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**in-hib-it** /in'hɪbɪt/ ► **v.** (**inhibits, inhibiting, inhibited**) [with obj.] 1 hinder, restrain, or prevent (an action or process): *cold inhibits plant growth.* ■ prevent or prohibit (someone) from doing something: *the earnings rule inhibited some retired people from working.* ■ Psychology voluntarily or involuntarily restrain the direct expression of (an instinctive impulse). ■ chiefly Physiology & Biochemistry (chiefly of a drug or other substance) slow down or prevent (a process, reaction, or function) or reduce the activity of (an enzyme or other agent).

2 make (someone) self-conscious and unable to act in a relaxed and natural way: *his mother's strictures would always inhibit him.*

3 (in ecclesiastical law) forbid (a member of the clergy) to exercise clerical functions.

DERIVATIVES **in-hib-i-tive** /-tɪv/ **adj.**, **in-hib-i-to-ry** /-tɔəri/ **adj.**

ORIGIN late Middle English (in the sense 'forbid (a person) to do something'): from Latin *inhibere* 'hinder', from *in-* 'in' + *habere* 'hold'.

**in-hib-it-ed** /in'hɪbɪtɪd/ ► **adj.** unable to act in a relaxed and natural way because of self-consciousness or mental restraint: *I could never appear nude, I'm far too inhibited.*

**in-hi-bi-tion** /in(h)'bɪʃən/ ► **n.** a feeling that makes one self-conscious and unable to act in a relaxed and natural way: *the children, at first shy, soon lost their inhibitions* [a powerful tranquilizer that causes lack of inhibition]. ■ Psychology a voluntary or involuntary restraint on the direct expression of an instinct. ■ the action of inhibiting, restricting, or hindering a process. ■ the slowing or prevention of a process, reaction, or function by a particular substance.

ORIGIN late Middle English (in the sense 'forbidding, a prohibition'): from Latin *inhibitio* (n-), from the verb *inhibere* (see **INHIBIT**).

**in-hib-i-tor** /in'hɪbɪtər/ ► **n.** a thing that inhibits someone or something. ■ a substance that slows down or prevents a particular chemical reaction or other process, or that reduces the activity of a particular reactant, catalyst, or enzyme. ■ Genetics a gene whose presence prevents the expression of some other gene at a different locus.

**in-home** ► **adj.** [attrib.] (of a service or activity) provided or taking place within a person's home: *the best in-home entertainment.*

**in-ho-mo-ge-ne-ous** /in.hə.mə.ʃən.ēəs, -hə.mə-/ ► **adj.** not uniform in character or content; diverse. ■ Mathematics consisting of terms that are not all of the same degree or dimensions.

DERIVATIVES **in-ho-mo-ge-ne-i-ty** /-hə.mə.ʃən.ē.ɪ.ti, -nə.ɪ.ti, -hə.mə-/ **n.**

**in-hos-pi-ta-ble** /in.hə.ʃpɪtəbəl, in.həs-/ ► **adj.** (of an environment) harsh and difficult to live in: *the inhospitable landscape.* ■ (of a person) unfriendly and unwelcoming toward people.

DERIVATIVES **in-hos-pi-ta-ble-ness** **n.**, **in-hos-pi-ta-bly** /-blē/ **adv.**, **in-hos-pi-tal-i-ty** /in.hə.ʃpɪ'talɪtɪ, in.həs-/ **n.**

ORIGIN late 16th cent.: French, from *in-* 'not' + *hospitable* (see **HOSPITABLE**).

**in-house** ► **adj.** [attrib.] done or existing within an organization: *in-house publications.*

► **adv.** without assistance from outside an organization; internally: *services previously provided in-house are being contracted out.*

**in-hu-man** /in(h)'yʊmən/ ► **adj.** 1 lacking human qualities of compassion and mercy; cruel and barbaric.

2 not human in nature or character: *the inhuman scale of the dinosaurs.*

DERIVATIVES **in-hu-man-ly** **adv.**

ORIGIN late Middle English (originally as *inhumane*): from Latin *inhumanus*, from *in-* 'not' + *humanus* (see **HUMAN**).

**in-hu-mane** /in(h)'yʊmən/ ► **adj.** without compassion for misery or suffering; cruel: *confining wild horses is inhumane.*

DERIVATIVES **in-hu-mane-ly** **adv.**

ORIGIN late Middle English (in the sense 'inhuman, brutal'): originally a variant of **INHUMAN** (rare after 1700); in modern use from *in-* 'not' + **HUMANE** (the current sense dating from the early 19th cent.).

**in-hu-man-i-ty** /in(h)'yʊmənɪtɪ/ ► **n.** (pl. **inhumanities**) extremely cruel and brutal behavior: *a justification for further cruelty and inhumanity.*

ORIGIN late 15th cent.: from Old French *inhumanité* or Latin *inhumanitas*, from *inhumanus* 'inhuman'.

**in-hume** /in(h)'yʊm/ ► **v.** [with obj.] bury: *no hand his bones shall gather or insume.*

DERIVATIVES **in-hu-ma-tion** /in(h)'yʊm.əʃən/ **n.**

ORIGIN early 17th cent.: from Latin *inhumare*, from *in-* 'into' + *humus* 'ground'.

**in-im-i-cal** /i'nɪmɪkəl/ ► **adj.** tending to obstruct or harm: *actions inimical to our interests.* ■ unfriendly; hostile: *an inimical alien power.*

DERIVATIVES **in-im-i-cal-ly** /-ɪk(ə)lɪ/ **adv.**

ORIGIN early 16th cent.: from late Latin *inimicalis*, from Latin *inimicus* (see **ENEMY**).

**in-im-i-ta-ble** /i'nɪmɪtəbəl/ ► **adj.** so good or unusual as to be impossible to copy; unique: *the inimitable ambience of Hawaii.*

DERIVATIVES **in-im-i-ta-bil-i-ty** /i,nɪmɪ'təbɪlɪtɪ/ **n.**, **in-im-i-ta-bly** /-blē/ **adv.**

ORIGIN late 15th cent.: from French, or from Latin *inimitabilis*, from *in-* 'not' + *imitabilis* (from *imitari* 'imitate').

**in-i-on** /i'nɪən/ ► **n.** Anatomy the projecting part of the occipital bone at the base of the skull.

ORIGIN early 19th cent.: from Greek, literally 'nape of the neck.'

**in-i-q-uit-ous** /i'nɪkwɪtəs/ ► **adj.** grossly unfair and morally wrong: *an iniquitous tax.*

DERIVATIVES **in-i-q-uit-ous-ly** /-wɪtəsli/ **adv.**, **in-i-q-uit-ous-ness** /-wɪtəsni:s/ **n.**

**in-i-q-uit-y** /i'nɪkwɪtɪ/ ► **n.** (pl. **iniquities**) immoral or grossly unfair behavior: *a den of iniquity* [a liberal lawyer could uncover the iniquities committed on his own doorstep].

ORIGIN Middle English: from Old French *iniquite*, from Latin *iniquitas*, from *iniquus*, from *in-* 'not' + *aequus* 'equal, just'.

**in-i-tial** /i'nɪʃəl/ ► **adj.** [attrib.] existing or occurring at the beginning: *our initial impression was favorable.* ■ (of a letter) at the beginning of a word.

► **n.** (usu. **initials**) the first letter of a name or word, typically a person's name or a word forming part of a phrase: *they carved their initials into the tree trunk.*

► **v.** (**initials, initialing, initialed**; Brit. **initials, initialling, initialled**) [with obj.] mark or sign (a document) with one's initials, esp. in order to authorize or validate it. ■ agree to or ratify (a treaty or contract) by signing it.

ORIGIN early 16th cent.: from Latin *initialis*, from *initium* 'beginning', from *inire* 'go in', from *in-* 'into' + *ire* 'go'.

**in-i-tial-ese** /i,nɪʃəl'lez/ ► **n.** informal the use of abbreviations formed by using initial letters.

**in-i-tial-ism** /i'nɪʃəlɪzəm/ ► **n.** an abbreviation consisting of initial letters pronounced separately (e.g., **CPU**).

**in-i-tial-ize** /i'nɪʃəlɪz/ ► **v.** [with obj.] Computing 1 (often **be initialized to**) set to the value or put in the condition appropriate to the start of an operation: *the counter is initialized to one.*

2 format (a computer disk).

DERIVATIVES **in-i-tial-i-za-tion** /i,nɪʃəlɪ'zæʃən/ **n.**

**in-i-tial-ly** /i'nɪʃəlɪ/ ► **adv.** [usu. sentence adverb] from the beginning: *initially, he thought the new concept was nonsense.*

**in-i-tial pub-lic of-fer-ing** ► **n.** a company's flotation on the stock exchange.

**in-i-ti-and** /i'nɪʃənd/ ► **n.** a person about to be initiated.

ORIGIN early 20th cent.: from Latin *initandus*, from *initiare* 'to initiate'.

**in-i-ti-ate** ► **v.** /i'nɪʃə,ət/ [with obj.] 1 cause (a process or action) to begin: *he proposes to initiate discussions on planning procedures.*

2 admit (someone) into a secret or obscure society or group, typically with a ritual: *she had been formally initiated into the sorority.* ■ (as plural noun **the initiated**) a small group of people who share obscure knowledge: *he flies over an airway marker beacon, known as a "fix" to the initiated.*

■ (**initiate someone in/into**) introduce someone to (a particular activity or skill), esp. a difficult or obscure one: *they were initiated into the mysteries of trigonometry.*

► **n.** /i'nɪʃɪt/ a person who has been initiated into an organization or activity, typically recently: *initiates of the Shiva cult* [as modifier] *the initiate Marines.*

DERIVATIVES **in-i-ti-a-to-ry** /-ə,tɔəri/ **adj.**

ORIGIN mid 16th cent. (sense 2 of the verb): from Latin *initiat-* 'begun', from the verb *initiare*, from *initium* 'beginning'.

**in-i-ti-a-tion** /i,nɪʃɪ'æʃən/ ► **n.** 1 the action of admitting someone into a secret or obscure society or group, typically with a ritual: *rituals of initiation* [as modifier] *an initiation ceremony.* ■ the introduction of someone to a particular activity or skill: *his initiation into the world of martial arts.*

2 the action of beginning something: *the initiation of criminal proceedings.*

**in-i-ti-a-tive** /i'nɪʃɪ'etɪv/ ► **n.** 1 the ability to assess and initiate things independently: *use your initiative, imagination, and common-sense.*

2 [in sing.] the power or opportunity to act or take charge before others do: *we have lost the initiative and allowed our opponents to dictate the subject.*

3 an act or strategy intended to resolve a difficulty or improve a situation; a fresh approach to something: *a new initiative against car crime.* ■ a

proposal made by one nation to attempt to improve relations: *to end the war* [a peace initiative].

4 (the initiative) (esp. in some Switzerland) the right of citizen legislature to originate legislation.

PHRASES **on one's own initiative** prompted by others. **take** (or **be the first to take action**) in a **antihunting groups have seized** dispute.

ORIGIN late 18th cent.: from *initiare*, from *initium* 'beginning'.

**in-i-ti-a-tor** /i'nɪʃɪ'etər/ ► **n.** that initiates someone or something: *a substance that starts a chain explosive or device used to*

**in-j.** ► **abbr.** injection.

**in-ject** /ɪn'tʃekt/ ► **v.** [with obj.] 1 liquid, esp. a drug or vaccine) animal's body with a syringe or doctor injected a painkilling drug or medicine to (a person way: *he injected himself with*

■ [no obj.] inject oneself with a habitually: *people who want to*

■ introduce (something) into solid material under pressure: *allow it to expand.* ■ Physics into current, beam of particles, etc.

device. ■ place (a spacecraft) in orbit or trajectory: *many mete hyperbolic orbits.*

2 introduce (a new or different something, esp. as a boost or to inject scorn into her tone. ■ with) imbue something with:

*injected his voice with a confi-*

DERIVATIVES **in-ject-a-ble** **adj.**

ORIGIN late 16th cent. (in the on something): from Latin *in-* 'into' the verb *inicare*, from *in-* 'into'.

**in-jec-tion** /ɪn'tʃekʃən/ ► **n.** 1 injecting or being injected: *an injection of capital was needed*

injected: *a morphine injection* injecting: *sometimes a polio v. injection.* ■ short for **FUEL INJE**

2 the entry or placing of a sp into an orbit or trajectory.

ORIGIN late Middle English: from the verb *inicare* (see **INICARE**).

**in-jec-tion mold-ing** ► **n.** the or plastic articles by injecting a mold.

DERIVATIVES **in-jec-tion-mold**

**in-jec-tor** /ɪn'tʃektər/ ► **n.** a person injects something. ■ (also **fuel** internal combustion engine) through which fuel is sprayed

chamber. ■ (in a steam engine) that uses steam to inject water boiler.

**in-je-ra** /ɪn'tʃɪərə/ ► **n.** a white bread made from teff flour; **S**

ORIGIN Amharic.

**in-joke** ► **n.** a joke that is shared small group of people.

**in-ju-di-cious** /ɪn'ju:diʃəs/ ► **adj.** poor judgment; unwise: *I took swigs of potent cider.*

DERIVATIVES **in-ju-di-cious-ness** **n.**

**in-jun** /ɪn'jun/ ► **n.** informal, often Indian.

PHRASES **honest Injun** dated run away, honest Injun.

ORIGIN late 17th cent.: altered

**in-junc-tion** /ɪn'jʌŋk(ʃ)ən/ ► **n.** 1 warning or order. ■ Law a judge restrains a person from beginning an action threatening or invading another, or that compels a certain act, e.g., to make restitution.

2 the action of beginning something: *the initiation of criminal proceedings.*

**in-i-ti-a-tive** /i'nɪʃɪ'etɪv/ ► **n.** 1 the ability to assess and initiate things independently: *use your initiative, imagination, and common-sense.*

2 [in sing.] the power or opportunity to act or take charge before others do: *we have lost the initiative and allowed our opponents to dictate the subject.*

3 an act or strategy intended to resolve a difficulty or improve a situation; a fresh approach to something: *a new initiative against car crime.* ■ a

DERIVATIVES **in-jur-er** **n.**