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de·fi·ance  (dĭ-fī əns)

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n.

1. Bold resistance against an opposing force or authority: *engaged in acts of defiance against the regime.*
2. Contemptuous disrespect for the authority of another: *detected a tone of defiance in the letter.*
3. *Archaic* A challenge, as to combat or a duel: *"Violent was Mr. Weller's indignation as he was borne along; numerous were the allusions to the personal appearance and demeanour of Mr. Grummer and his companion; and valorous were the defiances to any six of the gentlemen present, in which he vented his dissatisfaction" (Charles Dickens).*

Idiom:

in defiance of

In spite of; contrary to: *went on strike in defiance of union policy.*

[Middle English *defiaunce*, from Old French *desfiance*, from *desfier*, to defy; see [DEFY](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

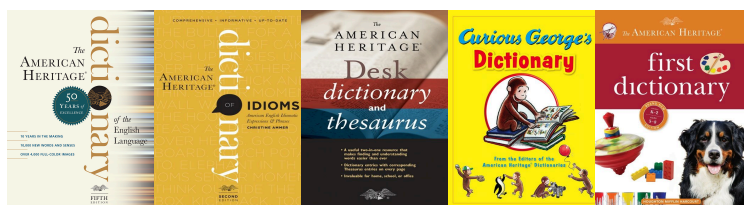
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