

ramification |_ram_f__k_ sh _nl

noun (usu. **ramifications**)

a consequence of an action or event, esp. when complex or unwelcome : *any change is bound to have legal ramifications.*

- a subdivision of a complex structure or process perceived as comparable to a tree's branches : *an extended family with its ramifications of neighboring in-laws.*
- formal or technical the action or state of ramifying or being ramified.

ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: from French, from *ramifier* 'form branches' (see **ramify**).

rapacious |r__p_ sh _sl

adjective

aggressively greedy or grasping : *rapacious landlords.* See note at **greedy**.

DERIVATIVES

rapaciously adverb

rapaciousness noun

rapacity |r__pas_t_| noun

ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: from Latin *rapax*, *rapac-* (from *rapere* 'to snatch') + **-ious**.

recant |ri_kant|

verb [intrans.]

say that one no longer holds an opinion or belief, esp. one considered heretical : *heretics were burned if they would not recant* | [trans.] *Galileo was forced to recant his assertion that the earth orbited the sun.*

DERIVATIVES

recantation |r__kan_t_ sh _nl| noun

recanter noun

ORIGIN mid 16th cent.: from Latin *recantare* ‘revoke,’ from *re-* (expressing reversal) + *cantare* ‘sing, chant.’

reclusive Iri_klo_siv; -zivl

adjective

avoiding the company of other people; solitary : *a reclusive life in rural Ireland.*

DERIVATIVES

reclusiveness noun

recrimination Iri_krim__n_ sh _nl

noun (usu. **recriminations**)

an accusation in response to one from someone else : *there are no tears, no recriminations* | *there was a period of bitter recrimination.*