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– ORIGIN late 16th cent.: from Latin *insequent-*, from *in-* 'not' + *consequent-* 'overtaking, following closely' (see **CONSEQUENT**).

inconsequential ► adjective not important or significant: *they talked about inconsequential things*.
– DERIVATIVES **inconsequentiality** noun (pl. **inconsequentialities**), **inconsequentially** adverb, **inconsequentialness** noun.

inconsiderable ► adjective [with negative] of small size, amount, or extent: *a not inconsiderable amount of money*. ■ unimportant or insignificant: *a not inconsiderable artist*.

– ORIGIN late 16th cent. (in the sense 'impossible to imagine'): from French, or from late Latin *inconsiderabilis*, from *in-* 'not' + *considerabilis* 'worthy of consideration' (see **CONSIDERABLE**).

inconsiderate ► adjective thoughtlessly causing hurt or inconvenience to others: *it's inconsiderate of her to go away without telling us*.

– DERIVATIVES **inconsiderately** adverb, **inconsiderateness** noun, **inconsideration** noun.

– ORIGIN late Middle English (originally in the sense 'not properly considered'): from Latin *inconsideratus*, from *in-* 'not' + *consideratus* 'examined, considered' (see **CONSIDERATE**).

inconsistency ► noun (pl. **inconsistencies**) [mass noun] the fact or state of being inconsistent: *the inconsistency between his expressed attitudes and his actual behaviour*. ■ [count noun] an inconsistent aspect or element: *a book riddled with inconsistencies and contradictions*.

– ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: from **INCONSISTENT**, on the pattern of consistency.

inconsistent ► adjective 1 not stating the same throughout: *police interpretation of the law was often inconsistent*. ■ acting at variance with one's own principles or former behaviour: *parents can become inconsistent and lacking in control over their children*. 2 (**inconsistent with**) not compatible or in keeping with: *he had done nothing inconsistent with his morality*.

– DERIVATIVES **inconsistently** adverb.

inconsolable ► adjective (of a person or their grief) not able to be comforted or alleviated: *his widow, Jane, was inconsolable*.

– DERIVATIVES **inconsolability** noun, **inconsolably** adverb.

– ORIGIN late 16th cent.: from French, or from Latin *inconsolabilis*, from *in-* 'not' + *consolabilis* 'able to be consoled', from the verb *consolari* (see **CONSOLE**).

inconsonant ► adjective rare not in agreement or harmony; not compatible.

– DERIVATIVES **inconsonance** noun.

inconspicuous ► adjective not clearly visible or attracting attention: *an inconspicuous red-brick building*.

– DERIVATIVES **inconspicuously** adverb, **inconspicuousness** noun.

– ORIGIN early 17th cent. (in the sense 'invisible, indiscernible'): from Latin *inconspicuus* (from *in-* 'not' + *conspicuus* 'clearly visible') + *-ous*.

inconstant ► adjective frequently changing; variable or irregular: *the exact dimensions aren't easily measured since they are inconstant*. ■ (of a person or their behaviour) not faithful and dependable.

– DERIVATIVES **inconstancy** noun (pl. **inconstancies**), **inconstantly** adverb.

– ORIGIN late Middle English: via Old French from Latin *inconstant-*, from *in-* 'not' + *constant-* 'standing firm' (see **CONSTANT**).

incontestable ► adjective not able to be disputed.

– DERIVATIVES **incontestability** noun, **incontestably** adverb.

– ORIGIN late 17th cent.: from French, or from medieval Latin *incontestabilis*, from *in-* 'not' + *contestabilis* 'able to be called upon in witness', from the verb *contestari* (see **CONTEST**).

incontinent ► adjective 1 having no or insufficient voluntary control over urination or defecation. 2 lacking self-restraint; uncontrolled: *the incontinent hysteria of the massed pop fans*.

– DERIVATIVES **incontinence** noun, **incontinently** adverb.

– ORIGIN late Middle English (in sense 2): from Old French, or from Latin *incontinent-*, from *in-* 'not' + *continent-* 'holding together' (see **CONTINENT**). Sense 1 dates from the early 19th cent.

incontrovertible ► adjective not able to be denied or disputed: *incontrovertible proof*.

– DERIVATIVES **incontrovertibility** noun, **incontrovertibly** adverb.

inconvenience ► noun [mass noun] the state or fact of being troublesome or difficult with regard to one's personal requirements or comfort: *the inconvenience of having to change trains*. ■ [count noun] a cause of trouble or difficulty: *the inconveniences of life in a remote city*.

► verb [with obj.] cause trouble or difficulty to: *noise and fumes from traffic would inconvenience residents*.

– ORIGIN late Middle English (originally in the sense 'incongruity', also 'unsuitability'): via Old French from late Latin *inconvenientia* 'incongruity, inconsistency', from *in-* 'not' + Latin *convenient-* 'agreeing, fitting' (see **CONVENIENT**).

inconvenient ► adjective causing trouble, difficulties, or discomfort: *she telephoned frequently, usually at inconvenient times*.

– DERIVATIVES **inconveniently** adverb.

– ORIGIN late Middle English (originally in the sense 'incongruous' or 'unsuitable'): via Old French from Latin *inconvenient-*, from *in-* 'not' + *convenient-* 'agreeing, fitting' (see **CONVENIENT**). Current senses date from the mid 17th cent.

invertible ► adjective not able to be changed in form, function, or character. ■ (of currency) not able to be converted into another form on demand.

– DERIVATIVES **invertibly** adverb.

– ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: from French, or from late Latin *invertibilis*, from *in-* 'not' + *convertibilis* (see **CONVERTIBLE**).

incoordination ► noun [mass noun] technical lack of coordination, especially the inability to use different parts of the body together smoothly and efficiently.

incorporate ► verb [with obj.] 1 take in or contain (something) as part of a whole; include: *he has incorporated in his proposals a number of measures | some schemes incorporated all these variations*. ■ combine (ingredients) into one substance: *add the cheeses and butter and process briefly to incorporate them*. 2 constitute (a company, city, or other organization) as a legal corporation.

► adjective 1 another term for **INCORPORATED**. 2 literary having a bodily form; embodied.

– DERIVATIVES **incorporation** noun, **incorporator** noun.

– ORIGIN late Middle English: from late Latin *incorporat-* 'embodied', from the verb *incorporare*, from *in-* 'into' + Latin *corporare* 'form into a body' (from *corpus*, *corpore* 'body').

incorporated ► adjective (of a company or other organization) formed into a legal corporation: *the Incorporated Society of Musicians | [postpositive] Adobe Systems Incorporated*.

incorporative ► adjective tending to incorporate or include things.

incorporeal ► adjective not composed of matter; having no material existence: *a supreme but incorporeal being called God*. ■ law having no physical existence.

– DERIVATIVES **incorporeality** noun, **incorporeally** adverb.

– ORIGIN late Middle English: from Latin *incorporeus*, from *in-* 'not' + *corporeus* (from *corpus*, *corpore* 'body') + *-al*.

incorrect ► adjective 1 not in accordance with fact; wrong: *the doctor gave you incorrect advice*.

2 not in accordance with particular standards or rules: *strictly speaking, the form of address was incorrect*.

– DERIVATIVES **incorrectly** adverb, **incorrectness** noun.

– ORIGIN late Middle English: from Latin *incorrectus*, from *in-* 'not' + *correctus* 'made straight, amended' (see **CORRECT**). Originally in the general sense 'uncorrected', the word was later applied specifically to a book containing many errors because it had not been corrected for the press; hence sense 2 (late 17th cent.).

incorrigible ► adjective (of a person or their behaviour) not able to be changed or reformed: *she's an incorrigible flirt*.

► noun an incorrigible person.

– DERIVATIVES **incorrigibility** noun **incorrigibly** adverb.

– ORIGIN Middle English: from Old French, or from Latin *incorrigibilis*, from *in-* 'not' + *corrigibilis* (see **CORRIGIBLE**).

incorrupt ► adjective rare (especially of a human body) not having undergone decomposition.

– ORIGIN late Middle English: from Latin *incorruptus*, from *in-* 'not' + *corruptus* 'destroyed, marred' (see **CORRUPT**).

incorruptible ► adjective 1 not susceptible to corruption, especially by bribery.

2 not subject to death or decay; everlasting.

– DERIVATIVES **incorruptibility** /'bɪlɪti/ noun, **incorruptibly** adverb.

– ORIGIN Middle English: from Old French, or from ecclesiastical Latin *incorruptibilis*, from *in-* 'not' + *corruptibilis* 'corruptible'.

in-country ► adjective & adverb in a country rather than operating from outside it: [as adv.] *selection for the posts takes place in London, or occasionally in-country*.

incrassate /ɪn'krasət/ ► adjective rare thickened in form or consistency.

– ORIGIN late 15th cent.: from late Latin *incrassatus* 'made thick', past participle of *incrassare*.

increase ► verb /ɪn'kriːs/ become or make greater in size, amount, or degree: [no obj.] *car use is increasing at an alarming rate* | [with obj.] *we are aiming to increase awareness of social issues* | (as adj. **increasing**) *the increasing numbers of students*.

► noun /ɪn'kriːs/ a rise in the size, amount, or degree of something: *an increase of 28.3 per cent* | [mass noun] *some increase in inflation is expected*.

– PHRASES **on the increase** becoming greater, more common, or more frequent.

– DERIVATIVES **increasable** adjective.

– ORIGIN Middle English (formerly also as *encrease*): from Old French *encreistre*, from Latin *increscere*, from *in-* 'into' + *creescere* 'grow'.

increasingly /ɪn'kriːsɪŋli/ ► adverb to an increasing extent; more and more: [sentence adverb] *increasingly, attention is paid to health* | [as submodifier] *an increasingly difficult situation*.

increate /ɪn'kriːt/ ► adjective literary not yet created.

– ORIGIN late Middle English: from ecclesiastical Latin *increatus*, from Latin *in-* 'not' + *creatus* (past participle of *creare* 'create').

incredible ► adjective 1 impossible to believe: *an almost incredible tale of triumph and tragedy*.

2 difficult to believe; extraordinary: *the noise from the crowd was incredible*. ■ informal very good; wonderful: *I was mesmerized: she looked so incredible*.

– DERIVATIVES **incredibility** noun.

– ORIGIN late Middle English: from Latin *incredibilis*, from *in-* 'not' + *credibilis* (see **CREDIBLE**).

incredibly ► adverb 1 [as submodifier] to a great degree; extremely: *Michele was incredibly brave*.

2 [sentence adverb] used to introduce a statement that is hard to believe; strangely: *incredibly, he was still alive*.

incredulity ► noun [mass noun] the state of being unwilling or unable to believe something: *he stared down the street in incredulity*.

incredulous ► adjective (of a person or their manner) unwilling or unable to believe something: *an incredulous gasp*.

– DERIVATIVES **incredulously** adverb, **incredulousness** noun.

– ORIGIN 16th cent.: from Latin *incredulus* (from *in-* 'not' + *credulus* 'believing, trusting', from *credere* 'believe') + *-ous*.

increment /ɪn'krɪm(ə)nt/ ► noun an increase or addition, especially one of a series on a fixed scale: *all sizes from 4–30 mm in 1 mm increments*. ■ a regular increase in salary on an incremental scale: *your first increment will be payable six months from your date of commencement*. ■ Mathematics a small positive or negative change in a variable quantity or function.

► verb [with obj.] chiefly Computing cause a discrete increase in (a numerical quantity).

– DERIVATIVES **incremental** adjective, **incrementally** adverb.

– ORIGIN late Middle English: from Latin *incrementum*, from the stem of *increscere* 'grow' (see **INCREASE**).

incremental backup ► noun Computing a security copy which contains only those files which have been altered since the last full backup.

incrementalism ► noun [mass noun] belief in or advocacy of change by degrees; gradualism.

– DERIVATIVES **incrementalist** noun & adjective.

incriminate /ɪn'krɪmɪnət/ ► verb [with obj.] make (someone) appear guilty of a crime or wrongdoing: *he refused to answer questions in order not to incriminate himself* | (as adj. **incriminating**) *incriminating evidence*.

– DERIVATIVES **incrimination** noun, **incriminatory** adjective.

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