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Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary. — Eleventh ed.

p. cm.

Includes index.

ISBN-13: 978-0-87779-807-1	(Laminated unindexed : alk. paper)
ISBN-10: 0-87779-807-9	(Laminated unindexed : alk. paper)
ISBN-13: 978-0-87779-808-8	(Jacketed hardcover unindexed : alk. paper)
ISBN-10: 0-87779-808-7	(Jacketed hardcover unindexed : alk. paper)
ISBN-13: 978-0-87779-809-5	(Jacketed hardcover with CD-ROM : alk. paper)
ISBN-10: 0-87779-809-5	(Jacketed hardcover with CD-ROM : alk. paper)
ISBN-13: 978-0-87779-810-1	(Leatherlook with CD-ROM : alk. paper)
ISBN-10: 0-87779-810-9	(Leatherlook with CD-ROM : alk. paper)
ISBN-13: 978-0-87779-813-2	(Canadian)
ISBN-10: 0-87779-813-3	(Canadian)
ISBN-13: 978-0-87779-814-9	(International)
ISBN-10: 0-87779-814-1	(International)

1. English language—Dictionaries. I. Title: Collegiate dictionary. II. Merriam-Webster, Inc.

PE1628.M36 2003
423—dc21

2003003674
CIP

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Made in the United States of America

789TT:QWV0605

or contact **3 a**: rapid communication of an influence (as a doctrine or emotional state) **b**: an influence that spreads rapidly
con-ta-gious \kən-'tā-j(ē)-əm\ *n*, *pl* -*glā* \j(ē)-j(ē)-\ [L. *contagion*, fr. *contingere*] (1870) **1**: communicable by contact: **CATCHING** (contagious diseases) **2**: bearing contagion (<~ people>) **3**: used for contagious diseases (<~ ward>) **4**: exciting similar emotions or conduct in others (<~ enthusiasm>) — **con-ta-gious-ly** *adv* — **con-ta-gious-ness** *n*

contagious abortion *n* (1910): a contagious or infectious disease (as a brucellosis) of domestic animals characterized by abortion
con-ta-gium \kən-'tā-j(ē)-əm\ *n*, *pl* -*glā* \j(ē)-j(ē)-\ [L. *contagion*, fr. *contingere*] (1870) **1**: an agent capable of causing a communicable disease
con-tain \kən-'tān\ *vb* [ME *contenen*, fr. AF *cunten*, *cuntyen*, stem of *cuntenir*, fr. L. *continere* to hold together, hold in, contain, fr. *com-* + *tenere* to hold — more at **THIN**] *vt* (14c) **1**: to keep within limits: as **a** *tenere* to hold — more at **THIN** **2**: to hold within limits: as **a** *tenere* to hold — more at **THIN** **3**: to follow successfully a policy of containment toward (efforts to ~ Communism) **4**: to prevent (as an enemy or opponent) from advancing or from making a successful attack **2 a**: to have within: **HOLD** **b**: COMPRISE, INCLUDE (the bill ~ several new clauses) **3 a**: to be divisible by usu. without a remainder **b**: ENCLOSE, BOUND ~ *vi*: to restrain oneself — **con-tain-able** \-'tā-nə-bəl\ *adj*

syn CONTAIN, HOLD, ACCOMMODATE mean to have or be capable of having within. CONTAIN implies the actual presence of a specified substance or quantity within something (the can contains a quart of oil). HOLD implies the capacity of containing or the usual or permanent function of containing or keeping (the bookcase will hold all my textbooks). ACCOMMODATE stresses holding without crowding or inconvenience (the hall can accommodate 500 people).

contained *adj* (1653): RESTRAINED; also: CALM
con-tain-er \kən-'tā-nər\ *n* (15c): one that contains: as **a**: a receptacle (as a box or jar) for holding goods **b**: a portable compartment in which freight is placed (as on a train or ship) for convenience of movement — **con-tain-er-less** \-'ləs\ *adj*
con-tain-er-board \-'bɔrd\ *n* (ca. 1924): corrugated or solid cardboard used for making containers
con-tain-er-i-sa-tion, **con-tain-er-ise** *Brit var* of CONTAINERIZATION, CONTAINERIZE

con-tain-er-i-za-tion \kən-'tā-nə-rə-'zā-shən, -nər-ə-\ *n* (1956): a shipping method in which a large amount of material (as merchandise) is packaged into large standardized containers
con-tain-er-ize \kən-'tā-nə-rīz-, -nər-, -īz\ *vt* -ized; -iz-ing (1956) **1**: to ship by containerization **2**: to pack in containers

con-tain-er-port \-'nər-pɔrt\ *n* (1970): a shipping port specially equipped to handle containerized cargo
con-tain-er-ship \-'nər-ʃɪp\ *n* (1966): a ship specially designed or equipped for carrying containerized cargo
con-tain-ment \kən-'tān-mənt\ *n* (1655) **1**: the act, process, or means of containing **2**: the policy, process, or result of preventing the expansion of a hostile power or ideology

con-tam-i-nant \kən-'tā-mə-nənt\ *n* (1922): something that contaminates
con-tam-i-nate \kən-'tā-mə-'nāt\ *vt* -nated; -nating [ME, fr. L. *contaminatus*, pp. of *contaminare*; akin to *contingere* to have contact with — more at **CONTINGENT**] (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** \-'nā-tiv\ *adj* — **con-tam-i-na-tor** \-'nā-tər\ *n*

syn CONTAMINATE, TAINT, 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). TAINT stresses the loss of purity or cleanliness that follows contamination (tainted meat) (a politician's tainted reputation). 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 river). 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-'tā-mə-'nā-shən\ *n* (15c) **1**: a process of contaminating: a state of being contaminated **2**: CONTAMINANT
contd *abbr* continued

conte \kō\ *n* [F] (1843): a usu. short tale of adventure
con-temn \kən-'tem\ *vt* [ME *contempnen*, fr. MF *contempner*, fr. L. *contemnere*, fr. *com-* + *temnere* to despise] (15c): to view or treat with contempt: SCORN **syn** see DESPISE — **con-tem-ner** also **con-tem-nor** \-'tem-nər, -'te-mər\ *n*

con-tem-plate \kən-'təm-plāt-, -tem-\ *vb* -plated; -plating [L. *contemplatus*, pp. of *contemplari*, fr. *com-* + *templum* space marked out for observation of auguries — more at **TEMPLE**] *vt* (ca. 1533) **1**: to view or consider with continued attention: meditate on (<~ the vastness of the universe>) **2**: to view as contingent or probable or as an end or intention (<~ marriage>) ~ *vi*: PONDER, MEDITATE **syn** see CONSIDER — **con-tem-pla-tor** \-'plā-tər\ *n*

con-tem-pla-tion \kən-'təm-plā-shən, -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-'təm-plā-tiv-, -təm-plā-, -tem-\ *adj* (14c) **1**: 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): a person who practices contemplation
con-tem-po \kən-'tem-pō\ *adj* (1972): CONTEMPORARY, PRESENT-DAY (<~ music>)

con-tem-po-ra-ne-i-ty \kən-'tem-p(ə)-rā-'nē-ə-tē-, -nā-\ *n* (1772): the quality or state of being contemporary or contemporaneous
con-tem-po-ra-ne-ous \kən-'tem-p(ə)-rā-'nē-əs\ *adj* [L. *contemporaneus*, fr. *com-* + *tempor-*, *tempus* time] (ca. 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)-rē-, -rē-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)-rē-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 (Abraham Lincoln was contemporary with Charles Darwin). CONTEMPORANEOUS is more often applied to events than to people (contemporaneous accounts of the kidnapping). COEVAL refers usu. to periods, ages, eras, eons (two stars thought to be coeval). SYNCHRONOUS implies exact correspondence in time and esp. in periodic intervals (synchronous timepieces). SIMULTANEOUS implies correspondence in a moment of time (the two shots were simultaneous). COINCIDENT is applied to events and may be used in order to avoid implication of causal relationship (the end of World War II was coincident with a great vintage year).

contemporary *n*, *pl* -rar-ies (1638) **1**: one that is contemporary with another **2**: one of the same or nearly the same age as another
con-tem-po-rize \kən-'tem-p(ə)-rīz\ *vt* -rized; -rizing (1646): to make contemporary (<~ a magazine with the latest fashions>)

con-tempt \kən-'tem(p)-\ *n* [ME, fr. AF, fr. L. *contemptus*, fr. *contemnere*] (14c) **1 a**: the act of despising: the state of mind of one who despises: DISDAIN **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-i-ty** \-'tem(p)-tə-'bi-lə-tē\ *n* — **con-tempt-ible-ness** *n* — **con-tempt-ibly** \-'tem(p)-tə-blē\ *adv*

syn CONTEMPTIBLE, DESPICABLE, PITTABLE, SORRY, SCURVY mean arousing or deserving scorn. CONTEMPTIBLE may imply any quality provoking scorn or a low standing in any scale of values (a contemptible liar). DESPICABLE may imply utter worthlessness and usu. suggests arousing an attitude of moral indignation (a despicable crime). PITTABLE applies to what inspires mixed contempt and pity (a pitiable attempt at tragedy). SORRY may stress pitiable inadequacy or may suggest wretchedness or sordidness (this rattletrap is a sorry excuse for a car). SCURVY adds to DESPICABLE an implication of arousing disgust (a scurvy crew of hangers-on).

con-tem-pu-ous \-'tem(p)-chə-was-, -chəs-, -shwəs-, -chū-əs\ *adj* [L. *contemptus*] (1574): manifesting, feeling, or expressing contempt — **con-tem-pu-ous-ly** *adv* — **con-tem-pu-ous-ness** *n*

con-tend \kən-'tend\ *vb* [ME, fr. AF or L; AF *contendre*, 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 ~ *vt* **1**: MAINTAIN, ASSERT (<~ed that he was right>) **2**: to struggle for: CONTEST

con-tend-er \-'ten-dər\ *n* (1547): one that contends; esp.: a competitor for a championship or high honor (a heavyweight title ~)

con-ten-t \kən-'tent\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L. *contentus*, fr. pp. of *continere* to hold in, contain — more at **THIN**] (15c): CONTENTED, SATISFIED (<was ~ with her life as it was>)

content *vt* (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-ten-t \kən-'tent\ *n* [ME, fr. L. *contentus*, pp. of *continere* 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) **c**: the principal substance (as written matter, illustrations, or music) offered by a World Wide Web site (Internet users have evolved an ethos of free ~ in the Internet — Ben Gerson) **2 a**: SUBSTANCE, GIST **b**: MEANING, SIGNIFICANCE **c**: the events, physical detail, and information in a work of art — compare **FORM** 10b **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* (1940): 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-'ten-təd\ *adj* (15c): feeling or showing 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(t)-shən\ *n* [ME *contencion*, fr. AF *cuntenciun*, fr. L. *contention*, *contentio*, fr. *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(t)-shəs\ *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

con-tent word \kən-'tent-\ *n* (1940): a word that primarily expresses lexical meaning — compare **FUNCTION WORD**

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

con-test \kən-'test, -tēs\ *vb* [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 ~ *vt*: to make the subject of dispute, contention, or litigation; esp.: DISPUTE, CHALLENGE — **con-test-able** \-'tes-tə-bəl\ *adj* — **con-test-er** *n*

\ə\ about \ə\ kitten, F table \ər\ further \ə\ ash \ā\ ace \ā\ mop, mar \ə\ out \ch\ chin \e\ bet \ē\ easy \ē\ go \i\ hit \i\ ice \i\ job \ə\ sing \ō\ go \ō\ law \oi\ boy \ih\ thin \ih\ the \ū\ loot \ū\ foot \y\ yet \zh\ vision, beige \k, ʔ, e, u, ʔ\ see Guide to Pronunciation