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AMERICAN
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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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cour·te·sy  (kûr tĭ-sē)

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n. pl. cour·te·sies

1.

a. Polite behavior.

b. A polite gesture or remark.

2.

a. Consent or agreement in spite of fact; indulgence: *They call this pond a lake by courtesy only.*

b. Willingness or generosity in providing something needed: *free advertising through the courtesy of the local newspaper.*

adj.

1. Given or done as a polite gesture: *paid a courtesy visit to the new neighbors.*

2. Free of charge: *courtesy tickets for the reporters.*

[Middle English *courtesie*, from Old French, from *corteis*, courtly; see [COURTEOUS](#).]

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