

Concise Oxford English Dictionary

ELEVENTH EDITION, REVISED

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OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

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Great Clarendon Street, Oxford OX2 0DP

Oxford University Press is a department of the University of Oxford.
It furthers the University's objective of excellence in research, scholarship,
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Oxford New York

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Published in the United States
by Oxford University Press Inc., New York

© Oxford University Press 1964, 1976, 1982, 1990, 1995, 1999, 2001, 2004, 2006, 2008

Database right Oxford University Press (makers)

First published 1911
New edition (revised) 1929
Third edition (with Addenda) 1934
Fourth edition 1951
Fifth edition 1964
Sixth edition 1976
Seventh edition 1982
Eighth edition 1990
Ninth edition 1995
Tenth edition 1999
Tenth (revised) edition 2001
Eleventh edition 2004
Eleventh edition (revised) 2006
Eleventh edition (revised) 2008

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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data
Data available

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data
Data available

ISBN 978-0-19-954841-5

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Typeset in Frutiger and Parable
by Interactive Sciences Ltd, Gloucester
Printed and bound in Great Britain by
Clays Ltd, St Ives plc

to) help to cause or bring about.
 - DERIVATIVES **contribution** n. **contributive** /kɒn'trib-/
 adj. **contributor** n.
 - ORIGIN C16 (earlier (ME) as *contribution*): from L.
contribut-, *contribuere* 'bring together, add', from *con-*
 'with' + *tribuere* 'bestow'.

USAGE

The first pronunciation, which puts the stress on -tri-, is held to be the only correct one, despite the fact that the alternative, with the stress on con-, is older.

contributory ■ adj. **1** playing a part in bringing something about. **2** (of a pension or insurance scheme) operated by means of a fund into which people pay.
 ■ n. (pl. **contributories**) Brit. Law a person liable to contribute towards the payment of a wound-up company's debts.

contributory negligence ■ n. Law failure of an injured party to act prudently, considered to be a contributory factor in the injury suffered.

con trick ■ n. informal term for **CONFIDENCE TRICK**.

contribute /kən'traɪt, 'kɒn'traɪt/ ■ adj. feeling or expressing remorse.

- DERIVATIVES **contritely** adv. **conriteness** n.
 - ORIGIN ME: from OFr. *contrit*, from L. *contritus*, past part. of *conterere* 'grind down, wear away'.

contrition ■ n. the state of feeling contrite. ► (in the Roman Catholic Church) the repentance of past sins during or after confession.

contrivance ■ n. **1** the action of contriving something. **2** an ingenious device or scheme.

contrive /kən'traɪv/ ■ v. **1** devise or plan using skill and artifice. **2** manage to do something foolish.
 - DERIVATIVES **contrivable** adj. **contriver** n.
 - ORIGIN ME: from OFr. *contreuve-*, stressed stem of *controver* 'imagine, invent', from med. L. *contropare* 'compare'.

contrived ■ adj. deliberately created rather than arising spontaneously.

control ■ n. **1** the power to influence people's behaviour or the course of events. ► the restriction of an activity, tendency, or phenomenon. **2** a device by which a machine is regulated: *the volume control*. **3** a person or thing used as a standard of comparison for checking the results of a survey or experiment. **4** a member of an intelligence organization who personally directs the activities of a spy. **5** Bridge a high card that will prevent the opponents from establishing a particular suit. ■ v. (**controls**, **controlling**, **controlled**) **1** have control or command of. ► regulate. **2** [as adj. **controlled**] (of a drug) restricted by law in respect of use and possession. **3** (**control for**) take into account (an extraneous factor that might affect the results of an experiment).

- PHRASES **in control** able to direct a situation, person, or activity. **out of control** no longer able to be managed. **under control** (of a danger or emergency) being dealt with or contained successfully.

- DERIVATIVES **controllability** n. **controllable** adj. **controllably** adv. **controller** n. **controllership** n.
 - ORIGIN ME (in the sense 'verify accounts'): from Anglo-Norman Fr. *contreroller* 'keep a copy of a roll of accounts', from med. L. *contrarotulare*, from *contrarotulus* 'copy of a roll', from *contra-* 'against' + *rotulus* 'a roll'.

control character ■ n. Computing a character that does not represent a printable character but serves to initiate a particular action.

control freak ■ n. informal a person who feels an obsessive need to exercise control over themselves and others.

control tower ■ n. a tall building at an airport from which the movements of air traffic are controlled.

controversial ■ adj. causing or likely to cause controversy.

- DERIVATIVES **controversialist** n. **controversially** adv.

controversy /kɒn'trɒvɜːsi, kən'trɒvɜːsi/ ■ n. (pl. **controversies**) prolonged public disagreement or heated debate.

- ORIGIN ME: from L. *controversia*, from *controversus* 'turned against, disputed'.

USAGE

The second pronunciation, putting the stress on -trɒv-, is widely held to be incorrect in standard English.

controvert ■ v. deny the truth of.

- DERIVATIVES **controvertible** adj.

- ORIGIN C16: from L. *controversus* (see **CONTRIVERSY**).

contumacious /kɒntju'meɪʃəs/ ■ adj. archaic or Law stubbornly or wilfully disobedient to authority.

- DERIVATIVES **contumaciously** adv. **contumacy** n.

- ORIGIN C16: from L. *contumax*, *contumac-* (perh. from *con-* 'with' + *tumere* 'to swell') + **-IOUS**.

contumely /kɒntju:'mɪli, -tju:'mɪli/ ■ n. (pl.

contumelies) archaic insolent or insulting language or treatment.

- DERIVATIVES **contumelious** /kɒntju:'mɪliəs/ adj.

contumeliously adv.

- ORIGIN ME: from OFr. *contumelie*, from L. *contumelia*, perh. from *con-* 'with' + *tumere* 'to swell'.

contusion /kən'tjuːʒ(ə)n/ ■ n. Medicine a bruise.

- DERIVATIVES **contuse** v.

- ORIGIN ME: from Fr., from L. *contusio*(n-), from

contundere, from *con-* 'together' + *tundere* 'to beat, thump'.

conundrum /kə'nʌndrəm/ ■ n. (pl. **conundrums**) a confusing and difficult problem or question. ► a riddle.
 - ORIGIN C16 (in the sense 'a crank or pedant'): of unknown origin.

conurbation /kɒnə'beɪʃ(ə)n/ ■ n. an extended urban area, typically consisting of several towns merging with the suburbs of a central city.

- ORIGIN early 20th cent.: from **CON-** + L. *urbs*, *urb-* 'city' + **-ATION**.

conure /kɒnjʊə/ ■ n. a Central and South American parakeet, typically green with patches of other colours. [*Aratinga*, *Pyrrhura*, and other genera.]

- ORIGIN C19: from mod. L. *conurus* (former genus name), from Gk *kónos* 'cone' + *oura* 'tail'.

conus /'kəʊnəs/ ■ n. (pl. **coni** /-naɪ/) Anatomy **1** (also **conus arteriosus** /ɑː'tɛrɪ'əʊsəs/) the upper part of the right ventricle of the heart. **2** (also **conus medullaris** /mɛdə'lɑːrɪs/) the conical lower extremity of the spinal cord.

- ORIGIN C19: from L., lit. 'cone'.

convalesce /kɒnvə'les/ ■ v. gradually recover one's health after an illness or medical treatment.

- ORIGIN C15: from L. *convalescere*, from *con-* 'altogether' + *valescere* 'grow strong'.

convalescent ■ adj. recovering from an illness or medical treatment. ■ n. a convalescent person.

- DERIVATIVES **convalescence** n.

convection ■ n. transference of mass or heat within a fluid caused by the tendency of warmer and less dense material to rise.

- DERIVATIVES **convect** v. **convectio** n. **convective** adj.

- ORIGIN C19: from late L. *convectio*(n-), from L. *convehere*, from *con-* 'together' + *vehere* 'carry'.

convector ■ n. a heating appliance that circulates warm air by convection.

typically after being attacked or defeated.
 - DERIVATIVES **regroupment** n.

regrow ■ v. (past **regrew**; past part. **regrown**) grow or cause to grow again.
 - DERIVATIVES **regrowth** n.

Regt ■ abbrev. Regiment.

regular ■ adj. **1** arranged in a constant or definite pattern, especially with the same space between individual instances. **2** recurring at short uniform intervals: *a regular monthly check*. ▶ done or happening frequently. ▶ doing the same thing often or at uniform intervals: *regular worshippers*. **3** conforming to or governed by an accepted standard of procedure or convention. ▶ of or belonging to the permanent professional armed forces of a country. ▶ properly trained or qualified and pursuing a full-time occupation. ▶ Christian Church subject to or bound by religious rule. Contrasted with **SECULAR**. **4** usual or customary. ▶ chiefly N. Amer. of an ordinary kind. ▶ N. Amer. not pretentious or arrogant; ordinary and friendly: *a regular guy*. ▶ denoting merchandise of average size. **5** Grammar (of a word) following the normal pattern of inflection. **6** Geometry (of a figure) having all sides and all angles equal. ▶ (of a solid) bounded by a number of equal figures. **7** Botany (of a flower) having radial symmetry. ■ n. a regular customer, member of a team, etc. ▶ a regular member of the armed forces. ▶ one of the Christian regular clergy.
 - DERIVATIVES **regularity** n. (pl. **regularities**).
regularization or **regularisation** n. **regularize** or **regularise** v. **regularly** adv.
 - ORIGIN ME: from OFr. *reguler*, from L. *regularis*, from *regula* 'rule'.

regular canon ■ n. see **CANON**².

regular expression ■ n. Computing a sequence of symbols and characters which uses syntax rules to express a string or pattern to be searched for within a list, piece of text, etc.

regulate ■ v. **1** control or maintain the rate or speed of (a machine or process). **2** control or supervise by means of rules and regulations.
 - DERIVATIVES **regulable** adj. **regulative** adj. **regulator** n. **regulatory** adj.
 - ORIGIN ME: from late L. *regulat-*, *regulare* 'direct, regulate', from L. *regula* 'rule'.

regulation ■ n. **1** a rule or directive made and maintained by an authority. ▶ [as modifier] in accordance with regulations. ▶ [as modifier] informal of a familiar or predictable type. **2** the action or process of regulating or being regulated.

regulo /'regjʊləʊ/ ■ n. Brit. trademark used before a numeral to denote a setting on a temperature scale in a gas oven.

regulus /'regjʊləs/ ■ n. (pl. **reguluses** or **reguli** /-lɪ/, -li:/) Chemistry, archaic a metallic form of a substance, obtained by smelting or reduction.
 - ORIGIN C16: from L., dimin. of *rex*, *reg-* 'king'; orig. as *regulus of antimony*, appar. so named because of its readiness to combine with gold.

regurgitate /rɪ'gɔ:dʒɪteɪt/ ■ v. **1** bring (swallowed food) up again to the mouth. **2** repeat (information) without analysing or comprehending it.
 - DERIVATIVES **regurgitation** n.
 - ORIGIN C16: from med. L. *regurgitat-*, *regurgitare*, from L. *re-* 'again' + *gurgis*, *gurgit-* 'whirlpool'.

rehab /'ri:həb/ informal ■ n. **1** rehabilitation. **2** US a building that has been rehabilitated. ■ v. (**rehab**, **rehabbing**, **rehabbed**) N. Amer. rehabilitate.

rehabilitate ■ v. **1** restore to health or normal life by training and therapy after imprisonment, addiction, or illness. **2** restore the standing or reputation of. **3** restore to a former condition.
 - DERIVATIVES **rehabilitation** n. **rehabilitative** adj.
 - ORIGIN C16 (earlier (C15) as *rehabilitation*): from med. L. *rehabilitat-*, *rehabilitare* (see **RE-**, **HABILITATE**).

rehang ■ v. /rɪ:'hæŋ/ (past and past part. **rehung**) hang (something) again or differently. ■ n. /rɪ:'hæŋ/ an act of rehangng works of art in a gallery.

rehear ■ v. (past and past part. **reheard**) hear or listen to again. ▶ Law [often as noun **rehearing**] hear (a case or plaintiff) in a court again.

rehearsal ■ n. a trial performance of a play or other work for later public performance. ▶ the action or process of rehearsing.

rehearse ■ v. **1** practise (a play, piece of music, or other work) for later public performance. **2** state (a list of points that have been made many times before).
 - DERIVATIVES **rehearser** n.
 - ORIGIN ME (in the sense 'repeat aloud'): from OFr. *rehercier*, perh. from *re-* 'again' + *hercer* 'to harrow', from *herse* (see **HEARSE**).

reheat ■ v. heat again. ■ n. the process of using the hot exhaust to burn extra fuel in a jet engine and produce extra power. ▶ an afterburner.
 - DERIVATIVES **reheater** n.

rehire ■ v. hire (a former employee) again.

rehoboam ■ n. a wine bottle of about six times the standard size.
 - ORIGIN C19: from *Rehoboam*, a king of ancient Israel.

rehome ■ v. find a new home for (a pet).

rehouse ■ v. provide with new housing.

rehung past and past participle of **REHANG**.

rehydrate ■ v. absorb or cause to absorb moisture after dehydration.
 - DERIVATIVES **rehydratable** adj. **rehydration** n.

Reich /'raɪk, -x/ ■ n. the former German state, most often used to refer to the **Third Reich** (the Nazi regime, 1933-45).
 - ORIGIN Ger., lit. 'empire'.

Reichstag /'raɪks,tɑ:ɡ, 'taɪks-/ ■ n. the main legislature of the German state under the Second and Third Reichs.
 - ORIGIN Ger., from *Reichs* 'of the empire' + *Taɡ* 'assembly'.

reify /rɪ:'ɪfaɪ, 'reɪ-/ ■ v. (**reifies**, **reifying**, **reified**) formal make (something abstract) more concrete or real.
 - DERIVATIVES **reification** n. **reificatory** adj.
 - ORIGIN C19: from L. *res*, *re-* 'thing' + *-fy*.

reign ■ v. **1** rule as monarch. **2** [as adj. **reigning**] (of a sports player or team) currently holding a particular title. **3** prevail: *confusion reigned*. ■ n. **1** the period of rule of a monarch. **2** the period during which someone or something is predominant or pre-eminent.
 - ORIGIN ME: from OFr. *reignier* 'to reign', *reigne* 'kingdom', from L. *regnum*.

USAGE
 The correct phrase is a **free rein**, not a **free reign**.

reignite ■ v. ignite again.

reign of terror ■ n. a period of remorseless repression or bloodshed, in particular (**Reign of Terror**) the period of the Terror during the French Revolution.

reiki /'reɪki/ ■ n. a healing technique based on the principle that the therapist can channel energy into the patient by means of touch, to activate the natural healing processes of the patient's body.
 - ORIGIN Japanese, lit. 'universal life energy'.

reimburse /rɪ:'mɒs/ ■ v. repay (a person who has spent or lost money). ▶ repay (a sum of money that has been spent or lost).
 - DERIVATIVES **reimbursable** adj. **reimbursement** n.
 - ORIGIN C17: from **RE-** + obs. *imburse* 'put in a purse', from med. L. *imbursare*, based on late L. *bursa* 'purse'.

reimport ■ v. import (goods processed or made from exported materials). ■ n. the action of reimporting. ▶ a reimported item.
 - DERIVATIVES **reimportation** n.

reimpose ■ v. impose (something, especially a law) again after a lapse.
 - DERIVATIVES **reimposition** n.

rein ■ n. **1** a long, narrow strap attached at one end to a horse's bit, typically used in pairs to guide or check a horse in riding or driving. ▶ Brit. a pair of straps used to restrain a young child. **2** (**reins**) the power to direct and control: *a new manager will soon take over the reins*. ■ v. **1** check or guide (a horse) by pulling on its reins. ▶ (something) (back) restrain.

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