



SINCE 1828

offset verb

off·set | \ 'ôf-,set , transitive senses are also ôf-'set \

offset; offsetting; offsets

Definition of *offset* (Entry 1 of 2)

transitive verb

- a** : to place over against something : **BALANCE**
*// credits **offset** debits*
 - b** : to serve as a counterbalance for : **COMPENSATE**
*// his speed **offset** his opponent's greater weight*
-
- 2** : to form an offset in
*// **offset** a wall*

intransitive verb

: to become marked by offset

offset noun

off·set | \ 'ôf-,set \

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especially : either of two balancing ledger items

- 2 a (1)** : a short prostrate (see **PROSTRATE** entry 1 sense 3) lateral shoot arising from the base of a plant
- (2)** : a small bulb arising from the base of another bulb
- b** : a lateral or collateral (see **COLLATERAL** entry 2 sense 2) branch (as of a family or race) : **OFFSHOOT**
- c** : a spur (see **SPUR** entry 1 sense 4a) from a range of hills
- 3 a** : a printing process in which an inked impression from a plate is first made on a rubber-blanketed cylinder and then transferred to the paper being printed
- b** : unintentional transfer of ink (as from a freshly printed sheet)
- 4 a** : **DISPLACEMENT**
- b** : a horizontal ledge on the face of a wall formed by a diminution of its thickness above
- c** : an abrupt change in the dimension or profile of an object (such as a bowl) or the part set off by such change
- 5** : something that sets off to advantage or embellishes something else : **FOIL**
*// The clown was a humorous **offset** in the play.*
- 6** : an abrupt bend in an object (such as a pipe or a rod) by which one part is turned aside out of line
- 7 a** : **CESSATION**
*// rapid regular beating of the heart ... characterized by sudden onset and sudden **offset***
 — H. J. Stewart
- b** *archaic* : **OUTSET, START**

Other Words from *offset*

Synonyms

More Example Sentences

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Other Words from *offset*

Noun

offset *adjective or adverb*

Synonyms for *offset*

Synonyms: Verb

annul, cancel (out), compensate (for), correct, counteract, counterbalance, counterpoise, make up (for), negative, neutralize

Synonyms: Noun

balance, canceler (*or* canceller), corrective, counter, counteraction, counterbalance, counterforce, counterpoise, counterweight, equipoise, neutralizer

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Examples of *offset* in a Sentence

Verb

// Gains in one area *offset* losses in another.

// The limited storage space in the house is *offset* by the large garage.

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Recent Examples on the Web: Verb

// The program includes \$12 million in federal CARES funds to help after-school programs, summer camps, and other child care programs *offset* expenses and losses.

— *USA TODAY*, "Biker rally, convention problems, school crowding: News from around our 50 states," 10 Aug. 2020

// Tiger Woods ran off three birdies in a four-hole stretch toward the end of his round that *offset* a few mistakes.

— Mark Heim | Mheim@al.com, *al*, "PGA Championship, Round 2 (8/7/20): How to watch online, TV info, time, pairings," 7 Aug. 2020

These example sentences are selected automatically from various online news sources to reflect current usage of the word 'offset.' Views expressed in the examples do not represent the opinion of Merriam-Webster or its editors. Send us feedback.

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First Known Use of *offset*

Verb

1673, in the meaning defined at transitive sense 1a

Noun

circa 1555, in the meaning defined at sense 7b

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Time Traveler for *offset*

Time Traveler **The first known use of *offset* was circa 1555**

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offscouring

off-screen

off-season

offset

offset arch

offset screwdriver

offset sheet

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14 Aug 2020

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Style: MLA



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More Definitions for *offset*

offset verb

English Language Learners Definition of *offset*

: to cancel or reduce the effect of (something) : to create an equal balance between two things

offset verb

off·set | \ 'òf-,set \

offset; offsetting

Kids Definition of *offset*

: to make up for

// Gains in one state *offset* losses in another.

offset noun

off·set | \ 'òf-,set \

Legal Definition of *offset* (Entry 1 of 2)

: a claim or amount that reduces or balances another claim or amount : SET-OFF

// the creditor's own debt was an *offset*

also : the reduction or balance achieved by such a claim

offset transitive verb

off·set | \ ,òf-'set \

Legal Definition of *offset* (Entry 2 of 2)

: to balance, reduce, or calculate by reference to another amount

// *offset* the debt against a credit

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Thesaurus: All synonyms and antonyms for *offset*

Spanish Central: Translation of *offset*

Nglish: Translation of *offset* for Spanish Speakers

Britannica English: Translation of *offset* for Arabic Speakers

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estival

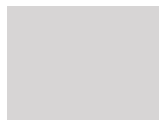
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flashy **tetchy**

superficial **gregarious**



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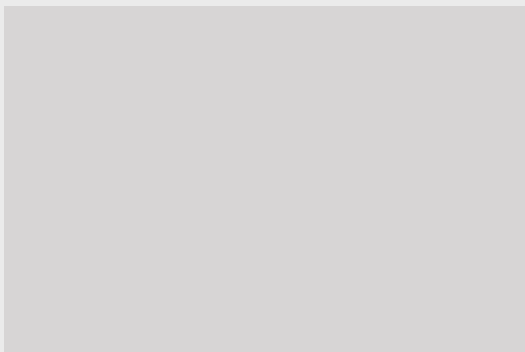
The Words of the Week - 8/21/20

Words from the week of 8/21/2020



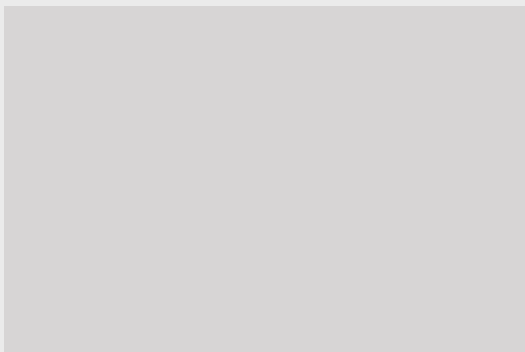
Fun With Sports-Team Names

Or How a Maple Leaf Survives an
Avalanche



6 Words for When You're Not Sure

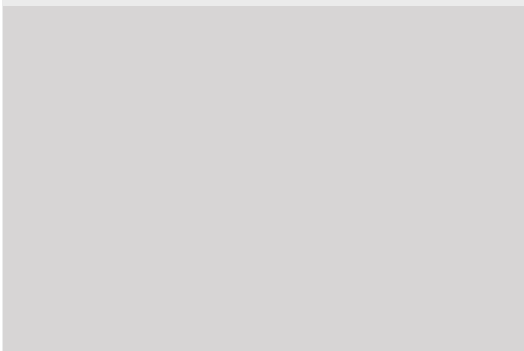
Just a shot in the dark here



The New 'Bubble' Popping Up in Sports

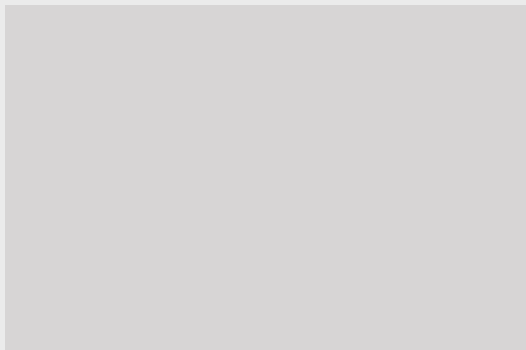
Thinking inside the bubble

ASK THE EDITORS



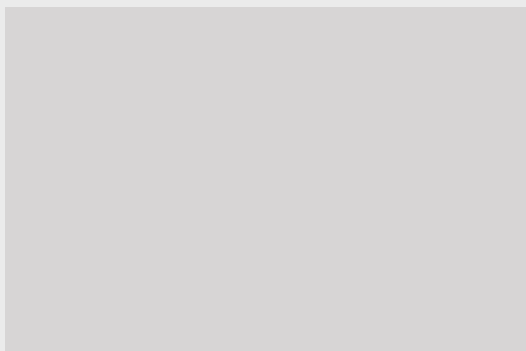
'Intensive purposes': An Eggcorn

We're intent on clearing it up



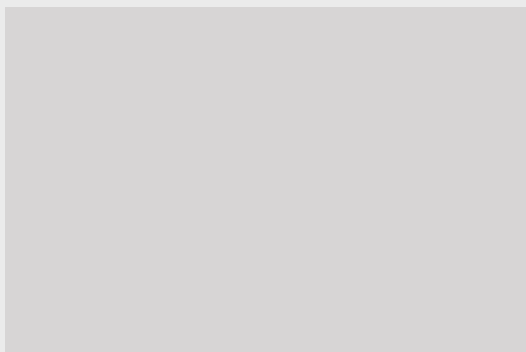
'Nip it in the butt': An Eggcorn

We're gonna stop you right there



Literally

How to use a word that (literally)
drives some people nuts.



**Is Singular 'They' a Better
Choice?**

The awkward case of 'his or her'

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