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The New Oxford American Dictionary

SECOND EDITION

FIRST EDITION

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SECOND EDITION

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English: from late Latin *confluentia*, from Latin *confluere* 'flow together' (see **CONFLUENT**).

con-fluent /kən'flooənt; kən'flooənt/ ▶ *adj.* flowing together or merging: warm *confluent* smells. ▶ late 15th cent.: from Latin *confluent-* 'flowing together,' from *confluere*, from *con-* 'together' + *fluere* 'to flow.'

con-flux /kən'fleks/ ▶ *n.* another term for **CONFLUENCE**. ▶ early 17th cent.: from late Latin *confluxus*, from *con-* 'together' + *fluxus* (see **FLUX**).

con-fo-cal /kən'fokəl/ ▶ *adj.* having a common focus or foci: *confocal ellipses*. ■ denoting or using a microscope whose imaging system only collects light from a small spot on the specimen, giving greater resolution.

con-form /kən'fɔrm/ ▶ *v.* [*intrans.*] comply with rules, standards, or laws: the kitchen does not *conform* to hygiene regulations | the changes were introduced to *conform* with international classifications. ■ (of a person) behave according to socially acceptable conventions or standards: the pressure to *conform*. ■ be similar in form or type; agree: the countryside should *conform* to a certain idea of the picturesque. ▶ Middle English (in the sense 'make (something) like another thing'): from Old French *conformer*, from Latin *conformare*, from *con-* 'together' + *formare* 'to form.'

con-form-a-ble /kən'fɔrməbəl/ ▶ *adj.* (usu. **con-form-a-ble** to) (of a person) disposed or accustomed to conform to what is acceptable or expected. ■ similar in form or nature; consistent: this proposition might be *conformable* to the original conjecture. ■ *Geology* (of strata in contact) deposited in a continuous sequence, and typically having the same direction of stratification. ▶ late 15th cent. (in the sense 'compliant (to) or tractable'): from medieval Latin *conformabilis*, from Latin *conformare* 'to form, fashion' (see **CONFORM**). — **con-form-a-bil-i-ty** /-fɔrmə'biliti/ *n.* — **con-form-a-bly** /-bli/ *adv.*

con-form-al /kən'fɔrməl/ ▶ *adj.* (of a map projection or a mathematical mapping) preserving the correct angles between directions within small areas, though distorting distances. Also called **ORTHOMORPHIC**. ▶ mid 17th cent. (in the sense 'conformable'): from late Latin *conformalis*, from *con-* 'together' + *formalis* 'formal.' The current sense was coined in German. — **con-form-al-ly** *adv.*

con-form-ance /kən'fɔrməns/ ▶ *n.* another term for **CONFORMITY**.

con-form-a-tion /kən'fɔrmə'siən; -fɔrm-/ ▶ *n.* the shape or structure of something, esp. an animal: the judges run their hands over the dog's body and legs, checking its *conformation*. ■ *Chemistry* any of the spatial arrangements that the atoms in a molecule may adopt and freely convert between, esp. by rotation about individual single bonds. Compare with **CONFIGURATION**. ▶ early 16th cent. (in the sense 'conforming, adaptation'): from Latin *conformatio(n)-*, from *conformare* 'to shape, fashion' (see **CONFORM**). — **con-form-a-tion-al** /-ʃənəl/ *adj.*

con-form-er /kən'fɔrmər/ ▶ *n.* *Chemistry* a form of a compound having a particular molecular conformation: changing the temperature alters the relative proportions of the conformers. ▶ 1960s: blend of *conformational* (see **CONFORMATION**) and **ISOMER**.

con-form-ist /kən'fɔrmist/ ▶ *n.* a person who conforms to accepted behavior or established practices. ■ *Brit.*, chiefly historical a person who conforms to the practices of the Church of England.

▶ *adj.* (of a person or activity) conforming to accepted behavior or established practices; conventional. — **con-form-ism** /-mizəm/ *n.*

con-form-i-ty /kən'fɔrməti/ ▶ *n.* compliance with standards, rules, or laws: conformity to regulations | the goods were in conformity with the contract. ■ behavior in accordance with socially accepted conventions or standards: loyalty to one's party need not imply unquestioning conformity. ■ *Brit.*, chiefly historical compliance with the practices of the Church of England. ■ similarity in form or type; agreement in character: these changes are intended to ensure conformity between all schemes. ■ *Geology* (of strata in contact) a continuous sequence of deposits, typically in parallel strata. ▶ late Middle English: from Old French *conformite* or late Latin *conformitas*, from *conformare* 'to form, fashion' (see **CONFORM**).

con-found /kən'faʊnd/ ▶ *v.* [*trans.*] 1 cause surprise or confusion in (someone), esp. by acting against their expectations: the inflation figure confounded economic analysts. ■ prove (a theory, expectation, or prediction) wrong: the rise in prices confounded expectations. ■ defeat (a plan, aim, or hope): we will confound these tactics by the pressure groups. ■ archaic overthrow (an enemy). 2 (often be confounded with) mix up

(something) with something else so that the individual elements become difficult to distinguish: 'nuke' is now a cooking technique, as microwave radiation is confounded with nuclear radiation.

▶ *exclam.* dated used to express anger or annoyance: oh, confound it, where is the thing? ▶ Middle English: from Old French *confondre*, from Latin *confundere* 'pour together, mix up.' Compare with **CONFUSE**.

con-founded /kən'fəʊnded; kən-/ ▶ *adj.* informal, dated used for emphasis, esp. to express anger or annoyance: he was a confounded nuisance. — **con-founded-ly** *adv.*

con-frat-er-ni-ty /kən'fratrə'tɜnəti/ ▶ *n.* (pl. **-ties**) a brotherhood, esp. with a charitable or religious purpose. ▶ late Middle English: from Old French *confraternite*, from medieval Latin *confraternitas*, from *confrater* (see **CONFRÈRE**).

con-frère /kən'frɛr; kən'frɛr; kən'frɛr/ (also **con-frere**) ▶ *n.* a fellow member of a profession; a colleague: executives from the four broadcast television networks, along with their cable confreres. ▶ mid 18th cent.: French, from medieval Latin *confrater*, from *con-* 'together with' + *frater* 'brother.'

con-front /kən'frɒnt/ ▶ *v.* [*trans.*] meet (someone) face to face with hostile or argumentative intent: 300 policemen confronted an equal number of union supporters. ■ face up to and deal with (a problem or difficult situation): we knew we couldn't ignore the race issue and decided we'd confront it head on. ■ compel (someone) to face or consider something, esp. by way of accusation: Tricia confronted him with her suspicions. ■ (often be confronted) (of a problem, difficulty, etc.) present itself to (someone) so that dealing with it cannot be avoided: post-war Russia was confronted with a Ukrainian national movement. ■ (usu. be confronted) appear or be placed in front of (someone) so as to unsettle or threaten: we were confronted with pictures of moving skeletons. ▶ mid 16th cent.: from French *confronter*, from medieval Latin *confrontare*, from Latin *con-* 'with' + *frons*, *front-* 'face.'

con-front-a-tion /kən'frɒntə'siən/ ▶ *n.* a hostile or argumentative meeting or situation between opposing parties: a confrontation with the legislature | four months of violent confrontation between government and opposition forces. — **con-front-a-tion-al** /-ʃənəl/ *adj.*

Con-fu-cian /kən'fyʊʃən/ ▶ *adj.* of or relating to Confucius or Confucianism.

▶ *n.* an adherent of Confucianism.

Con-fu-cian-ism /kən'fyʊʃənə'zɪzəm/ ▶ *n.* a system of philosophical and ethical teachings founded by Confucius and developed by Mencius. — **Con-fu-cian-ist** *n.* & *adj.*

Con-fu-cius /kən'fyʊʃəs/ (551–479 BC), Chinese philosopher: Latinized name of Kongfuzi (K'ung Fuzi) 'Kong the master.' His ideas about the importance of practical moral values, collected by his disciples in the *Analects*, formed the basis of the philosophy known as Confucianism.

con-fus-a-ble /kən'fyʊʒəbəl/ ▶ *adj.* able or liable to be confused with something else.

▶ *n.* a word or phrase that is easily confused with another in meaning or usage, such as *mitigate*, which is often confused with *mitigate*. — **con-fus-a-bil-i-ty** /kən'fyʊʒə'biliti/ *n.*

con-fuse /kən'fyʊz/ ▶ *v.* [*trans.*] cause (someone) to become bewildered or perplexed: past and present blurred together, confusing her still further. ■ make (something) more complex or less easy to understand: the points made by the authors confuse rather than clarify the issue. ■ identify wrongly; mistake: a lot of people confuse a stroke with a heart attack | purchasers might confuse the two products. ▶ Middle English (in the sense 'rout, bring to ruin'): from Old French *confus*, from Latin *confusus*, past participle of *confundere* 'mingle together' (see **CONFOUND**). Originally all senses of the verb were passive, and therefore appeared only as the past participle *confused*; the active voice occurred rarely until the 19th cent. when it began to replace *confound*. — **con-fus-ing-ly** *adv.*

con-fused /kən'fyʊzəd/ ▶ *adj.* (of a person) unable to think clearly; bewildered: she was utterly confused about what had just happened | a very confused and unhappy boy. ■ showing bewilderment: a confused expression crossed her face. ■ not in possession of all one's mental faculties, esp. because of old age: interviewing confused old people does take longer. ■ lacking order and thus difficult to understand: the confused information supplied by authorities | reports about the incident were rather confused. ■ lacking clear distinction of elements; jumbled: the sound of a sort of confused hammering and shouting. — **con-fus-ed-ly** /-fyʊzədli/ *adv.*

con-fu-sion /kən'fyʊʒən/ ▶ *n.* 1 lack of understand-

ing, uncertainty: there seems to be some confusion about which system does what | he cleared up the confusion over the party's policy. ■ a situation of panic; a breakdown of order: the shaken survivors retreated in confusion. ■ a disorderly jumble: all I can see is a confusion of brown cardboard boxes. See note at **JUMBLE**. 2 the state of being bewildered or unclear in one's mind about something: she looked about her in confusion. ■ the mistaking of one person or thing for another: there is some confusion between 'unlawful' and 'illegal' | most of the errors are reasonable confusions between similar words or sequences of words. ▶ Middle English: from Latin *confusio(n)-*, from the verb *confundere* 'mingle together' (see **CONFUSE**).

con-fute /kən'fyʊti/ ▶ *v.* [*trans.*] formally prove (a person or an assertion) to be wrong: restorers who sought to confute this view were accused of ignorance. ▶ early 16th cent.: from Latin *confutare* 'restrain, answer conclusively,' from *con-* 'altogether' + the base of *refutare* 'refute.' — **con-fu-ta-tion** /kən'fyʊtə'siən/ *n.*

Cong. ▶ *abbr.* ■ Congress. ■ Congressional. ■ Congregational.

con-ga /kəŋ'gə/ ▶ *n.* 1 a Latin American dance of African origin, usually with several people in a single line, one behind the other. 2 (also **conga drum**) a tall, narrow, low-toned drum beaten with the hands.

▶ *v.* (-gas, -gaed /-gəd/ or -ga'd, -ga-ing /-gə-ɪŋ/) [*intrans.*] dance the conga. ▶ 1930s: from Latin American Spanish, from Spanish, feminine of *congo* 'Congolese'.

con game ▶ *n.* informal term for **CONFIDENCE GAME**. **con-gé** /kən'zhe /kən'zhe/ ▶ *n.* (in sing.) an unceremonious dismissal of someone; a leavetaking: the woman who gave you your congé when she wanted to marry Mr. Sugar. ▶ late Middle English (in the general sense 'permission to do something'): from Old French *congie*, from Latin *committas* 'leave of absence,' from *commere* 'go and come.' The word is now usually treated as equivalent to modern French.

con-gel /kən'ʒel/ ▶ *v.* [*intrans.*] solidify or coagulate, esp. by cooling: the blood had congealed into blobs | [*as adj.*] [*congealed*] congealed egg white. ■ figurative take shape or coalesce, esp. to form a satisfying whole: the ballet failed to congeal as a single oeuvre. ▶ late Middle English: from Old French *congeler*, from Latin *congela-re*, from *con-* 'together' + *gelare* 'freeze' (from *gelu* 'frost'). — **con-gel-a-ble** *adj.* — **con-gel-ment** *n.* (archaic).

con-gee /kən'ʒe; kən'zhe/ ▶ *n.* (in Chinese cooking) broth or porridge made from rice. ▶ from Tamil *kañi*.

con-gel-a-tion /kən'ʒelə'siən/ ▶ *n.* the process of congealing or the state of being congealed; the component of metals that causes their congealing. ▶ late Middle English: from Latin *congelatio(n)-*, from the verb *congela-re* 'freeze together' (see **CONGELATE**).

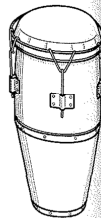
con-gener /kən'ʒenər/ ▶ *n.* 1 a thing or person of the same kind or category as another. ■ an animal or plant of the same genus as another: these birds or their congeners may be found in East Africa. 2 a minor chemical constituent, esp. one that gives a distinctive character to a wine or liquor or is responsible for some of its physiological effects. ▶ mid 18th cent.: from Latin, from *con-* 'together with' + *genus*, *gener-* 'race, stock.'

con-gene-ric /kən'ʒenərɪk/ ▶ *adj.* *Biology* (of an animal or plant species) belonging to the same genus: this animal is congeneric with the later species. ■ of a related nature or origin: the two sets were congeneric. ▶ mid 17th cent.: from Latin *congener* (see **CONGENEN**) + *-ic*.

— **con-gene-rous** /kən'ʒenərəs; kən-/ ▶ *adj.*

con-gen-i-al /kən'ʒenjəl/ ▶ *adj.* (of a person) pleasant because of a personality, qualities, or interests that are similar to one's own: his need for some congenial company. See note at **PLEASANT**. ■ (of a thing) pleasant or agreeable because suited to one's taste or inclination: he went back to a climate more congenial to his cold stony soul. — **con-gen-i-al-i-ty** /-ʒenjə'ali/ *n.* — **con-gen-i-al-ly** *adv.*

con-gen-i-tal /kən'ʒenətəl/ ▶ *adj.* (esp. of a disease or physical abnormality) present from birth: a congenital malformation of the heart. ■ (of a person) having a particular trait from birth or by firmly established habit: a congenital liar. See note at **INHERENT**. ▶ late 18th cent.: from Latin *congenitus*, from *con-* 'together' + *genitus* (past participle of *gignere* 'beget') + *-al*. — **con-gen-i-tal-ly** *adv.*



conga drum