

## Of vs. Off

Despite these words of and off being very short in terms of spelling, they are among the most commonly misused words in the English language. Despite the similarity in spelling (only an extra “f” in off), these two terms actually have different pronunciation. Of is pronounced with the [v] sound at the end while off is pronounced with the [f] sound. Let us establish the differences between the uses of these words.

Of is a preposition with numerous functions. Below are some of its uses.

It can be used to show possession, belonging, or origin.

A legal guide to pardoning yourself if you're the president of the United States  
[Washington Post](#)

It can also be used after words or phrases that express amount, number, or a particular unit.

Police: Indiana traffic stop turns up kilo of cocaine  
[Chicago Sun Times](#)

Of can also be utilized in expressions demonstrating position.

Babysitters charged with child endangering after kids were found in back of U-Haul truck  
[News 5 Cleveland](#)

In some cases, it may be used to mean “made or consisting of” or “having.”

The Trump Administration Is Escalating its War on People of Color By Undermining  
Affirmative Action  
[Center for American Progress](#)

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Meanwhile, off can also be used in a variety of ways. Below are some of its uses.

It can be used as an adverb meaning “away from the place in question; to or at a distance.”

Billionaire venture capitalist loses legal battle to keep public off California beach

[The Independent](#)

Police: Patient Drove off in Unattended Ambulance

[U.S. News & World Report](#)

As an adverb, it may also mean “so as to be removed or separated.”

‘Game Of Thrones’ Recap: Peeling Off The Layers

[Junkee](#)

As it comes off probation, Arkansas State vendor says it will strive to avoid selling liquor to minors

[Arkansas Online](#)

Off may also be used as a preposition meaning “moving away and often down from” or “situated or leading in a direction away from a main route or intersection.”

Grant to Help Lynn Police Get Impaired Drivers Off the Road

[Daily Item](#)

Homeless children forced to eat on their beds or the floor

[Irish Times](#)

Scores of Teenage Migrants Were ‘Deliberately Drowned’ by Smugglers off the Coast of Yemen

[Time](#)

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It may also be used as an adjective which means “characterized by someone performing or feeling worse than usual, unsatisfactory or inadequate.”

“There’s something off about her” Jamie Jewitt’s friend reveals what she REALLY thinks about his Love Island beau Camilla Thurlow

[Mirror.co.uk](https://www.mirror.co.uk)

“UConn’s Crystal Dangerfield had an off game, making 1 of 9 shots for three points along with two assists and two steals.”

[Hartford Courant](https://www.hartfordcourant.com)

Now that you have learned the differences between the uses of the words of and off, you may be able to say that you will never be off with your use of these terms.