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Blacks Law Dictionary  
Harassment

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## What is HARASSMENT?

Repeated conduct that is not wanted and is known to all parties as offensive. Refer to sexual harassment.

### More On This Topic

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**SEXUAL HARASSMENT, NOXIOUS, LEAGUE, IMPLIED AGREEMENT, RAPE SHIELD LAW, CONTINUOUS INJURY, AGILE MANUFACTURING, HOLD HARMLESS CLAUSE, LAW OF EFFECT, DATA COMPRESSION**

**Link To This Definition**

• This is considered a penumbral rather than explicit right under the U.S. Constitution. See the Declaration of Independence § 2 (1776).

**happy-slapping.** (2005) *Slang.* An assault on a randomly chosen victim by a person or group while another person films the assault with the intention of later broadcasting copies of the recording. • Happy-slapping began in the early 2000s as a fad in London, in which a teenage victim was merely slapped or struck with an object such as a rolled-up newspaper while the assault was recorded on a cellphone camera. As the fad spread across England and into Europe, the perpetrators attacked victims of all ages, and the assaults occasionally escalated from mere slaps to serious bodily injury, rape, and even murder. — **happy-slap, vb.**

**hara-kiri swap.** See INTEREST-RATE SWAP.

**harassment** (hə-ras-mənt or har-əs-mənt). (18c) Words, conduct, or action (usu. repeated or persistent) that, being directed at a specific person, annoys, alarms, or causes substantial emotional distress to that person and serves no legitimate purpose; purposeful vexation. • Harassment is actionable in some circumstances, as when a creditor uses threatening or abusive tactics to collect a debt. — **harass** (hə-ras or har-əs), *vb.*

▶ **discriminatory harassment.** Harassment that denigrates, shows hostility to, or exhibits aversion toward a person or group (esp. of a protected class), thereby creating a hostile environment that unreasonably interferes with learning, living, or working. • Sexual harassment and gender-based harassment are forms of discriminatory harassment. See *gender-based harassment*; SEXUAL HARASSMENT.

▶ **gender-based harassment.** Harassment motivated by hostility and intended to enforce traditional heterosexual norms and roles and discourage what is seen as nontraditional behavior. See *discriminatory harassment*.

▶ **hostile-work-environment harassment.** See *hostile-environment sexual harassment* under SEXUAL HARASSMENT.

▶ **quid pro quo harassment.** See *quid pro quo sexual harassment* under SEXUAL HARASSMENT.

▶ **same-sex harassment.** See *same-sex sexual harassment* under SEXUAL HARASSMENT.

▶ **sexual harassment.** See SEXUAL HARASSMENT.

**harbinger** (hahr-bin-jər), *n.* (14c) 1. *Hist. English law.* A royal officer who went ahead and was responsible for securing lodging for troops or for a traveling royal entourage. 2. A person or thing that predicts what is to come <a harbinger of bad news>.

**harbor, safe.** See SAFE HARBOR.

**harboring, n.** (14c) The act of affording lodging, shelter, or refuge to a person, esp. a criminal or illegal alien.

**harboring a criminal.** See HARBORING A FUGITIVE.

**harboring a fugitive.** (1934) *Criminal law.* The crime of affording lodging, shelter, refuge, or other aid to a person seeking to avoid capture or punishment. • If the fugitive is suspected of committing a felony or has been convicted of a felony and has violated his or her parole or probation conditions, the term *harboring a felon* is commonly

used. — Also termed *harboring a criminal*; *harboring an offender*.

**harboring an illegal alien.** (1974) The act of providing concealment from detection by law-enforcement authorities or shelter, employment, or transportation to help a noncitizen remain in the United States unlawfully, while knowing about or recklessly disregarding the noncitizen's illegal immigration status. • The crime of harboring an illegal alien does not require that the offender be involved in the smuggling of illegal aliens into the country. 8 USCA § 1324.

**harboring an offender.** See HARBORING A FUGITIVE.

**harbor line.** (1849) A line marking the boundary of a certain part of public water that is reserved for a harbor; esp., the line beyond which wharves and other structures may not extend.

**hard, adj.** 1. (Of a market) having prices that are rising. 2. (Of a currency) having excess demand and therefore tending to rise in value in relation to other currencies.

**hard asset.** See *real asset* under ASSET.

**hardball, adj.** Ruthless; uncompassionate. • Taken from the baseball term, *hardball* is distinguished from *softball*, which is played with a softer and bigger ball, making for an easier game and a more remote possibility of injury.

**hard bargain.** See BARGAIN.

**hard case.** (1836) 1. A lawsuit involving equities that tempt a judge to stretch or even disregard a principle of law at issue. • Hence the expression, "Hard cases make bad law." 2. A lawsuit in which no clear rule obviously governs the outcome.

"It is an old saying that 'hard cases make bad law.' Its original meaning concerned cases in which the law had a hard impact on some person whose situation aroused sympathy. In such cases there was an inevitable, and often strong, temptation to offer a strained interpretation of the law to avoid the hard effect in the individual case. The slogan 'hard cases make bad law' amounted to an exhortation to refrain from bending the law on account of exceptional individual hardship. . . . 'Hard case' has over the past few decades changed its meaning, under the influence of Ronald Dworkin, who suggests (in effect) that such cases provide occasions to make good law. A hard case is now understood as a case where some difficulty of interpreting the law has arisen, where there are strong arguments for each of the rival understandings or interpretations of the law put forward by or on behalf of the parties." Neil MacCormick, *Rhetoric and the Rule of Law: A Theory of Legal Reasoning* 49-50 (2005).

**hard commodity.** See COMMODITY.

**hard currency.** See CURRENCY.

**hard dollars.** 1. Cash proceeds given to a seller. 2. The part of an equity investment that is not deductible in the first year. Cf. SOFT DOLLARS.

**hard goods.** See *durable goods* under GOODS.

**hard intellectual property.** See INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.

**hard labor.** (18c) Work imposed on prisoners as additional punishment, usu. for misconduct while in prison. • Several states (such as Louisiana, Maine, and New Jersey) impose hard labor as a sentence for a variety of crimes. Hard labor is also imposed in military sentencing. See PENAL SERVITUDE.

**hard-look doctrine.** (1979) *Administrative law.* The principle that a court should carefully review an



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## Harassment Law and Legal Definition



This site contains REAL police (court records of driving citations, speeding tickets, felonies, mid sexual offenses, mugshots, background reports, photos, documents, address information, phone numbers and much more). Monitor YOUR online records

I UNDERSTAND

▶ × Harassment is governed by state laws, which vary by state, but is generally defined as a course of conduct which annoys, threatens, intimidates, alarms, or puts a person in fear of their safety. Harassment is unwanted, unwelcomed and uninvited behavior that demeans, threatens or offends the victim and results in a hostile environment for the victim. Harassing behavior may include, but is not limited to, epithets, derogatory comments or slurs and lewd propositions, assault, impeding or blocking movement,

offensive touching or any physical interference with normal work or movement, and visual insults, such as derogatory posters or cartoons.

The following is an example of a state law dealing with harassment:

"S 240.25 Harassment in the first degree.

A person is guilty of harassment in the first degree when he or she intentionally and repeatedly harasses another person by following such person in or about a public place or places or by engaging in a course of conduct or by repeatedly committing acts which places such person in reasonable fear of physical injury. This section shall not apply to activities regulated by the national labor relations act, as amended, the railway labor act, as amended, or the federal employment labor management act, as amended.

**harassment**

(either harriss-meant or huh-rass-meant) n. the act of systematic and/or continued unwanted and annoying actions of one party or a group, including threats and demands. The purposes may vary, including racial prejudice, personal malice, an attempt to force someone to quit a job or grant sexual favors, apply illegal pressure to collect a bill or merely gain sadistic pleasure from making someone anxious or fearful. Such activities may be the basis for a lawsuit if due to discrimination based on race or sex, a violation on the statutory limitations on collection agencies, involve revenge by an ex-spouse, or be shown to be a form of blackmail ("I'll stop bothering you if you'll go to bed with me"). The victim may file a petition for a "stay away" (restraining) order, intended to prevent contact by the offensive party. A systematic pattern of harassment by an employee against another worker may subject the employer to a lawsuit for failure to protect the worker.

See also: harass sexual harassment

Law.com  
Harassment

# Legal Dictionary

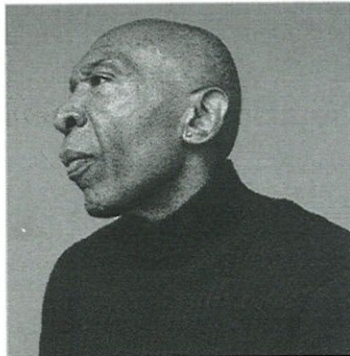
Harassment

- ALL LEGAL TERMS
- FAMILY & ESTATE PLANNING
- BUSINESS & REAL ESTATE
- CIVIL LAW
- CRIMINAL LAW
- LEGISLATION
- CASE BRIEFS

## HARASSMENT

July 22, 2016 | by: [Content Team](#) |

Harassment is the act of continued and regular unwanted actions against a victim. This may include anything from racial epithets to annoying or malicious remarks, but must become a pattern in order to qualify as harassment. Harassment is illegal and a victim can file for a restraining order against the perpetrator. To explore this concept, consider the following harassment definition.



March 11, 2020

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## Definition of Harassment

Noun

1. The act of regular and unwarranted actions of one individual or group on another individual or group.

Origin

1610 French *harer* (to set a dog on)

## Types of Harassment

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Harass

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## Legal Dictionary - Thesaurus

HARASS

### harass

#### Definition:

(v. t.) To fatigue; to tire with repeated and exhausting efforts; esp., to weary by importunity, teasing, or fretting; to cause to endure excessive burdens or anxieties; -- sometimes followed by out.

(n.) Devastation; waste.

(n.) Worry; harassment.

#### Related Terms:

anxieties, austin, burden, deva, devast, devastation, deve, develop, dure, easing, east, effort, endure, ettin, ettle, exhaust, exhausting, fatigue, fret, frett, fretting, importunity, peat, repeat, repeated, retting, teasing, unity, vast, vastation, wast, waste, weary, worry

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Canonical

verb

ha·rass | \ hə- 'ras  , 'her-əs \  
harassed; harassing

Websters Dictionary  
Harass p.1

### Kids Definition of *harass*


- 1 : to annoy again and again
- 2 : to make repeated attacks against an enemy

Other Words from *harass*

harassment \ -mənt \ noun

harass

transitive verb

ha·rass | \ hə- 'ras, 'har-əs  \

Websters Legal Dictionary  
Harass

### Legal Definition of *harass*

: to subject persistently and wrongfully to annoying, offensive, or troubling behavior a collection agency harassing a debtor — see also sexual harassment

Other Words from *harass*

harasser noun

harassment noun

History and Etymology for *harass*

Middle French harasser to exhaust, fatigue, from *harer* to set a dog on, from Old French *hare*, interjection used to incite dogs

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Rhyming Dictionary: Words that rhyme with *harass*

Spanish Central: Translation of *harass*

Nglish: Translation of *harass* for Spanish Speakers



Britannica English: Translation of *harass* for Arabic Speakers

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What made you want to look up *harass*? Please tell us where you read or heard it (including the quote, if possible).

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ha·rass | \ hə-'ras  ; 'her-əs, 'ha-rəs  \

harassed; harassing; harasses

Webster's Dictionary  
Harass p. 2

## Definition of *harass*

transitive verb

1a : exhaust, fatigue I have been harassed with the toil of verse— William Wordsworth

b(1) : to annoy persistently was harassing his younger brother

(2) : to create an unpleasant or hostile situation for especially by uninvited and unwelcome verbal or physical conduct was being harassed by her classmates claims that the police were unfairly harassing him

2 : to worry and impede by repeated raids harassed the enemy

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## Other Words from *harass*

harasser noun

harassment \ hə-'ras-mənt  ; 'her-əs-, 'ha-rəs-  \ noun

## Synonyms for *harass*

Synonyms

- break,
- burn out,
- bust,
- do in,
- do up,
- drain,
- exhaust,
- fag,
- fatigue,
- frazzle,
- kill,
- knock out,
- outwear,
- tire,
- tucker (out),
- wash out,
- wear,
- wear out,
- weary.

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har·ry | \ 'her-ē , 'ha-rē \  
harried; harrying

Webster's Dictionary  
harry

## Definition of *harry*

transitive verb

1 : to make a pillaging or destructive raid on : assault

2 : to force to move along by harassing harrying the terrified horses down out of the mountains— R. A. Sokolov

3 : to torment by or as if by constant attack

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## Choose the Right Synonym for *harry*

worry, annoy, harass, harry, plague, pester, tease mean to disturb or irritate by persistent acts. worry implies an incessant goading or attacking that drives one to desperation. pursued a policy of worrying the enemy annoy implies disturbing one's composure or peace of mind by intrusion, interference, or petty attacks. you're doing that just to annoy me harass implies petty persecutions or burdensome demands that exhaust one's nervous or mental power. harassed on all sides by creditors harry may imply heavy oppression or maltreatment. the strikers had been harried by thugs plague implies a painful and persistent affliction. plagued all her life by poverty pester stresses the repetition of petty attacks. constantly pestered with trivial complaints tease suggests an attempt to break down one's resistance or rouse to wrath. children teased the dog

## Did You Know?

Was there once a warlike man named Harry who is the source for the verb *harry*? One particularly belligerent Harry does come to mind: Shakespeare once described how "famine, sword, and fire" accompanied "the warlike Harry," England's King Henry the Fifth. But neither this king nor any of his namesakes are the source for the verb. Rather, *harry* (or a word resembling it) has been a part of English for as long as there has been anything that could be called English. It took the form *hergian* in Old English and *harien* in Middle English, passing through numerous variations before finally settling into its modern spelling. The word's Old English ancestors are related to Old High German words *heriōn* ("to lay waste") and *heri* ("army").

## Examples of *harry* in a Sentence

Recent Examples on the Web Rebel groups had continued to *harry* government forces, however, from outside the city with mortar rounds. — Sarah El Deeb, *BostonGlobe.com*, "Assad's forces make advances, further securing Aleppo region," 16 Feb. 2020 Before that pass, the 49ers *harried* Mahomes as few teams have. — Kevin Draper, *New York Times*, "Third-and-Long, Then the Pass That Saved the Chiefs," 2 Feb. 2020

These example sentences are selected automatically from various online news sources to reflect current usage of the word 'harry.' Views expressed in the examples do not represent the opinion of Merriam-Webster or its editors. [Send us feedback.](#)

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exhaust (all) the possibilities

exhaust all/the possibilities

Webster's Dictionary  
Exhaust p. 1

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Style: MLA

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More Definitions for *exhaust*

exhaust

verb



### English Language Learners Definition of *exhaust*

(Entry 1 of 2)

- : to use all of someone's mental or physical energy : to tire out or wear out (someone) completely
- : to completely use up (something, such as supplies or money)
- : to try all of (something)

exhaust

noun

English Language Learners Definition of *exhaust* (Entry 2 of 2)

- : the mixture of gases produced by an engine
- : a pipe or system of pipes through which exhaust is released

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ex·haust | \ ig-'zòst \  
exhausted; exhausting; exhausts

Webster's Dictionary  
Exhaust 0.2

### Definition of *exhaust*

(Entry 1 of 2)

#### transitive verb

- 1a : to consume entirely : use up exhausted our funds in a week
- b : to tire extremely or completely exhausted by overwork
- c : to deprive of a valuable quality or constituent exhaust a soil of fertility
- 2a : to draw off or let out completely
- b : to empty by drawing off the contents specifically : to create a vacuum in
- 3a : to consider or discuss (a subject) thoroughly or completely
- b : to try out the whole number of exhausted all the possibilities

#### intransitive verb

: discharge, empty the engine exhausts through the muffler

exhaust

#### noun

Definition of *exhaust* (Entry 2 of 2)

- 1a : the escape of used gas or vapor from an engine
- b : the gas or vapor thus escaping
- 2a : the conduit through which used gases escape
- b : an arrangement for removing fumes, dusts, or odors from an enclosure
- 3 : exhaustion

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### Other Words from *exhaust*

Verb

exhauster noun

exhaustibility \ ig-,zò-stə-'bi-lə-tē \ noun

exhaustible \ ig-'zò-stə-bəl \ adjective


### Synonyms for *exhaust*

Synonyms: Verb

See the full definition for *exhaust* in the English Language Learners Dictionary.

exhaust

verb

ex·haust | \ ig-'zòst  \  
exhausted; exhausting

Webster's Dictionary  
Exhaust p.3

## Kids Definition of *exhaust*

(Entry 1 of 2)

- 1 : to tire out : fatigue Hard work will *exhaust* you.  
2 : to use up completely We've *exhausted* our supplies.  
3 : to try out all of We *exhausted* all options.

exhaust


noun

Kids Definition of *exhaust* (Entry 2 of 2)

- 1 : the gas that escapes from an engine  
2 : a system of pipes through which exhaust escapes

exhaust

transitive verb

ex·haust | \ ig-'zòst  \

## Medical Definition of *exhaust*

- 1a : to draw off or let out completely  
b : to empty by drawing off the contents specifically : to create a vacuum in  
2a : to use up : consume completely  
b : to tire extremely or completely exhausted by overwork  
3 : to extract completely with a solvent exhaust a drug with alcohol

Keep scrolling for more

exhaust

transitive verb

ex·haust


Webster's Legal Dictionary  
Exhaust

## Legal Definition of *exhaust*

- : to use up or consume entirely: as  
a : to try all of (available remedies) the applicant has exhausted the remedies available in the courts of the State — *U.S. Code*  
b : to bring (a claim) through all available prior levels of review each of his claims would now be exhausted— W. R. LaFave and J. H. Israel

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fa·tigue | \ fə-'tēg  \

Webster's Dictionary  
Fatigue p.1

## Definition of *fatigue*

(Entry 1 of 3)

1a : labor

b : manual or menial work (such as the cleaning up of a camp area) performed by military personnel

c fatigues plural : the uniform or work clothing worn on fatigue and in the field

2a : weariness or exhaustion from labor, exertion, or stress We were overcome by fatigue after the long hike.

b : the temporary loss of power to respond that is induced in a sensory receptor (see receptor sense a) or motor (see motor entry 2 sense 1) end organ by continued stimulation

c : a state or attitude of indifference or apathy brought on by overexposure (as to a repeated series of similar events or appeals) ... a super PAC supporting Hillary Clinton launched within days of Barack Obama's 2013 inauguration. Voter fatigue is just one drawback to the long campaigns, though.— Martin Wisckol Most of the Romney voters they visited were fairly chipper, but there is an air of election fatigue in a state where most television commercial breaks are dominated by attack ads and the phone rings off the hook with campaign calls.— Daniel Malloy and Katie Leslie Waning media coverage of a humanitarian crisis is usually a precursor to "donor fatigue," in which assistance from other nations fades. — *Christian Science Monitor* — see also compassion fatigue

3 : the tendency of a material to break under repeated stress metal fatigue

fatigue

verb

fatigued; fatiguing

Definition of *fatigue* (Entry 2 of 3)

transitive verb

1 : to weary with labor or exertion

2 : to induce a condition of fatigue in

intransitive verb

: to suffer fatigue

fatigue

adjective

Definition of *fatigue* (Entry 3 of 3)

1 : consisting of, done, or used in fatigue fatigue detail

2 : belonging to fatigues a fatigue cap

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(Entry 1 of 2)

1 : a state of being very tired

2 fatigues plural : the uniform worn by members of the military for physical labor


fatigue

verb

fatigued; fatiguing

Kids Definition of *fatigue* (Entry 2 of 2): to tire by work or exertion a *fatiguing* hike

fatigue

nounfa·tigue | \ fə-'tēg  \

Webster's Dictionary  
Fatigue p. 2

## Medical Definition of *fatigue*

(Entry 1 of 2)

1 : weariness or exhaustion from labor, exertion, or stress

2 : the temporary loss of power to respond induced in a sensory receptor or motor end organ by continued stimulation

fatigue

verb

fatigued; fatiguing

Medical Definition of *fatigue* (Entry 2 of 2)transitive verb1 : to weary with labor or exertion2 : to induce a condition of fatigue in (as an effector organ)intransitive verb

: to be affected with fatigue : become weary

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More from Merriam-Webster on *fatigue*Thesaurus: All synonyms and antonyms for *fatigue*Rhyming Dictionary: Words that rhyme with *fatigue*Spanish Central: Translation of *fatigue*Nglsh: Translation of *fatigue* for Spanish SpeakersBritannica English: Translation of *fatigue* for Arabic Speakers

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More Definitions for *fatigue*

fatigue

noun



## English Language Learners Definition of *fatigue*

(Entry 1 of 2)

- : the state of being very tired : extreme weariness
- : the uniform that soldiers wear when they are doing physical work
- technical : the tendency of a material (such as metal) to break after being bent or moved many times

fatigue

verb

English Language Learners Definition of *fatigue* (Entry 2 of 2)

- : to make (someone) tired

[See the full definition for \*fatigue\* in the English Language Learners Dictionary.](#)

fatigue

noun

fa·tigue | \ fə-ˈtēg \

## Kids Definition of *fatigue*



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**ha·rass**  (hə-rās□, hār□əs)

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*tr.v.* **ha·rassed**, **ha·rass·ing**, **ha·rass·es**

1. To subject (another) to hostile or prejudicial remarks or actions; pressure or intimidate.
2. To irritate or torment persistently: *His mind was harassed by doubts and misgivings.*
3. To make repeated attacks or raids on (an enemy, for example).

[French *harasser*, from Old French (*a la*) *harache*, (*a la*) *harace* (as in *courre a la harache*, to chase) : *hare*, call used to set dogs on (of Germanic origin; see **ko-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots) + *-ache*, *-ace*, deprecativ n. suff.]

**ha·rass□er** *n.*

**ha·rass□ment** *n.*

**Synonyms:** harass, harry, hound, badger, pester, plague

These verbs mean to trouble persistently or incessantly. *Harass* and *harry* imply systematic persecution by besieging with repeated annoyances, threats, or demands: *The landlord harassed the tenants who were behind in their rent.*

*"John Adams and John Quincy Adams, pillars of personal rectitude, were harried throughout their presidencies by accusations of corruption, fraud, and abuses of power"* (Alan Brinkley and Davis Dyer).

*Hound* suggests unrelenting pursuit to gain a desired end: *Reporters hounded the celebrity for an interview.* To *badger* is to nag or entreat persistently: *The child badgered his parents for a new bicycle.* To *pester* is to inflict a succession of petty annoyances: *"How she would have pursued and pestered me with questions and surmises"* (Charlotte Brontë).

*Plague* refers to a problem likened to a noxious disease: *"As I have no estate, I am plagued with no tenants or stewards"* (Henry Fielding).

**Usage Note:** The pronunciation of harass with stress on the first syllable (rhyming roughly with *Paris*) is the older, traditional pronunciation. The pronunciation with stress on the second syllable (rhyming roughly with *surpass*) is a newer pronunciation that first occurred in American English. Its use has steadily increased since the mid-1900s. In our 1987 survey, 50 percent of the Usage Panel preferred the pronunciation with stress on the first syllable, and 50 percent preferred stress on the second syllable. Fourteen years later, in our 2001 survey, preference for stress on the first syllable dropped to 30 percent while preference for stress on the second syllable rose to 70 percent. The results from our 2013 survey suggest that this trend away from the traditional pronunciation has continued: only 10 percent preferred the stress on the first syllable, whereas 90 percent preferred the pronunciation with the stress on the second



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American Heritage Dictionary  
Harry

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har·ry  (hărrĭē)

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*tr.v.* **har-ried**, **har-ry-ing**, **har-ries**

1. To disturb, distress, or exhaust by repeated demands or criticism; harass. See Synonyms at [harass](#).
2.
  - a. To attack or raid, as in war: *Vikings harrying the coast.*
  - b. To force along, as by attacks or blows: "*Blue jays were chasing a squirrel, harrying the creature from tree to tree*" (*Paul Theroux*).
3. To batter or buffet. Used of the wind or storms: *The wind harried the trees.*

[Middle English *hariēn*, from Old English *hergian*; see **koro-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

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## Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

[Semitic Roots](#)

The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

This website is best viewed in Chrome, Firefox, Microsoft Edge, or Safari. Some characters in pronunciations and etymologies cannot be displayed properly in Internet Explorer.

Definition of 'harass'

# harass

*Collins Dictionary  
Harass p.1*

Word Frequency ○○○○○

(həræs , hærəs )

**Word forms:** harasses, harassing, harassed

**TRANSITIVE VERB**

If someone **harasses** you, they trouble or annoy you, for example by attacking you repeatedly or by causing you as many problems as they can.

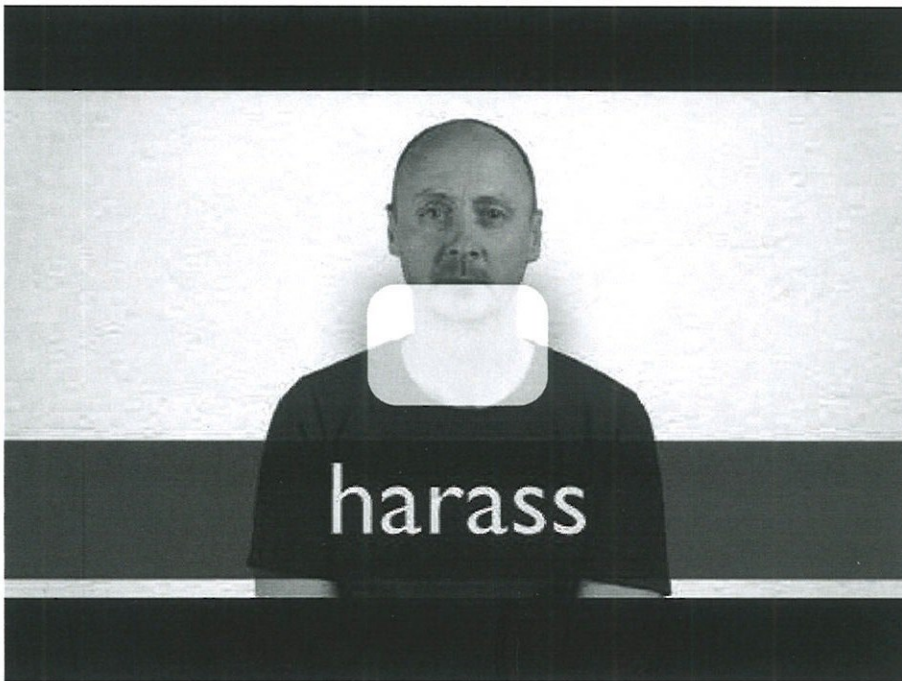
*A woman reporter complained one of them sexually harassed her in the locker room.*

**Synonyms:** annoy, trouble, bother, worry [More Synonyms of harass](#)

*COBUILD Advanced English Dictionary. Copyright © HarperCollins Publishers*

Video: pronunciation of

# harass





harass

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Harass

English

French

Hindi

More dictionaries More

Word Frequency ○○○○○

READ MORE

# harass

## in American English

( 'hærəs ); hə'ræs )

### VERB TRANSITIVE

- 1. to trouble, worry, or torment, as with cares, debts, repeated questions, etc.
- 2. to trouble by repeated raids or attacks, etc.; harry

*Webster's New World College Dictionary, 4th Edition. Copyright © 2010 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. All rights reserved.*

### Derived forms

harasser ( 'harasser) NOUN

harassment ( 'harassment) NOUN

### Word origin

Fr *harasser* < OFr *harer*, to set a dog on < *hare*, cry to incite dogs < OHG *harēn*, to call, cry out



# harass

Word Frequency ○○○○○

## in British English

( 'hærəs , hə'ræs )

### VERB

(transitive)

to trouble, torment, or confuse by continual persistent attacks, questions, etc

*Collins English Dictionary. Copyright © HarperCollins Publishers*

### Derived forms

harassed ( 'harassed) ADJECTIVE

harassedly ( 'harassedly) ADVERB

harasser ( ha'rasser) NOUN

harassing ( 'harassing) ADJECTIVE, NOUN

harassingly ( ha'rassingly) ADVERB

harassment ( 'harassment) NOUN



### Word origin

C17: from French *harasser*, variant of Old French *harer* to set a dog on, of Germanic origin; compare Old High German *harēn* to cry out

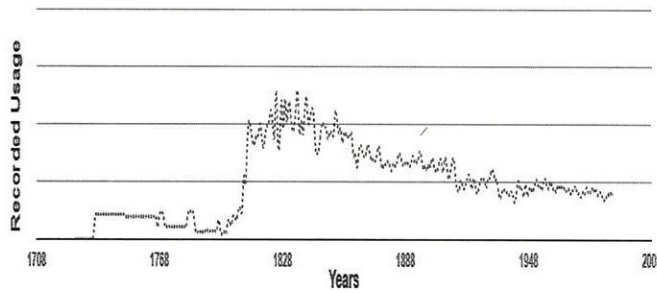


harass

Collins Dictionary

English French Hindi More dictionaries More

Harass #3



In other languages

# harass

British English: harass verb

If someone *harasses* you, they trouble or annoy you, for example by attacking you repeatedly.

*They were continually harassed by police and were sick of it.*

American English: harass

Brazilian Portuguese: importunar

Chinese: 骚扰

European Spanish: acosar

French: harceler

German: schikanieren

Italian: molestare

Japanese: しつこく悩ます

Korean: 괴롭히다

European Portuguese: importunar

Spanish: acosar

Translate your text for free

Nearby words of

# harass

Harappan

Harar

Harare

**harass**

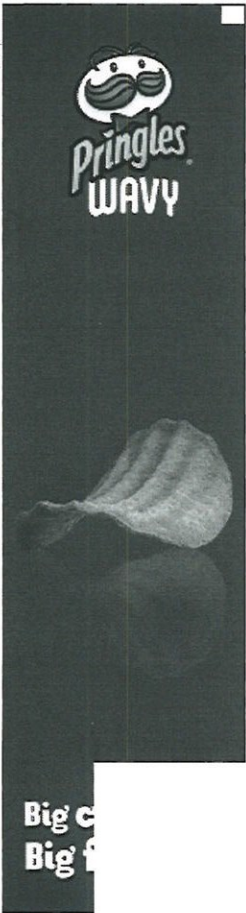
harassed

harassedly

harasser



All ENGLISH words that begin with 'H'



Definition of 'harassment'

# harassment

Word Frequency ○○○○○○

*Collins Dictionary  
Harassment p.4*

(həˈræsmənt , hæres- )  
UNCOUNTABLE NOUN

**Harassment** is behavior which is intended to trouble or annoy someone, for example repeated attacks on them or attempts to cause them problems.

*Another survey found that 51 percent of women had experienced some form of sexual harassment in their working lives.*

**Synonyms:** hassle [*informal*], trouble, bother, grief [*informal*] More Synonyms of harassment

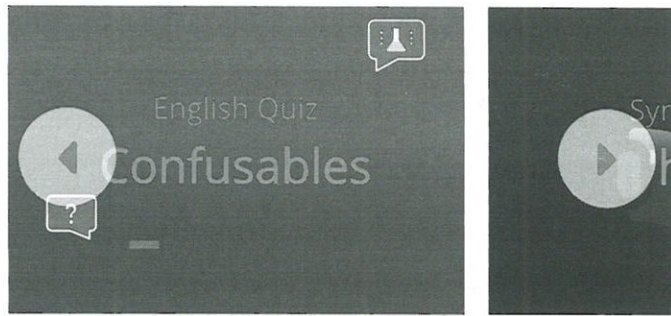
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Video: pronunciation of

# harassment

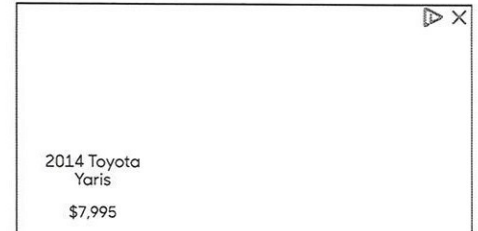


Learner: harry American: Harry American: harry English: harry Example sentences COBUILD idiom Trend



speech and writing.


FEBRUARY 13, 2020



# Harry

Word Frequency ○○○○○

in American English

(<sup>h</sup>æri )

**NOUN**

a masculine name: fem. *Harriet*

*Webster's New World College Dictionary, 4th Edition. Copyright © 2010 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. All rights reserved.*

**Word origin**


ME *Herry* < Henry<sup>1</sup>

*Collins Dictionary*  
*Harry* P.1

# harry

Word Frequency ○○○○○

in American English

(<sup>h</sup>æri )

**VERB TRANSITIVE**

Word forms: 'harried or 'harrying

1. to raid, esp. repeatedly, and ravage or rob; pillage; plunder
2. to torment or worry; harass
3. to force or push along

*Webster's New World College Dictionary, 4th Edition. Copyright © 2010 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. All rights reserved.*

**Word origin**

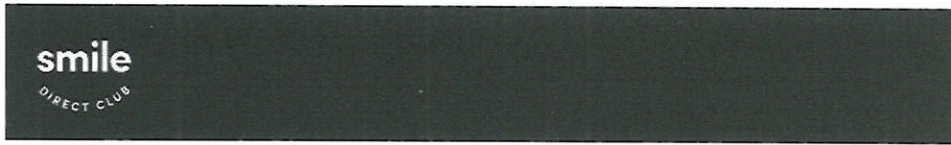
ME *hergien* < OE *hergian* < base of *here*, army < IE \**koryos*, army, var. of base \**koros*, war > Lith *kāras*, war, Mlr *cuire*, host

Learner: harry harry

Collins Dictionary Harry p.2



English French Hindi More dictionaries More



Learner: harry American: Harry American: harry English: harry

Definition of 'harry'

harry

Word Frequency ○○○○○○



(hæri)

Word forms: harries, harrying, harried

TRANSITIVE VERB

If someone harries you, they keep bothering you or trying to get something from you.

He is increasingly active in harrying the government in late-night debates.

harried ADJECTIVE

...harried shoppers scurrying from one crowded store to another.

Synonyms: harassed, worried, troubled, bothered More Synonyms of harry

More Synonyms of harry

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Quick Word Challenge

Question: 1 - Score: 0 / 5

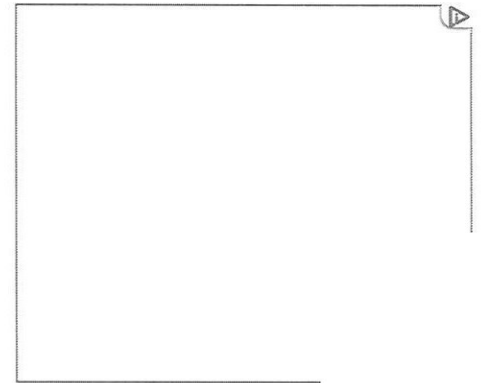
it's or its?

Drag the correct answer into the box.

its it's

The dog lifted head, listening.

NEXT



New collocations added to dictionary

Collocations are words that are often used together and are

# Cambridge Dictionary

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## harass

verb [T]

US /həˈræs/ /ˈher.əs/ UK /ˈhær.əs/ /həˈræs/

+ ≡

**to continue to annoy or upset someone over a period of time:**

- *Stop harassing me!*

+ Thesaurus: synonyms and related words

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(Definition of *harass* from the **Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary & Thesaurus** © Cambridge University Press)

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Search English English Q Grammar English

harass | INTERMEDIATE ENGLISH

## harass

verb [T]

US /həˈræs, ˈhær.əs/

+ ≡

**to annoy or trouble someone repeatedly:**

- *He claimed that the police continued to harass foreign journalists.*
- *She felt she was being harassed by the coach's constant demands.*

(Definition of *harass* from the **Cambridge Academic Content Dictionary** © Cambridge University Press)

Macmillan Dictionary  
Harass 0-2

# harass

 DEFINITIONS AND SYNONYMS

VERB TRANSITIVE US □ /'herəs/US □ /hə'ræs/

## WORD FORMS

+

## DEFINITIONS 2

1 to keep annoying or upsetting someone,  
for example by criticizing them, attacking them, or treating them in a way that is offensive to them

*The men were trying to harass the terrified refugees.*

**sexually harass someone (=treat them in a way that is sexually offensive):** *Connors is alleged to have sexually harassed three women at the conference.*

### Synonyms and related words

-

To make someone angry or annoyed

annoy

provoke

anger

...

Explore Thesaurus

2 to keep attacking an enemy army

### Synonyms and related words

+

# Cambridge Dictionary

## Harass p.2

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Search English English Q Grammar English

harass | BUSINESS ENGLISH

## harass

verb [T]

UK /'hærəs, he'ræs/ US



**to repeatedly annoy or upset someone over a period of time:**

- *A university psychology professor has been arrested on accusations of using email to harass and torment employees at the school.*
- **be harassed by sb** *She complained of being harassed by the press.*

(Definition of **harass** from the **Cambridge Business English Dictionary** © Cambridge University Press)

# harass *verb*

/'hærəs/, /hə'ræs/

/hə'ræs/, /'hærəs/

Oxford Dictionary  
Harass p.1

## Verb Forms

[often passive] to annoy or worry somebody by putting pressure on them or saying or doing unpleasant things to them

**be harassed (by somebody)** *He has complained of being harassed by the police.*

*She claims she has been **sexually harassed** at work.*

## Extra Examples

## Oxford Collocations Dictionary

**harass somebody/something** to make repeated attacks on an enemy

SYNONYM **harry**

*Our convoys are being continually harassed by enemy submarines.*

*Greenpeace has been harassing whaling operations at sea.*

## Word Origin

See **harass** in the Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

# harassment *noun*

Oxford Dictionary  
Harassment p 2

/ˈhærəsmənt/, /həˈræsmənt/

/həˈræsmənt/, /ˈhærəsmənt/

[uncountable]

the act of annoying or worrying somebody by putting pressure on them or saying or doing unpleasant things to them

***racial/sexual harassment***

SEE ALSO **sexual harassment**

the act of making repeated attacks on an enemy

*guerrilla harassment of the enemy*

Check pronunciation: harassment



Search Macmillan Dictionary *Macmillan Dictionary* →

keep your phone

*Harassment p.1*



# harassment

DEFINITIONS AND SYNONYMS

NOUN UNCOUNTABLE

US



/ˈhærəsmənt/ US /ˈhɑːrəsmənt/

\$250 via prepaid card.

Port- in & activation on eligible

plan and 4G LTE phone

## OTHER ENTRIES FOR THIS WORD

req'd. Line must remain

active for 45 days.

\$250 charge back if canceled w/

## DEFINITIONS 1

- 1 **annoying or unpleasant behavior toward someone that takes place regularly, for example threats, offensive remarks, or physical attacks**

*in 6 mos. Card mailed w/in 8*

**harassment of:** *The UN cannot tolerate the continuing harassment of peacekeeping soldiers.*

*wks after receipt of claim.*

**racial/sexual harassment:** *We encourage anyone who has been the subject of racial harassment to report it.*

*See yzw.com/bring-your-own-device for details.*

## Synonyms and related words

# harass

Longman Dictionary  
Harass

From Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

## har·ass /'hærəs, hə'ræs/ ●○○ verb [transitive]

1 to make someone's life unpleasant, for example by frequently saying offensive things to them or threatening them

A number of black youths have complained of being harassed by the police.

**sexually/racially harass somebody** (=harass someone because of their sex or race)

One woman claimed that she had been sexually harassed by a male manager.

2 to keep attacking an enemy again and again

→ See **Verb table**

### Examples from the Corpus

#### harass

- Moreover, Max is being **harassed** at school by a gang of thugs, carefully drawn as a multiethnic crew.
- Black teenagers are being constantly **harassed** by the police.
- The Rover closed right up, blatantly **harassing** him into making one mistake that would give them the excuse to stop him.
- Billing agencies **harass** poor people for the payment of the bills for purchases that might have taken place six months before.
- As a result Beaumaris have raised their current points total to 53 as they **harass** the leaders Llanfairpwll who are on 54.
- The enemy did not **harass** us much while we were constructing our batteries.
- Or stroll up to one of the distinctive sentry boxes, aligned so defenders could **harass** would-be invaders with a withering cross-fire.

**Origin** **harass** (1600-1700) French harasser, from harer "to set a dog on"



DEFINITIONS ▾

harassment

*largest most popular online Dictionary*  
*Dictionary.com*

*Harassment p.1*

TOP DEFINITIONS    QUIZZES    RELATED CONTENT    EXAMPLES    EXPLORE DICTIONARY

# harassment [ huh-ras-muh nt, har-uh s-muh nt ] [SHOW IPA](#)

[SEE SYNONYMS FOR harassment ON THESAURUS.COM](#)

*noun*

- 1 the act or an instance of harassing, or disturbing, pestering, or troubling repeatedly; persecution:  
*She sued her boss for sexual harassment.*

## QUIZZES

### LEARN THE NAMES OF 13 PHOBIAS IN THIS SCARY QUIZ!

Some words are challenging, and some words are scary. The words in this quiz about phobias are both!

#### QUESTION 1 OF 13

Aerophobia is a fear of what?

fear of flying

fear that you will run out of oxygen

fear of polluted air

TAKE THE QUIZ TO FIND OUT



**harass** [ *huh-ras, har-uhs* ] SHOW IPA

Dictionary.com  
Harass

SEE SYNONYMS FOR *harass* ON THESAURUS.COM

p. 2

*verb (used with object)*

to disturb persistently; torment, as with troubles or cares; bother continually; pester; persecute.

to trouble by repeated attacks, incursions, etc., as in war or hostilities; harry; raid.



DEFINITIONS ▾ | harass



"Affect" vs. "Effect": Use The Correct Word Every Time



What's The Difference Between Socialism vs. Communism?



When To Use "Have" vs. "Has"



It's March Madness: Pick The Best Slang Word In English



What's The Difference Between "i.e." vs. "e.g."?



Advice vs. Advise

BRITISH DICTIONARY DEFINITIONS FOR HARASS

**harass** / ('hæərəs, hə'ræs) /

verb

- 1 (tr) to trouble, torment, or confuse by continual persistent attacks, questions, etc

DERIVED FORMS OF HARASS

- harassed, adjective
- harassing, adjective, noun
- harassment, noun

WORD ORIGIN FOR HARASS

C17: from French *harasser*, variant of Old French *harer* to set a dog on, of Germanic origin; compare Old High German *harēn* to cry out

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 PUBLISHERS 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012

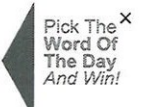
OTHERS ARE READING



"Epidemic" vs. "Pandemic"



What's The Difference Between "Caucus" vs. "Primary"?



Dictionary.com  
Harass p. 3



DEFINITIONS ▾ | harry



Dictionary.com

Harry p.1



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TOP DEFINITIONS

QUIZZES

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BRITISH

# harry [ har-ee ] SHOW IPA

SEE SYNONYMS FOR *harry* ON THESAURUS.COM

*verb (used with object), har-ried, har-ry-ing.*

- 1 to harass, annoy, or prove a nuisance to by or as if by repeated attacks; worry:

*He was harried by constant doubts.*

- 2 to ravage, as in war; devastate:

*The troops harried the countryside.*

*verb (used without object), har-ried, har-ry-ing.*

- 3 to make harassing incursions.





DEFINITIONS ▾ | harry



**harry** / (ˈhæri) /

*Dictionary.com  
Harry p.2*

verb **-ries, -rying or -ried**

- 1 (*tr*) to harass; worry
- 2 to ravage (a town, etc), esp in war

**WORD ORIGIN FOR HARRY**

Old English *hergian*; related to *here* army, Old Norse *herja* to lay waste, Old High German *heriōn*

BRITISH DICTIONARY DEFINITIONS FOR HARRY (2 OF 2)

**Lawes** / (lɔːz) /

noun

- 1 **Henry**. 1596–1662, English composer, noted for his music for Milton's masque *Comus* (1634) and for his settings of some of Robert Herrick's poems
- 2 his brother, **William** . 1602–45, English composer, noted for his harmonically experimental instrumental music

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PUBLISHERS 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012

OTHERS ARE READING



**har·ry** /'hæri/ **verb** (**harried**, **harrying**, **harries**) [**transitive**]1 to keep attacking an enemy2 to keep asking someone for something in a way that is upsetting or annoying→ See **Verb table**

Examples from the Corpus

Longman Dictionary  
Harry

**harry**

- No longer are they helpless pawns, **harried** and wounded by the disease, driven helplessly out of life.
- All day, every day, they are **harried** by everyone they meet.
- He looks **harried** from having had to push his way through to reach me.
- Yet a devil was loose somewhere, a restless imp had slipped into her and would not be **harried** or prayed out.
- It has to **harry** the government to take a less relaxed view on international nuclear proliferation.

Origin **harry** Old English *hergian*

Vocabulary.com  
Harassment

# harassment

If someone is abusing, insulting, or otherwise harming you on a regular basis, it's called harassment. Cruel and usually really annoying, *harassment* is also illegal in some cases.

*Harassment* is a word that describes any kind of ongoing torment. At school, harassment is often known as bullying. In the workplace, employees need to be careful about sexual harassment. Harassment involves persistent attacks or abuse, and can range from shouting racial slurs to crank calling your ex-boyfriend every night at 3am. Even teasing your kid sister about her braces could be considered harassment.

## Definitions of harassment

1.

*n* the act of tormenting by continued persistent attacks and criticism

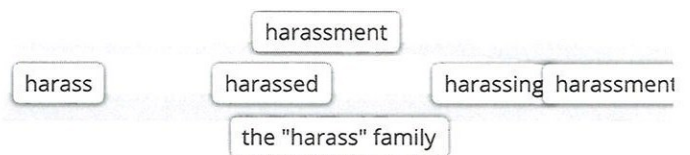
Synonyms: molestation

Types: show 6 types...

Type of: mistreatment  
the practice of treating (someone or something) badly

*n* a feeling of intense annoyance caused by being tormented

## Word Family



## Usage Examples

He also pleaded no contest to two counts of misdemeanor **harassment**, according to The Associated Press.

*Fox News* Mar 11, 2020

"Every day, abortion providers like Whole Woman's Health deliver high quality care in the face of **harassment** and threats to abortion access at the federal and local levels," the mayor said in a statement Tuesday.

*Washington Times* Mar 11, 2020

# HARASSMENT

---

July 22, 2016 | by: Content Team |

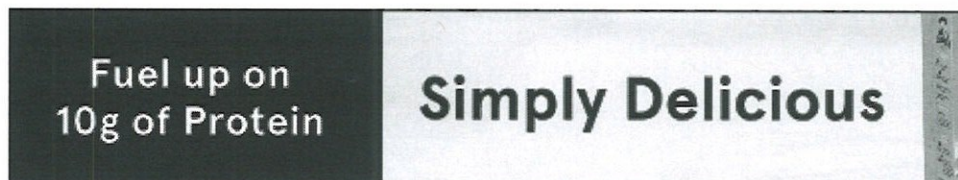
Harassment is the act of continued and regular unwanted actions against a victim. This may include anything from racial epithets to annoying or malicious remarks, but must become a pattern in order to qualify as harassment. Harassment is illegal and a victim can file for a restraining order against the perpetrator. To explore this concept, consider the following harassment definition.

Etymonline.com  
Harass

harass

Most popular Etymology Dictionary

Advertisement



## harass (v.)

1610s, "to lay waste, devastate" (obsolete); 1620s, "to vex by repeated attacks," from French *harasser* "tire out, vex" (16c.), which is of uncertain origin; possibly from Old French *harer* "stir up, provoke; set a dog on" (according to Watkins, from Frankish *\*hara* "over here, hither," from Proto-Germanic *\*hi-*, from PIE *\*ki-*, variant form of root *\*ko-*, the stem of demonstrative pronoun meaning "this"), and perhaps blended with Old French *harier* "to harry, draw, drag" [Barnhart]. Related: *Harassed*; *harassing*.

*Harass*, as applied to mind or body, suggests the infliction of the weariness that comes from the continuance or repetition of trying experiences, so that there is not time for rest. *Torment* implies the infliction of acute pain, physical or mental, and is frequently used in the sense of *harassing* by frequent return. [Century Dictionary, 1897]

### Related Entries

\*ko- harassment

### Others Are Reading

WIKIPEDIA

# Wikipedia:Harassment

*"WP:HA" redirects here. For Wikipedia's historical archive, see [Wikipedia:Historical archive](#).*



## This page documents an English Wikipedia policy.

It describes a widely accepted standard that all editors should normally follow. Changes made to it should reflect consensus.



**This page in a nutshell:** Do not stop other editors from enjoying Wikipedia by making threats, repeated annoying and unwanted contacts, repeated personal attacks, intimidation, or posting personal information.



If you are a user who is being harassed, see § [Dealing with harassment](#).

**Harassment** is a pattern of repeated offensive behavior that appears to a reasonable observer to intentionally target a specific person or persons. Usually (but not always), the purpose is to make the target feel threatened or intimidated, and the outcome may be to make editing Wikipedia unpleasant for the target, to undermine, frighten, or discourage them from editing.

Wikipedia must never be misused to harass *anyone*, whether or not the subject of the harassment is an editor here. Edits constituting harassment will be reverted, deleted, or suppressed, as appropriate, and editors who engage in harassment are subject to blocking.

Harassment can include actions calculated to be noticed by the target and clearly suggestive of targeting them, where no direct communication takes place.

## Conduct policies

[Block evasion](#)

[Canvassing](#)

[Civility](#)

[Clean start](#)

[Consensus](#)

[Dispute resolution](#)

[Edit warring](#)

[Editing policy](#)

[Harassment](#)

[No personal attacks](#)

[Ownership of content](#)

[Sock puppetry](#)

[Username policy](#)

[Vandalism](#)

## Contents

### Harassment and disruption

- Hounding
- Threats
- Perceived legal threats
- Posting of personal information
- Private correspondence
- User space harassment

### Off-wiki harassment

### Harassing those outside of the editing community

### Dealing with harassment

- Accusing others of harassment

# harass

From most popular encyclopedia  
Wiktionary.com  
Harass

## Contents

### English

- Etymology
- Pronunciation
- Verb
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  - Derived terms
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  - Further reading
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- Anagrams

## English

### Etymology

From French *harasser* (“to tire out, to vex”), of obscure origin, perhaps from Old French *harer* (“to stir up, provoke, set a dog on”) and/or Old French *harier* (“to harry”); see harry; compare Old French, *harace* (“a basket made of cords”), *harace*, *harasse* (“a very heavy and large shield”).

### Pronunciation

- (*General American*) enPR: hərəs', hă'rəs, IPA<sup>(key)</sup>: /hə'ɹæs/, /'hæɹəs/
- (*Received Pronunciation*) enPR: hă'rəs, hərəs', IPA<sup>(key)</sup>: /'hæɹəs/, /hə'ɹæs/
- Rhymes: -æs
- Rhymes: -æɹəs

### Verb

**harass** (*third-person singular simple present* **harasses**, *present participle* **harassing**, *simple past and past participle* **harassed**)

1. To fatigue or to tire with repeated and exhausting efforts. [quotations ▼]
2. To annoy endlessly or systematically; to molest. [quotations ▼]

3. To put excessive burdens upon; to subject to anxieties.

*To **harass** good people is no different than speaking ill of them.*

## Synonyms

- hassle
- harry
- chivy or chivvy
- chevy or chevvy
- beset
- plague
- molest
- provoke

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Harass  
cont.

## Derived terms

- harasser
- harassful
- harassment

## Translations

<u>±to fatigue or tire</u>	[show ▼]
<u>±to annoy; to molest</u>	[show ▼]
<u>±to put excessive burdens upon</u>	[show ▼]

## Further reading

- harass (<http://www.websters1913.com/words/Harass>) in *Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary*, G. & C. Merriam, 1913.
- harass (<http://triggs.djvu.org/century-dictionary.com/nph-chw.php?query=harass&type=dicts>) in *The Century Dictionary*, The Century Co., New York, 1911

## Noun

### harass

1. (*obsolete*) devastation; waste

(Can we find and add a quotation of Milton to this entry?)

2. (*obsolete*) worry; harassment

(Can we find and add a quotation of Byron to this entry?)

# harassment

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Harassment

## English

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### Etymology

From Middle French *harasement*; synchronically analyzable as *harass* + *-ment*.

### Pronunciation

- IPA<sup>(key)</sup>: /həˈɹæsmənt/, /ˈhæɹəsmənt/

### Noun

**harassment** (*countable and uncountable, plural **harassments***)

1. Persistent attacks and criticism causing worry and distress.
2. Deliberate pestering or annoying.
3. Excessive intimidation.

### Synonyms

- torment
- molestation

### Derived terms

- verbal harassment
- workplace harassment
- sexual harassment