeymoon in Sicily.

1. (Oh,) I’m delighted to hear that.
2. (Oh,) I’m delighted to hear about ...
3. It gives me great pleasure to hear ...
4. It gives me great pleasure/satisfaction ...
5. I can’t say how pleased / delighted I am ...
6. I can’t say how pleased / delighted I am about ...

In other occasions you can say,

1. I’m very sorry, Sir. I’ll see if I can change it.

Expressions of displeasure

I’m very annoyed.
I’m very sorry.
I’m very croos.

Examples of neutral expressions

Context: you have gone to collect your car from a garage where it has been for repairs. You want to leave at one to drive to the seaside. “I’m afraid it won’t be ready until tomorrow.”

1. I’m very annoyed ...
2. Oh, No! 3. Oh dear! 4. Oh bother! [very mild]
5. What a nuisance! 6. How infuriating / irritating etc.
7. ... really makes me cross/angry etc.
8. ... annoys / irritates me.
9. ... I really isn’t good enough.
10. ... isn’t very nice/pleasant etc.
11.I really hate ... [very strong]
Examples of informal expressions

Context: You are staying with friends, Mike and Steve. Steve has borrowed your expensive camera without asking you. Mike tells you this.

"Steve’s just rung up. It’s been stolen."

1. Oh, that’s great! [sarcastic]
2. Oh, hell, no. 3. Oh bloody hell! [swear words]
4. Oh, damn! / hell! [swear words] 5. Hell’s bells!
6. Oh no, what next?
7. .... (really) makes me mad.
8. .... (really) makes me see red.
9. .... (really) makes my blood boil.
10. What an idiot / fool etc.
11. Why on earth / why the hell didn’t he ....?
12. I’ve had (just about) enough of ....
13. I can’t stand ....
14. That’s the last straw! 15. Look here, ....

Expressing surprise

Examples of Neutral Expressions

Context: You are talking a fellow guest in the lounge of your hotel about a famous pop singer. Blondie. “Did you know that she’s staying here?"

2. Really?
3. Hero! / (Blonde?)is she? (or any similar echo questions]
4. What a surprise!
5. That’s a surprise!
6. (Oh) that’s amazing / extraordinary etc!
7. Good heavens!
8. Fancy that!
9. Good lord!

Examples of formal expressions

Context: You have made a formal recommendation that your company should diversify its products. Your managing director has asked to speak to you. “I’m afraid the board hasn’t accepted your recommendation.”

1. I find that very surprising.
2. I must say .... surprises me / comes as a (total) surprise.
3. I find it astonishing /extraordinary /incredible etc....
4. Indeed?
5. How very surprising / amazing etc.
6. I must say ....surprises me.
7. I must say .... has taken me completely by surprise.

Examples of formal expressions

Context: You were expecting one of your employees to submit an important report today, but he has arrived without it.

1. This is extremely irritating.
2. ... is most /very / extremely annoying exasperating etc.
3. I’m extremely/very/most etc displeased/unhappy/angry etc ...
4. I’m extremely/very/most etc displeased/unhappy/angry etc about ....
5. I can’t say I’m at all pleased.
6. I can’t say I’m at all pleased about ....
7. I can’t say I’m all pleased by ....
8. I find .... most/ extremely etc offensive /objectionable etc.
9. I must say I resent / object to ....
10. I will not put up with ....
11. I take great /considerable etc exception to ....

Reference