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# Merriam-Webster's Collegiate<sup>®</sup> Dictionary

TENTH EDITION

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Merriam-Webster, Incorporated  
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state of being so compared <the enforced simplicity in this diary... is in ~ to the intensity of his former life — *Times Lit. Supp.*> 3 : a person or thing that exhibits differences when compared with another

**con-tras-tive** \kən-'tras-tiv, 'kän-' / *adj* (1841) : forming or consisting of a contrast — **con-tras-tive-ly** *adv*

**con-tras-ty** \kən-'tras-tē / *adj* (1891) : having or producing in photography great contrast between highlights and shadows

**con-tra-vene** \kən-'tra-'vèn / *vt* -**vened**; -**ven-ing** [MF or LL; MF *contravenire*, fr. LL *contravenire*, fr. L *contra-* + *venire* to come — more at COME] (1567) 1 : to go or act contrary to : VIOLATE (< a law) 2 : to oppose in argument : CONTRADICT (< a proposition) *syn* see DENY — **con-tra-ven-er** *n*

**con-tra-ven-tion** \kən-'tra-'vèn(t)-shən / *n* [MF, fr. LL *contravenire*] (1579) : the act of contravening : VIOLATION

**con-tre-danse** \kən-'tra-'dan(t)s, kō-'tra-'dā'n(s) / *n* [F *contredanse*, by folk etymology fr. E *country-dance*] (1803) 1 : a folk dance in which couples face each other in two lines or in a square 2 : a piece of music for a contredanse

**con-tre-temps** \kən-'tra-'tāp, kō-'tra-'tāp / *n, pl* **con-tre-temps** \-(t)āp(z) / [F, fr. *contre-* counter- + *temps* time, fr. L *tempus*] (1769) : an inopportune or embarrassing occurrence or situation

**con-trib-ute** \kən-'tri-byut, -(j)byüt / *also & esp* before -*ed* or -*ing* -'tri-büt; chiefly Brit *also* 'kän-'tri-'byüt / *vb* -**ut-ed**; -**ut-ing** [L *contributus*, pp. of *contribuere*, fr. *com-* + *tribuere* to grant — more at TRIBUTE] *vt* (1530) 1 : to give or supply in common with others 2 : to supply (as an article) for a publication ~ *vi* 1 **a** : to give a part to a common fund or store 2 : to play a significant part in bringing about an end or result 2 : to submit articles to a publication — **con-trib-u-tor** \-bya-tar, -bä-, -byü- / *n*

**con-trib-u-tion** \kən-'tri-byü-shən / *n* (14c) 1 : a payment (as a levy or tax) imposed by military, civil, or ecclesiastical authorities *usu* for a special or extraordinary purpose 2 : the act of contributing; *also* : the thing contributed — **con-trib-u-tive** \kən-'tri-byä-tiv / *adj* — **con-trib-u-tive-ly** *adv*

**con-trib-u-to-ry** \kən-'tri-byä-'tör-ē, -tör- / *adj* (15c) 1 **a** : subject to a levy of supplies, money, or men 2 : contributing to a common fund or enterprise 2 : of, relating to, or forming a contribution

**con-trite** \kən-'trīt, kən-' / *adj* [ME *contrit*, fr. MF, fr. ML *contrit*, fr. L, pp. of *conterere* to grind, bruise, fr. *com-* + *terere* to rub — more at THROW] (14c) 1 : grieving and penitent for sin or shortcoming 2 : proceeding from contrition (< sighs) — **con-trite-ly** *adv* — **con-trite-ness** *n*

**con-tri-tion** \kən-'tri-shən / *n* (14c) : the state of being contrite : REPENTANCE *syn* see PENITENCE

**con-triv-ance** \kən-'tri-vən(t)s / *n* (ca. 1628) 1 **a** : a thing contrived; *esp* : a mechanical device 2 : an artificial arrangement or development 2 : the act or faculty of contriving; the state of being contrived

**con-trive** \kən-'triv / *vb* **con-trived**; **con-triv-ing** [ME *controven*, *contreven*, fr. MF *controver*, fr. ML *controperare* to compare, fr. L *com-* + (assumed) VL *tropare* to compose, find — more at TROUBADOR] *vt* (14c) 1 **a** : DEVISE, PLAN (< ways of handling the situation) 2 : to form or create in an artistic or ingenious manner (< contrived household utensils from stone) 2 : to bring about by stratagem or with difficulty : MAN-AGE ~ *vi* : to make schemes — **con-triv-er** *n*

**contrived** *adj* (15c) : ARTIFICIAL, LABORED

**con-trol** \kən-'tröl / *vt* **con-trolled**; **con-trol-ling** [ME *controllen*, fr. MF *contreroller*, fr. *contrerolle* copy of an account, audit, fr. ML *contrarotulus*, fr. L *contra-* + ML *rotulus* roll — more at ROLL] (15c) 1 **a** : to check, test, or verify by evidence or experiments 2 : to incorporate suitable controls in (a controlled experiment) 2 **a** : to exercise restraining or directing influence over : REGULATE 2 : to have power over : RULE 2 : to reduce the incidence or severity of *esp.* to innocuous levels (< an insect population) (< a disease) *syn* see CONDUCT — **con-trol-la-bil-i-ty** \-trō-lä-'bil-ä-tē / *n* — **con-trol-la-ble** \-trō-lä-'bəl / *adj* — **con-trol-ment** \-'tröl-mənt / *n*

**control** *n, often attrib* (1590) 1 **a** : an act or instance of controlling; *also* : power or authority to guide or manage 2 : skill in the use of a tool, instrument, technique, or artistic medium 2 : the regulation of economic activity *esp.* by government directive — *usu.* used in pl. <price ~s> 2 : RESTRAINT, RESERVE 3 : one that controls as (1) : an experiment in which the subjects are treated as in a parallel experiment except for omission of the procedure or agent under test and which is used as a standard of comparison in judging experimental effects — called also *control experiment* (2) : one (as an organism, culture, or group) that is part of a control 2 : a device or mechanism used to regulate or guide the operation of a machine, apparatus, or system 2 : an organization that directs a spaceflight (<mission ~) 2 : a personality or spirit believed to actuate the utterances or performances of a spiritualist medium *syn* see POWER

**con-trolled** \kən-'tröld / *adj* (1586) 1 : RESTRAINED 2 : regulated by law with regard to possession and use (< drugs)

**con-trol-ler** \kən-'tröl-lər, 'kän-' / *n* [ME *contreroller*, fr. MF *contrerolleur*, fr. *contrerolle*] (15c) 1 **a** : COMPTROLLER 1 2 : COMPTROLLER 2 2 : the chief accounting officer of a business enterprise or an institution (as a college) 2 **a** : one that controls or has power or authority to control (<air traffic ~) 2 : CONTROL 3b — **con-trol-ler-ship** \-ship / *n*

**controlling interest** *n* (ca. 1924) : sufficient stock ownership in a corporation to exert control over policy

**control surface** *n* (1917) : a movable airfoil designed to change the attitude of an aircraft

**con-tro-ver-sial** \kən-'trō-vər-shəl, -vər-sē-əl / *adj* (1583) 1 : of, relating to, or arousing controversy 2 : given to controversy : DISPUTA-TIOUS — **con-tro-ver-sial-ism** \-shə-'li-zəm, -sē-ə- / *n* — **con-tro-ver-sial-ist** \-list / *n* — **con-tro-ver-sial-ly** *adv*

**con-tro-ver-sy** \kən-'trō-vər-sē, Brit *also* kən-'trā-vər-sē / *n, pl* -*sies* [ME *controverſia*, fr. *controverſus* disputable, lit., turned against, fr. *contro-* (akin to *contra-*) + *versus*, pp. of *vertere* to turn — more at WORTH] (14c) 1 : a discussion marked *esp.* by the expression of opposing views : DISPUTE 2 : QUARREL, STRIFE

**con-tu-ma-cious** \kən-'tü-'mä-shəs, -tyü-, -cha-' / *adj* (ca. 1660) : bornly disobedient : REBELLIOUS — **con-tu-ma-cious-ly** *adv*

**con-tu-ma-cy** \kən-'tü-'mä-sē, -tyü-, 'kän-tü-, -tyü- / *n* [ME *contumacia*, fr. L *contumacia*, fr. *contumacia*, *contumax* rebellious] : stubborn resistance to authority; *specif* : willful contempt of authority

**con-tu-me-li-ous** \kən-'tü-'mē-lē-əs, -tyü-, -cha-' / *adj* (15c) : abusive and humiliating — **con-tu-me-li-ous-ly** *adv*

**con-tu-mely** \kən-'tü-'mē-lē, kən-, -tyü-, 'kän-tü-'mē-lē, -tyü-, -cha-' / *adj* ("Hamlet" kən-'(j)tyüm-lē or 'kän-chəm- / *n, pl* -*lies* [ME *contumelia*, MF, fr. L *contumelia*] (14c) : harsh language or treatment arising from haughtiness and contempt; *also* : an instance of such language or treatment

**con-tu-sion** \kən-'tü-zhən, -tyü- / *n* [ME *conteschown*, fr. MF *contusion*, fr. L *contusio*, fr. *contundere* to pound, bruise, fr. *com-* + *tundere* to beat; akin to Goth *stautan* to strike, Skt *tudati* he pounds] (15c) : injury to tissue *usu.* without laceration : BRUISE 1a — **con-tu-sion-ally** *adv*

**con-nun-drum** \kə-'nən-drəm / *n* [origin unknown] (1645) 1 : a question whose answer is or involves a pun 2 **a** : a question or problem that has only a conjectural answer 2 : an intricate and difficult problem

**con-ur-ba-tion** \kə-'(j)nər-'bā-shən / *n* [*com-* + L *urb-*, *urbis* city] (18c) : an aggregation or continuous network of urban communities

**con-us ar-te-ri-o-sus** \kō-'nəs-är-'tir-ē-'ō-səs / *n, pl* **con-us ar-te-ri-o-sus** \-ni-'är-'tir-ē-'ō-si / [NL, lit., arterial cone] (ca. 1860) 1 : a conical prolongation of the right ventricle in mammals from which the pulmonary arteries emerge 2 : called also *conus* 2 : a prolongation of the ventricle of amphibians and some fishes that has a spiral valve separating venous blood going to the respiratory arteries from blood going to the venous and systemic arteries

**con-va-le-sce** \kən-'və-'les / *vi* -**les-ced**; -**les-cing** [L *convalescere*, fr. *com-* + *valescere* to grow strong, fr. *valere* to be strong, fr. *com-* + *valere*] (15c) : to recover health and strength gradually after illness or weakness — **con-va-les-cence** \-'le-sən(t)s / *n* — **con-va-les-cence-ly** *adv* or *n*

**con-vec-t** \kən-'vekt / *vb* [back-formation fr. *convection*] *vt* (1881) : to transfer heat by convection ~ *vi* : to circulate (as air) by convection

**con-vec-tive** \-'vek-tiv / *adj*

**con-vec-tion** \kən-'vek-shən / *n* [LL *convection-*, *confectio*, fr. L *con-* here to bring together, fr. *com-* + *vehere* to carry — more at WAY] (1623) 1 : the action or process of conveying 2 **a** : the circulatory motion that occurs in a fluid at a nonuniform temperature owing to variation of its density and the action of gravity 2 : the transfer of heat by convection — compare CONDUCTION, RADIATION — **con-vec-tion-al** \-shənəl, -shə-'nəl / *adj*

**con-vec-tion oven** *n* (1973) : an oven having a fan that circulates heat uniformly and continuously around food

**con-vec-tor** \-'vek-tər / *n* (1907) : a heating unit in which air heated by contact with a heating device (as a radiator or a tube with fins) in a room circulates by convection

**con-vene** \kən-'vèn / *vb* **con-vened**; **con-ven-ing** [ME, fr. MF *convenire* to come together, fr. L *convenire*] *vi* (15c) : to come together in a group ~ *vt* 1 : to summon before a tribunal 2 : to cause to assemble — *see* SUMMON — **con-ven-er** or **con-ven-or** \-'vè-nər- / *n*

**con-ve-nience** \kən-'vèn-yən(t)s / *n* (14c) 1 : fitness or suitability for performing an action or fulfilling a requirement 2 **a** : something (as an appliance, device, or service) conducive to comfort or ease 2 *by Brit* : TOILET 3 3 : a suitable or convenient time (<at your ~) : freedom from discomfort : EASE

**convenience** *adj* (1917) : designed for quick and easy preparative use (< foods)

**convenience store** *n* (1965) : a small often franchised market that is open long hours

**con-ve-ni-ent-ly** \-yən(t)-sē / *adv* (1601) *archaic* : CONVENIENCE

**con-ve-nient** \kən-'vèn-yən(t) / *adj* [ME, fr. L *convenient-*, *conveniens* prp. of *convenire* to come together, be suitable, fr. *com-* + *venire* to come — more at COME] (14c) 1 *obs* : SUITABLE, PROPER 2 **a** : suited to personal comfort or to easy performance 2 : suited to a particular situation 2 : affording accommodation or advantage 3 : being at hand : HANDY — **con-ve-nient-ly** *adv*

**con-vent** \kən-'vənt, -vənt / *n* [ME *covent*, fr. OF, fr. ML *conventus* L, assembly, fr. *convenire*] (13c) : a local community or house of religious order or congregation; *esp* : an establishment of nuns

**con-vent** \kən-'vənt / *vb* [L *conventus*, prp. of *convenire*] (1514) : CONVENE

**con-ven-ti-cle** \kən-'vən-ti-kəl / *n* [ME, fr. L *conventiculum*, dim. of *ventus* assembly] (14c) 1 : ASSEMBLY, MEETING 2 : an assembly of irregular or unlawful character 3 : an assembly for religious worship; *esp* : a secret meeting for worship not sanctioned by law 4 : MEETING HOUSE — **con-ven-ti-cle-er** \-(k-)lə-ər / *n*

**con-ven-tion** \kən-'vən(t)-shən / *n* [ME, fr. MF or L; MF, *convention-*, *conventio*, fr. *convenire*] (15c) 1 **a** : AGREEMENT, TREATY 2 : an agreement between states for regulation of matters affecting all of them 2 : a compact between opposing commanders concerning prisoner exchange or armistice 2 : a general agreement about basic principles or procedures; *also* : a principle or procedure accepted as true or correct by convention 2 **a** : the summoning or convening of an assembly 2 : an assembly of persons met for a common purpose; *esp* : a meeting of the delegates of a political party for the purpose of formulating a platform and selecting candidates for office 2 : the *usu.* state or national organization of a religious denomination 2 **a** : usage or custom *esp.* in social matters 2 : a rule of conduct or habit 2 : a practice in bidding or playing that conveys information between partners in a card game (as bridge) 2 : an established rule, practice, or device (as in literature or the theater)

**con-ven-tion-al** \kən-'vən(t)-shənəl, -vən(t)-shə-'nəl / *adj* (15c) 1 : based on agreement or compact 2 **a** : according with, sanctioned by convention 2 : lacking originality or individuality : TRADITIONAL (1) : ORDINARY, COMMONPLACE (2) : NONNUCLEAR 1 (< wa-ter ~) 3 **a** : according with a mode of artistic representation that simplifies or provides symbols or substitutes for natural forms 2 : of traditional assembly, o-

