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con-strict /kənstrikt/ *v. tr.* 1 make narrow or tight; compress. 2 *Biol.* cause (organic tissue) to contract. □ **con-strict-ion** /-striktʃən/ *n.* **con-strict-ive** *adj.* [L (as **CONSTRIN**)]

con-strictor /kənstriktər/ *n.* 1 any snake (esp. a boa) that kills by coiling around its prey and compressing it. 2 *Anat.* any muscle that compresses or contracts an organ or part of the body. [mod.L (as **CONSTRIC**)]

con-struct *v.* & *n.* ● *v. tr.* /kənstrukt/ 1 make by fitting parts together; build; form (something physical or abstract). 2 *Geom.* draw or delineate, esp. accurately to given conditions (*construct a triangle*). ● *n.* /kónstrukt/ 1 a thing constructed, esp. by the mind. 2 *Linguistics* a group of words forming a phrase. □ **con-struct-or** *n.* [L *construere* **construct-** (as **COM-**, *struere* pile, build)]

con-struction /kənstruksən/ *n.* 1 the act or a mode of constructing. 2 a thing constructed. 3 an interpretation or explanation (*they put a generous construction on his act*). 4 *Gram.* an arrangement of words according to syntactical rules. □ **con-struction-al** *adj.* **con-struction-al-ly** *adv.* [ME f. OF f. L *constructio* -*onis* (as **CONSTRUCT**)]

con-struction-ism /kənstruksənizəm/ *n.* 1 *Law* interpretation of a law or constitution in a particular way (*strict constructionism*). 2 = **CONSTRUCTIVISM**. □ **con-struction-ist** *n.*

con-structive /kənstruktiv/ *adj.* 1 a of construction; tending to construct. b tending to form a basis for ideas (*constructive criticism*). 2 helpful; positive (*a constructive approach*). 3 derived by inference; not expressed (*constructive permission*). 4 belonging to the structure of a building. □ **con-struct-ive-ly** *adv.* **con-struct-ive-ness** *n.* [LL *constructivus* (as **CONSTRUCT**)]

con-structivism /kənstruktivizəm/ *n.* *Art* a Russian movement in which assorted (usu. mechanical or industrial) objects are combined into nonrepresentational and mobile structural forms. □ **con-struct-iv-ist** *n.* [Russ. *konstruktivizm* (as **CONSTRUCT**)]

con-strue /kənstrud/ *v. tr.* (**con-strues**, **con-strued**, **con-struing**) 1 interpret (words or actions) (*their decision can be construed in many ways*). 2 (often foll. by *with*) combine (words) grammatically (*"re-ly" is construed with "on"*). 3 analyze the syntax of (a sentence). 4 translate word for word. □ **con-stru-a-ble** *adj.* **con-stru-al** *n.* [ME f. L *construere* **CONSTRUCT**]

con-sub-stan-tial /kónsəbstánshəl/ *adj.* *Theol.* of the same substance (esp. of the three persons of the Trinity). □ **con-sub-stan-tial-i-ty** /-sheeáiltee/ *n.* [ME f. eccl.L *consubstantialis*, transl. Gk *homouousios* (as **COM-**, **SUBSTANTIAL**)]

con-sub-stan-ti-a-tion /kónsəbstánsheeáyshən/ *n.* *Theol.* the doctrine of the real substantial presence of the body and blood of Christ in and with the bread and wine in the Eucharist. [mod.L *consubstantiatio*, after *transubstantiatio* **TRANSUBSTANTIATION**]

con-sue-tude /kónswitúd/ *n.* a custom, esp. one having legal force in Scotland. □ **con-sue-tu-di-nar-y** /kónswitúd'neree, -tyúd-d- / *adj.* [ME f. OF *consuetudo* or L *consuetudo* -*dinis* f. *consuetus* accustomed]

con-sul /kónsəl/ *n.* 1 an official appointed by a government to live in a foreign city and protect the government's citizens and interests there. 2 *hist.* either of two annually elected chief magistrates in ancient Rome. 3 any of the three chief magistrates of the French republic (1799-1804). □ **con-su-lar** *adj.* **con-su-l-ship** *n.* [ME f. L, rel. to *consulere* take counsel]

con-sulate /kónsələt/ *n.* 1 the building officially used by a consul. 2 the office, position, or period of office of a consul. 3 *hist.* government by consuls. 4 *hist.* the period of office of a consul. 5 *hist.* (**Consulate**) the government of France by three consuls (1799-1804). [ME f. L *consulatus* (as **CONSUL**)]

con-sult /kónsult/ *v.* & *n.* 1 *tr.* seek information or advice from (a person, book, watch, etc.). 2 *intr.* (often foll. by *with*) refer to a person for advice, an opinion, etc. 3 *tr.* seek permission or approval from (a person) for a proposed action. 4 *tr.* take into account; consider (feelings, interests, etc.). ● *n.* /kónsult/ = **CONSULTATION** 1, 2. □ **con-sult-a-tive** /-súltətiv/ *adj.* [F *consulter* f. L *consultare* frequent. of *consulere* **consult-** take counsel]

con-sult-an-cy /kónsúlt'nsee/ *n.* (*pl.* -**cies**) the professional practice or position of a consultant.

con-sult-ant /kónsúlt'nt/ *n.* 1 a person providing professional advice, etc., esp. for a fee. 2 *Brit.* a senior specialist in a branch of medicine responsible for patients in a hospital. [prob. F (as **CONSULT**)]

con-sul-ta-tion /kónsúltáyshən/ *n.* 1 a meeting arranged to consult (esp. with a consultant). 2 the act or an instance of consulting. 3 a conference. [ME f. OF *consultation* or L *consultatio* (as **CONSULT-ANT**)]

con-sult-ing /kónsúlt'ing/ *attrib. adj.* giving professional advice to others working in the same field or subject (*consulting physician*).

con-sum-a-ble /kónsóməbəl/ *adj.* & *n.* ● *adj.* that can be consumed; intended for consumption. ● *n.* (usu. in *pl.*) a commodity that is eventually used up, worn out, or eaten.

con-sume /kónsóm/ *v. tr.* 1 eat or drink. 2 completely destroy; reduce to nothing or to tiny particles (*fire consumed the building*). 3 (of-

ly adv. [ME f. L *consumere* (as **COM-**, *sumere* **sumpt-** take up): partly through F *consumer*]

con-sum-er /kónsómər/ *n.* 1 a person who consumes, esp. one who uses a product. 2 a purchaser of goods or services.

con-sum-er goods *n.* goods bought and used by consumers, rather than by manufacturers for producing other goods (opp. **CAPITAL GOODS**).

con-sum-er-ism /kónsómərizəm/ *n.* the protection or promotion of consumers' interests in relation to the producer. □ **con-sum-er-ist** *adj.* & *n.*

con-sum-er re-search *n.* investigation of purchasers' needs and opinions.

con-sum-er so-ci-e-ty *n.* a society in which the marketing of goods and services is an important social and economic activity.

con-sum-mate *v.* & *adj.* ● *v. tr.* /kónsómáy/ 1 complete; make perfect. 2 complete (a marriage) by sexual intercourse. ● *adj.* /kónsúmit, kónsómít/ complete; perfect; fully skilled (*a consummate general*). □ **con-sum-mate-ly** *adv.* **con-sum-ma-tive** /kónsómáy-/ *adj.* **con-sum-ma-tor** *n.* [L *consummare* (as **COM-**, *summare* complete f. *summus* utmost)]

PRONUNCIATION TIP consummate

As an adjective, this word may be pronounced either "kun-SUM-it" or "KAHN-suh-mit." As a verb, it is correctly pronounced "KAHN-suh-MATE."

con-sum-ma-tion /kónsómáyshən/ *n.* 1 completion, esp. of a marriage by sexual intercourse. 2 a desired end or goal; perfection. [ME f. OF *consummation* or L *consummatio* (as **CONSUMMATE**)]

con-sump-tion /kónsúmpshən/ *n.* 1 the act or an instance of consuming; the process of being consumed. 2 any disease causing wasting of tissues, esp. pulmonary tuberculosis. 3 an amount consumed. 4 the purchase and use of goods, etc. [ME f. OF *consumption* f. L *consumptio* (as **CONSUME**)]

con-sump-tive /kónsúmp-tiv/ *adj.* & *n.* ● *adj.* 1 of or tending to consumption. 2 tending to or affected with pulmonary tuberculosis. ● *n.* a consumptive patient. □ **con-sump-tive-ly** *adv.* [med.L *consumptivus* (as **CONSUMPTION**)]

cont. *abbr.* 1 contents. 2 continued.

con-tact *n.* & *v.* ● *n.* /kóntakt/ 1 the state or condition of touching, meeting, or communicating. 2 a person who is or may be communicated with for information, supplies, assistance, etc. 3 *Electr.* a connection for the passage of a current. b a device for providing this. 4 a person likely to carry a contagious disease through being associated with an infected person. 5 (usu. in *pl.*) *colloq.* a contact lens. ● *v. tr.* /kóntakt, kántakt/ 1 get into communication with (a person). 2 begin correspondence or personal dealings with. □ **con-tact-a-ble** *adj.* [L *contactus* f. *contingere* (as **COM-**, *tangere* touch)]

con-tact lens *n.* a thin plastic lens placed directly on the surface of the eye to correct the vision.

con-tact print *n.* a photographic print made by placing a negative directly on sensitized paper, etc., and illuminating it.

con-tact sport *n.* a sport in which participants necessarily come into bodily contact with one another.

con-ta-gion /kántáyjən/ *n.* 1 a the communication of disease from one person to another by bodily contact. b a contagious disease. 2 a contagious or harmful influence. 3 moral corruption, esp. when tending to be widespread. [ME f. L *contagio* (as **COM-**, *tangere* touch)]

con-ta-gious /kántáyjəs/ *adj.* 1 a (of a person) likely to transmit disease by contact. b (of a disease) transmitted in this way. 2 (of emotions, reactions, etc.) likely to affect others (*contagious enthusiasm*). □ **con-ta-gious-ly** *adv.* **con-ta-gious-ness** *n.* [ME f. LL *contagiosus* (as **CONTAGION**)]

con-ta-gious a-bor-tion *n.* brucellosis of cattle.

con-tain /kántáyn/ *v. tr.* 1 hold or be capable of holding within itself; include; comprise. 2 (of measures) consist of or be equal to (*a gallon contains eight pints*). 3 prevent (an enemy, difficulty, etc.) from moving or extending. 4 control or restrain (oneself, one's feelings, etc.). 5 (of a number) be divisible by (a factor) without a remainder. □ **con-tain-a-ble** *adj.* [ME f. OF *contenir* f. L *continere* **content-** (as **COM-**, *tenere* hold)]

con-tain-er /kántáynər/ *n.* 1 a vessel, box, etc., for holding particular things. 2 a large boxlike receptacle of standard design for the transport of goods, esp. one readily transferable from one form of transport to another (also *attrib.*: *container ship*).

con-tain-er-ize /kántáynəriz/ *v. tr.* 1 pack in or transport by container. 2 adapt to transport by container. □ **con-tain-er-i-za-tion** *n.*

con-tain-ment /kántáynmənt/ *n.* the action or policy of preventing the expansion of a hostile country or influence.

con-tam-i-nate /kántáminayt/ *v. tr.* 1 pollute, esp. with radioactivity. 2 infect; corrupt. □ **con-tam-i-nant** /-minənt/ *n.* **con-tam-i-na-tion**