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in-¹ or **il-** or **im-** or **ir-**

Share:

pref.

Not: *inarticulate*. Before *l*, *in-* is usually assimilated to *il-*; before *r* to *ir-*; and before *b*, *m*, and *p* to *im-*. See Usage

Note at [un-](#)¹.

[Middle English, from Old French, from Latin; see **ne** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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in¹  (ɪn)

Share:

prep.

1.
 - a. Within the limits, bounds, or area of: *was hit in the face; born in the spring; a chair in the garden.*
 - b. From the outside to a point within; into: *threw the letter in the wastebasket.*
 2. To or at a situation or condition of: *was split in two; in debt; a woman in love.*
 3.
 - a. Having the activity, occupation, or function of: *a life in politics; the officer in command.*
 - b. During the act or process of: *tripped in racing for the bus.*
 4.
 - a. With the arrangement or order of: *fabric that fell in luxuriant folds; arranged to purchase the car in equal payments.*
 - b. After the style or form of: *a poem in iambic pentameter.*
 5. With the characteristic, attribute, or property of: *a tall man in an overcoat.*
 6.
 - a. By means of: *paid in cash.*
 - b. Made with or through the medium of: *a statue in bronze; a note written in German.*
 7. With the aim or purpose of: *followed in pursuit.*
 8. With reference to: *six inches in depth; has faith in your judgment.*
 9. Used to indicate the second and larger term of a ratio or proportion: *saved only one in ten.*
- adv.*
1. To or toward the inside: *opened the door and stepped in.*
 2. To or toward a destination or goal: *The mob closed in.*
 3. *Sports* So as to score, as by crossing home plate in baseball: *singled the runner in.*
 4. Within a place, as of business or residence: *The manager is in before anyone else.*
 5. So as to be available or under one's control: *We can proceed when all the evidence is in.*
 6. So as to include or incorporate: *Fold in the egg whites.*
 7. So as to occupy a position of success or favor: *campaigned hard and was voted in.*
 8. In a particular relationship: *got in bad with their supervisor.*
- adj.*
1. Located inside; inner.
 2. Incoming; inward: *took the in bus.*

3. Holding office; having power: *the in party*.

4. *Informal*

a. Currently fashionable: *the in thing to wear this season*.

b. Concerned with or attuned to the latest fashions: *the in crowd*. See Synonyms at [fashionable](#).

5. Relating to, understandable to, or coming from an exclusive group: *an in reference*.

n.

1. One that has position, influence, or power: *the ins against the outs*.

2. *Informal* Influence; power: *had an in with the authorities*.

Idioms:

in for

Guaranteed to get or have: *You're in for a big surprise*.

in on

Informed about; participating in: *Only one business partner was not in on the illegal scheme*.

in that

For the reason that.

[Middle English, from Old English; see **en** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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in-² or **il-** or **im-** or **ir-**

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pref.

1. In; into; within: *inundation*. Before *l*, *in-* is usually assimilated to *il-*; before *r* to *ir-*; and before *b*, *m*, and *p* to *im-*.

2. Variant of [en](#)-¹.

[Middle English, from Old English (from *in*, in; see [in](#)¹) and from Old French (from Latin, from *in*, in, within; see **en** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

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in² or **in**.

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abbr.

inch

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IN

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abbr.

Indiana

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In

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The symbol for [indium](#).

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suff.

1. Neutral chemical compound, especially:

- a. Neutral carbohydrate: *inulin*.
- b. Protein or protein derivative: *albumin*.
- c. Lipid or lipid derivative: *lecithin*.
- d. Enzyme: *pancreatin*.
- e. Glycoside: *chitin*.

2. A pharmaceutical: *rifampin*.

3. An antibiotic: *penicillin*.

4. Antigen: *tuberculin*.

5. Variant of [-ine](#)².

[Variant of [-ine](#)².]

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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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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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