immaculate ADJ. //spotless;

flawless; absolutely clean. Ken and Jessica were wonderful tenants and left the apartment in *immaculate* condition when they moved out.

imminent ADJ. //near at hand;

impending. Rosa was such a last-minute worker that she could never start writing a paper till the deadline was imminent.

immobility N. / /state of being immovable.

Modern armies cannot afford the luxury of immobility, as they are vulnerable to attack while standing still.

immune ADJ. / /resistant to:

free or exempt from. Fortunately, Florence had contracted chicken pox as a child and was *immune* to it when her baby broke out in spots.

immutable ADJ. / /unchangeable. All things change over time;

nothing is immutable.

impair v.//injure;

hurt. Drinking alcohol can impair your ability to drive safely; if you're going to drink, don't drive.

impale v.//Pierce.

He was impaled by the spear hurled by his adversary.

impalpable ADJ. / /imperceptible;

intangible. The ash is so fine that it is impalpable to the touch but it can be seen as a fine layer covering the window ledge.

impart v.//reveal or tell;

grant. Polly begged Grandma to impart her recipe for rugeleh, but her grandmother wouldn't say a word.

impartial ADJ. / /not biased;

fair. Knowing she could not be impartial about her own child, Jo refused to judge any match in which Billy was competing.

impassable ADJ. / /not able to be traveled or crossed.

A giant redwood had fallen across the highway, blocking all four lanes: the road was impassable.

impasse N. / /predicament from which there is no escape;

deadlock. In this impasse, all turned to prayer as their last hope.

impassive ADJ. / /without feeling;

imperturbable; stoical. Refusing to let the enemy see how deeply shaken he was by his capture, the prisoner kept his face impassive.

impeach v.//charge with crime in office;

indict. The angry congressman wanted to impeach the president for his misdeeds.

impeccable ADJ. //faultless.

The uncrowned queen of the fashion industry, Diana was acclaimed for her *impeccable* taste.

impecunious ADJ. / /without money.

Though Scrooge claimed he was too impecunious to give alms, he easily could have afforded to be charitable.

impede v.//hinder;

block; delay. A series of accidents impeded the launching of the space shuttle.

impediment N. /hindrance;

stumbling-block. She had a speech *impediment* that prevented her speaking clearly.

impel v.//drive or force onward.

A strong feeling of urgency impelled her; if she failed to finish the project right then, she knew that she would never get it done.

impenetrable ADJ. / /not able to be pierced or entered;

beyond understanding. How could the murderer have gotten into the locked room? To Watson, the mystery, like the room, was *impenetrable*.

impending ADJ. / /nearing;

approaching. The entire country was saddened by the news of his impending death.

impenitent ADJ. / /not repentant.

We could see from his tough guy attitude that he was *impenitent*.

imperative ADJ. / /absolutely necessary;

critically important. It is *imperative* that you be extremely agreeable to GreatAunt Maud when she comes to tea: otherwise she might not leave you that million dollars in her will. also N.

imperceptible ADJ. / /unnoticeable;

undetectable. Fortunately, the stain on the blouse was imperceptible after the blouse had gone through the wash.

imperial ADJ. / /like an emperor;

related to an empire. When hotel owner Leona Helmsley appeared in ads as Queen Leona standing guard over the Palace Hotel, her critics mocked her imperial fancies.

imperious ADJ. / /domineering;

haughty. Jane rather liked a man to be masterful, but Mr. Rochester seemed so bent on getting his own way that he was actually imperious!

impermeable ADJ. / /impervious;

not permitting passage through its substance. This new material is impermeable to liquids.

impertinent ADJ. / /insolent;

rude. His neighbors' *impertinent* curiosity about his lack of dates angered Ted. It was downright rude of them to ask him such personal questions.

imperturbable ADJ.//calm;

placid; composed. In the midst of the battle, the Duke of Wellington remained *imperturbable* and in full command of the situation despite the hysteria and panic all around him. imperturbability, **N**.

Impervious ADJ. / /impenetrable;

incapable of being damaged or distressed. The carpet salesman told Simone that his most expensive brand of floor covering was warranted to be impervious to ordinary wear and tear. Having read so many negative reviews of his acting, the movie star had learned to ignore them, and was now impervious to criticism.

impetuous ADJ. / /violent;

hasty; rash. "Leap before you look" was the motto suggested by one particularly impetuous young man.

impetus N. / /incentive;

stimulus; moving force. A new federal highway program would create jobs and give added impetus to our economic recovery.

impiety N. //irreverence;

lack of respect for God. When members of the youth group draped the church in toilet paper one Halloween, the minister reprimanded them for their impiety.

impinge v.//infringe;

touch;. collide with. How could they be married without impinging on one another's freedom?

impious ADJ. / /irreverent.

The congregation was offended by her impious remarks.

implacable ADJ. / /incapable of being pacified.

Madame Defarge was the implacable enemy of the Evremonde family.

implausible ADJ. / /unlikely;

unbelievable. Though her alibi seemed implausible, it in fact turned out to be true.

implement v.//put into effect;

supply with tools. The mayor was unwilling to implement the plan until she was sure it had the governor's backing, also N.

implicate v.//incriminate;

show to be involved. Here's the deal: if you agree to take the witness stand and implicate your partners in crime, the prosecution will recommend that the judge go easy in sentencing you.

implication N.//something hinted at or suggested.

When Miss Watson said she hadn't seen her purse since the last time Jim was in the house, the implication was that she suspected Jim had taken it. imply,v.

implicit ADJ. / /understood but not stated.

Jack never told Jill he adored her; he believed his love was implicit in his actions.

implore v.//beg.

He implored her to give him a second chance.

imply v.//suggest a meaning not expressed;

signify. When Aunt Millie said, "My! That's a big piece of pie, young man!" was she implying that Bobby was being a glutton in helping himself to such a huge piece?

importunate ADJ. / /urging;

demanding. He tried to hide from his importunate creditors until his allowance arrived.

importune v.//beg persistently.

Democratic and Republican phone solicitors *importuned* her for contributions so frequently that she decided to give nothing to either party.

impostor N. / /someone who assumes a false identity.

Holmes exposed the doctor as an impostor.

impotent ADJ. / /weak;

ineffective. Although he wished to break the nicotine habit, he found himself impotent in resisting the craving for a cigarette.

impoverished ADJ. / /poor.

The loss of their farm left the family impoverished and without hope.

impregnable ADJ. / /invulnerable.

Until the development of the airplane as a military weapon, the fort was considered impregnable.

impromptu ADJ. / /without previous preparation;

off the cuff; on the spur of the moment. The judges were amazed that she could make such a thorough, well-supported presentation in an impromptu speech.

impropriety N. / /improperness;

unsuitableness. Because of the impropriety of the punk rocker's slashed T-shirt and jeans, the management refused to admit him to the hotel's very formal dining room.

improvident ADJ. / /thriftless.

He was constantly being warned to mend his *improvident* ways and begin to "save for a rainy day." improvidence, N.

improvise v.//compose on the spur of the moment.

She would sit at the piano and improvise for hours on themes from Bach and Handel.

imprudent ADJ. / /lacking caution;

injudicious. It is imprudent to exercise vigorously and become overheated when you are unwell.

impudence N. / /impertinence; insolence.

Kissed on the cheek by a perfect stranger, Lady Catherine exclaimed, "Of all the nerve! Young man, I should have you horse-whipped for your *impudence*."

impugn v.//dispute or contradict (often in an insulting way); challenge;

gainsay. Our treasurer was furious when the finance committee's report *impugned* the accuracy of his financial records and recommended that he should take bonehead math.

impunity N. / /freedom from punishment or harm.

A 98pound weakling can't attack a beachfront bully with impunity. the poor, puny guy is sure to get mashed.

inadvertently ADV. / /unintentionally;

by oversight; carelessly. Judy's great fear was that she might *inadvertently* omit a question on the exam and mismark her whole answer sheet.

inalienable ADJ. / /not to be taken away;

nontransferable. The Declaration of Independence mentions the inalienable rights that all of us possess.

inane ADJ. /silly; senseless.

There's no point to what you're saying. Why are you bothering to make such inane remarks?

inanimate ADJ. / /lifeless.

She was asked to identify the still and inanimate body.

inarticulate ADJ. / /speechless;

producing indistinct speech. He became inarticulate with rage and uttered sounds without meaning.

inaugurate v.//start; initiate; install in office.

The airline decided to inaugurate its new route to the Far East with a special reduced fare offer. inaugural, ADJ.

incandescent ADJ. //strikingly bright; shining with intense heat.

If you leave on an incandescent light bulb, it quickly grows too hot to touch.

incantation N. / /singing or chanting of magic spells; magical formula.

Uttering incantations to make the brew more potent, the witch doctor stirred the liquid in the caldron.

incapacitate v.//disable.

During the winter, many people were *incapacitated* by respiratory ailments.

incarcerate v.//imprison.

The civil rights workers were willing to be arrested and even *incarcerated* if by their imprisonment they could serve the cause.

incarnation N.//act of assuming a human body and human nature.

The incarnation of Jesus Christ is a basic tenet of Christian theology.

incendiary N. /arsonist.

The fire spread in such an unusual manner that the fire department chiefs were certain that it had been set by an incendiary. also ADJ.

incense v.//enrage; infuriate.

Cruelty to defenseless animals incensed Kit: the very idea brought tears of anger to her eyes.

incentive N. / /spur; motive.

Mike's strong desire to outshine his big sister was all the incentive he needed to do well in school.

inception N. / /start; beginning.

She was involved with the project from its inception.

incessant ADJ.//uninterrupted;

unceasing. In a famous TV commercial, the frogs' incessant croaking goes on and on until eventually it turns into a single word: "Budweis-er."

