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con-tam-i-nant \kən-'tam-ə-nənt/ *n* (ca. 1922): something that contaminates

con-tam-i-nate \kən-'tam-ə-nāt/ *v* **-nat-ed; -nat-ing** [L. *contaminatus*, pp. of *contaminare*; akin to *l. contagio* contagion] (15c) 1 **a**: to soil, stain, corrupt, or infect by contact or association (bacteria *contaminated* the wound) **b**: to make inferior or impure by admixture (iron *contaminated* with phosphorus) 2: to make unfit for use by the introduction of unwholesome or undesirable elements — **con-tam-i-na-tive** \-nāt-iv/ *adj* — **con-tam-i-na-tor** \-nāt-ər/ *n*

syn CONTAMINATE. TAIN, POLLUTE. DEFILE mean to make impure or unclean. CONTAMINATE implies intrusion of or contact with dirt or foulness from an outside source (water *contaminated* by industrial wastes) (the bigotry of elders that may *contaminate* young minds) TAIN stresses the loss of purity or cleanliness that follows contamination (*tainted* meat) (his unkindness may *defile* my life, but never *taint* my love —Shak.) POLLUTE, sometimes interchangeable with *contaminate*, distinctively may imply that the process which begins with contamination is complete and that what was pure or clean has been made foul, poisoned, or filthy (the *polluted* waters of the lake, in parts no better than an open cesspool) DEFILE implies befouling of what could or should have been kept clean and pure or held sacred and commonly suggests violation or desecration (*defile* a hero's memory with slanderous innuendo)

con-tam-i-na-tion \kən-'tam-ə-'nā-shən/ *n* (15c) 1: a process of contaminating: a state of being contaminated 2: something that contaminates

conte \kōt/ *n* [F] (1787): a usu. short tale of adventure

con-temn \kən-'tem/ *v* [ME *contempner*, fr. MF *contempner*, fr. L. *contemnere*, fr. *com-* + *temnere* to despise — more at STAMP] (15c): to view or treat with contempt: SCORN **syn** see DESPISE — **con-tem-ner** also **con-tem-nor** \-tem-(n)ər/ *n*

con-tem-plate \kənt-'əm-plāt, 'kən-'tem-/ *v* **-plat-ed, -plat-ing** [L. *contemplatus*, pp. of *contemplari*, fr. *com-* + *templum* space marked out for observation of auguries — more at TEMPLE] *vi* (1592): PONDER. MEDIATE **syn** *vi* 1: to view or consider with continued attention: meditate on 2: to have in view as contingent or probable or as an end or intention **syn** see CONSIDER — **con-tem-pla-tor** \-plāt-ər/ *n*

con-tem-pla-tion \kənt-'əm-'plā-shən, 'kən-'tem-/ *n* (13c) 1 **a**: concentration on spiritual things as a form of private devotion **b**: a state of mystical awareness of God's being 2: an act of considering with attention: STUDY 3: the act of regarding steadily 4: INTENTION, EXPECTATION

con-tem-pla-tive \kən-'tem-plāt-iv, 'kənt-'əm-plāt-, 'kən-'tem-/ *adj* (14c): marked by or given to contemplation; *specif*: of or relating to a religious order devoted to prayer and penance — **con-tem-pla-tive-ly** *adv* — **con-tem-pla-tive-ness** *n*

contemplative *n* (14c): one who practices contemplation

con-tem-po-ra-ne-ity \kən-'tem-p(ə)-rā-'nē-ə-tē-, 'nā-/ *n* (1772): the quality or state of being contemporaneous or contemporary

con-tem-po-ra-ne-ous \kən-'tem-p(ə)-rā-'nē-əs/ *adj* [L. *contemporaneus*, fr. *com-* + *tempor-*, *tempus* time — more at TEMPORAL] (1656): existing, occurring, or originating during the same time **syn** see CONTEMPORARY — **con-tem-po-ra-ne-ous-ly** *adv* — **con-tem-po-ra-ne-ous-ness** *n*

con-tem-po-rary \kən-'tem-p(ə)-rā-'rē-/ *adj* [*com-* + L. *tempor-*, *tempus*] (1631) 1: happening, existing, living, or coming into being during the same period of time 2 **a**: SIMULTANEOUS **b**: marked by characteristics of the present period: MODERN, CURRENT — **con-tem-po-rar-i-ly** \-tem-p(ə)-rā-'rē-/ *adv*

syn CONTEMPORARY, CONTEMPORANEOUS, COEVAL, SYNCHRONOUS, SIMULTANEOUS, COINCIDENT mean existing or occurring at the same time. CONTEMPORARY is likely to apply to people and what relates to them. CONTEMPORANEOUS to events; both suggest time measured in years; COEVAL refers usu. to periods, ages, eras, eons; SYNCHRONOUS implies exact correspondence in time and esp. in periodic intervals; SIMULTANEOUS implies correspondence in a moment of time; COINCIDENT is applied to events and may be used in order to avoid implication of causal relationship.

contemporary *n*, *pl* -rar-ies (1646) 1: one that is contemporary with another 2: one of the same or nearly the same age as another

con-tempt \kən-'tem(p)t/ *n* [ME, fr. L. *contemptus*, fr. *contemptus*, pp. of *contemnere*] (14c) 1 **a**: the act of despising: the state of mind of one who despises: DISDAIN (had nothing but ~ for his weakness) **b**: lack of respect or reverence for something 2: the state of being despised 3: willful disobedience to or open disrespect of a court, judge, or legislative body (~ of court)

con-tempt-ible \kən-'tem(p)-tə-bəl/ *adj* (14c) 1: worthy of contempt 2 *obs*: SCORNFUL, CONTEMPTUOUS — **con-tempt-i-bil-ity** \-tem(p)-tə-'bil-ə-tē/ *n* — **con-tempt-ible-ness** *n* — **con-tempt-ibly** \-tem(p)-tə-blē/ *adv*

syn CONTEMPTIBLE, DESPICABLE, PITIABLE, SORRY, SCURVY mean arousing or deserving scorn. CONTEMPTIBLE may imply any quality provoking scorn or a low standing in any scale of values; DESPICABLE may imply utter worthlessness and usu. suggests arousing an attitude of moral indignation; PITIABLE applies to what inspires mixed contempt and pity; SORRY may stress pitiable inadequacy or may suggest wretchedness or sordidness; SCURVY adds to DESPICABLE an implication of arousing disgust.

con-tem-pu-ous \-'tem(p)-chə-(w)əs, -'tem(p)sh-wəs/ *adj* [L. *contemptus*] (1595): manifesting, feeling, or expressing contempt — **con-tem-pu-ous-ly** *adv* — **con-tem-pu-ous-ness** *n*

con-tend \kən-'tend/ *v* [MF or L; MF *contendere*, fr. L. *contendere*, fr. *com-* + *tendere* to stretch — more at THIN] *vi* (15c) 1: to strive or vie in contest or rivalry or against difficulties: STRUGGLE 2: to strive in debate: ARGUE **syn** *vi* 1: MAINTAIN, ASSERT (~ed that he was right) 2: to struggle for: CONTEST — **con-tend-er** *n*

con-tent \kən-'tent/ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L. *contentus*, fr. pp. of *continēre* to hold in, contain — more at CONTAIN] (15c): CONTENTED, SATISFIED

content *vi* (15c) 1: to appease the desires of 2: to limit (oneself) in requirements, desires, or actions

content *n* (1579): CONTENTMENT (ate to his heart's ~)

con-tent \kən-'tent/ *n* [ME, fr. L. *contentus*, pp. of *continēre* to contain] (15c) 1 **a**: something contained — usu. used in pl. (the jar's ~s) (the drawer's ~s) **b**: the topics or matter treated in a written work (table of ~s) 2 **a**: SUBSTANCE, GIST **b**: MEANING, SIGNIFICANCE *c*

the events, physical detail, and information in a work of art — compare FORM 10c 3 **a**: the matter dealt with in a field of study **b**: a part, element, or complex of parts 4: the amount of specified material contained: PROPORTION

content analysis *n* (1945): analysis of the manifest and latent content of a body of communicated material (as a book or film) through a classification, tabulation, and evaluation of its key symbols and themes in order to ascertain its meaning and probable effect

con-tent-ed \kən-'tent-əd/ *adj* (1526): feeling or manifesting satisfaction with one's possessions, status, or situation (a ~ smile) — **con-tent-ed-ly** *adv* — **con-tent-ed-ness** *n*

con-ten-tion \kən-'ten-ʃən/ *n* [ME *contencioun*, fr. MF, fr. L. *contentio*, fr. *contentus*, pp. of *contendere*] (14c) 1: an act or instance of contending 2: a point advanced or maintained in a debate or argument 3: RIVALRY, COMPETITION **syn** see DISCORD

con-ten-tious \kən-'ten-ʃəs/ *adj* (15c) 1: likely to cause contention (a ~ argument) 2: exhibiting an often perverse and wearisome tendency to quarrels and disputes (a man of a most ~ nature) **syn** see BELLIGERENT — **con-ten-tious-ly** *adv* — **con-ten-tious-ness** *n*

con-tent-ment \kən-'tent-mənt/ *n* (15c) 1: the quality or state of being contented 2: something that contents

contented *adj* (1940): a word that primarily expresses lexical meaning — compare FUNCTION WORD

con-ter-mi-nous \kən-'tər-mə-nəs, 'kən-/ *adj* [L. *conterminus*, fr. *com-* + *terminus* boundary — more at TERM] (1631) 1: having a common boundary 2: COTERMINOUS 3: enclosed within one common boundary (the 48 ~ states of the United States) — **con-ter-mi-nous-ly** *adv*

con-test \kən-'test, 'kän-/ *v* [MF *contester*, fr. L. *contestari* (lit.) to bring an action at law, fr. *contestari* to call to witness, fr. *com-* + *testis* witness — more at TESTAMENT] *vi* (1603): STRIVE. VIE **syn** *vi*: to make the subject of dispute, contention, or litigation; *esp*: DISPUTE, CHALLENGE — **con-test-able** \-ə-bəl/ *adj* — **con-test-er** *n*

con-test \kən-'test, 'kän-/ *n* (1647) 1: a struggle for superiority or victory: COMPETITION 2: a competition in which each contestant performs without direct contact with or interference from his competitors

con-tes-tant \kən-'tes-tənt, also 'kän-/ *n* (1665) 1: one that participates in a contest 2: one that contests an award or decision

con-tes-ta-tion \kən-'tes-tā-shən/ *n* (1580): CONTROVERSY

con-text \kən-'tekst/ *n* [ME, weaving together of words, fr. L. *contextus* connection of words, coherence, fr. *contextus*, pp. of *contextere* to weave together, fr. *com-* + *texere* to weave — more at TECHNICAL] (1568) 1: the parts of a discourse that surround a word or passage and can throw light on its meaning 2: the interrelated conditions in which something exists or occurs: ENVIRONMENT, SETTING — **con-text-less** \-tekst-ləs/ *adj* — **con-text-tu-al** \kən-'teks-tʃə-(w)əl, 'kən-/ *adj* — **con-text-tu-al-ly** \-əl/ *adv*

con-text-ure \kən-'teks-ʃər, 'kän-, 'kän-/ *n* [F, fr. L. *contextus*, pp.] (1603) 1: the act, process, or manner of weaving parts into a whole; also: a structure so formed (a ~ of lies) 2: CONTEXT

con-tig-u-ity \kənt-'ə-gyū-ə-tē-/ *n*, *pl* -ities (1641): the quality or state of being contiguous: PROXIMITY

con-tig-u-ous \kən-'tig-yə-wəs/ *adj* [L. *contiguus*, fr. *contingere* to have contact with — more at CONTINGENT] (1611) 1: being in actual contact: touching along a boundary or at a point 2 of angles: ADJACENT 2 3: next or near in time or sequence 4: touching or connected throughout in an unbroken sequence (~ row houses) (the ~ 48 states) **syn** see ADJACENT — **con-tig-u-ous-ly** *adv* — **con-tig-u-ous-ness** *n*

con-ti-nence \kənt-'nən(t)s/ *n* (14c) 1: SELF-RESTRAINT; *esp*: a refraining from sexual intercourse 2: the ability to retain a bodily discharge voluntarily (fecal ~)

con-ti-nent \kənt-'nənt/ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L. *continent-*, *continens*, fr. pp. of *continēre* to hold in — more at CONTAIN] (14c) 1: exercising continence 2 *obs*: RESTRICTIVE — **con-ti-nent-ly** *adv*

con-ti-nent \kənt-'nənt, 'kənt-nənt/ *n* [in senses 1 & 2, fr. L. *continent-*, *continens*, pp. of *continēre*, to hold together, contain; in senses 3 & 4, fr. L. *continent-*, *continens* continuous mass of land, mainland, fr. *continent-*, *continens*, pp.] (1541) 1 *archaic*: CONTAINER, CONFINES 2 *archaic*: EPITOME 3: MAINLAND 4 **a**: one of the six or seven great divisions of land on the globe **b** *cap*: the continent of Europe — used with the

con-ti-nen-tal \kənt-'nənt-əl/ *adj* (1760) 1: of, relating to, or characteristic of a continent (~ waters); *specif*, *often cap*: of or relating to the continent of Europe as distinguished from the British Isles 2 *often cap*: of or relating to the colonies later forming the U.S. (Continental Congress) — **con-ti-nen-tal-ly** \-əl/ *adv*

continental *n* (1777) 1 *often cap*: an American soldier of the Revolution in the Continental army **b** (1): a piece of Continental paper currency (2): the least bit (not worth a ~) 2: an inhabitant of a continent and esp. the continent of Europe

continental breakfast *n*, *often cap* C (1911): a light breakfast (as of rolls or toast and coffee)

continental code *n* (1922): the international Morse code

continental drift *n* (1926): a hypothetical slow movement of the continents on a deep-seated viscous zone within the earth

continental shelf *n* (1892): a shallow submarine plain of varying width forming a border to a continent and typically ending in a steep slope to the oceanic abyss

con-tin-gence \kən-'tin-jən(t)s/ *n* (1530) 1: CONTINGENCY 2: TANGENCY

con-tin-gen-cy \kən-'tin-jən-sē/ *n*, *pl* -cies (1561) 1: the quality or state of being contingent 2: a contingent event or condition: as **a**: an event (as an emergency) that is of possible but uncertain occurrence (trying to provide for every ~) **b**: something liable to happen as an adjunct to something else **syn** see JUNCTURE

contingency table *n* (ca. 1947): a table of data in which the row entries tabulate the data according to one variable and the column entries

\ə/ abut \ə/ kitten, F table \ər/ further \ə/ ash \ā/ ace \ä/ cot, cart \au/ out \ch/ chin \e/ bet \ē/ easy \g/ go \i/ hit \i/ ice \j/ job \j/ sing \ō/ go \ō/ law \oi/ boy \th/ thin \th/ the \ü/ loot \ü/ foot \y/ yet \zh/ vision \ä, k, ŋ, œ, œ, ũ, ũ, see Guide to Pronunciation