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Est. 1828

Word of the Day

: March 25, 2023

eighty-six

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What It Means

Eighty-six is an informal word that means “to eject, dismiss, or remove someone.” It is usually used in the context of banning or refusing to serve a customer, but it can also refer to rejecting, discontinuing, or removing something in general.

// The teenagers were *eighty-sixed* by the manager after they attempted to start a food fight in the restaurant.

[See the entry >](#)

eighty-six in Context

“There are occasional scuffles and a dozen or so [ne'er-do-wells](#) who have been permanently *eighty-sixed*. But, ultimately, the Last Stop is a home away from home, a playful, nonhierarchical joint you roll into for a \$3.50 pint of Bud Light and an easy conversation with the dude sitting next to you.” — Ryan Miller, *Seven Days* (Vermont), 23 Mar. 2022

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A Good Old-Fashioned Quiz

-
-
- [butter churn mouse trap](#)
- [washing machine grape smasher](#)

You know what it looks like... but what is it called?

[TAKE THE QUIZ](#)

Can you make 12 words with 7 letters?

[PLAY](#)

Did You Know?

If you work in a restaurant or bar, you might eighty-six (or “eliminate”) a menu item when you run out of it, or you might eighty-six (or “[cut off](#)”) a customer who should no longer be served. *Eighty-six* is still used in this specific context, but it has also entered the general language. These days, you don't have to be a worker in a restaurant or bar to eighty-six something—you just have to have something to get rid of or discard. There are many popular but unsubstantiated theories about the origin of *eighty-six*. The explanation judged most probable according to Merriam-Webster's research is that the word was created as a [rhyming slang](#) word for [nix](#), which means “to veto” or “to reject.”

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Name That Synonym

What hyphenated word ending in *six* is synonymous with *eighty-six*?

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