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has been sporadic, but Christianity ~ —T.S.Eliot⟩ ⟨a ~ rearrangement of electrons in the solar atoms results in the emission of light —James Jeans⟩ **2 :** operated without interruption ⟨a ~ furnace⟩ ⟨a ~ retort⟩ **3** *of sculpture* **:** having one depicted scene following another without an obvious break **4** *of a beam, span, truss* **:** having three or more supports or extending over two or more panels — see BRIDGE illustration **5** *of plant spores* **a :** lacking septa **b :** merging or in protoplasmic continuity with the tissue of the cap or peridium (as in certain fungi) **6 :** PROGRESSIVE 7 **7 :** of the nature of a continuum **8** *of a function* **:** having an arbitrarily small numerical difference between the value at a point and the value at any point in a sufficiently small neighborhood of the point **syn** see CONTINUAL

continuous brake *n* **:** a train-brake system consisting of a series of brakes attached one to each car and operated on all the cars from one point

continuous current *n* **:** DIRECT CURRENT

continuous easement *or* **continuous servitude** *n, law* **:** an easement that does not require the act of man for its enjoyment (as an easement of drainage by a natural watercourse or a right of light or air) — compare DISCONTINUOUS EASEMENT

continuous girder *or* **continuous beam** *n* **:** a girder or beam having more than two supports

continuous hinge *n* **:** PIANO HINGE

continuous industry *n* **:** an industry in which most of the material is received at one point from which successive operations turn it into a finished product (as yarn spinning and paper manufacture)

continuous kiln *n* **1 :** a series of connected kilns or one continuous chamber through which a fire travels, green brick being set ahead of the fire **2 :** a long narrow kiln which is hottest in its middle portion and through which ware travels on cars or conveyor — called also *tunnel kiln*

con·tin·u·ous·ly *adv* **:** in a continuous manner ⟨a double feature alternates ~ throughout the day⟩

continuous mill *n* **:** a mill consisting of a series of consecutive rolls or dies; *specif* **:** one used in wire drawing through which a rod is passed from one set of rolls or dies to the next until finished

continuous miner *n* **:** a machine that cuts and loads coal in one continuous operation

continuous mixer *n* **:** a mixer (as of asphalt) into which the ingredients of the mix are introduced continuously, are mixed as they pass through the mixer, and are then discharged in a continuous operation — opposed to *batch mixer*

con·tin·u·ous·ness \-nəs\ *n* -ES **:** the quality or state of being continuous

continuous performance *n* **:** a performance (as of a motion-picture program) that is repeated continuously till closing so customers need not come at the beginning to see a complete showing

continuous phase *n* **:** DISPERSION MEDIUM

continuous pool *n* **:** fifteen-ball pool in which whenever 14 balls have been pocketed the frame is set up anew to be broken while or after pocketing the 15th ball

continuous spectrum *n* **:** a spectrum (as of light emitted by a white-hot lamp filament) having no apparent breaks or gaps throughout its wavelength range

continuous spinning *n* **:** rayon spinning in which extrusion, coagulation, washing, and winding are accomplished continuously on one machine

continuous variation *n, biol* **:** variation in which a series of intermediate types connects the extremes — compare QUANTITATIVE INHERITANCE

continuous voyage *n* **:** a voyage which in view of its purposes is regarded in international law as one single voyage though interrupted (as in transshipment of contraband of war) — see ULTIMATE DESTINATION

continuous watermark *n* **:** a watermark on stamps consisting of letters, words, or a phrase repeated continuously, only part of the mark appearing on each stamp

continuous waves *n pl* **1 :** radio waves that continue with unchanging intensity or amplitude without modulation and that are used in telegraphy in which the wave is turned on and off with a key to form the dots and dashes of a code ⟨*continuous-wave* telegraphy⟩ — abbr. *CW* **2 :** radio waves of which the intensity continues unchanged except for modulation — called also *modulated continuous waves;* see INTERRUPTED CONTINUOUS WAVES

con·tin·u·um \kən'tin(y)əwəm\ *n, pl* **contin·ua** \-wə\ *also* **continuums** [L, neut. of *continuus* — more at CONTINUOUS] **1 :** something that is absolutely continuous and selfsame: as **a :** something of which no distinction of content can be affirmed except by reference to something else (as duration and extension which are capable of supporting distinctions only by reference to numbers or to such relations as those of *now* to *then, here* to *there, before* to *after*) **b :** something of which the only assertable variation is variation in time or space **2 a :** something in which a fundamental common character is discernible amid a series of insensible or indefinite variations ⟨a sensation ~⟩ **b :** an identity of substance uniting discrete parts; *broadly* **:** CONTINUITY **3 :** a set that has the same transfinite cardinal number as the set of real numbers or the set of all the points of a straight line used as a number scale **4 a :** an ideal substance or medium containing no vacant spaces and devoid of discrete structure **b :** a continuous portion of a spectrum

contl *abbr* **1** continental **2** control

cont·line \'känt,līn, -ˌlən\ *or* **cant·line** \'kant-\ *or* **cunt·line** \'kənt-\ *n* -s [*contline* fr. alter. of 2*cant* + *line; cantline* fr. 2*cant* + *line; cuntline* by folk etymology (influence of *cunt*) fr. *contline*] **1 :** the space between the strands on the outside of a rope **2 :** the space between the bilges of two casks stowed side by side

contn *abbr* continuation

con·to \'kän(ˌ)tō\ *n* -s [Pg, lit., number, fr. LL *computus* computation — more at COUNT] *in Portugal and Brazil* **:** a monetary unit equal to 1,000,000 reis or to 1000 Portuguese escudos or 1000 Brazilian cruzeiros

con·to·ise \ˌkäntə'wēz\ *n* -s [by alter.] **:** COINTISE

1**con·tor·ni·ate** \kən'tȯ(r)nēət, -ē,āt\ *adj* [It *contorniato*, fr. past part. of *contorniare* to make a circuit or outline, fr. *com-* + *torniare* to surround, measure in circuit, fr. *tornio, torno* turning lathe, circuit, fr. L *tornus* lathe — more at TURN] **:** encircled by a groove just inside the edge ⟨a ~ medal⟩

2**contorniate** \"\ *also* **con·tor·ni·a·to** \ˌ=ˌ=nē'äd·ō\ *n, pl* **contorniates** \-ts\ *also* **contornia·ti** \-äd·ē\ [*contorniate* fr. F, fr. It *contorniato; contorniato* fr. It, fr. *contorniato*, adj.] **:** a thin bronze contorniate medallion of the Roman Empire first used about the time of Constantine the Great supposedly in connection with a game like chess

con·tort \kən'tȯ(ə)rt, -ȯ(ə)t, *usu* -d·+V\ *vb* -ED/-ING/-S [L *contortus*, past part. of *contorquēre* to twist, fr. *com-* + *torquēre* to twist — more at TORTURE] *vt* **:** to twist or twist together esp. in a strained or violent manner **:** turn awry **:** BEND, DISTORT ⟨branches that had been ~*ed* and gnarled by years of struggle to survive —*New Yorker*⟩ ⟨~ spelling and grammar⟩ ~ *vi* **:** to twist into a strained shape or expression (as from pain or violent feeling) ⟨his face would ~ in a grimace at the heat —D.C.Jenkins⟩ ⟨fine features hardened and ~*ed* with rage⟩ **syn** see DEFORM

con·tor·tae \kən'tȯrd·ē\ [NL, fr. fem. pl. of L *contortus*] *syn of* GENTIANALES

contorted *adj* **1 :** twisted together **:** TWISTED ⟨a ~ coastline⟩ ⟨tears streaked her ~ face⟩ **2 :** CONVOLUTE ⟨~ leaves in the bud⟩ — **con·tort·ed·ly** *adv*

con·tor·tion \kən'tȯrshən, -tȯ(ə)shən\ *n* -s [F & L; F *contorsion*, fr. L *contortion-, contortio*, fr. *contortus* + *-ion-, -io* -ion] **:** the act or result of contorting or the state of being contorted **:** a twisting into abnormal or grotesque shape **:** a needlessly or unduly complicated action or posture ⟨goes through tremendous ~*s* in an effort to link together her two separate plots—James Yaffe⟩ — **con·tor·tion·al** \-shənᵊl, -shnəl\

con·tor·tive \kən'tȯrd·iv, -tȯ(ə)d·-\ *adj* **:** causing or characterized by or tending to contortions or twisting

1**con·tour** \'kän,tu̇(ə)r, -tu̇ə\ *n* -s [F, modif. of It *contorno*, fr. *contornare* to surround, sketch in outline, round off, fr. L *com-* + *tornare* to turn in a lathe, fr. *tornus* lathe — more at TURN] **1 :** the delimitations of a figure: **a :** the drawn or painted outline of a two-dimensional figure **b :** the periphery of a form seen two-dimensionally ⟨the ~ of a mountain silhouetted against the sky⟩ **c :** SHAPE, FORM ⟨the ~*s* of a statue⟩ ⟨the ominous ~*s* of a ravine⟩ — usu. used in pl.; used of any irregularly shaped body or uneven surface or curving line ⟨the ~*s* of the shoreline⟩ **2 :** the individual features or the order or arrangement of features of anything having discernible and usu. complex structure — usu. used in pl. ⟨the ~*s* of a melody⟩ ⟨the ~*s* of the plan are beginning to emerge⟩ ⟨poetry is a discovery of ~*s* and connections —C.S.Kilby⟩ **3 a** *math* **:** a plotted curve **:** GRAPH **b :** a line or surface at all points of which a certain quantity, otherwise variable, has the same value (as lines of equal elevation on the ground or isothermal surfaces in a heat-conducting solid) **:** CONTOUR LINE **4 :** a sequence of levels of pitch or stress typically extending over several successive words in an utterance **syn** see OUTLINE

2**contour** \"\ *vb* -ED/-ING/-S *vt* **1 a :** to draw or shape the contours of **b :** to shape (a thing) to fit the contours of something else ⟨~ the waist of a jacket⟩ **2 a :** to construct (as a road) in conformity to a contour **b :** to cultivate (land) along lines connecting points of equal elevation **c :** to provide (as a map) with contour lines ~ *vi* **:** to draw or plot a contour

3**contour** \"\ *adj* **1 :** following the contour lines or running furrows or ridges along the contour lines to retard erosion of sloping land by runoff rainwater ⟨~ plowing⟩ **2 :** made to fit the contour of something enclosed or contained ⟨~ sheet⟩

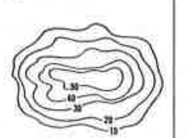
contour chair *n* [fr. *Contour*, a trademark] **:** a chair esp. designed to fit the form of the human body

contour feather *n* **:** one of the medium-sized feathers that form the general covering of a bird and determine the external contour — compare DOWN, FLIGHT FEATHER

contour interval *n* **:** the vertical distance between the elevations represented by adjacent contour lines on a map

contour line *n* **:** an imaginary line connecting the points on a land surface that have the same elevation; *also* **:** the line representing this on a map or chart

contour map *n* **:** a map showing the configuration of a surface by means of contour lines drawn at regular intervals of elevation (as one for every 20 feet)



contour map

con·tour·né \ˌkäntu̇r¦nā\ *adj* [F, past part. of *contourner* to round off, twist, fr. It *contornare* to round off] *heraldry* **:** turned about — used of a figure facing to the sinister

contr *abbr* **1** contract; contraction; contractor **2** contralto **3** contrary **4** control; controller

1**con·tra** \'käntrə\ *prep* [ME, fr. L, adv. & prep. — more at COUNTER] **:** AGAINST — used chiefly in the phrase *pro and contra*

2**contra** \"\ *adv* [ME, fr. L] **:** to the contrary **:** CONTRARIWISE

3**contra** \"\ *n* -s **1 :** CONTRARY **:** a thing opposite or against another **2 :** OFFSET **:** an item on the opposite side of an account or statement — compare PER CONTRA

4**contra** \'käntrə, 'kōn-\ *n* -s [by shortening and alter.] **:** CONTREDANSE 1

contra- *prefix* [ME, fr. L *contra-, contra* against — more at COUNTER] **1 :** against **:** contrary **:** contrasting **:** in opposition ⟨*contra*-acting⟩ ⟨*contra*indicative⟩ ⟨*contra*tenor⟩ **2 :** pitched below normal bass ⟨*contra*bassoon⟩ ⟨*contra*octave⟩ ⟨*contra*posaune⟩

1**con·tra·band** \'käntrə,band, -baa(ə)nd\ *n* -s [It *contrabbando*, fr. ML *contrabannum*, fr. L *contra-* + ML *bannus, bannum* decree, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *ban* command — more at BANNER] **1 :** illegal or prohibited traffic **:** SMUGGLING ⟨persons the most bound in duty to prevent ~ —Edmund Burke⟩ **2 :** goods or merchandise the importation, exportation, or sometimes possession of which is forbidden; *also* **:** smuggled goods **3 :** a Negro slave who during the Civil War escaped to or was brought within the Union lines **4 :** CONTRABAND OF WAR

2**contraband** \"\ *adj* **:** prohibited or excluded by law or treaty **:** FORBIDDEN ⟨~ liquor⟩ ⟨~ cargo⟩

3**contraband** \"\ *vt* -ED/-ING/-S **1 :** to import illegally (as prohibited goods) **:** SMUGGLE **2 :** to declare prohibited **:** FORBID

con·tra·band·age \-dij\ *n* -s **:** traffic in contraband

con·tra·band·ist \-dəst\ *n* -s [Sp *contrabandista*, fr. *contrabando* contraband (fr. obs. It) + *-ista* -ist] **:** one engaged in contraband trade **:** SMUGGLER

contraband of war : something that according to international law cannot be supplied to one belligerent except at the risk of seizure and condemnation by the other

1**con·tra·bass** \'käntrə,bās\ *n* -ES [obs. It *contrabasso* (now *contrabbasso*), fr. *contra-* + *basso* — more at BASSO] **:** the largest instrument of the viol family having usu. four strings tuned in fourths and a range of about three octaves — called also *bass, bass fiddle, bull fiddle, double bass, string bass*

contrabass

2**contrabass** \"\ *adj* **:** pitched an octave below the normal bass instrumental or vocal range

contrabass clarinet *n* **:** a clarinet usu. pitched an octave below the bass clarinet — called also *double-bass clarinet, pedal clarinet*

con·tra·bass·ist \-sȯst\ *n* -s **:** one who plays a contrabass instrument

con·tra·bassoon \ˌkäntrə +\ *n* **:** the largest member of the oboe family sounding an octave lower in pitch than the bassoon — called also *contrafagotto, double bassoon*

con·tra·bassoonist \ˌkäntrə +\ *n* -s **:** a contrabassoon player

con·tra bo·nos mo·res \ˌkōntrə¦bōnōs¦mō(ˌ)rās, ¦kän-, -(ˌ)rāz,-rez,-rēz\ *adj* [L] **:** against good morals **:** harmful to the moral welfare of society — used of contracts, which are then void by public policy

con·tra·cep·tion \ˌkäntrə¦sepshən\ *n* -s [*contra-* + *conception*] **:** the prevention of conception or impregnation by voluntary and artificial means — compare RHYTHM METHOD

1**con·tra·cep·tive** \ˌkäntrə¦septiv *also* -təv\ *adj* [*contra-* + *conceptive*] **:** used for or relating to contraception

2**contraceptive** \"\ *n* -s **:** a contraceptive agent or device

con·tra·clockwise \ˌkäntrə +\ *adj* (*or adv*) [*contra-* + *clockwise*] **:** COUNTERCLOCKWISE

1**con·tract** \'kän·ˌtrakt\ *n* -s [ME, fr. L *contractus*, fr. *contractus*, past part. of *contrahere* to draw together, collect, cause, make a bargain, make a contract, fr. *com-* + *trahere* to draw — more at DRAW] **1 a :** an agreement between two or more persons or parties to do or not to do something **:** BARGAIN, COMPACT, COVENANT; *esp* **:** an agreement that is legally enforceable — see QUASI CONTRACT; compare CONSIDERATION 8b, DEED, NUDUM PACTUM, PACTUM, PAROL CONTRACT, SPECIALTY CONTRACT **b :** the act by which two persons enter into the marriage relation; *also* **:** the agreement so to do **:** BETROTHAL **c** *archaic* **:** a legal transaction (as a grant between private parties or a grant, charter, or franchise from the state) ⟨no State shall . . . pass any bill of attainder . . . or law impairing the obligation of ~*s* — *U. S. Constitution*⟩ **d :** a collective agreement (as between an employer and a union) **2** *obs* **:** a drawing together **:** mutual attraction **3 :** a writing made by the parties to evidence the terms and conditions of a contract **4 :** the department or principles of law having to do with contracts **5** *card games* **a :** an undertaking usu. by the

... els⟩ **8 :** one of the installments in a course of schoolwork which a student undertakes to complete within a given time working at his own speed and under individual instruction according to a system originated in the public high school of Dalton, Mass.

2**contract** \(')kän·¦trakt', kən·'-\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF *contracte*, fr. L *contractus*, past part.] **:** CONTRACTED ⟨a ~ noun⟩ **:** SHRUNKEN, NARROWED

3**contract** *in sense 1 usu* 'kän,trakt; *in other senses usu* kən'trakt\ *vb* -ED/-ING/-S [MF *contracter* to agree upon, enter into, fr. L *contractus* contract (agreement)] *vt* **1 a :** to enter into with mutual obligations **:** establish or undertake by contract ⟨~*ed* an engagement with a neighboring . . . farmer —Rose Macaulay⟩ **:** place under contract **b :** BETROTH, AFFIANCE ⟨~*ed* his daughter with the son of an old friend⟩ **2 a :** to bring on oneself **:** acquire usu. involuntarily (as a habit) **:** CATCH ⟨~ a disease⟩ ⟨~*ed* pneumonia⟩ **b :** INCUR ⟨~ an obligation⟩ ⟨~*ed* numerous debts⟩ **3 a :** LIMIT, RESTRICT ⟨the town's limits had not been ~*ed*⟩ **b** *obs* **:** ABRIDGE **c :** to draw together so as to wrinkle **:** KNIT ⟨a frown ~*ed* his brow⟩ **d :** to draw together or nearer **:** CONCENTRATE ⟨~ his armies into one force⟩ **4** [L *contractus*, past part.] **:** to reduce to less compass or smaller size **:** squeeze or force together **:** SHORTEN, NARROW, LESSEN ⟨~ a muscle⟩ **:** cause to shrink ⟨reexpand the world which Bacon had so effectively ~*ed* —J.W.Krutch⟩ **5 :** to shorten (as a word) by omitting one or more sounds or letters or by reducing two or more vowels or syllables to one ~ *vi* **1 :** to make a contract **:** COVENANT, BARGAIN ⟨responsible for ~*ing* with local institutions for the confinement . . . of Federal offenders —*Current Biog.*⟩ ⟨~ for the supply of meat to the barracks⟩ **2 :** to draw together so as to diminish in size or extent **:** SHRINK ⟨iron ~*s* in cooling⟩ **:** become reduced in compass, duration, or length ⟨years ~*ing* to a moment —William Wordsworth⟩; *specif, of a muscle or muscle fiber* **:** to shorten and broaden

syn CONDENSE, COMPRESS, CONSTRICT, DEFLATE, SHRINK: CONTRACT is a general antonym for *expand* and indicates any drawing in and limiting of area or scope ⟨the range of classical reading might extend, or from time to time *contract* —H.O.Taylor⟩ ⟨since World War II gold mining has expanded considerably while supplies of Negro labor have been *contracting* —*N.Y. Times*⟩ ⟨he sank back into his chair, seeming to *contract*, to wither before their shocked eyes —Angus Mowat⟩ CONDENSE indicates a reduction of space occupied with resulting greater compactness of original material ⟨*condense* gas into a liquid⟩ ⟨in so far as we can *condense* Langland's message into a few words, we must sum it up as a long search for three degrees of excellence in life — Do Well, Do Better, and Do Best —G.G. Coulton⟩ COMPRESS indicates a pressing, often against resistance, into smaller compass and definite shape ⟨great depths of snow are accumulated, and this weight causes lower layers to *compress* and form ice —Patricia Spring⟩ ⟨one of those tiny handkerchiefs, *compressed* into the shape of a small puffball by being clutched in the palm of a feverish hand —J.C.Powys⟩ ⟨I shall make no attempt to *compress* a history of modern philosophy within the limits of one lecture —A.N.Whitehead⟩ CONSTRICT indicates a binding, squeezing, or gripping contracting, often forced, onerous, or painful ⟨the education of this promising young aristocrat *constricted* by the anti-intellectual traditions of his class excluded him from "the two great conceptions of our day . . . artistic integrity . . . and . . . social justice" —Harry Levin⟩ ⟨from the health point of view garments should in general never be so tight as to *constrict* the tissues —Morris Fishbein⟩ DEFLATE indicates contracting brought about by the exhausting of air or gas that fills or inflates it ⟨*deflate* a balloon⟩ ⟨in his lecture on temperance he *deflated* those who felt too superior to associate with a reformed drunkard —Ruth P. Randall⟩ SHRINK indicates a contracting of length, scope, or volume but may suggest the contracting of wet fabrics ⟨as colonial empires *shrink*, Europe's horizons will too —A.E.Stevenson †1965⟩ ⟨in 1906 he met his first sharp reverse in losses incurred by the San Francisco earthquake, but it was not until some seven years later that his modest fortune began to *shrink* —G.C.Knight⟩ **syn** see in addition PROMISE

con·tract·able \kən·'traktəbəl, (')kän·¦-\ *adj* **:** capable of being contracted ⟨~ diseases⟩

con·tract·ant \kən·'traktᵊnt, (')kän·¦-\ *n* -s [F *contractant*, fr. pres. part. of *contracter*] **:** one that contracts

contract bond \'kän,trakt-\ *n* **:** a bond or other form of indemnity agreement to indemnify one against loss or damage by reason of the breach of a contract (as for building, construction, or supply)

contract bridge \'=,=-\ *n* **:** a card game for four players in two partnerships identical with auction bridge except that odd tricks do not count toward making game or scoring slam bonuses unless they are undertaken in the contract — see BRIDGE, DUPLICATE BRIDGE

contract carrier \'=,=-\ *n* **:** a transport line that carries persons or property under contract to one or a limited number of shippers — compare COMMON CARRIER

contracted *adj* **1 a :** agreed upon **:** BARGAINED ⟨a ~ peace⟩ **b :** BETROTHED **2 :** ABRIDGED, CONCISE **3 :** ILLIBERAL, SELFISH, NARROW ⟨a ~ mind⟩ **4 :** drawn together **:** SHRUNKEN, WRINKLED ⟨~ brow⟩ **:** NARROW, SHORTENED ⟨a ~ rest period⟩ — **con·tract·ed·ly** *adv* — **con·tract·ed·ness** *n* -ES

contracted foot *or* **contracted heel** *n* **:** a horse's foot exhibiting a shrinking or contraction of the lateral hoof walls preventing the proper expansion of the parts and producing pressure on the soft structures causing pain and lameness

contracted pelvis *n* **:** a pelvis that is abnormally small in one or more principal diameters and that consequently interferes with normal parturition

contract grade \'kän,trakt-\ *n* **:** a certain grade of a product (as wheat or cotton) defined and established by an exchange dealing in this product and assumed to be understood in every transaction between floor traders

con·tract·ile \kən·'traktᵊl, (')kän·¦-\ *also* **con·tract·ible** \-təbəl\ *adj* [3*contract* + *-ile* or *-ible*] **:** tending to contract **:** having the power or property of contracting **:** displaying or producing contraction

contractile cell *n* **:** one of the wall cells whose hygroscopic contraction causes the rupture of a sporangium or anther — see DEHISCENCE a (1)

contractile vacuole *n* **:** a vacuole in many unicellular organisms that gradually enlarges and suddenly collapses, dispersing its watery content often in regular pulsations, and that is thought to maintain the normal hydrostatic relation of the organism with its environment — see AMOEBA illustration

con·trac·til·i·ty \ˌkän·(ˌ)trak'tiləd·ē, -ətē, -i\ *also* **con·tract·ibil·i·ty** \kən·ˌtraktə'bil-, ˌkän·-\ *n* -ES **:** the capability or quality of shrinking or contracting; *esp* **:** the power of shortening or drawing into a more compact form possessed by living muscle fibers and to a less extent by many forms of living matter

contract in \'kän,trakt-\ *vi, Brit* **:** to consent in writing to pay to a trade union a levy for political use — compare CONTRACT OUT

contracting *pres part of* CONTRACT

con·trac·tion \kən·'trakshən\ *n* -s [L *contraction-, contractio*, fr. *contractus* (past part. of *contrahere* to draw together) + *-ion-, -io* -ion — more at CONTRACT] **1** [3*contract* (enter into) + *-ion*] **:** the making of a contract, agreement, or covenant ⟨the ~ of peace and friendship⟩ ⟨~ of marriage⟩ **2 a :** the action or process of becoming smaller, shorter, or pressed together ⟨the ~ of a gas on cooling⟩ **:** decrease of size or scope ⟨the ~ at the end of a discharge nozzle⟩ **:** the quality or state of being contracted **:** NARROWNESS ⟨complaining of monotony and the ~ of his life⟩ **b (1) :** the shortening and thickening of a muscle ... the whole muscles usu. beginning in the pelvic region, affecting one of body, and follow... the basic movements of the modern dance ... production in the volume ... outstanding ... business debt) or activity **3 :** the act of acquiring or incurring ... word, syl-

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