

accident / incident

Accidents (more general) and **incidents** (specific) can be events in the news. An **incident** can refer to any event - big or small, good or bad, (un)intentional (*a bank robbery, a funny situation, an argument*).

An **accident** is a bad event caused by error or by chance. Accidents are always **unintentional**, and they usually result in some damage or injury (e.g. car crash).

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*If a drunk driver runs his car into a group of people, that is an **accident**.*

*If teenagers throw rocks at a house and break its windows, that is an **incident**.*



ache / pain / hurt



All three of these words can be used to refer to *emotional* pain as well as physical pain.

An **ache** is discomfort that continues for some time. It is usually associated with a specific part of the body, such as a head**ache**, a stomach**ache**, a tooth**ache**, and an ear**ache**.

Muscles can **ache** the next day after your exercise. An ache is usually not extremely strong, so **you can try to ignore it**.

Pain is usually **stronger**, more sudden, and more difficult to ignore. You would feel **pain** when you cut yourself or hit your head on something. If you exercise and you injure yourself - break a bone or tear a muscle - you would feel a sudden **pain**.

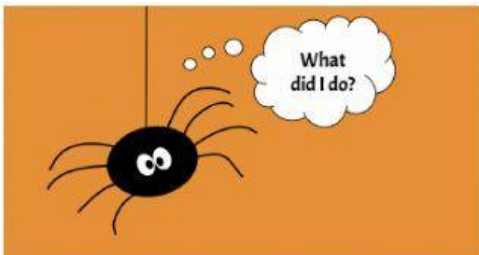
Hurt is a little different because it is not used as a noun. **Hurt** is also used to mean "injure."

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My ankle/neck **hurts**. = I have a pain/ache in my ankle/neck.

Don't play with that knife - you could **hurt** yourself.

He was badly **hurt** in the car accident.



afraid / scared / frightened

Describing an emotional state, 'to be **afraid of**' and 'to be **scared of**' have **the same** meaning.

She's **afraid** of spiders. = She's **scared** of spiders.

In the active voice, when the **SUBJECT** of the sentence is the scary thing, you can use *only* **scared** or **frightened**.

You use **scary** or **frightening** to describe something that causes fear:

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The loud noise **scared** / **frightened** me.

It was a **scary** / **frightening** experience.



