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Eleventh Edition

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EDITION



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confide \kən-ˈfīd\ *vb* **con-fid-ed**; **con-fid-ing** [ME (Sc), fr. L *confidere*, fr. *com-* + *fidere* to trust — more at *BIDE*] *vt* (15c) 1: to have confidence: **TRUST** 2: to show confidence by imparting secrets (< in a friend) ~ *vt* 1: to tell confidentially 2: to give to the care or protection of another: **ENTRUST** *syn* see **COMMIT** — **con-fid-er** *n*
con-fid-ence \kən-fa-dən(t)s, -den(t)s\ *n* (14c) 1 *a*: a feeling or consciousness of one's powers or of reliance on one's circumstances <had perfect ~ in her ability to succeed> (<met the risk with brash ~>) *b*: faith or belief that one will act in a right, proper, or effective way (<have ~ in a leader>) 2: the quality or state of being certain: **CERTITUDE** (<they had every ~ of success>) 3 *a*: a relation of trust or intimacy (<took his friend into his ~>) *b*: reliance on another's discretion (<their story was told in strictest ~>) *c*: support esp. in a legislative body (<vote of ~>) 4: a communication made in confidence: **SECRET** (<gave him of betraying a ~>)
syn **CONFIDENCE**, **ASSURANCE**, **SELF-POSSESSION**, **APLOMB** mean a state of mind or a manner marked by easy coolness and freedom from uncertainty, diffidence, or embarrassment. **CONFIDENCE** stresses faith in oneself and one's powers without any suggestion of conceit or arrogance (the confidence that comes from long experience). **ASSURANCE** carries a stronger implication of certainty and may suggest arrogance or lack of objectivity in assessing one's own powers (<handled the cross-examination with complete assurance>). **SELF-POSSESSION** implies an ease or coolness under stress that reflects perfect self-control and command of one's powers (<answered the insolent question with complete self-possession>). **APLOMB** implies a manifest self-possession in trying or challenging situations (<handled the reporters with great aplomb>).

confidence *adj* (1849): of, relating to, or adept at swindling by false promises (*a ~ game*) (*a ~ man*)
confidence interval *n* (1934): a group of continuous or discrete adjacent values that is used to estimate a statistical parameter (as a mean or variance) and that tends to include the true value of the parameter a predetermined proportion of the time if the process of finding the group of values is repeated a number of times
confidence limits *n pl* (1939): the end points of a confidence interval
con-fid-ent \kən-fa-dən(t), -den(t)\ *adj* [*L* *confident-*, *confidens*, fr. prp. of *confidere*] (ca. 15c) 1: full of conviction: **CERTAIN** (<~ of success>) (<~ that conditions will improve>) 2: having or showing assurance and self-reliance (*a ~ young businessman*) (*a ~ manner*) 3 *obs*: **TRUSTFUL**, **CONFIDING** — **con-fid-ent-ly** *adv*
con-fid-ent-ial \kən-fa-dən(t)-shəl\ *adj* (1759) 1: marked by intimacy or willingness to confide (*a ~ tone*) 2: **PRIVATE**, **SECRET** (<~ information>) 3: entrusted with confidences (*a ~ clerk*) 4: containing information whose unauthorized disclosure could be prejudicial to the national interest — compare **SECRET**, **TOP SECRET** — **con-fid-ent-ial-ity** \kən-fa-dən(t)-shə-ˈal-ē-ty\ *n* — **con-fid-ent-ial-ly** *adv* (*con-fid-ent-ial-ly* *adv*)

con-fid-ing-ly \kən-fī-dīŋ-lē\ *adv* (1797): tending to confide: **TRUSTFUL** — **con-fid-ing-ly** *adv* (1797) *adv* — **con-fid-ing-ness** *n*
con-fig-ur-a-tion \kən-fī-gyū-ˈrā-shən, -kən-, -gə-ˈ\ *n* [*L* *configuratio*, *configuratio* similar formation, fr. *L* *figurare* to form from or after, fr. *com-* + *figurare* to form, fr. *figura* figure] (1559) 1 *a*: relative arrangement of parts or elements: as (1): **SHAPE** (2): contour of land (<~ of the mountains>) (3): functional arrangement (<a small business computer system in its simplest ~>) *b*: something (as a figure, contour, pattern, or apparatus) that results from a particular arrangement of parts or components *c*: the stable structural makeup of a chemical compound with reference to the space relations of the constituent atoms 2: **GESTALT** (<personality>) — **con-fig-ur-a-tion-al** \kən-fī-gyū-ˈrā-shən, -kən-, -gə-ˈ\ *adj* — **con-fig-ur-a-tion-al-ly** *adv* — **con-fig-ur-a-tive** \kən-fī-gyū-ˈrā-tiv, -fī-gə-ˈ\ *adj*
con-fig-ure \kən-fī-gyūr, esp *Brit* -fī-gər\ *vt* -ured; -uring (1677): to set up for operation esp. in a particular way (<a fighter plane configured for the Malaysian air force>)

con-fine \kən-ˈfīn also kən-ˈ\ *n* [ME, fr. AF or L; AF *confines*, pl., fr. L *confine* border, fr. neut. of *confinis* adjacent, fr. *com-* + *finis* end] (15c) 1 *a*: something (as borders or walls) that encloses (<outside the ~s of the office or hospital> — W. A. Nolen); also: something that restrains (<escape from the ~s of soot and clutter> — E. S. Muskie) *b*: **SCOPE** 3 (<work within the ~s of a small group> — Frank Newman) 2 *a* *archaic*: **RESTRICTION** *b* *obs*: **PRISON**
con-fine \kən-ˈfīn\ *vb* **con-fined**; **con-fine-ing** *vi* (1523) *archaic*: **BORDER** ~ *vt* 1 *a*: to hold within a location *b*: **IMPRISON** 2: to keep within limits (<will ~ my remarks to one subject>) *syn* see **LIMIT** — **con-fine-er** *n*
con-fined \kən-ˈfīnd\ *adj* (1772): undergoing childbirth
con-fine-ment \kən-ˈfīn-mənt\ *n* (1592): an act of confining: the state of being confined (<solitary ~>); esp.: **LYING-IN**

con-firm \kən-ˈfɜrm\ *vt* [ME, fr. AF *confermer*, fr. L *confirmare*, fr. *com-* + *firmare* to make firm, fr. *firmus* firm] (13c) 1: to give approval to: **RATIFY** (<~ a treaty>) 2: to make firm or firmer: **STRENGTHEN** (<one's resolve>) 3: to administer the rite of confirmation to 4: to give new assurance of the validity of: remove doubt about by authoritative act or indisputable fact (<~ a rumor>) (<~ an order>) — **con-firm-a-bil-ity** \kən-fɜr-mə-bi-lə-tē\ *n* — **con-firm-a-bil-ly** *adv* — **con-firm-a-ble** \kən-fɜr-mə-bəl\ *adj*
syn **CONFIRM**, **CORROBORATE**, **SUBSTANTIATE**, **VERIFY**, **AUTHENTICATE**, **VALIDATE** mean to attest to the truth or validity of something. **CONFIRM** implies the removing of doubts by an authoritative statement or indisputable fact (<confirmed the reports>). **CORROBORATE** suggests the strengthening of what is already partly established (<witnesses corroborated his story>). **SUBSTANTIATE** implies the offering of evidence that sustains the contention (<the claims have yet to be substantiated>). **VERIFY** implies the establishing of correspondence of actual facts or details with those proposed or guessed at (<all statements of fact in the article have been verified>). **AUTHENTICATE** implies establishing genuineness by adducing legal or official documents or expert opinion (<handwriting experts authenticated the diaries>). **VALIDATE** implies establishing validity by authoritative affirmation or by factual proof (<validated the hypothesis by experiments>).

con-firm-ment \kən-fɜr-mənt\ *n* [*L* *confirmandus*, gerundive of *confirmare*] (1884): a candidate for religious confirmation
con-fir-ma-tion \kən-fɜr-mə-shən\ *n* (14c) 1: an act or process of confirming: as (1): a Christian rite conferring the gift of the Holy

Spirit and among Protestants full church membership (2): a ceremony esp. of Reform Judaism confirming youth in their faith *b*: the ratification of an executive act by a legislative body 2 *a*: confirming proof: **CORROBORATION** *b*: the process of supporting a statement by evidence — **con-fir-ma-tion-al** \kən-fɜr-mə-shən-l\ *adj*
con-fir-ma-to-ry \kən-fɜr-mə-tōr-ē\ *adj* (1636): serving to confirm: **CORROBORATIVE** (*a ~ test*)

con-firmed \kən-ˈfɜrmd\ *adj* (14c) 1 *a*: marked by long continuance and likely to persist (*a ~ habit*) *b*: fixed in habit and unlikely to change (*a ~ do-gooder*) 2: having received the rite of confirmation *syn* see **INVETERATE** — **con-firm-ed-ly** \kən-fɜr-məd-lē\ *adv* — **con-firm-ed-ness** \kən-fɜr-məd-nəs, -fɜrmd(d)-nəs\ *n*

con-fis-ca-ble \kən-fis-kə-bəl\ *adj* (ca. 1736): liable to confiscation
con-fis-ca-tion \kən-fis-kə-shən\ *n* — **con-fis-ca-tor** \kən-fis-kə-tōr\ *n* — **con-fis-ca-to-ry** \kən-fis-kə-tōr-ē\ *adj*
con-fis-cate \kən-fa-skāt, kən-fis-kət\ *adj* [*L* *confiscatus*, pp. of *confiscare* to confiscate, fr. *com-* + *fiscus* treasury] (ca. 1533) 1: appropriated by the government: **FORFEITED** 2: deprived of property by confiscation

con-fis-cate \kən-fa-skāt\ *vt* -cat-ed; -cat-ing (1552) 1: to seize as forfeited to the public treasury 2: to seize by or as if by authority — **con-fis-ca-tion** \kən-fa-skā-shən\ *n* — **con-fis-ca-tor** \kən-fa-skā-tōr\ *n* — **con-fis-ca-to-ry** \kən-fis-kə-tōr-ē\ *adj*

con-fit \kən-ˈfɪt, kən-, kən-\ *n* [F, fr. OF, preparation, preserves, fr. pp. of *confire* to prepare — more at **COMFIT**] (1951) 1: meat (as goose, duck, or pork) that has been cooked and preserved in its own fat 2: a garnish made usu. from fruit or vegetables that are cooked until tender in a seasoned liquid

con-fite-or \kən-ˈfɪt-ē-ōr, -ər\ *n* [ME, fr. L, lit., I confess, fr. the opening words — more at **CONFESS**] (13c): a liturgical form in which sinfulness is acknowledged and intercession for God's mercy requested
con-fi-ture \kən-fa-ˈchūr, -tyūr, -tūr\ *n* [F, fr. MF, fr. *confit*] (1802): preserved or candied fruit: **JAM**

con-fla-grant \kən-ˈflā-grənt\ *adj* [*L* *conflagrant*, *conflagrans*, pp. of *conflagrare* to burn, fr. *com-* + *flagrare* to burn — more at **BLACK**] (ca. 1656): **BURNING**, **BLAZING**

con-fla-gra-tion \kən-flā-ˈgrā-shən\ *n* [*L* *conflagration*, *conflagratio*, fr. *conflagrare*] (1600) 1: **FIRE**; esp.: a large disastrous fire 2: **CONFLICT**, **WAR**

con-flate \kən-ˈflāt\ *vt* **con-flat-ed**; **con-flat-ing** [*L* *conflatus*, pp. of *conflare* to blow together, fuse, fr. *com-* + *flare* to blow — more at **BLOW**] (1610) 1 *a*: to bring together: **FUSE** *b*: **CONFUSE** 2: to combine (as two readings of a text) into a composite whole
con-fla-tion \kən-flā-shən\ *n* (15c): **BLEND**, **FUSION**; esp.: a composite reading or text

con-flict \kən-ˈflikt\ *n* [ME, fr. L *conflictus* act of striking together, fr. *conflicare* to strike together, fr. *com-* + *fligere* to strike — more at **PROFIGHT**] (15c) 1: **FIGHT**, **BATTLE**, **WAR** (an armed ~) 2 *a*: competitive or opposing action of incompatibles: antagonistic state or action (as of divergent ideas, interests, or persons) *b*: mental struggle resulting from incompatible or opposing needs, drives, wishes, or external or internal demands 3: the opposition of persons or forces that gives rise to the dramatic action in a drama or fiction *syn* see **DISCORD** — **con-flict-ful** \kən-ˈflikt-fəl\ *adj* — **con-flic-tu-al** \kən-ˈflikt-che-wəl, kən-, chel-, shwəl, -chū-əl\ *adj*

con-flict \kən-ˈflikt\ *vt* (15c) 1 *archaic*: to contend in warfare 2: to show antagonism or irreconcilability: fail to be in agreement or accord (<his statement ~s with the facts>) — **con-flict-ion** \kən-ˈflikt-shən, kən-, kən-\ *n* — **con-flict-ive** \kən-ˈflikt-iv, -kən-\ *adj*

con-flict-ed \kən-ˈflikt-əd\ *adj* (1914): experiencing or marked by ambivalence or a conflict esp. of emotions (<this unhappy and ~ modern woman> — John Updike) (<~ feelings>)

con-flict-ing \kən-ˈflikt-ŋ\ *adj* (1592): being in conflict, collision, or opposition: **INCOMPATIBLE** (<~ theories>) — **con-flict-ing-ly** \kən-ˈflikt-ŋ-lē, -flikt-ŋ-lē\ *adv*

con-flict of interest (1843): a conflict between the private interests and the official responsibilities of a person in a position of trust
con-flu-ence \kən-ˈflū-əns, kən-ˈ\ *n* (15c) 1: a coming or flowing together, meeting, or gathering at one point (<a happy ~ of weather and scenery>) 2 *a*: the flowing together of two or more streams *b*: the place of meeting of two streams *c*: the combined stream formed by conjunction

con-flu-ent \kən-ˈflū-ənt\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *confluent*, *confluens*, pp. of *confluere* to flow together, fr. *com-* + *fluere* to flow — more at **FLUID**] (15c) 1: flowing or coming together; also: run together (<~ pustules>) 2: characterized by confluent lesions (<~ smallpox>)

con-fluent *n* (1849): a confluent stream; broadly: **TRIBUTARY**
con-flux \kən-ˈflʌks\ *n* [*ML* *confluxus*, fr. L *confluere*] (1606): **CONFLUENCE**

con-fo-cal \kən-ˈfō-kəl\ *adj* (1867): having the same foci (<~ ellipses>) (<~ lenses>) — **con-fo-cal-ly** \kən-ˈfō-kəl-lē\ *adv*

con-form \kən-ˈfɔrm\ *vb* [ME, fr. AF *conformer*, fr. L *conformare*, fr. *com-* + *formare* to form, fr. *forma* form] *vt* (14c): to give the same shape, outline, or contour to: bring into harmony or accord (<~ furrows to the slope of the land>) ~ *vi* 1: to be similar or identical; also: to be in agreement or harmony — used with *to* or *with* (<changes that ~ with our plans>) 2 *a*: to be obedient or compliant — usu. used with *to* (<~ to another's wishes>) *b*: to act in accordance with prevailing standards or customs (<the pressure to ~>) *syn* see **ADAPT** — **con-form-er** *n* — **con-form-ism** \kən-ˈfɔr-mi-zəm\ *n* — **con-form-ist** \kən-ˈfɔr-mi-st\ *n* or *adj*

con-form-a-ble \kən-ˈfɔr-mə-bəl\ *adj* (15c) 1: corresponding or consistent in form or character (<conduct ~ to their principles>) 2: **SUBMISSIVE**, **COMPLIANT** (<be patient and ~ to my directions> — Sir Walter Scott) 3: following in unbroken sequence — used of geologic strata formed under uniform conditions — **con-form-a-bly** \kən-ˈfɔr-mə-bəl-lē\ *adv*

con-for-mal \kən-ˈfɔr-məl, (kən-ˈ\ *adj* [*L* *conformalis* having the same shape, fr. L *com-* + *formalis* formal, fr. *forma*] (1893) 1: leaving the size of the angle between corresponding curves unchanged (<~

~\ *about* \ə\ kitten, F table \ər\ further \ə\ ash \ə\ ace \ə\ mop, mar \ə\ out \ch\ chin \e\ bet \ē\ easy \g\ go \h\ hit \l\ ice \j\ job \n\ sing \o\ go \o\ law \oi\ boy \th\ thin \th\ the \ū\ loot \ū\ foot \y\ yet \zh\ vision, beige \k, ʰ, æ, u, ʰ\ see Guide to Pronunciation