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## intendant

or group) to have or use: *this benefit is intended for people incapable of work.*

- DERIVATIVES **in-tend-er** *n.*

- ORIGIN Middle English *entend* (in the sense 'direct the attention to'), from Old French *entendre*, from Latin *intendere* 'intend, extend, direct,' from *in-* 'toward' + *tendere* 'stretch, tend.'

**in-tend-ant** /in'tendənt/ ▶ *n.* 1 chiefly historical a title given to a high-ranking official or administrator, esp. in France, Spain, Portugal, or one of their colonies.

2 the administrator of an opera house or theater.

- DERIVATIVES **in-tend-an-cy** /-dənsə/ *n.*

- ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: from French, from Latin *intendere* 'to direct' (see **INTEND**).

**in-tend-ed** /in'tendid/ ▶ *adj.* [attrib.] planned or meant: *the intended victim escaped.*

▶ *n.* (one's **intended**) informal the person one intends to marry; one's fiancé or fiancée.

- DERIVATIVES **in-tend-ed-ly** *adv.*

**in-tend-ing** /in'tendɪŋ/ ▶ *adj.* [attrib.] (of a person) planning or meaning to do or be the specified thing: *an intending client.*

**in-tend-ment** /in'tendmənt/ ▶ *n.* Law the sense in which the law understands or interprets something, such as the true intention of a piece of legislation.

- ORIGIN late Middle English (denoting an intended meaning): from Old French *entendement*, from *entendre* 'intend.'

**in-tense** /in'tens/ ▶ *adj.* 1 of extreme force, degree, or strength: *the job demands intense concentration | the heat was intense | an intense blue.* ■ (of an action) highly concentrated: *a phase of intense activity.*

2 having or showing strong feelings or opinions; extremely earnest or serious: *an intense young woman, passionate about her art | a burning and intense look.*

- DERIVATIVES **in-tense-ly** *adv.*, **in-tense-ness** *n.*

- ORIGIN late Middle English: from Old French, or from Latin *intensus* 'stretched tightly, strained,' past participle of *intendere* (see **INTEND**).

**USAGE** Intense and intensive are similar in meaning, but they differ in emphasis. Intense tends to relate to subjective responses—emotions and how we feel—while intensive tends to relate to objective descriptions. Thus an *intensive* course of instruction simply describes the type of course: one that is designed to cover a lot of ground in a short time. On the other hand, in the course was *intense*, the word intense describes how someone felt about taking the course.

**in-ten-si-fi-ca-tion** /in'tensifi'kəʃən/ ▶ *n.* the action of making or becoming more intense: *the intensification of the conflict.*

**in-ten-si-fi-er** /in'tensɪfɪə/ ▶ *n.* a person or thing that intensifies, in particular: ■ Photography a chemical used to intensify a negative. ■ Grammar an adverb used to give force or emphasis, for example, *really* in *my feet are really cold.* ■ short for **IMAGE INTENSIFIER**.

**in-ten-si-fy** /in'tensɪfɪ/ ▶ *v.* (intensifies, intensifying, intensified) 1 become or make more intense: [no obj.] *the dispute began to intensify |* [with obj.] *they had intensified their military campaign.*

2 [with obj.] Photography increase the opacity of (a negative) using a chemical: *the negative may be intensified with bichloride.*

- ORIGIN early 19th cent.: coined by Coleridge.

**in-ten-sion** /in'tensən/ ▶ *n.* 1 Logic the internal content of a concept. Often contrasted with **EXTENSION** (sense 5).

2 archaic resolution or determination.

- DERIVATIVES **in-ten-sion-al** /-ʃənəl/ *adj.*, **in-ten-sion-al-ly** /-ʃənəl-ē/ *adv.*

- ORIGIN early 17th cent. (also in the sense 'straining, stretching'): from Latin *intensio* (*n.*), from *intendere* (see **INTEND**). Sense 1 dates from the mid 19th cent.

**in-ten-si-ty** /in'tensɪtɪ/ ▶ *n.* (pl. **intensities**) 1 the quality of being intense: *gazing into her face with disconcerting intensity | the pain grew in intensity.* ■ an instance or degree of this: *an intensity that frightened her.*

2 chiefly Physics the measurable amount of a property, such as force, brightness, or a magnetic field: *hydrothermal processes of low intensity | different light intensities.*

**in-ten-sive** /in'tensɪv/ ▶ *adj.* 1 concentrated on a single area or subject or into a short time; very thorough or vigorous: *she undertook an intensive Arabic course | eight days of intensive arms talks.* ■ (of agriculture) aiming to achieve the highest possible level of production within a limited area, esp. by using chemical and technological aids: *intensive farming.* Often contrasted with **EXTENSIVE** (sense 2). ■ [usu. in combination] (typically in business

and economics) concentrating on or making much use of a specified thing: *computer-intensive methods.*

2 Grammar (of an adjective, adverb, or particle) expressing intensity; giving force or emphasis.

3 denoting a property that is measured in terms of intensity (e.g., concentration) rather than of extent (e.g., volume), and so is not simply increased by addition of one thing to another.

▶ *n.* Grammar an intensive adjective, adverb, or particle; an intensifier.

- DERIVATIVES **in-ten-sive-ly** *adv.*, **in-ten-sive-ness** *n.*

- ORIGIN late Middle English (in the sense 'vehement, intense'): from French *intensif*, *-ive* or medieval Latin *intensivus*, from *intendere* (see **INTEND**).

**USAGE** On the difference between intensive and intense, see **USAGE** at **INTENSE**.

**in-ten-sive care** ▶ *n.* special medical treatment of a dangerously ill patient, with constant monitoring: [as modifier] *she's in the intensive-care unit.*

**in-tent** /in'tent/ ▶ *n.* intention or purpose: *with alarm she realized his intent | a real intent to cut back on social programs.*

▶ *adj.* 1 [predic.] (intent on/upon) resolved or determined to do (something): *the administration was intent on achieving greater efficiency.*

■ attentively occupied with: *Jill was intent on her gardening magazine.*

2 (esp. of a look) showing earnest and eager attention: *a curiously intent look on her face.*

- PHRASES **to (or for) all intents and purposes** in all important respects: *a man who was to all intents and purposes illiterate.* **with intent** law with the intention of committing a specified crime: *he denied arson with intent to endanger life | charges of wounding with intent.*

- DERIVATIVES **in-tent-ness** *n.*

- ORIGIN Middle English: from Old French *entent*, *entente*, based on Latin *intendere* (see **INTEND**). The adjective is from Latin *intentus*, past participle of *intendere*.

**in-ten-tion** /in'tenʃən/ ▶ *n.* 1 a thing intended; an aim or plan: *she was full of good intentions |* [with infinitive] *the Ukraine and Kazakhstan have both declared their intention to be nuclear-free.* ■ the action or fact of intending: *intention is just one of the factors that will be considered.* ■ (one's intentions) a person's designs, esp. a man's, in respect to marriage: *if his intentions aren't honorable, I never want to see him again.*

2 Medicine the healing process of a wound. See **FIRST INTENTION**, **SECOND INTENTION**.

- DERIVATIVES **in-ten-tioned** *adj.* [in combination] *a well-intentioned remark.*

- ORIGIN late Middle English: from Old French *entencion*, from Latin *intencio* (*n.*) 'stretching, purpose,' from *intendere* (see **INTEND**).

**in-ten-tion-al** /in'tenʃənəl/ ▶ *adj.* done on purpose; deliberate: *intentional wrongdoing and harm.*

- ORIGIN mid 16th cent. (in the sense 'existing only in intention'): from French *intentionnel* or medieval Latin *intentionalis*, from Latin *intencio* (*n.*), from *intendere* (see **INTEND**).

**in-ten-tion-al fal-la-cy** ▶ *n.* (the **intentional fallacy**) (in literary theory) the fallacy of basing an assessment of a work on the author's intention rather than on one's response to the actual work.

**in-ten-tion-al-ism** /in'tenʃənəlɪzəm/ ▶ *n.* the theory that a literary work should be judged in terms of the author's intentions.

**in-ten-tion-al-i-ty** /in'tenʃənəlɪtɪ/ ▶ *n.* the fact of being deliberate or purposive. ■ Philosophy the quality of mental states (e.g., thoughts, beliefs, desires, hopes) that consists in their being directed toward some object or state of affairs.

**in-ten-tion-al-ly** /in'tenʃənəlɪ/ ▶ *adv.* deliberately; on purpose: *I didn't do it intentionally.*

**in-ten-tion trem-or** ▶ *n.* a trembling of a part of the body when attempting a precise movement, associated esp. with disease of the cerebellum.

**in-tent-ly** /in'tentli/ ▶ *adv.* with earnest and eager attention: *he gazed at her intently.*

**in-ter** /in'tər/ ▶ *v.* (inters, interring, interred) [with obj.] (usu. **be interred**) place (a corpse) in a grave or tomb, typically with funeral rites: *he was interred with the military honors due to him.*

- ORIGIN Middle English: from Old French *enterrer*, based on Latin *in-* 'into' + *terra* 'earth.'

**inter** ▶ *abbr.* intermediate.

**inter-** ▶ prefix 1 between; among: *interagency | interblend.*

2 mutually; reciprocally: *interactive.*

- ORIGIN from Old French *entre-* or Latin *inter* 'between, among.'

**in-ter-act** /in'tər'akt/ ▶ *v.* [no obj.] act in such a way as to have an effect on another; act reciprocally: *all*

*the stages in the process interact | the user interacts directly with the library.*

- DERIVATIVES **in-ter-act-ant** /-tənt/ *adj.* & *n.*

**in-ter-ac-tion** /in'tər'akʃən/ ▶ *n.* reciprocal action or influence: *ongoing interaction between the two languages.* ■ Physics a particular way in which matter, fields, and atomic and subatomic particles affect one another, e.g., through gravitation or electromagnetism.

- DERIVATIVES **in-ter-ac-tion-al** /-ʃənəl/ *adj.*

**in-ter-ac-tion-ism** /in'tər'akʃənɪzəm/ ▶ *n.* Philosophy the theory that there are two entities, mind and body, each of which can have an effect on the other.

- DERIVATIVES **in-ter-ac-tion-ist** *n.* & *adj.*

**in-ter-ac-tive** /in'tər'aktɪv/ ▶ *adj.* (Of two people or things) influencing or having an effect on each other: *fully sighted children in interactive play with others with defective vision.* ■ (of a computer or other electronic device) allowing a two-way flow of information between it and a user, responding to the user's input: *interactive video.*

- DERIVATIVES **in-ter-ac-tive-ly** *adv.*, **in-ter-ac-tiv-ly** /-aktɪvɪtɪ/ *n.*

- ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: from **INTERACT**, on the pattern of **active**.

**in-ter-ac-tive white-board** ▶ *n.* see **WHITEBOARD**.

**in-ter-a-gen-cy** /in'tər'æjənsɪ/ ▶ *adj.* taking place between different agencies: *yesterday's interagency decision.* ■ constituted from more than one agency: *an interagency crisis-management team.*

**in-ter-a-li-a** /in'tər'ælə, 'ælə/ ▶ *adv.* among other things: *the study includes, inter alia, computers, aircraft, and pharmaceuticals.*

- ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: Latin.

**in-ter-a-li-os** /in'tər'ælɪəs, 'ælɪəs/ ▶ *adv.* among other people: *instruction to be given to them by, inter alios, a volunteer retired teacher.*

- ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: Latin.

**in-ter-al-lied** /in'tərə'lɪd/ ▶ *adj.* [attrib.] of or relating to two or more states formally cooperating for military purposes.

**in-ter-A-mer-i-can High-way** the name for the section of the **PAN-AMERICAN HIGHWAY** between the US-Mexico border at Nuevo Laredo in Mexico and Panama City in Panama.

**in-ter-ar-tic-u-lar** /in'tər'ɑrtɪkylər/ ▶ *adj.* Anatomy existing or acting between the adjacent surfaces of a joint.

**in-ter-a-tom-ic** /in'tərə'təmɪk/ ▶ *adj.* Physics existing or acting between atoms.

**in-ter-bank** /in'tər'bæŋk/ ▶ *adj.* [attrib.] agreed, arranged, or operating between banks: *trading opportunities in the interbank market.*

**in-ter-bed** /in'tər'bed/ ▶ *v.* (interbeds, interbedding, interbedded) (be interbedded) Geology (of a stratum) be embedded among or between others.

**in-ter-breed** /in'tərbred/ ▶ *v.* (Past and past participle **interbred**) (with reference to an animal) breed or cause to breed with another of a different race or species. [no obj.] *wolves and dogs can interbreed.* ■ [no obj.] (of an animal) inbred: (as noun **interbreeding**) *their energy and physique had been sapped by interbreeding.*

**in-ter-ca-lar-y** /in'tər'kælərɪ, in'tər'kælərɪ/ ▶ *adj.*

1 (Of a day or a month) inserted in the calendar to harmonize it with the solar year, e.g., February 29 in leap years. ■ Of the nature of an insertion: *elaborate intercalary notes and footnotes.*

2 Botany (of the meristem of a plant) located between its daughter cells, esp. (in a grass) at or near the base of a leaf.

- ORIGIN early 17th cent.: from Latin *intercalarius*, from *intercalare* (see **INTERCALATE**).

**in-ter-ca-late** /in'tər'kælət/ ▶ *v.* [with obj.]

1 interpolate (an intercalary period) in a calendar.

2 (usu. **be intercalated**) insert (something) between layers in a crystal lattice, geological formation, or other structure.

- DERIVATIVES **in-ter-ca-la-tion** /-tər'kæləʃən/ *n.*

- ORIGIN early 17th cent.: from Latin *intercalare* 'proclaimed as inserted in the calendar,' from the verb *intercalare*, from *inter-* 'between' + *calare* 'proclaim solemnly.'

**in-ter-cede** /in'tər'sed/ ▶ *v.* [no obj.] intervene on behalf of another: *I begged him to intercede for Theresa, but he never did a thing.*

- DERIVATIVES **in-ter-ced-er** *n.*

- ORIGIN late 16th cent.: from French *intercéder* or Latin *intercedere* 'intervene,' from *inter-* 'between' + *cedere* 'go.'

**in-ter-cel-lu-lar** /in'tər'selylər/ ▶ *adj.* Biology located or occurring between cells: *intercellular spaces.*

**in-ter-cept** /in'tər'sept/ ▶ *v.* [with obj.] obstruct (someone or something) so as to prevent them from



continuing to a destination: *intelligence agencies intercepted a series of telephone calls* | *I intercepted Ed on his way to work.* ■ Football (of a defensive player) catch a forward pass. ■ chiefly Physics cut off or deflect (light or other electromagnetic radiation). ■ Mathematics (of a line or surface) mark or cut off (part of a space, line, or surface).

► **n.** an act or instance of intercepting something: *he read the file of radio intercepts.* ■ Mathematics the point at which a given line cuts a coordinate axis; the value of the coordinate at that point.

-DERIVATIVES **in-ter-cep-tive** /-tɪv/ **adj.**

-ORIGIN late Middle English (in the senses 'contain between limits' and 'halt (an effect)'): from Latin *intercept-* 'caught between,' from the verb *intercipere*, from *inter-* 'between' + *capere* 'take.'

**in-ter-cep-tion** /ˌɪntərˈsɛpʃən/ ► **n.** an act or instance of intercepting something, particularly: ■ Football an act of a defensive player catching a forward pass: *Oliver forced a fumble and had three interceptions, two of which were returned for touchdowns.* ■ an act or instance of receiving electronic transmissions before they reach the intended recipient: *designed for the clandestine interception of other people's telephone calls.*

**in-ter-cep-tor** /ˌɪntərˈsɛptər/ ► **n.** a person or thing that stops or catches (someone or something) going from one place to another. ■ a fast aircraft for stopping or repelling hostile aircraft.

**in-ter-ces-sion** /ˌɪntərˈsɛʃən/ ► **n.** the action of intervening on behalf of another: *through the intercession of friends, I was able to obtain her a suture.* ■ the action of saying a prayer on behalf of another person: *prayers of intercession.*

-DERIVATIVES **in-ter-ces-so-ry** /-ˈsɛsərē/ **adj.**

-ORIGIN late Middle English: from Latin *intercessio* (n-), from the verb *intercedere* (see INTERCEDE).

**in-ter-ces-sor** /ˌɪntərˈsɛsər/ ► **n.** a person who intervenes on behalf of another, esp. by prayer.

**in-ter-chain** /ˌɪntərˈtʃeɪn/ ► **adj.** Chemistry existing between different polymer chains: *interchain hydrogen bonds.*

**in-ter-change** ► **v.** /ˌɪntərˈtʃeɪn/ [with obj.] (of two or more people) exchange (things) with each other: *superior and subordinates freely interchange ideas and information.* ■ put each of (two things) in the other's place: *the terms are often interchanged.* ■ [no obj.] (of a thing) be able to be exchanged with another: *diesel units will interchange with the gasoline ones.*

► **n.** /ˌɪntərˈtʃeɪn/ 1 the action of interchanging things, esp. information: *the interchange of ideas* | *a free-market interchange of goods and services.* ■ an exchange of words: *listening in shock to this venomous interchange.*

2 alternation: *the interchange of woods and meadows.* 3 a road junction designed on several levels so that traffic streams do not intersect.

-ORIGIN late Middle English: from Old French *entrechancier*, from *entre-* 'between' + *changier* 'to change.'

**in-ter-change-a-ble** /ˌɪntərˈtʃeɪnəbəl/ ► **adj.** (of two things) able to be interchanged: *eyepieces are interchangeable and one can use any eyepiece with any telescope* | *the V8 engines are all interchangeable with each other.* ■ apparently identical; very similar: *the cast includes a lot of interchangeable faces.*

-DERIVATIVES **in-ter-change-a-bil-i-ty** /ˌɪntərˈtʃeɪnəˈbɪlɪtē/ **n.**, **in-ter-change-a-ble-ness** **n.**, **in-ter-change-a-bly** /-blē/ **adv.**

**in-ter-city** /ˌɪntərˈsɪtē/ ► **adj.** [attrib.] existing or traveling between cities.

**in-ter-class** /ˌɪntərˈklas/ ► **adj.** existing or conducted between different classes.

**in-ter-col-le-giate** /ˌɪntərˈkɒləʒ(ē)ɪt/ ► **adj.** existing or conducted between colleges or universities: *intercollegiate sports.*

**in-ter-co-lum-ni-a-tion** /ˌɪntərˈkɒləmnēˈʃən/ ► **n.** Architecture the distance between two adjacent columns.

-DERIVATIVES **in-ter-co-lum-nar** /-ˈlɒmnər/ **adj.**

**in-ter-com** /ˌɪntərˈkɒm/ ► **n.** an electrical device allowing one-way or two-way communication.

-ORIGIN World War II: abbreviation of

**INTERCOMMUNICATION.**

**in-ter-com-mu-ni-cate** /ˌɪntərˈkɒmyʊniˈkæt/ ► **v.** [no obj.] 1 engage in two-way communication: *Dr. Haber gazed at this while intercommunicating with his receptionist.*

2 (of two rooms) have a common connecting door: *there were two apartments on the next floor, intercommunicating.*

-ORIGIN late 16th cent.: from Anglo-Latin

*intercommunicat-* 'mutually communicated,' from the verb *intercommunicare*.

**in-ter-com-mu-ni-ca-tion** /ˌɪntərˈkɒmyʊniˈkæʃən/ ► **n.** the action of engaging in two-way communication.

**in-ter-com-mu-ni-on** /ˌɪntərˈkɒmyʊniən/ ► **n.** participation in Holy Communion or other services by members of different religious denominations.

**in-ter-con-nect** /ˌɪntərˈkɒnɛkt/ ► **v.** [no obj.] connect with each other: *the way human activities interconnect with the environment* | [with obj.] *a high-speed data service can interconnect the hundreds of thousands of host computers and workstations.*

► **n.** a device used to connect two things together.

-DERIVATIVES **in-ter-con-nected** **adj.**, **in-ter-con-nect-ion** /-ˈnɛkʃən/ **n.**

**in-ter-con-ti-nen-tal** /ˌɪntərˈkɒntnɛntl/ ► **adj.** relating to or traveling between continents: *an intercontinental flight* | *intercontinental ballistic missiles.*

-DERIVATIVES **in-ter-con-ti-nen-tal-ly** **adv.**

**in-ter-con-vert** /ˌɪntərˈkɒnvɜrt/ ► **v.** [with obj.] (usu. be *interconverted*) cause (two things) to be converted into each other: *estrogens and androgens are easily interconverted in the laboratory.*

-DERIVATIVES **in-ter-con-ver-sion** /-ˈvɜrʒən/ **n.**, **in-ter-con-vert-i-ble** **adj.**

**in-ter-cool-er** /ˌɪntərˈkʊlər/ ► **n.** an apparatus for cooling gas between successive compressions, esp. in a supercharged vehicle engine.

-DERIVATIVES **in-ter-cool** **v.**

**in-ter-cor-re-la-tion** /ˌɪntərˈkɒrələʃən/ ► **n.** a mutual relationship or connection between two or more things: *analyses showing intercorrelations between sets of variables.*

-DERIVATIVES **in-ter-cor-re-late** /-ˈkɒrələt/ **v.**

**in-ter-cos-tal** /ˌɪntərˈkɒstəl/ **Anatomy** ► **adj.** situated between the ribs: *the fifth left intercostal space.*

► **n.** a muscle in this position.

-DERIVATIVES **in-ter-cos-tal-ly** **adv.**

**in-ter-course** /ˌɪntərˈkɔrs/ ► **n.** communication or dealings between individuals or groups: *everyday social intercourse.* ■ short for **SEXUAL INTERCOURSE.**

-ORIGIN late Middle English (denoting communication or dealings): from Old French *entrecours* 'exchange, commerce,' from Latin *intercursum*, from *intercurrere* 'intervene,' from *inter-* 'between' + *currere* 'run.' The specifically sexual use arose in the late 18th cent.

**in-ter-crop** ► **v.** /ˌɪntərˈkrɒp/ (**intercrops**, **intercropping**, **intercropped**) [with obj.] (often as noun **intercropping**) grow (a crop) among plants of a different kind, usually in the space between rows: *lettuce is particularly good for intercropping among young Brussels sprouts.*

► **n.** /ˌɪntərˈkrɒp/ a crop grown in such a way.

**in-ter-cross** /ˌɪntərˈkrɒs/ ► **v.** (with reference to animals or plants of different breeds or varieties) interbreed or cause to interbreed.

► **n.** an instance of intercrossing of animals or plants. ■ an animal or plant resulting from this.

**in-ter-cru-ral** /ˌɪntərˈkrʊərəl/ ► **adj.** between the legs.

**in-ter-cur-rent** /ˌɪntərˈkərənt, -ˈkərɛnt/ ► **adj.**

1 Medicine (of a disease) occurring during the progress of another disease: *complicated by intercurrent infection with other microbes.*

2 rare (of a time or event) intervening.

-ORIGIN early 17th cent.: from Latin *intercurrent-* 'intervening,' from the verb *intercurrere*.

**in-ter-cut** /ˌɪntərˈkʌt/ ► **v.** (**intercuts**, **intercutting**; past and past participle **intercut**) [with obj.] alternate (scenes or shots) with contrasting scenes or shots to make one composite scene in a film: *pieces of archive film are intercut with brief interviews* | [no obj.] *the action intercuts between the time periods.*

**in-ter-de-nom-i-na-tion-al** /ˌɪntərˈdɛnəməˈnæʃənəl/ ► **adj.** of or relating to more than one religious denomination: *an interdenominational Thanksgiving service.*

-DERIVATIVES **in-ter-de-nom-i-na-tion-al-ly** **adv.**

**in-ter-den-tal** /ˌɪntərˈdɛntl/ ► **adj.** situated or placed between teeth or the teeth. ■ Phonetics (of a consonant) pronounced by placing the tip of the tongue between the teeth, such as the "th" sounds in the English words "thaw" and "though."

► **n.** Phonetics a consonant pronounced in this way.

-DERIVATIVES **in-ter-den-tal-ly** **adv.**

**in-ter-de-part-men-tal** /ˌɪntərˈdɛpɑrtməntl/ ► **adj.** of or relating to more than one department.

-DERIVATIVES **in-ter-de-part-men-tal-ly** **adv.**

**in-ter-de-pend-ent** /ˌɪntərˈdɛpɛndənt/ ► **adj.** (of two or more people or things) dependent on each other: *the increasingly global nature of human society, with interdependent economies.*

-DERIVATIVES **in-ter-de-pend** **v.**, **in-ter-de-pend-ence** **n.**, **in-ter-de-pend-en-cy** **n.**

**in-ter-dict** ► **n.** /ˌɪntərˈdɪkt/ an authoritative prohibition: *an interdict against marriage of those of close kin.* ■ (in the Roman Catholic Church) a sentence barring a person, or esp. a place, from ecclesiastical functions and privileges: *a papal interdict.*

► **v.** /ˌɪntərˈdɪkt/ [with obj.] 1 prohibit or forbid (something): *society will never interdict sex.*

■ (**interdict someone from**) prohibit someone from (doing something): *I have not been interdicted from consuming or holding alcoholic beverages.*

2 intercept and prevent the movement of (a prohibited commodity or person): *the police established roadblocks throughout the country for interdicting drugs.* ■ Military impede (an enemy force), esp. by aerial bombing of lines of communication or supply.

-DERIVATIVES **in-ter-dic-tion** /ˌɪntərˈdɪkʃən/ **n.**

-ORIGIN Middle English *entredite* (in the ecclesiastical sense), from Old French *entredite*, from Latin *interdictum*, past participle of *interdicere* 'interpose, forbid by decree,' from *inter-* 'between' + *dicere* 'say.' The spelling change in the 16th cent. was due to association with the Latin form.

**in-ter-dic-tor** /ˌɪntərˈdɪktər/ ► **n.** Military an aircraft designed to interrupt enemy supply operations by aerial bombing.

**in-ter-dig-it-al** /ˌɪntərˈdɪʃl/ ► **adj.** between the fingers or toes.

**in-ter-dig-i-tate** /ˌɪntərˈdɪʃɪtāt/ ► **v.** [no obj.] (of two or more things) interlock like the fingers of two clasped hands: (as adj. **interdigitating**) *interdigitating metal bars.*

-ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: from *inter-* 'between' + *DIGIT* + *-ATE*.

**in-ter-dis-ci-pli-nar-y** /ˌɪntərˈdɪsəplɪnəri/ ► **adj.** of or relating to more than one branch of knowledge: *an interdisciplinary research program.*

**in-ter-est** /ˌɪnt(ə)rist/ ► **n.** 1 the state of wanting to know or learn about something or someone: *she looked about her with interest.* ■ (**an interest in**) a feeling of wanting to know or learn about (something): *he developed an interest in art.*

■ the quality of exciting curiosity or holding the attention: *a tale full of interest.* ■ a subject about which one is concerned or enthusiastic: *my particular interest is twentieth-century poetry.*

2 money paid regularly at a particular rate for the use of money lent, or for delaying the repayment of a debt: *the monthly rate of interest* | [as modifier] *interest payments.*

3 the advantage or benefit of a person or group: *the merger is not contrary to the public interest* | *we are acting in the best interests of our customers.*

■ archaic the selfish pursuit of one's own welfare; self-interest.

4 a stake, share, or involvement in an undertaking, esp. a financial one: *holders of voting rights must disclose their interests* | *he must have no personal interest in the outcome of the case.* ■ a legal concern, title, or right in property: *third parties having an interest in a building.*

5 (usu. **interests**) a group or organization having a specified common concern, esp. in politics or business: *the regulation of national interests in India, Brazil, and Africa.*

► **v.** [with obj.] excite the curiosity or attention of (someone): *I thought the book might interest Eric.* ■ (**interest someone in**) cause someone to undertake or acquire (something): *efforts were made to interest her in a purchase.*

-PHRASES **declare an (or one's) interest** make known one's financial interests in an undertaking before it is discussed. **in the interests (or interest) of something** for the benefit of: *in the interests of security we are keeping the information confidential.* **of interest** interesting: *much of it is of interest to historians.* **with interest** with interest charged or paid: *loans that must be paid back with interest.* ■ (of an action) reciprocated with more force or vigor than the original one: *he may have a reputation for getting even, with interest.*

-ORIGIN late Middle English (originally as *interesse*): from Anglo-Norman French *interesse*, from Latin *interesse* 'differ, be important,' from *inter-* 'between' + *esse* 'be.' The *-t* was added partly by association with Old French *interest* 'damage, loss,' apparently from Latin *interest* 'it is important.' The original sense was 'the possession of a share in or a right to something'; hence sense 4 of the noun. Sense 1 of the noun and the verb arose in the 18th cent. Sense 2 of the noun was influenced by medieval Latin *interesse* 'compensation for a debtor's defaulting.'

PRONUNCIATION KEY ə *ago*, *up*; ɔ *over*, *fur*; a *hat*; ā *ate*; ā *car*; e *let*; ē *see*; i *fit*; i *by*; Ŋ *sing*; ō *go*; ō *law*, *for*; ōi *toy*; ōō *good*; ōō *goo*; ōu *out*; TH *thin*; TH *then*; ZH *vision*