



Distract

Put sb off

to direct a person's attention away from an activity or subject towards another one that is less important:

 The students sidetracked their teacher into talking about her hobby.

Be/get sidetracked

 I'm sorry I'm late - I got sidetracked.

to delay the progress of something by causing people to waste time on something else that is unimportant

 It's easy to get sidetracked by the design details. to get someone's attention and prevent them from concentrating on something

Be/get distracted

- She was distracted by the sound of running water.
- When driving, you can't get distracted for even one second.

Distract from

 If the TV is distracting you from your homework, turn it off.

Distract (someone's) attention from something:

to do something in order to stop someone from paying attention to something

- They tried to distract attention from the crisis.
- The nurse talked to the baby to distract his attention from the injection.

to prevent someone from concentrating on something so that they have difficulty doing it

- Stop laughing you'll put her off.
- Don't talk to me while I'm counting, you'll put me off.

Phrase:

Put someone off their stride/ stroke

to stop someone from concentrating on what they are doing, so that they do not do it as well as usual

- The player's bad behaviour is a tactic designed to put his opponent off his stride.
- He was put off his stroke by the arguing in the next room.