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to the circumstances, design, or end (<~ medicine> d : not in accord with propriety, modesty, good manners, or good taste *syn* see INDECOROUS — **im-proper-ly** *adv* — **im-proper-ness** *n*

improper fraction *n* (1542) : a fraction whose numerator is equal to, larger than, or of equal or higher degree than the denominator

improper integral *n* (ca. 1942) : a definite integral whose region of integration is unbounded or includes a point at which the integrand is undefined or tends to infinity

im-pro-pri-e-ty \im-pr(ə)-'pri-ə-tē/ *n*, *pl* -ties [F or LL; F *impropriété*, fr. LL *improprietas*, *improprietas*, fr. L *improprius*] (1607) 1 : an improper or indecorous act or remark; *esp* : an unacceptable use of a word or of language 2 : the quality or state of being improper

im-prove \im-'pruv/ *vb* **im-proved**; **im-proving** [AF *emprouer* to invest profitably, fr. OF *en- + prou* advantage, fr. LL *prode* — more at PROUD] *vt* (ca. 1529) 1 *archaic* : EMPLOY, USE 2 a : to enhance in value or quality ; make better b : to increase the value of (land or property) by making it more useful for humans (as by cultivation or the erection of buildings) c : to grade and drain (a road) and apply surfacing material other than pavement 3 : to use to good purpose ~ *vi* 1 : to advance or make progress in what is desirable 2 : to make useful additions or amendments — **im-prov-abil-i-ty** \im-'pru-və-'bi-lə-tē/ *n* — **im-prov-able** \-'pru-və-bəl/ *adj* — **im-prov-er** *n*

syn IMPROVE, BETTER, HELP, AMELIORATE mean to make more acceptable or to bring nearer a standard. IMPROVE and BETTER are general and interchangeable and apply to what can be made better whether it is good or bad <measures to further improve the quality of medical care> <immigrants hoping to better their lot>. HELP implies a bettering that still leaves room for improvement <a coat of paint would help that house>. AMELIORATE implies making more tolerable or acceptable conditions that are hard to endure <tried to ameliorate the lives of people in the tenements>.

im-prove-ment \im-'pruv-mənt/ *n* (ca. 1550) 1 : the act or process of improving 2 a : the state of being improved; *esp* : enhanced value or excellence b : an instance of such improvement : something that enhances value or excellence

im-prov-i-dence \im-'prə-və-dən(t)s/ *n* (15c) : the quality or state of being improvident

im-prov-i-dent \-dənt, -dənt/ *adj* [LL *improvident-*, *improvidens*, fr. L *in- + provident-*, *providens* provident] (1624) : not provident ; not foreseeing and providing for the future — **im-prov-i-dent-ly** *adv*

im-pro-vi-sa-tion \im-'prə-və-'zā-shən, -zā-shən/ *n*, *pl* -sions [L *improvisatio*, fr. L *improvisare*] (1786) 1 : the act or art of improvising 2 : something (as a musical or dramatic composition) improvised — **im-pro-vi-sa-tion-al** \-shən-, -shə-nəl/ *adj* — **im-pro-vi-sa-tion-al-ly** *adv*

im-pro-vi-sa-tor \im-'prə-və-'zā-tər/ *n* (1795) : one that improvises — **im-pro-vi-sa-tor-i-al** \-i-əl, -i-əl/ *adj* — **im-pro-vi-sa-to-ry** \-i-əl, -i-əl/ *adj* — **im-pro-vi-sa-to-re** \-i-əl, -i-əl/ *n*, *pl* -to-ri-es, -to-ri-es [L *improvisatore*, fr. *improvisare*] (1765) : one that improvises (as verse) usu. extemporaneously

im-pro-vise \im-'prə-'vīz/ *vb* **im-provised**; **im-provis-ing** [F *improviser*, fr. L *improvisare*, fr. *improvisio* sudden, fr. L *improvisus*, lit., unforeseen, fr. *in- + provisus*, pp. of *providere* to see ahead — more at PROVIDE] *w* (1826) 1 : to compose, recite, play, or sing extemporaneously 2 : to make, invent, or arrange offhand 3 : to fabricate out of what is conveniently on hand ~ *vi* : to improvise something — **im-pro-vi-sor** \-vī-zər/ *n*

im-pru-dence \im-'pru-dən(t)s/ *n* (15c) 1 : the quality or state of being imprudent 2 : an imprudent act

im-pru-dent \-dənt/ *adj* [ME, fr. L *imprudens*, *imprudens*, fr. *in- + prudens*, *prudens* prudent] (14c) : not prudent ; lacking discretion — **im-pru-dent-ly** *adv*

im-pru-dence \im-'pyə-dən(t)s/ *n* (14c) : the quality or state of being imprudent

im-pu-dent \-dənt/ *adj* [ME, fr. L *impudens*, *impudens*, fr. *in- + pudens*, *pudens*, pp. of *pudere* to feel shame] (14c) 1 *obs* : lacking modesty 2 : marked by contemptuous or cocky boldness or disregard of others : *INSOLENT* — **im-pu-dent-ly** *adv*

im-pu-dic-i-ty \im-'pyū-'di-sə-tē/ *n* [MF *impudicité*, fr. L *impudicus* immodest, fr. *in- + pudicus* modest, fr. *pudere*] (1528) : lack of modesty : SHAMELESSNESS

im-pugn \im-'pyūn/ *w* [ME, to assail, fr. MF *impugnare*, fr. L *impugnare*, fr. *in- + pugnare* to fight — more at PUGNANT] (14c) 1 : to assail by words or arguments ; oppose or attack as false or lacking integrity 2 *obs* a : ASSAIL b : RESIST — **im-pugn-able** \-pyūn-ə-bəl/ *adj* — **im-pugn-er** \-nər/ *n*

im-puis-sance \im-'pwī-sən(t)s, -sən(t)s/ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. *in- + puissance* puissance, power] (15c) : WEAKNESS, POWERLESSNESS

im-puis-sant \-sənt, -sənt/ *adj* [F] (1629) : WEAK, POWERLESS

im-pulse \im-'puls, im-'/ *w* **im-pulsed**; **im-puls-ing** (1611) : to give an impulse to

im-pulse \im-'puls/ *n* [L *impulsus*, fr. *impellere* to impel] (1647) 1 a : INSPIRATION, MOTIVATION b : a force so communicated as to produce motion suddenly c : INCENTIVE 2 a : the act of driving onward with sudden force : IMPULSION b : motion produced by such an impulsion : IMPETUS c : a wave of excitation transmitted through tissues and esp. nerve fibers and muscles that results in physiological activity or inhibition 3 a : a sudden spontaneous inclination or incitement to some usu. unpremeditated action b : a propensity or natural tendency usu. other than rational 4 a : the product of the average value of a force and the time during which it acts : the change in momentum produced by the force b : PULSE 4a *syn* see MOTIVE

im-pul-sion \im-'pəl-shən/ *n* (15c) 1 a : the act of impelling : the state of being impelled b : an impelling force c : an onward tendency derived from an impulsion 2 : IMPULSE 3a 3 : COMPULSION 2

im-pul-sive \im-'pəl-siv/ *adj* (15c) 1 : having the power of or actually driving or impelling 2 : actuated by or prone to act on impulse 3 : acting momentarily *syn* see SPONTANEOUS — **im-pul-sive-ly** *adv* — **im-pul-sive-ness** *n* — **im-pul-siv-i-ty** \-pəl-'si-və-tē/ *n*

im-pu-ni-ty \im-'pyū-nə-tē/ *n* [MF or L; MF *impunité*, fr. L *impunitas*, *impunitas*, fr. *impune* without punishment, fr. *in- + poena* punishment — more at PAIN] (1532) : exemption or freedom from punishment, harm, or loss

im-pure \im-'pyūr/ *adj* [ME, fr. MF & L; MF, fr. L *impurus*, fr. *in- + purus* pure] (15c) : not pure; as a : LEWD, UNCHASTE b : containing something unclean : FOUL (<~ water>) c : ritually unclean d : mixed (<~ chemical>) — **im-pure-ly** *adv* — **im-pure-ness** *n*

im-pu-ri-ty \im-'pyūr-ə-tē/ *n*, *pl* -ties (15c) 1 : something that is impure or makes something else impure 2 : the quality or state of being impure

im-pu-ta-tion \im-'pyə-'tā-shən/ *n* (1581) 1 : the act of imputing; as a : ATTRIBUTION, ASCRIBTION b : ACCUSATION c : INSINUATION 2 : something imputed — **im-pu-ta-tive** \im-'pyū-tə-tiv/ *adj* — **im-pu-ta-tive-ly** *adv*

im-pu-tate \im-'pyūt/ *vt* **im-pu-ted**; **im-pu-ting** [ME *imputare*, fr. L *imputare*, fr. *in- + putare* to consider] (14c) 1 : to lay the responsibility or blame for often falsely or unjustly 2 : to credit to a person or a cause : ATTRIBUTE (<our vices as well as our virtues have been imputed to a bodily derangement> — B. N. Cardozo) *syn* see ASCRIBE — **im-pu-abil-i-ty** \-pyū-tə-'bi-lə-tē/ *n* — **im-pu-table** \-pyū-tə-bəl/ *adj* — **im-pu-ta-ble** \-pyū-tə-bəl/ *adj*

in \in, ɒn, 'n/ *prep* [ME, fr. OE; akin to OHG *in* in, L *in*, Gk *en*] (bef. 12c) 1 a — used as a function word to indicate inclusion, location, or position within limits (<the lake> <wounded <the leg>> <the summit of the mountain>) b : INTO 1 (<went <the house>>) 2 — used as a function word to indicate means, medium, or instrumentality (<written <pen>> <bound <leather>>) 3 a — used as a function word to indicate limitation, qualification, or circumstance (<like <some respects>> <left <the hurry>>) b : INTO 2a (<broke <pieces>>) 4 — used as a function word to indicate purpose (<said <reply>>) 5 — used as a function word to indicate the larger member of a ratio (<one <six is eligible>>)

in \in/ *adv* (bef. 12c) 1 a (1) : to or toward the inside esp. of a house or other building (<come <to the house>>) (2) : to or toward some destination or particular place (<flew <on the first plane>>) (3) : at close quarters : NEAR (<play close <to>>) b : so as to incorporate (<mix <the flour>>) — used in combination (<built-in bookcases>) c : to or at an appropriate place (<fit a piece <to>>) 2 a : within a particular place; *esp* : within the customary place of residence or business (<the doctor is <in>>) b : in the position of participant, insider, or officeholder — often used with *on* (<on the joke>) c (1) : on good terms (2) : in a specified relation (<bad with the boss>) (3) : in a position of assured or definitive success d : in vogue or season e *of an oil well* : in production f : in one's presence, possession, or control (<after the crops are <in>>) g : from a condition of indistinguishability to one of clarity (<fade <in>>) — *in* for : certain to experience (<in for a rude awakening>)

in \in/ *adj* (1599) 1 a : that is located inside or within (<the <part b>>) : that is in position, operation, or power (<the <party c>>) c : INSIDE 2 2 : that is directed or bound inward : INCOMING (<the <train>>) 3 a : extremely fashionable (<the <thing to do>>) b : keenly aware of and responsive to what is new and smart (<the <crowd>>)

in \in/ *n* (1764) 1 : one who is in office or power or on the inside (<a matter of <vs versus outside>>) 2 : INFLUENCE, PULL (<enjoyed some sort of <with the commandant>> — Henriette Roosenburg)

in- or **il-** or **im-** or **ir-** prefix [ME, fr. MF, fr. L; akin to OE *un-*] 1 : NON-, UN- — usu. *il-* before *l* (<illogical>), *im-* before *b, m, or p* (<imbalanced> <immoral> <impractical>), *ir-* before *r* (<irreducible>), and *in-* before other sounds (<inconclusive>)

in- or **il-** or **im-** or **ir-** prefix [ME, fr. MF, fr. L; fr. *in*, into] 1 : within : into : toward : on — usu. *il-* before *l* (<iluviation>), *im-* before *b, m, or p* (<imagine>), *ir-* before *r* (<irradiance>), and *in-* before other sounds (<infiltrate>) 2 : EN- (<imbrute> <imperial> <inspirit>)

in- *n* suffix [F-ine, fr. L-ina, fem. of-inus of] 1 : more at -EN] 1 a : neutral chemical compound (<insulin>) b : enzyme (<pancreatin>) c : antibiotic (<penicillin>) 2 : -INE 1a, b (<epinephrin>) 3 : pharmaceutical product (<niacin>)

in- *n* comb form [sit-in] : organized public protest by means of or in favor of : demonstration (<teach-in>) (<love-in>)

in-abil-i-ty \i-'nə-'bi-lə-tē/ *n* [ME *inhabilitate*, fr. MF *inhabilitate*, fr. *in- + habilitate* ability] (15c) : lack of sufficient power, resources, or capacity (<his <to do math>)

in-ab-sen-tia \im-'ab-'sen(t)-sh(ə)-'ē/ *adv* [L] (1886) : in absence (game him the award *in absentia*)

in-ac-ces-si-ble \i-'nik-'se-sə-bəl, -sə-bəl/ *adj* [ME, fr. MF or LL; MF, fr. LL *inaccessibilis*, fr. L *in- + LL accessibilis* accessible] (15c) : not accessible — **in-ac-ces-si-bil-i-ty** \-sə-sə-'bi-lə-tē/ *n* — **in-ac-ces-si-bly** \-sə-sə-'bi-ə/ *adv*

in-ac-cu-ra-cy \i-'nə-'kyə-rə-sē, -k(ə)-rə-sē/ *n*, *pl* -cies (ca. 1755) 1 : the quality or state of being inaccurate 2 : MISTAKE, ERROR

in-ac-cu-rate \-ə-'kyə-rət, -k(ə)-rət/ *adj* (1738) : not accurate : FAULTY — **in-ac-cu-rate-ly** \-kyə-rət-lē, -k(ə)-rət-, -kyər-t/ *adv*

in-ac-tion \i-'nə-'nak-shən/ *n* (1707) : lack of action or activity : IDLENESS

in-ac-ti-vate \i-'nə-'tə-'vāt/ *w* (1906) : to make inactive — **in-ac-ti-vation** \-nə-'tə-'vā-shən/ *n*

in-active \i-'nə-'tīv/ *adj* (1664) : not active; as a (1) : SEDENTARY (2) : INDOLENT, SLUGGISH b (1) : being out of use (2) : relating to or being members of the armed forces who are not performing or available for military duties (3) of a disease : QUIESCENT c (1) : chemically inert (2) : optically neutral in polarized light d : biologically inert esp. because of the loss of some quality (as infectivity or antigenicity) — **in-active-ly** *adv* — **in-active-i-ty** \-nə-'tī-və-tē/ *n*

syn INACTIVE, IDLE, INERT, PASSIVE, SUPINE mean not engaged in work or activity. INACTIVE applies to anyone or anything not in action or in operation or at work (<on inactive status as an astronaut>) (<inactive accounts>). IDLE applies to persons that are not busy or occupied or to their powers or their implements (<workers were idle in the fields>). INERT as applied to things implies powerlessness to move or to affect other things; as applied to persons it suggests an inherent or habitual indisposition to activity (<inert ingredients in drugs> (<an inert citizenry>)). PASSIVE implies immobility or lack of normally expected response to an external force or influence and often suggests deferred submission or self-control (<passive resistance>). SUPINE applies only to persons and commonly implies abjectness or indolence (<an apine willingness to play the fool>).

in-ade-qua-cy \i-'nə-'di-'kwə-sē/ *n*, *pl* -cies (1787) 1 : the quality or state of being inadequate 2 : INSUFFICIENCY, DEFICIENCY