



Verbal labels describing major affect states List of related terms in 5 languages

One of the problems in intercultural research is the correct translation of the affect or emotion terms used. Since many of these terms have somewhat different denotational and connotational meaning in different languages, there is no satisfactory solution to the problem. The following list of affect descriptors in five Indo-European languages is a byproduct of the research activities of a team of psychologists from many different countries that ran a series of intercultural questionnaire studies, involving free responses of emotional experiences. No claim is made for the exhaustiveness of the list or for the affect status of specific terms. Opinions may also vary on whether a particular term in a particular language is the best possible rendering of the meaning of the terms in the other languages. In fact, in revising the list it became clear that it was impossible to find labels with exactly equivalent meanings across all languages – in many cases a choice needed to be made as to which language was to serve as reference. Most importantly, while there is obviously much overlap in the meanings, in some languages, especially in French and Italian, many essentially "correct" translations also have very strong additional connotations, being normally disambiguated by the context. Therefore this list should not be seen as definitive but rather as a convenient starting point for the elaboration of more sophisticated multilingual dictionaries of affective meaning. Indeed, the discussion about the similarities and differences in meaning of these terms across languages may call into question the very idea of a small number of universal basic emotions, at least with respect to the conceptualization of emotion in language.

Further information on how this list was produced and the process of translation and back translation of terms can be found in Scherer, K. R., Wallbott, H.G., & Summerfield, A.B. (Eds.). (1986). *Experiencing emotion: A cross-cultural study*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

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Appendix F. Labels describing affective states in five major languages. In K. R. Scherer (Ed.) (1988). *Facets of emotion: Recent research* (pp. 241-243). Hillsdale, NJ: Erlbaum. [Version revised by the members of the Geneva Emotion Research Group]. Copy retrieved [Date] from <http://www.unige.ch/fapse/emotion/resmaterial/resmaterial.html>

<i>English</i>	<i>Deutsch</i>	<i>Français</i>	<i>Italiano</i>	<i>Espagnol</i>
affectionate	voller Zuneigung	affectueux	affettuoso	afectuoso
afraid	verängstigt	apeuré	impaurito	atemorizado
agitated	aufgeregt	agité	agitato	agitado
amazed	verwundert	stupéfait	stupefatto	estupefacto
amused	belustigt	amusé	divertito	divertido
angry	ärgerlich	en colère	arrabbiato	enfadado
anguished	gequält	tourmenté	tormentato	atormentado
annoyed	verärgert	agacé	seccato	fastidiado
anxious	ängstlich	anxieux	ansioso	ansioso
apathetic	apathisch	apathique	apatico	apático
ashamed	schamvoll	honteux	vergognoso	avergonzado
astonished	erstaunt	étonné	sorpreso	asombrado
at ease	wohl fühlen	(se sentir) à l'aise	a suo agio	sentirse a gusto
bored	gelangweilt	ennuyé	annoiato	aburrido
calm	ruhig	calme	calmo	calmado
carefree	unbekümmert	insouciant	incurante	despreocupado
cheerful	fröhlich	gai	allegro	alegre
compassionate	mitleidig	compatissant	compassionevole	compasivo
confident	zuversichtlich	confiant	fiducioso	confiado
confused	verwirrt	confus	confuso	confundido
contented	zufrieden	content	contento	contento
courageous	mutig	courageux	coraggioso	corajudo
cowardly	feige	lâche	codardo	cobarde
curious	neugierig	curieux	curioso	curioso
dejected	niedergeschlagen	abattu	abbattuto	abatido
delighted	entzückt	ravi	contentissimo	encantado
depressed	deprimiert	déprimé	depresso	deprimido
desirous	begehrlich	désireux	desideroso	deseoso
desperate	verzweifelt	désespéré	disperato	desesperado
despondent	verzagt	accablé	Sfiduciato	desanimado
disappointed	enttäuscht	déçu	deluso	desilusionado
discontented	unzufrieden	mécontent	scontento	descontento
discouraged	mutlos	découragé	scoraggiato	descorazonado
disdainful	voller Geringschätzung	dédaigneux	sprezzante	desdeñoso
disgruntled	missvergnügt	contrarié	contrariato	contrariado
disgusted	ekelerfüllt	dégoûté	disgustato	asqueado
dismayed	bestürzt	consterné	costernato	consternado
distressed	bekümmert	affligé	afflitto	afligido
distrustful	misstrauisch	méfiant	diffidente	desconfiado
doubtful	zweifelnd	plein de doute	dubbioso	dubitativo
drowsy	schläfrig	somnolent	sonnolento	somnoliento
dumbfounded	verblüfft	ahuri	stupito	pasmado

eager	eifrig	empresé	avido	emprendedor
earnest	ernst	sérieux	serio	serio
elated	hocherfreut	exalté	esultante	gozoso
enthusiastic	begeistert	enthousiaste	entusiasta	entusiasmado
embarrassed	verlegen	embarrassé	imbarazzato	azorado
embittered	erbittert	aigri	amareggiato	amargado
envious	neidisch	envieux	invidioso	envidioso
exasperated	aufgebracht	exaspéré	esasperato	exasperado
excited	erregt	excité	eccitato	excitado
ecstatic	ekstatisch	extatique	estasiato	extasiado
exuberant	überschwenglich	exubérant	esuberante	exuberante
fascinated	fasziniert	fasciné	affascinato	fascinado
fed up	verdrossen	dépité	annoiato	estar harto
forlorn	verlassen	abandonné	abbandonato	abandonado
frightened	voller Furcht	effrayé	spaventato	aterrorizado
frolicsome	übermütig	folâtre	divertente	juguetón
full of contempt	verachtungsvoll	plein de mépris	sprezzante	lleno de desprecio
full of hatred	hasserfüllt	plein de haine	pieno di odio	lleno de odio
full of regrets	reuevoll	plein de regrets	pieno di rimpianti	arrepentido
full of reverence	ehrfürchtig	plein de révérence	ossequioso	reverente
furious	wütend	furieux	furioso	furioso
gloomy	düster	sombre	cupo	sonbrío
grateful	dankbar	reconnaissant	ricoscente	agradecido
grief-stricken	gramvoll	chagriné	afflitto	afligido
guilty	schuldvoll	coupable	colpevole	culpable
happy	glücklich	heureux	felice	feliz
helpless	hilflos	impuissant	indifeso	impotente
hesitant	zögernd	hésitant	esitante	vacilante
homesick	voller Heimweh	avoir le mal du pays	soffrire il mal di terra	sentir mal de tierra
hopeful	hoffnungsvoll	plein d'espoir	fiducioso	esperanzado
hopeless	hoffnungslos	sans espoir	disperato	desesperanzado
horrified	entsetzt	horrofié	terrorizzato	horrorizado
hostile	feindselig	hostile	ostile	hostil
humble	demütig	humble	umile	humilde
ill at ease	unbehaglich	mal à l'aise	a disagio	incomodo
impatient	ungeduldig	impatient	impaziente	impaciente
impressed	beeindruckt	impressionné	impressionato	impresionado
in high spirits	ausgelassen	plein d'entrain	pieno di vita	animadísimo
in love	verliebt	amoureux	innamorato	enamorado
indecisive	unentschlossen	indécis	indeciso	indeciso
indifferent	indifferent	indifférent	indifferente	indiferente
indignant	entrüstet	indigné	indignato	indignado
inspired	inspiriert	inspiré	ispirato	inspirado
interested	interessiert	intéressé	interessato	interesado
intimidated	eingeschüchtert	intimidé	intimidito	intimidado

intolerant	unduldsam	intolérant	intollerante	intolerante
jealous	eifersüchtig	jaloux	geloso	celoso
joyful	freudig	joyeux	gioioso	contento
jubilant	jubilnd	jubilant	giubilante	jubiloso
listless	matt	langoureux	languido	lánguido
lively	munter	allègre	vivace	animado
lonely	einsam	(se sentir) seul	(sentirsi) solo	(sentirse) solo
melancholic	melancholisch	mélancolique	melanconico	melancólico
nervous	nervös	nerveux	nervoso	nervioso
nostalgic	nostalgisch	nostalgique	nostalgico	nostálgico
offended	gekränkt	offensé	offeso	ofendido
outraged	empört	outragé	oltraggiato	ultrajado
overexcited	aufgedreht	surexcité	sovreccitato	sobreexcitado
passionate	voller Leidenschaft	passionné	appassionato	apasionado
proud	stolz	fier	fiero	orgullosa
puzzled	verduzt	perplexe	perplesso	perplejo
relaxed	entspannt	détendu	rilassato	relajado
relieved	erleichtert	soulagé	sollevato	aliviado
repelled	angewidert	répugné	provare ripugnanza	sentir repugnancia
resigned	resigniert	résigné	rassegnato	resignado
respectful	respektvoll	respectueux	rispettoso	respetuoso
sad	traurig	triste	triste	triste
satisfied	befriedigt	satisfait	soddisfatto	satisfecho
scared	voller Schrecken	affolé	spaventato	asustado
sensual	sinnlich	sensuel	sensuale	sensual
serene	heiter	serein	serene	sereno
shy	schüchtern	timide	timido	tímido
sorry	leid tun	désolé	spiacente	pesaroso
stimulated	angeregt	stimulé	stimolato	estimulado
stubborn	trotzig	buté	ostinato	obstinado
surprised	überrascht	surpris	sorpreso	sorprendido
tender	zärtlich	tendre	tenero	tierno
tense	angespannt	tendu	teso	tenso
tired	müde	fatigué	stanco	cansado
touched	gerührt	touché	commosso	conmovido
triumphant	triumphierend	trionphant	trionfante	trionfante
undecided	unentschlossen	indécis	indeciso	indeciso
uneasy	beunruhigt	inquiet	inquieto	inquieto
unhappy	unglücklich	malheureux	infelice	infeliz
vengeful	rachsüchtig	vindictif	vendicativo	vengativo
warmhearted	warmen Herzens	chaleureux	caloroso	calido
weak	schwach	faible	debole	débil
worried	besorgt	soucieux	preoccupato	preocupado