

**The Concise
Oxford Dictionary**
of Current English

First edited by
H. W. Fowler and F. G. Fowler

NINTH EDITION

Edited by
Della Thompson

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constantan

constantan /kɒnst(ə)ntən/ n. an alloy of copper and nickel used in electrical equipment. [CONSTANT + -AN]

constellate /kɒnstəleɪt/ v.tr. 1 form into (or as if into) a constellation. 2 adorn as with stars.

constellation /kɒnstə'leɪʃ(ə)n/ n. 1 a group of fixed stars whose outline is traditionally regarded as forming a particular figure. 2 a group of associated persons, ideas, etc. [Middle English via Old French from Late Latin *constellatio*-onis (as COM-, *stella* 'star')]

consternate /kɒnstə'neɪt/ v.tr. (usu. in *passive*) dismay; fill with anxiety. [Latin *consternare* (as COM-, *sternere* 'throw down')]

consternation /kɒnstə'neɪʃ(ə)n/ n. anxiety or dismay causing mental confusion. [French *consternation* or Latin *consternatio* (as CONSTERNATE)]

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constitute /kɒnstɪ'tju:t/ v.tr. 1 be the components or essence of; make up, form. 2 a be equivalent or tantamount to (*this constitutes an official warning*). b formally establish (*does not constitute a precedent*). 3 give legal or constitutional form to; establish by law. [Latin *constituere* (as COM-, *statuere* 'set up')]

constitution /kɒnstɪ'tju:ʃ(ə)n/ n. 1 the act or method of constituting; the composition (of something). 2 a the body of fundamental principles or established precedents according to which a state or other organization is acknowledged to be governed. b a (usu. written) record of this. 3 a person's physical state as regards vitality, health, strength, etc. 4 a person's mental or psychological make-up. 5 hist. a decree or ordinance. [Middle English from Old French *constitution* or Latin *constitutio* (as CONSTITUTE)]

constitutional /kɒnstɪ'tju:ʃ(ə)n(ə)l/ adj. & n. ● adj. 1 of consistent with, authorized by, or limited by a political constitution (a *constitutional monarchy*). 2 inherent in, stemming from, or affecting the physical or mental constitution. ● n. a walk taken regularly to maintain or restore good health. □ *constitutionality* n. □ *constitutionally* adv.

constitutionalism /kɒnstɪ'tju:ʃ(ə)n(ə)lɪz(ə)m/ n. 1 a constitutional system of government. 2 the adherence to an advocacy of such a system. □ *constitutionalist* n.

constitutive /kɒnstɪ'tju:tɪv/ adj. 1 able to form or constitute. 2 essential. □ *constitutively* adv.

constrain /kən'streɪn/ v. 1 compel; urge irresistibly or by necessity. 2 a confine severely; limit. b restrict severely in regard to action, behaviour, etc. 3 limit or check by compulsion. 4 (as *constrained* adj.) hinder; be constrainedly. [Middle English from Old French *constraindre* (as COM-, *straindre* 'constrain')]

constraint /kən'streɪnt/ n. 1 the act or result of constraining or being (severely) restricted of liberty. 2 something that restricts or limits an action or action. 3 the restriction of natural feelings or their

expression; a constrained manner. [Middle English from Old French *constrainede*, fem. past part. of *constraindre* (as CONSTRAIN)]

constrict /kən'strɪkt/ v.tr. 1 make narrow or tight; compress. 2 Biol. cause (organic tissue) to contract. □ *constriction* n. *constrictive* adj. [Latin, past part. stem of *constringere* (as CONSTRAIN)]

constrictor /kən'strɪktə/ n. 1 any snake (esp. a boa) that kills by coiling round its prey and compressing it. 2 Anat. any muscle that compresses or contracts an organ or part of the body. [modern Latin (as CONSTRICT)]

construct v. & n. ● v.tr. /kən'strʌkt/ 1 make by fitting parts together; build, form (something physical or abstract). 2 Geom. draw or delineate, esp. accurately to given conditions (*construct a triangle*). ● n. /'kɒnstrʌkt/ 1 a thing constructed, esp. by the mind. 2 Linguistics a group of words forming a phrase. □ *constructor* n. [Latin *construere* *construct-* (as COM-, *struere* 'pile, build')]

construction /kən'strʌkʃ(ə)n/ n. 1 the act or a mode of constructing. 2 a thing constructed. 3 an interpretation or explanation (*they put a generous construction on his act*). 4 Gram. an arrangement of words according to syntactical rules. □ *constructional* adj. *constructionally* adv. [Middle English via Old French from Latin *constructio*-onis (as CONSTRUCT)]

constructionism /kən'strʌkʃ(ə)nɪz(ə)m/ n. 1 Art = CONSTRUCTIVISM. 2 US Law interpretation of a legal document in a specified way (*strict constructionism*). □ *constructionist* n. (also *attrib.*)

construction site n. = BUILDING SITE.

constructive /kən'strʌktɪv/ adj. 1 of construction; tending to construct. 2 tending to form a basis for ideas; helpful, positive (*constructive criticism; a constructive approach*) (opp. DESTRUCTIVE 2). 3 derived by inference; not expressed (*constructive permission*). 4 belonging to the structure of a building. □ *constructively* adv. *constructiveness* n. [Late Latin *constructivus* (as CONSTRUCT)]

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construe /kən'stru:/ v.tr. (construes, construed, construing) 1 interpret (words or actions) (*their decision can be construed in many ways*). 2 (often foll. by *with*) combine (words) grammatically (*'rely' is construed with 'on'*). 3 analyse the syntax of (a sentence). 4 translate word for word. □ *construable* adj. *construal* n. [Middle English from Latin *construere* CONSTRUCT]

consubstantial /kɒnsəb'stʌns(ə)l/ adj. Theol. of the same substance (esp. of the three persons of the Trinity). □ *consubstantiality* /'stʌntɪəlɪ/ n. [Middle English from ecclesiastical Latin *consubstantialis*, translation of Greek *homouousios* (as COM-, SUBSTANTIAL)]

consubstantiation /kɒnsəb'stʌnsɪ'ʃeɪʃ(ə)n/ n. Theol. (the doctrine of) the real substantial presence of the body and blood of Christ together with the bread and wine in the Eucharist. [modern Latin *consubstantiatio*, suggested by *transubstantiatio* TRANSUBSTANTIATION]

consuetude /kɒnsju:əd/ n. a custom, esp. one having legal force in Scotland. □ *consuetudinary* /kɒnsju:ədɪəri/ adj. [Middle English via Old French 'accustomed']

consul /kɒns(ə)l/ n. 1 an official appointed by a state to live in a foreign city and protect the state's citizens and interests there. 2 hist. either of two annually elected chief magistrates in ancient Rome. 3 any of the three chief magistrates of the French republic (1799-1804).

b. but a dual / frɒ / ɪ get / h. ha / j. pec / k. cat / l. leg / m. man / n. no / p. pen / r. red / s. sit / t. top / v. voice

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constantan

constantan /kon'stantæn/ n. an alloy of copper and nickel used in electrical equipment. (FOUNTAIN + AN)

constellate /kən'stɛlət/ v. 1 form into (or as if into) a constellation. 2 adorn as with stars.

constellation /kən'stɛlə'sjən/ n. 1 a group of fixed stars whose outline is traditionally regarded as forming a particular figure. 2 a group of associated persons, ideas, etc. (Middle English via Old French from Late Latin constellatione (as constellatio, stella, star))

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constitutional /kən'stɪ'tju:ʃənəl/ adj. & n. 1 adj. of, connected with, authorized by, or limited by a particular constitution (a constitutional monarchy). 2 relating to, arising from, or affecting the physical or mental state of a person. 3 a weak (often regularly recurring) ailment. 4 constitutionalize v. 5 constitutionally adverbially. (Middle English from Old French constitutionalis (as const., statuere 'set up'))

constitutionalism /kən'stɪ'tju:ʃənəlɪzəm/ n. 1 a constitutional system of government. 2 the adherence to its principles. 3 the principle of constitutionalism. (Latin constitutionalis (as const., statuere 'set up'))

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