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of·fend  (ə-fěnd)

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v. of·fend·ed, of·fend·ing, of·fends

v.tr.

1. To cause displeasure, anger, resentment, or wounded feelings in: *We were offended by his tasteless jokes.*

2. To be displeasing or disagreeable to: *Onions offend my sense of smell.*

v.intr.

1. To result in displeasure: *Bad manners may offend.*

2.

a. To violate a moral or divine law; sin.

b. To violate a rule or law: *offended against the curfew.*

[Middle English *offenden*, from Old French *offendre*, from Latin *offendere*; see **g^When-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

of·fend er n.

Synonyms: offend, insult, affront, outrage

These verbs mean to cause resentment, humiliation, or hurt. To *offend* is to cause displeasure, wounded feelings, or repugnance in another: "*He often offended men who might have been useful friends*" (John Lothrop Motley).

Insult implies gross insensitivity, insolence, or contemptuous rudeness: "*My father had insulted her by refusing to come to our wedding*" (James Carroll).

To *affront* is to insult openly, usually intentionally: "*He continued to belabor the poor woman in a studied effort to affront his hated chieftain*" (Edgar Rice Burroughs).

Outrage implies the flagrant violation of a person's integrity, pride, or sense of right and decency: "*He revered the men and women who transformed this piece of grassland into a great city, and he was outraged by the attacks on their reputation*" ([James S. Hirsch](#)).

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

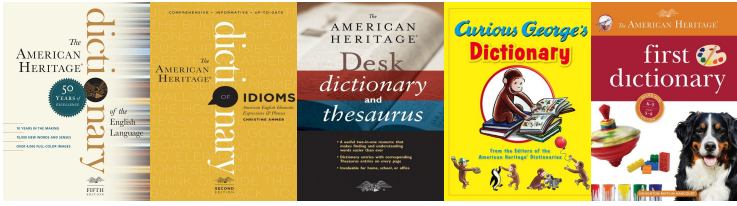
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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