

AFRAID **to do of doing**

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)
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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 sth = I am afraid that sth 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)
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