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impact, *v.*

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(ɪm'pækt) [orig., and usually, in pa. pple. *impacted*, which was prob. directly f. L. *impact-us* + **-ED**¹ (see **IMPACT** *ppl. a.* and **IMPACTED**); the verb proper being a later back-formation from this. See **-ED**¹ 2, and cf. **COMPACT** *v.*¹]

- 1. trans.** To press closely into or in something; to fix firmly in; to pack in.

1601 **HOLLAND** *Pliny* XX. xxi. II. 73 The seed of this hearbe remooveth the tough humours bedded in the stomacke, how hard impacted soever they be. **1709** **BLAIR** in *Phil. Trans.* XXVII. 75 These Pyramids, which receive the Hairs, are impacted in the Cutis. **a1791** **WESLEY** *Serm.* lxxxii. I. 5 Wks. 1811 IX. 417 Impact fire into iron, by hammering it when red hot. **1897** **ALLBUTT** *Syst. Med.* III. 835 A stone-like mass..which had become impacted in the lower ilium.

- 2.** To stamp or impress (*on* something). *rare*.

1677 **GALE** *Crt. Gentiles* IV. Proem 4 Ideas or notions impacted on the mind. *Ibid.* 442 Every..Creature has a law impacted or impressed on its Being.

- 3. intr. a.** To come forcibly into contact with a (larger) body or surface. Const. various preps.

1916 [see **IMPACTING** *ppl. a.* below]. **1929** 'SEAMARK' *Down River* vi. 172 Something impacted with a soft thud against Lingard's temple. **1945** *Jrnl. Sci. Instrum.* XXII. 191 A jet of air issuing from a slot and impacting on a plane surface. **1962** **F. I. ORDWAY** et al. *Basic Astronautics* v. 201 The Soviet Lunnaya Raketa was launched early in the afternoon of September 12, 1959 and impacted onto the Moon's surface just after midnight on September 14, Moscow time.

- b. fig.** To have a (pronounced) effect *on*.

1935 **W. G. HARDY** *Father Abraham* 370 For there was about them an air of eagerness and of shuddering expectation which impacted on his consciousness and fascinated even while it repelled him. **1956** *Oxf. Mag.* 8 Nov. 81/1 The Magazine.. is not the place for consideration of national and international events except in so far as they impact on Oxford.

- 4. trans.** To cause to impinge or impact *on, against*, etc.

1945 *Jrnl. Sci. Instrum.* XXII. 187 Experimental results for the efficiency of jets in impacting particles are correlated. **1964** K. STEWART in White & Smith *High-Efficiency Air Filtration* ii. 57 All impactors make use of the inertia effect which particles exhibit when the gas stream in which they are suspended is constrained to turn abruptly. The particle under suitable conditions cannot follow the stream lines and is impacted against a collecting plate. **1972** J. O. LEDBETTER *Air Pollution* A. v. 187 An aerosol moving toward an obstacle may impact particles on the obstacle.

Hence **impacting** *ppl. a.*, impinging, colliding.

1916 'BOYD CABLE' *Action Front* 95 No ping and smack of impacting lead hailed about them. **1961** *Sci. Amer.* Nov. 58/2 The impacting bodies may have been asteroids or comets. **1972** *Daily Tel.* 17 Apr. 6/8 These particles..cannot be measured or analysed from the Earth's surface. On the Moon, however, the impacting particles leave trails in the detector. **1973** *Nature* 13 July 68/2 Craters of the size of St Magnus Bay and The Firth would be formed by impacting meteorites of masses about 1 million tons.
