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inhibit

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## inhibit

verb | in-hib-it | \in-'hi-bət\

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- : to keep (someone) from doing what he or she wants to do
- : to prevent or slow down the activity or occurrence of (something)

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### Full Definition of INHIBIT

*transitive verb*

- 1 : to prohibit from doing something
- 2 a : to hold in check : [restrain](#)  
b : to discourage from free or spontaneous activity especially through the operation of inner psychological or external social constraints

*intransitive verb*

- : to cause [inhibition](#)  
— in-hib-i-tive | \bə-tiv\ | *adjective*  
— in-hib-i-to-ry | \bə-,tōr-ē\ | *adjective*

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### Examples of INHIBIT

- You shouldn't allow fear of failure to *inhibit* you.
- He was *inhibited* by modesty.
- Fear can *inhibit* people from expressing their opinions.
- drugs that are used to *inhibit* infection
- Strict laws are *inhibiting* economic growth.



### Word of the Day

FEBRUARY 17, 2015

**superfluous**

Exceeding what is sufficient or necessary

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## Origin of INHIBIT

Middle English, from Latin *inhibit*us, past participle of *inhibēre*, from *in-*<sup>2</sup>*in-* + *habēre* to have — more at [habit](#)

First Known Use: 15th century

## Related to INHIBIT

## Synonyms

clog, cramp, embarrass, encumber, fetter, handcuff, handicap, hinder, hobble, hog-tie, hold back, hold up, impede, hamper, interfere (with), manacle, obstruct, shackle, short-circuit, stymie, tie up, trammel

## Antonyms

aid, assist, facilitate, help

[+] [more](#)

See Synonym Discussion at [forbid](#)

## Rhymes with INHIBIT

[exhibit](#), [prohibit](#)

## inhibit

*transitive verb* | in-'hib-*it* | \in-'hib-ət\ (*Medical Dictionary*)

## Medical Definition of INHIBIT

- 1 **a** : to restrain from free or spontaneous activity especially through the operation of inner psychological or external social constraints <an *inhibited* person>
- b** : to check or restrain the force or vitality of <*inhibit* aggressive tendencies>
- 2 **a** : to reduce or suppress the activity of <a presynaptic neuron can not only excite a postsynaptic neuron but can also *inhibit* it—H. W. Kendler>
- b** : to retard or prevent the formation of
- c** : to retard, interfere with, or prevent (a process or reaction) <*inhibit* ovulation>

## Learn More About INHIBIT

Thesaurus: All synonyms and antonyms for "inhibit"

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