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Table of Contents

Editorial and Production Staff	iv
Guide to the Dictionary	v
Dictionary of the English Language	1
Picture Credits	949

Tables and Charts

Bible	86
Calendar	126
Currency	215
Elements	278-279
Measurement	526-527

being accomplished. 3. Unacceptable. 4. Extremely difficult to deal with or tolerate: *an impossible situation*. — **im•pos•si•bil•i•ty** *n.* — **im•pos•si•bly** *adv.*

im•post (im'pöst') *n.* A tax or duty. [*< Med. Lat. impostum < Lat. imponere, place upon.*]

im•pos•tor (im'pös'tör) *n.* One who deceives under an assumed identity. [*< LLat.*]

im•pos•ture (im'pös'char) *n.* The act or instance of engaging in deception under an assumed identity. [*< LLat. impostura < Lat. imponere, impose.*]

im•po•tent (im'pö-tönt) *adj.* 1. Lacking physical strength or vigor. 2. Lacking in power; helpless. 3. *Physiol.* Incapable of penile erection. — **im•po•tence** *n.* — **im•po•tent•ly** *adv.*

im•pound (im'pound') *v.* 1. To confine in or as if in a pound; *impound stray dogs*. 2. To seize and retain in legal custody. 3. To set aside in a fund rather than spend as prescribed. 4. To accumulate and store (water) in a reservoir. — **im•pound•age**, **im•pound•ment** *n.*

im•pov•er•ish (im'pöv'ar-ish) *v.* 1. To reduce to poverty. 2. To deprive of natural richness or strength. [*< OFr. empovrir < povre, poor.*] — **im•pov•er•ish•ment** *n.*

im•prac•ti•ca•ble (im'prak'ti-ka-bal) *adj.* Impossible to do or carry out. See Usage Note at **practicable**. — **im•prac•ti•ca•bil•i•ty** *n.* — **im•prac•ti•ca•bly** *adv.*

im•prac•ti•cal (im'prak'ti-ka) *adj.* 1. Unwise to implement or maintain in practice. 2. Unable to deal efficiently with practical matters. 3. Impracticable. See Usage Note at **practicable**. — **im•prac•ti•cal•i•ty** (-kä'l'i-tē), **im•prac•ti•cal•ness** *n.*

im•pre•ca•tion (im'pri-kä'shan) *n.* A curse. [*< Lat. imprecarī, to curse.*]

im•pre•cise (im'pri-sis') *adj.* Not precise. — **im•pre•cise•ly** *adv.* — **im•pre•ci•sion** (-sish'ən) *n.*

im•preg•na•ble (im'preg'nä-bal) *adj.* 1. Impossible to capture or enter by force. 2. Beyond challenge or refutation. [*< OFr. imprenable.*]

im•preg•nate (im'preg'nät) *v.* -**nat•ed**, -**nat•ing** 1. To make pregnant; inseminate. 2. To fertilize (an ovum). 3. To fill throughout; saturate. 4. To permeate or imbue. See **Syns** at **charge**. [*Prob. < LLat. impraegnatus, pregnant < Lat. praegnās.*] — **im•preg•na•tion** *n.* — **im•preg•na•tor** *n.*

im•pre•sa•ri•o (im'pri-sär'i-ō, -sär'i-) *n.*, *pl. -os.* One who sponsors or produces entertainment, esp. the director of an opera company. [*Ital. < impressa, undertaking.*]

im•press (im'pres') *v.* 1. To affect strongly, often favorably. 2. To produce vivid impression of. 3. To mark or stamp with or as if with pressure. 4. To apply with pressure. *n.* (im'pres') 1. The act of impressing. 2. A mark or pattern produced by or as if by impressing. 3. A stamp or seal to be impressed. [*< Lat. imprimere, impress-, imprint.*] — **im•press•i•bil•i•ty** *n.* — **im•press•i•ble** *adj.*

im•press (im'pres') *v.* 1. To compel (a person) to serve in a military force. 2. To confiscate (property). [*in-² + press, force into service.*] — **im•press•ment** *n.*

im•pres•sion (im'pres'hən) *n.* 1. An effect, feeling, or image retained after an experience. 2. A vague notion, remembrance, or belief. 3.

A mark produced on a surface by pressure. 4. *Print.* a. All the copies of a publication printed at one time from the same set of type. b. A single copy of such a printing. 5. A humorous imitation esp. of a famous person.

im•pres•sion•a•ble (im'pres'h-ə-nä-bal) *adj.* Readily or easily influenced; suggestible. — **im•pres•sion•a•bil•i•ty**, **im•pres•sion•a•ble•ness** *n.*

im•pres•sion•ism (im'pres'h-ə-niz'am) *n.* A style of painting marked by concentration on the immediate visual impression produced by a scene and by the use of unmixed primary colors and small strokes to simulate actual reflected light. — **im•pres•sion•ist** *n.* — **im•pres•sion•is•tic** *adj.* — **im•pres•sion•is•ti•cal•ly** *adv.*

im•pres•sive (im'pres'tiv) *adj.* Making a strong or vivid impression; remarkable: *an impressive achievement*. — **im•pres•sive•ly** *adv.* — **im•pres•sive•ness** *n.*

im•pri•ma•tur (im'pra-mä'tör, -mä'tör) *n.* 1. Official approval or license to print or publish. 2. Official approval; sanction. [*NLat. imprimatur, let it be printed.*]

im•print (im'print') *v.* 1. To produce (a mark or pattern) on a surface. 2. To impart a strong impression of. 3. To fix firmly, as in the mind. *n.* (im'print') 1. A mark or pattern produced by imprinting. 2. A distinguishing influence or effect: *the imprint of Islamic rule*. 3. A publisher's name, often with the date, address, and edition, printed at the bottom of a title page. [*< OFr. empreinte, impression.*]

im•pris•on (im'priz'ən) *v.* To put in or as if in prison. [*< OFr. emprisoner.*] — **im•pris•on•a•ble** *adj.* — **im•pris•on•ment** *n.*

im•prob•a•ble (im'pröb'ä-bal) *adj.* Unlikely to happen or be true. — **im•prob•a•bil•i•ty** *n.* — **im•prob•a•bly** *adv.*

im•promp•tu (im'prömp'tō, -lyōō) *adj.* 1. Prompted by the occasion rather than being planned in advance. 2. Extemporaneous. [*< Lat. in promptu, in readiness.*] — **im•promp•tu** *adv.* & *n.*

im•prop•er (im'pröp'ər) *adj.* 1. Not suited to circumstances or needs; unsuitable. 2. Not in keeping with conventional mores; indecorous. 3. Not consistent with fact; incorrect. — **im•prop•er•ly** *adv.*

improper fraction *n.* A fraction in which the numerator is larger than or equal to the denominator.

im•prop•ri•e•ty (im'pröp'ri-tē) *n.*, *pl. -ties* 1. The quality of being improper. 2. An improper act or expression.

im•prove (im'prööv') *v.* -**proved**, -**prov•ing** 1. To make or become better. 2. To increase the productivity or value of (property). [*ME improwen, to enclose (land) for cultivation.*]

im•prove•ment (im'prööv'mənt) *n.* 1a. The act or process of improving. b. The state of being improved. 2. A change or addition that improves.

im•prov•i•dent (im'pröv't-dənt) *adj.* Not providing for the future; thriftless. — **im•prov•i•dence** *n.* — **im•prov•i•dent•ly** *adv.*

im•pro•vise (im'prä-viz') *v.* -**vised**, -**vis•ing** 1. To invent, compose, or recite without preparation. 2. To make or provide from available materials: *improvised a hasty dinner*. [*<*

Lat. imprōvisus, unforeseen: *in-¹ + prōvidere, foresee*; see **PROVIDE**.] — **im•prov•i•sa•tion** (im'pröv'i-zä'shan) *n.* — **im•pro•vis•er** *n.*

im•pru•dent (im'pröod'ənt) *adj.* Unwise or indiscreet; not prudent. — **im•pru•dence** *n.* — **im•pru•dent•ly** *adv.*

im•pu•dent (im'pyä-dənt) *adj.* Brashly bold; insolent; impertinent. [*< Lat. impudēns, immodest.*] — **im•pu•dence** *n.* — **im•pu•dent•ly** *adv.*

im•pugn (im'pyöōn') *v.* To attack as false or questionable; challenge. [*< Lat. impugnare, fight against.*] — **im•pugn•a•ble** *adj.* — **im•pugn•er** *n.*

im•pulse (im'püls') *n.* 1a. An impelling force. b. The motion produced by such a force. 2. A sudden wish or urge that prompts an unpremeditated act. 3. A motivating force. 4. *Physiol.* The electrochemical transmission of a signal along a nerve fiber that produces a response at a target tissue. [*Lat. impulsus < p.part. of impellere, impel.*]

im•pul•sive (im'püls'iv) *adj.* 1. Inclined to act on impulse rather than thought. 2. Resulting from impulse; spontaneous. 3. Having power to impel. — **im•pul•sive•ly** *adv.* — **im•pul•sive•ness** *n.*

im•pu•ni•ty (im'pyöö'nē-tē) *n.* Exemption from punishment or penalty. [*< Lat. impūne, without punishment.*]

im•pure (im'pyöör') *adj.* 1. Not clean; contaminated. 2. Immoral or sinful. 3. Mixed with another substance; adulterated. — **im•pure•ly** *adv.* — **im•pure•ness** *n.* — **im•pu•ri•ty** *n.*

im•pute (im'pyöö't) *v.* -**put•ed**, -**put•ing** 1. To charge with the fault or responsibility for. 2. To attribute; credit. [*< Lat. impūtare, reckon in.*] — **im•put•a•ble** *adj.* — **im•pu•ta•tion** *n.*

in (in) *prep.* 1. Within the limits, bounds, or area of. 2. From the outside to the inside of; *into*: *threw it in the wastebasket*. 3. To or at a situation or condition of: *in love*. 4. Having the activity, occupation, or function of: *a life in politics*. 5. By means of: *paid in cash*. 6. With reference to: *six inches in depth*. *adv.* 1. To or toward the inside. 2. To or toward a place. 3. Within a place, as of business or residence. *adj.* 1. Located inside; inner. 2. Incoming. 3. Holding office; having power. 4. *Informal* Currently fashionable. See **Syns** at **fashionable**. *n.* 1. One with position, influence, or power. 2. *Informal* Influence. [*< OE.*]

in² or in, *abbr.* inch

In ▶ The symbol for the element indium.

IN ▶ *abbr.* Indiana

in-¹ or in- or **im-** or **ir-** ▶ *pref.* Not: *inarticulate*. [*< Lat.*]

in-² or im- or **ir-** ▶ *pref.* 1. In; into; within: *irradiate*. 2. Var. of **en-¹**. [*< Lat. in and OE in.*]

-in ▶ *suffix* 1. Neutral chemical compound: *globulin*. 2. Enzyme: *pepsin*. 3. A pharmaceutical: *niacin*. 4. An antibiotic: *penicillin*. 5. Var. of **-ine²** 1. [*Var. of -INE².*]

in•a•bil•i•ty (in'ä-bil'i-tē) *n.* Lack of ability or means.

in ab•sen•tia (in äb-sən'shā, -shē-ə) *adv.* While or although not present. [*Lat. in absentia.*]

in•ac•ces•si•ble (in'äk-sēs'sä-bal) *adj.* Not accessible; unapproachable. — **in'ac•ces•si•bil•i•ty** *n.* — **in'ac•ces•si•bly** *adv.*

in•ac•cu•rate (in'äk'yar-it) *adj.* Mistaken or incorrect; not accurate. — **in'ac•cu•ra•cy** *n.* — **in'ac•cu•rate•ly** *adv.*

in•ac•tion (in'äk'shan) *n.* Lack or absence of action.

in•ac•ti•vate (in'äk'tä-väl') *v.* -**vat•ed**, -**vat•ing**. To render inactive. — **in'ac•ti•va•tion** *n.*

in•ac•tive (in'äk'tiv) *adj.* 1. Not active or functioning; idle. 2. Retired from duty or service. — **in'ac•tive•ly** *adv.* — **in'ac•tiv•i•ty**, **in'ac•tive•ness** *n.*

in•ad•e•quate (in'äd'ē-kwät) *adj.* Not adequate; insufficient. — **in•ad•e•quate•cy** *n.* — **in•ad•e•quate•ly** *adv.*

in•ad•mis•si•ble (in'äd-mis'sä-bal) *adj.* Not admissible. — **in•ad•mis•si•bil•i•ty** *n.* — **in'ad•mis•si•bly** *adv.*

in•ad•ver•tent (in'äd-vür'tənt) *adj.* 1. Not duly attentive. 2. Unintentional. [*< Med.Lat. inadvertentia, inadvertence.*] — **in'ad•ver•tence** *n.* — **in'ad•ver•tent•ly** *adv.*

in•ad•vis•a•ble (in'äd-viz'ä-bal) *adj.* Not recommended; unwise. — **in'ad•vis•a•bil•i•ty** *n.*

in•al•ien•a•ble (in'äl'yä-nä-bal, -äl'yä-) *adj.* That cannot be transferred to another. — **in'al'ien•a•bil•i•ty** *n.* — **in'al'ien•a•bly** *adv.*

in•ane (in-än') *adj.* -**an•er**, -**an•est**. Lacking sense or substance. [*Lat. inanī.*] — **in•ane•ly** *adv.* — **in'an•i•ty** (i-nän'i-tē) *n.*

in•an•i•mate (in'än'ä-mät) *adj.* Lacking the qualities of active, living organisms; not animate. — **in'an•i•mate•ly** *adv.* — **in'an'i•mate•ness** *n.*

in•a•ni•tion (in'ä-nish'ən) *n.* Exhaustion, as from lack of nourishment or vitality. [*< Lat. inanire, make empty < inanīs, empty.*]

in•ap•pli•ca•ble (in'äp'lik'ä-bal, in'ä-plik'ä-) *adj.* Not applicable. — **in'ap•pli•ca•bil•i•ty** *n.*

in•ap•pre•cia•ble (in'ä-prē'shā-bal) *adj.* Too small to be noticed; negligible. — **in'ap•pre•cia•bly** *adv.*

in•ap•pro•pri•ate (in'ä-pröp'rē-it) *adj.* Unsuitable or improper; not appropriate. — **in'ap•pro•pri•ate•ly** *adv.* — **in'ap•pro•pri•ate•ness** *n.*

in•apt (in'äpt') *adj.* Inappropriate. — **in'apt•ly** *adv.* — **in'apt•ness** *n.*

in•ar•tic•u•late (in'är-tik'yō-lit) *adj.* 1. Uttered without the use of normal words or syllables. 2. Unable to speak; speechless. 3. Unable to speak with clarity or eloquence. 4. Going unexpressed: *inarticulate sorrow*. — **in'ar•tic•u•late•ly** *adv.* — **in'ar•tic•u•late•ness** *n.*

in•as•much as (in'öz-müch') *conj.* Because of the fact that; since.

in•at•ten•tion (in'ät-tən'shən) *n.* Lack of attention, notice, or regard. — **in'at•ten•tive** *adj.* — **in'at•ten•tive•ly** *adv.* — **in'at•ten•tive•ness** *n.*

in•au•di•ble (in'ö-dä-bal) *adj.* Impossible to hear. — **in'au•di•bil•i•ty** *n.* — **in'au'di•bly** *adv.*

in•au•gu•ral (in'ö-györ-äl) *adj.* 1. Of or relating to an inauguration. 2. Initial; first. *n.* An inaugural speech.

in•au•gu•rate (in'ö-györ-rät') *v.* -**rat•ed**, -**rat•ing** 1. To induct into office by a formal ceremony. 2. To begin, esp. formally. 3. To