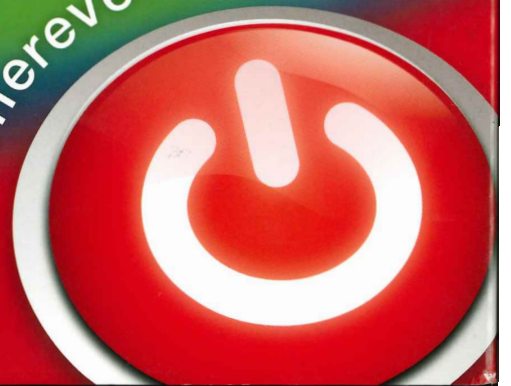


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Oxford Dictionary of English

THIRD EDITION

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OXFORD
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Great Clarendon Street, Oxford OX2 6DP

Oxford University Press is a department of the University of Oxford.
It furthers the University's objective of excellence in research, scholarship,
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Database right Oxford University Press (makers)

First edition 1998

Second edition 2003

Second edition, revised 2005

Third edition 2010

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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

Data available

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Data available

Typeset in Parable, Frutiger, and OUP Argo by Datagrafix, Inc.

Printed in Italy by L.E.G.O. S.p.A., Lavis (TN)

ISBN 978-0-19-957112-3

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inconsequential | incriminate

– 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 staying 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.

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

– DERIVATIVES **inconvertibly** adverb.

– ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: from French, or from late Latin *inconvertibilis*, 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 *corpore* '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 /ˌɪnˈkɔːpəriəl/ ► 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 *in corruptus*, 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 *in corruptibilis*, 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 /ɪnˈkrasɪt/ ► adjective rare thickened in form or consistency.

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

increase ► verb /ɪnˈkriːs/ 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 /ɪnˈkriːs/ 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 /ɪnˈkriːsɪŋli/ ► adverb to an increasing extent; more and more: [sentence adverb] *increasingly, attention is paid to health* | [as submodifier] *an increasingly difficult situation*.

increate /ɪnˈkriːeɪt/ ► 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 /ɪnˈkriːm(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 /ɪnˈkrɪmɪnt/ ► 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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ISBN 978-0-19-957112-3



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£39.99 RRP \$70.00 CAN