

**confidence interval**  
**confraternity**

**confidence interval** *n.* A statistical range with a specified probability that a given parameter lies within the range.  
**confidence man** *n.* A man who swindles his victims by using a confidence game.

**con·fi·dent** (kōn'fī-dənt) *adj.* 1. Marked by assurance, as of success. 2. Marked by confidence in oneself; self-assured. 3. Very bold; presumptuous. 4. *Obsolete.* Confiding; trustful. [Lat. *confidens*, *confident-*, pr. part. of *confidere*, to rely on. See *CONFIDE*.] — **con·fi·dent·ly** *adv.*

**con·fi·den·tial** (kōn'fī-dēn'shəl) *adj.* 1. Done or communicated in confidence; secret. 2. Entrusted with the confidence of another. 3. Indicating confidence or intimacy. 4. Containing secret information, the unauthorized disclosure of which poses a threat to national security. — **con·fi·den·ti·al·i·ty** (-shē-əl'ē-tē), **con·fi·den·tial·ness** *n.* — **con·fi·den·tial·ly** *adv.*

**confidential communication** *n.* *Law.* A statement to someone, such as one's physician, attorney, priest, or spouse, who cannot be compelled to divulge the information.

**con·fid·ing** (kōn-fī'ding) *adj.* Having a tendency to confide; trusting. — **con·fid·ing·ly** *adv.* — **con·fid·ing·ness** *n.*

**con·fig·u·ra·tion** (kōn-fīg'yū-rā'shən) *n.* 1. *a.* Arrangement of parts or elements. *b.* The form, as of a figure, determined by the arrangement of its parts or elements. 2. *Psychol.* Gestalt. 3. *Chem.* The structural arrangement of atoms in a compound or molecule. — **con·fig·u·ra·tion·al·ly** *adv.* — **con·fig·u·ra·tive**, **con·fig·u·ra·tion·al** *adj.*

**con·fig·ure** (kōn-fīg'yūr) *tr.v.* -ured, -ur·ing, -ures. To design, arrange, set up, or shape with a view to specific applications or uses. [Ult. < Lat. *configurare* : *com-*, *com-* + *figurāre*, to form (< *figūra*, shape; see *DEIGH-*).]

**con·fine** (kōn-fīn') *v.* -ined, -in·ing, -ines. — *tr.* 1. To keep within bounds; restrict. 2. To shut or keep in, esp. to imprison. 3. To restrict in movement. — *intr.* *Archaic.* To border. — *n.* (kōn'fīn'). 1. **con·fines.** *a.* The limits of a space or an area; the borders. *b.* Restraining elements: *the confines of politics.* *c.* Purview; scope. 2. *a.* *Archaic.* A restriction. *b.* *Obsolete.* A prison. [Fr. *confiner* < OFr. < *confinis*; boundaries, ult. < Lat. *confine* < neut. of *confinis*, adjoining; *com-*, *com-* + *finis*, border.] — **con·fin·a·ble**, **con·fine·a·ble** *adj.* — **con·fin·er** *n.*

**con·fine·ment** (kōn-fīn'mənt) *n.* 1. The act of confining or the state of being confined. 2. Lying-in.

**con·firm** (kōn-firm') *tr.v.* -firmed, -firm·ing, -firms. 1. To support or establish the certainty or validity of; verify. 2. To make firmer; strengthen. 3. To make valid or binding by a formal or legal act; ratify. 4. To administer the religious rite of confirmation to. [ME *confirmen* < OFr. *confermer* < Lat. *confirmare* : *com-*, *com-* + *firmare*, to strengthen (< *firmus*, strong; see *DHER-*).] — **con·firm·a·bil·i·ty** *n.* — **con·firm·a·ble** *adj.* — **con·firm·a·to·ry** (-fūr'mā-tōr'ē, -tōr'ē) *adj.* — **con·firm·er** *n.*

**con·fir·ma·tion** (kōn'fēr-mā'shən) *n.* 1. *a.* The act of confirming. *b.* Something that confirms; verification. 2. *a.* A Christian rite admitting a baptized person to full membership in a church. *b.* A Jewish ceremony marking completion of a young person's religious training.

**con·firmed** (kōn-firmd') *adj.* 1. Being firmly settled in habit; inveterate. 2. Having been ratified; verified. 3. Having received the rite of confirmation. — **con·firm·ed·ly** (-fūr'mid-lē) *adv.*

**con·fis·ca·ble** (kōn-fis'kə-bəl) *adj.* Subject to confiscation.

**con·fis·cate** (kōn'fī-skāt') *tr.v.* -cat·ed, -cat·ing, -cates. 1. To seize (private property) for the public treasury. 2. To seize by or as if by authority. — *adj.* (kōn'fī-skāt', kōn-fis'kət'). 1. Seized by a government. [Lat. *confiscare*, *confiscat-* : *com-*, *com-* + *ficus*, treasury.] — **con·fis·ca·tion** *n.* — **con·fis·ca·tor** *n.* — **con·fis·ca·to·ry** (kōn-fis'kə-tōr'ē, -tōr'ē) *adj.*

**Con·fi·te·or** (kōn-fē'tē-ōr, -ōr') *n.* A prayer in which sins are confessed. [Lat. *Confiteor*, I confess, its first word, first pers. sing. pr. t. of *confiteri*, to acknowledge. See *CONFESS*.]

**con·fi·ture** (kōn'fī-čhōr') *n.* A confection, preserve, or other sweetmeat. [Fr. < OFr. < *confit*, confection. See *CONFIT*.]

**con·fla·grant** (kōn-flā'grənt) *adj.* Burning intensely; blazing. [Lat. *conflagrans*, *conflagrant-*, pr. part. of *conflagrare*, to burn up : *com-*, *com-* + *flagrare*, to burn; see *BHEL-*.]

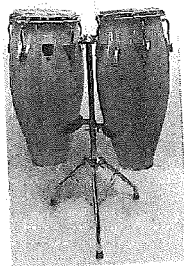
**con·fla·gra·tion** (kōn'flā-grā'shən) *n.* A large destructive fire. [Lat. *conflagrātiō*, *conflagratiō-* < *conflagrātus*, p. part. of *conflagrare*, to burn up.]

**con·flate** (kōn-flāt') *tr.v.* -flat·ed, -flat·ing, -flates. 1. To bring together; meld or fuse. 2. To combine (two variant texts, for example) into one whole. [Lat. *conflāre*, *conflāt-* : *com-*, *com-* + *flare*, to blow; see *BHL-*.] — **con·fla·tion** *n.*

**con·flict** (kōn'flikt') *n.* 1. A state of open, often prolonged fighting; a battle or war. 2. A state of disharmony between incompatible or antithetical persons, ideas, or interests; a clash. 3. *Psychol.* A psychic struggle resulting from the opposition or simultaneous functioning of mutually exclusive impulses, desires, or tendencies. 4. Opposition between characters or forces in a work of drama or fiction, esp. op-



Confucius



conga drum  
A pair of conga drums.

position affecting the plot. — *intr.v.* (kōn'flikt') -flict·ing, -flicts. 1. To be in or come into opposition. 2. *Archaic.* To engage in warfare. [ME < Lat. *conflictus* < *collisio* < p. part. of *colligere*, to strike together : *com-*, *com-* + *ligere*, to strike.] — **con·flic·tion** *n.* — **con·flic·tive** (-kōn'flikt'iv) *adj.*

**Syns:** *conflict, contest, combat, fight, affray.* These denote struggle between opposing forces for victory or supremacy. *Conflict* applies both to open fighting between hostile groups and to a struggle between antithetical forces. *Kind of victory MacArthur had in mind . . . victory by a kind of conflict to all of China — would have been wrong kind of victory* (Harry S. Truman). *Contest* connotes either to friendly competition or to a hostile struggle to achieve an objective: *a spelling contest; the gubernatorial election.* *Combat* most commonly implies an encounter between two armed persons or groups: *"Alexander had appointed him, armed for combat"* (Connop Thirlwall). *Fight* refers to a clash involving individual adversaries: *A fight scheduled between the world boxing champion and the challenger.* *Affray* suggests a public fight or brawl: *"Yet the poachers came . . . for affrays in woods and on moorland."* *Inveterate carrier of keepers* (Patricia Morrison).

**con·flic·ted** (kōn'fliktid) *adj.* Usage Problem. Made by conflicting impulses.

**Usage Note:** Ninety-two percent of the Usage Panel rejected the use of *conflicted* in *Caught between loyalty to employees and a recognition of the need to cut costs, managers are conflicted about the reorganization plan.* **con·flict of interest** *n., pl.* **con·flicts of interest.** A conflict between the private interests and the public obligations of a person in an official position.

**con·flu·ence** (kōn'flū-əns) *n.* 1. *a.* A flowing together of two or more streams. *b.* The point of juncture of such streams. 2. *c.* The combined stream formed by the juncture of two or more streams. 3. The combined stream formed by the juncture of two or more streams.

**con·flu·ent** (kōn'flū-ənt) *adj.* 1. Flowing together; merging. 2. *Pathol.* Merging or running together of two or more masses, as sores in a rash. — *n.* 1. One of two or more fluent streams. 2. A tributary. [ME < Lat. *confluent-*, pr. part. of *confluere*, to flow together : *com-*, *com-* + *fluere*, to flow; see *BHLEU-*.]

**con·flux** (kōn'flūks') *n.* A confluence. [< Lat. *confluxus*, p. part. of *confluere*, to flow together. See *CONFLUENT*.]

**con·fo·cal** (kōn-fō'kal) *adj.* Having the same focus.

**con·form** (kōn-fōrm') *v.* -formed, -form·ing, -forms. 1. To correspond in form or character; be similar. 2. To be in accord or agreement; comply. 3. To act in accordance with current customs or modes. See *Syns* at *ADAPT*.

**con·form·a·ble** (kōn-fōrm'ə-bəl) *adj.* 1. Flowing together; merging. 2. *Pathol.* Merging or running together of two or more masses, as sores in a rash. — *n.* 1. One of two or more fluent streams. 2. A tributary. [ME < Lat. *confluent-*, pr. part. of *confluere*, to flow together : *com-*, *com-* + *fluere*, to flow; see *BHLEU-*.]

**con·form·a·tion** (kōn-fōrm'ā'shən) *n.* 1. The act of conforming or the state of being conformed. 2. The outline of an item or entity, determined by the arrangement of its parts. 3. A symmetrical arrangement of atoms in a crystal. 4. A spatial arrangement of atoms in a molecule brought about by free rotation of the atoms about a chemical bond. — **con·form·a·tion·al** *adj.* — **con·form·a·tive** *adj.*

**con·form·ist** (kōn-fōr'mist) *n.* A person who habitually conforms to the customs, rules, or standards of a group. — *adj.* Marked by conformity or conformance.

**con·form·i·ty** (kōn-fōr'mi-tē) *n., pl.* -ties. 1. The state of conforming or the state of being conformed. 2. The outline of an item or entity, determined by the arrangement of its parts. 3. A symmetrical arrangement of atoms in a crystal. 4. A spatial arrangement of atoms in a molecule brought about by free rotation of the atoms about a chemical bond. — **con·form·a·tion·al** *adj.* — **con·form·a·tive** *adj.*

**con·form·ance** (kōn-fōr'məns) *n.* Conformity.

**con·for·ma·tion** (kōn-fōr-mā'shən) *n.* 1. The act of conforming or the state of being conformed. 2. The outline of an item or entity, determined by the arrangement of its parts. 3. A symmetrical arrangement of atoms in a crystal. 4. A spatial arrangement of atoms in a molecule brought about by free rotation of the atoms about a chemical bond. — **con·form·a·tion·al** *adj.* — **con·form·a·tive** *adj.*

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**con·found** (kōn-fəund') *v.* -found·ed, -found·ing, -found·s. 1. To cause to become confused or mixed up. 2. To fail to distinguish; mix up. 3. To make (something) worse. 4. To cause to be ashamed; abash. 5. To frustrate. *b.* *Archaic.* To bring to ruination. [ME < AN *confundere* < Lat. *confundere*, to mix together : *com-*, *com-* + *fundere*, to pour; see *GHEU-*.]

**con·found·ed** (kōn-fəund'id) *adj.* 1. Confused. 2. Used as an intensive: *a confoundedly good idea.*

**con·found·ed·ly** *adv.* — **con·found·ed·ness** *n.*

**con·fra·ter·ni·ty** (kōn-fra-tēr'nī-tē) *n., pl.* -ties. A brotherhood of persons united in a common purpose or interest. [ME *confraternite* < OFr. < *Med.Lat.* *confrater*, colleague. See *CONFRE-*.]