

# No Way! 4 Natural Ways to React to News

English learning resource · EN

## Key words & expressions · English

9 learning entries

**Study task:** Listen again and notice the expressions you studied.

1

### No way!

DEF

An informal reaction that expresses strong surprise or disbelief.

*Tone distinguishes surprised "No way!" from the firm refusal "No way. I refuse." It suits friends and relaxed conversation more than formal professional settings.*

"They upgraded our tickets for free." "No way!"

"I met my favourite actor yesterday." "No way!"

2

### That's great news!

DEF

A warm reaction that shows happiness and genuine interest in positive news.

*More engaged than simply saying "good". A natural follow-up question shows that you are listening and keeps the conversation moving.*

"Our application was accepted." "That's great news!"

"I can start running again." "That's great news! When do you begin?"

3

### What a relief!

DEF

A reaction showing that worry, pressure or uncertainty has ended.

*It focuses on the disappearance of worry, not simply on a positive result. Choose it when the listener had been anxious about the outcome.*

"The test results were normal." "What a relief!"

"The airport found my suitcase." "What a relief!"

4

### I'm sorry to hear that.

DEF

A considerate reaction that shows sympathy after bad or disappointing news.

*It does not mean that you caused the problem. Add "very" for warmth with serious news, and follow with a supportive question when appropriate.*

"My interview did not go well." "I'm sorry to hear that."

"My father has been unwell." "I'm very sorry to hear that."



5

**You're joking!**

DEF

An informal reaction showing that news is so surprising that you can hardly believe it.

*Usually playful rather than accusatory. A rising, friendly tone asks for confirmation; avoid it when serious news requires sensitivity.*

"We got free front-row tickets." "You're joking!"

"Sam finished the marathon in three hours." "You're joking!"

6

**I'm so pleased for you.**

DEF

A warm way to say that you are genuinely happy about another person's good news.

*The phrase centres the other person rather than your own excitement. It is warmer and slightly more personal than "That's great news".*

"I got the scholarship." "I'm so pleased for you."

"We finally found a new home." "I'm really pleased for you both."

7

**Thank goodness!**

DEF

An exclamation of relief or gratitude when a feared problem has not happened or has been resolved.

*Common and conversational. It can stand alone or be followed by a clause: "Thank goodness the keys were still there."*

*Thank goodness the missing documents were found.*

"The flight is only delayed, not cancelled." "Thank goodness!"

8

**That's a shame.**

DEF

A gentle reaction showing disappointment or sympathy about an unfortunate situation.

*Suitable for mildly bad or disappointing news. For serious illness or loss, "I'm sorry to hear that" is usually warmer and more appropriate.*

"My favourite café is closing." "That's a shame."

"I can't join you on Friday." "That's a shame. Maybe next week?"

9

**That must be difficult.**

DEF

An empathetic response that recognises the emotional weight of another person's situation.

*"Must" expresses a compassionate inference, not an obligation. It avoids pretending that you know exactly how the person feels and leaves room for them to respond.*

"I'm caring for my father while working full-time." "That must be difficult."

"We have to move again next month." "That must be difficult for the children."

