

Of can be used as a preposition – a joining word which links together the words or phrases before and after it. For example:

That house is built of brick.
Last week we had an inch of rain.
The farmer was a man of about fifty.

Of can be used to show possession:
The home of my parents = My parents' home

Off has two main, everyday meanings:

1. Not on, e.g. I switched off the kettle.
She left the phone off the hook.
2. Away from, e.g. He ordered them off the premises.
I cut a section off the shelf.

Practice:

Put either 'of' or 'off' into the following sentences so that they make sense.

1. I could not shake _____ my cold.
2. Have you turned _____ the radio?
3. The girl came from a family _____ eight.
4. The policewoman was _____ duty.
5. The old man was hard _____ hearing.
6. The burglar was convicted _____ robbery.
7. The football player was _____ side.
8. I need half a pound _____ onions for this recipe.
9. The boy had a bad case _____ measles.
10. In 'Macbeth' some _____ the action takes place _____ stage.

Now write five of your own sentences that use 'of' and 'off' – make them creative!

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