

plaint, contempt, pity, relief, or regret (or some combination of the above).

aha

Related to eureka, aha is often heard at that moment when the bell rings, the lightbulb clicks

on when one



drowsily welcome.

alas

Together with alack (deriv. of alackaday, "alack the day"), used as alas and alack, to express sorrow and regret. Alas dates back to the thirteenth century and derives from the French *ah las* ("Oh weary [me]!").

alley-oop

Utilitarian interjection most

inquiry into how his sub-orbital space flight was going. In reality, what Shepard probably said was a simple "OK." As the story now goes, NASA's public relations officer "Shorty" Powers heard it wrong. And liked very much this new word he misheard. In fact, Powers liked it so much that he used it several times in interviews with the press. First man

ZOUNDS!

A Browser's Dictionary of Interjections



MARK DUNN

author of *Ella Minnow Pea*

with Cartoon Commentary by

SERGIO ARAGONÉS

stand something that has heretofore remained elusive.

ahem

Used to attract attention, express doubt, or offer mild admonishment; most useful in situations in which the addressee is on the verge of committing an error of oversight or minor social gaffe; the only interjection capable of producing a physical by-product (phlegm).

ai-ai-ai (also ai-yi-yi)

Found in both Spanish and Yiddish, this interjection expresses a number of emotions that range from stopped-dead-in-one's-tracks stupefaction to anguished regret and dismay.

alakazam

AHEM



shared by Christians, Jews, and Muslims throughout the world, this interjection, which generally occurs at the end of a prayer, creed, or other formal statement, expresses solemn agreement or ratification. According to the Talmud, the word is to be enunciated with power and conviction, thus helping to open the doors of paradise.

and how!

This interjection, which adds enthusiastic emphasis to what someone else has just said, was once very common among German- and Italian-Americans. In fact, the German version *und wie!* and the Italian *e come!* are almost perfect translations.

A-OK

Legend has it that this interjection meaning better than OK, great near perfect was first

This interjection has been around since the early twentieth century. As an enthusiastic expression of encouragement or approval derived from the approbative "That's a boy," attaboy may be directed to boy, man, male animal, and not infrequently to all of God's other equally deserving creatures, even those of the female gender, although many prefer to use attagirl instead.

ATTAGIRL!



attention

This military command directs a soldier to assume an erect posture with eyes to the front, arms

Resumo de Zounds!: A Browser's Dictionary of Interjections

From "Geronimo!" to "gesundheit" to "haminahamina" to "holy" "mackerel," and from "abracadabra" to "zoinks," Mark Dunn and Sergio Aragones show you interjections like you've never seen them before. Often thought of as unnecessary verbal fringe or simply linguistic decoration, interjections ("ahem," "howdy," "mamma" "mia," "pshaw," "tally-ho," "whoop-de-do") may well be the most overlooked part of speech in the English language.

"ZOUNDS! A Browser's Dictionary of Interjections" focuses the spotlight on this most deserving (and sometimes most demented) grammatical group. A light-hearted look at more than 500 interjections, "ZOUNDS!" explores the origins of these essential words and highlights the contributions of these previously unheralded parts of speech. Perfect for both word lovers and the casual reader, "ZOUNDS!"

"brings together the linguistic talents of Mark Dunn, author of the award-winning novel "Ella Minnow Pea," and the graphic hilarity of Sergio Aragones, the legendary cartoonist and contributor to Mad Magazine, for a delightful romp through grammar, culture, and the English language. Famous interjections include: "Eureka!"-Archimedes "Badabing-badaboom"-Tony Soprano "Stuff and nonsense!"-Alice, "Alice in Wonderland" "Bah!"

"Humbug!"-Scrooge "Fiddle-dee-dee !" -Scarlett O'Hara "Leapin' lizards!"-Little Orphan Annie "Nanoo, nanoo"-Mork, from "Mork & Mindy" "Dyn-O-Mite!"-Jimmie Walker, "Good Times" "Bully!"-President Theodore Roosevelt"

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