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struc'tor, con•struc'ter *n.*

con•struc•tion (kən-strūk'shən) ▶ *n.* **1.** The act, process, or business of building. **2.** A structure. **3.** An interpretation: *put a favorable construction on his reply.* **4.** *Gram.* An arrangement of words that forms a phrase, clause, or sentence.

construction paper ▶ *n.* A heavy paper in a variety of colors, used in artwork.

con•struc•tive (kən-strūk'tiv) ▶ *adj.* **1.** Serving to improve; helpful. **2.** Structural. — **con•struc'tive•ly** *adv.* — **con•struc'tive•ness** *n.*

con•strue (kən-strōō') ▶ *v.* -strued, -struing **1.** To interpret. **2.** To translate. [*< Lat. cōnstruere, build.*]

con•sul (kɔn'səl) ▶ *n.* **1.** An official appointed by a government to reside in a foreign country and represent its interests there. **2.** Either of the two chief magistrates of the Roman Republic. [*< Lat. cōsul.*] — **con'su•lar** *adj.* — **con'sul•ship** *n.*

con•su•late (kɔn'sə-lit) ▶ *n.* The residence or official premises of a consul.

con•sult (kən-sült') ▶ *v.* **1.** To seek advice or information of. **2.** To exchange views. **3.** To work or serve in an advisory capacity. [*< Lat. cōsulere, cōsult-, take counsel.*] — **con•sul'tant** *n.* — **con'sul•ta'tion** *n.* — **con'sul•ta'tive** *adj.*

con•sul•tan•cy (kən-sült'tn-sē) ▶ *n., pl. -cies.* A business offering expert advice in a field.

con•sume (kən-sōōm') ▶ *v.* -sumed, -suming **1.** To eat or drink up. See *Syns* at **eat.** **2.** To expend; use up. **3.** To purchase (goods or services) for use or ownership. **4.** To squander.

Wasteful. **2.** *Pathol.* Of or afflicted with consumption. ▶ *n.* A person afflicted with consumption. — **con•sump'tive•ly** *adv.*

cont. ▶ *abbr.* **1.** contents **2.** continent **3.** continued **4.** contraction

con•tact (kɔn'täkt') ▶ *n.* **1.** A coming together or touching, as of objects or surfaces. **2.** Interaction; communication. **3.** An association; relationship. **4.** A useful person; connection. **5.** A connection between two electric conductors. **6.** A contact lens. ▶ *v.* (kɔn'täkt', kən-täkt') **1.** To bring or put in contact. **2.** To get in touch with. [*< Lat. contingere, contäct-, to touch.*]

contact lens ▶ *n.* A thin corrective lens fitted directly over the cornea.

con•ta•gion (kən-tä'jən) ▶ *n.* **1a.** Disease transmission by direct or indirect contact. **b.** A disease so transmitted. **2.** The tendency to spread, as of a doctrine, influence, or emotional state. [*< Lat. contagiō.*]

con•ta•gious (kən-tä'jəs) ▶ *adj.* **1.** Transmissible by direct or indirect contact; communicable. **2.** Carrying or capable of transmitting disease. **3.** Tending to spread: *a contagious smile.* — **con•ta'gious•ly** *adv.* — **con•ta'gious•ness** *n.*

con•tain (kən-tān') ▶ *v.* **1.** To have within; hold. **2.** To include; comprise. **3.** To hold back; restrain. [*< Lat. continēre.*] — **con•tain'a•ble** *adj.*

con•tain•er (kən-tä'nər) ▶ *n.* A receptacle.

con•tain•er•ize ▶ *v.* -ized, -iz•ing. To package (cargo) in large standardized containers for efficient shipping and handling. — **con•tain'er•i•za'tion** *n.*

con•tain•ment (kən-tān'mənt) ▶ *n.* **1.** A pol-