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in·ter·cept  (in'tər-sĕpt)

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tr.v. in·ter·cept·ed, in·ter·cept·ing, in·ter·cepts

1. To stop, deflect, or interrupt the progress or intended course of: *intercepted me with a message as I was leaving.*

2. **Sports**

a. To gain possession of (an opponent's pass), as in football or basketball.

b. To gain possession of a pass made by (an opponent), especially in football.

3. To slow or prevent (precipitation) from reaching the ground. Used of vegetation.

4. **Mathematics**

a. To intersect (a coordinate axis).

b. To include or bound (a part of a space or curve) between two points or lines.

5. **Archaic** To prevent.

6. **Obsolete** To cut off from access or communication.

n. (in tər-sĕpt')

1. **Mathematics** The point or coordinates at which a line, curve, or surface intersects a coordinate axis.

2.

a. The interception of a missile by another missile or an aircraft by another aircraft.

b. Interception of a radio transmission.

3. An interceptor.

[Middle English *intercepten*, from Latin *intercipere*, *intercept-* : *inter-*, *inter-* + *capere*, to seize; see **kap-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

in'ter·cep tive *adj.*



(click for a larger image)

intercept

The intercept form of the equation of a line is $\frac{x}{a}$

+

$\frac{y}{b}$

= 1.

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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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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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