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im·promp·tu  (im-prŏmp t , -ty)

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adj.

1. Prompted by the occasion rather than being planned in advance: *an impromptu party.*
2. Spoken, performed, done, or composed with little or no preparation; extemporaneous: *a few impromptu remarks.*

adv.

With little or no preparation; extemporaneously.

n.

1. Something, such as a speech, that is made or done extemporaneously.
2. *Music* A short composition, especially for the piano, performed in an offhand or extemporized style.

[French, from Latin *in prŏmptū*, at hand : *in*, in; see [IN](#)-² + *prŏmptū*, ablative of *prŏmptus*, readiness, from past participle of *prōmere*, to bring forth; see [PROMPT](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

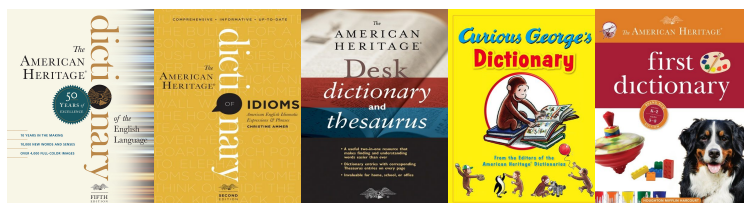
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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