

IMPRINTING, *ppr.* Marking by pressure; printing; fixing on the mind or memory.

IMPRISON, *v. t.* *impriz'n.* [Fr. *emprisonner*; *in* and *prison*.]

1. To put into a prison; to confine in a prison or jail, or to arrest and detain in custody in any place.

2. To confine; to shut up; to restrain from escape; to deprive of the liberty to move from place to place; as, to be *imprisoned* in a cell.

He imprisoned was in chains remediless.

Spenser.
Try to *imprison* the resistless winds.

IMPRISONED, *pp.* Confined in a prison or jail; restrained from escape or from going at large.

IMPRISONING, *ppr.* Shutting up in prison; confining in a place.

IMPRISONMENT, *n.* The act of putting and confining in prison; the act of arresting and detaining in custody.

2. Confinement in a place; restraint of liberty to go from place to place at pleasure. Appropriately, the confinement of a criminal or debtor within the walls of a prison, or in the custody of a sheriff, &c.

False imprisonment is any confinement of the person, or restraint of liberty, without legal or sufficient authority. The arrest or detention of the person by an officer without warrant, or by an illegal warrant, or by a legal warrant executed at an unlawful time, is *false imprisonment*.

IMPROBABILITY, *n.* [See *Improbable*.] The quality of being improbable, or not likely to be true; unlikelihood.

IMPROBABLE, *a.* [Sp. Fr. from *L. improbabilis*; *in* and *probabilis*, from *probo*, to prove.]

Not likely to be true; not to be expected under the circumstances of the case. It is always *improbable* that men will knowingly oppose their own interest; yet the fact is possible. It is *improbable* that snow will fall in July, but not incredible.

IMPROBABLY, *adv.* In a manner not likely to be true.

2. In a manner not to be approved.

IMPROBATE, *v. t.* [L. *improbo*.] To disallow; not to approve. [Not used.]

IMPROBATION, *n.* The act of disapproving. [Not in use.]

IMPROBITY, *n.* [L. *improbitas*; *in* and *probitas*, from *probo*, to approve.]

That which is disapproved or disallowed; want of integrity or rectitude of principle; dishonesty. A man of known *improbability* is always suspected, and usually despised.

IMPROBUCED, *a.* Not produced.

IMPROBICIENCY, *n.* Want of proficiency.

IMPROFITABLE, *a.* Unprofitable. [Not in use.]

IMPROMPTU, *adv.* [L. *in promptu*, in readiness, from *promptus*, ready, quick.]

Off hand; without previous study; as a verse uttered or written *impromptu*.

IMPROMPTU, *n.* A piece made off hand, at the moment, or without previous study; an extemporaneous composition.

IMPROPER, *a.* [L. *improprius*; *in* and *proprius*, proper.]

1. Not proper; not suitable; not adapted to its end; unfit; as an *improper* medicine for a particular disease; an *improper* regulation.

2. Not becoming; not decent; not suited to the character, time or place; as *improper* conduct in church; *improper* behavior before superiors; an *improper* speech.

3. Not according to the settled usages or principles of a language; as an *improper* word or phrase.

4. Not suited to a particular place or office; unqualified; as, he is an *improper* man for the office.

IMPROPERLY, *adv.* Not fitly; in a manner not suited to the end; in a manner not suited to the company, time, place and circumstances; unsuitably; incongruously.

2. In a manner not according with established usages; inaccurately; ungrammatically; as, to speak or write *improperly*.

IMPROPTIOUS, *a.* Not propitious; unpropitious.

[The latter is the word in use.]

IMPROPORTIONABLE, *a.* Not proportionable. [Little used.]

IMPROPORTIONATE, *a.* Not proportionate; not adjusted. [Little used.]

IMPROPRIATE, *v. t.* [L. *in* and *proprius*, proper.]

1. To appropriate to private use; to take to one's self; to *impropriate* thanks to one's self. [Not used.]

2. To annex the possessions of the church or a benefice to a layman.

IMPROPRIATE, *a.* Devolved into the hands of a layman.

IMPROPRIATED, *pp.* Appropriated to one's self. [See *Appropriated*.]

Put in possession of a layman.

IMPROPRIATING, *ppr.* Appropriating to one's self.

2. Annexing to a lay proprietor.

IMPROPRIATION, *n.* The act of putting an ecclesiastical benefice into the hands of a layman.

2. The benefice *impropriated*.

IMPROPRIATOR, *n.* A layman who has possession of the lands of the church or an ecclesiastical living.

IMPROPRIETY, *n.* [Fr. *improprie*, from *L. improprius*. See *Improprie*.]

1. Unfitness; unsuitableness to character, time, place or circumstances; as *impropriety* of behavior or manners. Levity of conduct is an *impropriety* in a religious assembly and at a funeral. Rudeness or forwardness in young persons before their superiors, is *impropriety*. Indecency and indecorum are *improprieties*.

2. Inaccuracy in language; a word or phrase not according with the established usages or principles of speaking or writing.

Many gross *improprieties*, however authorized by practice, ought to be discarded.

IMPROSPERITY, *n.* Unprosperity; want of success.

IMPROSPEROUS, *a.* [in and *prosperous*.]

Not prosperous; not successful; unfortunate; not yielding profit; not advancing interest; as an *improsperous* undertaking or voyage.

[Unprosperous is the word most generally used in this sense.]

IMPROSPEOUSLY, *adv.* Unsuccessfully; unprosperously; unfortunately.

IMPROSPEOUSNESS, *n.* Ill success; want of prosperity.

IMPROVABILITY, *n.* [See *Improbable*.]

The state or quality of being capable of improvement; susceptibility of being made better.

IMPROVABLE, *a.* [See *Improve*.] Susceptible of improvement; capable of growing or being made better; that may be advanced in good qualities.

We have stock enough, and that too of an *improvable* nature, that is capable of infinite advancement.

Man is accommodated with moral principles, *improvable* by the exercise of his faculties.

I have a fine spread of *improvable* lands.

2. That may be used to advantage, or for the increase of any thing valuable.

The essays of weaker heads afford *improvable* hints to better.

3. Capable of tillage or cultivation.

A scarcity of *improvable* lands began to be felt in these colonies.

IMPROVABLENESS, *n.* Susceptibility of improvement; capableness of being made better, or of being used to advantage.

IMPROVE, *v. t.* *improv'*. [Norm. *prover*, to improve; *improvement*, improving. The French and Italians use the same compound in a different sense. It is from the Latin *in* and *probo*, to prove, or the adjective *probus*.]

1. To make better; to advance in value or good qualities. We amend a bad, but improve a good thing.

A good education *improves* the mind and the manners. A judicious rotation of crops tends to *improve* land.

2. To use or employ to good purpose; to make productive; to turn to profitable account; to use for advantage; to employ for advancing interest, reputation or happiness.

Many opportunities occur of *improving* money, which, if a man misses, he may not afterwards recover.

Melissus was a man of parts, capable of enjoying and *improving* life.

True policy as well as good faith, in my opinion, binds us to *improve* the occasion.

This success was not *improved*. Those who enjoy the advantage of better instruction, should *improve* their privileges.

They were aware of the advantages of their position, and *improved* them with equal skill and diligence.

Those moments were diligently *improved*.

The candidate *improved* his advantages.

A hint that I do not remember to have seen opened and *improved*.

Whatever interest we have at the throne of grace, should be *improved* in behalf of others.

The court seldom fails to *improve* the opportunity.