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in·cline  (in-klīn)

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v. **in·clined**, **in·clin·ing**, **in·clines**

v.tr.

1. To cause (someone) to have a certain tendency: dispose: *"His active, daring temperament little inclined him to patient, quiet study" (Harriet Beecher Stowe).*

2. To dispose (someone) to have a certain preference or opinion or to take a course of action: *I'm inclined to agree with you. Are you inclined to go to out tonight?*

3. To cause to lean, slant, or slope: *"Galileo ... inclined the plane and rolled brass balls down it" (George Johnson).* See Synonyms at [slant](#).

4. To bend or lower in a nod or bow: *I inclined my head in acquiescence.*

v.intr.

1. To be disposed to a certain preference, opinion, or course of action: *Some researchers incline toward a different view of the problem.*

2. To deviate from the horizontal or vertical; slant: *When the path inclined steeply, it became difficult to continue hiking.*

3. To lower or bend the head or body, as in a nod or bow.

n. (in klīn')

An inclined surface; a slope or gradient: *The car rolled down the incline.*

[Middle English *enclinen*, from Old French *encliner*, from Latin *inclīnāre* : *in-*, into, toward; see [IN-](#)² + *-clīnāre*, to lean; see [klei-](#) [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

in·clin er n.

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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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