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in·can·ta·tion  (in'kăn-tā shən)

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n.

1. Ritual recitation of verbal charms or spells to produce a magic effect.

2.

a. A formula used in ritual recitation; a verbal charm or spell.

b. A conventionalized utterance repeated without thought or aptness; a formula: *the pious incantations of the administration.*

[Middle English *incantacioun*, from Old French *incantation*, from Late Latin *incantātiō*, *incantātiōn*-, spell, from Latin *incantātus*, past participle of *incantāre*, to enchant; see [ENCHANT](#).]

in'can·ta tion·al *adj.*

in·can ta·to'ry (-tə-tô'r'ē) *adj.*

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