



Word *of the* Day (<http://dictionary.reference.com/wordoftheday>)

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definitions



alarm



alarm (<http://static.sfdict.com/staticrep/dictaudio/A02/A0265900.mp3>)

[*uh-lahrm*]

Synonyms Examples Word Origin

noun

<http://static.sfdict.com/staticrep/dictaudio/A02/A0265900.mp3>

1. a sudden fear or distressing suspense caused by an awareness of danger; apprehension; fright.
2. any sound, outcry, or information intended to warn of approaching danger:
Paul Revere raced through the countryside raising the alarm that the British were coming.
3. an automatic device that serves to call attention, to rouse from sleep, or to warn of fire, smoke, an intruder, etc.
4. a warning sound; signal for attention.
5. *Animal Behavior.* any sound, outcry, chemical discharge, action, or other signal that functions to draw attention to a potential predator.

(<http://blog.dictionary.com/identifying>)

And the Wo

6. *Fencing*. an appeal or a challenge made by a step or stamp on the ground with the advancing foot.

Year is...

7. *Archaic*. a call to arms.

verb (used with object)

8. to make fearful or apprehensive; distress.

9. to warn of danger; rouse to vigilance and swift measures for safety.

10. to fit or equip with an alarm or alarms, as for fire, smoke, or robbery:
to alarm one's house and garage.

Origin of alarm

French (http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/Middle%20French) Middle English (http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/Middle%20English) Old Italian (http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/Old%20Italian)

1350-1400

1350-1400; Middle English *alarme*, *alarom* < Middle French < Old Italian *allarme*, noun from phrase *all'arme* to (the) arms. See arm (<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/arm>)²

Related forms

alarmable, adjective

alarmedly (<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/alarmedly>) (<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/alarmedly>) (Show IPA) **adverb**

prealarm, verb (used with object), noun

unalarmed, adjective

Synonyms

1. consternation; terror, panic. See fear (<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/fear>). **8.** See frighten (<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/frighten>).

Dictionary.com Unabridged

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Cite This Source (<http://dictionary.reference.com/cite.html?qh=alarm&ia=luna>)

Examples from the Web for alarm

Contemporary Examples

Then, around 8:30, every *alarm* went off, all of them blaring at the same time.

(<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2011/09/11/9-11-anniversary-andrew-sullivan-christopher-dickey-and-more-daily-beast-and-newsweek-coverage.html?source=dictionary>)

(<http://www.thedailybeast.com/contributors/.html?source=dictionary>)

September 10, 2011

There will be no differences among them when an *alarm* comes in and they all respond as firefighters when an *alarm* comes in.

(<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2013/12/10/firefighter-s-son-in-iconic-1995-funeral-photo-follows-his-dad-s-deadly-steps.html?source=dictionary>)

Michael Daly (<http://www.thedailybeast.com/contributors/michael-daly.html?source=dictionary>)

December 9, 2013

Why his suspicious-sounding pun name didn't set off *alarm* bells is anybody's guess, but lesson learned.

(<http://www.theinvestor.com/news/Investment-Advice> (<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2009/03/23/heinous-investment-advice.html?source=direct>))

British Dictionary definitions for alarm

alarm

/ə'la:m/

verb (**transitive**)

1. to fill with apprehension, anxiety, or fear
2. to warn about danger; alert
3. to fit or activate a burglar alarm on a house, car, etc

noun

4. fear or terror aroused by awareness of danger; fright
-

Collins English Dictionary - Complete & Unabridged 2012 Digital Edition

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

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Word Origin and History for alarm

n.

early 14c., from Old French *alarme* (14c.), from Italian *all'arme* "to arms!" (literally "to the arms"). An interjection that came to be used as the word for the call or warning (cf. alert (/browse/alert)). Extended 16c. to "any sound to warn of danger or to arouse." Weakened sense of "apprehension, unease" is from 1833. Variant *alarum* is due to the rolling *-r-* in the vocalized form. Sometimes in early years anglicized as *all-arm*. *Alarm clock* is attested from 1690s (as *A Larum clock*).

v.

1580s, from alarm (/browse/alarm) (n.). Related: Alarmed (/browse/Alarmed); *alarming*.

Online Etymology Dictionary, © 2010 Douglas Harper

Cite This Source (<http://dictionary.reference.com/cite.html?qh=alarm&ia=etymon2>)

Related Abbreviations for alarm

ALARM

air-launched antiradiation missile

The American Heritage® Abbreviations Dictionary, Third Edition

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alarm in the Bible

a particular quivering sound of the silver trumpets to give warning to the Hebrews on their journey through the wilderness (Num. 10:5, 6), a call to arms, or a war-note (Jer. 4:19; 49:2; Zeph. 1:16).

Easton's 1897 Bible Dictionary

Cite This Source (<http://dictionary.reference.com/cite.html?qh=alarm&ia=easton>)

Idioms and Phrases with alarm

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