

anx·i·e·ty

S3 W3

/æŋ'zaɪəti/

noun (plural **anxieties**)

- 1 [uncountable and countable] **WORRIED** the feeling of being very worried about something

SYN concern:

anxiety about/over

*There is **considerable anxiety** among staff about job losses.*
There is growing public anxiety over levels of air pollution in our cities.

deep/acute/great anxiety

The fear of unemployment can be a source of deep anxiety to people.

his feelings of anxiety

A high level of anxiety was created by the introduction of cameras into the factory.

It can help if you discuss your anxieties with someone.

- 2 [uncountable] **WORRIED** a feeling of wanting to do something very much:

anxiety to do something

I nearly fell in my anxiety to get downstairs quickly.

COLLOCATIONS Sense 1

adjectives

great/considerable anxiety *Then began a day of great anxiety.*

acute/deep/high anxiety *The patient's panic attacks are caused by acute anxiety.*

constant anxiety *She lives a life of constant anxiety over money*

and job security.

increasing/mounting anxiety *There is mounting anxiety about the rise in violent crime.*

public anxiety *the wave of public anxiety about food safety*

verbs

cause/create/lead to anxiety *Their nuclear programme is causing mounting anxiety among other nations, especially Israel.*

arouse/provoke anxiety (= cause it) *The presence of Indian troops near the border has aroused considerable anxiety in neighbouring Pakistan.*

feel/suffer from anxiety *The child may feel anxiety about being away from home.*

reduce/relieve anxiety *The drug helps to reduce anxiety, allowing you to feel relaxed.*

phrases

a source of anxiety *For many people, the primary source of anxiety is work.*

somebody's level of anxiety *Patients experience high levels of anxiety at time of admission to hospital.*

feelings of anxiety *Having an operation naturally entails feelings of anxiety.*

Word origin

Date: 1500–1600

Language: Latin

Origin: *anxietas*, from *anxius*; → [ANXIOUS](#)