

frighten

[ˈfraɪn] v

- пугать
- to be frightened of smth. - бояться чего-л.
 - to frighten a child into fits - напугать ребёнка до судорог
 - to frighten smb. into submission - страхом заставить кого-л. повиноваться
 - to frighten out of doing smth. - заставить отказаться от чего-л. путём запугивания
 - to frighten smb. out of his wits - сильно напугать кого-л.
 - to frighten smb., smth. away - спугнуть кого-л., что-л.

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

frighten

fright-en [frighten frightens frightened frightening] BrE ['fraɪn] st NAmE

['fraɪn] st verb transitive, intransitive ~ (sb) | ~ sb to do sth

to make sb suddenly feel afraid

- Sorry, I didn't mean to frighten you.
- She's not easily frightened.
- She **doesn't frighten easily** (= it is not easy to make her afraid) .

see frighten/scare the (living) daylight out of sb **at** ↑daylights, frighten/scare sb to death **at** ↑death, frighten/scare the life out of sb **at** ↑life

Derived ↑frighten somebody away from something ▪ ↑frighten somebody into doing something ▪ ↑frighten somebody off

Verb forms:

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we / they	frighten
	BrE / 'fraɪn/
	NAmE / 'fraɪn/
he / she / it	frightens
	BrE / 'fraɪnz/
	NAmE / 'fraɪnz/
past simple, past participle	
	frightened
	BrE / 'fraɪnd/
	NAmE / 'fraɪnd/
-ing form	
	frightening
	BrE / 'fraɪnɪŋ/
	NAmE / 'fraɪnɪŋ/

Thesaurus:

frighten verb T

- She's not easily frightened.
- scare** • **terrify** • **alarm** • **traumatize** • **intimidate** • |informal **spook** • |written **cow** •

Opp: reassure

frighten/scare **away/off**
 frighten/scare/terrify/intimidate/cow sb **into** doing sth
 It frightens/scares/terrifies/alarms me **that...**

Frighten or scare? Scare is more common in spoken English. Both words can be used without an object: **He doesn't frighten/scare easily.**, but it would be more usual to say: **Nothing frightens/scares him.**

Synonyms:

frighten

scare • alarm • terrify

- These words all mean to make sb afraid.
- frighten** • to make sb feel afraid, often suddenly: ▪ He brought out a gun and frightened them off.
 - scare** • to make sb feel afraid: ▪ They managed to scare the bears away.
 - alarm** • to make sb anxious or afraid: ▪ It alarms me that nobody takes this problem seriously.
- Alarm** is used when sb has a feeling that sth unpleasant or dangerous might happen in the future; the feeling is often more one of worry than actual fear.
- terrify** • to make sb feel extremely afraid: ▪ Flying terrified her.

frighten or scare?

Scare is slightly more informal than **frighten**.
 to frighten/scare sb/sth **away/off**
 to frighten/scare/terrify sb **into** doing sth
It frightens/scares/alarms/terrifies me **that...**
It frightens/scares/alarms/terrifies me **to** think, see, etc.

Example Bank:

- Don't creep around like that! You frightened the life out of me!
- I didn't mean to frighten you.
- The prospect of war really frightens me.
- a man who doesn't frighten easily
- He brought out a gun and frightened them off.
- She's not easily frightened.
- Stop it! You're frightening me!

frighten

fright /'fraɪn/ *BrE* ^ˈ *AmE* ^ˈ verb [transitive]

[Word Family: adjective: ↑frightened, ↑frightening, ↑frightful; noun: ↑fright, ↑frighteners; adverb: ↑frighteningly, ↑frightfully; verb: ↑frighten]

to make someone feel afraid **SYN** **scare**:

- Don't stand so near the edge! You're frightening me.
- She was frightened by the anger in his eyes.
- Computers used to frighten me, but not now.

frighten somebody to death/frighten the life out of somebody (=make someone feel extremely afraid)

- He drove at a speed which frightened Lara to death.

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THESAURUS

- **frighten** to make someone feel afraid: The thought of being in court frightened him.
- **scare** *especially spoken* to frighten someone. **Scare** is less formal than **frighten**, and is the usual word to use in everyday English: He was driving fast just to scare us. | It scared him to think that his mother might never recover.
- **terrify** to make someone feel extremely frightened: The idea of going down into the caves terrified her. | Robbers terrified bank staff by threatening them at gunpoint.
- **give somebody a fright** to make someone suddenly feel frightened in a way that makes their heart beat more quickly: It gave me a terrible fright when I found him unconscious on the floor.
- **give somebody the creeps** if a person or place gives you the creeps, they make you feel slightly frightened because they are strange: This house gives me the creeps.
- **startle** to frighten someone. Used when you suddenly see someone and did not know they were there, or when you suddenly hear something: I'm sorry. I didn't mean to startle you. | The noise startled him, and he dropped his glass on the floor.
- **alarm** to make someone feel frightened and worried that something bad might happen: I didn't want to alarm her by calling in the middle of the night.
- **intimidate** to deliberately frighten someone, especially so that they will do what you want: Many of the gangs were using dogs to intimidate people.

frighten somebody ↔ **away** *phrasal verb*

to make a person or animal go away by making them feel afraid:

- Terrorist activity in the area has frightened most tourists away.

frighten somebody into something *phrasal verb*

to force someone to do something by making them afraid

frighten somebody into doing something

- He frightened me into staying silent.

frighten somebody/something ↔ **off** *phrasal verb*

to make a person or animal so nervous or afraid that they go away or do not do something they were going to do:

- The investors were frightened off by the company's low profits that year.

frighten

12500 **3027**^{MCW}

15000 **2226**^{COCA}

RANGE: **2k** **FRIGHT** 14448

fright 1002

frights 29

frightful 329

frightens 385

frightening 4442

frightened 6796

frighten 1041

frighteningly 304

frightener 0

frighteners 5

frightfully 115

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

745 **23859**³²⁰ *vvi*

206 **50194**²²¹ *vv0*