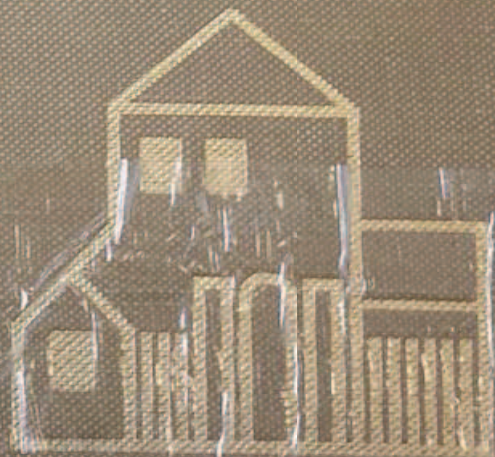


THE
RANDOM
HOUSE
DICTIONARY
of the
ENGLISH
LANGUAGE

The
Unabridged
Edition



THE RANDOM HOUSE DICTIONARY of the ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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- inher/itance tax**, a tax imposed on the right of heirs to receive a decedent's property, the rate depending on the number or relationships of the heirs. Cf. **estate tax**.
- in-her-it-ed** (in her/i tid), *adj.* 1. received by inheritance. 2. *Gram.* found also in an earlier stage of the same language, esp. in the earliest reconstructed stage. [INHERIT + -ED²]
- in-her-i-tor** (in her/i tər), *n.* a person who inherits; an heir. [ME *enheritour*, -*er*. See INHERIT, -OR²]
- in-her-i-trix** (in her/i triks), *n., pl. in-her-i-tri-ces (in her/i tri/sēz). a female inheritor; heiress. Also, **in-her-i-tress** (in her/i tris). [INHERIT + -TRIX]*
- in-he-sion** (in hē/zhən), *n.* the state or fact of inhering; inherence. [$<$ LL *inhaesiōn-* (s. of *inhaesiō*), equiv. to L *inhaes(us)* stuck in (ptp. of *inhaerere* to INHERE) + -iōn- -ION]
- in. Hg**, inch of mercury.
- in-hib-it** (in hib/it), *v.t.* 1. to restrain, hinder, arrest, or check (an action, impulse, etc.): *to inhibit one's natural impulses*. 2. to prohibit; forbid. 3. *Chem.* to decrease the rate of action of or stop a chemical reaction. [late ME *inhibite* $<$ L *inhibit(us)* held in (ptp. of *inhibēre*), equiv. to *in-* IN-² + -hib- (var. of *hab-* hold) + -itus -IT¹] —**in-hib/it-a-ble**, *adj.* —**in-hib/it-er**, *n.* —**Syn.** 1. repress, discourage, obstruct. 2. interdict. See **forbid**.
- in-hi-bi-tion** (in/i bish/ən, in/hi-), *n.* 1. the act of inhibiting; state of being inhibited. 2. *Psychol.* the blocking or holding back of one psychological process by another. 3. *Physiol. a.* a restraining, arresting, or checking of the action of an organ or cell. **b.** the reduction of a reflex or other activity as the result of an antagonistic stimulation. **c.** a state created at synapses making them less excitable by other sources of stimulation. 4. *Chem.* a stoppage or decrease in the rate of action of a chemical reaction. 5. *Eng. Eccles. Law.* an order, esp. from a bishop, suspending a priest or an incumbent from the performance of his duties. [ME *inhibicio(u)n* $<$ L *inhibitiōn-* (s. of *inhibitiō*). See INHIBIT, -ION]
- in-hib-i-tor** (in hib/i tər), *n.* 1. *Chem.* a substance that decreases the rate of or stops completely a chemical reaction. 2. any impurity in a mineral that prevents luminescence. Cf. **activator** (def. 2). 3. *Rocketry.* an inert antioxidant used with solid propellants to inhibit burning on certain surfaces. 4. an inhibitor. [INHIBIT + -OR²]
- in-hib-i-to-ry** (in hib/i tōr/ē, -tōr/ē), *adj.* serving or tending to inhibit. Also, **in-hib/i-tive**. [$<$ ML *inhibitori(us)*. See INHIBIT, -ORY¹]
- in hoc** (in hōk/; *Eng.* in hok/), *Latin.* in this; in respect to this.
- in hoc sig-no vin-ces** (in hōk/ sig/nō wīng/kās; *Eng.* in hok/ sig/nō vin/sēz), *Latin.* in this sign shalt thou conquer: motto used by Constantine the Great, from his vision, before battle, of a cross bearing these words.
- in-ho-mo-ge-ne-ity** (in hō/mə jə nē/i tē, -hom/ə-), *n.* 1. lack of homogeneity. 2. that which is not homogeneous. [IN-³ + HOMOGENEITY] —**in-ho-mo-ge-ne-ous** (in/hō mə jē/nē əs, -hom ə-), *adj.* —**in-ho-mo-ge-ne-ous-ly**, *adv.*
- in-hos-pi-ta-ble** (in hos/pi tə bəl, in/ho spit/ə bəl), *adj.* 1. not inclined to, or characterized by, hospitality, as persons, actions, etc. 2. (of a region, climate, etc.) not offering shelter, favorable conditions, etc.: *an inhospitable rocky coast*. [$<$ ML *inhospitabil(is)*. See IN-³, HOSPITABLE] —**in-hos/pi-ta-ble-ness**, *n.*

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