

WTF?

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A great question.

You know that moment when you ask a question but you're already halfway to shouting? "You did what?"

Or "What the f—-?"

There's a punctuation mark for that. It's called the interrobang, and it combines a question mark with an exclamation point. One character for when you need an answer and can barely believe you have to ask.

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An advertising executive named Martin Speckter proposed it in 1962. He wanted a way to punctuate questions that carried surprise or disbelief. The name combines _interro_, from the Latin for questioning, with _bang_, a printer's term for an exclamation point.

A fantastic name for a very familiar reaction.

"You paid how much?"

"That meeting could have been an email?"

Most of us already use ?! for this. The interrobang does the same job in a single mark, although it never really caught on. Fine.

A punctuation mark you have to hunt down on your keyboard does slow things down a bit and make the reaction less effective.

But I like it. There's something satisfying about finding a symbol for a tone of voice you've been using for years.

Especially lately. Between the headlines, the bills, and whatever fresh nonsense arrives in the inbox, a plain question mark can feel a little underwhelming.

Sometimes you're curious. Sometimes you're exasperated. Sometimes you're both. ‽ There. That's the one.