

The Exclamation Point: I Do Exclaim!

Exclamation points don't always get their due. They have a place in your writing, but shouldn't be overused.

An exclamation point is appropriate in three situations:

1. After any word, phrase, or sentence that expresses a strong feeling:
Ouch!
What a great performance!
2. To emphasize a command or strong point of view:
Leave now!
I believe in democracy!
3. To show sarcasm, irony, or amusement:
Whatever!
I have to clean the house, and all you have to do is sit in the hot tub!

If you use them too much, your readers will get tired! Everything becomes a danger! Everything becomes a warning! Everything becomes funny! Everything becomes a directive! Everything becomes an order! It's all crazy!

Please, use sparingly!