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dictionary

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ab·er·ra·tion  (ăb'ə-rā shən)

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n.

1. A deviation from what is typical or normal: *an election that was an aberration from usual state politics*. See Synonyms at [deviation](#).
2. A departure from what is considered natural or proper: *"Throughout history, the beast with a taste for human flesh has been regarded as an aberration, even as an outlaw" (Philip Caputo)*.
3. An abnormal, usually temporary alteration in one's mental state.
4.
 - a. A defect of focus, such as blurring in an image.
 - b. An imperfect image caused by a physical defect in an optical element, as in a lens.
5. The apparent displacement of the position of a celestial body in the direction of motion of an observer on Earth, caused by the motion of Earth and the finite velocity of light.
6. *Genetics* A deviation in the normal structure or number of chromosomes in an organism.

[Latin *aberrātiō*, *aberrātiōn-*, diversion, from *aberrātus*, past participle of *aberrāre*, to go astray : *ab-*, away from; see [AB-](#)¹ + *errāre*, to stray; see **ers-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

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