**absence**  noun

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