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dictionary

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Language



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in·ci·dent  (ĩn sĭ-dənt)

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n.

1.

a. A particular occurrence, especially one of minor importance. See Synonyms at [occurrence](#).

b. An event in a narrative or drama.

2.

a. A usually violent or disruptive occurrence, especially one that precipitates a larger crisis: *an international incident that provoked war*.

b. An occurrence that interrupts normal procedure or functioning; a mishap: *The plane landed without incident*.

3. *Law* Something contingent on or related to something else.

adj.

1. Tending to arise or occur as a result or accompaniment: *"There is a professional melancholy ... incident to the occupation of a tailor" (Charles Lamb)*.

2. *Law* Related to or dependent on another thing.

3. *Physics* Falling upon or striking a surface: *incident radiation*.

[Middle English, from Old French, apt to happen, an incident, from Latin *incidēns*, *incident-*, present participle of *incidere*, to happen : *in-*, on; see [IN-²](#) + *cadere*, to fall; see **kad-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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