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dictionary

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English
Language



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in-¹ or **il-** or **im-** or **ir-**

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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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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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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:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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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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