

impede, v.


Pronunciation: Brit.  /ɪmˈpiːd/, U.S.  /ɪmˈpɪd/

Forms: Also 16 **impeide**.

Frequency (in current use): ●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●

Etymology: < Latin *impedire*, lit. to shackle the feet, < *im-* (**IM-** *prefix*) + *pēs*, *ped-em* foot.

a. transitive. To retard in progress or action by putting obstacles in the way; to obstruct; to hinder; to stand in the way of.

- α1616 W. SHAKESPEARE *Macbeth* (1623) I. v. 27 All that impeides thee from the Golden Round, Which Fate..doth seeme To haue thee crown'd withall. 
- 1698 J. FRYER *New Acct. E.-India & Persia* 80 They would raise Objections on purpose to impede the Negotiation.
- c1760 T. SMOLLETT *Ode to Leven-Water* 8 No rocks impede thy dimpling course.
- 1807 T. THOMSON *Syst. Chem.* (ed. 3) II. 546 Carbonic acid, instead of promoting, impedes the decomposition.
- 1855 T. B. MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* IV. xx. 514 Adverse winds had impeded his progress through the Straits of Gibraltar.
- 1860 J. TYNDALL *Glaciers of Alps* I. xxii. 155 My load, light as it was, impeded me.

b. Astrology. = **IMPEDITE v. 2.**

- 1819 J. WILSON *Compl. Dict. Astrol. at Impeded* The ☽ is impeded when in ♄, ♀, or ♁ of ☉, ♃, or ♆. If in ♄ or ♁, the impediment lasts four days, viz. two before and two after.

DERIVATIVES

im'peded *adj.*

- 1799 *Instr. & Regulations Cavalry* (ed. 3) 252 The positions I, K, L, M. show the passage of obstacles by the impeded parts filing, or marching ranks by three's round them.

im'peder *n.* a person or thing that impedes.

- 1686 J. GOAD *Astro-meteorologica* I. xiv. 78 Frost..an impeder of their winter-marches.

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