Page Vault

Document title:	OFFSET definition in American English | Collins English Dictionary
Capture URL:	https://www.collinsdictionary.com/us/dictionary/english/offset#google_vignette
Page loaded at (UTC):	Mon, 11 May 2026 18:41:01 GMT
Capture timestamp (UTC):	Mon, 11 May 2026 18:53:36 GMT
Capture tool:	10.80.0
Collection server IP:	54.145.42.72
Browser engine:	Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) @page-vault/browser/10.80.0 Chrome/144.0.7559.236 Safari/537.36
Operating system:	Linux (Node 24.14.0)
PDF length:	11
Capture ID:	9Ac2PvwjHKWdiwC4RunVnn
Display Name:	SGoodwin

PDF REFERENCE #: kmYpyC2dp24W1JFUmpuQci

Ad

No lock-in. No surprises. No competition.

Clear pricing, easy onboarding, and tools that flex as you grow? Only with Square.

Square

Get Square

Definitions Summary Synonyms Sentences Pronunciat

Definition of 'offset'

offset

(ɔfsɛt)

Word forms: offsets, offsetting

LANGUAGE NOTE:
The form offset is used in the present tense and is the past tense and past participle of the verb.

transitive verb

If one thing is offset by another, the effect of the first thing is reduced by the second, so that any advantage or disadvantage is canceled out.

The increase in pay costs was more than offset by higher productivity.

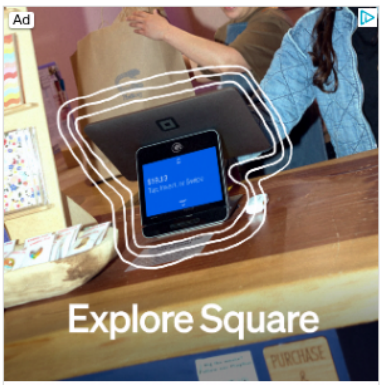
Synonyms: cancel out, balance, set off, make up for More Synonyms of **offset**

More Synonyms of **offset**

Collins COBUILD Advanced Learner's Dictionary. Copyright © HarperCollins Publishers

American English pronunciation

Ad



Ditch Toast. Get Square.

Clear pricing, easy onboarding, and tools that flex as you grow? Only with Square.

Square

Get Square

Wordle Helper

Scrabble Tools

Quick Word Challenge

Question: 1 – Score: 0 / 5

SYNONYMS

Select the synonym for:

noise

fallacy
reverberation
antipathy
exchange

Next

Definitions Summary Synonyms Sentences Pronunciat

British English pronunciation

New collocations added to dictionary

Collocations are words that are often used together and are brilliant at providing natural sounding language for your speech and writing.

FEBRUARY 13, 2020

READ MORE

You may also like

English Quiz Confusables

Synonyms of 'offset'

offset

in American English

('ɔf,sɛt); *for v., usually* ɔf'sɛt)

noun

1. something that is set off, or has sprung or developed, from something else; offshoot; extension; branch; spur
2. anything that balances, counteracts, or compensates for something else; compensation
3. *rare* var. of outset
4. *architecture*
   a ledge or recess formed in a wall by a reduction in its thickness above
5. *botany*
   a side shoot that takes root and starts a new plant
6. *electricity*
   a branch off a main power line
7. *mechanics*
   a curve or bend in a metal bar, pipe, etc. to permit it to pass an obstruction
8. *printing*

a. offset printing

it

9. *surveying*
a short distance measured at right angles from the main line to help in computing the area of an irregular plot of ground

adjective

10. of, relating to, or being an offset

11. that is offset, off center, or at an angle

verb transitive

Word forms: offset, offsetting

12. to balance, complement, counteract, compensate for, etc.

13. to make an offset in

14. *printing*

a. to make (an impression) by offset printing

b. to smudge with an offset

verb intransitive

15. to come out or develop as an offset

16. *printing*
to make an offset

Webster's New World College Dictionary, 5th Digital Edition. Copyright © 2025 HarperCollins Publishers.

offset

in American English

(*noun & adjective* ˈɔfˌset, ˈɑf-, *verb* ˌɔfˈset, ˌɑf-) (*verb* **-set**, **-setting**)

noun

1. something that counterbalances, counteracts, or compensates for something else; compensating equivalent

2. the start, beginning, or outset

6. *Also called*: **offset printing**, **offset lithography**

a. a process in which a lithographic stone or metal or paper plate is used to make an inked impression on a rubber blanket that transfers it to the paper being printed, instead of being made directly on the paper

b. the impression itself

7. *Also called*: **setoff** *Printing*
an unintentional transfer of excess or undried ink from one printed sheet to another

8. *Geology*

a. (*in faults*)
the magnitude of displacement between two previously aligned bodies

b. a spur of a mountain range

9. *Machinery*
a jog or short displacement in an otherwise straight and continuous line, as in a pipe, lever, or rod, made to avoid objects or to connect with other parts

10. *Architecture* see setoff (sense 3)

11. *Surveying*

a. a short distance measured perpendicularly from a main survey line

b. *Also called*: **offset line**
a line a short distance from and parallel to a main survey line

12. *Shipbuilding*
any of the coordinates by which any point on a hull being planned is located

adjective

13. of, noting, or pertaining to an offset

14. pertaining to, printed by, or suitable for printing by offset

15. placed away from a center line; off-center

16. placed at an angle to something, as to the axis of a form, shape, or object; not parallel

transitive verb

18. to juxtapose with something else, as for purposes of comparison
to offset advantages against disadvantages

19. *Printing*

a. to make an offset of

b. to print by the process of offset lithography

20. *Architecture*
to build with a setoff, as a wall

21. *Surveying*
to establish (a line) parallel to a main survey line at an offset

intransitive verb

22. to project as an offset or branch

23. to counterbalance or compensate

24. *Printing*
to make an offset

SYNONYMS
2. onset. 17. match, parallel; counterweight, counterpoise; counteract.

Most material © 2005, 1997, 1991 by Penguin Random House LLC. Modified entries © 2019 by Penguin Random House LLC and HarperCollins Publishers Ltd

Word origin

[1545–55; after v. phrase *set off*]

offset

in British English

noun

('ɒf,sɛt)

1. something that counterbalances or compensates for something else

2. an allowance made to counteract some effect

3.

a. a printing method in which the impression is made onto an intermediate surface, such as a rubber blanket, which transfers it to the paper

b. (*modifier*)
relating to, involving, or printed by offset

offset letterpress
offset lithography

4. another name for set-off

5. *botany*

a. a short runner in certain plants, such as the houseleek, that produces roots and shoots at the tip

7. the horizontal component of displacement on a fault

8. a narrow horizontal or sloping surface formed where a wall is reduced in thickness towards the top

9. a person or group descended collaterally from a particular group or family; offshoot

10. *surveying*
a measurement of distance to a point at right angles to a survey line

verb

(ˌɒfˈsɛt)

Word forms: -sets, -setting, -set

11. (*transitive*)
to counterbalance or compensate for

12. (*transitive*)
to print (pictures, text, etc) using the offset process

13. (*transitive*)
to construct an offset in (a wall)

14. (*intransitive*)
to project or develop as an offset

Collins English Dictionary. Copyright © HarperCollins Publishers

Examples of 'offset' in a sentence

offset

These examples have been automatically selected and may contain sensitive content that does not reflect the opinions or policies of Collins, or its parent company HarperCollins.

We welcome feedback: report an example sentence to the Collins team. Read more...

This way they can offset any guilt at their lavish lifestyles.
Times, Sunday Times (2024)

Its crisp white walls are offset with geometric textiles and floral floor tiles, and the pool has sea views.
Times, Sunday Times (2017)

Allowing them to deduct sales taxes will help offset this disadvantage.
CHRISTIANITY TODAY (2000)

Those on lower incomes may have some of their losses offset by increased tax credit payments.
TIMES, SUNDAY TIMES (2007)

There are some important offsetting effects.
TIMES, SUNDAY TIMES (2007)

This helped partly to offset the 19 million decline in print advertising during the same period.
TIMES, SUNDAY TIMES (2015)

Prices should include a carbon offsetting charge, with people unwilling to pay made to do without.
THE SUN (2007)

If you are tiling a wall with an offset window, use the middle of the window as your central point.
TIMES, SUNDAY TIMES (2014)

The semiconductor sector will be slow to recover, with any pick-up in volumes likely to be partially offset by pressure on price.
TIMES, SUNDAY TIMES (2009)

Word lists with
offset
architectural features

Quick Word Challenge
Question: 1 – **Score: 0 / 5**
Which *architectural feature* am I?
a small-scale arcade

AI Assistant

Definitions Summary Synonyms Sentences Pronunciati

Next

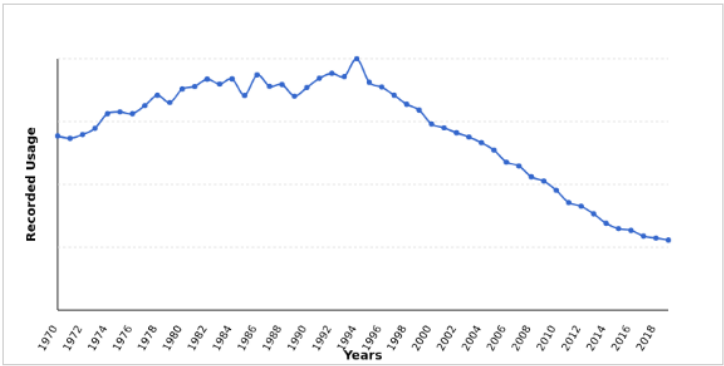
Related word partners

offset

offset a mortgage
offset a risk
offset an increase
offset an investment
offset rate
offset the benefits
offset the damage
offset the impact
offset weakness
price offset

Trends of

offset



Visible years: 50

Source: Google Books Ngram Viewer

Document title: OFFSET definition in American English | Collins English Dictionary
Capture URL: https://www.collinsdictionary.com/us/dictionary/english/offset#google_vignette
Capture timestamp (UTC): Mon, 11 May 2026 18:53:36 GMT

Hyper Ice, Inc. Ex. 1020-Page 9
Hyper Ice, Inc. v. Therabody, Inc.

In other languages

offset

British English: offset verb /ˌɒfˈsɛt/

If one thing *is offset* by another, the effect of the first thing is reduced by the second, so that any advantage or disadvantage is cancelled out.

The increase in pay costs was more than offset by higher productivity.

American English: offset /ɔfˈsɛt/
Brazilian Portuguese: compensar
Chinese: 抵消
European Spanish: contrarrestar
French: compenser
German: ausgleichen
Italian: controbilanciare
Japanese: 相殺する
Korean: 상쇄되다
European Portuguese: compensar
Spanish: contrarrestar
Thai: หักล้าง, ชดเชย

Translate your text for free

Browse nearby entries

offset

offscourings
offscreen
offscum
offset
offset a decline
offset a gain
offset a loss against

Related terms of

offset

dry offset
offset rate
offset well
web offset
carbon offset

View more related words

All ENGLISH words that begin with 'O'

Ad

Get started for $60/month
Reliability, security, and savings all in one.

Comcast Business Learn more

Definitions Summary Synonyms Sentences Pronunciati

offset

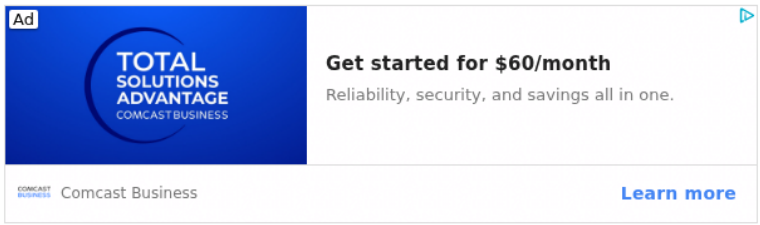
offscourings
offscreen
offscum
offset
offset a decline
offset a gain
offset a loss against

offset

dry offset
offset rate
offset well
web offset
carbon offset

View more related words

All ENGLISH words that begin with 'O'



Collins

Elevate your vocabulary

Sign up to our newsletter to receive our latest news, exclusive content and offers.

Sign up now

© Collins 2026