#### inchoate ADJ. /recently begun; rudimentary; elementary.

Before the Creation, the world was an inchoate mass.

#### incidence N. /rate of occurrence; particular occurrence.

Health professionals expressed great concern over the high *incidence* of infant mortality in major urban areas.

#### incidental ADJ. /not essential; minor.

The scholarship covered his major expenses at college and some of his incidental expenses as well.

#### incipient ADJ. /beginning;

in an early stage. I will go to sleep early for I want to break an *incipient* cold.

#### incisive ADJ. /cutting; sharp.

His incisive remarks made us see the fallacy in our plans.

#### incite V. /arouse to action; goad; motivate; induce to exist.

In a fiery speech, Mario *incited* his fellow students to go out on strike to protest the university's anti-affirmative action stand.

#### inclement ADJ. /stormy; unkind.

In *inclement* weather, I like to curl up on the sofa with a good book and listen to the storm blowing outside.

## incline N. /slope; slant.

The architect recommended that the nursing home's ramp be rebuilt because its *incline* was too steep for wheelchairs.

## inclined ADJ./tending or leaning toward; bent.

Though I am *inclined* to be skeptical, the witness's manner *inclines* me to believe his story.

## inclusive ADJ. /tending to include all.

The comedian turned down the invitation to join the Players' Club, saying any club that would let him in was too *inclusive* for him.

incoherent ADJ. /unintelligible; muddled; illogical.

The excited fan blushed and stammered, her words becoming almost *incoherent* in the thrill of meeting her favorite rock sta face to face. incoherence, **N.** 

#### incompatible ADJ. /inharmonious.

The married couple argued incessantly and finally decided to separate because they were *incompatible*. incompatibility, **N**.

#### incongruous ADJ. /not fitting; absurd.

Dave saw nothing *incongruous* about wearing sneakers with his tuxedo; he couldn't understand why his date took one look at him and started to laugh. incongruity, **N.** 

#### inconsequential ADJ. /insignificant; unimportant.

Brushing off Ali's apologies for having broken the wineglass, Tamara said, "Don't worry about it; it's *inconsequential*."

## inconsistency N. /state of being self-contradictory; lack of uniformity.

How are lawyers different from agricultural inspectors? While lawyers check *inconsistencies* in witnesses' statements, agricultural inspectors check *inconsistencies* in Grade A eggs.

## incontinent ADJ. /lacking self-restraint; licentious.

His *incontinent* behavior off stage so shocked many people that they refused to attend the plays and movies in which he appeared.

## incontrovertible ADJ. /indisputable; not open to question.

Unless you find the evidence against my client absolutely *incontrovertible*, you must declare her not guilty of this charge.

**incorporate V.** /**introduce something into a larger whole; combine; unite.** Breaking with precedent, President Truman ordered the military to incorporate blacks into every branch of the armed services.

## incorporeal ADJ. /lacking a material body; insubstantial.

While Casper the friendly ghost is an *incorporeal* being, nevertheless he and his fellow ghosts make quite an impact on the physical world.

## incorrigible ADJ. /not correctable.

Though Widow Douglass hoped to reform Huck, Miss Watson called him *incorrigible* and said he would come to no good end.

#### incredulous ADJ. /withholding belief; skeptical.

When Jack claimed he hadn't eaten the jelly doughnut, Jill took an *incredulous* look at his smeared face and laughed. incredulity, **N.** 

#### increment N. /increase.

The new contract calls for a 10 percent *increment* in salary for each employee for the next two years.

#### incriminate V. / accuse.

The evidence gathered against the racketeers *incriminates* some high public officials as well.

#### incrustation N. /hard coating or crust.

In dry dock, we scraped off the *incrustation* of dirt and barnacles that covered the hull of the ship.

#### incubate V. /hatch; scheme.

Inasmuch as our supply of electricity is cut off, we shall have to rely on the hens to *incubate* these eggs.

#### inculcate V. /teach; instill.

In an effort to *inculcate* religious devotion, the officials ordered that the school day begin with the singing of a hymn.

## incumbent ADJ. /obligatory; currently holding an office.

It is *incumbent* upon all *incumbent* elected officials to keep accurate records of expenses incurred in office.

## incur V. /bring upon oneself.

His parents refused to pay any future debts he might incur.

## incursion N. /temporary invasion.

The nightly *incursions* and hit-and-run raids of our neighbors across the border tried the patience of the country to the point where we decided to retaliate in force.

## indefatigable ADJ. /tireless.

Although the effort of taking out the garbage tired Wayne out for the entire morning, when it came to partying, he was *indefatigable*.

#### indelible ADJ. /not able to be erased.

The *indelible* ink left a permanent mark on my shirt. Young Bill Clinton's meeting with President Kennedy made an *indelible* impression on the youth.

#### indentation N. /notch; deep recess.

You can tell one tree from another by examining their leaves and noting the differences in the *indentations* along the edges of the leaves. indent, **V.** 

#### indenture V./bind as servant or apprentice to master.

Many immigrants could come to America only after they had *indentured* themselves for several years.

#### indeterminate ADJ. /uncertain; not clearly fixed; indefinite.

That interest rates shall rise appears certain; when they will do so, however, remains *indeterminate*.

#### indicative ADJ. /suggestive; implying.

A lack of appetite may be *indicative* of a major mental or physical disorder.

#### indices n. PL . /signs; indications.

Many college admissions officers believe that SAT scores and high school grades are the best *indices* of a student's potential to succeed in college.

## indict V. /charge.

The district attorney didn't want to *indict* the suspect until she was sure she had a strong enough case to convince a jury. indictment, **N.** 

## indifferent ADJ. /unmoved or unconcerned by; mediocre.

Because Ann felt no desire to marry, she was *indifferent* to Carl's constant proposals. Not only was she *indifferent* to him personally, but she felt that, given hi general silliness, he would make an *indifferent* husband.

## indigenous ADJ. native.

Cigarettes are made of tobacco, a plant indigenous to the New World.

## indigent ADJ. /poor; destitute.

Someone who is truly *indigent* can't even afford to buy a pack of cigarettes. [Don't *mix up indigent* and *indigenous*. See previous sentence.]

## indignation N. /anger at an injustice.

He felt indignation at the ill-treatment of helpless animals.

#### **indignity N.** /offensive or insulting treatment.

Although he seemed to accept cheerfully the *indignities* heaped upon him, he was inwardly very angry.

#### indiscretion N. /lack of tactfulness or sound judgment.

Terrified that the least *indiscretion* could jeopardize his political career, the novice politician never uttered an unquarded word. indiscreet, **ADJ**.

#### indiscriminate ADJ. /choosing at random; confused.

She disapproved of her son's *indiscriminate* television viewing and decided to restrict him to educational programs.

#### indisputableADJ. /too certain to be disputed.

In the face of these *indisputable statements*, *I* withdraw my complaint.

#### indissolubleADJ. /permanent.

The *indissoluble* bonds of marriage are all too often being dissolved.

#### indoctrinate V. /instruct in a doctrine or ideology.

CubanAmericans resisted sending Elian Gonzalez back to Cuba because he would be *indoctrinated there* with Communist principles.

### indolent ADJ. /lazy.

Couch potatoes lead an *indolent* life lying back on their Lazyboy recliners watching Tv. indolence, N.

## indomitable ADJ. /unconquerable; unyielding.

Focusing on her game despite all her personal problems, tennis champion Steffi Graf proved she had an *indomitable will* to win.

## indubitable ADJ. /unable to be doubted; unquestionable.

Auditioning for the chorus line, Molly was an *indubitable* hit: the director fired the leading lady and hired Molly in her place!

## induce V. /persuade; bring about.

After the quarrel, Tina said nothing could *induce* her to talk to Tony again. inducement, **N.** 

indulgent ADJ. /humoring; yielding; lenient.

Jay's mom was *excessively indulgent* she bought him every Nintendo cartridge and video game on the market. She *indulged* Jay so much, she spoiled him rotten.

#### industrious ADJ. /diligent; hard-working.

Look busy when the boss walks by your desk; it never hurts to appear *industrious*. industry, **N.** 

#### inebriated ADJ. /habitually intoxicated; drunk.

Abe was *inebriated* more often than he was sober. Because of his *ine*briety, he was discharged from his job as a bus driver.

#### ineffable ADJ. /unutterable; cannot be expressed in speech.

Such *ineffable* joy must be experienced; it cannot be described.

#### ineffectual ADJ/not effective; weak.

Because the candidate failed to get across his message to the public, his campaign was *ineffectual*.

## inefficacious ADJ. /not effective; unable to produce a desired result.

All Lois's coaxing and urging was *ineffica*cious: Clark still refused to join her and Superman for dinner. inefficacy, **N.** 

## inept ADJ. /lacking skill; unsuited; incompetent.

The *inept* glovemaker was all thumbs.

## inequity N. /unfairness.

In demanding equal pay for equal work, women protest the basic *inequity* of a system that gives greater financial rewards to men.

## inert ADJ. /inactive; lacking power to move.

"Get up, you lazybones," she cried to her husband, who lay in bed *inert*. inertia, **N.** 

#### inevitable ADJ. /unavoidable.

Though death and taxes are both supposedly *inevitable*, some people avoid paying taxes for years.

## inexorable ADJ. /relentless; unyielding; implacable.

After listening to the pleas for clemency, the judge was inex*orable* and gave the convicted man the maximum punishment allowed by law.

#### infallible ADJ. /unerring.

We must remember that none of us is infallible; we all make mistakes.

#### infamous ADJ./notoriously bad.

Charles Manson and Jeffrey Dahmer are both infamous killers.

#### infantile ADJ. /childish.

When will he outgrow such infantile behavior?

#### infer V. /deduce; conclude.

From the students' glazed looks, it was easy for me to *infer* that they were bored out of their minds. *inference*, **N**.

#### infernal ADJ. /pertaining to hell; devilish.

Batman was baffled: he could think of no way to hinder the Joker's *infernal* scheme to destroy the city.

#### infidel N. /unbeliever.

The Saracens made war against the infidels.

## infiltrate V. /pass into or through; penetrate (an organization) sneakily.

In order to be able to *infiltrate enemy lines* at night without being seen, the scouts darkened their faces and wore black coveralls. infiltrator, **N.** 

#### infinitesimal ADJ. /very small.

In the twentieth century, physicists have made their greatest discoveries about the characteristics of *infinitesimal* objects like the atom and its parts.

## infirmity N. /weakness.

Her greatest infirmity was lack of willpower.

## inflated ADJ. /exaggerated; pompous; enlarged (with air or gas).

His claims about the new product were *inflated,* it did not work as well as he had promised.

## influx N./flowing into.

The *influx* of refugees into the country has taxed the relief agencies severely.

## informal ADJ. /absence of ceremony; casual.

The English teacher preferred informal discussions to prepared lectures.

#### infraction N. /violation (of a rule or regulation); breach.

When Dennis Rodman butted heads with that referee, he committed a clear infraction of NBA rules.

#### infuriate V. /enrage; anger.

Her big brother's teasing always *infuriated* Margaret; no matter how hard she tried to keep her temper, he always got her goat.

#### infusion N. /act of introducing or instilling a quality; liquid solution.

The rookie quarterback brought an *infusion* of new life and vigor to the tired team. infuse, **V.** 

#### ingenious ADJ. /clever; resourceful.

Kit admired the *ingenious* way that her computer keyboard opened up to reveal the built-in CD-ROM below. ingenuity, **N.**