oc·cur·rence

noun  
ˈok-ər-ən(t)s, -ˈkə-rən(t)s

: something that happens
: the fact of happening or occurring

Example: Getting headaches has become a common occurrence for her.

First Known Use of OCCURRENCE
1539

Related to OCCURRENCE

Synonyms
affair, circumstance, episode, hap, happening, incident, occasion, event, thing

[+] more

Synonym Discussion of OCCURRENCE

Yes, irregardless” is a word.
No, that doesn’t mean you should use it.

Full Definition of OCCURRENCE

1: something that occurs <a startling occurrence>
2: the action or instance of occurring <the repeated occurrence of petty theft in the locker room>

See occurrence defined for English-language learners
See occurrence defined for kids

Caught in Allen v. Boeing, No. 15-35162 archived on May 29, 2015

Word of the Day

MAY 29, 2015
bodacious

unmistakable, remarkable, or voluptuous

Get the Word of the Day direct to your inbox — subscribe today!

Word Games
Take a 3-minute break and test your skills!

Name That Thing

True or False?

Spell It
OCCURRENCE, EVENT, INCIDENT, EPISODE, CIRCUMSTANCE mean something that happens or takes place. OCCURRENCE may apply to a happening without intent, volition, or plan <an encounter that was a chance occurrence>. EVENT usually implies an occurrence of some importance and frequently one having antecedent cause <the events following the assassination>. INCIDENT suggests an occurrence of brief duration or secondary importance <a minor wartime incident>. EPISODE stresses the distinctiveness or apartness of an incident <a brief romantic episode in a life devoted to work>. CIRCUMSTANCE implies a specific detail attending an action or event as part of its setting or background <couldn’t recall the exact circumstances>.

Learn More About OCCURRENCE

Thesaurus: All synonyms and antonyms for "occurrence"
Spanish Central: Spanish translation of "occurrence"
SCRABBLE®: Playable words you can make from "occurrence"

Browse

2 ENTRIES FOUND:

occurrence
co-

Next Word in the Dictionary: occurrence
(adjective)
Previous Word in the Dictionary: occur
All Words Near: occurrence

Ask The Editor Videos


Seen & Heard

What made you want to look up occurrence? Please tell us where you read or heard it (including the quote, if possible).

View Seen & Heard Highlights from Around the Site ➤

10 Charming Words for Nasty People
Put-downs with flair
Learn More ➤

When "Literally" isn't, well, literal
How to use a word that (literally) drives some people nuts.

Know what this is?
Test your vocab with our fun, fast game
Go Play ➤

Fear of cats?
Ailurophobia, and 9 other unusual fears
Learn More ➤