

flabbergast

To flabbergast means to overcome with surprise and bewilderment; other synonyms are to surprise, astound, amaze or astonish, as they all convey the idea of **impressing through unexpectedness**. Even though all of these words are synonymous with each other, they are suffused with slightly different overtones. Whereas **surprise** is relatively general, **astonish** implies disbelief, **astound** stresses the shock coming from something unexpected, and **amaze** suggests an effect of confusion. Flabbergast may be related to **'aghost'** (derived in turn from **'ghost'**), thus implying a feeling of **fear** connected with amazement and bewilderment.

