

astonish

[ə'stɒnɪʃ] **v**

удивлять, изумлять

to be astonished at smth. - изумляться /удивляться/ чему-л.

we were astonished to hear that - мы были поражены, когда это узнали

astonish

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

as-ton-ish [astonish astonishes astonished astonishing] **BrE** [ə'stɒnɪʃ] ^u

NAmE [ə'staʊnɪʃ] ^u **verb**

to surprise sb very much

Syn: ↑amaze

- ~ **sb** The news astonished everyone.
- She astonished us by saying she was leaving.
- **it astonishes sb (that)...** It astonishes me (that) he could be so thoughtless.

Verb forms:

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we /they	astonish
	BrE /ə'stɒnɪʃ/
	NAmE /ə'staʊnɪʃ/
he / she /it	astonishes
	BrE /ə'stɒnɪʃɪz/
	NAmE /ə'staʊnɪʃɪz/
past simple, past participle	astonished
	BrE /ə'stɒnɪʃt/
	NAmE /ə'staʊnɪʃt/
-ing form	astonishing
	BrE /ə'stɒnɪʃɪŋ/
	NAmE /ə'staʊnɪʃɪŋ/

Word Origin:

early 16th cent. (as astonished, in the sense 'stunned, bewildered, dismayed'): from obsolete astone 'stun, stupefy', from Old French **estoner**, based on Latin **ex-** 'out' + **tonare** 'to thunder'.

Synonyms:

surprise

startle • **amaze** • **stun** • **astonish** • **take sb aback** • **astound**

These words all mean to make sb feel surprised.

surprise • to give sb the feeling that you get when sth happens that you do not expect or do not understand, or sth that you do expect does not happen; to make sb feel surprised: ▪ The outcome didn't surprise me at all.

startle • to surprise sb suddenly in a way that slightly shocks or frightens them: ▪ Sorry, I didn't mean to startle you. ◇▪ The explosion startled the horse.

amaze • to surprise sb very much: ▪ Just the huge size of the place amazed her.

stun • (rather informal) (often in newspapers) to surprise or shock sb so much that they cannot think clearly or speak

astonish • to surprise sb very much: ▪ The news astonished everyone

amaze or astonish?

These two words have the same meaning and in most cases you can use either. If you are talking about sth that both surprises you and makes you feel ashamed, use **astonish**: ▪ He was astonished by his own stupidity.

take sb aback • [usually passive] (especially of sth negative) to surprise or shock sb: ▪ We were rather taken aback by her hostile reaction.

astound • to surprise or shock sb very much: ▪ His arrogance astounded her.

It surprises sb/startles sb/amazes sb/stuns sb/astonishes sb/takes sb aback/astounds sb

to surprise/startle/amaze/stun/astonish/astound sb that...

to surprise/amaze sb what/how...

to surprise/startle/amaze/stun/astonish/astound sb to know/find/learn/see/hear...

to be surprised/startled/stunned into (doing) sth

Example Bank:

- You astonish me!

astonish

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

as-ton-ish /ə'stɒnɪʃ \$ ə'staʊnɪʃ **BrE** ^u **AmE** ^u **verb** [transitive]

[**Date:** 1500-1600; **Origin:** astone 'to astonish' (14-17 centuries) (from Old French estoner, from Vulgar Latin extonare, from Latin tonare 'to thunder') + -ish (as in abolish)]

to surprise someone very much **SYN amaze** :

- Her reply astonished me.
- It astonished him that she had changed so little.
- What astonishes me most is his complete lack of fear.
- • •

THESAURUS

- **surprise** to make someone feel surprised, especially because they did not expect something: Her reaction surprised me – I

- didn't realize how strongly she felt. | What surprised me was how cheap everything was compared to at home.
- **amaze** to greatly surprise someone, for example because something is very good, unusual, or hard to believe: He amazed everyone with his skill. | It amazes me that no one has thought of the idea before.
 - **astonish** to greatly surprise someone: Myra astonished her doctors by recovering so quickly.
 - **astound** to greatly surprise or shock someone. **Astound** sounds a little more formal and a little stronger than **astonish**: What astounded him was their inefficiency.
 - **take somebody by surprise** to happen at an unexpected time, so that people are surprised or unprepared: Security men were taken by surprise as the man ran onto the stage. | His resignation took us by surprise.
 - **startle** to make someone feel surprised or slightly frightened by doing something they did not expect: The wind made the door shut with a crash, which startled her. | Sudden movements may startle the horse.

astonish

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