



# impress<sup>1</sup>

[*verb* im-pres; *noun* im-pres]

[Synonyms](#)   [Examples](#)   [Word Origin](#)

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verb (used with object), **im-pressed** or (*Archaic*) **im-prest**; **im-pres-sing**.

1. to affect deeply or strongly in mind or feelings; influence in opinion:  
*He impressed us as a sincere young man.*
2. to fix deeply or firmly on the mind or memory, as ideas or facts:  
*to impress the importance of honesty on a child.*
3. to urge, as something to be remembered or done:  
*She impressed the need for action on them.*

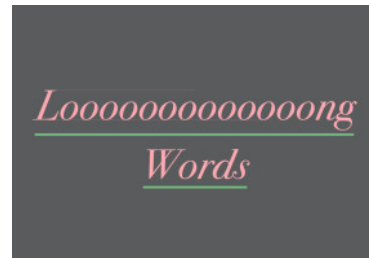
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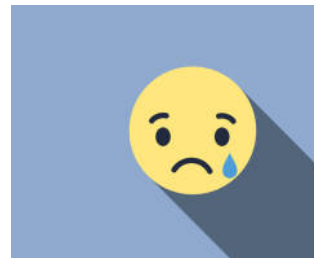
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5. to impose a particular characteristic or quality upon (something):  
*The painter impressed his love of garish colors upon the landscape.*
6. to produce (a mark, figure, etc.) by **pressure**; stamp; imprint:  
*The king impressed his seal on the melted wax.*
7. to apply with pressure, so as to leave a mark.
8. to subject to or mark by pressure with something.
9. to furnish with a mark, figure, etc., by or as if by stamping.
10. *Electricity* . to produce (a voltage) or cause (a voltage) to appear or be produced on a conduct circuit, etc.



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verb (used without object), **im·pressed** or (*Archaic*) **im·prest**; **im·pres·sing**.

11. to create a favorable **impression**; draw attention to oneself:

*a child's behavior intended to impress.*

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noun

12. the act of impressing.
13. a mark made by or as by pressure; stamp; imprint.
14. a distinctive character or effect imparted:  
*writings that bear the impress of a strong personality.*

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## Origin of impress <sup>1</sup>

1325–75; Middle English *impress* < Latin *impressus* past participle of *imprimere* to press into or upon, impress, equivalent to *im-* *im-<sup>1</sup>* + *pressu* past participle of *primere* (combining form *-primere*) to [press<sup>1</sup>](#); see [print](#)

## Related forms

**im·press·er**, noun

## Synonyms for impress

[See more synonyms for on Thesaurus.com](#)

1. [move](#), [sway](#), [disturb](#); [persuade](#).

# impress<sup>2</sup>

[*verb* im·pres; *noun* im·pres]

**verb** (used with object), **im·pressed** or (*Archaic*) **im·prest**; **im·pres·sing**.

1. to [press](#) or force into public service, as sailors.
2. to seize or take for public use.
3. to take or persuade into service by forceful arguments:

*The neighbors were impressed into helping the family move.*

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noun

4. [impressment](#).

## Origin of impress <sup>2</sup>

First recorded in 1590–1600; [im-](#)<sup>1</sup> + [press](#)<sup>2</sup>

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## Related Words for impress

[thrill](#), [faze](#), [excite](#), [touch](#), [affect](#), [awe](#), [sway](#), [inspire](#), [mark](#), [slay](#), [move](#), [pique](#), [arouse](#), [kill](#), [carry](#), [bulldoze](#), [provoke](#), [electrify](#), [score](#), [galvanize](#)

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## Examples from the Web for impress

### Contemporary Examples of impress

Since he doesn't have to *impress* me, it's clearly a little show for Alma.



[Alfred Hitchcock's Fade to Black: The Great Director's Final Days](#)

David Freeman

December 13, 2014

A new reality series spotlights the extent people will go to *impress* a crush—from pretending to be dead to committing theft.



['My Crazy Love' Reveals the Craziest Lies People Tell for Love](#)

Kevin Fallon

November 18, 2014

Hannigan pretended to be a basketball pro in order to *impress* a hot guy she had a crush on—only she had never played basketball.



[‘My Crazy Love’ Reveals the Craziest Lies People Tell for Love](#)

Kevin Fallon

November 18, 2014

“He spent most of his time trying to *impress* me,” Campbell tells Piazza about a meeting with Ryan.



[The World Would Go to Hell Without Nuns](#)

William O’Connor

September 4, 2014

[Your superiors] become the people you most want to *impress* —and this is how you do it.



[‘Kill Team’: The Documentary the Army Doesn’t Want You to See](#)

Andrew Romano

July 26, 2014

## Historical Examples of impress

Boys were flogged at boundaries, to *impress* the boundaries on their memory.

[A Treatise on Parents and Children](#)

George Bernard Shaw

Boys were flogged when criminals were hanged, to *impress* the awful warning on them.

[A Treatise on Parents and Children](#)

George Bernard Shaw

The Eastern end of the Cathedral does not *impress* the beholder.

[The Foolish Lovers](#)

St. John G. Ervine

She said this calmly and quietly, as though to *impress* her informant and reassure him.

[Dust](#)

Mr. and Mrs. Haldeman-Julius

These performances, I gather, are to *impress* upon you that he is a free man and your equal.

[American Notes](#)

Rudyard Kipling

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# impress<sup>1</sup>

verb (ɪmˈpres) (tr)

1. to make an impression on; have a strong, lasting, or favourable effect on: *I am impressed by your work*
2. to produce (an imprint, etc) by pressure in or on (something) : *to impress a seal in wax ; to impress wax with a seal*
3. (*often foll by on*) to stress (something to a person); urge; emphasize : *to impress the danger of the situation on someone*
4. to exert pressure on; press
5. electronics to apply (a voltage) to a circuit or device

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noun (ˈɪmpres)

6. the act or an instance of impressing
7. a mark, imprint, or effect produced by impressing

## Derived Forms

**impresser** , noun

**impressible** , adjective

## Word Origin for impress

C14: from Latin *imprimere* to press into, imprint, from *premere* to press 1

# impress<sup>2</sup>

verb (im'pres)

1. to commandeer or coerce (men or things) into government service; press-gang

noun ('impres)

2. the act of commandeering or coercing into government service; impressment

## Word Origin for impress

C16: see *im-* in-<sup>2</sup>, *press* <sup>2</sup>

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Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012

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## Word Origin and History for impress

v.  
late 14c., "have a strong effect on the mind or heart," from Latin *impressus*, past participle of *imprimere* "press into or upon, stamp," from assimilated form of *in-* "into, in, on, upon" (see *in-* (2)) + *premere* "to press" (see *press* (v.1)). Literal sense of "to apply with pressure, make a permanent image in, indent, imprint" is from early 15c. in English. Sense of "to levy for military service" is from 1590s, a meaning more from *press* (v.2). Related: *Impressed*; *impressing*.

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n.

"act of impressing," also "characteristic mark," 1590s, from [impress](#) (v.).

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impregnate  
impregnation

[impresa](#)  
[impresario](#)  
[imprescriptible](#)

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