

an·ger¹ W3

/ˈæŋɡə \$ -ər/

noun [uncountable]

- 1** **ANGRY** a strong feeling of wanting to hurt or criticize someone because they have done something bad to you or been unkind to you:

There is growing anger among the people against the government.

anger at

She struggled to control her anger at her son's disobedience.

in anger

'That's a lie!' he shouted in anger.

- 2 do/use something in anger**

to do or use something for the first time, or in a real situation:

He joined the club last month, but has yet to kick a ball in anger.

COLLOCATIONS Sense 1

verbs

be filled with anger / be full of anger *His face was suddenly filled with anger.*

be shaking with anger *My aunt was shaking with anger as she left the room.*

be seething with anger (= be extremely angry) *Seething with anger and frustration, Polly pushed back her chair and stood up.*

express your anger (also vent your anger **(formal)**) (= show your anger) *Demonstrators expressed their anger by burning American flags.*

hide your anger *For a second he was unable to hide his anger.*

control / contain your anger *I could not control my anger any longer.*

arouse/provoke anger (*also stir up anger* **(informal)**)
(= make people angry) *The referee's decision provoked anger among the fans.*

fuel anger (= make people even more angry) *The row could fuel growing anger among the Labour party.*

somebody's anger goes away/subsides/fades (= it stops) *I counted to ten and waited for my anger to go away. | His anger slowly subsided.*

adjectives

deep/great/fierce anger *There is deep anger against the occupying forces.*

growing/rising/mounting anger *There is growing anger among drivers over the rise in fuel prices.*

widespread anger (= among many people) *The decision to build the airport has provoked widespread anger.*

public/popular anger *By now public anger in America was mounting.*

suppressed/pent-up anger (= that you have tried not to show) *Her voice shook with suppressed anger.*

real anger *There is real anger about the amount of money that has been wasted.*

righteous anger (**often disapproving**) (= anger felt when you think something should not be allowed to happen) *The speech was full of righteous anger against the West.*

phrases

a fit/outburst of anger (= an occasion when someone suddenly becomes angry) *His occasional outbursts of anger shocked those around him.*

a feeling of anger *He was overcome by a sudden feeling of anger against the people who had put him there.*

THESAURUS

anger a strong emotion that you feel because someone has behaved badly or because a situation seems bad or unfair: *Andrea still feels a lot of anger towards her mom, who left when she was a little girl. | I've said some things in anger that have almost cost me my marriage.*

annoyance slight anger or impatience: *He expressed annoyance at the way his comments had been misinterpreted. | The meetings were held in secret, **much to the annoyance of** some members of Congress.*

irritation a feeling of being annoyed and impatient, especially because something keeps happening or someone keeps saying something: *He could not hide his irritation at her persistent questioning. | Unwanted sales calls are a **source of irritation** for many people.*

frustration a feeling of being annoyed, especially because you cannot do what you want or because you cannot change or control a situation: *You can imagine my frustration when I found out that the next bus didn't leave till 4 hours later. | There is a growing **sense of frustration** over the situation in Burma. | The government has expressed frustration at the slow legal process.*

exasperation a feeling of being very annoyed because you cannot control a situation, learn to do something, or understand something, even though you are trying very hard: *Isaac sighed in exasperation. | Exasperation at the team's lack of success was evident among the fans.*

resentment anger because you think you are being treated badly or unfairly: *The sudden increase in the numbers of immigrants has caused resentment among local people.*

indignation anger and surprise about an unfair situation: *His voice sounded full of indignation. | The scandal caused **righteous indignation** among opposition politicians.*

ill/bad feeling anger between two people because of

something that has happened: *I had no ill feeling towards him.*

rancour (BrE), / **rancor** (AmE) (formal) a feeling of anger and hatred towards someone who you cannot forgive because they harmed you in the past: *Even though he had lost the court case, he had shown no rancour.*

spleen (formal) anger, especially anger that is unreasonable: *He vented his spleen* (= said why he was angry) *against the airline in an article in the Times.*

extreme anger

fury a very strong feeling of anger: *The judge sparked fury when he freed a man who had attacked three women. | The decision caused fury among local people.*

rage a very strong feeling of anger that is difficult to control or is expressed very suddenly or violently: *When we accused him of lying, he flew into a rage* (= became very angry very suddenly) . | *Brown killed his wife in a jealous rage.*

outrage extreme anger and shock because you think something is unfair or wrong: *The racist comments caused outrage in India and Britain.*

wrath (formal) extreme anger: *Pietersen was the next to incur the wrath of the referee* (= make him angry) .

Word origin

Date: 1200–1300

Language: Old Norse

Origin: *angr* 'great sorrow'

anger²

verb

[transitive]

ANGRY to make someone angry

SYN annoy

What angered me most was his total lack of remorse.

be angered by/at something

Environmental groups were disappointed and angered by the president's decision.

In everyday English, people usually say something **makes them angry** rather than say that it **angers** them:

*I didn't want to **anger** him.*

→ I didn't want to **make** him **angry**.

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

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