

# Eminent, Immanent, Imminent Study



## IMMANENT

<https://webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/Immanent>

**IM'MANENT**, *adjective* [Latin in and manens, maneo, to abide.] Inherent; intrinsic; internal.

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<https://www.etymonline.com/search?q=immanent>

### IMMANENT

[immanent \(adj.\)](#)

"indwelling, remaining within, inherent," 1530s, via French immanent (14c.) or directly from Late Latin immanens, present participle of immanere "to dwell in, remain in," from assimilated form of in- "into, in, on, upon" (from PIE root [\\*en](#) "in") + Latin manere "to dwell" (from PIE root [\\*men-](#) (3) "to remain"). In medieval philosophy contrasted with transitive; later with [transcendent](#). Related: Immanently.



## IMMINENT

<https://webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/imminent>

**IM'MINENT**, *adjective* [Latin imminens, from immineo, to hang over; in and minor, to threaten. [See Menace.](#)]

Literally, shooting over; hence, hanging over; impending; threatening; near; appearing as if about to fall on; used of evils; as *imminent* danger; *imminent* judgments, evils or death.

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<https://www.etymonline.com/search?q=imminent>

### IMMINENT

[imminent \(adj.\)](#)

1520s, from French imminent (14c.) and directly from Latin imminentem (nominative imminens) "overhanging; impending," present participle of imminere "to overhang, lean towards," hence "be near to," also "threaten, menace, impend, be at hand, be about to happen," from assimilated form of in- "into, in, on, upon" (from PIE root [\\*en](#) "in") + -minere "jut out," which is related to mons "hill" (from PIE root [\\*men-](#) (2) "to project"). Related: Imminently.

[\\*men- \(2\)](#)

Proto-Indo-European root meaning "to project."

It forms all or part of: [amenable](#); [amount](#); [cismontane](#); [demeanor](#); [dismount](#); [eminence](#); [eminent](#); [imminence](#); [imminent](#); [menace](#); [minacious](#); [minatory](#); [mons](#); [montage](#); [montagnard](#); [monte](#); [mount](#) (n.1) "hill, mountain;" [mount](#) (v.) "to get up on;" [mountain](#); [mountebank](#); [mouth](#); [Osmond](#); [Piedmont](#); [promenade](#); [prominence](#); [prominent](#); [promontory](#); [remount](#); [surmount](#); [ultramontane](#).

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It is the hypothetical source of/evidence for its existence is provided by: Sanskrit manya "nape of the neck;" Latin mons "mountain," eminere "to stand out;" Old Irish muin "neck," Welsh mwnwgl "neck," mwng "mane;" Welsh mynydd "mountain."

[Related entries & more](#)

[death-trap \(n.\)](#)

"structure or situation involving imminent risk of death," 1835, from [death](#) + [trap](#) (n.).

[Related entries & more](#)

[impend \(v.\)](#)

"be about to happen" (usually of something unwanted), 1590s, from Latin impendere "to hang over;" figuratively "to be imminent, be near," from assimilated form of in- "into, in, on, upon" (from PIE root [\\*en](#) "in") + pendere "to hang" (from PIE root [\\*\(s\)pen-](#) "to draw, stretch, spin"). Literal sense in English is by 1780. Related: Impended; impending.

[Related entries & more](#)

[apocalyptic \(adj.\)](#)

1660s, "pertaining to the 'Revelation of St. John' in the New Testament," from Greek apokalyptikos, from apokalyptein "uncover, disclose, reveal" (see [apocalypse](#)). The original general sense was "prophetic" (1680s); meaning "pertaining to the imminent end of the world" is attested by 1864. Related: Apocalyptic (1630s).

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[pre-emptive \(adj.\)](#)

also preemptive, 1806, "pertaining to or of the nature of pre-emption;" from [pre-emption](#) + [-ive](#). Specifically of an attack on an enemy who is plotting or has set in motion his own imminent attack, 1958, a term from the Cold War. Related: Pre-emptively; preemptively.

[Related entries & more](#)

[apocalypse \(n.\)](#)

late 14c., "revelation, disclosure," from Church Latin apocalypsis "revelation," from Greek apokalyptein "uncover, disclose, reveal," from apo "off, away from" (see [apo-](#)) + kalyptein "to cover, conceal," from PIE root [\\*kel-](#) (1) "to cover, conceal, save." The Christian end-of-the-world story is part of the revelation in John of Patmos' book "Apokalypsis" (a title rendered into English as pocalipsis c. 1050, "Apocalypse" c. 1230, and "Revelation" by Wyclif c. 1380). Its general sense in Middle English was "insight, vision; hallucination." The meaning "a cataclysmic event" is modern (not in OED 2nd ed., 1989); apocalypticism "belief in an imminent end of the present world" is from 1858. As agent nouns, "author or interpreter of the 'Apocalypse,'" apocalypst (1829), apocalypt (1834), and apocalyptist (1824) have been tried.



## EMINENT

<https://webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/eminent>

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**EM'INENT**, *adjective* [Latin *eminens*, from *emineo*.]

1. High; lofty; as an *eminent* place. [Ezekiel 16:24](#).
  2. Exalted in rank; high in office; dignified; distinguished. Princes hold *eminent* stations in society, as do ministers, judges and legislators.
  3. High in public estimation; conspicuous; distinguished above others; remarkable; as an *eminent* historian or poet; an *eminent* scholar. Burke was an *eminent* orator; Watts and Cowper were *eminent* for their piety.
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[https://www.etymonline.com/word/eminent#etymonline\\_v\\_5803](https://www.etymonline.com/word/eminent#etymonline_v_5803)

**eminent (adj.)**

early 15c., "standing or rising above other places; exceeding other things in quality or degree;" from Old French *éminent* "prominent" (13c.) or directly from Latin *eminens* (nominative *eminens*) "standing out, projecting, prominent, high," figuratively "distinguished, distinctive," present participle of *eminere* "stand out, project; be prominent, be conspicuous," from assimilated form of *ex* "out" (see [ex-](#)) + *-minere*, which is related to *mons* "hill" (from PIE root [\\*men-](#) (2) "to project"). From 1610s, of persons, "distinguished in character or attainments." Related: *Eminently*.

**Entries linking to *eminent***

[ex-](#)

word-forming element, in English meaning usually "out of, from," but also "upwards, completely, deprive of, without," and "former;" from Latin *ex* "out of, from within; from which time, since; according to; in regard to," from PIE *\*eghs* "out" (source also of Gaulish *ex-*, Old Irish *ess-*, Old Church Slavonic *izu*, Russian *iz*). In some cases also from Greek cognate *ex*, *ek*. PIE *\*eghs* had comparative form *\*eks-tero* and superlative *\*eks-t(e)r-emo-*. Often reduced to *e-* before *-b-*, *-d-*, *-g-*, consonantal *-i-*, *-l-*, *-m-*, *-n-*, *-v-* (as in *elude*, *emerge*, *evaporate*, etc.).

[\\*men- \(2\)](#)

Proto-Indo-European root meaning "to project."

It forms all or part of: [amenable](#); [amount](#); [cismontane](#); [demeanor](#); [dismount](#); [eminence](#); [eminent](#); [imminence](#); [imminent](#); [menace](#); [minacious](#); [minatory](#); [mons](#); [montage](#); [montagnard](#); [monte](#); [mount](#) (n.1) "hill, mountain;" [mount](#) (v.) "to get up on;" [mountain](#); [mountebank](#); [mouth](#); [Osmond](#); [Piedmont](#); [promenade](#); [prominence](#); [prominent](#); [promontory](#); [remount](#); [surmount](#); [ultramontane](#).

It is the hypothetical source of/evidence for its existence is provided by: Sanskrit *manya* "nape of the neck;" Latin *mons* "mountain," *eminere* "to stand out;" Old Irish *muin* "neck," Welsh *mwnwgl* "neck," *mwng* "mane;" Welsh *mynydd* "mountain."

[pre-eminence \(n.\)](#)

also *pre-eminence*, c. 1200, "surpassing eminence; superiority, distinction; precedence, a place of rank or distinction," from Late Latin *praeeminentia* "distinction, superiority," from Latin *praeeminentem* (nominative *praeeminens*), present participle of *praeeminere* "transcend, excel,"

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literally "project forward, rise above," from prae "before" (see [pre-](#)) + eminere "stand out, project" (see [eminent](#)).



<https://www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/eminient-imminent-immanent-difference-usage>

## On 'Eminent' and 'Imminent' (and 'Immanent')

The difference will be clear in a moment

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### What to Know

*Imminent* and *eminent* only differ in pronunciation by one vowel sound, which is why they are occasionally confused. *Eminent* is often used to describe someone or something that stands out above others in a noticeable way, while *imminent* is used to describe something that is about to happen very soon. *Immanent*, another adjective which is pronounced exactly the same as *imminent* is defined as "being within the limits of possible experience or knowledge."

The adjectives [eminent](#) and [imminent](#) differ in pronunciation only by one short vowel sound, so it's not surprising that they are occasionally confused.

Pictured: an imminent storm

### Meaning and Usage of 'Eminent'

A person or thing that is *eminent* stands out above others in a way that is usually conspicuous, like a person who is exceptional in their field, or a performer of whom one easily takes notice. Bond was born in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1940. The son of an **eminent** scholar, he seemed fated to spend his whole life in academia. His father, Horace Mann Bond, became president of historically Black Lincoln University in Chester County, Pennsylvania, when Julian was five years old, and the younger Bond attended George School, a local Quaker prep school.

— Gene Seymour, [The New Republic](#), 10 Feb. 2021

West Vancouver Art Museum curator Hilary Letwin has long been fascinated and inspired by the work of **eminent** landscape architect Cornelia Hahn Oberlander. Now, she gets to share that passion with the wider community through the museum's latest exhibition, *Cornelia Hahn Oberlander: Genius Loci*.

— Elisia Seeber, [Vancouver Is Awesome](#), 30 Jan. 2021

The adjective [preeminent](#) means "having paramount rank, dignity, or importance." *Preeminent* was borrowed from Latin (as was *eminent*) and generally connotes a higher magnitude than *eminent*, though it sometimes gets used simply to mean the same thing as *eminent*.

The legal phrase [eminent domain](#) refers to the right of a government to take private property for public use (such as for a civil project like a road or bridge). The noun [eminence](#) is used for someone or something in a lofty position, and in the Catholic Church it is used as a specific title for a cardinal.

### Meaning and Usage of 'Imminent'

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[\*Imminent\*](#) describes something that is about to happen very soon. Sometimes, but not always, it is specifically applied to something that looms as dreaded or frightening, as in a disaster.

The latest delay in the Couture apartment tower's construction start is apparently being resolved — with that process moving forward on Tuesday. And that will bring an **imminent** groundbreaking at the downtown Milwaukee site overlooking Lake Michigan, according to the developers.

— Tom Daykin, [\*The Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel\*](#), 23 Feb. 2021

Back in December, St. Vincent revealed that she'd be releasing a new album in late spring/summer 2021, and while it's only February, it appears an announcement is **imminent**. Images of what seem to be teaser posters have been popping up on Reddit.

— Amanda Hatfield, [\*Brooklyn Vegan\*](#), 25 Feb. 2021

Senior Master Sgt. Bruce Haskin had some serious advice to bestow on friends and family after receiving the Purple Heart. “The threat of **imminent** death was the way many of us felt in Bagram that day. It brings a new perspective and new prioritization in life,” he said at a presentation ceremony Feb. 4.

— Ty Greenlees, [\*The Dayton Daily News\*](#), 16 Feb. 2021

## Meaning and Usage of 'Immanent'

There is also an adjective *immanent*, which is pronounced exactly the same as *imminent*.

Occurring mostly in contexts of philosophy or theology, *immanent* describes a characteristic that is considered as residing within something or being within the limits of possible experience or knowledge, in contrast with *transcendent*.

They believed, too, that the Buddha nature was **immanent** in all beings and that enlightenment could be obtained by all individuals with the requisite faith and concentration.

— Jonathan D. Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, 1990

The image of Organic Honey is likewise disintegrated. Structural incoherence is thus revealed as **immanent** to the medium and the various registers in which it produces meaning. The transparency of the image as coherent, present, whole, is shattered in the process. Which is to say: There is nothing organic about Organic Honey.

— Pamela M. Lee, [\*Artforum\*](#), Summer 2015

## An Easy Way to Remember 'Imminent,' 'Eminent,' and 'Immanent'

*Imminent* is probably more likely to be confused with its homophone *immanent* than with *eminent*, because some writers might not be aware of the existence or meaning of the former word. For keeping *eminent* and *imminent* straight, it might help to remember that an *eminent* television personality might win an *Emmy* award, while *imminent* shares the same first three letters with *immediate*, another adjective that describes something occurring in short time.

