

Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary of the English Language



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com-pression (kəm prɛʃən), *n.* 1. the act of compressing. 2. the state of being compressed. 3. the effect, result, or consequence of being compressed. 4. (in internal-combustion engines) the reduction in volume and increase of pressure of the air or combustible mixture in the cylinder prior to ignition, produced by the motion of the piston toward the cylinder head after intake. Also, **com-pression** (kəm prɛʃən) (for defs. 1, 2). [*< L compressio* (s. of *compressio*), equiv. to *com-* (prefix) + *press* (v. from *press*) (see *compress*)] + *-ion* (*-i-ōn*) — **com-press-ion-al**, *adj.*

com-pression ignition, ignition of engine fuel by the heat of air compressed in the cylinders into which the fuel is introduced. — **com-press-ion-ig-ni-tion**, *adj.*

com-pression ratio, *n.* Auto, the ratio of the cylinder volume enclosed by the piston at its outermost position to the volume enclosed by it at its innermost position.

com-pression wave, a shock wave that compresses the medium through which it is transmitted. Cf. *expansion wave*.

com-pressive (kəm prɛsɪv), *adj.* compressing; tending to compress. [*COMPREHENSIVE* + *-IVE*] — **com-press-ive-ly**, *adv.*

com-pressor (kəm prɛsər), *n.* 1. one who or that which compresses. 2. *Anat.* a muscle that compresses some part of the body. 3. *Surg.* an instrument for compressing a part of the body. 4. a pump or other machine for reducing the volume and increasing the pressure of gases in order to condense the gases, drive pneumatically powered machinery, etc. 5. *Electronics.* a transducer that produces an output with a range of voltages whose ratio is smaller than that of the range of the input signal. Cf. *expander* (def. 2). [*< L compressus* (see *compress*) + *-or*]

com-prise (kəm praɪz), *v.t.* — **prised**, **-prising**. 1. to include or contain: *The Soviet Union comprises several Socialist Republics.* 2. *Informal.* to consist of; be composed of: *The advisory board comprises six members.* 3. *Informal.* to form or constitute: *His speeches comprise the day's activities.* [*late ME < MF compris* (ptp. of *comprendre*) *< L comprehensus* (see *comprehension*) — **com-pris-a-ble**, *adj.* — **com-pris-al**, *n.* — **Syn.** 1. See *include*.

Usage. *Comprise* in the sense of *compose* or *constitute* is regarded as poor usage: *Water is comprised (not comprises) of hydrogen and oxygen. The following selections constituted (not comprised) the program.*

com-prize (kəm praɪz), *v.t.* — **prized**, **-prizing**. *com-prize* — **com-priz-a-ble**, *adj.* — **com-priz-al**, *n.*

com-pro-mis (kəm prə mɪs), *n., pl. -mises* (-mɪz). *Internal Law.* a formal document, executed in common by nations submitting a dispute to arbitration, that defines the matter at issue, the rules of procedure and the powers of the arbitral tribunal, and the principles to be followed in determining the award. [*< F. lit. compromise*]

com-pro-mise (kəm prə mɪz), *n., v., -mised*, **-mis-ing**. — *n.* 1. a settlement of differences by mutual concessions; an agreement reached by adjustment of conflicting or opposing claims, principles, etc., by reciprocal modification of demands. 2. the result of such a settlement. 3. something intermediate between different things: *The split-level is a compromise between a ranch house and a three-story house.* 4. an endangering, esp. of reputation; exposure to danger, suspicion, etc.: *a compromise of one's integrity.* — *v.* 5. to settle by a compromise. 6. to make liable to danger, suspicion, scandal, etc.; endanger the reputation of. 7. to involve or affect unfavorably: *Being involved with him compromised my reputation.* 8. *Obs.* a. to bind by bargain or agreement. b. to bring to terms. — *v.i.* 9. to make a compromise: *The conflicting parties agreed to compromise.* 10. to make a dishonorable or shameful concession: *He is too honorable to compromise with his principles.* [*late ME < MF compromis* *< L compromissus* (supra). See *com-*, *promis-*] — **com-pro-mis-er**, *n.* — **com-pro-mis-ing-ly**, *adv.* — **com-pro-mis-a-ry** (kəm prəm ɪ sər ɪ), *adj.*

com-promise joint, *n.* Railroads, a joint for linking together rails having different sections.

com-promise rail, *n.* Railroads, a rail for linking rails having different sections.

Comp-sog-na-thus (kəmp sɒg nə θəs), *n.* a genus of bipedal carnivorous dinosaurs of the late Jurassic period, having a slender body that reached a length of 30 inches. [*< NL < Gk kompsō(s) elegant + gnathos* (see *gnathous*)]

compt (kaʊnt), *v.t., v.i., n.* *Archaic.* count¹.

compte ren-du (kɒnt ʁən dʁ), *pl. comptes rendus* (kɒnt ʁən dʁ). *French.* a report, account, or record, as of a transaction, the proceedings of a meeting, etc. [*lit., account rendered*]

Com-puter (kəm pju:tər), *n.* *Trademark.* an office machine for arithmetical calculation.

Com-pton (kəm pʊn), *n.* 1. Arthur Holley (hol/ɪ), 1892-1962, U.S. physicist; Nobel prize 1927. 2. his brother, Earl Taylor (kɪr/ɪ), 1887-1954, U.S. physicist. 3. Spencer, Earl of Wilmington, 1673?-1743, British statesman; prime minister 1742-43. 4. a city in SW California. 71,812 (1960).

Com-pton effect, *n.* *Physics.* the increase in wavelength of monochromatic, electromagnetic radiation, as a beam of photons or x-rays, when it is scattered by particles whose size is small compared to the wavelength of the radiation. Also called **Com-pton-De-byer effect** (kəm pʊn dɛ bɪj). [named after Arthur H. Compton]

com-puter-er (kəm pju:tər), *n.* controller (def. 1). [*by confusion with compt*] — **com-puter-er-ship**, *n.*

Comptrol'er Gen'eral, *pl. Comptrollers Gen'eral*. U.S. an official in the federal government whose chief function is to settle claims against the U.S. government and to supervise the expenditures of all public agencies.

Comptrol'er of the Cur'ency, U.S. an official of the Department of the Treasury who regulates the national banks and administers the issuance and redemption of Federal Reserve notes.

com-pul-sion (kəm pʊlʃən), *n.* 1. the act of compelling; constraint; coercion. 2. the state or condition of being compelled. 3. *Psychol.* a strong, usually irresistible impulse to perform an act that is contrary to the will of the subject. [*late ME < LL compulsio* (s. of *compulsio*), equiv. to *L compulsi* (us), ptp. of *compellere* to coax (see *com-* + *pul-* (v. s. + *-us* ptp. suffix) + *-iōn* (*-i-ōn*)]

com-pul-sive (kəm pʊlʃɪv), *adj.* 1. compelling; compulsory. 2. *Psychol.* a. pertaining to, characterized by

or involving the compulsion: *a compulsive desire to cry*. b. governed by an obsessive need to conform, be scrupulous, etc.: *the compulsive personality*. — *n.* 3. *Psychol.* a person whose behavior is governed by a compulsion. [*obs. compulse* (*< L compulsus*), ptp. of *compellere*; see *compulsion* + *-IVE*] — **com-pul-sive-ly**, *adv.* — **com-pul-sive-ness**, *n.*

com-pul-so-ry (kəm pʊl'sə rɪ), *adj.* 1. using compulsion; compelling; constraining: *compulsory measures to control rioting.* 2. requiring without exception; mandatory; obligatory: *compulsory examinations; compulsory education.* [*< ML compulsorius* (us), equiv. to *L compulsi* (us) (see *compulsion*) + *-orius* (*-or-ius*)] — **com-pul-so-ri-ly**, *adv.* — **com-pul-so-ri-ness**, *n.* — **Ant.** 1, 2. voluntary.

com-punc-tion (kəm pʊŋkʃən), *n.* 1. a feeling of uneasiness or anxiety of the conscience caused by regret for doing wrong or causing pain; contrition; remorse. 2. any uneasiness or hesitation about the rightness of an action. [*< eeccl. L compunctio* (s. of *compunctio*), equiv. to *L compunctus* (us), ptp. of *compungere* to prick severely (*com-* + *punctus*; see *point*) + *-iōn* (*-i-ōn*; r. late ME *compunctioun* *< AF*)] — **com-punc-tion-less**, *adj.*

com-punc-tious (kəm pʊŋkʃəs), *adj.* causing or feeling compunctions. [*COMPUCTION* + *-IOUS*] — **com-punc-tious-ly**, *adv.*

com-pur-ga-tion (kəm pɔr gə'shən), *n.* an early common-law method of trial in which the defendant is acquitted on the sworn endorsement of a specified number of friends or neighbors. [*< LL compurgatio* (s. of *compurgatio*), equiv. to *L compurgatus* (us) (ptp. of *compurgare*; see *put*) + *-iōn* (*-i-ōn*)] — **com-pur-ga-to-ri-al**, *adj.*

com-pur-ga-tor (kəm pɔr gə'tɔr), *n.* a person who vouches for the innocence and truthful testimony of another. [*< ML*, equiv. to *compurgatus* (us) (see *compurgation*) + *-or* (*-or-ē*)]

com-pu-ta-tion (kəm pju:tə'shən), *n.* 1. an act, process, or method of computing; calculation. 2. a result of computing. 3. the amount computed. [*late ME < L computatio* (s. of *computatio*), equiv. to *computatus* (us) (ptp. of *computare*); see *compute*] + *-iōn* (*-i-ōn*) — **com-pu-ta-tion-al**, *adj.* — **com-pu-ta-tive**, *adj.* — **com-pu-ta-tive-ly**, *adv.*

com-pute (kəm pyʊt), *v., -put-ed*, **-put-ing**, *n.* — *v.t.* 1. to determine by calculation; reckon; calculate: *to compute the period of Jupiter's revolution.* — *v.i.* 2. to reckon; calculate. 3. *Computing.* *outer space that is vast beyond compute.* [*< L computāre*], equiv. to *com-* + *putare* to think; see *PUTATIVE*] — **com-put-a-bil-i-ty**, *n.* — **com-put-a-ble**, *adj.* — **com-put-a-ly**, *adv.* — **com-put-ist** (kəm pyʊt ɪst, kəm pju:t), *n.* — **Syn.** 1. estimate, count, figure.

com-puter (kəm pyʊtər), *n.* 1. one who or that which computes. 2. an electronic apparatus that can receive, process, store, and retrieve data, can carry out mathematical and logical operations at high speed and display the results, and can be programmed. Cf. *analog computer*, *digital computer*. [*COMPUTE* + *-ER*]

com-puter-ese (kəm pyʊt ɪz ɪz, ɪz), *n.* the specialized vocabulary and jargon used by people who work with computers. [*COMPUTER* + *-ESE*]

com-puter-ize (kəm pyʊt ɪz ɪz), *v., -ized*, **-iz-ing**. to control, perform, process, or store system, operation, or information by means of or in an electronic computer or computers; automate by a computer or computers. [*COMPUTER* + *-IZE*] — **com-puter-iza-tion**, *n.*

com-puter-ized (kəm pyʊt ɪz ɪz), *adj.* utilizing or concerned with electronic computers or their use: *a computerized office.*

com-puter lan-guage, an artificially devised system of symbols, words, etc., as ALGOL, BASIC, or COBOL, used for programming a computer.

Comr., Commissioner.

com-rade (kəm'rad or, esp. Brit., -rid, kum'rid), *n.* 1. a person who shares closely in one's activities, occupation, interests, etc.; intimate companion, associate, or friend. 2. a fellow member of a fraternal group, political party, etc. 3. a member of the Communist party or someone with strongly leftist views. [*< MF camarade* *< Sp camarada* group of soldiers billeted together, equiv. to *cámar* (a room) (*< L*; see *CAMERA*) + *-ada* *< L -āta*, fem. of *-ātus* *-ATE*)] — **com-rade-ship**, *n.* — **Syn.** 1. comrade, fellow, mate.

com-rade in arms, a fellow soldier.

com-rade-ry (kəm'rad ɪ rɪ or, esp. Brit., -rid-, kum'rid-), *n.* camaraderie.

Com-stock (kəm'stɒk, kəm-), *n.* Anthony, 1844-1915, U.S. author and reformer.

com-stock-ery (kəm'stɒk ɪ rɪ, kəm-), *n.* overzealous moral censorship of the fine arts and literature, often mistaking outspokenly honest works for salacious ones. [after Anthony Comstock; see *ERY*]

Com/stock Lode, the most valuable deposit of silver ore ever recorded, discovered in 1859 by Henry T. P. Comstock near Virginia City, Nevada. Also called **Com/stock Silver Lode**.

com-te (kɒnt), *n., pl. comtes* (kɒnt). *French.* count².

Comte (kɒnt; Fr. kɒnt), *n.* (1-ai-dor) Auguste (Ma-ri-Ér-est) (ɛ zɛ dɔr ɛ v m a k ɛ z ɛ f ɛ s s w a r), 1798-1857, French founder of the philosophical system of positivism. — **Com-tian** (kɒm'ti-ən, kɒn-), *adj.* — **Com-tism** (kɒm'tɪz-əm, kɒn-), *n.* — **Com-tist**, *n., adj.*

Com-te de Mon-te-Cri-sto, Le (Fr. la kɒst də mɔn tɛ knɛstɔ'), *See* Count of Monte Cristo.

com-tesse (kɒnt ɛs), *n., pl. -tesases* (-tes'). *French.* countess.

Com-us (kɒmʊs), *n.* an ancient Roman god of drinking and revelry; represented as a winged young man dressed in white. [*< Gr. kōmos* revel]

Co-mus (kɒmʊs), *n.* a masque (1634) by John Milton.

Com. Ver., Common Version of the Bible.

com (kɒm), *adv.* 1. against a proposition, opinion, etc.: *I've considered the arguments pro and con.* — *n.* 2. the argument, position, arguer, or voter against something. Cf. *pro*¹. [*short for L contra* in opposition, against]

com² (kɒn), *v.t., conned*, **con-ning**. 1. to learn; study; peruse or examine carefully. 2. commit to memory. [*var. of CAN* in sense become acquainted with, learn to know]

com³ (kɒn), *v., conned, **con-ning**, *n.* *Naut.* — *v.t.* 1. to detect the steering of a ship. — *v.i.* 2. the steered by the person who conns. 3. the act of conning. Also, **conn**.*

[earlier *cond*, apocopated var. of ME *condie*, *condue* *< MF cond* (us) *ire* *< L condicere* to conduct]

con¹ (kɒn), *adv., v., conned*, **con-ning**. U.S. *Slang.* — *adv.* 1. *con* in a game; a con man. — *v.t.* 2. to wind a trick: *That crook conned me out of all my savings.* 3. to persuade by deception, cajolery, etc. [*CON-FIDENCE*]]

con² (kɒn), *v.t., conned*, **con-ning**. *Brit. Dial.* 1. to strike, hit, or rap (something or someone). 2. to hammer (a nail or peg). 3. to beat or thrash a person with the hands or a weapon. [*askin to F cogné* hatchet, cogné to knock, *in*, drive (a nail) home]

con³ (kɒn), *n.* *Slang.* a convict.

con⁴, *var. of con-* before a consonant (except *b, h, l, p, r, w*) and, by assimilation, before *n*: *concent*; *condone*; *connection*. [*< L*]

Con., 1. Conformist. 2. Consul.

con., 1. concerto. 2. conclusion. 3. connection. 4. consolidated. 5. consul. 6. continued. 7. against. [*< L contra*]

Co-na-kry (Fr. kɔ nɑ knɛ'), *n.* a seaport in and the capital of Guinea, in NW Africa. 112,491 with suburbs (1960). Also, **Konakri**.

con-a-mo-re (It. kɔn ɛ mɔ're for 1; kɔn ɛ mɔ'rɛ, -mɔ'rɛ, -mɔ'rɛ, kɔn for 2), *n.* (*italics*) Italian, with love, tender enthusiasm, or zeal. 2. tenderly and lovingly (used as a musical direction).

Co-nant (kɒn'nant), *n.* James Bryant, born 1893, U.S. chemist and educator; president of Harvard University 1933-53.

con-na-tion (kɒn nɛ'shən), *n.* *Psychol.* the part of mental life having to do with striving, including desire and volition. [*< L conātio* (s. of *conātio*) an effort, equiv. to *conātus* (us) (ptp. of *conāri* to try) + *-iōn* (*-i-ōn*)]

con-na-tive (kɒn'ɛ tɪv, kɒ'nə-), *adj.* 1. *Psychol.* pertaining to or of the nature of conation. 2. *Gram.* expressing endeavor or effort: *a conative verb.* — *n.* 3. *Gram.* a conative word, affix, or verbal aspect. [*CONATION* + *-IVE*]

CO-na-tus (kɒn nɛ'tʊs), *n., pl. -tus*. 1. an effort or striving. 2. a force or tendency simulating a human effort. 3. (in the philosophy of Spinoza) the force in every animate creature toward the preservation of its existence. [*< L*; exertion, *n.* use of *conātus*, ptp. of *conāri* to attempt; see *CONATION*]

con bri-o (kɒn brɪ'ɔ, kɒn; It. kɔn brɛ'ɔ), with vigor; as a musical direction. [*< L*]

con-c, 1. concentrate. 2. concentrated. 3. concentration. 4. concerning.

con-cate-nate (kɒn kət'neɪt), *v., -nat-ed*, **-nating**, *adj.* — *v.t.* 1. to link together; unite in a series or chain. — *adj.* 2. linked together, as in a chain. [*< LL concatenāre* (us) (ptp. of *concatenāre*), equiv. to *con-* + *catēnā* (a chain) + *-āre* *-ATE*)] — **con-cate-na-tor**, *n.*

con-cate-na-tion (kɒn kət'neɪ'shən), *n.* 1. the act of concatenating; the state of being concatenated; connection, as in a chain. 3. a series of interconnected or interdependent things or events. [*< LL concatenātiō* (s. of *concatenātiō*), equiv. to *concatenātus* (us) (ptp. of *concatenāre*) + *-iōn* (*-i-ōn*)]

con-cave (kɒn kæv), *adj., n.* — *v., -caved*, **-cav-ing**, *adj.* 1. curved like a segment of the interior of a circle or hollow sphere; hollow and curved. Cf. *convex* (def. 1). 2. *Geom.* (of polygons) having the least or no interior angle greater than 180°. 3. *Obs.* hollow. — *n.* 4. a concave surface, part, line, etc. 5. *Mach.* a concave piece, as one against which a drum rotates. — *v.i.* 6. to make concave. [*< L concavus* (us). See *CON-*, *CAVE*]] — **con-cave-ly**, *adv.* — **con-cave-ness**, *n.*

con-cav-ity (kɒn kav'ɪ tɪ), *n., pl. -ties*. 1. the state or quality of being concave. 2. a concave surface or thing; a hollow; cavity. [*late ME concavitate* *< LL concavitāt* (s. of *concavitās*). See *CON-*, *CAVE*]] — *ITY*]

con-ca-vo-con-cave (kɒn kɔv'ɔ kɒn kɔv), *adj.* concave on both sides. [*< L concavus* (us) + *-o* + *CONCAVE*]

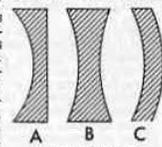
con-ca-vo-con-vox (kɒn kɔv'ɔ kɒn vek'ɔ), *adj.* 1. concave on one side and convex on the other. 2. *Optics.* of a lens in which the concave face has a greater degree of curvature than the convex face. [*< L concavus* (us) + *-o* + *CONVEX*]

con-ceal (kɒn si:l), *v.t., i.* 1. to hide; withdraw or remove from observation; cover or keep from sight: *He concealed the gun under his coat.* 2. to keep secret; to prevent or avoid disclosing or divulging: *He concealed the true source of the funds.* [*late ME concealer*, *concealer* *< AF conceiler* *< L concēdere*, equiv. to *con-* + *cēdere* to hide; see *OCUL*] — **con-ceal-a-ble**, *adj.* — **con-ceal-ed-ly**, *adv.* — **con-ceal-er**, *n.* — **con-ceal-er-ness**, *n.* — **con-ceal'er**, *n.* — **Syn.** 1. See *hide*.

con-ceal-ment (kɒn si:l'mənt), *n.* 1. the act of concealing. 2. the state of being concealed. 3. a means or place of hiding. [*ME concealment* *< AF*. See *CONCEAL*, *MENT*]

con-cede (kɒn si:d), *v., -ced-ed*, **-ced-ing**. — *v.t.* 1. to acknowledge as true, just, or proper; admit: *He finally conceded that she was right.* *The Mets finally conceded defeat.* 2. to acknowledge (an opponent's victory, score, etc.) before it is officially established: *to concede an election to the opposition*. 3. to yield or give up. 4. to grant as a right or privilege; yield: *to concede a longer vacation for all employees.* — *v.i.* 5. to make concession; yield; admit: *She was so persistent that I conceded at last.* [*< L concedere* (re), equiv. to *con-* + *cēdere* to withdraw, yield, cede] — **con-ced-ed-ly**, *adv.* — **con-ced'er**, *n.* — **con-ces-sa-ble**, *adj.* — **Syn.** 1. deny. 3. refuse.

con-cept (kɒn sɛp), *n.* 1. an exaggerated estimate of one's own ability, importance, wit, etc. 2. something that is conceived in the mind; a thought; idea: *He jotted down the conceits of his idle hours.* 3. imagination; fancy. 4. a fancy; whim; fanciful notion. 5. an elaborate, fanciful metaphor, esp. of a strained or far-fetched nature. 6. the use of such metaphors as a literary characteristic, esp. in poetry. 7. a fancy, purely decorative article. 8. *Archaic.* a favorable opinion; esteem. b. personal opinion or estimation. 9. *Obs.* the faculty of conceiving; apprehension. 10. out of conceit with, displeased or dissatisfied with. — *v.t.* 11. to flatter or praise. 12. *Archaic.* to take a fancy to; have a good opinion of. 13. *Obs.* a. to imagine. b. to conceive;



A. Concave or plano-concave lens; B. Convexo-concave lens; C. Convexo-convex lens

CONCISE PRONUNCIATION KEY: *ud*, *able*, *dare*, *art*; *ebb*, *equal*; *if*, *ice*; *hot*, *over*, *order*, *oil*, *book*, *oose*; *out*; *up*, *urge*; *chief*; *sing*; *shop*; *thin*; *that*; *th* as in *measure*. a = as in *alone*. e as in *system*. i as in *easily*. o as in *gallop*. u as in *circus*. y as in *button* (but'jən), *fire* (fɪr), *cradle* (krɛd'əl). See the full key inside the front cover.