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Latin *cōfidere*: *com-*, intensive pref.; see *COM-* + *fidere*, to trust; see *bheidh-* in Appendix I.] —**con·fid·er** *n.*

**con·fidence** (kōn'fī-dəns) *n.* 1. Trust or faith in a person or thing. 2. A trusting relationship: *I took them into my confidence.* 3a. That which is confided; a secret: *A friend does not betray confidences.* b. A feeling of assurance that a confidant will keep a secret: *I am telling you this in strict confidence.* 4. A feeling of assurance, especially of self-assurance. 5. The state or quality of being certain: *I have every confidence in your ability to succeed.* ♠ *adj.* Of, relating to, or involving a swindle or fraud: *a confidence scheme; a confidence trickster.*

**Synonyms** *confidence, assurance, aplomb, self-confidence, self-possession* These nouns denote a feeling of emotional security resulting from faith in oneself. *Confidence* is a firm belief in one's powers, abilities, or capacities: "You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face" (Eleanor Roosevelt). *Assurance* even more strongly stresses certainty and can suggest arrogance: *How can you explain an abstruse theory with such assurance?* *Aplomb* implies calm poise: "It is native personality, and that alone, that endows a man to stand before presidents or generals . . . with aplomb" (Walt Whitman). *Self-confidence* stresses trust in one's own self-sufficiency: "The most vital quality a soldier can possess is self-confidence" (George S. Patton). *Self-possession* implies composure arising from control over one's own reactions: "In life courtesy and self-possession . . . are the sensible impressions of the free mind, for both arise . . . from never being swept away, whatever the emotion, into confusion or dullness" (William Butler Yeats). See also synonyms at **trust**.

**confidence game** *n.* A swindle in which the victim is defrauded after his or her confidence has been won.

**confidence interval** *n.* A statistical range with a specified probability that a given parameter lies within the range.

**confidence limit** *n.* Either of the two numbers that specify the endpoints of a confidence interval.

**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. See synonyms at **sure**. 3. Very bold; presumptuous. 4. *Obsolete* Confiding; trustful. [Latin *cōfidēns, cōfidētis*, present participle of *cōfidere*, to rely on. See **CONFIDE**.] —**con·fi·dent·ly** *adv.*

**con·fi·den·tial** (kōn'fī-dən'shəl) *adj.* 1. Done or communicated in confidence; secret. 2. Entrusted with the confidence of another: *a confidential secretary.* 3. Denoting confidence or intimacy: *a confidential tone of voice.* 4. Containing information, the unauthorized disclosure of which poses a threat to national security. —**con·fi·den·tial·ity** (-shē-əl'tē) *n.* **con·fi·den·tial·ness** *n.* —**con·fi·den·tial·ly** *adv.*

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

**con·fi·ding** (kən'fī-dīng) *adj.* Having a tendency to confide; trusting. —**con·fi·ding·ly** *adv.* —**con·fi·ding·ness** *n.*

**con·fig·u·ra·tion** (kən'fig'yū-rā'shən) *n.* 1a. Arrangement of parts or elements. b. The form, as of a figure, determined by the arrangement of its parts or elements. See synonyms at **form**. 2. *Psychology* Gestalt. 3. *Chemistry* The structural arrangement of atoms in a compound or molecule. 4. *Computer Science* a. The way in which a computer system is set up; *changed the configuration by resetting the parameters.* b. The set of constituent components, such as memory, a hard disk, a monitor, and an operating system, that make up a computer system. c. The way that the components of a computer network are connected. —**con·fig·u·ra·tion·al·ly** *adv.* —**con·fig·u·ra·tive, con·fig·u·ra·tion·al** *adj.*

**con·fig·u·ra·tion·ism** (kən'fig'yū-rā'shə-nīz'əm) *n.* Gestalt psychology.

**con·fig·ure** (kən'fig'yūr) *tr.v.* -ured, -ur·ing, -ures To design, arrange, set up, or shape with a view to specific applications or uses: *a military vehicle that was configured for rough terrain; configured the computer by setting the system's parameters.* [Middle English *configure*, from Old French *configure*, from Latin *cōfigurāre*: *com-*, *com-* + *figurāre*, to form (from *figūra*, shape; see **DEIGH-** in Appendix I).]

**con·fine** (kən'fīn) *v.* -fined, -fin·ing, -fines —*tr.* 1. To keep within bounds; restrict: *Please confine your remarks to the issues at hand.* See synonyms at **limit**. 2. To shut or keep in, especially to imprison. 3. To restrict in movement: *The sick child was confined to bed.* —*intr.* *Archaic* To border. ♠ *n.* (kōn'fīn') 1. **confines** a. The limits of a space or area; the borders: *within the confines of one county.* b. Restraining elements: *wanted to escape the confines of corporate politics.* c. *Purview*; scope: *a theory that is well within the confines of science.* 2a. *Archaic* A restriction. b. *Obsolete* A prison. [French *confiner*, from Old French, from *confins*, boundaries, ultimately from Latin *cōnfinē*, from neuter of *confinis*, adjoining: *com-*, *com-* + *finis*, border.] —**con·fin·a·ble, con·fine·a·ble** *adj.* —**con·fin·er** *n.*

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

**con·firm** (kən'fīrm) *tr.v.* -firmed, -firm·ing, -firms 1. To support or establish the certainty or validity of; verify. 2. To make firmer; strengthen: *Working on the campaign confirmed her intention to go into politics.* 3. To make valid or binding by a formal or legal act; ratify. 4. To administer the religious rite of confirmation to. [Middle English *confirmen*, from Old French *confirmer*, from Latin *cōfirmāre*: *com-*, intensive pref.; see *COM-* + *firmāre*, to strengthen (from *firmus*, strong; see

*dher-* in Appendix I).] —**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.*

**Synonyms** *confirm, corroborate, substantiate, authenticate, validate, verify* These verbs mean to affirm the truth, accuracy, or genuineness of something. *Confirm* implies removal of all doubt: "We must never make experiments to confirm our ideas, but simply to control them" (Claude Bernard). *Corroborate* refers to supporting something by means of strengthening evidence: *The witness is expected to corroborate the plaintiff's testimony.* To *substantiate* is to establish by presenting substantial or tangible evidence: "one of the most fully substantiated of historical facts" (James Harvey Robinson). *Authenticate* implies the establishment of genuineness of something by the testimony of an expert: *Never purchase an antique before it has been authenticated.* *Validate* refers to establishing the validity of something, such as a theory, claim, or judgment: *The divorce validated my parents' original objection to the marriage.* *Verify* implies proving by comparison with an original or with established fact: *The bank refused to cash the check until the signature was verified.*

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

**con·firmed** (kən'fīrmd) *adj.* 1. Being firmly settled in habit; inveterate. See synonyms at **chronic**. 2. Having been ratified; verified. 3. Having received the rite of confirmation. —**con·firm·ed·ly** (-fūr'mīd-lē) *adv.*

**con·fis·ca·ble** (kən'fīs'kə-bəl) *adj.* Subject to confiscation: *confiscable goods.*

**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. See synonyms at **appropriate**. ♠ *adj.* (kōn'fī-skāt', kən'fīs-kōt) 1. Seized by a government; appropriated. 2. Having lost property through confiscation. [Latin *cōnfiscāre, cōnfiscāt*: *com-*, *com-* + *faciscus, treasury*.] —**con·fis·ca·tion** *n.* —**con·fis·ca·tor** *n.* —**con·fis·ca·to·ry** (kən'fīs'kə-tōr'ē, -tōr'ē) *adj.*

**con·fit** (kōn'fēt, kōn-) *n.* 1. Meat, such as duck, that has been salted and then cooked and preserved in its own fat. 2. A condiment made by cooking seasoned fruit or vegetables, usually to a jamlike consistency. [Middle English *confyt*, from Old French *confit*, from Medieval Latin *confectum*, from past participle of *conficere*, to prepare. See **CONNECT**.]

**Con·fi·te·or** (kən'fētē-ōr, -ōr') *n.* A prayer in which confession of sins is made. [Latin *cōnfiteor*, I confess, the first word of the prayer, first person sing. present tense of *confiteri*, to acknowledge. See **CONFESS**.]

**con·fi·ture** (kōn'fī-chōr') *n.* A confection, preserve, or jam. [French, from Old French, from *confit*, confection. See **CONFIT**.]

**con·fla·grant** (kən'flā'grənt) *adj.* Burning intensely; blazing. [Latin *cōnflagrāns, cōnflagrāns*, present participle of *cōnflagrāre*, to burn up: *com-*, intensive pref.; see *COM-* + *flagrāre*, to burn; see **bhel-** in Appendix I].

**con·fla·gra·tion** (kōn'flā-grā'shən) *n.* A large destructive fire. [Latin *cōnflagrātio, cōnflagrātio*, from *cōnflagrātus*, past participle of *cōnflagrāre*, to burn up. See **CONFLAGRANT**.]

**con·fla·te** (kən'flāt') *tr.v.* -flated, -flat·ing, -flates 1. To bring together; meld or fuse: "The problems [with the biopic] include . . . dates moved around, lovers deleted, many characters conflated into one" (Ty Burr). 2. To combine (two variant texts, for example) into one whole. [Latin *cōnflāre, cōnflāt*: *com-*, *com-* + *flāre*, to blow; see **bhlē-** in Appendix I].] —**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. *Psychology* A psychic struggle, often unconscious, 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, especially opposition that motivates or shapes the action of the plot. ♠ *intr.v.* (kən'flikt') -flict·ed, -flict·ing, -flicts 1. To be in or come into opposition; differ. 2. *Archaic* To engage in warfare. [Middle English, from Latin *cōnflīctus*, collision, from past participle of *cōnfligere*, to strike together: *com-*, *com-* + *fligere*, to strike.] —**con·flic·tion** *n.* —**con·flic·tive** *adj.* —**con·flic·tual** (kən'flikt'chōō-əl) *adj.*

**Synonyms** *conflict, contest, combat, fight* These nouns 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: "The kind of victory MacArthur had in mind . . . victory by expanding the conflict to all of China—would have been the wrong kind of victory" (Harry S. Truman). "Fortunately analysis is not the only way to resolve inner conflicts" (Karen Horney). *Contest* can refer either to friendly competition or to a hostile struggle to achieve an objective: *a spelling contest; the gubernatorial contest.* *Combat* most commonly implies an encounter between two armed persons or groups: "Alexander had appeared to him, armed for combat" (Connop Thirlwall). *Fight* usually refers to a clash involving individual adversaries: *A fight was scheduled between the world boxing champion and the challenger.* "There is nothing I love as much as a good fight" (Franklin D. Roosevelt). See also synonyms at **discord**.

**con·flict·ed** (kən'flikt'əd) *adj.* *Usage Problem* Made uneasy by conflicting impulses.

**Usage Note** The adjective *conflicted* is most often associated with the jargon of pop psychology. Almost the entire Usage Panel (92 percent) re-