

America's Best-Selling Dictionary

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate[®] Dictionary

Eleventh Edition

New Ways to Find
the Words You Need Today

AN ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA[®] COMPANY

Rembrandt Wireless



A GENUINE MERRIAM-WEBSTER

The name *Webster* alone is no guarantee of excellence. It is used by a number of publishers and may serve mainly to mislead an unwary buyer.

*Merriam-Webster*TM is the name you should look for when you consider the purchase of dictionaries or other fine reference books. It carries the reputation of a company that has been publishing since 1831 and is your assurance of quality and authority.

Copyright © 2012 by Merriam-Webster, Incorporated

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary. — Eleventh ed.

p. cm.

Includes index.

- ISBN 978-0-87779-807-1 (Laminated unindexed : alk. paper)
- ISBN 978-0-87779-808-8 (Jacketed hardcover unindexed : alk. paper)
- ISBN 978-0-87779-809-5 (Jacketed hardcover with digital download : alk. paper)
- ISBN 978-0-87779-810-1 (Leatherlook with digital download : alk. paper)
- ISBN 978-0-87779-813-2 (Canadian)
- ISBN 978-0-87779-814-9 (International)

1. English language—Dictionaries. I. Title: Collegiate dictionary. II. Merriam-Webster, Inc.

PE1628.M36 2003

423—dc21

2003003674

CIP

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate[®] Dictionary, Eleventh Edition, principal copyright 2003

COLLEGIATE is a registered trademark of Merriam-Webster, Incorporated

All rights reserved. No part of this book covered by the copyrights hereon may be reproduced or copied in any form or by any means—graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, taping, or information storage and retrieval systems—without written permission of the publisher.

Made in the United States of America

16th Printing Quad Graphics Versailles KY January 2012

Rembrandt Wireless

ard often violence and wasteful diffusion of emotion (a *passionate* de-
 monstration). **ARDENT** implies an intense degree of zeal, devotion, or
 enthusiasm (an *ardent* supporter of human rights). **FERVENT** stresses
 sincerity and steadiness of emotional warmth or zeal (a *fervent* good
 wisher). **FERVID** suggests warmly and spontaneously and often fever-
 ishly expressed emotion (a *fervid* love letter). **PERFURVID** implies the
 expression of exaggerated or overwrought feelings (a *perfervid* expres-
 sion of patriotism).

im-pas-sive \(\im\)'pa-siv\ *adj* (1605) **1 a** *archaic* : unsusceptible to
 b : unsusceptible to physical feeling : **INSENSIBLE** **c** : unsuscep-
 tible to or destitute of emotion : **APATHETIC** **2** : giving no sign of feel-
 ing or emotion : **EXPRESSIONLESS** — **im-pas-sive-ly** *adv* — **im-pas-**
sive-ness *n* — **im-pas-siv-i-ty** \(\im\)'pa-'si-və-tē\ *n*

im-pas-sive *n* **1** : **IMPASSIVE**, **STOIC**, **PHLEGMATIC**, **APATHETIC**, **STOLID** mean unre-
 sponsive to something that might normally excite interest or emotion.
IMPASSIVE stresses the absence of any external sign of emotion in ac-
 tion or facial expression (met the news with an *impassive* look). **STOIC**
 implies an apparent indifference to pleasure or esp. to pain often as a
 matter of principle or self-discipline (was resolutely *stoic* even in ad-
 versity). **PHLEGMATIC** implies a temperament or constitution hard to
 arouse (a *phlegmatic* man unmoved by tears). **APATHETIC** may imply
 a puzzling or deplorable indifference or inertness (charitable appeals
 met an *apathetic* response). **STOLID** implies a habitual absence of in-
 terest, responsiveness, or curiosity (stolid workers wedded to rou-
 tine).

im-paste \(\im\)'pāst\ *w* [It *impastare*, fr. *in-* (fr. *L*) + *pasta* paste, fr. *LL*]
 (1536) *obs* : to make into a paste or crust

im-pas-to \(\im\)'pas-(p)it\ *n*, *pl* -tos [It, fr. *impastare*] (1784) **1**
 : the thick application of a pigment to a canvas or panel in painting;
 : the body of pigment so applied **2** : raised decoration on ceramic
 ware usu. of slip or enamel — **im-pas-toed** \(\im\)'tōd\ *adj*

im-pa-tience \(\im\)'pā-shən(t)s\ *n* (13c) : the quality or state of being
 impatient

im-pa-tiens \(\im\)'pā-shənz, -shən(t)s\ *n* [NL, fr. *L*, impatient] (1785)
 : any of a widely distributed genus (*Impatiens*) of the family Balsami-
 naceae and of annual or perennial herbs with irregular spurred or saccate
 flowers and forcefully dehiscent capsules — compare **TOUCH-ME-NOT**

im-pa-tient \(\im\)'pā-shənt\ *adj* [ME *impacient*, fr. AF *impacient*, fr. *L*
impacient, *impacientis*, fr. *in-* + *patient*, *patiens* patient] (14c) **1 a** : not
 patient : restless or short of temper esp. under irritation, delay, or op-
 position **b** : **INTOLERANT** **1** (of delay) **2** : prompted or marked by
 impatience (an ~ reply) **3** : eagerly desirous : **ANXIOUS** (to get
 home) — **im-pa-tient-ly** *adv*

im-pawn \(\im\)'pān\ *v* (1567) *archaic* : to put in pawn : **FLEDGE**

im-peach \(\im\)'pēch\ *w* [ME *empechen*, fr. AF *empecher*, *empechier* to
 hinder, impede, prosecute, fr. *LL* *impedicare* to fetter, fr. *L* *in-*
pedica fetter, fr. *ped-*, *pes* foot — more at **FOOT**] (14c) **1 a** : to bring
 an accusation against **b** : to charge with a crime or misdemeanor;
specif : to charge (a public official) before a competent tribunal with
 misconduct in office **c** : to remove from office esp. for misconduct **2**
 : to cast doubt on; esp. : to challenge the credibility or validity of (the
 testimony of a witness) — **im-peach-able** \(\im\)'pē-cha-bəl\ *adj* —
im-peach-ment \(\im\)'pēch-mənt\ *n*

im-peach *n* (1590) *obs* : **CHARGE**, **IMPEACHMENT**

im-pearl \(\im\)'pār-(ə)\ *v* [ME *aperlen*, fr. *en-* + *perle* pearl] (15c) : to
 form into pearls; also : to form of or adorn with pearls

im-pecc-a-ble \(\im\)'pek-ə-bəl\ *adj* [L *impeccabilis*, fr. *in-* + *peccare* to
 sin] (1531) **1** : not capable of sinning or liable to sin **2** : free from
 fault or blame : **FLAWLESS** (spoke ~ French) — **im-pecc-a-bil-i-ty**
 \(\im\)'pek-ə-'bi-lə-tē\ *n* — **im-pecc-a-bly** \(\im\)'pe-ka-'blē\ *adv*

im-pe-cu-nious \(\im\)'pi-'kyū-nyəs, -nē-əs\ *adj* [*in-* + *obs. E* *pecuniosus*
 rich, fr. ME, fr. *L* *pecuniosus*, fr. *pecunia* money — more at **FEEL**] (1596)
 : having very little or no money usu. habitually : **FENNELSS** — **im-pe-**
cu-ni-ous-ly \(\im\)'kyū-nē-'i-əs-ē\ *adv* — **im-pe-cu-nious-ly** *adv* —
im-pe-cu-nious-ness *n*

im-ped-ance \(\im\)'pē-dəns\ *n* (1886) : something that impedes : **HIN-**
DANCE; as **a** : the apparent opposition in an electrical circuit to the
 flow of an alternating current that is analogous to the actual electrical
 resistance to a direct current and that is the ratio of effective electro-
 motive force to the effective current **b** : the ratio of the pressure to
 the volume displacement at a given surface in a sound-transmitting me-
 dium

im-pede \(\im\)'pēd\ *v* **im-ped-ed**; **im-ped-ing** [L *impedire*, fr. *in-* +
ped-, *pes* foot — more at **FOOT**] (ca. 1595) : to interfere with or slow the
 progress of *syn* see **HINDER** — **im-ped-er** *n*

im-ped-i-ment \(\im\)'pē-də-mənt\ *n* (14c) **1** : something that impedes;
 esp. : an impairment (as a stutter or a lisp) that interferes with the pro-
 per articulation of speech **2** : a bar or hindrance (as lack of sufficient
 a lawful marriage)

im-ped-i-men-ta \(\im\)'pē-də-'men-tə\ *n* *pl* [L, *pl.* of *impedimentum*
 impediment, fr. *impedire*] (1600) **1** : **APPURTENANCES**, **EQUIPMENT**
2 : things that impede

im-pel \(\im\)'pel\ *v* **im-pelled**; **im-pel-ling** [ME *impellen*, fr. *L* *impel-*
lere, fr. *in-* + *pellere* to drive — more at **FELT**] (15c) **1** : to urge or
 drive forward or on by or as if by the exertion of strong moral pressure
 : **FORCE** (felt *impelled* to correct the misconception) **2** : to impart
 motion to : **PROPEL** *syn* see **MOVE**

im-pel-ler also **im-pel-lor** \(\im\)'pel-lər\ *n* (1685) **1** : one that impels **2**
 : a rotor located in a conduit to impart motion to a fluid **b** : a blade
 of a rotor

im-pend \(\im\)'pend\ *v* [L *impendere*, fr. *in-* + *pendere* to hang — more
 at **PENDANT**] (1585) **1 a** : to hover threateningly : **MENACE** **b** : to be
 about to occur (the *impending* trial) **2** *archaic* : to hang suspended

im-pen-dent \(\im\)'pen-dənt\ *adj* (1590) : being near at hand : **AP-**
PROACHING

im-pen-e-tr-a-bil-i-ty \(\im\)'pē-nə-'trə-'bi-lə-tē\ *n* (1653) **1** : the inabil-
 ity of two portions of matter to occupy the same space at the same time
2 : the quality or state of being impenetrable

im-pen-i-tence \(\im\)'pē-nə-tən(t)s\ *n* (1595) : the quality or state of
 being impenitent

im-pen-i-tent \(\im\)'tənt\ *adj* [ME, fr. *LL* *impenitent*, *impenitens*, fr. *L* *in-*
 + *paenitent*, *paenitens* penitent] (15c) : not penitent — **im-pen-i-tent-**
ly *adv*

im-per-a-tive \(\im\)'pə-rə-tiv, -'pə-rə-\ *adj* [ME *imperatyf*, fr. *LL* *imperat-*
ivus, fr. *L* *imperatus*, pp. of *imperare* to command — more at
EMPEROR] (15c) **1 a** : of, relating to, or constituting the grammatical
 mood that expresses the will to influence the behavior of another **b**
 : expressive of a command, entreaty, or exhortation **c** : having power
 to restrain, control, and direct **2** : not to be avoided or evaded : **NEC-**
ESSARY (an ~ duty) . *syn* see **MASTERFUL** — **im-per-a-tive-ly** *adv* —
im-per-a-tive-ness *n*

imperative *n* (1530) **1** : the imperative mood or a verb form or verbal
 phrase expressing it **2** : something that is imperative; as **a** : **COM-**
MAND, **ORDER** **b** : **RULE**, **GUIDE** **c** : an obligatory act or duty **d** : an
 imperative judgment or proposition

im-pe-ra-tor \(\im\)'pə-'rā-tər, -'tōr\ *n* [L — more at **EMPEROR**] (ca. 1580)
 : a commander in chief or emperor of the ancient Romans — **im-per-**
a-to-ri-al \(\im\)'pə-rə-'tōr-ē-əl\ *adj*

im-per-ceiv-a-ble \(\im\)'pə-r-'sē-və-bəl\ *adj* (ca. 1617) *archaic* : **IMPER-**
CEPTIBLE

im-per-cep-ti-ble \(\im\)'pə-r-'sep-tə-bəl\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. ML *imper-*
ceptibilis, fr. *L* *in-* + *LL* *perceptibilis* perceptible] (15c) : not perceptible
 by a sense or by the mind : extremely slight, gradual, or subtle (the ~ dif-
 ferences) — **im-per-cep-ti-bly** \(\im\)'sep-tə-'blē\ *adv*

im-per-cep-tive \(\im\)'pə-r-'sep-tiv\ *adj* (1661) : not perceptive (an ~
 reader) — **im-per-cep-tive-ness** *n*

im-per-cip-i-ence \(\im\)'sɪ-'pē-əns\ *n* (1891) : the quality or state of being
 imperceptive — **im-per-cip-i-ent** \(\im\)'ənt\ *adj*

im-per-abb *abbr* **1** imperfect **2** imperforate

im-per-fect \(\im\)'pə-r-'fikt\ *adj* [alter. of ME *imparfit*, fr. *L* *imperfectus*,
 fr. *in-* + *perfectus* perfect] (14c) **1** : not perfect; as **a** : **DEFECTIVE** **b**
 of a flower : having stamens or pistils but not both **c** : lacking or not
 involving sexual reproduction (the ~ stage of a fungus) **2** : of, relat-
 ing to, or constituting a verb tense used to designate a continuing state
 or an incomplete action esp. in the past **3** : not enforceable at law —
im-per-fect-ly \(\im\)'fɪk(t)-lē\ *adv* — **im-per-fect-ness** \(\im\)'fɪk(t)-nəs\ *n*

im-per-fect *n* (1871) : an imperfect tense; also : the verb form expressing
 it

im-per-fectus fungus *n* (ca. 1895) : any of various fungi (order Fungi Im-
 perfecti *syn.* Deuteromyces) of which only the conidial stage is
 known

im-per-fec-tion \(\im\)'pə-r-'fek-shən\ *n* (14c) : the quality or state of be-
 ing imperfect; also : **FAULT**, **BLEMISH**

im-per-fec-tive \(\im\)'pə-r-'fek-tiv\ *adj* (1887) of a verb form or aspect
 : expressing action as incomplete or without reference to completion
 or as reiterated — compare **PERFECTIVE** — **im-per-fec-tive** *n*

im-per-fo-rate \(\im\)'pə-r-'fə-rət, -'rāt\ *adj* (1673) **1** : having no
 opening or aperture; *specif* : lacking the usual or normal opening **2** of
 a stamp or a sheet of stamps : lacking perforations or roulettes

im-pe-ri-al \(\im\)'pɪr-ē-əl\ *adj* [ME, fr. AF, fr. *LL* *imperialis*, fr. *L* *imper-*
ium command, empire] (14c) **1 a** : of, relating to, befitting, or sugges-
 tive of an empire or an emperor **b** (1) : of or relating to the United
 Kingdom as distinguished from the constituent parts (2) : of or relat-
 ing to the Commonwealth of Nations and British Empire **2 a** : **SOVER-**
EIGN **b** : **REGAL**, **IMPERIOUS** **3** : of superior or unusual size or excel-
 lence **4** : belonging to the official British series of weights and mea-
 sures — see **WEIGHT** table — **im-pe-ri-al-ly** \(\im\)'pɪ-ē-əl-ē\ *adv*

imperial *n* (ca. 1524) **1** *cap* : an adherent or soldier of the Holy Roman
 emperor **2** : **EMPEROR** **3** [F *impériale*; fr. the beard worn by
 Napoleon III] : a pointed beard growing below the lower lip **4** : some-
 thing of unusual size or excellence

im-pe-ri-al-ism \(\im\)'pɪr-ē-əl-'lɪ-zəm\ *n* (1800) **1** : imperial government,
 authority, or system **2** : the policy, practice, or advocacy of extending
 the power and dominion of a nation esp. by direct territorial acquisi-
 tions or by gaining indirect control over the political or economic life
 of other areas; *broadly* : the extension or imposition of power, author-
 ity, or influence (union ~) — **im-pe-ri-al-ist** \(\im\)'lɪ-st\ *n* or *adj* — **im-pe-**
ri-al-is-tic \(\im\)'pɪr-ē-'lɪs-tɪk\ *adj* — **im-pe-ri-al-is-ti-cal-ly** \(\im\)'tɪ-k(ə)-lē\ *adv*

imperial moth *n* (ca. 1904) : a large No. American saturniid moth
 (*Eacles imperialis*) having yellow wings marked with reddish-brown
 spots and patches

im-per-il \(\im\)'pə-r-əl, -'pə-rəl\ *v* -illed or -illed; -il-ing or -il-ling (15c)
 : to bring into peril : **ENDANGER** — **im-per-il-ment** \(\im\)'mənt\ *n*

im-pe-ri-ous \(\im\)'pɪr-ē-əs\ *adj* [L *imperiōsus*, fr. *imperium*] (1540) **1 a**
 : befitting or characteristic of one of eminent rank or attainments
 : **COMMANDING**, **DOMINANT** (an ~ manner) **b** : marked by arrogant
 assurance : **DOMINEERING** **2** : intensely compelling : **URGENT** (the ~
 problems of the new age — J. F. Kennedy) *syn* see **MASTERFUL** —
im-pe-ri-ous-ly *adv* — **im-pe-ri-ous-ness** *n*

im-per-ish-a-ble \(\im\)'pə-r-ɪ-shə-bəl\ *adj* (ca. 1585) **1** : not perishable
 or subject to decay **2** : enduring or occurring forever (the ~ fame) —
im-per-ish-a-bil-i-ty \(\im\)'pə-r-ɪ-shə-'bi-lə-tē\ *n* — **im-per-ish-a-ble** *n* —
im-per-ish-a-ble-ness \(\im\)'pə-r-ɪ-shə-'blə-nəs\ *n* — **im-per-ish-a-bly** \(\im\)'blē\ *adv*

im-pe-ri-um \(\im\)'pɪr-ē-əm\ *n*, [L — more at **EMPIRE**] (1651) **1 a** : sup-
 reme power or absolute dominion : **CONTROL** **b** : **EMPIRE** **c** : **EM-**
PIRE **2** : the right to command or to employ the force of the state
 : **SOVEREIGNTY**

im-per-ma-nence \(\im\)'pə-rɪ-mən-əns\ *n*, -'pə-r-mə-\ *n* (1796) : the qual-
 ity or state of being impermanent

im-per-ma-nen-cy \(\im\)'pə-rɪ-mən-əns\ *n* (1648) : **IMPERMANENCE**

im-per-ma-nent \(\im\)'pə-r-ə-mənt\ *adj* (1653) : not permanent : **TRANSIENT** —
im-per-ma-nent-ly *adv*

