

## TO BE AFRAID TO DO (things we do intentionally)

We use **afraid to do** something for things we do intentionally ; we can choose to do them or not.

I am **afraid to do** something = I don't want to do it because it is dangerous or the result could be bad.

- This part of town is dangerous. People are **afraid to walk** here at night.  
(= they don't walk here at night because it is dangerous)
- He's not **afraid to say** what he thinks.  
(= he says what he thinks regardless of the consequences)
- I'm **afraid to tell** my dad I've dented his car because I know he'll go bananas.  
(= I do not want to tell my dad I've dented his car because I know he'll go bananas)

## TO BE AFRAID OF DOING (things that happen accidentally)

To talk about fear of things that happen accidentally, we prefer afraid of+ -ing.

We do not use **afraid of doing** for things we do intentionally.

I am **afraid of doing** something = I am afraid that something bad will happen.

- The path was icy, so we walked very carefully. We were **afraid of falling**.  
(= we walked carefully because we didn't want to fall)
- They are **afraid of getting** lost in the forest. (= they are afraid because they think they may get lost.)
- I don't like to drive fast because **I'm afraid of crashing**. (= if I drive fast I may crash and I want to avoid that)