

## **faze** (fāz)

*verb*

To disrupt the composure of someone; disconcert.

[Middle English *fesen*, to drive away, frighten, from Old English *fēsian*; akin to Swedish *fösa*, to drive, push.]

∞ *Phase* and *faze* get confused, mainly because many people do not know that there is such a word as *faze*, so they write *phase* instead. But this is a mistake.

*Faze* is a verb and comes from Old English. It means to upset or bother someone. It is usually used in negative contexts, as in *She was not fazed by the setback but carried on as determined as ever*. By contrast, *phase* is both a noun and a verb, and it comes from Greek. The noun has the general meaning of “a stage of development,” and it sees numerous uses in technical fields like chemistry and physics. The verb often occurs in the phrases *phase in* and *phase out*, which mean introducing or ending something one stage at a time.

**A loud roar came from one of the side rooms, and startled me without fazing Sofia.**

—John Grisham, *The Street Lawyer*

**The enormous logistical and administrative complexities of running a big army fazed him not at all.**

—Rick Atkinson, *The Day of Battle: The War in Sicily and Italy, 1943–1944*