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dictionary

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caprice  (kə-prēs)

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n.

1.

a. An impulsive change of mind: "*I find it a relief that plagues and cancers ... are the result of the impartial—and comprehensible—forces of evolution rather than the caprices of a deity*" (Olivia Judson).

b. An inclination to change one's mind impulsively: *tyrants who rule by caprice*.

c. A sudden, unpredictable action or change: *the caprices of the wind*.

2. Music A capriccio.

[French, from Italian *capriccio*, from *caporiccio*, fright, sudden start (originally, "head with the hair standing on end (resembling a hedgehog)", but later influenced by *capra*, goat, because of goats' frisky movements) : *capo*, head (from Latin *caput*; see **kaput-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots) + *riccio*, curly (from Latin *ēricius*, hedgehog, from *ēr*).]

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