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ac·ci·dent  (ăk sĭ-dənt, -dənt')

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n.

1.

a. An unexpected and undesirable event, especially one resulting in damage or harm: *an accident on the assembly line; car accidents on icy roads.*

b. An unforeseen event that is not the result of intention or has no apparent cause: *A series of happy accidents led to his promotion.*

c. An instance of involuntary urination or defecation.

2. Lack of intention; chance: *ran into an old friend by accident.*

3. Philosophy An attribute of a substance that is not essential to its nature.

[Middle English, chance event, from Old French, from Latin *accidēns*, *accident-*, present participle of *accidere*, to happen : *ad-*, *ad-* + *cadere*, to fall; see **kad-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

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