

Expressive, much?

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In this talk, we investigate a novel use of *much* in a construction that has not yet been recognized in the literature – *Rude, much?* – which we dub “expressive *much*”. Our primary proposal is that expressive *much* is a shunting operator in the sense of McCready 2010, which targets a gradable predicate and adds a speaker’s evaluative attitude about the degree to which an individual stands out on the relevant scale. In particular, we argue that it does so in a way that allows it to perform an “expressive question”, which can be understood as a counterpart to a polar question, but in the expressive meaning dimension. In doing so, we present the first example of a shunting expression in English and provide, based on Gunlogson 2008, a new model of the discourse context that allows us to account for the different ways that expressive and non-expressive content enters the common ground.

