

infant within the first or second year, but at no definite period. In some cases, authors indulge a greater latitude, and extend the term to include children of several years of age.

2. In *law*, a person under the age of twenty one years, who is incapable of making valid contracts.

INFANT, *a.* Pertaining to infancy or the first period of life.

2. Young; tender; not mature; as *infant* strength.

INFANT'A, *n.* In *Spain* and *Portugal*, any princess of the royal blood, except the eldest daughter when heiress apparent.

INFANT'E, *n.* In *Spain* and *Portugal*, any son of the king, except the eldest or heir apparent.

INFANTICIDE, *n.* [Low *L. infanticidium*; *infans*, an infant, and *caedo*, to kill.]

1. The intentional killing of an infant.

2. The slaughter of infants by Herod. *Matt. ii.*

3. A slayer of infants.

INFANTILE, *a.* [*L. infantilis*.] Pertaining to infancy, or to an infant; pertaining to the first period of life.

INFANTINE, *a.* Pertaining to infants or to young children.

INFANTLIKE, *a.* Like an infant. *Shak.*

INFANTLY, *a.* Like a child's. *Beaum.*

INFANTRY, *n.* [*Fr. infanterie*; *Sp. infanteria*; *It. fanteria*. See *Infant*.]

In *military affairs*, the soldiers or troops that serve on foot, as distinguished from cavalry; as a company, regiment or brigade of infantry. In some armies, there have been *heavy-armed infantry*, and *light-armed or light infantry*, according to their manner of arming and equipping.

INFARCE, *v. t. infars.* To stuff. [*Not in use.*]

INFARCE'ION, *n.* [*L. infarcio, infarcio*, to stuff; *in* and *farcio*.]

The act of stuffing or filling; constipation.

INFASHIONABLE, *a.* Unfashionable. [*Not used.*]

INFATIGABLE, *a.* Indefatigable. *Obs.*

INFATUATE, *v. t.* [*L. infatu*; *in* and *fatus*, foolish.]

1. To make foolish; to affect with folly; to weaken the intellectual powers, or to deprive of sound judgment. In general, this word does not signify to deprive absolutely of rational powers and reduce to idiocy, but to deprive of sound judgment, so that a person *infatuated* acts in certain cases as a fool, or without common discretion and prudence. Whom God intends to destroy, he first *infatuates*.

The judgment of God will be very visible in *infatuating* a people, ripe and prepared for destruction. *Clarendon.*

2. To prepossess or incline to a person or thing in a manner not justified by prudence or reason; to inspire with an extravagant or foolish passion, too obstinate to be controlled by reason. Men are often *infatuated* with a love of gaming, or of sensual pleasure.

INFATUATED, *pp.* Affected with folly.

INFATUATING, *ppr.* Affecting with folly.

INFATUATION, *n.* The act of affecting with folly.

2. A state of mind in which the intellectual powers are weakened, either generally, or in regard to particular objects, so that the person affected acts without his usual judgment, and contrary to the dictates of reason. All men who waste their substance in gaming, intemperance or any other vice, are chargeable with *infatuation*.

INFAUST'ING, *n.* [*L. infaustus*.] The act of making unlucky. *Obs.* *Bacon.*

INFEASIBILITY, *n.* [*from: in-*]

INFEASIBLENESS, *n.* [*from: in-*]

INFEASIBLE, *a.* [*from: in-*]

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2. The morbid cause which excites disease in a healthy or uninfected body. This cause may be contagion from a diseased body, or other poisonous or noxious matter received into the body or under the skin. The *infection* of the plague and of yellow fever, is said to be imported in ships and conveyed in clothing; persons are said to take the *infection* from a diseased person, or from the air of apartments where the sick are confined. The *infection* spreads in a city, or it is free from *infection*. Pestilential exhalations are called *infections*.

*Booke, Russ. Encyc. art. Plague. Rus.* *Infection* is used in two acceptations; first, as denoting the effluvium or infectious matter exhaled from the person of one diseased, in which sense it is synonymous with *contagion*; and secondly, as signifying the act of communication of such morbid effluvium, by which disease is transferred. *Cyc.*

3. That which taints, poisons or corrupts by communication from one to another; as the *infection* of error or of evil example.

4. Contamination by illegality, as in cases of contraband goods.

5. Communication of like qualities.

Mankind are gay or serious by *infection*. *Rambler.*

INFECTIOUS, *a.* Having qualities that may taint, or communicate disease to; as an *infectious* fever; *infectious* clothing; *infectious* air; *infectious* miasma.

2. Corrupting; tending to taint by communication; as *infectious* vices or manners.

3. Contaminating with illegality; exposing to seizure and forfeiture.

Contraband articles are said to be of an *infectious* nature. *Kent.*

4. Capable of being communicated by near approach.

Grief as well as joy is *infectious*. *Kames.*

INFECTIOUSLY, *adv.* By infection.

INFECTUOUSNESS, *n.* The quality of being infectious, or capable of communicating disease or taint from one to another.

INFECTIVE, *a.* Having the quality of communicating disease or taint from one to another. *Sidney.*

INFE'UND, *a.* [*L. infecundus*; *in* and *fecundus*, prolific.] Unfruitful; not producing young; barren.

INFECUNDITY, *n.* [*L. infecunditas*.] Unfruitfulness; barrenness. *Med. Repos.*

INFELICITY, *n.* [*Fr. infelicité*; *L. infelicitas*. See *Felicité*.] Unhappiness; misery; misfortune.

2. Unfortunate state; unfavorableness; as the *infelicity* of the times, or of the occasion.

INFER, *v. t.* [*Fr. inferer*; *L. infero*; *in* and *fero*, to bear or produce.]

1. Literally, to bring on; to induce. [*Little used.*]

2. To deduce; to draw or derive, as a fact or consequence. From the character of God, as creator and governor of the world, we *infer* the indispensable obligation of all his creatures to obey his commands. We *infer* one proposition or truth from another, when we perceive that if one is true, the other must be true also.