

The New Oxford American Dictionary

SECOND EDITION

FIRST EDITION

Elizabeth J. Jewell
Frank Abate

SECOND EDITION

Erin McKean

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

2005

Oxford University Press, Inc., publishes works that further
Oxford University's objective of excellence
in research, scholarship, and education.

Oxford New York
Auckland Cape Town Dar es Salaam Hong Kong Karachi
Kuala Lumpur Madrid Melbourne Mexico City Nairobi
New Delhi Shanghai Taipei Toronto

With offices in
Argentina Austria Brazil Chile Czech Republic France Greece
Guatemala Hungary Italy Japan Poland Portugal Singapore
South Korea Switzerland Thailand Turkey Ukraine Vietnam

The first edition of the *New Oxford American Dictionary* was based on *The New Oxford Dictionary of English*, published in the United Kingdom in 1998.

Copyright © 2005 by Oxford University Press, Inc.

Published by Oxford University Press, Inc.
198 Madison Avenue, New York, New York, 10016
www.oup.com/us
www.askoxford.com

Oxford is a registered trademark of Oxford University Press

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without prior permission of Oxford University Press

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
The new Oxford American dictionary.-- 2nd ed.
p. cm.

ISBN-13 978-0-19-517077-1

1. English language--United States--Dictionaries. 2.
Americanisms--Dictionaries.

PE1628.N429 2005
423'.1--dc22

2005000941

This book includes some words that are, or are asserted to be, proprietary names or trademarks. Their inclusion does not imply that they have acquired for legal purposes a nonproprietary or general significance, nor is any other judgment implied concerning their legal status. In cases where the editor has some evidence that a word is used as a proprietary name or trademark, this is indicated by the designation trademark, but no judgment concerning the legal status of such words is made or implied thereby.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3

Printed in the United States of America on acid-free paper

en-anti-to-morph /en'antēto,mōrf/ *n.* each of two crystalline or other geometric forms that are mirror images of each other. ▶late 19th cent.: from Greek *enantios* 'opposite' + *-morph*. —**en-anti-to-morphic** /en'antēto,mōrfik/ *adj.* —**en-anti-to-morphism** /en'antēto,mōrfizəm/ *n.* —**en-anti-to-morphous** /en'antēto,mōrfəs/ *adj.*

en-ar-gite /en'arjē't/ *n.* a dark gray mineral consisting of a sulfide of copper and arsenic. ▶mid 19th cent.: from Greek *enargēs* 'clear, distinct' (referring to evident cleavage) + *-ite*.

en-ar-thro-sis /en'arthrō'sis/ *n.* (pl. -ses/-sēz) *Anatomy* a ball-and-socket joint. ▶late 16th cent.: from Greek *enarthrosis*, from *enarthros* 'jointed', from *en-* 'inside' + *arthron* 'joint'.

en-ation /en'āshən/ *n.* *Botany* an outgrowth from the surface of a leaf or other part of a plant. ▶mid 19th cent.: from Latin *enatio(n)-*, from *enasci* 'issue forth'.

en bloc /en'blāk/ *adv.* all together or all at the same time: various private museums offered to purchase the *trois en bloc*. ▶late 19th cent.: French.

en bro-chette /en brō'ʃet/ *adj.* *Cooking* (of a dish) cooked on a skewer. ▶French *en brochette* 'on a skewer'.

en brosse /en'brō's/ *adj.* [postpositive] (of a person's hair) cut in a short and bristly style. ▶early 20th cent.: French, literally 'in the form of a brush'.

enc. *abbr.*; *abbr.* *enclosure*.

en-cage /en'kāj/ *v.* [trans.] *poetic/literary* confine in or as in a cage.

en-camp /en'kamp/ *v.* [intrans.] settle in or establish a camp, esp. a military one: we encamped for the night by the side of a river.

en-camp-ment /en'kamp'ment/ *n.* a place with temporary accommodations consisting of huts or tents, typically for troops or nomads. ▶the process of setting up a camp.

en-cap-si-date /en'kapsi,dāt/ *v.* [trans.] *Biochemistry* enclose (a gene or virus particle) in a protein shell. —**en-cap-si-date** /en'kapsi,dāshən/ *n.*

en-cap-su-late /en'kaps(y)u,lāt/ *v.* [trans.] enclose (something) in or as if in a capsule. ▶express the essential features of (someone or something) succinctly: the conclusion is encapsulated in one sentence.

■ *Computing* enclose (a message or signal) in a set of codes that allow use by or transfer through different computer systems or networks. ■ *Computing* provide an interface for (a piece of software or hardware) to allow or simplify access for the user. ■ [as *adj.*] (encapsulated) enclosed by a protective coating or membrane. ▶late 19th cent. (also as *incapsulate*): from *en-*, *-in-* 'into' + *Latin capsula* (see *CAPSULE*). —**en-cap-su-lation** /en'kaps(y)u,lāshən/ *n.*

en-case /en'kās/ (also dated *in-case*) *v.* [trans.] (often *en-cased*) enclose or cover in a case or close-fitting surround. —**en-case-ment** *n.*

en-caus-tic /en'kōstik/ *adj.* (esp. in painting and ceramics) using pigments mixed with hot wax that are burned in as an inlay. ▶of bricks and tiles decorated with differently colored glazes, which are inlaid into the surface and burned in.

▶*n.* the art or process of encaustic painting. ▶late 16th cent.: via Latin from Greek *enkautikos*, from *enkautēin* 'burn in', from *en-* 'in' + *kautēin* 'to burn'.

ence /ens; ns/ ▶*suffix* forming nouns: 1 denoting a quality or an instance of it: impertinence. 2 denoting an action or its result: reference | reminiscence. ▶from French *-ence*, from Latin *-entia*, *-antia* (from present participial stems *-ent-*, *-ant-*). Since the 16th cent. many inconsistencies have occurred in the use of *-ence* and *-ance*.

en-cein-te /en'sānt; ān'sant/ *n.* *Archaic* an enclosure or the enclosing wall of a fortified place. ▶early 18th cent.: from French, from Latin *incincta*, feminine past participle of *incingere* 'gird in', from *in-* 'in' + *cingere* 'to gird'.

en-cein-te ▶*adj.* *Archaic* pregnant. ▶early 17th cent.: from French.

En-cel-a-dus /en'selədəs/ *Astronomy* a satellite of Saturn, the eighth closest to the planet, discovered by W. Herschel in 1789. Probably composed mainly of ice, it has a diameter of 311 miles (500 km). ▶named after a Greek mythological giant killed by Athena.

en-ceph-a-lic /en'seif'alik/ *adj.* *Anatomy* relating to, affecting, or situated in the brain. ▶mid 19th cent.: from Greek *enkephalos* 'brain' (from *en-* 'in' + *kephalē* 'head') + *-ic*.

en-ceph-a-li-tis /en'seif'itis/ *n.* inflammation of the brain, caused by infection or an allergic reaction. —**en-ceph-a-litic** /en'seif'itik/ *adj.*

en-ceph-a-li-tis *le-tharg-ic* /en'seif'itis/ *n.* a form of encephalitis caused by a virus and characterized by headache and drowsiness leading to coma. Also called *SLEEPING SICKNESS*.

en-ceph-a-li-zation /en'seif'izāshən/ *n.* *Zoology* an evolutionary increase in the complexity or relative size of the brain, involving a shift of function from noncortical parts of the brain to the cortex.

en-ceph-a-lo- *comb. form* of or relating to the brain: *encephalopathy*, *from* Greek *enkephalos*.

en-ceph-a-lo-graph /en'seif'əlogrəf/ *n.* *Medicine* an image, trace, or other record of the structure or electrical activity of the brain.

en-ceph-a-lo-graph-y /en'seif'əlogrəfi/ *n.* *Medicine* any of various techniques for recording the structure or electrical activity of the brain. —**en-ceph-a-lograph** /en'seif'əlogrəf/ *n.* —**en-ceph-a-lographic** /en'seif'əlogrəfik/ *adj.*

en-ceph-a-lo-my-el-li-tis /en'seif'əlo,mia'elitis/ *n.* *Medicine* inflammation of the brain and spinal cord, typically due to acute viral infection.

en-ceph-a-lon /en'seif'ālon; -lən/ *n.* *Anatomy* the brain. ▶mid 18th cent.: from Greek *enkephalon* 'what is inside the head', from *en-* 'inside' + *kephalē* 'head'.

en-ceph-a-lo-pa-thy /en'seif'əlopə'thi/ *n.* (pl. -thies) *Medicine* a disease in which the functioning of the brain is affected by some agent or condition (such as viral infection or toxins in the blood).

en-chain /en'čain/ *v.* [trans.] *poetic/literary* bind with or as with chains. ▶late Middle English: from Old French *enchaîner*, based on Latin *catena* 'chain'. —**en-chain-ment** *n.*

en-chaîne-ment /ən'šān'mān/ *n.* (pl. -ments *pron.* same) *Ballet* a linked sequence of steps or movements constituting a phrase. ▶mid 19th cent.: French, 'chaining together'.

en-chant /en'čant/ *v.* [trans.] (often *be enchanted*) fill (someone) with great delight; charm: Isabel was enchanted with the idea. ▶put (someone or something) under a spell: [as *adj.*] (enchanted) an enchanted garden. ▶late Middle English (in the senses 'put under a spell' and 'delude'; formerly also as *inchant*): from French *enchanter*, from Latin *incantare*, from *in-* 'in' + *cantare* 'sing'. —**en-chanted-ly** *adv.*

en-chant-ment *n.*

en-chant-er /en'čantər/ *n.* a person who uses magic or sorcery, esp. to put someone or something under a spell.

en-chant-er's night-shade *n.* a woodland plant with small white flowers and fruit with hooked bristles, native to Eurasia and North America. ▶Genus *Circaea*, family *Onagraceae*: several species, including *C. quadrifida* and the smaller *C. alpina*. ▶late 16th cent.: believed by early botanists to be the herb used by Circe to charm Odysseus' companions.

en-chant-ing /en'čantiŋ/ *adj.* delightfully charming or attractive: Dinah looked enchanting. —**en-chant-ingly** *adv.*

en-chant-ress /en'čantis/ *n.* a woman who uses magic or sorcery, esp. to put someone or something under a spell. ▶a very attractive and beguiling woman. ▶late Middle English: from Old French *enchanteresse*, from *enchanter* (see *ENCHANT*).

en-chase /en'čās/ *v.* [trans.] decorate (a piece of jewelry or work of art) by inlaying, engraving, or carving. ▶place (a jewel) in a setting. ▶late Middle English (in the sense 'decorate with figures in relief'): from Old French *enchausser* 'set gems, encase', from *en-* 'in' + *chasse* 'a case'.

en-chi-la-da /en'čilə'də/ *n.* a rolled tortilla with a filling typically of meat and served with a chili sauce. ▶Latin American Spanish, feminine past participle of *enchilar* 'season with chili'.

▶*PHRASES* ▶*the big enchilada* *informal* a person or thing of great importance. ▶*the whole enchilada* *informal* the whole situation; everything.

en-chi-rid-i-on /en'čikə'ridiən; -enki/ *n.* (pl. -rid-i-ons or -rid-i-lə/ -ridiələ) *formal* a book containing essential information on a subject. ▶late Middle English: via Latin from Greek *encheiridion*, from *en-* 'within' + *cheir* 'hand' + *-idion* the diminutive suffix *-idion*.

En-ci-ni-tas /ən'si'nētas/ a city in southwestern California, northwest of San Diego; pop. 55,386.

en-ci-pher /en'sifər/ *v.* [trans.] convert (a message or piece of text) into a coded form; encrypt. —**en-ci-pher-ment** *n.*

en-ci-rcle /en'sərkl/ *v.* [trans.] form a circle around; surround: the town is encircled by fortified walls. See note at *CIRCUMSCRIBE*. —**en-ci-rcle-ment** *n.*

encl. (also *enc.*) *abbr.* *enclosed*, *enclosure*.

en clair /ən'klər/ *adj.* & *adv.* (esp. of a telegram or

official message) in ordinary language, rather than in code or cipher. ▶French, literally 'in clear'.

en-clasp /en'klasp/ *v.* [trans.] *formal* hold tightly in one's arms.

en-clave /en'klav; -'āŋg-/ *n.* a portion of territory within or surrounded by a larger territory whose inhabitants are culturally or ethnically distinct. ▶a secured area within another secured area: the cost of a security service is going to be proportional to the size of the enclave that you must secure. ■ *figurative* a place or group that is different in character from those surrounding it: the engineering department is traditionally a male enclave.

▶*v.* [trans.] *rare* surround and isolate; make an enclave of. ▶mid 19th cent.: from French, from Old French *enclaver* 'enclose, dovetail', based on Latin *clavis* 'key'.

en-clit-ic /en'klitik/ *Linguistics* *n.* a word pronounced with so little emphasis that it is shortened and forms part of the preceding word, e.g. *n't in 'tenth*. Compare with *PROCLITIC*.

▶*adj.* denoting or relating to such a word. ▶mid 17th cent.: via Latin from Greek *enclitikos*, from *en-* 'in' + *kleinō* 'lean on', from *en-* 'in, on' + *kleinō* 'to lean'. —**en-clit-ic-ally** /-i'ə(ə)l/ *adv.*

en-close /en'klōz/ (also dated *in-close*) *v.* [trans.] 1 (often *be enclosed*) surround or close off on all sides: the entire estate was enclosed with walls | [as *adj.*] (enclosed) a dark enclosed space. See note at *CIRCUMSCRIBE*. ■ *historical* fence in (common land) so as to make it private property. ■ [usu. as *adj.*] (enclosed) seclude (a religious order or other community) from the outside world. ■ *chiefly Mathematics* bound on all sides; contain. 2 place (something) in an envelope together with a letter: I enclose a copy of the job description. ▶Middle English (in the sense 'shut in, imprison'): from Old French *enclos*, past participle of *enclore*, based on Latin *includere* 'shut in'.

en-clo-sure /en'klōʒər/ (also dated *in-clo-sure*) *n.* 1 an area that is sealed off with an artificial or natural barrier. ■ an artificial or natural barrier that seals off an area. 2 the state of being enclosed, esp. in a religious community: the most strict enclosure. ■ *historical* the system in policy of fencing in waste or common land so as to make it private property, as pursued in much of Britain in the 18th and early 19th centuries: one of the chief effects of enclosure was to increase the number of landless workers. 3 a document or object placed in an envelope together with a letter. ▶late Middle English: from legal Anglo-Norman French and Old French, from *enclos* 'closed in' (see *ENCLOSE*).

en-code /en'kōd/ *v.* [trans.] convert into a coded form. ■ *Computing* convert (information or an instruction) into a digital form. ■ *Biochemistry* (of a gene) be responsible for producing (a substance or behavior). —**en-cod-a-ble** *adj.* —**en-coder** *n.* —**en-code-ment** *n.*

en-co-mi-ast /en'kōmē'ast/ *n.* *formal* a person who publicly praises or flatters someone else. ▶early 17th cent.: from Greek *enkōmiastēs*, from *enkōmiāzein* 'to praise', from *enkōmiōn* (see *ENCOMIUM*). —**en-co-mi-as-tic** /en'kōmē'astik/ *adj.* —**en-co-mi-as-tic-ally** /en'kōmē'astik(ə)l/ *adv.*

en-co-mi-en-da /en'kōmē'enda; -'kāmē-/ *n.* *historical* a grant by the Spanish Crown to a colonist in America for carrying out (or in return for demanding tribute and forced labor from the Indian inhabitants of an area. ▶early 19th cent.: Spanish, literally 'communion, charge'.

en-co-mi-um /en'kōmē'jum/ *n.* (pl. -mi-ums or -mā/-mē) *formal* a speech or piece of writing that praises someone or something highly. ▶mid 16th cent.: Latin, from Greek *enkōmiōn* 'eulogy', from *en-* 'within' + *kōmos* 'revel'.

en-com-pass /en'kəmpəs/ *v.* 1 [trans.] surround and have or hold within: a vast halo encompassing the Milky Way galaxy. See note at *CIRCUMSCRIBE*. ■ include comprehensively: no studies encompass all aspects of medical care. 2 *archaic* cause (something) to take place: an act designed to encompass the death of the king. —**en-com-pass-ment** *n.*

en-co-pre-sis /en'kəpre'sis/ *n.* *Medicine* involuntary defecation, esp. associated with emotional disturbance or psychiatric disorder.

en-core /ən'kōr/ *n.* a repeated or additional performance of an item at the end of a concert, as called for by an audience.

▶*exclam.* called out by an audience at the end of a concert to request such a performance.

▶*v.* [trans.] (often *be encored*) give or call for a repeated or additional performance of (an item) at the end

mental restraint: *I could never appear nude, I'm far too inhibited.*

inhibition /in/hi'bishən/ *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. ▶ **Middle English** (in the sense 'forbidding, a prohibition'): from Latin *inhibitio* (from the verb *inhibere* (see **INHIBIT**)).

inhibit /in/hi'bɪt/ *v.* 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-gene-ous /in,hə'mə/je'nə:əs; -hə'mə/ *adj.* not uniform in character or content; diverse. ■ **Mathematics** consisting of terms that are not all of the same degree or dimensions. — **in-ho-mo-gene-ity** /in,hə'mə/ni'ti; -nə; -ti; -hə'mə/ *n.*

in-hos-pi-tal-ly /in/hə'spi:təli; in/həs-/ *adj.* (of an environment) harsh and difficult to live in: *the inhospitable landscape.* ■ (of a person) unfriendly and unwelcoming toward people. ▶ **late 16th cent.**: French, from in- 'not' + hospitable (see **HOSPITABLE**). — **in-hos-pitableness** *n.* — **in-hos-pitab-ly** /-bli/ *adv.* — **in-hos-pit-al-ty** /in,hə'spi'taliti; in/həs-/ *n.*

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/hi'ju:mən/ *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.* ▶ **Middle English** (originally as inhumane): from Latin *inhumanus*, from in- 'not' + *humanus* (see **HUMAN**). — **in-hu-man-ly** *adv.*

in-hu-man-ty /in/hi'ju:məniti/ *n.* (pl. -ties) extremely cruel and brutal behavior; a justification for further cruelty and inhumanity. ▶ **late 15th cent.**: from Old French *inhumanité* or Latin *inhumanitas*, from *inhumanus* 'inhuman'.

in-hume /in/hi'ju:m/ *v.* [trans.] bury; *no hand his bones shall gather or in-hume.* ▶ **early 17th cent.**: from Latin *inhumare*, from in- 'into' + *humus* 'ground'. — **in-hu-mation** /in/hi'ju:mə'shun/ *n.*

in-im-cal /in/imi'kəl/ *adj.* tending to obstruct or harm: *actions inimical to our interests.* ■ unfriendly; hostile: *an inimical alien power.* See note at **HOSTILE**. ▶ **early 16th cent.**: from late Latin *inimicālis*, from Latin *inimicus* (see **ENEMY**). — **in-im-cal-ly** /-li/ *adv.*

in-im-ta-ble /in/imi'təbəl/ *adj.* as good or unusual as to be impossible to copy; unique: *the inimitable ambience of Hawaii.* ▶ **late 15th cent.**: from French, or from Latin *inimitabilis*, from in- 'not' + *imitabilis* (from *imitari* 'imitate'). — **in-im-ta-bil-ty** /-ti/ *n.* — **in-im-ta-bil-ty** /-bli/ *adv.*

in-in /in/ien/ *n.* **Anatomy** the projecting part of the occipital bone at the base of the skull. ▶ **early 19th cent.**: from Greek, literally 'nape of the neck'.

in-i-qu-i-ty /in/ikwiti/ *n.* (pl. -ties) immoral or grossly unfair behavior: *a den of iniquity* | *a liberal lawyer could uncover the iniquities committed on his own doorstep.* ▶ **Middle English**: from Old French *iniquité*, from Latin *iniquitas*, from *iniquus*, from in- 'not' + *aequus* 'equal, just'. — **in-i-qu-i-ty** /-witi/ *adv.* — **in-i-qu-i-ty-ous** /-witi-si/ *adj.* — **in-i-qu-i-ty-ous-ness** /-witi-si-s/ *n.*

in-ital /in/isi'vəl/ *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.** (-tial, -tially; *Brit.* -tialled, -tially) [trans.] 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. ▶ **early 16th cent.**: from Latin *initialis*, from *initium* 'beginning', from *inire* 'go in', from in- 'into' + *ire* 'go'. — **in-ital-ize** /in/isi'vəlaɪz/ *v.* **Informal** the use of abbreviations formed by using initial letters.

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

in-i-tial-ize /in/isi'ə,liz/ *v.* [trans.] **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). — **in-i-tial-iza-tion** /in/isi'ə,lə'zəʃən/ *n.*

in-i-tial-ly /in/isi'ə,li/ *adv.* *sentence adverb* at first; initially, he thought the new concept was nonsense. — **in-i-tial-public-offering** *n.* a company's flotation on the stock exchange.

in-i-ti-ant /in/isi'ə,nt/ *n.* a person about to be initiated. ▶ **early 20th cent.**: from Latin *initiantius*, from *initiare* 'to initiate'.

in-i-ti-ate *v.* /in/isi'ə,ʔ/ [trans.] 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 *in*] (the initiated) *figurative* 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 into) introduce someone to a particular activity or skill, esp. a difficult or obscure one: *they were initiated into the mysteries of trigonometry.* ▶ **n.** /in/isi'ə,ʔ/ a person who has been initiated into an organization or activity, typically recently: *initiates of the Shiva cult* | [as *adj.*] *the initiate Marines.* ▶ **mid 16th cent.** (sense 2): from Latin *initiare* 'begin', from the verb *initiare*, from *initium* 'beginning'. — **in-i-ti-a-tion** /in/isi'ə,ʔə'shun/ *n.* — **in-i-ti-a-ry** /-i,təri/ *adj.*

in-i-ti-a-tive /in/isi'ə,tiv/ *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: *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 crime.* ■ a proposal made by one nation to another in an attempt to improve relations: *diplomatic initiatives to end the war* | [with *adj.*] *a Middle East peace initiative.*

4 (the initiative) (esp. in some U.S. states and Switzerland) the right of citizens outside the legislature to originate legislation. ▶ **late 18th cent.**: from French, from Latin *initiare*, from *initium* 'beginning'.

▶ **PHRASES** ▶ on one's own initiative without being prompted by others: *he took (or seized) the initiative* ▶ be the first to take action in a particular situation: *antismoking groups have seized the initiative in the dispute.*

in-i-ti-a-tor /in/isi'ə,ʔə,tər/ *n.* a person or thing that initiates someone or something. ■ **Chemistry** a substance that starts a chain reaction. ■ an explosive or device used to detonate a larger one. — **in-i-ti-a-tion** /-tə'shun/ *n.*

in-ject /in/ekt/ *v.* [trans.] 1 drive or force (a liquid, esp. a drug or vaccine) into a person or animal's body with a syringe or similar device: *the doctor injected a painkilling drug.* 2 administer a drug or medicine to (a person or animal) in this way: *he injected himself with a drug overdose.* ■ [intrans.] inject oneself with a narcotic drug, esp. habitually: *people who want to stop injecting.* 3 introduce (something) into a passage, cavity, or solid material under pressure: *inject the foam and allow it to expand.* See note at **INSERT**.

■ **Physics** introduce or feed (a current, beam of particles, etc.) into a substance or device. ■ place (a spacecraft or other object) into an orbit or trajectory: *many meteoroids are injected into hyperbolic orbits.* 2 introduce (a new or different element) into something, esp. as a boost or interruption: *she tried to inject scorn into her tone.* ■ (Inject something with) imbue something with (a new element): *he injected his voice with a confidence he didn't feel.* ▶ **late 16th cent.** (in the sense 'throw or cast on something'): from Latin *inject*, 'thrown in', from the verb *injacere*, from in- 'into' + *jacere* 'throw'. — **in-ject-able** *adj.* & *n.*

in-ject-ion /in/ektʃən/ *n.* 1 an instance of injecting or being injected: *painkilling injections* | *an injection of capital was needed.* ■ a thing that is injected: *a morphine injection.* ■ the action of injecting: *sometimes a polio vaccine is given by injection.* ■ short for **FUEL INJECTION**. 2 the entry or placing of a spacecraft or other object into an orbit or trajectory. ▶ **late Middle English**: from Latin *injection* (from the verb *injacere* (see **INJECT**)).

injection molding *n.* the shaping of rubber or plastic articles by injecting heated material into a mold. — **injection-molded** *adj.*

in-jec-tor /in/ektər/ *n.* a person or thing that injects something. ■ (also fuel injector) (in an internal combustion engine) the nozzle and valve through which fuel is sprayed into a combustion chamber.

■ (in a steam engine) a system of nozzles that uses steam to inject water into a pressurized boiler.

in-je-ra /in/je'rə/ *n.* a white leavened Ethiopian bread made from teff flour, similar to a crepe. ▶ **Amharic**.

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

in-jur- /in/ɜ: / *n.* **Informal**, *offensive* an American Indian. ▶ **late 17th cent.**: alteration of **INDIAN**.

▶ **PHRASE** ▶ honest *injun* dated honestly; really: *I won't run away, honest injun.*

in-junc-tion /in/ʃəŋk(ʃ)ən/ *n.* an authoritative warning or order. ■ Law a judicial order that restrains a person from beginning or continuing an action threatening or invading the legal right of another, or that compels a person to carry out a certain act, e.g., to make restitution to an injured party. ▶ **late Middle English**: from late Latin *injunction* (from Latin *injungere* 'enjoin, impose'). — **in-junc-tive** /-ʃəŋk(ʃ)iv/ *adj.*

in-jure /in/ɜ: / *v.* [trans.] do physical harm or damage to (someone): *the explosion injured several people.* ■ suffer physical harm or damage to (a part of one's body): *he injured his back.* ■ harm or impair (something): *a libel calculated to injure the company's reputation.* ■ *archaic* do injustice or wrong to (someone). ▶ **late Middle English**: back-formation from **INJURY**.

— **in-jur-er** *n.*

in-jured /in/ɜ: / *adj.* 1 harmed, damaged, or impaired: *a road accident left him severely injured.* 2 of-fended: *his injured pride.*

in-jur-i-ous /in/ɜ:ʃəs/ *adj.* causing or likely to cause damage or harm: *high temperature is injurious to mangoes.* ■ (of language) maliciously insulting; libelous. ▶ **late Middle English**: from French *injurious* | **Latin** *injurius*, from *injuria* 'a wrong' (see **INJURY**). — **in-jur-i-ously** *adv.* — **in-jur-i-ous-ness** *n.*

in-jury /in/ɜ: / *n.* (pl. -ries) an instance of being injured: *she suffered an injury to her back* | *an ankle injury.* ■ the fact of being injured: *harm or damage: all escaped without serious injury.* ■ (injury to) offense to: *the possible injury to the feelings of others.* ▶ **late Middle English**: from Anglo-Norman French *injury*, from Latin *injuria* 'a wrong', from in- (expressing negation) + *jus*, 'right'.

▶ **PHRASE** ▶ do oneself an injury *informal* suffer physical harm or damage.

in-jury time *n.* (in soccer and other sports) extra playing time allowed by a referee to compensate for time lost in dealing with injuries.

in-jus-tice /in/ʃəstis/ *n.* lack of fairness or justice: *the injustice of the death penalty.* ■ an unjust act or occurrence: *brooding over life's injustices.* ▶ **Middle English**: from Old French, from Latin *injustitia*, from in- 'not' + *justus* 'just, right'.

▶ **PHRASE** ▶ do someone an injustice *judge a person unfairly.*

ink /ɪŋk/ *n.* a colored fluid used for writing, drawing, printing, or duplicating; the names are written in ink | a picture executed in colored inks. ■ **Informal** publicity: *cases in which prosecutors seek the death penalty are likely to be those that get lots of ink and air time.* ■ **Zoology** a black liquid ejected by a cuttlefish, octopus, or squid to confuse a predator.

▶ **v.** 1 [trans.] mark (words or a design) with ink: *the cork has the name of the chateau inked on the side.* 2 cover (type or a stamp) with ink: *before printing a raised image is inked to produce an impression.* ■ (ink something in) fill in writing or a design with ink: *she inked in a cloud of dust.* ■ (ink something out) obliterate something, esp. writing, with ink: *he carefully inked out each word.* 2 **Informal** sign (a contract): *she's just inked a deal to host her own talk show.* ■ secure the services of (someone) with a contract: *he has been inked as host for next year's ceremony.* ▶ **Middle English** *enke*, from Old French *enque*, via late Latin from Greek *enkainō*, denoting the purple ink used by Roman emperors for signatures, from *enkainō* 'burn in'. — **in-ker** *n.*

in-ka-tha /in/ka:θə/ (in full **Inkatha Freedom Party**) (abbr.: IFP) a mainly Zulu political party and organization in South Africa, founded in 1928 and revived in 1975 by Chief Buthezi. It has a professed aim of racial equality and universal franchise was obstructed by violent clashes between Inkatha factions and members of the rival ANC. ▶ from Zulu *inkhata* 'crown of woven grass', a tribal emblem symbolizing the force uniting the Zulu nation.

ink-berry /'ɪŋk,bəri/ *n.* (pl. -ries) 1 another term for **LOW GALLBERY** (see **GALLBERY**). 2 another term for **POKEWED**.

Snap Inc. - EX1041, Page 0006