

# Microspeak: Offline (noun)

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Sure, any noun can be verbed, and any verb can be nouned. But today, we're going to noun an adjective. I have no written citations of this usage; the only report was via a colleague who overheard it in a hallway conversation.

| I had some offlines with Fred about that.

In Microspeak, *offline* is an adjective which means “outside this meeting.” In order to keep a meeting on track, the meeting organizer may advise the people engaged in the discussion of a side topic or a topic of limited interest to *take it offline, please*, meaning *discuss this amongst yourselves after the meeting, please*. In other words, “Let’s not waste valuable meeting time on this topic.”

The above citation converts the adjective *offline* into a noun, *an offline* presumably being shorthand for *an offline conversation* (or other type of communication). The translation would therefore be something like “I had some private conversations with Fred about that.”

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