

EXPAND YOUR VOCABULARY

These pages give you different words that you can use when you are writing or speaking about three important topics - those of **communication**, **emotions** and **movement**. Each section takes a 'core' word that you probably know well and gives you the most useful synonyms for it, as well as related words with a different part of speech. There are also notes that highlight some differences of register, grammar, and collocation. Some of the words are shown together with their opposites, e.g. **satisfied** and **dissatisfied**.

CONTENTS

Words that describe communication

[Answer](#)

[Argue](#)

[Ask](#)

[Say](#)

[Speak](#)

[Talk](#)

[Tell](#)

Words that describe emotions

[Angry](#)

[Bored](#)

[Disappointed](#)

[Embarrassed](#)

[Enthusiastic/not enthusiastic](#)

[Excited](#)

[Feeling](#)

[Frightened](#)

[Happy](#)

[Sad](#)

[Satisfied/dissatisfied](#)

[Shocked](#)

[Surprised](#)

[Worried/not worried](#)

Words that describe movement

[Arrive](#)

[Fast](#)

[Leave](#)

[Move](#)

[Run](#)

[Slow](#)

[Travel](#)

[Walk](#)

Words that describe communication

[Answer](#)

[Argue](#)

[Ask](#)

[Say](#)

[Speak](#)

[Talk](#)

[Tell](#)

Answer

- I asked him where he was going but he didn't **answer**.
- She failed to **answer** most of the questions that were put to her.
- 'I don't know,' she **answered** truthfully.
- He **answered that** he had seen them leaving together.

Answer is also a noun and is used in the phrases **give an answer** and **in answer to**:

- I'll **give** you a definite **answer** tomorrow.
- He said nothing **in answer to** her question, but continued staring out of the window.

To answer someone

reply to answer someone:

- 'I know,' he **replied**.
- They got up and walked out before I had a chance to **reply**.
- When asked where she was going, she **replied** that it was none of their business.
- I asked him how he was, and he **replied** with a shrug.

respond to answer something that someone says, especially when they have challenged or criticized you:

- 'I'm telling you it's not true,' Martinez **responded**.
- 'Is there anything you would like to do today?' he asked, but she didn't **respond**.
- How do you **respond** to the suggestion that this is all the government's fault?

make a response or **give a response**

- I called out to him, but he **made** no **response**.
- Being an astute politician, she **gave** a careful **response** that completely failed to answer the question.

Note: **Reply** and **respond** mean more or less the same as answer, but are a little more formal, and are used mainly in written English.

retort to answer someone immediately in an angry or humorous way:

- 'Mind your own business!' she **retorted**.
- Democrats **retorted** that the plan leaves millions of poor Americans out in the cold.

answer someone back to reply rudely to someone who has more authority than you:

- Don't you dare **answer** me **back**!

To answer someone at a later time

get back to someone if you get back to someone, you give them an answer at a later time because you were not able to do it earlier:

- He said he was busy but promised he would **get back to** me in the afternoon.

phone back or **call back** or **ring back** to telephone someone again, or to telephone someone who telephoned you earlier:

- I'll **call** you **back** as soon as I hear any news.

Note: **Ring back** is used in British English.

To answer someone in writing

answer something

- I hate it when people don't **answer** my emails.
- She **answered** an advertisement in the newspaper.

reply

It took them a week to **reply** to my letter.

- I wrote many times but she never **replied**.
- They **replied** that unfortunately there were no vacancies at present.

respond

- Thousands of readers **responded** to our questionnaire.

get back to someone

- I'm sorry I didn't **get back to** you about that proposal.
- We'll **get back to** you early next week.

write back

- I **wrote back** and told them I was no longer interested.
- She **wrote back** to Sarah, giving her all the family's news.

Argue

- Those girls are always **arguing**.
- He **argues with** me **about** everything.
- We used to **argue over** who should drive.

To **argue** also means to discuss something with someone who has a different opinion from you:

- They are still **arguing** over the details of the contract.
- We try to teach children to **argue** their ideas calmly and rationally.

You can also say that people **have an argument**:

- We **had a stupid argument** and now he's not speaking to me.

To argue with someone

quarrel to argue:

- I hate **quarrelling with** you.
- They're always **quarrelling over** money.

have a quarrel

- We **had** the usual family **quarrel about** who should do the washing up.
- He'd **had** another **quarrel with** Jamie.

fight to disagree in an angry way about something:

- What are you two **fighting about** now?
- I don't want to **fight over** such a trivial matter.

have a fight

- All teenagers **have fights with** their parents.

row to have a short noisy argument:

- My parents never **row**.
- We **rowed** constantly **about** everything.
- He has **rowed with** everyone in the group.

have a row

- They **had a row** and he walked out.
- Our parents were always **having rows about** money.

Note: Row is used mainly in British English.

bicker or squabble to argue with someone about things that are not important:

- The children **bickered** constantly **with** each other.
- They have been **bickering for** months **over** the leadership.
- A group of boys were **squabbling over** the ball.
- The other parties are **squabbling amongst** themselves.

fall out to stop being friendly with someone because you have had a disagreement with them:

- Have you two **fallen out**?
- She's **fallen out with** her parents.

Note: Fall out is informal and is used in British English.

Ask

- I wondered where she had got the money, but didn't like to **ask**.
- If you need help with the translation, why don't you **ask** Maria?
- Don't be afraid to **ask questions**.
- 'Is something the matter?' he **asked** gently.

ask (sb) how/what/who/why

- She **asked** me **how** I knew about it.
- They **asked whether** I had any objections.

To ask someone a question

inquire or **enquire** to ask someone for information about something:

- Why don't you telephone the theatre and **inquire about** tickets?
- I am writing to **inquire whether** you have any vacancies in September.
- 'What's for dinner?' Brian **inquired**.

demand to ask something in a very firm and angry way:

- 'What do you want?' she **demanded**.
- MPs **demanded to** know the reason for the delay.

To ask someone a lot of questions to find out what they know or think

question someone to ask someone a lot of questions to find out what they know or what they think about something:

- Interviewers **questioned** 1,033 people between the 23rd and 26th of August.
- I wish people would stop **questioning** me **about** what happened.

interrogate someone to ask someone, especially a prisoner or a suspect, a lot of questions in an angry or threatening way:

- The suspects were **interrogated** for four days before being released.
- You have no right to **interrogate** me **about** my private life.

cross-examine someone to ask someone a lot of questions, usually in an unfriendly way:

- I don't like being **cross-examined about** my private life!

grill someone or **give sb a grilling** to ask someone a lot of difficult questions over a long period of time, especially in order to make them explain their actions, decisions, or opinions:

- Police investigators **grilled** him **about** his movements on the day of the crime
- Both party leaders were **given a** 30-minute **grilling** by a team of interviewers.

To ask for something

ask to speak or write to someone because you want them to give you something or do something for you:

- If you want any help, just **ask**.

ask for something

- He's always reluctant to **ask for** anyone's help.

ask someone's permission or **advice** or **opinion**

- I think we'd better **ask** your mum's **opinion** first.
- Always **ask** the **permission** of the landowner before camping on their land.
- I always **ask** their **advice** before taking any big decisions.

request something to ask for something, or ask someone to do something, in a polite or formal way:

- The pilot **requested** permission to land.
- The minister has **requested** a meeting with the Egyptian ambassador.
- We specifically **requested that** you should be informed.
- Visitors are **requested to** register at the front desk.

seek something to ask someone for something:

- **Seek** medical advice if symptoms last more than a week.
- You must first **seek** permission **from** the authors before publishing their names.

Note: Request and seek are formal, and are used mainly in official contexts.

Collocation

Nouns frequently used as the object of **ask (for)**

- advice, assistance, clarification, explanation, forgiveness, help, information, permission, opinion, support

Nouns frequently used as the object of **request**

- assistance, clarification, help, information, meeting, permission

Nouns frequently used as the object of **seek**

- advice, approval, assistance, clarification, help, permission

demand something to say in a very firm way that you want something, when you feel that you have a right to expect it:

- I **demand** an apology.
- MPs are **demanding** an inquiry into the deal.

nag to keep asking someone to do something that they do not want to do:

- Stop **nagging**!
- My mum always **nags** me **to** tidy my room.

badger someone to ask someone to do something many times, in a way that annoys them: • I wish you'd all stop **badgering** me with your questions!

To ask someone to do something

ask someone to do something to say that you want someone to do something:

- He **asked** us **to** join him.
- She **asked** me **not to** tell anyone.
- The writer has **asked not to** be named.

Note: **Ask that someone do something** is a more formal way of saying that you want someone to do something:

- The committee has **asked that** this scheme be stopped for now.
- We **ask that** you treat this matter as strictly confidential.

plead to ask for something in an urgent or emotional way:

- 'Please help us,' Claire **pleaded**.
- I **pleaded with** you to stay, but you turned your back on me.

beg or **implore someone (to do something)** to ask someone to do something in a way that shows you want it very much:

- I'm **begging** you, please help me.
- 'Don't go,' she **implored**.
- They **implored** us **to** help them.
- He **begged** her **not** to leave.

call for something to say publicly that something must happen:

- Several of the newspapers were **calling for** his resignation.

appeal for something to ask people publicly to do something, especially in a difficult situation:

- Both sides have **appealed for** calm.
- Police have **appealed for** the mother **to** come forward.

call on or **call upon someone to do something** to officially ask a person or organization to do something in order to end a bad situation:

- We **call upon** the government **to** end this discrimination now.
- He **called on** the kidnappers **to** release all the hostages.

Say

See also **Speak**, **Talk**, and **Tell**.

Say is used for reporting what someone said. There are several verbs that mean more or less the same as **say**, but **say** is the most general word:

- 'Pleased to meet you,' he **said**.
- 'When's he coming back?' 'He didn't **say**.'
- She **said that** she liked dancing.
- Tell me what he **said to** you.

say how/what/who/why

- Did she **say who** called?
- They didn't **say where** they were going.

To say something

announce to say something important and sometimes surprising, usually to a group of people:

- 'I'm going to America!' she **announced**.
- Bill suddenly **announced that** he would be taking the day off.
- She **announced**, to my dismay, **that** she was coming to stay for a week.

state to say what you think or what you intend to do in a definite or formal way:

- I'm not making excuses, I'm simply **stating a fact**.
- The government has **stated its intention** to abolish child poverty.
- Please **state clearly** your reasons for wanting this job.

declare to say something in an impressive way:

- 'I'm leaving tomorrow,' James **declared** suddenly.
- Brady **declared that** he had no intention of giving up the fight.

mention to say something during a conversation, but without discussing it much or giving many details:

- He didn't **mention** me, did he?
- I'll **mention** it **to** Jan when I see her tomorrow.
- Did I **mention that** I'm going to be away next week?

add to say something in addition to what has been said already:

- 'Don't worry,' Jenny **added** hastily.
- I should **add that** I am not happy about this decision.

utter to say something:

- As soon as he'd **uttered** the words he regretted them.
- They followed her without **uttering** a single word of protest.

Note: **Utter** is fairly formal and is mainly used in written English.

To make a written or spoken comment about something

say the most general way of reporting a comment that someone makes:

- Jane **said** she'd bring some food.
- He **said that** we shouldn't wait.
- Did he **say when** he was coming back?
- The committee **said yes**, so we can go ahead.

comment to make a written or spoken remark, especially one that gives an opinion:

- Researchers who read the report **commented that** it contains many errors.
- He **commented**, 'Not to use a helmet while abseiling is foolhardy.'

observe to make a written or spoken comment about something, especially something that other people have not noticed:

- 'You always arrive at the right time,' he **observed** drily.
- In his book he **observes that** the president was an able diplomat.

remark to make a comment or express your opinion about something:

- 'This is delicious,' Louise **remarked**.
- My father **remarked that** I looked unhappy.
- People often **remark on** how alike we look.

Note: **Remark** is mainly used in written English, especially fiction.

point out to make a written or spoken comment about something, especially when this is new or surprising information:

- The author **points out that** many areas of this vast country remain unexplored.
- It seems appropriate to **point out** some fundamental shortcomings in the technique.

express to tell someone about a feeling, opinion, or aim:

- His teachers **expressed concern** about his progress.
- I would like to **express my thanks** to my parents for their support.
- The **opinions expressed** in this article are those of the author alone.
- The government has reportedly **expressed an interest** in the plan.

Collocation

Adverbs frequently used with **comment**

- bitterly, drily, grimly, wryly

Adverbs frequently used with **observe**

- drily, justly, perceptively, rightly, shrewdly, tartly

Adverbs frequently used with **remark**

- acridly, drily, pointedly, ruefully, wryly

To say something using particular words or a particular style

put to say or write something in a particular way:

- She **put it** very **well** when she described him as 'brilliant but lazy'.
- **Put simply**, it was an offer we couldn't afford to turn down.
- I wouldn't have **put it** quite like that myself.
- As John **put it**, life would be so nice if we didn't have to work.

Phrases using 'put it' that are used to say how something is expressed:

how shall I put it or **let me put it this way** used when you are going to say something honest that may sound rude:

How shall I put it? He may be rich, but he certainly isn't attractive.

Let me put it this way, if she was my daughter I wouldn't let her go.

to put it another way used when you are going to explain something in a different way:
He was too trusting. Or, **to put it another way**, he had no head for business.

to put it bluntly used when you are going to be honest, even if this might upset people:
To put it bluntly, their demands are unreasonable.

to put it in a nutshell used for saying that you are going to explain something complicated in a quick and simple way:

To put it in a nutshell, we are not prepared to compromise our principles for the sake of short-term gain.

word to express something in a particular way:

- I'm not quite sure how to **word** this.
- a **strongly-worded** message.

phrase to express something in a particular way in speech or writing:

- I mentally **phrased** the letter I would write him.
- The regulations were **badly phrased** and gave rise to a lot of confusion.

rephrase to say something again using different words, in order to express your meaning in a way that is more clear or more acceptable:

- The declaration was **rephrased** in terms that both sides could agree on.

be couched in something if something is couched in a particular way, it is expressed in that way:

- The letter was brief, and **couched in** the most guarded terms.
- The document **was couched in** language designed to satisfy the government's critics at home.

Note: **Be couched in** is formal and is mainly used in written English.

To say something indirectly



imply to show your opinion about something by the things that you say, but without directly stating what you think:

- She stressed that her comments did not **imply** criticism of the study.
- Are you **implying that** he's not up to the job?

suggest to say that something is likely to exist or be true:

- Are you seriously **suggesting that** she did this on purpose?
- I would like to **suggest** an alternative explanation.

Note: The most common meaning of **suggest** is to offer an idea or plan for someone to consider:

I suggest we have dinner first and then watch the film.

Can anyone suggest what we should do to increase sales?

hint to let people know what you are thinking or feeling, but without saying it directly:

- She **hinted that** she would like an MP3 player for her birthday.
- Officials are **hinting at** the possibility of an agreement later this week.

To say something again

repeat to say something again:

- Can you **repeat** what you just said?
- He **repeated that** he was not interested in buying a new car.

reiterate to repeat something in order to emphasize it or make it very clear to people:

- I would just **reiterate that** the entire international community is strongly united in this.
- The minister **reiterated** his opposition to the plans.

Note: **Reiterate** is formal and is used in written English and formal spoken contexts.

run through something again or **go over something again** to explain something again in order to help someone understand it or remember it:

- Before leaving, he **ran through** the safety instructions once again.
- Could you just **go over** the words one more time with me?

confirm to say something again, especially officially or publicly:

- We can **confirm that** a British man has been reported missing.
- The writer **confirmed** he was taking a 12-month break.

Speak

Speak, talk, say, and tell are all very similar in meaning, but are used in different ways:



Verb	Focusing on
SPEAK	the act or manner of speaking
TALK	having a conversation or discussion
SAY	reporting what someone says
TELL	giving information to someone

When you use **speak**, you are focusing mainly on the physical act of speaking, and on the way in which someone does this:

- Everyone stopped **speaking** when she entered the room.
- People **spoke of** their fear when the hurricane struck.
- He **spoke** movingly **about** his son's struggle with cancer.
- She **speaks** so quietly it's hard to hear what she says.

Speak is also used to talk about the languages someone knows:

- How many languages does she **speak**?
- I **speak** French and a bit of Italian.

Collocation

Adverbs frequently used with **speak**

- showing the manner in which someone speaks: loudly, quietly, softly, quickly, slowly
- referring to the content of what someone says: candidly, frankly, openly, publicly
- showing the effect of what someone says on other people: eloquently, glowingly, movingly

Jack spoke so softly I could hardly hear him. + She spoke candidly about her problems. + He speaks eloquently of the need for social justice.

To speak quietly

whisper to say something very quietly so that other people cannot hear you:

- 'When can I see you again?' he **whispered**.
- Stop **whispering**, you two.
- She **whispered** something in my ear.

mumble to speak in a way that is not loud or clear enough, so that people have difficulty understanding you:

- I do wish you'd stop **mumbling**.
- He **mumbled** something about not wanting to go to school.

murmur to speak very quietly:

- Frances **murmured** an apology as she left.
- He was **murmuring** in her ear.

mutter to talk in a quiet voice that is difficult to hear, especially because you are annoyed, embarrassed, or talking to yourself:

- He **muttered** something about an appointment and left.
- 'That's a matter of opinion,' she **muttered** under her breath.
- The old man walked off, **muttering to himself**.

To speak loudly

call to speak loudly to someone who is not near you:

- Did you **call** me?
- Paul **called to** the waiter for another drink.

shout to say something in a loud voice, because you are angry or excited, or in order to make people hear you:

- I can hear you perfectly well, there's no need to **shout!**
- 'I want to go now,' Danny **shouted at the top of his voice**.

call out to shout something, especially when you are trying to get someone's attention:

- 'In here!' she **called out**.
- I tried to **call out to** him through the window.

speak up to speak more loudly in order to make people hear you:

- You'll have to **speak up**, we can't hear you at the back.

raise your voice to speak more loudly, especially because you are angry:

- There's no need to **raise your voice**.
- She can control a class of teenagers perfectly without ever **raising her voice**.

yell to say something in a loud voice, because you are angry, excited, or in pain, or in order to make people hear you:

- Her husband was **yelling at** her.
- We heard someone **yelling for** help.

scream to shout something in a loud high voice, because you are afraid, excited, angry, or in pain:

- She heard Anna **scream** her name.
- Nobody heard them **screaming for** help.
- I felt like **screaming at** him.

shriek to say something in a very loud high voice, because you are so angry or upset that you cannot control yourself:

- 'We are innocent,' he **shrieked** as he was shoved into a van to be driven back to jail.

To speak a lot about unimportant things

chatter to talk continuously in a fast informal way, usually about unimportant subjects:

- Stop **chattering** and open your books.
- She **chattered on** for twenty minutes while I got ready.
- What have you two been **chattering about**?

prattle on or **witter on** to talk in a silly way for a long time about unimportant things:

- I was **prattling on** to your dad, about what we were going to do to the garden.
- I don't know what she was **wittering on** about.

rabbit on to talk about something unimportant for a long time, so that people feel bored or annoyed:

- What's Elizabeth **rabbiting on** about?
- Stuart does **rabbit on**, doesn't he?

Note: **Witter on** and **rabbit on** are informal and are used in British English.

drone on to talk about something for a long time in a very boring way:

- The lecturer's voice **droned on** and on, and eventually I fell asleep.

go on (and on) to speak repeatedly about something in a way that people find boring and annoying:

- He just **went on and on about** how I had to try to be more punctual.
- Ministers are always **going on about** social responsibility.

To speak with difficulty

stammer or **stutter** to keep repeating a sound and have difficulty saying certain words, for example because you have a speech problem or because you are nervous or excited:

- 'I've got to go now,' he **stammered**, and collided with the furniture on his way out.
- Nina, blushing with embarrassment, began to **stammer**.
- Richard **stuttered** a reply and sat down, his face red.
- 'Wh - what's happened?' she **stuttered**.

Note: People who **stammer** or **stutter** a lot are said to have a **speech impediment**.

splutter to speak while making sounds as if you cannot breathe or swallow normally, especially when you are very angry or amused:

- 'That's £30!' I **spluttered**. 'No way am I paying that.'

slur to speak without pronouncing the words clearly or separately, for example because you are tired, ill, or drunk:

- She was **slurring** her **words** and holding on to the bar.
- **Slurred speech** can be a sign of a stroke.

Talk

See also Say, Speak, and Tell.

Talk is the most general word that means 'to have a conversation or discussion with someone about something'. Although **talk** sometimes means the same as **speak**, its focus is more on using words in order to communicate with someone:

- I need to **talk to** you.
- Did you **talk to** Robin **about** the new contract?
- My wife and I aren't **talking** these days.
- You never **talk to** me any more (=you never discuss things with me).
- You shouldn't **talk** while someone is playing.
- Please will you all stop **talking** for a minute!

Talk is also used about babies learning to use language:

- Their baby is nearly two but she hasn't **learned to talk** yet.

Talk is also a noun, and is often used in the expression **have a talk**:

- Roger and I **had a nice talk**.
- I'll **have a talk** with your teacher.

To have a conversation with one or more people

chat to talk to someone in a friendly way:

- She laughed and **chatted** happily **with** the other women.
- They sat and **chatted about** nothing in particular.

have a chat I had an interesting chat with his sister.

- We **had a little chat** about the new job.

gossip to talk about other people, sometimes in an unkind way, or talk about things that are not important:

- She spent much of the time chatting and **gossiping with** Rose.

natter to talk to a friend about unimportant things:

- They were **nattering away** in a corner, quite unconcerned about the time.

Note: **Natter** is informal.

be in conversation to be having a conversation with someone:

- They **were** deep **in conversation**.
- Holmes had been seen in a café, **in conversation with** a known drug-dealer.

get into conversation to start having a conversation someone you have never met before:

- I **got into conversation with** this bloke who'd been in the army.

converse to have a conversation:

- They had been **conversing** easily all afternoon.
- He **conversed with** the Russians in French, and with everyone else in German.

Note: **Converse** is formal and is used in written English.

To talk to someone in order to decide something

discuss to talk about something with someone in order to make a decision or make plans:

- We're meeting next week to **discuss** the question of our loan.
- You should **discuss** this problem **with** your doctor.
- Union leaders are meeting to **discuss how** to deal with factory closures.

talk over something or **talk something over** to discuss a problem or situation with someone in order to understand it better:

- I know you're still angry: let's **talk it over** tonight.
- You both need to **talk over** what happened that day.

debate to discuss a subject formally before making a decision, often by voting:

- This is one of the most **hotly debated** issues of the moment.
- The party is **debating whether** to change its policy on tax.

negotiate to try to reach an agreement with someone by discussing something in a formal way, especially in a business or political context:

- The two sides have expressed their willingness to **negotiate**.
- The airline is currently **negotiating** a new contract **with** the union.

be in talks or **discussions** or **negotiations (with someone)** to be trying to reach an agreement with someone by discussing something in a formal way, especially in a business or political situation:

- The company is **in talks with** its bankers **about** restructuring its debts.
- We're still **in negotiations**, but nothing has been settled yet.
- I would call on Australia to **enter into discussions with** OPEC countries.

confer to discuss something with other people in order to reach a decision, especially in an official situation:

- He asked for some time to **confer with** his lawyers.

Note: **Confer** is formal.

Tell

See also **Say**, **Speak**, and **Talk**.

Tell and the other verbs in this section are rarely or never used with direct speech:

- Did he **tell** you I was coming?
- **Passengers were told that** their flight was about to leave.
- I was **told of** his death by a fellow officer.

tell someone how/what/who/why

- Just **tell** me **what** she said.
- I wish you would **tell** me **why** you're so upset.

To tell someone something

let someone know to tell someone something:

- **Let** me **know when** he arrives.
- **Let** us **know how** you get on.

pass on to tell someone something that someone else has told you:

- Please be sure to **pass on** the message.
- She knew her comments would be **passed on** to people higher up the organization.
- Tom **passed on** the news that evening on his way home.

communicate to express thoughts, feelings, or information to someone, for example by speaking or writing:

- The news was verbally **communicated to** officials in July 1981.
- Can you somehow **communicate to** him **that** we're just not interested?
- They **communicate with** each other via email.

advise to tell someone facts or information that they need to know:

- The committee will **advise** all applicants **of** its decision by 30th June.

Note: **Advise** is formal and is used mainly in written English.

explain to tell someone something in a way that helps them to understand it better:

- The doctor **explained** the risks **to** me before the operation.
- I will try to **explain how** a car engine works.

put someone in the picture to give someone the information they need to understand something:

- Mike here can **put you in the picture about** how we run the office.

Note: **Put someone in the picture** is informal and is used mainly in spoken English.

To tell someone about something that has happened

tell to describe something that happened to someone:

- He **told me about** his childhood.
- Residents **told how** they hid in their cellars when the bombing started.

describe to say what someone or something was like, especially by giving a lot of details:

- He **described how** he had been forced to leave his family behind.
- Could you **describe what** you saw?
- Paramedics **described** the scene **as** a battlefield.

give an account of something to give a written or spoken report about something that has happened:

- He was too shocked to **give a clear account** of events.
- She **gave an** amusing **account** of her travels through rural Spain.

relate or recount to tell someone about something that has happened or what someone has said:

- David **related how** he became aware of the situation.
- The tale she **related** was a shocking and disturbing one.
- She **recounted** her conversation with Sam.
- Survivors **recounted how** the boat hit something and sank.

Note: **Relate** and **recount** are formal and are used mainly in written English.

report to give information about something that exists or has happened:

- Supermarkets **report** a sharp increase in the sale of organic vegetables.
- Witnesses **reported** hearing a loud noise before the plane crashed.

break the news or **break it to someone** if you break a piece of news to someone, or break it to them, you tell them about something bad that has happened:

- I had to **break the news** about Dad **to** my sisters.
- When were you planning to **break it to** her **that** you were leaving?

To tell someone officially or publicly about something

inform to officially tell someone something:

- She **informed** us **that** she was leaving immediately.
- Why was I not **informed of** this?

announce to give information about something, officially or publicly:

- The winners of the prize draw will be **announced** at the end of the evening.
- There was a press release **announcing** the senator's resignation.
- I am **pleased to announce that** profits are up for the third year running.

make an announcement

- An **announcement made** by the Ministry seemed to contradict this.

notify to officially give someone information about something that affects them, such as a decision or change:

- Winners will be **notified** by post.
- We have **notified** all policyholders **of** the changes affecting their policies.
- The outcome will be **notified to** all employees next week.

convey to give official information or a formal message to someone:

- Please **convey** my good wishes **to** your colleagues.
- He **conveyed** his government's decision **to** the authorities in Seoul.
- She **conveyed** the message that the United States still feels very strongly about this.

To tell someone something that is secret

reveal to let something that was secret become known:

She refused to **reveal** the contents of the letter.

They **revealed that** they are expecting their first child in the autumn.

Note: **Reveal** is mainly used in written English

leak to tell official or secret information to the public or to journalists:

They are trying to find out who **leaked** the story.

A junior official had **leaked** the information **to** the press.

confide to tell someone something that is secret or private, especially because you want their advice or support:

He **confided** his doubts **to** me.

She **confided to** friends **that** she was scared of her mother.

let (it) slip to tell someone something secret by mistake:

He **let it slip that** they intended to move to Canada.

She **let slip** some very interesting information.

There are several informal expressions that you can use for saying that someone has told something that should have been kept secret:

spill the beans

let the cat out of the bag

give the game away

Informal phrases used for telling someone not to do this:

promise not to tell

keep it under your hat

don't say a word

keep mum/keep schtum

keep it to yourself

Words that describe emotions

[Angry](#)

[Bored](#)

[Disappointed](#)

[Embarrassed](#)

[Enthusiastic/not enthusiastic](#)

[Excited](#)

[Feeling](#)

[Frightened](#)

[Happy](#)

[Sad](#)

[Satisfied/dissatisfied](#)

[Shocked](#)

[Surprised](#)

[Worried/not worried](#)

Angry

- He is very **angry about** the way he has been treated.
- Are you **angry with** me?
- The speech provoked an **angry** response.

Feeling angry

mad angry:

- My boss was **mad with** me for missing the meeting.
- Somebody is going to be **mad at** us no matter what we do.
- I don't know what the matter is, but she **looks** really **mad**.
- People are **hopping mad** (=extremely angry) about the changes.

Note: **Mad** is an informal word, and is never used before a noun. **Mad** is more common in American English than in British English in this meaning. British speakers usually say **mad with**, American speakers say **mad at**.

exasperated annoyed and impatient because things are not happening in the way you want, or because people are not doing what you want them to do:

- He sighed, clearly **exasperated that** something so obvious should require explanation.
- Business travellers want a quick and smart service and if they don't get it they will become **exasperated**.

in a temper in an angry state, especially when there is no obvious reason for this:

He doesn't mean what he says when he's **in a temper**.

Joe was **in a foul temper** this morning.

Feeling a little angry

annoyed slightly angry about something that has happened:

- She sounded pretty **annoyed** on the phone.
- He was clearly **annoyed about** something.

irritated slightly angry about something, especially a bad situation that is continuing:

- I was beginning to get **irritated at** the long delay.

cross slightly angry:

- You don't want me to **get cross** do you?
- I'm **cross with** her for lying.

Note: **Cross** is used in British English, especially by or to children.

Feeling extremely angry

furious extremely angry:

- The judge's comments provoked a **furious** public response.
- Dad was **furious with** me for damaging the car.
- Democrats are **furious at** what they see as Republican duplicity.
- Our members are **absolutely furious about** what he has said.

irate very angry, especially because you are offended by something or because you think that someone has not been doing their job properly:

- 'The education department has been shirking its duty,' an **irate** mother said.
- Many **irate** customers were unable to get through to find out when they would be reconnected.

livid so angry that you find it difficult to control yourself:

- I'm absolutely **livid about** it.

seething feeling very angry but trying not to show your feelings:

- She was still **seething** when they got into the car.

in a rage so angry that you cannot control yourself:

- She stormed out of the house **in a rage**.
- He killed his girlfriend **in a fit of rage**.

Note: **Rage** is sometimes used in combination with other nouns to talk about angry and violent behaviour in a public situation:

road rage angry and violent behaviour by drivers

air rage angry and violent behaviour by passengers on a plane.

Other words: **ENRAGED, INCENSED, IRKED, VEXED**

Adjectives for describing people or things that make someone angry

annoying making you feel slightly angry:

- What's your husband's most **annoying habit**?
- The **annoying** thing was that she couldn't stop saying 'sorry' all the time.
- He's one of the most **annoying** people I know.

frustrating making you feel annoyed and impatient because you are prevented from doing what you want to do:

- It's **frustrating** to wait all day for a repairman who doesn't show up.
- Hansen's victory ended a **frustrating** period in her career.
- more **frustrating** delays at the airport

Note: **Frustrating** is often used with nouns referring to time:

*It has been a **frustrating** season for me at times.*

*He was forced to spend a **frustrating** few months on the sidelines.*

irritating making you feel slightly annoyed: used about people, or about things that keep happening or continue for a long time:

- She has an intensely **irritating** voice.
- I was beginning to find him very **irritating**.

infuriating extremely annoying:

- He had an **infuriating** smile on his face.
- It's **infuriating** to have to go back and do the whole thing again.

maddening so annoying that you find it difficult to control yourself:

- During the summer the crowds can be **maddening**.
- the **maddening** buzz of a trapped fly

stupid making you feel annoyed: used especially about things that do not work properly:

- I can't get this **stupid** program to work.

Other words: **EXASPERATING, TROUBLESOME**

Verbs and phrases that mean 'to make someone angry'

make someone angry or **make someone mad**:

- His attitude **makes** me really **angry**.
- It **makes** me **mad** the way she keeps criticizing me all the time.
- **What** really **makes** me **mad** is the way she expects everyone to do what she wants.

annoy someone to make someone feel slightly angry:

- I don't dislike her, she just **annoys** me sometimes.
- It really **annoys** me **when** you don't listen to what I'm saying.
- It **annoyed** Milly **that** no one really took any notice of her suggestions.

irritate someone to make someone feel slightly annoyed: used about people or about things that keep happening or that happen for a long time:

- Web pop-ups **irritate** just about everybody.
- It really **irritates** me **when** she talks to him in that babyish voice.

get on someone's nerves to annoy someone, especially by repeatedly doing something:

- His constant humming really **gets on** my **nerves**.
- It **gets on** my **nerves** the way sales assistants ignore you because they're too busy talking to each other.

rub someone up the wrong way to say or do things that annoy people, especially without intending to:

- I don't know what it is about Luke, he just **rubs** me **up the wrong way**.

Note: **Rub someone up the wrong way** is a fairly informal phrase.

Other words: **ENRAGE, INFURIATE, IRK, VEX**

Verbs that mean 'to become angry'

get angry or **get mad** to become angry:

- There's no point in **getting angry**.
- He **gets** really **mad** if you touch his things.

lose your temper to suddenly become angry:

- She never **loses** her **temper with** the children.

There are several colourful phrases that mean that someone has become very angry and lost control:

blow a fuse	go berserk
blow a gasket	go nuts
blow your top	hit the roof
blow your stack	lose it
go ballistic	lose your rag
go bananas	

Bored

Bored is the most general word that means 'feeling impatient or dissatisfied, because you are not interested in something or because you have nothing to do':

- I'm so **bored!**
- Steve was already **bored with** the game.
- She gave him a **bored** look.
- There's nothing worse than a **bored** child.

There are several different ways of saying that you are extremely bored:

bored to tears	bored silly
bored to death	bored witless
bored stiff	dying of boredom
bored rigid	

Note: Many people now say **bored of** rather than **bored with**. However, some people consider this to be incorrect, so it is best to use **bored with** in writing.

Feeling bored

fed up (with) bored and annoyed with something that you feel you have accepted for too long:

- You look **fed up**, what's the matter?
- I'm **fed up with** this job.
- After half an hour I **got fed up with** waiting and went home.

Note: **Fed up** is never used before a noun.

sick of or **tired of** no longer wanting something or wanting to do something because you are bored with it:

- I'm **tired of** waiting for him to call.
- I'm so **sick of** their endless arguing.
- He was **sick and tired of** listening to their complaints.

Adjectives for describing things or people that make you feel bored

boring not at all interesting, and making you feel impatient or dissatisfied:

- the most **boring** town in Britain
- It **gets boring** being at home all day.
- Our maths teacher is so **boring**.

dull someone or something that is dull is boring because they are not interesting, exciting, or unusual in any way:

- Life in a village can be very **dull**.
- a **dull** lecture
- I found him **deadly dull**.

tedious boring and continuing for a long time:

- **tedious** meetings with clients
- It's a long and **tedious** process.

monotonous something that is monotonous is boring because it is always the same:

- his **monotonous** diet of rice and vegetables
- The work gets a bit **monotonous** after a while.
- They lost every game they played, with **monotonous** regularity.

Note: **Monotonous** is used about sounds or tunes that are boring or unpleasant because they are always the same:

*She could hear his **monotonous voice** droning on and on.*

dreary something that is dreary makes you feel bored and unhappy, especially because it is not new or interesting in any way:

- another **dreary** day in school
- I've never read anything so **dreary**.

Note: **Dreary** is often also used to talk about weather or about places that are dark or depressing:

*I was shown into a **dreary** waiting room.*

*It was another **dreary** November day.*

tired something that is tired is boring because it has been seen or done many times before:

- The film was the same **tired old** rubbish.
- **tired** political slogans

Collocation

Nouns frequently used with **dreary**

- afternoon, building, day, life, morning, place, weather

Nouns frequently used with **monotonous**

- beat, diet, landscape, routine, sound, voice, work

Nouns frequently used with **tedious**

- detail, job, process, task, work

Other words: **HUMDRUM, MUNDANE, UNINSPIRING**

To make someone feel bored

bore someone to make someone feel impatient or dissatisfied, especially by talking to them about things that are not very interesting:

- I hope I'm not **boring** you.
- I won't **bore** you **with** all the details.

Phrases that mean 'to become bored'

get bored or **be bored** or **become bored** or **grow bored**

- I love being alone, I never **get bored**.
- They soon **grew bored** and moved on to something else.

get tired of or **grow tired of** or **become tired of** to become bored with something that has continued for too long:

- She was **getting tired of** going to the office every day.

get fed up with to become bored and annoyed with something that has continued for too long:

- We **got fed up with** waiting and went home.

Phrases that mean 'a boring person, event, or situation'

a bore someone who talks too much about things that are not interesting to anyone else; a boring activity or situation:

- Her husband is such a **bore**.
- I find housework a real **bore**.

Note: **Bore** in the meaning of 'a boring person' can sometimes be used in the plural.

a drag someone or something that is boring:

- Work is a bit of a **drag** at the moment.

- It's such a **drag** having to get two buses to school.
- I'm sorry to be a **drag**, but could you check this again?

Note: Both a **bore** and a **drag** are more common in spoken English, and a **drag** is more informal.

Disappointed

- Of course I was **disappointed** when I didn't get into my first-choice college.
- She was **disappointed that** he never replied to her letter.
- Everyone is very **disappointed at** the result.
- He was **bitterly disappointed** (=extremely disappointed) to be dropped from the team.
- She gave us a **disappointed** look.

disappointed in someone disappointed because someone has behaved less well than you expected them to:

- I'm **disappointed in** you, Ruth.

Feeling disappointed

let down disappointed because someone has not done something you expected them to:

- The President's supporters feel **let down** and angry.

disillusioned disappointed because you have discovered that someone or something is not as good as you had believed:

- **Disillusioned** teachers have been leaving the profession in droves.
- Americans are very **disillusioned with** international organizations.

disenchanted disappointed with someone or something and no longer enthusiastic about them:

- **Disenchanted** fans have seen their side fail to build on the success of last season.
- Many voters have become **disenchanted with** this government.

Words and phrases for describing something that disappoints you

disappointing not as good as you had hoped for or expected:

- This was a **desperately disappointing** performance by the US team.
- Last month's sales figures were **rather disappointing**.

not up to expectations not as good as you expected:

- Last year's economic performance was **not up to** our expectations.
- We are sorry we could not **live up to the expectations of** our fans.

a letdown if something is a letdown, it makes you feel disappointed because it is not as good as you expected:

- After all the hype, the exhibition was a bit of **a letdown**.

Note: **Letdown** is only used in the singular.

Words and phrases that mean 'to make someone feel disappointed'

disappoint someone to make someone feel unhappy because something they hoped for or expected did not happen or because someone or something was not as good as they expected:

- This is the third film of his that has **disappointed** me.
- **I am sorry to disappoint you**, but we have decided not to proceed with the sale.

be a (big) disappointment to disappoint someone, usually by not being as good as they had hoped or expected:

- After all the hype, the show was **a big disappointment**.
- He feels he has been **a terrible disappointment** to his family.

let someone down to make someone disappointed by not doing something they are expecting you to do or something you promised to do:

- I knew I would be late, but I couldn't **let them down**.
- The families of the victims feel the justice system has **let them down** completely.

Embarrassed

- I've never **felt so embarrassed** in my entire life.
- Don't be **embarrassed about** lying on a bed in the shop to try it out.
- They were **too embarrassed to** ask for help.
- Most teenagers are **deeply embarrassed by** their parents.
- After an **embarrassed silence** the conversation turned to other matters.
- He gave an **embarrassed smile**.

Feeling embarrassed

awkward not feeling comfortable, relaxed, or confident:

- He stood there looking stiff and **awkward** in his uniform.
- She **felt awkward** about asking to borrow more money.

uncomfortable feeling embarrassed or nervous, often because you are in a situation where you cannot relax:

- I **feel uncomfortable** in large groups of people.
- The President is **uncomfortable about** the harshly negative tone of the campaign.

Note: **Uncomfortable** is used to talk about things that make people feel embarrassed or nervous. **Uncomfortable** is also used to talk about situations in which people feel uncomfortable:

*There was an **uncomfortable** silence.*

*The incident was an **uncomfortable** reminder of the risks involved.*

self-conscious feeling embarrassed or worried about how you look or about what other people think of you:

- Knowing everyone was watching made me feel very **self-conscious**.
- She had always felt **self-conscious about** the size of her nose.
- He gave a **self-conscious** laugh.

sheepish embarrassed about something you have done wrong, especially when this is not very serious:

- He had the grace to look a little **sheepish**.
- She gave a **sheepish** grin.

Feeling embarrassed and guilty

ashamed feeling embarrassed and guilty because you have done something wrong, or because you, or someone else, have not reached a standard that people expect:

- I regret the incident and am **deeply ashamed**.
- He is **ashamed of** his behaviour last night
- You should be **ashamed of yourselves**, picking on a little child like that.
- I am **ashamed that** our government could have behaved in this way.

mortified feeling embarrassed or ashamed because you, or someone you feel responsible for, have done something bad or stupid:

- He started singing right there in the street and the kids were **mortified**.

humiliated feeling very embarrassed, usually because you have failed publicly or someone has treated you badly in public:

- I have never felt so **humiliated** in all my life.

Note: **Ashamed** is never used before a noun, and **mortified** and **humiliated** are rarely used before a noun.

Adjectives for describing situations that make someone feel embarrassed



embarrassing making you feel nervous, ashamed, or stupid:

- The situation was most **embarrassing**.
- Children ask such **embarrassing** questions.

Note: **Embarrassing** is also used about situations that could cause problems for someone:
*The figures have proved **deeply embarrassing for the government.***

awkward difficult to deal with and embarrassing:

- After he spoke there was an **awkward silence**.
- Luckily no one asked any **awkward questions**.
- **It's** a bit **awkward** because we're friends but he's also my boss.

humiliating making you feel very embarrassed, especially because you have failed publicly or someone has treated you badly in public:

- This was a **humiliating defeat** for the UN.

shameful so bad that you feel ashamed of it:

- one of the most **shameful** episodes in our history
- Social problems such as domestic violence are considered **shameful** and are rarely discussed.

mortifying making you feel embarrassed or ashamed:

- How **mortifying** for her, to have her husband's infidelities paraded in all the newspapers.

Collocation

Nouns frequently used with **embarrassing**

- admission, episode, incident, mistake, moment, position, question, revelation, scandal, situation

Nouns frequently used with **awkward**

- moment, question, position, silence, situation

Nouns frequently used with **humiliating**

- defeat, experience, failure, retreat, treatment

Verbs that mean 'to make someone feel embarrassed'

embarrass someone to make someone feel nervous, ashamed, or stupid in a social situation:

- **It embarrassed me to** have to speak in front of the other students.
- I don't want to **embarrass** you in front of everyone.

humiliate someone to make someone feel very embarrassed and ashamed, especially by treating them badly in public:

- He **humiliated** me in front of my friends.
- She likes **humiliating** her employees.

Enthusiastic

-
- **Enthusiastic** volunteers have already started work on the site.
 - Business leaders gave the proposal an **enthusiastic** welcome.
 - For a while we were **enthusiastic about** the idea.

Feeling enthusiastic

keen very interested in an activity that you enjoy doing and want to do well:

- Many of our players are very young and **keen**.
- She's always been a **keen** gardener.
- The kids are very **keen on** swimming.

mad keen extremely keen:

- I was **mad keen on** horses.

Note: **Keen** is used mainly in British English. **Mad keen** is an informal expression.

eager very keen to do something:

- He's so **eager to** learn that he stays late every evening.
- The girls were bored and **eager for** new experiences.

raring to go excited about something and impatient to start doing it:

- Everything's ready and we're **raring to go**.

Note: **Raring to go** is an informal expression.

Not feeling enthusiastic

unenthusiastic or **not enthusiastic**

- Officials are **unenthusiastic about** the idea.

not keen not showing much interest in something, or not liking something very much:

- I'm **not very keen on** fish.
- I made him an offer but he **wasn't keen**.

half-hearted done without real effort, interest, or enthusiasm:

- There have been a few **half-hearted attempts** at improvements.

your heart isn't in it used for saying that someone does not really care about something they are doing:

- She continued campaigning, but her **heart wasn't in it**.

lukewarm not enthusiastic about something, especially something that someone else has suggested:

- Markets are showing only **lukewarm support** for the economic recovery plan.
- Most of them seemed a bit **lukewarm about** the idea.

Excited

- She was so **excited** she couldn't sleep.
- I'm really **excited about** this trip.
- They're both **getting excited** planning the wedding.
- Sophie was surprised and **excited by** her win.

Feeling excited

thrilled very pleased and excited:

- We are **thrilled that** Kevin is going to join the team.
- I'm **thrilled about** the publication of the book.
- I was **thrilled to** see her.

thrilled to bits extremely pleased and excited:

- We were **thrilled to bits** when we found out we'd won.

looking forward to something excited about something that is going to happen:

- I'm really **looking forward to** the trip.

can't wait used for saying that someone is very excited about something and wants it to happen immediately:

- I **can't wait to** see you.
- Larry **can hardly wait for** his son to come home.

on the edge of your seat very excited and interested in something because you want to know what happens next:

- I was **on the edge of my seat** all the way through the film.
- The match was real **edge-of-the-seat** stuff.

alive or **buzzing** or **tingling with anticipation** used for saying that people are very excited about something that is about to happen:

- The hall was **buzzing with anticipation** as the awards ceremony began.
- We were **tingling with anticipation** at the start of the climb.

Other words: **ANIMATED, EXHILARATED, PSYCHED UP, HIGH**



Adjectives for describing things that make someone feel excited

exciting making you feel excited and enthusiastic:

- This is the most **exciting** project I've ever worked on.
- an **exciting** opportunity
- Most people **find** New York very **exciting**.

thrilling extremely exciting: often used about sporting events:

- France lost to Wales 34 33 in a **thrilling** match in Paris.

exhilarating making you feel happy, excited, and full of energy:

- I spent an **exhilarating** day cruising the river.
- an exhausting but **exhilarating** climb

gripping very exciting and interesting: used especially about books, films, sporting events etc that are so exciting that you can't stop reading or watching them:

- A crowd of 8000 witnessed the **gripping** final chapter of a remarkable contest.
- a **gripping** account of the disaster

dramatic exciting and interesting: often used about sporting events that are very exciting, especially at the end:

- His side lost 6 1 in a remarkable game with a **dramatic** finale.

Collocation

Nouns frequently used with **thrilling**

- battle, climax, contest, end, ending, final, finish, game, match, victory

Nouns frequently used with **gripping**

- account, drama, episode, story, tale

Nouns frequently used with **dramatic**

- end, ending, final, finale, finish, victory

Other words: **ELECTRIFYING, HEADY, NAIL-BITING, ROUSING**

Verbs and phrases that mean 'to make someone feel excited'

excite someone to make someone feel happy and enthusiastic about something good that is going to happen:

- The prospect of working in Australia really **excites** me.

get someone excited

- I want to **get** people **excited** about the program.

have someone on the edge of their seat to make someone very excited and interested in something because they want to know what happens next:

- This film will **have you on the edge of your seat**, I promise.

Feeling

- A **feeling** of calm came over her.
- Parents often experience deep **feelings of** guilt when their children fail.
- Love is a wonderful **feeling**.

Other words and phrases that mean 'a feeling'

emotion a strong feeling such as love or fear, especially when this is difficult to control:

- Jealousy is an ugly **emotion**.
- You can't let your **emotions** rule your life.
- She never shows any **emotion** at all
- Religious education is a subject that **arouses** strong **emotions**.

feelings someone's emotions, especially when these are sensitive and likely to be affected by what other people say or do:

- He finds it difficult to express his **feelings**.
- You shouldn't be ashamed of these **feelings** they're quite natural.

hurt sb's feelings (=make them feel upset) I didn't want to **hurt his feelings**.

passion a powerful emotion, for example love or anger:

- He was a man who was ruled by his **passions**.
- She spoke **with passion** about the plight of the refugees.
- He **flew into a passion** (=became very angry).

sensation a physical feeling, especially one that is hard to describe:

- the **sensation** of falling through the air
- He had the **odd sensation** that he was being followed.

mood the way someone is feeling at a particular time, for example, happy, sad, or angry:

- The drug can affect your **mood**.
 - I like to look smart or casual, depending on my **mood**.
- in a good/bad/terrible mood** He's been **in a terrible mood** all day.

state of mind someone's mood, or the way they think or feel about something at a particular time:

- I don't think you should see her in your present **state of mind**.

a sense of something a particular feeling that you have about yourself or about a situation:

- There is a great **sense of** optimism about the project.
- Beth read the letter with a growing **sense of** panic.

Adjectives for describing things that make someone feel a certain emotion

emotive an emotive issue or question is one that people have strong feelings about; emotive language is designed to arouse strong feelings:

- the **emotive issue** of child abuse
- He uses the **emotive** word 'indoctrination'.

moving making you feel emotions such as pity, sadness, or sympathy:

- His letter was **deeply moving**.
- a **moving** film about the victims of war

sentimental making you feel emotions such as pity, sadness, or sympathy, often in a very obvious way that seems false:

- a **sentimental** film
- His novels are so **sentimental**, I can't bear them.

touching making you feel emotional and sympathetic, for example by being sad:

- It was a **touching** story about a young brother and sister.

Note: Most of the words that mean '*making someone have a particular feeling*' have a positive meaning. The exception is **sentimental**, which is almost always used in a disapproving way.

Adjectives that mean 'showing strong feelings'

emotional showing strong emotions or causing strong emotions:

- It was a very **emotional** reunion.
- He is unpredictable and subject to sudden **emotional** outbursts.

impassioned showing a lot of emotion, because you have very strong feelings about something:

- an **impassioned** plea for tolerance

Note: **Impassioned** is used to describe the words that people speak or write:

an impassioned argument/defence/speech

passionate showing or expressing strong emotions:

- I feel very **passionate about** this subject.
- **passionate** hatred/love

Verbs and phrases that mean 'to feel something'

feel to be in a particular state as a result of an emotion:

- I was **feeling** quite cheerful when we set out.
- Sam **felt** utterly miserable.

experience something to feel an emotion:

- It was the most wonderful feeling she had ever **experienced**.
- I **experienced** a whole range of emotions in the space of about five minutes.

be affected by something if you are affected by something, it has an emotional effect on you:

- She was **deeply affected by** her parents' divorce.

be overcome by something or **with something** if you are overcome by an emotion, it has a very strong effect on you:

- The whole family was **overcome with** grief.

suffer something to feel bad as a result of an emotion:

- He **suffered** agonies of jealousy.

Frightened

Frightened, **afraid**, and **scared** all mean more or less the same. **Afraid** is never used before a noun. **Scared** is more informal than **frightened** and **afraid**, and it is not usually used before a noun.

Feeling frightened

frightened

- Don't be **frightened**, I'm not going to hurt you.
- I've always been **frightened of** snakes.
- Since the attack he's been **frightened to** go out alone.
- The puppy looked at him with **frightened eyes**.

afraid

- Everyone seems to be **afraid of** her.
- He's **afraid of** the dark.
- She was **afraid to** go near the dog.
- I was **afraid for** my life (=afraid that I would die).

scared

- Louis is **scared of** flying.
- I'd be too **scared to** do a parachute jump.
- I was **scared** you'd laugh at me.

scared stiff or **scared to death** extremely scared:

- He's **scared stiff of** doctors.
- Everybody here is **scared to death**.

fearful feeling afraid and nervous about what might happen:

- **Fearful** parents kept their children indoors.
- **Fearful of** another attack, civilians are fleeing the capital.

Note: **Fearful** is fairly formal and is used mainly in written English.

alarmed feeling frightened or worried that something bad or dangerous might happen:

- Don't be **alarmed**, it wasn't a serious accident.
- Politicians were **alarmed at** the prospect of a new wave of strikes.

Feeling extremely frightened

terrified extremely frightened:

- **Terrified** residents ran from their homes as the quake struck.
- Penny is **absolutely terrified of** spiders.
- He was **terrified** that someone would find out.

petrified extremely frightened, especially so that you cannot move or decide what to do:

- The first time I went on stage, I was **absolutely petrified**.
- He was **petrified of** what would happen if his parents found out.

panic-stricken so frightened that you cannot think clearly or calmly:

- The roads were filled with **panic-stricken** refugees.

in terror or **in panic** in a state of extreme fear:

- The islanders fled **in terror** as the volcano erupted.
- People are fleeing **in panic**.

Adjectives for describing things that make someone feel frightened

frightening making you feel frightened:

- It's the most **frightening** film I've ever seen.
- It's **frightening to** think what might have happened.

scary making you feel frightened:

- Do you like **scary** movies?
- It was really **scary** when the horse bolted.

Note: **Scary** is more informal than **frightening** and is used mainly in spoken English.

terrifying extremely frightening:

- a **terrifying** experience
- The car missed me by about six inches it was **absolutely terrifying**.

spooky frightening in a way that makes you nervous because it involves things you cannot understand, for example ghosts and the supernatural:

- The kids seem to love **spooky** stories.
- The house was really **spooky** once the sun had gone down.

creepy frightening in a way that makes you nervous, but you are not sure why:

- I had the **creepy** feeling someone was watching me.

Note: **Spooky** and **creepy** are informal.

Other words: **BLOODCURDLING, CHILLING, HAIR-RAISING, INTIMIDATING, SPINE-CHILLING**

Verbs and phrases that mean 'to make someone feel frightened'

frighten someone to make someone feel afraid, especially suddenly:

- Stop it, you're **frightening** me!

scare someone to make someone feel afraid:

- I'm sorry, I didn't mean to **scare** you.
- The way he drives **scares** me **to death**.

scare the living daylights out of someone or **scare the life out of someone** to scare someone very much:

- The cat jumped onto my shoulder and **scared the living daylights out of** me.

Note: **Scare** is more informal than **frighten**.

give someone a fright or **a scare**

- I didn't mean to **give** you **a fright**.
- You **gave** me such a **scare**!

startle someone to make someone feel suddenly frightened by doing something they did not expect:

- Sorry, I didn't mean to **startle** you.
- A plane overhead **startled** the horse and he bolted.

alarm someone to make someone feel frightened or worried that something unpleasant or dangerous might happen:

- I don't want to **alarm you** but I think we may have a serious problem.

intimidate someone to deliberately make someone feel frightened, especially so that they will do what you want:

- The report said he used harassment and threats to **intimidate** TV journalists.

Verbs and phrases that mean 'to make someone feel extremely frightened'

terrify someone to make someone feel extremely frightened:

- It **terrifies** me, the way he loses his temper like that.

put the fear of God into someone to make someone feel very frightened:

- **You put the fear of God into** me, screaming like that.

scare the hell out of someone to make someone suddenly feel very anxious:

- It really **scared the hell out of me** when he got taken into hospital.

Note: The phrases **put the fear of God into someone** and **scare the hell out of someone** are informal and used mainly in spoken English.

There are several colourful phrases that mean that something is very shocking and gives you a strong physical feeling of being afraid, often because it involves violence or evil:

make someone's blood run cold

make someone's hair stand on end

send shivers down someone's spine

give someone the creeps

Verbs that mean 'to become frightened'

get scared or **become scared**

- I **got scared** and ran away.
- After the attack she **became scared of** the dark.

take fright to suddenly become frightened, especially because something happens suddenly that you did not expect:

- The boys **took fright** and ran off in different directions.

get a fright to suddenly become frightened:

- I **got** such a **fright** when Joe burst into the room.

panic to suddenly feel very afraid, so that you cannot think clearly or calmly and may do something silly:

- He **panicked** and fled the country.
- They told us not to **panic**.

Happy

- The children seem very **happy** at school.
- Anna was excited and **happy about** the baby.
- Are you **happy** living in London?
- They were **blissfully happy** together.
- Money alone won't **make** you **happy**.
- She gave a him a **happy smile**.

- You **look happy** what's happened?
- One look at Dave's **happy face** told her all she needed to know.

Feeling happy

cheerful feeling happy and showing it in the way you look or behave:

- You're looking very **cheerful** today.
- a **cheerful** grin

in a good mood feeling happy:

- I woke up **in a** very **good mood** this morning.

content happy and satisfied with your life and what you have:

- When I last saw her, she seemed **quite content**.
- I'm **perfectly content** to stay at home this summer.

Feeling happy because something good has happened

happy for someone happy because something good has happened to someone else:

- I'm so **happy for** you both!

pleased happy and satisfied:

- Are you **pleased with** the way things went?
- I'm really **pleased about** your new job.

glad pleased about something good that has happened:

- We're so **glad** you could come.
- I'm **glad** he called you at last.

delighted very happy because something good has happened:

- We are **delighted that** this case is finally over.
- I was **absolutely delighted** to see so many old friends again.

Note: None of these adjectives is used before a noun.

Feeling extremely happy because something good has happened

thrilled very pleased, especially because something exciting has happened:

- Dan was **thrilled with** his present.
- Everyone is **thrilled about** the baby.
- I was **thrilled to** receive the prize.

overjoyed extremely happy, especially because there has been a successful outcome:

- They were **overjoyed to** see him.

walking on air or **floating on air** so happy that you feel that everything is wonderful and nothing bad can happen:

- Two weeks after getting engaged, she's still **walking on air**.

on top of the world very happy, because things are going very well for you:

- Nick was **on top of the world** after winning the award.

scream or **shout** or **shriek with delight** or **cry** or **shout** or **weep for joy** to behave in a certain way because you are feeling very happy:

- The children were **shrieking with delight**.
- Penny could have **shouted for joy**.

Other words and expressions: **ECSTATIC, ELATED, EUPHORIC, JUBILANT, IN SEVENTH HEAVEN, ON CLOUD NINE, OVER THE MOON**

Adjectives used for describing someone who has a positive attitude to life in general

happy

- Harry was a very **happy** child.

cheerful happy and positive by nature:

- He has a very **cheerful disposition**.

contented happy with what you have and not wanting more:

- I can't imagine a more **contented** family.

happy-go-lucky always cheerful and relaxed, and not worrying about things:

- She's a very **happy-go-lucky** person.

sunny tending to be happy and cheerful

- She was an inspiration to everyone with her **sunny** personality and love of life.

Other words: **BOUNCY, BUBBLY, EXUBERANT, JOLLY**

Adjectives used for talking about happy times and situations

happy

- We wish him a very **happy retirement**.
- Theirs was a very **happy marriage**.
- I had the **happiest childhood** imaginable.

blissful making you feel extremely happy in a relaxed way:

- We spent a **blissful** week in the mountains.

idyllic extremely happy and without any problems:

- Our honeymoon was absolutely **idyllic**.

Verbs and phrases that mean 'to make someone feel happy'

make someone happy to make someone feel happy:

- I've tried everything I can think of to **make him happy**.
- It **makes me happy to** see the children playing together.

please someone to make someone feel happy and satisfied:

- He'll do anything to **please** her.
- Some people are very **hard to please**.

satisfy someone to please someone by giving them what they want or need:

- It's impossible to **satisfy** everyone.

cheer someone up to make someone feel happier when they have been feeling upset or fed up:

- I know just what will **cheer you up**.

Verbs that mean 'to become happy again'

cheer up to become happy, or less sad. This verb is often used in the imperative:

- Steve seems to have **cheered up** lately.
- '**Cheer up,**' he said 'It's Friday!'

bounce back to become happy, healthy, or successful again after something bad or disappointing has happened to you:

- He's sad about Sally leaving him, but he'll **bounce back**.

buck up to become happier:

- I wish you'd **buck up** a bit.
- **Buck up** Jamie, it's not the end of the world.

Note: **Buck up** is informal and used mainly in spoken English.

Adjectives for describing things that make someone feel happy

joyful causing happy feelings:

- a **joyful** occasion

Note: **Joyful** is fairly formal.

satisfying making you feel pleased because something that you hoped for has happened:

- a very **satisfying** result

cheering making you feel happier and less worried:

- This is very **cheering** news.

heartening making you feel happier and more hopeful, especially because a problem has been resolved:

- **It is heartening to** see that our efforts are meeting with success.

Sad

- I felt **really sad about** leaving him, but I had no choice.
- We were **sad to hear** that the school is going to close.
- 'I'm OK,' she said in a **sad voice**.
- What's that **sad face** for?
- He has such **sad eyes**.

Feeling sad

unhappy feeling sad for a long time or all the time, because you are in a bad situation or another person has made you feel like this:

- I don't know why she goes on seeing him when he just makes her **unhappy**.
- Sarah seems **desperately unhappy** at school.

Note: People feel **sad** when something bad happens, either to them or to other people. People feel **unhappy** when a situation or relationship that they are in is bad.

Unhappy can also mean 'dissatisfied': see the entry for **Satisfied**.

miserable very sad, especially because you are uncomfortable, lonely, or sick:

- I don't know what he's so **miserable** about.
- After waiting for an hour, he was cold, wet and **utterly miserable**.

upset sad because of something bad that has happened recently. If you are upset, this is obvious to other people because of how you look or sound, and you often feel like crying:

- You look **upset** what's the matter?
- She's still too **upset** to talk about the accident.
- They're **terribly upset** about losing the case.

Note: **Upset** is never used before a noun.

Collocation

Adverbs frequently used with **unhappy**

- deeply, desperately, profoundly, very

Adverbs frequently used with **miserable**

- pretty, really, terribly, thoroughly, utterly

Adverbs frequently used with **upset**

- clearly, deeply, really, terribly, very, visibly

Feeling sad about life in general

depressed if someone feels depressed, they are very sad and they feel negative about the present or the future:

- This weather is making us all a bit **depressed**.

Note: **Depressed** is also used to describe a medical condition. If a person is **clinically depressed**, they are suffering from an illness called **depression** that makes them feel like this all the time:

*I'd been **feeling depressed** for several weeks before the doctor prescribed these pills.*

low feeling negative about life and lacking in energy, especially because a lot of bad things have happened to you and you feel that you cannot cope:

- She was very **low** when I last saw her.

down feeling slightly depressed, often for no real reason:

- I've just been **feeling down** recently, that's all.

in the depths of despair feeling completely negative about life, usually because of very bad things that have happened to you:

- He was **in the depths of despair** when he lost his job.

be at rock bottom or **hit rock bottom** if you are at rock bottom or have hit rock bottom, so many bad things have happened to you that you feel as if your life cannot get any worse:

- After the divorce, I really **hit rock bottom**.

suicidal if you feel suicidal, you feel that life is not worth living and you are thinking about killing yourself:

- His teachers knew he was **suicidal** and they should have warned his mother.

Feeling sad because something that you hoped for has not happened

disappointed sad because something that you hoped for did not happen, or because something was not as good as you expected:

- She was **disappointed that** he never replied to her letter.
- Obviously I **feel disappointed about** not getting the job.
- I was very **disappointed in** the film.

dejected someone who is dejected has lost all their hope and enthusiasm, especially because they have failed at something:

- Jane seemed **utterly dejected** by the news.

downhearted disappointed about something that you had hoped to achieve but did not succeed in achieving:

- I know it's disappointing, but try not to get **downhearted**.

Note: **Dejected** and **downhearted** are used mainly in written English, especially in fiction.

Looking or sounding sad

gloomy sad and having no hope that things will improve, and often showing this by your expression or the way your voice sounds:

- Her **gloomy** face told him that the news was bad.

Note: **Gloomy** is also used about places, weather, and situations that are depressing and show no signs of improvement:

The room was dark and gloomy.

glum showing that you are sad by the expression on your face. You often use **glum** when you are telling someone not to look so sad:

- Don't look so **glum** we'll come again soon.

downcast sad for a time, usually because something that you hoped for has not happened:

- He looked **downcast** as he left the meeting.

Note: **Downcast** is used mainly in written English.

down in the mouth looking unhappy, usually because you are disappointed about something:

- I thought Jo looked a bit **down in the mouth** this morning.

Note: **Down in the mouth** is an informal phrase, used mainly in spoken English.

Adjectives for describing things that make someone sad

sad making you feel sad:

- Dad told us the **sad news**.
- I saw such a **sad film** the other day.
- It was one of the **saddest sights** I've ever seen.

unhappy an unhappy situation or experience makes you feel unhappy:

- She had a very **unhappy childhood**.
- the end of an **unhappy marriage**
- Many people have **unhappy memories** of school.

miserable a miserable situation or period makes you feel unhappy:

- **miserable** weather
- I spent a **miserable** six months living on my own.

depressing making you feel sad and negative:

- I don't watch the news I **find** it too **depressing**.
- The weather was grey and **depressing**.
- It's the most **depressing** film I've ever seen.

upsetting making you feel unhappy and as though you want to cry:

- That's one of the most **upsetting** things I've ever heard.

heartbreaking making you feel very sad or upset:

- the **heartbreaking** story of a little girl who lost her whole family

Collocation

Nouns frequently used with **sad**

- day, ending, experience, news, occasion, situation, song, story, time

Nouns frequently used with **unhappy**

- childhood, experience, life, marriage, memories, relationship, situation

Nouns frequently used with **miserable**

- childhood, experience, life, situation, week, year

Other words: **BROKEN HEARTED, DESPONDENT, DISMAL, DREARY, HEARTBROKEN, MELANCHOLY, MOURNFUL, WRETCHED**

Satisfied

- As a **satisfied** customer, needless to say I shall be recommending you to my friends.
- The President declared himself **satisfied with** the progress of the talks.
- Some people are **never satisfied!**
- She had a **satisfied** smile on her face.
- Tom gave a slow **satisfied** nod.

Feeling satisfied

happy satisfied that something is good or right, and therefore not worried about it:

- Are you **happy** with this arrangement?
- I'm not very **happy about** the children being out so late.
- **Happy that** everything was under control, we left.
- Her parents will be **happy to** know she's finally found a job.

pleased happy and satisfied with the way something has happened or turned out:

- The work took a long time but I'm very **pleased with** the results.
- Are you **pleased with** the way things went?
- I'm really **pleased about** your new job.
- We were very **pleased to** hear of your engagement.

content happy and satisfied with your life or with a situation, and not wanting to change it:

- She is quite **content to** live on her own.
- He seems **content with** a fairly minor role.

contented happy and satisfied with your life:

- I can't imagine a more **contented** couple anywhere.

fulfilled happy and satisfied because you are doing something important or using your abilities:

- She is quite obviously neither emotionally nor intellectually **fulfilled** by her job.

Adjectives for describing things that make someone feel satisfied

satisfying making you feel pleased and happy:

- This is a very **satisfying** result.
- She finds writing poetry extremely **satisfying**.

satisfactory making you feel pleased, by turning out as well as you had hoped:

- a very **satisfactory** outcome
- This new arrangement proved **highly satisfactory**.

fulfilling making you feel happy and satisfied, because you are doing something important or using your abilities:

- a **fulfilling** balance between work and the rest of your life

rewarding giving you satisfaction, because you feel you are doing something useful or important:

- Do you find your work **rewarding**?
- Helping those kids was an incredibly **rewarding** experience.

Verbs and phrases that mean 'to make someone feel satisfied'

satisfy someone to please someone by giving them something they want or need:

- an agreement that is unlikely to **satisfy** the environmentalists.
- It's impossible to **satisfy** everyone.

keep someone happy or **keep someone satisfied** to do what is necessary to make someone continue to feel happy or satisfied:

- I said I'd go just to **keep** her **happy**.
- **Keeping** customers **satisfied** is the best way to keep us in our jobs.

please someone to make someone feel happy and satisfied:

- He'll do anything to **please** her.
- **It pleased** her teachers to see her making progress.
- Some of our customers can be very **hard to please**.

fulfil someone to make someone happy and satisfied, because they are doing something important or using their abilities:

- Being a wife and mother doesn't really **fulfil** me.

Dissatisfied: not satisfied

dissatisfied or **not satisfied** annoyed because something is not as good as you expected it to be:

- He had been feeling very **dissatisfied with** his life in recent months.
- I'm **not** at all **satisfied with** the standard of your work.

unhappy or **not happy** not satisfied with something or someone:

- People are very **unhappy about** the high ticket prices.
- I'm **not happy with** you taking more time off.

discontented or **not content** not satisfied with something, because you want something better:

- The work force are **discontented with** the new working arrangements.
- He was **not content** to play a supporting role.

displeased or **not pleased** not satisfied and feeling rather annoyed, especially because of the way someone has behaved or the way something has been done:

- Employees were **displeased with** the reduction in benefits.
- We are **not** at all **pleased with** the situation.

Note: **Displeased** is rather formal and is used mainly in written English.

disgruntled dissatisfied and slightly annoyed about something, especially because you think you have not been treated fairly:

- **Disgruntled** workers are claiming they cannot make ends meet on what they are paid.

fed up dissatisfied and slightly annoyed with something that you feel you have accepted for too long:

- I'm really **fed up with** this job.
- She was **fed up to the back teeth** with his constant rudeness.

Note: **Fed up** is informal.

Adjectives for describing things that make someone feel dissatisfied

unsatisfying or **not satisfying** not happening in the way you would like:

- a highly **unsatisfying** game
- It's not been the most **satisfying** of days.

unfulfilling an unfulfilling job or situation does not make you feel happy or satisfied because you feel it is not important or does not allow you to use your abilities:

- He has a pretty **unfulfilling** job.

unsatisfactory not as good as you had hoped, or not of a high enough standard:

- I thought the ending of the film was very **unsatisfactory**.
- an **unsatisfactory** relationship

unrewarding not giving you satisfaction, because you do not feel that you are doing anything useful or important:

- I felt stuck in an **unrewarding** job without much to look forward to.

Shocked

- We were **deeply shocked** to hear of his sudden death.
- The ambassador said he was **shocked by** the decision to expel him.
- He was **shocked at** the condition of the working classes.
- She was so **shocked** she stopped crying.
- He looked around at their **shocked faces**.

Feeling shocked

horrified extremely shocked:

- She looked **horrified at** his suggestion.
- I was **horrified by** the way the patients were treated.
- She gazed at him in **horrified disbelief**.
- When they heard about the murder, they were **absolutely horrified**.

appalled extremely shocked by something, especially something that you think is wrong or immoral:

- I was **appalled by** their behaviour.
- Local people say they are **appalled at** this vicious, unprovoked killing.
- There was an **appalled silence**.
- We were **appalled that** the lawmakers had passed the measure in the first place.

stunned so shocked that you are unable to speak or react normally:

- He looked **stunned** as he was led from his house by police.
- **Stunned** residents wandered the streets.
- There was a **stunned silence** from the other end of the phone.

dazed so shocked that you are unable to think clearly:

- He stared at the body, **dazed** and unable to move.

- I was so **dazed** I could hardly speak.
- She looked around in a **dazed manner**.

in a daze

- For half an hour he walked around **in a daze**.

shaken (up) feeling upset and worried because of something shocking that has happened:

- They were clearly **shaken by** the experience.
- The store owner was uninjured but he was quite **shaken up** by the whole incident.

Adjectives and phrases for describing things that make someone feel shocked

shocking making you feel shocked:

- This is a very **shocking** development.
- His behaviour was **shocking**, even by today's standards.

be a shock something that is a shock is shocking:

- It must have **been a shock**, suddenly being told she had cancer.
- **It was a terrible shock** to discover that they had been lying to him all along.

Note: In journalism, **shock** is used before certain nouns to describe something that shocks people:

*a **shock** decision/departure/resignation*

*a **shock** defeat/ victory/win*

appalling very shocking, because of being bad or immoral:

- Conditions in the camps were **appalling**.
- We all saw the **appalling** scenes on television.

horrifying extremely shocking and upsetting:

- **Horrifying** images were burned into their memories.

horrific shocking and upsetting: used especially about serious accidents or violent crimes that cause injuries and death:

- **horrific** pictures of bomb victims
- It was a **horrific** experience to go through.

devastating so shocking and upsetting that you find it difficult to cope with:

- It's **devastating** to be told you have cancer.
- **devastating** news

shattering extremely shocking and upsetting, and often making you feel that you cannot go on with your life:

- The news came as a **shattering** disappointment.

Verbs that mean 'to make someone feel shocked'

shock someone to make someone feel surprised and upset:

- The news **shocked** everyone.
- What I'm going to say may **shock** you.

give someone a shock

- What she had seen had **given** her a terrible **shock**.

horrify someone to make someone feel extremely shocked:

- He heard something which utterly **horrified** him.
- She loved to **horrify** us with tales of ghastly happenings.

appal someone to shock someone very much:

- The scale of the destruction **appalled** us.

stun someone to shock someone so much that they cannot react:

- His violent death **stunned** the nation.
- His words briefly **stunned** her **into** silence.

Surprised

- She was extremely **surprised to** see them.
- The woman was so **surprised that** she nearly fell over.
- We were genuinely **surprised at** their reaction.

Note: When **surprised** is used before a noun, it describes the way someone reacts to something:

*He shot her a **surprised** look and shrugged.*

*Tony Wild was the **surprised** recipient of a special prize.*

Feeling extremely surprised

amazed very surprised:

- We were **amazed at** the response to our appeal.
- Frankly, I was **amazed that** he was interested.
- When she told me how much she was earning, I was **absolutely amazed**.

amazed to see/hear/learn etc

- They were **amazed to discover** that they had won the Best Album award.

astonished extremely surprised:

- We were **astonished at** the lack of security precautions.
- He was **astonished that** she had backed down.
- an **astonished** look/glance

astounded so surprised by something that you can hardly believe it:

- His doctors were **astounded that** he had survived the illness.

Note: **Amazed**, **astonished**, and **astounded** are not usually used before a noun. When they are, they usually describe the way someone reacts to something:

*The **amazed** faces of the little children were wonderful to see.*

*He shot me an **astonished** glance.*

staggered extremely surprised at something you are told or something that happens:

- We were **staggered to** learn of this new policy.
- I was **staggered at** the amount of money that was being wasted.

Feeling surprised and shocked

taken aback surprised and shocked, especially by something that someone says or does to you:

- He seemed **somewhat taken aback by** her directness.
- **Taken aback**, she could only stare at him.

startled suddenly surprised or frightened by something:

- He seemed **startled to** see me.
- We were **startled by** a strange sound outside.
- He shot a **startled** glance at her.

Feeling so surprised that you cannot speak

speechless so surprised, especially by something shocking or annoying, that you do not know what to say:

- Harry was **speechless with** surprise.
- For once in her life she was **speechless**.

stunned very shocked or upset, especially so that you are unable to act normally:

- After the attack, **stunned** villagers wandered the streets.
- We were all **stunned at** her refusal to help.
- Dan looked at her **in stunned silence**.

dumbfounded or **dumbstruck** so surprised that you do not know what to do or say:

- People are pretty much **dumbfounded** by what's happening here.
- Lisa stared at him, **dumbstruck**, wondering if she was dreaming.

lost for words so surprised that you do not know what to say:

- She fell silent, **lost for words**.

Adjectives for describing things that make someone feel surprised

surprising making you feel surprised:

- Tim Harden scored a **surprising** victory in the men's 60 meters.
- A **surprising** number of holidaymakers still don't bother with health insurance.
- **It's surprising how** good some of these songs are.

amazing very surprising:

- She told me an **amazing** story.
- **It's amazing how** stupid people can be!

astonishing extremely surprising:

- This is an **astonishing** piece of news.
- It's **astonishing** how much the place has changed.

astounding very surprising and often impressive, in a way that is hard to believe:

- He came back from two sets down to achieve an **astounding** victory.
- Within a month, the book had sold an **astounding** 2 million copies.

startling very surprising and unexpected:

- No one made any response to this **startling** suggestion.
- This method yields some **startling** results.

incredible so surprising that it is difficult to believe:

- They all have **incredible** stories to tell.
- He had an **incredible** amount of energy.

unbelievable so surprising that it is difficult to believe:

- It seemed **unbelievable that** misfortune should strike yet again.
- The war drags on, and the suffering and slaughter have been almost **unbelievable**.

Note: **Incredible** and **unbelievable** mean the same, but **incredible** is used mainly for describing something positive or impressive, and **unbelievable** tends to be used for describing something negative or unpleasant.

Ways of saying that something is not surprising

someone is not surprised

- I'm **not** at all **surprised that** she's upset.
- Officials are disappointed but **not surprised by** the figures.

I wouldn't be surprised if

- The trains are so unreliable these days **I wouldn't be surprised if** it was cancelled (=if this happened, it would not be surprising).

it is not surprising

- **It is not surprising that** standards change from time to time.

not surprisingly

- **Not surprisingly**, both teams looked close to exhaustion.

it is hardly surprising (=it is not at all surprising)

- **It is hardly surprising that** the rebels have been slow to agree the terms of the deal.

sth comes as no surprise

- The strike **came as no surprise** to those involved.

Verbs and phrases that mean 'to make someone feel surprised'

surprise someone to make someone feel surprised:

- Her angry tone of voice **surprised** us all.
- **What surprises me** is that people still fall for these Internet scams.

take or catch sb by surprise to happen unexpectedly:

- The storm **caught** them **by surprise**.

amaze someone to make someone feel very surprised:

- Murray **amazed** everyone by easily beating the world's number one player.
- **What amazes me is that** the kids never seem to get tired.
- **It never ceases to amaze** me what people will do to get on television (=it always surprises me).

astonish someone to make someone feel extremely surprised:

- **It astonishes me that** people continue to damage their health by smoking.
- His calmness **astonished** her.

Worried

- Everyone was **worried** when John didn't show up.
- We are very **worried about** the future.
- **Worried** parents were phoning the school.
- I was **worried that** we would oversleep and miss the flight.
- a **worried** frown

worried sick very worried:

Your mother and I have been **worried sick** about you!

Feeling worried about a problem that affects you or other people

anxious worried because you think something bad might happen, so that you are unable to relax:

- His silence made me **anxious**.
- People are naturally **anxious about** these tests.
- He shot her an **anxious** glance.

concerned worried about something, but trying to deal with it in a calm way:

- **Concerned** parents held a meeting to discuss the issue.
- Police said they were **concerned about** the boy's safety.
- She was **concerned that** the matter might become public.

bothered feeling worried or upset about something:

- You don't seem too **bothered** about it.

disturbed extremely worried about something, especially something that seems morally wrong:

- I am very **disturbed by** what is happening in this town.
- Human rights lawyers are **disturbed about** these reports of torture.

preoccupied so worried about something that you cannot think about anything else:

- Martin was too **preoccupied with** his own problems to notice that his daughter needed him.
- She seemed **preoccupied** and absent-minded.

troubled worried about something over a long period of time, especially because you do not know what to do about it:

- He was **troubled by** a feeling that things just did not add up.
- Kevin wore a **troubled** expression.

frantic or **insane** or **sick with worry** or **beside yourself with worry** extremely worried about something:

- Her parents will be **beside themselves with worry**.
- He has driven us almost **insane with worry**.

Other words: **DISTRAUGHT, FRANTIC**

Worried about something that is going to happen, or something that you have to do

nervous worried about something that is going to happen, or something that you have to do:

- She was **nervous about** walking home so late.
- Callum gave a **nervous** laugh.

tense feeling nervous and unable to relax, because you are worried about something that is going to happen:

- He was too **tense** to sleep.

Note: **Tense** is also used about places and situations where people are tense:

*The city remains **tense** after Monday's bombing.*

uneasy feeling slightly worried or nervous about something, often because you are not sure that what you are doing is right:

- He looks very **uneasy** in interviews.
- Parents are **uneasy about** giving this medication to their children.

on edge nervous and unable to relax because you are worried:

- He's been **on edge** all morning.

stressed or **stressed out** feeling worried and unable to relax, especially because you have a lot of problems that you cannot cope with:

- I've been feeling really **stressed out** lately.

Note: **Stressed out** is more informal than **stressed**.

in a state very nervous or worried about something, and showing this in your behaviour:

- Megan is **in a** real **state** about her exams.

Note: **In a state** is informal and is used mainly in spoken English.

apprehensive feeling slightly worried or nervous about something that is going to happen or something that might happen:

- Lynn felt **apprehensive about** his visit.

Note: **Apprehensive** is fairly formal and is used mainly in written English.

Adjectives for describing things that make you feel worried

worrying making you feel worried:

- The most **worrying** trend is the sharp decline in exports.
- The situation is very **worrying**.

disturbing something that is disturbing makes you feel extremely worried, especially because it seems morally wrong:

- I found the ideas in the book **deeply disturbing**.
- This is **disturbing** news.

troubling a troubling problem or situation makes you feel worried, especially because you do not know what to do about it:

- The killing raises **troubling** questions about racism in our society.
- These are very **troubling** trends.

concerning making you feel slightly worried:

- We will be looking at these break-ins, which are disruptive and very **concerning**.

Adjectives for describing things that make you feel worried and unable to relax

anxious an anxious time or situation is one that makes you feel worried:

- We had a few **anxious** moments while the votes were being counted.
- These are **anxious** times for Democrats.

tense making you feel nervous and not relaxed, because you do not know what is going to happen next:

- There was a **tense silence** as everyone waited for his reaction.
- The atmosphere in the courtroom was extremely **tense**.

stressful a stressful job or situation involves or causes you a lot of worry, especially because you have too much to do or too much to think about:

- My new job is very **stressful**.
- **Stressful** conditions may affect people's memory.

nerve-wracking or **nerve-racking** making you feel extremely nervous or worried:

- a **nerve-wracking** few days which have seen billions wiped off shares

Collocation

Nouns frequently used with **anxious**

- day, hour, moment, time, times, wait, week

Nouns frequently used with **tense**

- atmosphere, finish, moment, negotiations, period, silence, situation, stand-off, time

Nouns frequently used with **stressful**

- day, event, experience, job, situation, time, week

Verbs that mean 'to make someone feel worried'

worry someone to make someone feel nervous and upset:

- **It worries me that** Laura's not doing very well at school.
- **What worries me most is** the possibility of failure.
- I don't want to **worry** you, but there's smoke coming from your exhaust.

bother someone to make someone feel slightly worried:

- The only thing that **bothers** me is how I'm going to tell mum and dad.
- Does **it bother you that** people think you're older than he is?

concern someone if a problem concerns you, it worries you:

- **It concerns me that** people are being targeted unfairly.
- **What concerns me most is** how we're going to pay for this.

cause concern or **be a cause for concern**

- Doctors said her condition was **causing concern**.

disturb someone if something disturbs you, it worries you a lot, especially because it is morally wrong:

- **It disturbs me that** so many young people are turning to drugs.
- They listened to his account, clearly **disturbed by** what he was telling them.

trouble someone if something troubles you, it worries you and you do not know what to do about it:

- **It troubles her that** he refuses to confide in her.

Phrases that mean 'to make someone feel worried over a long period'

prey on someone's mind if something preys on your mind, you keep thinking about it and worrying about it all the time:

- His criticisms **preyed on her mind**.

eat away at or **gnaw away at someone** if something eats away or gnaws away at you, you cannot stop thinking about it and it makes you feel very worried and upset:

- The thought that she might leave **ate away at** him.

Verbs that mean 'to feel worried, especially over a long period of time'

worry to feel nervous and upset because you keep thinking about a problem that you have now or may have in the future:

- Try not to **worry** so much.

- People **worry** a lot **about** crime.
- She **worries that** she has taken on too much work.

brood to worry about something a lot and for a long time, even though you cannot do anything about it:

- There no point sitting and **brooding** over it put it behind you.

fret to worry about something continuously, often something that is not very serious:

- Don't **fret about** him, he'll be fine.
- Instead of sitting at home **fretting** she should go out and do something.

Not worried

calm not worried or upset:

- If you can **keep calm**, things are much less likely to go wrong.
- She continued speaking in a **calm**, steady voice.

relaxed calm and not worried:

- Steve came back from holiday looking **relaxed** and tanned.

nonchalant looking relaxed and not worried about anything, especially in a situation where other people are worried:

- He looked **nonchalant** enough as he strolled into the examination room.

unconcerned not worried about a situation or what will happen, especially when other people think you should be:

- He said his client was **unconcerned by** recent threats of violence.

unfazed or **not fazed** not worried or upset by something bad that happens:

- He seems **unfazed by** recent events.
- George **wasn't** too **fazed by** his narrow escape from death.

unruffled not worried or upset in a difficult situation:

- The Prime Minister seemed quite **unruffled by** the challenge to his authority.
- an atmosphere of **unruffled** calm

laid-back calm and relaxed, and seeming not to worry about things:

- She's always so **laid-back** about everything.

Words that describe movement

[Arrive](#)

[Move](#)

[Travel](#)

[Fast](#)

[Run](#)

[Walk](#)



[Leave](#)

[Slow](#)

Arrive

Arrive is one of the most frequent verbs that mean 'to get to a place', but get is also frequently used, followed by an adverb or preposition:

- What time does your train **arrive**?
- I finally **arrived home** at five in the morning.
- They **arrived in** Paris at 6 pm.
- Four police officers **arrived at** the house unannounced.

Note: **Arrive** also means 'to come to a place in order to start living there permanently':

*Her parents **arrived in** America in 1926.*

*They **arrived here** with nothing more than the clothes they stood up in.*

get somewhere to arrive at a place:

- How long does it take to **get from** London to Leeds?
- I was exhausted by the time we **got home**.
- Give me a call when you **get there**.
- I normally **get to** the office about 9.

Note: **Get** is more informal than **arrive**.

reach to arrive somewhere, especially after a long journey:

- When we finally **reached** the campsite, it was already dark.
- What time do you expect to **reach** New York?

turn up to arrive somewhere, often unexpectedly or without making arrangements or telling someone you are coming:

- She just **turned up** on my doorstep with a suitcase.
- You don't need to book, just **turn up**.
- She failed to **turn up** for work on Monday.
- He eventually **turned up** three hours late.

show up to arrive in a place where people are expecting you:

- I'll be very surprised if they **show up** on time.
- He didn't **show up** until well after midnight.

Note: **Show up** is fairly informal. You can also simply say that someone **shows**, but this is more common in American English than in British English:

*We didn't really expect Austin to **show**, but he did.*

make it if someone makes it to a place, they manage to arrive in time, even though they have some problems on the way:

- We just **made it** in time for the wedding.
- They **made it to** the ferry with minutes to spare.

roll in to arrive late, and in a way that shows you do not care:

- Susan **rolled in** half an hour after the rehearsal had started.

Note: **Roll in** is informal.

To arrive in a vehicle

get in or **come in** if a train, plane, bus, or boat gets in or comes in, it arrives:

- What time does your flight **get in**?
- The ferry **gets in to** Brindisi at 10.30.
- The train from Edinburgh **comes in** on platform two.

pull in if a train pulls in, it arrives at a station:

- The train **pulled in** right on time.

land if an aircraft lands, it comes down to the ground:

- Their plane **landed** two hours late.

Note: **Land** also means 'to arrive in a place by plane or boat':

*It was after midnight by the time we **landed**.*

*Give me a call when you **land**.*

dock if a ship docks, it arrives at a port at the end of a journey:

- We **docked at** Liverpool when we came back from India.

Fast

- Simon loves **fast cars**.
- She's a really **fast runner**
- I'm not as **fast** as Sam, but I'm **faster** than the others.
- The cheetah is the **fastest** mammal on earth.
- a **fast** journey
- The **fastest** time was 4 minutes 23 seconds.

Going fast or doing things fast

quick able to move quickly:

- He's surprisingly **quick** for such a big man.
- There wasn't much I could do. He was **quicker** and he won hands down.
- She's **quicker** than I am, but she isn't as strong.
- It was my second **quickest time** ever.

Note: **Quick** is also used to talk about something such as a look, a smile, or a question that is over in a very short time:

*Can I just ask a **quick question**?*

*Let's take a **quick break** and then carry on with the agenda.*

brisk moving or acting quickly and energetically:

- We went out for a **brisk** walk yesterday.

hurried done quickly because you do not have much time:

- We made a **hurried** decision to continue the journey.

rapid happening, acting, or moving quickly: used especially about change and development:

- There's been a **rapid** growth in the use of the Internet.
- Mergers involving big banks have been occurring **at a rapid rate** during the last five years.

Note: **Rapid** is used mainly in written English.

Collocation

Nouns frequently used with **rapid**

- advances, change, decline, development, expansion, growth, increase, pace, progress, rate, rise, spread

swift moving quickly:

- Muriel leaped to her feet and took two **swift** paces to the door.
- He turned, and the **swift** movement made her jump.

Note: **Swift** is fairly formal and is used mainly in written English.

Being able to move fast

speedy capable of moving very fast:

- Public transport has to be **speedy**, and it has to be safe.
- United scored first when their **speedy** striker found the net after 15 minutes.

nippy able to move fast and easily:

- a **nippy** little sports car
- He is never going to be exactly **nippy**, but he is not slow.

Note: **Nippy** is informal and is used in British English.

Adverbs and phrases that mean 'moving fast'

fast quickly:

- We drove as **fast** as we could to the hospital.
- She can't run very **fast**.
- Concorde flew **faster** than the speed of sound.

quickly at a fast speed:

- She walked **quickly** along the drive.
- The river flows more **quickly** here.

briskly in a fast and energetic manner:

- He set off **briskly** but soon slowed down.

rapidly without delay, or in a very short time:

- Changes to the program were **rapidly** made.

swiftly quickly:

- She started up the engine and drove **swiftly** away.
- He walked **swiftly** along the corridor and down the stairs.

speedily at a fast speed:

- A car came **speedily** towards the house.

at high or **top speed** very fast, or as fast as possible:

- Richard drove us home **at high speed**.
- The skaters move across the ice **at top speed**.

like a flash or **quick as a flash** or **in a flash** very quickly:

- She was at his side **in a flash**.

like lightning or **at lightning speed** very quickly:

- These guys move around **at lightning speed**.
- Mitch moved **like lightning** and caught her as she fell.

Verbs that mean 'to move fast'

See also **Run**.

dart to make a sudden quick movement somewhere:

- Small boats **darted** like dragonflies across the lake.

fly to move fast through the air:

- Pieces of glass and concrete **were flying** in all directions.
- A bullet **flew** past his head.

Note: **Fly** is also used metaphorically of people, meaning 'to move quickly':

*She **flew past** me on her bike.*

*Skiers were **flying down** the slopes.*

hurry to do something or move somewhere, quickly, especially when you are late or when you must do something and you do not have much time:

- We must **hurry** or we'll be late.
- They **hurried** into the room, talking loudly as they did so.

rush to hurry in order to get somewhere very quickly:

- The door burst open and Jo **rushed in**.

speed to move quickly, especially in a vehicle:

- an endless stream of traffic **speeding** towards the city
- I heard a car **speed away**.
- The train **sped along** in the dark.

Note: **Speed** is used mainly in written English. **Speed** also means 'to drive faster than the fastest speed that is legally allowed':

*Drivers who are caught **speeding** risk a heavy fine.*

zoom to move very fast, especially in a car or other road vehicle:

- He came **zooming down** the street on his motorcycle.
- We lay awake listening to the cars **zooming past**.

Verbs and phrases that mean 'to move faster'

speed up to start to move faster:

- Drivers **speed up** as they leave the village.
- She **speeded up** until she was almost running.

accelerate if a vehicle or a driver accelerates, the vehicle starts to move faster:

- Suddenly the van **accelerated**.
- He **accelerated** up a dark steep hill.

put on speed or **put on a spurt** to suddenly move faster:

- They **put on speed** until they caught up with him.
- He **put on** a bit of a **spurt** and overtook me.

gain speed or **gather speed** or **pick up speed** if a vehicle gains, gathers, or picks up speed, its speed gradually increases:

- The train **gathered speed** as it left the station.

Leave

See also **Move**.

Leave is one of the most frequent verbs that means 'to go away from the place where you are and go to another place', but **go** is also frequently used, especially followed by an adverb:

- We **left** London at three.
- What time did you **leave**?
- Your plane **leaves** in ten minutes.
- If they **leave** after lunch they should be here by 5.
- She **leaves for** work at 7.30 every morning.

Note: **Leave** also means 'to stop living in a place permanently, in order to go and live somewhere else':

*Donna **left** her home town for New York in 1993.*

*I **left** home when I was 18.*

*When did you **leave** Australia?*

go to leave a place:

- What time are you **going** tomorrow?
- I'm tired, let's **go**.
- Don't **go**, stay a bit longer.

go away to leave a place, especially your home, for a period of time:

- He decided to **go away** for a while.
- We're **going away** for two weeks in August.

go off to leave a place, especially for a particular purpose:

- Dave's **gone off** to the south of France for the summer.
- He **went off to** have lunch in the canteen.

go out to leave your house, especially in order to do something enjoyable:

- I usually **go out** on Friday night.
- Let's **go out for** a meal some time.
- She wasn't allowed to **go out and** play with friends.

set off or **set out** to leave a place at the start of a journey:

- She climbed into her car and **set off for** Oxford.
- They **set out** early the next morning.

depart to leave a place and start a journey:

- The plane **departed** at noon.
- The tour **departs** daily at 10 a.m.
- Your flight **departs from** Shannon airport.
- The Foreign Minister will **depart for** Cairo this evening.

Note: **Depart** is used in official contexts such as schedules and timetables, and in formal written English. People sometimes also use it in speech as a humorous way of saying that they are leaving. In British English, you **depart from** a place; in American English you **depart** a place: *Before **departing** Colombo, they visited a Buddhist temple.*

vacate something to leave a room, a house, or other building so that someone else can use it:

- Please **vacate** your room by midday.
- We **vacated** the premises on the last day of the month.

exit or **exit something** to leave an area, for example a room, a building, or an aircraft:

- Please **exit** the building via the main door.
- Passengers are requested to **exit from** the aircraft using the emergency exits.
- The intruder grabbed a handbag and then **exited** the house.

Note: **Vacate** and **exit** are both formal, and are used especially in official contexts

To leave a place for a short time

nip out or pop out to leave a place quickly and for a short time:

- She had **nipped out** to buy some milk.
- Mum's **popped out** for a minute.

step out to leave a place quickly and for a short time:

- I'm sorry, Karen's just **stepped out** for a second.

Note: These verbs are all informal. **Nip out** and **pop out** are used in British English, while **step out** is used mainly in American English.

To leave a place suddenly because you are angry

storm out or **storm off** to leave a place quickly because you are very angry or upset:

- Rob **stormed out** of the house and slammed the door.
- When I asked her about it she just **stormed off**.

walk out to suddenly leave a place, with no intention of coming back:

- They had a row and Tom **walked out** and went to live with his grandmother.

flounce off or **flounce out** to walk away quickly, moving in an exaggerated way, when you want to show that you feel angry or offended:

- She **flounced out of** the room.

To leave in a vehicle

drive off if a vehicle or driver drives off, the vehicle starts moving and leaves:

- He got into the car and **drove off**.
- Two minutes later the taxi **drove off**.

pull away if a vehicle or driver pulls away, the vehicle leaves the place where it was and gradually moves more quickly:

- The bus **pulled away** just as I got to the bus stop.
- She glanced at her watch as the train **pulled away** from the platform.
- I saw the policeman just as I **pulled away** from the kerb.

pull out if a train pulls out, it leaves the station:

- The train was **pulling out** but they managed to jump on.

take off if an aircraft takes off, it leaves the ground:

- The plane **took off** bang on time.

take-off

- **Take-off** was slightly delayed.

sail if a ship sails, it leaves a port in order to begin a journey:

- When do you **sail**?
- Our ship **sails from** Southampton on the 23rd.

set sail

- The Titanic **set sail** on April 10th, 1912.

Move

See also **Leave/Arrive**, **Run**, **Travel**, and **Walk**.

Move is a very general verb that means 'to change your position or go to a different place'. You will often want to use a more specific verb such as **go** or **come** instead:

- She **moved towards** the door.
- It was so hot, no one felt like **moving**.
- The traffic was barely **moving**.

- It's getting late, we should **move**.
- We'll be **moving around** a lot so it may be difficult to contact us.

go to move or travel to a place that is away from where you are now:

- Where did Sue **go**?
- She **went into** the bathroom and rinsed her face with cold water.
- The fastest way to get to the library is to **go through** the park.
- We're planning to **go to** Spain this winter.

go by bus or **car** or **train** or **plane**

- In the end they decided to **go by car**.

go on foot

- It's quicker to **go on foot**.

come to move or travel to the place where the speaker is:

- Why don't you **come here** first and we can go together?
- There's a man **coming up** the path.
- Someone's **coming** to fix the computer this morning.
- I'm off now are you **coming**?
- We're going into town, do you want to **come with** us?
- Would you like to **come and** have dinner with us soon?

come by bus or **car** or **train** or **plane**

- We flew to Paris and **came** the rest of the way **by train**.

travel to go from one place to another, especially in a vehicle:

- Did you have to **travel** far to get here?
- He **travels to** London and back every day.

travel by bus or **car** or **train** or **plane**

- We usually **travel by bus**.
- Mum hates **travelling by car**.

hurry to move somewhere quickly, especially when you do not have much time to reach the place you are going to:

- We'd better **hurry** or we'll be late.
- Alec had to **hurry home** but I stayed on.
- She **hurried along** the corridor.
- They **hurried through** the deserted streets, anxious to get home.

return to go back to a place where you were earlier, or to come back from a place where you have just been:

- One day she just walked out and never **returned**.
- They **returned from** Paris in 1996.

- She never **returned to** Iran.
- He **returned home** about midnight.

Note: **Return** is a little more formal than **go back** or **come back**, and is used mainly in writing.

To move towards a particular place

head for or **head towards** to go in a particular direction:

- We decided to **head for** home.
- The last time I saw her, she was **heading towards** the supermarket.

head north/south/east/west

- They **headed north**, across the desert.

head back or **head home**

- We should **head back**, it's getting late.

be headed

- Where **are you headed**?

make for to move towards a place, quickly or in a determined way:

- He picked up his bag and **made for** the door.
- We were **making for** the summit, but we only got halfway up.

make your way to go towards a place, especially slowly, steadily, or with difficulty:

- We **made our way to** the front of the crowd.
- She **made her way** carefully across the boggy ground.
- Can you **make your way** here alone?

To move in large numbers

flood to go somewhere in very large numbers, in a way that seems uncontrollable:

- Refugees were **flooding out of** the capital.
- Irish Catholic immigrants **flooded into** the United States a century ago.

pour to go somewhere quickly and in large numbers:

- Troops **poured across** the border.
- It was 3.30 and the kids were **pouring out of** school.

stream to move in large numbers in a continuous flow:

- 1,200 students **streamed into** the auditorium.
- Cars were **streaming over** the bridge.

troop to walk somewhere in large numbers and in an orderly way:

- The bell goes and they all **troop into** school.

Verbs that describe what noise people or things make when they move

chug if a vehicle chugs, it makes a series of low sounds as it moves slowly:

- The train **chugged into** the station.

clatter to move somewhere making a series of short loud sounds:

- They **clattered along** the pavement in their high heels, talking loudly.

crash about or **crash around** to make loud sounds while moving around, as if you are bumping into things or breaking things:

- I could hear my brother **crashing about** upstairs.

patter to move somewhere, making a series of short quiet sounds with your feet:

- Lily **pattered over** to the window.

rustle to make a low sound like the one that leaves or sheets of paper make when they move:

- A nurse **rustled into** the room.
- Leaves **rustled** on the trees.

thud to make a low dull sound when moving somewhere or hitting a surface:

- Heavy footsteps **thudded across** the front porch.

Run

See also **Walk**.

- You'll have to **run** if you want to catch the bus.
- A cat **ran across** the road in front of us.
- I **ran to** the door and opened it.
- She's planning to **run in** the London marathon.

go for a run or go running

- I **went for a run** after work.
- I like to **go running** twice a week.

To run very fast

dash to run somewhere very fast because you are in a hurry:

- I **dashed out** into the street, still in my pyjamas.
- Maria came **dashing down** the stairs.

make a dash for something (=to run very quickly in order to reach a place)

- She **made a** sudden **dash** for the door.
- It was starting to pour with rain, so we **made a dash for** shelter.

make a dash for it (=to run very quickly in order to escape or to reach a place)

- I looked at the guards and wondered whether to **make a dash for it**.

race to run somewhere very fast:

- I **raced to** the front of the house and dashed through the front door.
- The two boys **raced down** to the harbour to see the boats come in.

Note: A **race** is a competition to decide who is fastest and the verb **to race** sometimes means to compete in a race:

*Only 11 of the original 18 horses **will be racing**.*

sprint to run very fast for a short time:

- Stella **sprinted off** down the street ahead of them.
- Adam Roxburgh **sprinted** 60 metres to score a brilliant goal.

tear to run somewhere very fast, without looking where you are going because you are in a hurry:

- Mike **tore along** the corridor to his classroom.
- A man was **tearing down** the street pursued by two policemen.

Note: **Tear** is often used with the verbs 'come' and 'go':

*A car came **tearing past** at high speed.*

*Tim went **tearing off** after the dog.*

charge to run somewhere quickly, in an energetic and determined way:

- The door opened and Penny **charged into** the room.
- the sound of many pairs of feet **charging down** the stairs

Other words:

CAREER, HARE, HURTLE

To run fairly slowly

jog to run at a slow steady speed, for exercise or pleasure:

- She **jogged down** the track towards the beach.

go for a jog or go jogging

- We **went for a jog** around the park.
- He goes **jogging** almost every day.

trot to run slowly and steadily, taking short steps:

- A long line of men **trotted** slowly **across** the field.
- I **trotted back** to the car.

a trot

- He set off **at a trot**.
- When they saw us they **broke into a trot**.

Note: **Trot** is usually used to talk about the movement of animals, especially horses.

To run with short quick steps

scamper to run with small light steps, like a child or a small animal:

- The children **scampered off** to the village hall for their free tea.
- She could hear children **scampering** in the room above.

scurry to move with small quick steps, especially because you are in a hurry or afraid:

- People were **scurrying around** like ants.
- The gunmen fired several rocket-propelled grenades as panicked shoppers **scurried for** safety.

Slow

- My sister is so **slow**, I can't bear walking with her.
- Most large lorries are **slow** and difficult to drive.
- a long **slow** walk to the top of the hill
- He was the **slowest** runner in the class.

leisurely slow and relaxed, especially when you are doing something that you enjoy and you don't want to hurry:

- I took a long **leisurely** walk along the beach.
- I turned over and did a **leisurely** backstroke back up the pool.

Note: **Leisurely** is often used for talking about a long, relaxed meal:

a leisurely breakfast/lunch/dinner

unhurried slow and relaxed, without any worry about taking a long time:

- They made a long, **unhurried** descent down the mountain.

slow-moving moving slowly:

- a line of **slow-moving** traffic

Collocation

Nouns frequently used with **leisurely**

- cruise, drive, journey, pace, stroll, walk

Nouns frequently used with **slow-moving**

- car, convoy, crowd, queue, river, traffic

gradual happening slowly and in small stages:

- An initial steep climb was followed by a **gradual** ascent to the summit.

sluggish moving or happening more slowly than usual or more slowly than you would like:

- It wasn't a good match for me, I felt tired and a bit **sluggish**.
- The traffic was heavy, and we got off to a rather **sluggish** start.

Adverbs and phrases that mean 'moving slowly'

slowly moving at a slow speed:

- They drove **slowly** along the seafront.
- A group of swans was swimming **slowly** across the lake.
- She asked him to walk more **slowly**.

sluggishly not moving as quickly as usual or as quickly as you would like:

- Christie got away **sluggishly** but managed to overtake his rival by the 50-metre mark.

at (a) low speed or **at a slow speed** slowly:

- She'd been wearing her seatbelt and travelling **at a very slow speed**.

at (a) snail's pace extremely slowly, especially when this is annoying and frustrating:

- The bus driver took his vehicle **at snail's pace** along Princes Street.
- We set off back towards the city centre, crawling along **at a snail's pace**.

in slow motion very slowly, like a film that has been slowed down:

- Everything seemed to go **in slow motion** and then stood still.

Verbs and phrases that mean 'to move more slowly'

slow or **slow down** to move more slowly:

- I ran for a while and then **slowed** as the woods came into view.
- The traffic **slowed down** before stopping completely.

slow to a crawl or **halt**

- Heavy fog forced drivers to **slow to a crawl**.

slacken or **slacken off** to become slower or less active:

- His pace **slackened** as he approached the house.
- When you're in the lead, don't **slacken off**.
- After three years of rapid growth, economic activity began to **slacken**.

cut (your) speed or **decrease (your) speed** or **reduce (your) speed** to move more slowly, especially in a vehicle:

- It's a huge problem to get people to **reduce** their **speed**.

Travel

See also **Move**.

- Did you have to **travel** far to get here?
- I usually **travel** by bus.
- He spends a lot of time **travelling abroad**.
- Joe had to **travel to** Australia on business.
- We spent last summer **travelling around** France.

commute to travel regularly to and from the place where you work:

- I **commute** by car.
- The railway network allows office workers to **commute to** the city from distant suburbs.

Note: People who regularly travel to and from work by train or car are called **commuters**.

tour to visit several different places for pleasure:

- They spent their honeymoon **touring in** Italy.
- We intend to **tour** eastern Europe next summer.

Note: **Tour** is also often used about groups of musicians, actors, or sports people when they travel to various places to play or be in concerts:

*It was the first time a British band had **toured** in China.*

backpack to travel around an area on foot or using public transport, often carrying a backpack and without much money: used especially of young people:

- In my twenties I **backpacked** my way around South Asia.

go backpacking

- He **went backpacking** in Vietnam for a year.

Note: The verbs **to journey** and **to voyage** mean to travel, but are used in formal and literary contexts. **Voyage** is used especially to talk about a long journey by boat or into space:

*In the spring they **journeyed onwards** to Mexico City.*

*He spent more than a decade **voyaging around** the world in his 40-foot wooden boat.*

To travel in a particular means of transport

drive to travel by car:

- We usually **drive to** Italy but this year we're flying.
- Today I **drove into** work, but I prefer to use public transport.

Note: **Drive** also means 'to control a moving car or other road vehicle'. It is usually used as an intransitive verb (rather than in the expression 'drive a car'):

*I didn't learn to **drive** until I was nearly thirty.*

fly to travel by plane:

- Sometimes it's cheaper to **fly**.
- We **flew from** Amsterdam to London.
- They **flew into** Heathrow late last night.

Note: **Fly** also means 'to control a plane when it is in the air':

*Emma's learning to **fly**.*

*My grandfather **flew** bombers during the war.*

cycle to travel by bicycle:

- She generally **cycles to** school.
- We're going to spend two weeks **cycling around** Holland.
- **Cycling** is fun and good for you.

Note: To ask if someone knows how to use a bicycle you say *Can you ride a bike?* not *Can you cycle?*

ride to sit on a horse, bicycle, or motorcycle and control it as it moves along:

- a group of children **riding** ponies.
- He **rides** his **bike** to school.
- They **rode off** on their motorcycles.
- Sarah's learning to **ride**.

Note:

If it is not specified what someone is riding, **ride** usually refers only to horses.

sail to travel by boat or ship:

- **Sail to** Greece aboard the SS Monterey.
- They spent their holiday **sailing** the Caribbean (=sailing a boat around the Caribbean).

Note: **Sail** also means to control the movement of a boat or ship, especially one that is moved by the wind:

*It's a great opportunity to learn to **sail**.*

Phrases that describe how someone travels

go by air or **by sea** or **by land** to travel in a plane, a ship, or a road vehicle:

- The flowers are sent all over Europe **by air**.
- **Going by sea** can be very relaxing.

take or **catch a bus** or **train** or **plane** to use a bus, train, or plane as a means of transport:

- We **took the bus** into town.
- For longer journeys I prefer to **take the train**.
- We drove to the airport and **caught a plane to** Nice.

go by bus or **car** or **train** or **bike** or **coach** or **plane** to travel using a bus, car, train, bike, coach, or plane as a means of transport:

- We **went to** Brussels **by train**.
- If you **go by coach** it's cheaper but it takes longer.

Nouns that mean 'a journey' and show what type of transport is used

flight a journey by plane:

- My **flight** was delayed.
- The **flight to** Heathrow took two hours.

drive a journey in a car:

- It's a 30-mile **drive to** the hospital.
- We **went for a drive** in Jack's new car.
- The hotel is 10 minutes' **drive from** the airport.

crossing a journey by boat:

- This was my first transatlantic **crossing**.
- The **crossing** was rough (=it was windy and the waves were high).

ride a journey on a horse or other animal, on a bike or motorcycle, or in a vehicle:

- Michelle let me **have a ride** on her horse.
- a donkey **ride**.
- a two-hour **bike ride**.
- We **went for a ride** in a helicopter.
- The **ride in** the taxi was hot and bumpy.

Note: In American English, a **ride** is also free journey in someone else's vehicle:

*I'll get a **ride** home with Jeff.*

The British English equivalent is **lift**:

*I'm going there myself, so I could give you a **lift**.*

Nouns that mean 'an occasion when you travel'

Note: **Travel** is not a countable noun and you cannot say 'a travel': use one of the words below such as **journey** or **trip**.

trip an occasion when you go somewhere and come back again:

- a **trip** to Brazil
- a fishing/camping/sightseeing **trip**
- a bus/train/boat **trip**
- My parents are planning their first **trip abroad**.
- The whole family **went on a trip** to Disneyland.

a day trip (when you go and come back on the same day)

- **a day trip** to Paris

journey an occasion when you travel from one place to another, especially when there is a long distance between them:

- We had a long **journey** ahead of us.
- It's a seven-hour **journey to Boston from** here.
- They set off **on the long journey** home.

a bus or car or train journey

- a twelve-hour **train journey**

voyage a long trip either by sea or in space:

- a **voyage across** the Atlantic
- man's first **voyage to** the moon

tour a journey in which you visit several places for pleasure:

- a two-week **tour of** Ireland

excursion an organized visit to an interesting place, often arranged by a tour company as part of a holiday:

- The cruise includes several optional **excursions**.
- a one-day **excursion** to the Grand Canyon

expedition a long journey organized for a particular purpose, often to a distant or dangerous place:

- an **expedition** on foot **to** the North Pole
- We are hoping to **mount an expedition** to the remote jungles of Borneo.

sb's travels the journeys that someone makes to different places:

- Her **travels** have taken her half way round the world.

- When are you back from your **travels**?
- We met a lot of interesting people on our **travels**.

Nouns that mean 'someone who travels'

passenger someone who is travelling in a motor vehicle or on a plane, train, or ship but who is not the driver or one of the people who works on it:

- Two other **passengers** in the car suffered serious injuries.
- The safety of **passengers** and crew is paramount.
- **Rail passengers** are furious at the latest increase in fares.

traveller someone who is travelling, especially a long distance, or someone who travels often:

- The government has issued new health advice for **travellers**.
- Air **travellers** endured a third day of disruption as flights were cancelled.
- The hotel welcomes business **travellers**.

commuter someone who travels regularly to and from work:

- The train was packed with rush-hour **commuters** when it left the station.

tourist someone who travels to a place on holiday:

- The islands attract more than 17,000 **tourists** a year.

Walk

See also **Run**.

- I generally **walk** to work.
- Shall we **walk** or take the car?
- She **walks** three miles each day

have a walk or **go for a walk** or **take a walk**:

- I try to **go for a walk** every day.

Note: You can use the phrase **on foot** to say that you walked somewhere rather than using a vehicle:

'Did you drive?' 'No, I came **on foot**.'

*The bus didn't come so we set off **on foot**.*

To walk slowly and without any definite purpose

stroll to walk for pleasure and without hurrying:

- They were **strolling through** the park

go for a stroll

- Let's **go for a stroll** round the lake.

wander to walk without a specific purpose, when you are not going anywhere in particular:

- We **wandered through** the streets of the old town.
- I found her **wandering around** outside in her nightclothes.

go for a wander

- They **went for a wander** round the market as soon as they arrived.

saunter to walk in a slow and relaxed way:

- He was **sauntering along** without a care in the world.

amble to walk in a slow and relaxed way, especially when you are not going anywhere in particular:

- We **ambled along** the cliff path.

Note: **Amble** and **saunter** are used mainly in writing, especially in novels and in some types of journalism.

To walk slowly and with difficulty

shuffle to walk slowly without lifting your feet off the ground, especially because you are ill or old:

- She just **shuffles around** the house, never bothering to go out.

stagger to walk with uneven steps, almost falling over, for example because you are ill, injured, or drunk:

- She managed to **stagger to** the phone before collapsing on the floor.
- The street was full of drunks, **staggering all over** the place.

trudge to walk slowly and with effort, usually because you are tired and have been walking for a long time:

- We **trudged up** the slope and collapsed at the top.

plod to walk with slow heavy steps:

- We **plodded on** through the mud to reach the cottage.

tramp to walk slowly for a long distance:

- Men and women **tramped** the streets looking for work.

trek to walk somewhere slowly and with no enthusiasm:

- I have no desire to **trek up** that hill again let's get the bus.

Note: See also **trek** in the group 'to walk as a hobby or in an organized group'.

limp to walk with difficulty because of an injured leg or foot:

- Cayne **limped off** the pitch with an ankle injury.

To walk quickly or with a definite purpose

march to walk quickly, in an angry, confident or determined way:

- He **marched up** to the counter and demanded to see the manager.
- She just **marched into** my office and started telling me what to do.

Note: When soldiers **march**, they walk in a group and they all go at exactly the same speed.

stride to walk quickly, taking big steps:

- He **strode off** and I had to run to keep up with him.

pace to walk up and down a small area, especially because you are impatient, nervous, or worried:

- Jack was **pacing up and down**, checking his watch every few minutes.

strike out to walk in a particular direction in a way that shows energy and determination:

- We decided to **strike out for** the nearest village.

To walk quietly

creep to walk slowly without making any noise, because you don't want people to hear or notice you:

- He **crept out** of his bedroom and down the stairs.
- I heard someone **creeping about**.

tiptoe to walk on your toes, so that no one will hear you:

- Sue **tiptoed out** of the room, turning off the light as she went.

pad to walk quietly, especially when you have no shoes on:

- I got out of bed and **padded across** the hall to the bathroom.

sneak to move somewhere quietly and secretly so that no one can see you or hear you:

- She **sneaked into** the house by the back entrance.

Note: The usual past tense of **sneak** is **sneaked**, but you can also use **snuck**:
He snuck up behind me and tapped me on the shoulder.

To walk proudly

swagger to walk proudly and with big confident movements:

- He pushed open the door and **swaggered over** to the bar.

strut to walk in a proud way, holding yourself very straight:

- She **struts around** as if she owns the place.

Note: **Swagger** and **strut** are used mainly in written English. These words suggest that the person who is swaggering or strutting thinks that they are more important than they really are.

To walk in a way that shows you are impatient or angry

flounce to walk somewhere quickly, moving in an exaggerated way, when you want to show that you feel angry or offended:

- She **flounced into** the living room and threw herself down in a chair.

storm to walk somewhere quickly because you are very angry or upset:

- Rob **stormed out of** the house, banging the door as he went.
- I hope you'll think more carefully before you **storm in** to confront the boss.

stomp to walk with heavy steps making a lot of noise, because you are angry:

- Kevin **stomped into** his office looking furious.

To walk as a hobby or in an organized group

hike to go for a long walk in the countryside, especially as a hobby or when you are on holiday:

- They **hiked** over 15 miles that day.

go for a hike or **go hiking**

- We **went for a hike** in the hills.
- I haven't **been hiking** for years.

trek or **go trekking** to go on a long and challenging trip on foot. Some people go on holiday to do this, often as part of a group:

- She's **going trekking** in New Zealand.

a trek

- a three-week **trek** in the foothills of the Himalayas.

ramble to go walking in the countryside as part of an organized group:

- We **rambled along** the trail, high up into the mountains.

go for a ramble

- I love **going for a ramble** along the small country lanes.