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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-ety \im-pr(ə)-pri-ə-tē/ *n*, *pl* -ties [F or LL; F *impropriété*, fr. LL *impropietas*, *impropietas*, fr. L *impropius*] (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-prūv/ *vb* **im-proved**; **im-proving** [AF *emprover* 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-ity** \im-prū-və-bi-lə-tē/ *n* — **im-prov-able** \im-prū-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-prūv-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, -den(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) 1: 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, im-prə-və-zō, im-prə-(vī)-/ *n* (1786) 1: the act or art of improvising 2: something (as a musical or dramatic composition) improvised — **im-pro-vi-sa-tion-al** \-shənəl, -shə-nəl/ *adj* — **im-pro-vi-sa-tion-al-ly** *adv*

im-prov-i-sa-tor \im-prə-və-zā-tər/ *n* (1795): one that improvises — **im-prov-i-sa-tor-i-al** \im-prə-və-zā-tōr-ē-əl, -tōr-ē-əl/ *adj* — **im-pro-vi-sa-to-ry** \im-prə-və-zā-tōr-ē, im-prə-vi-zō-, -tōr-ē/ *adj*

im-pro-vi-sa-to-re \im-prə-və-zā-tōr-ē, im-prə-vē-zā-, -tōr-ē/ *n*, *pl* -tōr-ē, -tōr-ē or -tōres [It *improvisatore*, fr. *improvisare*] (1765): one that improvises (as verse) usu. extemporaneously

im-pro-vise \im-prə-vīz/ *vb* also *im-prə-v* **vised**; **vis-ing** [F *improviser*, fr. It *improvisare*, fr. *improvisio* sudden, fr. L *improvisus*, lit., unforeseen, fr. *in- + providus*, pp. of *providere* to see ahead — more at PROVIDE] *vt* (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-vis-er** or **im-pro-vi-sor** \-vī-zər, -vī-/ *n*

im-pru-dent \im-prū-dənt/ *n* (15c): 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-pyā-dən(t)s/ *n* (14c): the quality or state of being imprudent

im-pu-dent \-dənt/ *adj* [ME, fr. L *impudent*, *impudens*, fr. *in- + 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-ity \im-pyū-ti-sə-tē/ *n* [MF *impudicitie*, fr. L *impudicus* immodest, fr. *in- + pudicus* modest, fr. *pudēre*] (1528): lack of modesty: SHAMELESSNESS

im-pugn \im-pyūn/ *vt* [ME, to assail, fr. MF *impugnare*, fr. L *impugnare*, fr. *in- + pugnare* to fight — more at PUNGE] (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** \-pyū-nə-bəl/ *adj* — **im-pug-n-er** \-nər/ *n*

im-puis-sance \im-pwi-sən(t)s, (im-pyū)-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-pəls, im-/ *vt* **impulsed**; **im-puls-ing** (1611): to give an impulse to

im-pulse \im-pəls/ *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 impulse: 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 4 *a* **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 impulse 2: IMPULSE 3 *a*: 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-ity** \-pəl-si-vi-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 or impregnated with an extraneous and usu. unwanted substance (<~ 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-pyā-tā-shən/ *n* (1581) 1: the act of imputing: as **a**: ATTRIBUTION, ASCRIPTION **b**: ACCUSATION **c**: INSINUATION 2: something imputed — **im-pu-ta-tive** \im-pyū-tə-tiv/ *adj* — **im-pu-ta-tive-ly** *adv*

im-pu-te \im-pyūt/ *vt* **im-pu-ted**; **im-pu-ting** [ME *imputen*, 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 bodily derangement> — B. N. Cardozo **syn** see ASCRIBE — **im-pu-abil-ity** \-pyū-tə-bi-lə-tē/ *n* — **im-pu-able** \-pyū-tə-bəl/ *adj*

in \in, ɒn, ɪn/ *prep* [ME, fr. OE; akin to OHG *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> **b**: INTO 1 <went ~ the house> 2 — used as a function word to indicate means, medium, or instrumentality <written ~ pencil> <bound ~ leather> 3 *a* — used as a function word to indicate limitation, qualification, or circumstance <like ~ some respects> <left ~ a hurry> **b**: INTO 2 *a* <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 ~> (2): to or toward some destination or particular place <flew ~ on the first plane> (3): at close quarters: NEAR <play close ~> **b**: so as to incorporate <mix ~ the flour> — often used in combination <built-in bookcases> **c**: to or at an appropriate place <fit a piece ~> 2 *a*: within a particular place; esp.: within the customary place of residence or business <the doctor is ~> **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 ~> **g**: from a condition of indistinguishability to one of clarity <fade ~> — *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**: INSIDE 2 **d**: 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 ~s versus outs> 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 *r* (<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; *in*, *fr.* *in*, *into*] 1 *in*: within: into: toward: on — usu. *il-* before *l* (<iluviation>), *im-* before *b*, *m*, or *p* (<immingle>), *ir-* before *r* (<irradiance>), and *in-* before other sounds (<infiltate>) 2: EN- (<imbrute> (<imperfily> (<inspirit>)

in- *n* suffix [F *-ine*, fr. L *-ina*, fem. of *-inus* of or belonging to — more at -EN] 1 *a*: neutral chemical compound (<insulin>) **b**: enzyme (<pancreatin>) **c**: antibiotic (<penicillin>) 2: -INE 1 *a*, *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-ity \i-nə-bi-lə-tē/ *n* [ME *inabilite*, fr. MF *inhabilité*, fr. *in- + habilité* ability] (15c): lack of sufficient power, resources, or capacity (<his ~ to do math>)

in-ab-sen-tia \im-ab-sen(t)-sh(ē)-ə/ *adv* [L] (1886): in absence (rare: him the award in absentia)

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

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

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

in-ac-tive \i-nak-tiv/ *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-ac-tive-ly** *adv* — **in-ac-tiv-ity** \-nak-ti-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 (<supine willingness to play the fool>).

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