

An impasse is a deadlock or a situation in which no progress is possible, often because the parties involved refuse to compromise or find a solution. It can also refer to a physical road or passage with no exit (a dead end or cul-de-sac).

Key Concepts

- **Negotiations & Disputes:** In business or labor negotiations, reaching an impasse means talks have completely stalled because neither side is willing to concede.
- **Synonyms:** Common words with similar meanings include deadlock, stalemate, standoff, and standstill.
- **Physical Meaning:** Derived from French, it literally means a path where "no passing" is possible.

Examples in a Sentence

- "The labor union and the management team hit an impasse after failing to agree on healthcare benefits."
- "Diplomats worked tirelessly to break the impasse in the peace talks."
- "Turn around, this street is an impasse."