

Getting Excited about Exclamation Points!

1. What are your views on the use of exclamation points?
 - Do you use them? How frequently? In what kinds of writing?
 - How do you react when others use them?

2. In case you were wondering....
 - Women use exclamation points more than men do (numerous research studies support this finding and also conclude that women are more likely than men to use multiple exclamation points).

Have you ever used multiple exclamation points? In what kinds of writing? How do you feel about others using multiple exclamation points?!!!!

- Scholars have debated why women use exclamation points. Previously characterized as "markers of excitability," exclamation points may not be used primarily by women to indicate excitement. A recent study by Carol Waseleski, "Gender and the Use of Exclamation Points in Computer-Mediated Communication: An Analysis of Exclamations Posted to Two Electronic Discussion Lists," argues that "exclamation points do more than function as markers of excitability; they can also function as markers of friendliness."
How do you use and interpret exclamation points?

To you, do they indicate excitement? Friendliness? Something else?

3. Think of a metaphor or simile that characterizes the exclamation point:

An exclamation point is like _____.

4. Is the exclamation point a mark of bad writing?
 - H.W. Fowler has written, "An excessive use of exclamation marks is a certain indication of an unpractised writer or of one who wants to add a spurious dash of sensation to something unsensational."
 - F. Scott Fitzgerald advised, "Cut out all those exclamation points. An exclamation point is like laughing at your own jokes."