

WORD OF THE WEEK

DISCONCERTING



READ IT

Disconcerting



DEFINE IT

1. Causing one to feel unsettled.
2. A feeling of confusion, often in the face of something unexpected.



DRAW IT



USE IT

1. It was rather disconcerting to see they had not started the work yet.
2. In a world of disconcerting change, we all want something we can cling to.



LINK IT

Bewildered, unsettled, perplexed, puzzled, distressed.



DE-CONSTRUCT IT

Late 17th century 'upset the progress of'. From obsolete French *desconcerter*, *des-* meaning *the opposite of*, *concerter* meaning *to bring together* (the opposite of bringing together).



DIGGING DEEPER

When breaking the word down into component parts we can see that *concert* is at the centre. In music this is typically a performance where the musicians are in unison and harmony with each other. Additionally, the verb *concert* means to arrange something by mutual agreement or coordination. By adding the prefix *dis* the idea of harmony and unison is thrown into discord or disarray causing unease and panic, hence the word disconcerting.

Antonyms: comforting, soothing, reassuring.