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AMERICAN
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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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of·fense  (ə-fěns)

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- n.*
1.
 - a. The act of causing anger, resentment, displeasure, or affront.
 - b. The state of being offended.
 2.
 - a. A violation or infraction of a moral or social code; a transgression or sin.
 - b. A transgression of law; a crime.
 3. Something that outrages moral sensibilities: *Genocide is an offense to all civilized humans.*
 4. (ōf ěns') The act of attacking or assaulting.
 5. (ōf ěns') *Sports*
 - a. The means or tactics used in attempting to score.
 - b. The team in possession of the ball or puck, or those players whose primary duty is to attempt to score.
 - c. Scoring ability or potential.

[Middle English, from Old French *ofense*, from Latin *offēnsa*, from feminine past participle of *offendere*, to offend; see [OFFEND](#).]

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