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The Random House College Dictionary

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impatiens

im-pa-tiens (im pā'chē enz'), *n.*, *pl.* -ti-ens. any annual, paleaceous plant of the genus *impatiens*, having irregular flowers in which the calyx and corolla are not clearly distinguishable. [*< NL. L. IMPATIENS*]

im-pa-tient (im pā'shənt), *adj.* 1. not patient. 2. indicating lack of patience. 3. restless in desire or expectation. [*ME impacient < L impatient- (s. of impatiens) not putting up with*] —**im-pa'tient-ly**, *adv.* —**Syn.** 1. uneasy, unquiet. 1, 2. irritable, testy; curt, brusque, abrupt. 3. hasty, impetuous. —**Ant.** 1. calm.

im-pa-v-id (im pāv'id), *adj.* *Rare.* fearless. [*< L impavīdus fearless, undaunted*] —**im-pa-v'id-ly**, *adv.*

im-pawn (im pōn'), *v.t.* *Rare.* to put in pawn; pledge. **im-peach** (im pēch'), *v.t.* 1. to accuse (a public official) before an appropriate tribunal of misconduct in office. 2. to challenge the credibility of. 3. to bring an accusation against. 4. to call in question; cast an imputation upon. [*ME empeche(n) < AF emper(er) < LL impediāre to fetter, trap = L im- + pedic(a) a fetter (see PEDIC-), -ic) + -āre inf. suffix*] —**im-peach'er**, *n.*

im-peach-a-ble (im pēch'əbəl), *adj.* 1. liable to be impeached. 2. making one subject to impeachment. —**im-peach-a-ble-ly**, *adv.*

im-peach-ment (im pēch'mənt), *n.* 1. the impeaching of a public official before an appropriate tribunal. 2. U.S. (in Congress or a state legislature) the presentation of formal charges against a public official by the lower house, trial to be before the upper house. 3. demonstration that a witness is less worthy of belief. 4. the act of impeaching. 5. the state of being impeached. [*ME empechement < AF*] **im-pe-ri-ous** (im pē'ri-əs), *adj.* 1. to form into drops resembling pearls. 2. to make pearlike or pearly. 3. Chiefly Literary, to adorn with pearls or pearlike drops. [*im- + PEARL; cf. F emperler*]

im-pecc-a-ble (im pek'əbəl), *adj.* 1. faultless; irreproachable; impeccable manners. 2. not liable to sin; exempt from the possibility of doing wrong. —**Syn.** 3. Rare. an impeccable person. [*< L impeccabilis faultless, sinless*] —**im-pecc-a-ble-ly**, *adv.*

im-pecc-a-nt (im pek'ənt), *adj.* not sinning; sinless. —**im-pecc-a-nt-ly**, *adv.*

im-pe-cu-ni-ous (im pe'kyō'nē-əs), *adj.* having no money. [*im- + pecunious wealthy (late ME) < L pecūni-ōs(us) = pecūni(a) wealth + -ōs(us)-ous*] —**im-pe-cu-ni-ous-ly**, *adv.* —**im-pe-cu-ni-ous-ness**, *n.* —**Syn.** destitute.

im-ped-ance (im pēd'əns), *n.* 1. Eled. the total opposition to alternating current by an electric circuit, equal to the square root of the sum of the squares of the resistance and reactance of the circuit and usually expressed in ohms. Symbol: *Z*. 2. Physics. the ratio of the force on a system undergoing simple harmonic motion to the velocity of the particles in the system.

im-pede (im pēd'), *v.t.*, **-ped-ed**, **-ped-ing**, to retard in movement or progress by means of obstacles or hindrances; obstruct; hinder. [*< L impedi- (s. of impedi- to entangle, lit. to snare the feet)*] —**im-ped'er**, *n.* —**Syn.** slow, delay, check, stop, block, thwart. See prevent. —**Ant.** advance, encourage, aid, help.

im-ped-i-ent (im pēd'ēnt), *adj.* 1. impeding; hindering. —**Syn.** 2. something that impedes; hindrance. [*< L impediēns (s. of impediens) entangling, prp. of impedi-*]

im-ped-i-ment (im pēd'əmənt), *n.* 1. an obstruction, hindrance, or obstacle. 2. some physical defect that impedes ready speech; a speech disorder. 3. Chiefly Eccles. Law, a bar, usually of blood or affinity, to marriage. [*ME < L impedimentum*] —**im-ped-i-men-tal** (im pēd'əmənt'əl), *adj.* —**Syn.** 1. bar, encumbrance, check. See obstacle. —**Ant.** 1. help, encouragement.

im-ped-i-men-ta (im pēd'əmənt'ə), *n.pl.* baggage or other encumbrances that impede one's progress, esp. supplies carried with an army. [*< L, pl. of impedimentum IMPEDIMENT*]

im-ped-i-tive (im pēd'it'iv), *adj.* tending to impede; obstructive. [*obs. impedit- to hinder < L impedit(us), ptp. of impedi- to IMPEDE; see -IT- + -IVE*]

im-pel (im pel'), *v.t.*, **-pelled**, **-pel-ling**. 1. to drive or urge forward; incite or constrain to action. 2. to drive or cause to move onward; propel; impart motion to. [*late ME impell < L impellere (to) strike against (something), start (it) moving = im- + pellere to strike, move (something)*]

im-pel-lent (im pel'ənt), *adj.* 1. impelling. —**Syn.** 2. something that impels; an impelling agency or force. [*< L impellent- (s. of impellens) setting in motion, prp. of impellere*]

im-pel-ler (im pel'ər), *n.* 1. a person or thing that impels. 2. a rotor for transmitting motion, as in a centrifugal pump, blower, turbine, fluid coupling, etc.

im-pend (im pend'), *v.i.* 1. to be imminent or near at hand. 2. to be a threat or menace. 3. Rare. to hang or be suspended; overhang (usually fol. by over). [*< L impend(ere) (to) hang over, threaten*]

im-pend-ent (im pend'ənt), *adj.* impending. [*< L impendens (s. of impendens) overhanging, prp. of impendere*] —**im-pend-ence**, **im-pend-en-cy**, *n.*

im-pend-ing (im pend'ing), *adj.* 1. about to happen; imminent. 2. imminently threatening or menacing. 3. Rare. overhanging. —**Syn.** 1. See imminent.

im-pen-e-tra-bil-i-ty (im pen'ə trā bil'itē, im pen'-), *n.* 1. the state or quality of being impenetrable. 2. Physics. that property of matter by virtue of which two bodies cannot occupy the same space simultaneously.

im-pen-e-tra-ble (im pen'ə trā bəl), *adj.* 1. not penetrable; unable to be penetrated, pierced, entered, etc. 2. inaccessible to ideas, influences, etc. 3. incapable of being comprehended; unfathomable. 4. Physics. possessing impenetrability. [*late ME impenetrabel < L impenetrabilis*] —**im-pen-e-tra-ble-ness**, *n.* —**im-pen-e-tra-ble-ly**, *adv.*

im-pen-i-tent (im pen'it'ənt), *adj.* not penitent; obdurate. [*< LL impaenitent- (s. of impaenitens)*] —**im-pen-i-tence**, **im-pen-i-tency**, **im-pen-i-tent-ness**, *n.* —**im-pen-i-tent-ly**, *adv.*

im-per-a-ti-val (im per'ə tī'vəl), *adj.* of, pertaining to, or characteristic of the grammatical imperative. —**im-per-a-ti-val-ly**, *adv.*

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imperiousness

im-per-a-tive (im per'ə tīv), *adj.* 1. not to be avoided or evaded. 2. of the nature of, or expressing a command; commanding. 3. Gram. noting or pertaining to the mood of the verb used in commands, requests, etc. Cf. indicative (def. 2), subjunctive (def. 1). —**Syn.** 4. a command. 5. a fact that compels attention or action; obligation; need. 6. Gram. a. the imperative mood. b. a verb in this mood. 7. an obligatory statement, principle, or the like. [*< LL imperātiv(us)*] —**im-per-a-tive-ly**, *adv.* —**im-per-a-tive-ness**, *n.* —**Syn.** 1. inescapable; indispensable; necessary, essential.

im-per-a-tor (im per'ə tōr), *n.* 1. an absolute or supreme ruler. 2. (in Imperial Rome) emperor. 3. (in Republican Rome) a temporary title accorded a victorious general. [*< L impētor*] —**im-per-a-to-ri-al** (im per'ə tōr'ē-əl, -tōr'-), *adj.* —**im-per-a-to-ri-al-ly**, *adv.* —**im-per-a-to-ri-ship**, *n.*

im-per-cep-ti-ble (im per sep'tə bəl), *adj.* 1. very slight, gradual, or subtle. 2. not perceptible; not perceived by or affecting the senses. —**Syn.** 3. something not capable of being perceived by the senses. [*< ML imperceptibilis*] —**im-per-cep-ti-bil-i-ty**, **im-per-cep-ti-ble-ness**, *n.* —**im-per-cep-ti-bly**, *adv.*

im-per-cep-tion (im per sep'shən), *n.* lack of perception. **im-per-cep-tive** (im per sep'tiv), *adj.* not perceptive; lacking perception. —**im-per-cep-tiv-i-ty**, **im-per-cep-tive-ness**, *n.*

im-perf., imperfect.

im-per-fect (im pūr'fikt), *adj.* 1. of, pertaining to, or characterized by defects. 2. not perfect; lacking completeness; imperfect knowledge. 3. Bot. (of a flower) declinuous. 4. Gram. designating a tense or other verb formation noting incomplete action or state, esp. with reference to the past. 5. Law. being without legal effect. 6. Music. of or relating to the interval of a major or minor third or sixth. Cf. perfect (def. 12a). —**Syn.** 7. the imperfect tense. 8. any verb formation or construction with imperfect meaning. 9. a verb form in the imperfect tense. [*< L imperfect(us) unfinished (see IM-3, PERFECT); r. ME imparfit < MF imparfait < L, as above*] —**im-per-fect-ly**, *adv.* —**im-per-fect-ness**, *n.* —**Syn.** 1. defective, faulty. 2. incomplete, underdeveloped; immature. —**Ant.** 2. complete, developed.

im-per-fect-i-ble (im per fēk'tə bəl), *adj.* that cannot be perfected. —**im-per-fect-i-ble-ly**, *adv.*

im-per-fec-tion (im per fēk'shən), *n.* 1. a flaw or defect. 2. the quality or condition of being imperfect. [*ME imperfectio(u)n < LL imperfectio- (s. of imperfectio) incompleteness*]

im-per-fec-tive (im per fēk'tiv), *Gram.* —**adj.** 1. noting an aspect of the verb, as in Russian, that indicates incompleteness of the action or state at a temporal point of reference. —**Syn.** 2. the imperfective aspect. 3. a verb in this aspect.

im-per-fect rhyme, *Pros.* See slant rhyme.

im-per-for-ate (im pūr'fōr it, -fōr'it), *adj.* 1. Also, **im-per-for-at-ed**, not perforated; having no perforation. 2. Philately. (of a number of stamps joined together) lacking the perforations usually separating individual stamps. —**Syn.** 3. an imperforate stamp. —**im-per-for-a-tion**, *n.*

Im-pe-ria (im pe'ri-ə), *n.* a seaport in NW Italy. 35,180 (1961).

im-pe-ri-al (im pē'ri-əl), *adj.* 1. of or pertaining to an empire. 2. of or pertaining to an emperor or empress. 3. characterizing the rule or authority of a sovereign state over its dependencies. 4. of the nature or rank of an emperor or supreme ruler. 5. of a commanding quality, manner, aspect, etc. 6. dominating; imperious. 7. of or belonging to an emperor or empress. 8. of special size or quality. 9. (of weights and measures) conforming to the standards legally established in Great Britain. —**Syn.** 10. a size of printing or drawing paper, 22 x 30 inches in England, 23 x 33 inches in America. 11. the top of a carriage, esp. of a diligence. 12. an emperor or empress. 13. any of various articles of exceptional size or quality. [*ME < LL imperiāl(is) (see IMPERIUM, -AL); r. ME imperial < MF*] —**im-pe-ri-al-ly**, *adv.* —**im-pe-ri-al-ness**, *n.*

im-pe-ri-al (im pē'ri-əl), *n.* a small, pointed beard beneath the lower lip. [*< F impériale, n. use of fem. of impéri- IMPERIAL*]

im-pe-ri-al (im pē'ri-əl), *n.* an imperial Russian gold coin originally worth 10 rubles and from 1897-1917 worth 15 rubles. [*< Russ < ML imperiālis a coin, n. use of LL imperi-ālis IMPERIAL*]



Imperial²

Impe-ri-al bush-el. See under bushel¹ (def. 1).

impe-ri-al gal-lon, a British gallon equivalent to 1 1/8 U.S. gallons or 277.42 cubic inches.

Impe-ri-al Hol-i-day, (sometimes i.c.) a day of traditional significance to the entire British Commonwealth, as the Queen's Birthday, Victoria Day, etc., but which is not a legal holiday.

im-pe-ri-al-ism (im pē'ri-əl iz'm), *n.* 1. the policy of extending the rule or authority of an empire or nation over foreign countries, or of acquiring and holding colonies and dependencies. 2. advocacy of imperial interests. 3. imperial government. 4. an imperial system of government. —**im-pe-ri-al-ist**, *n.* —**im-pe-ri-al-is-tic**, *adj.* —**im-pe-ri-al-is-ti-cal-ly**, *adv.*

impe-ri-al moth, a yellow moth, *Eacles imperialis*, having dotted wings each with a diagonal band of pinkish-brown or purple, the hairy larvae of which feed on the leaves of hickory, oak, etc.

Impe-ri-al Val-ley, an irrigated agricultural region in SE California, adjacent to Mexico, formerly a part of the Colorado Desert; it is largely below sea level and contains the Salton Sink.

im-per-il (im per'əl), *v.t.*, **-illed**, **-il-ing** or (esp. Brit.) **-illed**, **-il-ling**, to put in peril; endanger. —**im-per-il-ment**, *n.*

im-pe-ri-ous (im pē'ri-əs), *adj.* 1. domineering; dictatorial; overbearing; an imperious manner; an imperious person. 2. urgent; imperative; imperious need. [*< L imperiōs(us) commanding, tyrannical. See IMPERIUM, -OUS*] —**im-pe-ri-ous-ly**, *adv.* —**im-pe-ri-ous-ness**, *n.* —**Syn.** 1. tyrannical, despotic. 2. necessary. —**Ant.** 1. submissive. 2. unnecessary.

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