

What's the difference between shock, surprise, astonish, frighten?

Shock

Can be either a positive or negative feeling. You cannot believe something has happened.

Example 1: I was so shocked that he failed his exam.

Example 2: I was shocked at how beautiful she was.

Surprise

The same as above. Can be positive or negative. You did not expect something.

Example 1: I was surprised at how little he cared...

Example 2: I was surprised that my friend came over on Tuesday.

Astonish

Mostly used to express a positive emotion. You are amazed.

Example 1: Wow! I am astonished to see this old building still in tact!

Frighten

A negative emotion. You are afraid.

Example 1: That scary movie frightened me!