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Language



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of·fice  (ô fīs, ôf īs)

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n.

1.

a. A place in which business, clerical, or professional activities are conducted.

b. The administrative personnel, executives, or staff working in such a place: *Can your office handle that amount of work?*

2.

a. A subdivision of a governmental department: *the US Patent Office.*

b. A major executive division of a government: *the British Home Office.*

3.

a. A position of authority, duty, or trust given to a person, as in a government or corporation: *the office of vice president.*

b. Public position: *Is she inclined to seek office?*

4.

a. A duty or function assigned to or assumed by someone: *Our host performed the office of tour guide.* See Synonyms at [function](#).

b. often offices A service or beneficial act done for another: *Through her kind offices we were given a room with a view.*

5. Ecclesiastical A ceremony, rite, or service, usually prescribed by liturgy, especially:

a. The canonical hours.

b. A prayer service in the Anglican Church, such as Morning or Evening Prayer.

c. A ceremony, rite, or service for a special purpose, especially the Office of the Dead.

6. offices *Chiefly British* The parts of a house, such as the laundry and kitchen, in which servants carry out household work.

[Middle English, from Old French, duty, from Latin *officium*; see **dhē-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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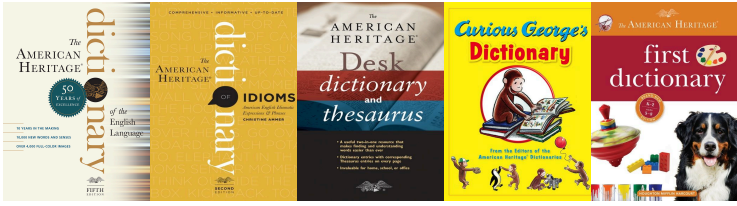
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