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initiative

4 ENTRIES FOUND:

- 1) initiative (adjective)
2) initiative (noun)
direct initiative (noun)

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ini-tia-tive noun \i-'ni-shə-tiv also -shē-a-tiv\ SAVE

Definition of INITIATIVE

- 1 : an introductory step <took the initiative in attempting to settle the issue>
2 : energy or aptitude displayed in initiation of action : ENTERPRISE <showed great initiative>
3 a : the right to initiate legislative action
b : a procedure enabling a specified number of voters by petition to propose a law and secure its submission to the electorate or to the legislature for approval — compare REFERENDUM 1
— on one's own initiative
: at one's own discretion : independently of outside influence or control
See initiative defined for English-language learners >
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Examples of INITIATIVE

- If you want to meet her, you're going to have to take the initiative and introduce yourself.
• The company has the opportunity to seize the initiative by getting its new products to the market before its competitors.
• The governor has proposed a new initiative to improve conditions in urban schools.
• ... on the day before their Club Med flight she took the initiative of telephoning Franco from work, ostensibly to tell him that she had really admired his new place ... —John Barth, Atlantic, March 1995

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Origin of INITIATIVE

(see INITIATE)

First Known Use: 1793

Related to INITIATIVE

Synonyms: action, aggressiveness, ambition, drive, go



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**Synonyms:** action, aggressiveness, ambition, drive, go, hustle, enterprise

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- Thesaurus: All synonyms and antonyms for "initiative"
- Spanish-English Dictionary: Translation of "initiative"
- Britannica.com: Encyclopedia article about "initiative"

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**Evelyn Molina** · Long Island City High School  
I am pushing my 27 year old son to add initiative to his fine qualities by printing out the definition and posting it in our home.  
Reply · 2 · Like · May 24 at 5:40am



**Grace E. De Polonia** · Works at Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor  
though I know the word, and fond of doing it...but when do we exactly use or execute such initiative if the leadership is kinda dictator?  
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