

5. Attack; assault; as a weapon of *offense*.
Richardson.

6. Impediment. Matt. xvi.

OFFENSEFUL, *a.* *offens'ful*. Giving displeasure; injurious. [*Not used.*] *Shak.*

OFFENSELESS, *a.* *offens'less*. Unoffending; innocent; inoffensive. *Milton.*

OFFENSIVE, *a.* [*Fr. offensif*; *It. offensivo*; *Sp. ofensivo*.]

1. Causing displeasure or some degree of anger; displeasing. All sin is *offensive* to God. Rude behavior is *offensive* to men. Good breeding forbids us to use *offensive* words.

2. Disgusting; giving pain or unpleasant sensations; disagreeable; as an *offensive* taste or smell; an *offensive* sight. Discordant sounds are *offensive* to the ears.

3. Injurious.

It is an excellent opener for the liver, but *offensive* to the stomach. *Bacon.*

4. Assailant; used in attack; opposed to *defensive*; as an *offensive* weapon or engine. *Wilkins.*

5. Assailant; invading; making the first attack; opposed to *defensive*; as an *offensive* war.

A *league offensive and defensive*, is one that requires both or all parties to make war together against a nation, and each party to defend the other in case of being attacked.

OFFENSIVE, *n.* The part of attacking; as, to act on the *offensive*.

OFFENSIVELY, *adv.* In a manner to give displeasure; as language *offensively* harsh or sarcastic.

2. Injuriously; mischievously. *Hooker.*

3. By way of invasion or first attack. The enemy was not in a condition to act *offensively*.

4. Unpleasantly to the senses.

OFFENSIVENESS, *n.* The quality that offends or displeases; as the *offensiveness* of rude language or behavior.

2. Injuriousness; mischief.

3. Cause of disgust; the quality that gives pain to the senses, or unpleasant sensations; as the *offensiveness* of smell or taste.

OFFER, *v. t.* [*L. offero*; *ob* and *fero*, to bring.]

1. Literally, to bring to or before; hence, to present for acceptance or rejection; to exhibit something that may be taken or received or not. He *offered* me a sum of money. He *offered* me his umbrella to defend me from the rain.

The heathen women under the Mogul, *offer* themselves to the flames at the death of their husbands. *Collier.*

2. To present in words; to proffer; to make a proposal to.

I *offer* thee three things. 2 Sam. xxiv.

3. To present, as an act of worship; to immolate; to sacrifice; often with *up*. Thou shalt *offer* every day a bullock as a sin-offering for atonement. Ex. xxix.

The one lamb shalt thou *offer* in the morning. *Ibm.*

A holy priesthood to *offer up* spiritual sacrifices. 1 Pet. 2.

4. To present in prayer or devotion.

Offer to God thanksgiving. Ps. 1.

5. To bid, as a price, reward or wages; as, to *offer* ten eagles for a ring; to *offer* a hundred dollars a year for a laborer; to *offer* a salary.

6. To present to the view or to the mind; as ideas which sense or reflection *offers* to the mind. *Locke.*

To *offer violence*, to assault; to attack or commence attack.

OFFER, *v. i.* To present itself; to be at hand.

Th' occasion *offers* and the youth complies. *Dryden.*

2. To present verbally; to declare a willingness. He *offered* to accompany his brother.

3. To make an attempt.

We came close to the shore and *offered* to land. *Bacon.*

Formerly with *at*.

I will not *offer at* that I cannot master. *Obs. Bacon.*

OFFER, *n.* [*Fr. offre*.] A proposal to be accepted or rejected; presentation to choice. The prince made liberal *offers*, but they were rejected.

When *offers* are disdained, and love deny'd. *Pope.*

2. First advance.

Force compels this *offer*. *Shak.*

3. The act of bidding a price, or the sum bid. By an *offer* we manifest a desire to buy. When the seller declines accepting, he manifests that he thinks the *offer* not sufficient.

4. Attempt; endeavor; essay.

It is in the power of every one to make some essay, some *offer* and attempt. [*Nearly obsolete.*] *South.*

OFFERABLE, *a.* That may be offered. *Mountague.*

OFFERED, *pp.* Presented for acceptance or rejection; presented in worship or devotion; immolated; bid; presented to the eye or the mind.

OFFERER, *n.* One that offers; one that sacrifices or dedicates in worship. *Chapman. Hooker.*

OFFERING, *ppr.* Presenting; proposing; sacrificing; bidding; presenting to the eye or mind.

OFFERING, *n.* That which is presented in divine service; an animal or a portion of bread or corn, or of gold and silver, or other valuable articles, presented to God as an atonement for sin, or as a return of thanks for his favors, or for other religious purpose; a sacrifice; an oblation. In the Mosaic economy, there were burnt-offerings, sin-offerings, peace-offerings, trespass-offerings, thank-offerings, wave-offerings, and wood-offerings. Pagan nations also present offerings to their deities. Christ by the offering of himself has superseded the use of all other offerings, having made atonement for all men.

When thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed— *Is. liii.*

OFFERTORY, *n.* [*Fr. offertoire*.] The act of offering, or the thing offered. [*Little used.*] *Bacon. Fell.*

1. Offertory was properly an anthem chanted or a voluntary played on the organ during the offering and a part of the mass, in the Catholic church; but since the reformation it denotes certain sentences in the communion-office, read while the alms are collecting. *Todd. Cyc.*

2. Anciently, the linen on which the offering was laid. *Cyc.*

OFFERTURE, *n.* Offer; proposal. [*Not used.*] *K. Charles.*

OFFICE, *n.* [*Fr. from L. officium*; *ob* and *facio*, to make or do.]

1. A particular duty, charge or trust conferred by public authority and for a public purpose; an employment undertaken by commission or authority from government or those who administer it. Thus we speak of the *office* of secretary of state, of treasurer, of a judge, of a sheriff, of a justice of the peace, &c. *Offices* are civil, judicial, ministerial, executive, legislative, political, municipal, diplomatic, military, ecclesiastical, &c.

2. A duty, charge or trust of a sacred nature, conferred by God himself; as the *office* of priest, in the Old Testament; and that of the apostles, in the New Testament.

Inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify my *office*. *Rom. xi.*

3. Duty or employment of a private nature; as the *office* of a midwife. *Ex. i.*

4. That which is performed, intended or assigned to be done by a particular thing, or that which any thing is fitted to perform; answering to *duty* in intelligent beings. We enjoy health when the several organs of the body perform their respective *offices*.

In this experiment, the several intervals of the teeth of the comb do the *office* of so many prisms. *Newton.*

5. Business; particular employment.

Hesperus, whose *office* is to bring Twilight upon the earth. *Milton.*

6. Act of good or ill voluntarily tendered; usually in a good sense; as kind *offices*; *offices* of pity; pious *offices*.

7. Act of worship. *Shak.*

8. Formulary of devotion.

The Lord's prayer, the ten commandments and the creed, is a very good *office* for children if they are not fitted for more regular *offices*. *Taylor.*

9. A house or apartment in which public officers and others transact business; as the register's *office*; a lawyer's *office*.

10. In *architecture*, an apartment appropriated for the necessary business or occasions of a palace or nobleman's house. The word is used also for a building pertaining to a farm. *Encyc. Cyc.*

11. In the *canon law*, a benefice which has no jurisdiction annexed to it. *Encyc.*

12. The person or persons entrusted with particular duties of a public nature.

—This *office* [of quarter-master-general] not to have the disposal of public money, except small occasional sums. *Marshall.*

OFFICE, *v. t.* To perform; to do; to discharge. [*Not used.*] *Shak.*

OFFICER, *n.* A person commissioned or authorized to perform any public duty. *Officers* are civil, military or ecclesiastical. There are great *officers* of state, and subordinate *officers*. Military and naval *officers* of the same grade usually take rank according to the dates of their commissions. Non-commissioned *officers* are nominated by their captains, and appointed by the commanding *officers* of regiments.

OFFICER, *v. t.* To furnish with officers; to appoint officers over.