



SINCE 1828

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absence

DICTIONARY

THESAURUS

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absence noun

 Save Word

ab·sence | \ 'ab-sən(t)s  \

Definition of *absence*

- 1 : a state or condition in which something expected, wanted, or looked for is not present or does not exist : a state or condition in which something is absent
// an absence [=lack] of detail
// In the absence of reform [=without reform], progress will be slow.
- 2 **a** : a failure to be present at a usual or expected place : the state of being absent
// an unexplained absence from work
// His absence was noted by the teacher.
// The meeting continued in his absence. [=without him being present]
*// They were **conspicuous by their absence**. [=it was very noticeable that they were not present]*
- b** : the period of time that one is absent
// She recently returned to work after a long absence.
- 3 : inattention to present surroundings or occurrences — usually used in the phrase **absence of mind**
// blamed the error on absence of mind

