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Eleventh Edition

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con-fide \kən-'fid\ *vb* **con-fid-ed**; **con-fid-ing** [ME (Sc), fr. L *confidere*, fr. *com-* + *fidere* : to trust — more at BIDE] *vi* (15c) 1 : to have confidence : TRUST 2 : to show confidence by imparting secrets (< in a friendly ~) *vt* 1 : to tell confidentially 2 : to give to the care or protection of another : ENTRUST *syn* see COMMIT — **con-fid-er** *n* (*com-fid-er*) \kən-fə-'dɛn(t)s, -'dɛn(t)s\ *n* (14c) 1 a : a feeling or consciousness of one's powers or of reliance on one's circumstances (< had ~ in her ability to succeed) (< met the risk with brass ~) b : perfect ~ in a leader 2 : the quality or state of being certain : CERTITUDE (they had every ~ of success) 3 a : a relation of trust or intimacy (took his friend in strictest ~) b : reliance on another's discretion (their story was told in strictest ~) c : support esp. in a legislative body (vote of ~) d : a communication made in confidence : SECRET (accused him of betraying a ~) *syn* CONFIDENCE, ASSURANCE, SELF-POSSESSION, APLOMB mean a state of mind or a manner marked by easy coolness and freedom from uncertainty, diffidence, or embarrassment. CONFIDENCE stresses faith in oneself and one's powers without any suggestion of conceit or arrogance (the confidence that comes from long experience). ASSURANCE carries a stronger implication of certainty and may suggest arrogance or lack of objectivity in assessing one's own powers (handled the trial with complete assurance). SELF-POSSESSION implies an unshakable ease or coolness under stress that reflects perfect self-control and command of one's powers (answered the insolent question with complete self-possession). APLOMB implies a manifest self-possession complete self-possession in trying or challenging situations (< handled the reporters with great aplomb).
confidence *adj* (1849) : of, relating to, or adept at swindling by false promises (< a ~ game) (< a ~ man)
confidence interval *n* (1934) : a group of continuous or discrete adjacent values that is used to estimate a statistical parameter (as a mean or variance) and that tends to include the true value of the parameter a predetermined proportion of the time if the process of finding the group of values is repeated a number of times
confidence limits *n* *pl* (1939) : the end points of a confidence interval
con-fid-ent \kən-fə-'dɛn(t)-dɛnt\ *adj* [L *confident*, *confidens*, fr. *prp* of *confidere*] (ca. 1567) 1 : full of conviction : CERTAIN (< of success) (< that conditions will improve) 2 : having or showing assurance and self-reliance (< a ~ young businessman) (< a ~ manner) 3 *obs* : TRUSTFUL, CONFIDING — **con-fid-ent-ly** *adv*
con-fid-ent-ial \kən-fə-'dɛn(t)-shəl\ *adj* (1759) 1 : marked by intimacy or willingness to confide (< a ~ tone) 2 : PRIVATE, SECRET (< information) 3 : entrusted with confidences (< a ~ clerk) 4 : containing information whose unauthorized disclosure could be prejudicial to the national interest — compare SECRET, TOP SECRET — **con-fid-ent-ial-ity** \-dɛn(t)-shē-'lɔ-lə-tē\ *n* — **con-fid-ent-ial-ly** \-dɛn(t)-shē-'lɔ-lə-tē\ *adv*
con-fid-ing \kən-'fi-dɪŋ\ *adj* (1797) : tending to confide : TRUSTFUL
con-fid-ing-ly \-dɪŋ-'li\ *adv* — **con-fid-ing-ness** *n*
con-fig-ur-a-tion \kən-'fi-gjə-'rɪ-shən, -'gɔ-'rɪ-shən\ *n* [LL *configuratio* : *configuratio* similar formation, fr. L *figurare* to form from or after, fr. *com-* + *figurare* to form, fr. *figura* figure] (1559) 1 a : relative arrangement of parts or elements; as (1) : SHAPE (2) : contour of land (< of the mountains) (3) : functional arrangement (a small business computer system in its simplest ~) b : something (as a figure, contour, pattern, or apparatus) that results from a particular arrangement of parts or components c : the stable structural makeup of a chemical compound esp. with reference to the space relations of the constituent atoms 2 : GESTALT (< personality) — **con-fig-ur-a-tional** \-shənəl, -shə-'nəl\ *adj* — **con-fig-ur-a-tion-al-ly** \-dɪŋ-'rɪ-shənəl\ *adv*
con-fig-ur-a-tive \-fi-gjə-'rɪ-tɪv, -'fi-gɔ-'rɪ-tɪv\ *adj*
con-fig-ure \kən-'fi-gjə-rɪ, -'fi-gɔ-rɪ\ *vt* -ured; -ur-ing (1677) : to set up for operation esp. in a particular way (< a fighter plane configured for the Malaysian air force)
con-fine \kən-'faɪn\ *vb* also *kan-'fɪn* [ME, fr. AF or L; AF *confines*, *pl*, fr. L *confine* border, fr. neut. of *confinis* adjacent, fr. *com-* + *finis* end] (15c) 1 *pl* a : something (as borders or walls) that encloses (outside the ~s of the office or hospital — W. A. Nolen); also : something that restrains (escape from the ~s of soot and clutter — E. S. Muskie) b : SCOPE 3 (< work within the ~s of a small group — Frank Newman) 2 a *archaic* : RESTRICTION b *obs* : PRISON
con-fine \kən-'faɪn\ *vb* **con-fine-d**; **con-fine-ing** *vi* (1523) *archaic* : BORDER ~ *vt* 1 a : to hold within a location b : IMPRISON 2 : to keep within limits (will ~ my remarks to one subject) *syn* see LIMIT — **con-fine-er** *n*
con-fined \kən-'faɪnd\ *adj* (1772) : undergoing childbirth
con-fine-ment \kən-'faɪn-mənt\ *n* (1592) : an act of confining; the state of being confined (solitary ~); esp : LYING-IN
con-firm \kən-'fɜrm\ *vt* [ME, fr. AF *confirmer*, fr. L *confirmare*, fr. *com-* + *firmare* to make firm, fr. *firmus* firm] (13c) 1 : to give approval to : RATIFY (< a treaty) 2 : to make firm or firmer : STRENGTHEN (< one's resolve) 3 : to administer the rite of confirmation to 4 : to give new assurance of the validity of; remove doubt about by authoritative act or indisputable fact (< a rumor) (< an order) — **con-firm-abil-ity** \-fɜr-mə-'bɪ-lə-tē\ *n* — **con-firm-able** \-fɜr-mə-'bəl\ *adj* *syn* CONFIRM, CORROBORATE, SUBSTANTIATE, VERIFY, AUTHENTICATE, VALIDATE mean to attest to the truth or validity of something. CONFIRM implies the removing of doubts by an authoritative statement or indisputable fact (< confirmed the reports). CORROBORATE suggests the strengthening of what is already partly established (< witnesses corroborated his story). SUBSTANTIATE implies the offering of evidence that sustains the contention (< the claims have yet to be substantiated). VERIFY implies the establishing of correspondence of actual facts or details with those proposed or guessed at (< all statements of fact in the article have been verified). AUTHENTICATE implies establishing genuineness by adducing legal or official documents or expert opinion (< handwriting experts authenticated the diaries). VALIDATE implies establishing validity by authoritative affirmation or by factual proof (< validated the hypothesis by experiments).
con-fir-mand \kən-'fɜr-mənd\ *n* [L *confirmandus*, gerundive of *confirmare*] (1884) : a candidate for religious confirmation
con-fir-ma-tion \kən-'fɜr-'mɛ-shən\ *n* (14c) 1 : an act or process of confirming; as a (1) : a Christian rite conferring the gift of the Holy

Spirit and among Protestants full church membership (2) : a ceremony esp. of Reform Judaism confirming youths in their faith b : the ratification of an executive act by a legislative body 2 a : confirming proof : CORROBORATION b : the process of supporting a statement by evidence — **con-fir-ma-tion-al** \-shənəl, -shə-'nəl\ *adj*
con-fir-ma-to-ry \kən-'fɜr-mə-'tɔ-rɪ\ *adj* (1636) : serving to confirm : CORROBORATIVE (< a ~ test)
con-firmed \kən-'fɜrmd\ *adj* (14c) 1 a : marked by long continuance and likely to persist (< a ~ habit) b : fixed in habit and unlikely to change (< a ~ do-gooder) 2 : having received the rite of confirmation *syn* see INVETERATE — **con-firm-ed-ly** \-fɜr-məd-'li\ *adv* — **con-firmed-ness** \-fɜr-məd-'nəs\ *n*
con-fis-ca-ble \kən-'fɪs-kə-'bəl\ *adj* (ca. 1736) : liable to confiscation
con-fis-cat-able \kən-'fɪs-kət-'ə-bəl\ *adj* (1863) : CONFISCABLE
con-fis-cate \kən-'fɪs-kət\ *adj* [L *confiscatus*, pp. of *confiscare* to confiscate, fr. *com-* + *fiscus* treasury] (ca. 1533) 1 : appropriated by the government : FORFEITED 2 : deprived of property by confiscation
con-fis-cate \kən-'fɪs-kət\ *vt* -cat-ed; -cat-ing (1552) 1 : to seize as forfeited to the public treasury 2 : to seize by or as if by authority — **con-fis-ca-tion** \kən-'fɪs-kə-'tʃən\ *n* — **con-fis-ca-tor** \kən-'fɪs-kə-'tɔ-rɪ\ *n* — **con-fis-ca-to-ry** \kən-'fɪs-kə-'tɔ-rɪ\ *adj*
con-fit \kən-'fi, kən-, kən-\ *n* [F, fr. OF, preparation, preserves, fr. pp. of *confire* to prepare — more at COMFIT] (1951) 1 : meat (as goose, duck, or pork) that has been cooked and preserved in its own fat 2 : a garnish made usu. from fruit or vegetables that are cooked until tender in a seasoned liquid
con-fi-te-or \kən-'fi-tē-'ɔr, -'ɔr\ *n* [ME, fr. L, lit., I confess, fr. the opening words — more at CONFESS] (13c) : a liturgical form in which sinfulness is acknowledged and intercession for God's mercy requested
con-fi-ture \kən-'fɪ-tʃər, -'tjʊr, -'tʃʊr\ *n* [F, fr. MF, fr. *confit*] (1802) : preserved or candied fruit : JAM
con-fla-grant \kən-'flɑ-grənt\ *adj* [L *conflagrant*, *conflagrans*, pp. of *conflagrare* to burn, fr. *com-* + *flagrare* to burn — more at BLACK] (ca. 1656) : BURNING, BLAZING
con-fla-gra-tion \kən-'flɑ-grə-'tʃən\ *n* [L *conflagratio*, *conflagratio*, fr. *conflagrare*] (1600) 1 : FIRE; esp : a large disastrous fire 2 : CONFLICT, WAR
con-flate \kən-'flæt\ *vt* **con-flat-ed**; **con-flat-ing** [L *confatus*, pp. of *confare* to blow together, fuse, fr. *com-* + *flare* to blow — more at BLOW] (1610) 1 a : to bring together : FUSE b : CONFUSE 2 : to combine (as two readings of a text) into a composite whole
con-fla-tion \-flæt-shən\ *n* (15c) : BLEND, FUSION; esp : a composite reading or text
con-flict \kən-'flikt\ *n* [ME, fr. L *conflictus* act of striking together, fr. *conflicere* to strike together, fr. *com-* + *fligere* to strike — more at PROFLIGATE] (15c) 1 : FIGHT, BATTLE, WAR (an armed ~) 2 a : competitive or opposing action of incompatibles : antagonistic state or action (as of divergent ideas, interests, or persons) b : mental struggle resulting from incompatible or opposing needs, drives, wishes, or external or internal demands 3 : the opposition of persons or forces that gives rise to the dramatic action in a drama or fiction *syn* see DISCORD — **con-flict-ful** \kən-'flikt-fəl\ *adj* — **con-flict-tu-al** \kən-'flikt-tʃə-wəl, kən-, -tʃəl, -shwəl, -chū-'əl\ *adj*
con-flict \kən-'flikt, kən-, -'fi\ *vi* (15c) 1 *archaic* : to contend in warfare 2 : to show antagonism or irreconcilability : fail to be in agreement or accord (< his statement ~s with the facts) — **con-flict-ion** \kən-'flikt-shən, kən-\ *n* — **con-flict-ive** \kən-'flikt-ɪv, 'flikt-ɪv\ *adj*
con-flict-ed \kən-'flikt-əd\ *adj* (1914) : experiencing or marked by ambivalence or a conflict esp. of emotions (this unhappy and ~ modern woman — John Updike) (< feelings)
con-flict-ing *adj* (1592) : being in conflict, collision, or opposition : INCOMPATIBLE (< theories) — **con-flict-ing-ly** \-flikt-ɪŋ-'li\ *adv*
con-flict of interest (1843) : a conflict between the private interests and the official responsibilities of a person in a position of trust
con-flu-ence \kən-'flu-əns(t)s, kən-\ *n* (15c) 1 : a coming or flowing together, meeting, or gathering at one point (< a happy ~ of weather and scenery) 2 a : the flowing together of two or more streams b : the place of meeting of two streams c : the combined stream formed by conjunction
con-flu-ent \-nənt\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *confluent*, *confluens*, pp. of *confluere* to flow together, fr. *com-* + *fluere* to flow — more at FLUID] (15c) 1 : flowing or coming together; also : run together (< pustules) 2 : characterized by confluent lesions (< smallpox)
con-fluent *n* (1849) : a confluent stream; broadly : TRIBUTARY
con-flux \kən-'flʊks\ *n* [ML *confluxus*, fr. L *confluere*] (1606) : CONFLUENCE
con-fo-cal \kən-'fɔ-kəl\ *adj* (1867) : having the same foci (< ellipses) (< lenses) — **con-fo-cal-ly** \-kəl-'li\ *adv*
con-form \kən-'fɔrm\ *vb* [ME, fr. AF *conformer*, fr. L *conformare*, fr. *com-* + *formare* to form, fr. *forma* form] *vi* (14c) : to give the same shape, outline, or contour to : bring into harmony or accord (< furrows to the slope of the land) ~ *vi* 1 : to be similar or identical; also : to be in agreement or harmony — used with *to* or *with* (< changes that ~ with our plans) 2 a : to be obedient or compliant — usu. used with *to* (< to another's wishes) b : to act in accordance with prevailing standards or customs (< the pressure to ~) *syn* see ADAPT — **con-form-er** *n* — **con-form-ism** \-fɔr-'mi-zəm\ *n* — **con-form-ist** \-mɪst\ *n* or *adj*
con-form-able \kən-'fɔr-mə-'bəl\ *adj* (15c) 1 : corresponding or consistent in form or character (conduct ~ to their principles) 2 : SUBMISSIVE, COMPLIANT (< be patient and ~ to my directions — Sir Walter Scott) 3 : following in unbroken sequence — used of geologic strata formed under uniform conditions — **con-form-ably** \-bəl\ *adv*
con-for-mal \kən-'fɔr-məl, (j)kən-'fɔr-məl\ *adj* [LL *conformalis* having the same shape, fr. L *com-* + *formalis* formal, fr. *forma*] (1893) 1 : leaving the size of the angle between corresponding curves unchanged (<

\ə\ abut \tʃ\ kitten, F table \ər\ further \ə\ ash \ə\ ace \ə\ mop, mar \ə\ out \tʃ\ chin \e\ bet \e\ easy \ə\ go \ə\ hit \i\ ice \j\ job \j\ sing \ɔ\ go \ɔ\ law \ɔ\ boy \ɔ\ boy \tʃ\ thin \tʃ\ the \u\ loot \u\ foot \y\ yet \z\ vision, beige \k, ɪ, ce, ʌ\ see Guide to Pronunciation