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con·scrip·tion (kən skrip′shən), *n.* **1.** compulsory enrollment of men for military or naval service; draft. **2.** a compulsory contribution of money to a government during a time of war. [< LL *conscription-* (s. of *conscriptiō*) a levying of troops (L: a drawing up in writing), equiv. to *conscript(us)* (see CONSCRIPT) + *-iōn-* -ION] —**con·scrip′tion·al,** *adj.*

con·scrip·tion·ist (kən skrip′shə nist), *n.* an advocate or supporter of conscription. [CONSCRIPTION + -IST]

con·se·crate (kon′sə krāt′), *v.*, **-crat·ed, -crat·ing,** *adj.* —*v.t.* **1.** to make or declare sacred; set apart or dedicate to the service of the Deity: *to consecrate a building as a place of worship.* **2.** to devote or dedicate to some purpose: *a life consecrated to science.* **3.** to make (something) an object of honor or veneration; hallow: *a custom consecrated by time.* —*adj.* **4.** *Archaic.* consecrated; sacred. [< L *consecrāt(us)* (ptp. of *consecrāre*), equiv. to *con-* CON- + *secr-* (var. s. of *sacer*) sacred, holy + *-ātus* -ATE¹] —**con′se·crat′ed·ness,** *n.* —**con′se·cra′tor, con′se·crat′er,** *n.* —**con·se·cra·to·ry** (kon′sə krə tôr′ē, -tōr′ē), **con′se·cra′tive,** *adj.*

—**Syn. 3.** sanctify, venerate. **4.** See **holy.** —**Ant. 1.** desecrate.

con·se·cra·tion (kon′sə krā′shən), *n.* **1.** the act of consecrating; dedication to the service and worship of God. **2.** the act of giving the sacramental character to the Eucharistic elements of bread and wine, esp. in the Roman Catholic Church. **3.** ordination to a sacred office, esp. to the episcopate. [ME *consecracio(u)n* < L *consecrātiōn-* (s. of *consecrātiō*). See CONSECRATE, -ION]

con·se·cu·tion (kon′sə kyōō′shən), *n.* **1.** succession; sequence. **2.** logical sequence; chain of reasoning. [< L *consecūtiōn-* (s. of *consecūtiō*), equiv. to *con-* CON- + *secūt(us)*, ptp. of *sequī* to follow (*secū-*, ptp. s. + *-tus* ptp. suffix) + *-iōn-* -ION]

con·sec·u·tive (kən sek′yə tiv), *adj.* **1.** following one another in uninterrupted succession or order; successive: *six consecutive numbers.* **2.** marked by logical sequence. **3.** *Gram.* expressing consequence or result: *a consecutive clause.* [CONSECUT(ION) + -IVE] —**con·sec′u·tive·ly,** *adv.* —**con·sec′u·tive·ness,** *n.*

—**Syn. 1.** continuous. See **successive.**

con·sen·su·al (kən sen′shōō əl), *adj.* **1.** formed or existing merely by consent: *a consensual transaction.* **2.** *Physiol.* (of an action) involuntarily correlative with a voluntary action, as the contraction of the iris when the eye is opened. [CONSENSU(S) + -AL¹] —**con·sen′su·al·ly,** *adv.*

con·sen·sus (kən sen′səs), *n.*, *pl.* **-sus·es.** **1.** general agreement or concord; harmony. **2.** majority of opinion: *The consensus of the group was that they should meet twice a month.* [< L, n. use of *consensus* (ptp. of *consentīre*), equiv. to *con-* CON- + *sent-* (s. of *sentire* to think, hold an opinion) + *-tus* ptp. suffix]

—**Usage.** CONSENSUS OF OPINION is felt by many grammarians and teachers to be a redundancy, but it is so only if CONSENSUS is taken in sense of "majority of opinion," rather than its equally valid—and, according to available evidence, earlier—sense of "accord or general agreement."

con·sen·sus gen·ti·um (kōn sen′sōōs gen′tē ōōm′; *Eng.* kən sen′səs jen′shē əm), *Latin.* agreement of the people.

con·sent (kən sent′), *v.i.* **1.** to permit, approve, or agree; comply or yield (often fol. by *to* or an infinitive): *He consented to the proposal. She consented to go. We asked her permission, and she consented.* **2.** *Obs.* to agree in sentiment, opinion, etc.; be in harmony. —*n.* **3.** permission, approval, or agreement; compliance; acquiescence: *He gave his consent to his daughter's request to marry.* **4.** agreement in sentiment, opinion, a course of action, etc.: *By common consent he was appointed official delegate.* **5.** *Archaic.* accord; concord; harmony. [ME *consent(en)* < OF *consent(ir)* < L *consentīre.* See CON-, SCENT] —**con·sent′er,** *n.*

—**Syn. 1.** See **agree.**

con·sen·ta·ne·ous (kon′sen tā′nē əs), *adj.* **1.** agreeing; accordant. **2.** done by common consent; unanimous. [< L *consentāneus*, equiv. to *consent-* (s. of *consentīre* to CONSENT) + *-āneus* (*-ān(us)* -AN + *-eus* -EOUS)] —**con′sen·ta′ne·ous·ly,** *adv.* —**con·sen·ta·ne·i·ty** (kən sen′tə nē′i tē), **con′sen·ta′ne·ous·ness,** *n.*

con·sen·tience (kən sen′shəns), *n.* nonintellectual sense of unity. [CONSENTI(ENT) + -ENCE]

con·sen·tient (kən sen′shənt), *adj.* **1.** agreeing; accordant. **2.** acting in harmonious agreement. **3.** unanimous, as an opinion. **4.** characterized by or having consentience. [< L *consentient-* (s. of *consentiēns*, prp. of *consentīre*). See CONSENT, -ENT] —**con·sen′tient·ly,** *adv.*

con·se·quence (kon′sə kwens′, -kwəns), *n.* **1.** the effect, result, or outcome of something occurring earlier: *The wreckage showed the consequences of reckless driving.* **2.** an act or instance of following something as an effect, result or outcome: *Failure was a matter of inevitable consequence.* **3.** the conclusion reached by a line of reasoning; inference. **4.** importance or significance: *a matter of no consequence.* **5.** importance in rank or position; distinction: *a man of great consequence in art.* **6. in consequence,** consequently; as a result; hence: *He withdrew from the world, and in consequence was forgotten.* **7. in consequence of,** as a result of; on account of: *An investigation was initiated in consequence of the naval disaster.* [late ME < L *consequentia.* See CONSEQUENT, -ENCE]

—**Syn. 1.** outcome, issue, upshot, sequel. See **effect.** **4.** moment, weight. See **importance.** —**Ant. 1.** cause.

con·se·quent (kon′sə kwent′, -kwənt), *adj.* **1.** following as an effect or result; resulting (often fol. by *on, upon,* or *to*): *a rise in production cost and a consequent fall in price; a fall in price consequent to a rise in production.* **2.** following as a logical conclusion: *a consequent law.* **3.** following or progressing logically: *consequent reasoning.* —*n.* **4.** anything that follows upon something else, with or without a causal relationship. **5.** *Logic.* the second member of a conditional proposition, as "Caesar was a great general" in "If Caesar conquered Gaul, he was a great general." **6.** *Math.* **a.** the second term of a ratio. **b.** the second of two vectors in a dyad. [< L *consequent-* (s. of *consequēns*, prp. of *consequī* to follow closely). See CON-, SEQUENT]

con·se·quen·tial (kon′sə kwen′shəl), *adj.* **1.** following as an effect, result, or outcome; resultant; consequent. **2.** following as a logical conclusion or inference; logically consistent. **3.** of consequence or importance: *a consequential man in the field of international diplomacy.* **4.** self-important; pompous. [< L *consequenti(a)* CONSEQUENCE + -AL¹] —**con′se·quen′ti·al′i·ty, con′se·quen′tial·ness,** *n.* —**con′se·quen′tial·ly,** *adv.*

con·se·quent·ly (kon′sə kwent′lē, -kwənt-), *adv.* as a result, effect, or outcome; therefore: *He wrote many best-selling books and consequently became very rich.* [late ME; see CONSEQUENT, -LY]

—**Syn.** See **therefore.**

con′sequent stream′, *Geol.* a stream the course of which was determined by the original slope of the land. Cf. **obsequent stream.**

con·serv·a·ble (kən sûr′və bəl), *adj.* capable of being conserved: *conservable fruits.* [< L *conservābil(is).* See CONSERVE, -ABLE]

con·serv·an·cy (kən sûr′vən sē), *n.*, *pl.* **-cies.** **1.** *Brit.* a commission regulating navigation, fisheries, etc. **2.** conservation of natural resources. [< ML *conservantia* (see CONSERVE, -ANCY); r. *conservacy* < ML *conservātia;* see -ACY] —**con·serv′ant,** *adj.*

con·ser·va·tion (kon′sər vā′shən), *n.* **1.** the act of conserving; preservation from loss, injury, decay, or waste: *conservation of wildlife.* **2.** official supervision of rivers, forests, and other natural resources. **3.** a district, river, forest, etc., under such supervision. [< L *conservātiōn-* (s. of *conservātiō*), equiv. to *conservāt(us)* (ptp. of *conservāre;* see CONSERVE, -ATE¹) + *-iōn-* -ION] —**con′ser·va′tion·al,** *adj.*

con·ser·va·tion·ist (kon′sər vā′shə nist), *n.* one who advocates or promotes conservation, esp. of the natural resources of a country. [CONSERVATION + -IST]

conserva′tion of an′gular momen′tum, *Physics.* the principle that the total angular momentum of a system has constant magnitude and direction if the system is subjected to no external force. Also called **law of conservation of angular momentum.**

conserva′tion of charge′, *Physics.* the principle that the total electric charge of a system is constant. Also called **law of conservation of charge.**

conserva′tion of en′ergy, *Physics.* the principle that in a system that does not undergo any force from outside the system, the amount of energy is constant, irrespective of its changes in form. Also called **law of conservation of energy.**

conserva′tion of lin′ear momen′tum, *Physics.* the principle that the linear momentum of a system has constant magnitude and direction if the system is subjected to no external force. Also called **law of conservation of linear momentum.**

conserva′tion of mass′, *Physics.* the principle that in any closed system subjected to no external forces, the mass is constant irrespective of its changes in form; the principle that matter cannot be created or destroyed. Also called **law of conservation of mass, conserva′tion of mat′ter.**

con·serv·a·tism (kən sûr′və tiz′əm), *n.* **1.** the disposition to preserve what is established and to promote gradual development rather than abrupt change. **2.** the principles and practices of political conservatives, esp. of the British Conservative party; Toryism. [CONSERVAT(IVE) + -ISM]

con·serv·a·tive (kən sûr′və tiv), *adj.* **1.** disposed to preserve existing conditions, institutions, etc., and to agree with gradual rather than abrupt change. **2.** cautiously moderate: *a conservative estimate.* **3.** traditional in style or manner; avoiding showiness: *a suit of conservative cut.* **4.** (*often cap.*) of or pertaining to the Conservative party. **5.** (*cap.*) of, pertaining to, or characteristic of Conservative Jews or Conservative Judaism. **6.** having the power or tendency to conserve; preservative. **7.** *Math.* (of a vector or vector function) having curl equal to zero; irrotational; lamellar. —*n.* **8.** a person who is conservative in principles, actions, habits, etc. **9.** a member of a conservative political party, esp. the Conservative party in Great Britian. **10.** a preservative. [< LL *conservātīv(us)*, equiv. to L *conservāt(us)* (see CONSERVATION) + *-īvus* -IVE; r. ME *conservatif* < MF] —**con·serv′a·tive·ly,** *adv.* —**con·serv′a·tive·ness,** *n.*

Conserv′ative Bap′tist, a member of a Protestant denomination (**Conserv′ative Bap′tist Associa′tion of Amer′ica**) organized in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1948.

Conserv′ative Jew′, a Jew who adheres for the most part to the principles and practices of traditional Judaism with the reservation that, taking into account contemporary conditions, certain modifications or rejections are permissible. Cf. **Orthodox Jew, Reform Jew.**

Conserv′ative Ju′daism, Judaism as observed by Conservative Jews.

Conserv′ative par′ty, a political party in Great Britain founded about 1832 as successor to the Tory party and characterized chiefly by moderate progressivism.

con·ser·va·toire (kən sûr′və twär′, -sûr′və twär′; *Fr.* kôN ser va twaR′), *n.*, *pl.* **-toires** (-twärz′, -twärz′; *Fr.* -twaR′). a conservatory, as of music, theatrical arts, etc. [< F < It *conservator(io)* CONSERVATORY]

con·ser·va·tor (kon′sər vā′tər, kən sûr′və-), *n.* **1.** a person who conserves or preserves; preserver. **2.** *Law.* a guardian; a custodian. **3.** *Brit.* a person employed by the conservancy commission; a conservation worker. [< L, equiv. to *conservāt(us)* (ptp. of *conservāre;* see CONSERVE, -ATE¹) + *-or* -OR²]

con·serv·a·to·ry (kən sûr′və tôr′ē, -tōr′ē), *n.*, *pl.* **-ries,** *adj.* —*n.* **1.** a greenhouse, usually attached to a dwelling, for growing and displaying plants. **2.** a school giving instruction in one or more of the fine or dramatic arts; specifically, a school of music. **3.** *Obs.* a place where things are preserved. —*adj.* **4.** serving or adapted to conserve; preservative. [< L *conservāt(us)* (ptp. of *conservāre;* see CONSERVE, -ATE¹) + -ORY²]

con·serve (*v.* kən sûrv′; *n.* kon′sûrv, kən sûrv′), *v.*, **-served, -serv·ing,** *n.* —*v.t.* **1.** to keep from loss, decay, waste, or injury; preserve: *Conserve your strength for the race.* **2.** to preserve (fruit) by cooking with sugar or syrup. [ME < L *conserv(āre)* (to) preserve, equiv. to *con-* CON- + *servāre* to watch over, akin to OE *searu* armor] —*n.* **3.** Often, **conserves.** a mixture of several fruits cooked to jamlike consistency with sugar and often garnished with nuts and raisins. [ME < MF < LL **conserv(a)*, deriv. of L *conservāre* to preserve] —**con·serv′er,** *n.*

con·sid·er (kən sid′ər), *v.t.* **1.** to think carefully about, esp. in order to make a decision; contemplate; reflect on: *He considered the cost before buying the new car.* **2.** to regard as or deem to be: *I consider the story improbable.* **3.** to think, believe, or suppose: *We consider his reply unsatisfactory.* **4.** to bear in mind; make allowance for: *The arrest was justified if you consider his scandalous behavior.* **5.** to pay attention to; regard: *He considered the man for some time before speaking to him.* **6.** to regard with respect, thoughtfulness, honor, etc.; esteem. **7.** to think about (something that one might do, accept, buy, etc.): *to consider a job in Guatemala.* **8.** *Archaic.* to view attentively; scrutinize. **9.** *Obs.* to recompense or remunerate. —*v.i.* **10.** to think deliberately or carefully; reflect. **11.** to view carefully or thoughtfully. [ME *consid(e)re* < L *considerāre* to examine, equiv. to *con-* CON- + *sider-* (s. of *sidus*) star-group, sky + *-āre* inf. suffix] —**con·sid′er·er,** *n.*

—**Syn. 1.** ponder, deliberate, weigh, revolve. See **study.**

con·sid·er·a·ble (kən sid′ər ə bəl), *adj.* **1.** rather large or great, as in size, distance, extent, etc.: *It cost a considerable amount. We took a considerable length of time to decide.* **2.** worthy of respect, attention, etc.; important; distinguished: *The mayor is a considerable citizen.* —*n.* **3.** *U.S. Informal.* much; not a little: *He has done considerable for the community. I found considerable to detain me.* [late ME < ML *considerābil(is),* equiv. to *considerā-* (see CONSIDER) + *-bilis* -BLE] —**con·sid′er·a·bly,** *adv.*

con·sid·er·ance (kən sid′ər əns), *n.* *Obs.* consideration. [late ME < L *considerantia.* See CONSIDER, -ANCE]

con·sid·er·ate (kən sid′ər it), *adj.* **1.** showing kindly awareness or regard for another's feelings, circumstances, etc.: *a very considerate critic.* **2.** carefully considered; deliberate. **3.** *Archaic.* marked by consideration or reflection; deliberate; prudent. [< L *considerāt(us)* (ptp. of *considerāre* to CONSIDER), equiv. to *considerā-* (s. of *considerāre*) + *-tus* ptp. suffix] —**con·sid′er·ate·ly,** *adv.* —**con·sid′er·ate·ness,** *n.*

—**Syn. 1.** kind, patient, concerned. See **thoughtful.**

con·sid·er·a·tion (kən sid′ə rā′shən), *n.* **1.** the act of considering; careful thought; meditation; deliberation: *I will give your project full consideration.* **2.** something that is or is to be kept in mind in making a decision, evaluating facts, etc.: *The judge said the prisoner's age was an important consideration.* **3.** a thought or reflection. **4.** a recompense or payment, as for work done; compensation. **5.** *Law.* **a.** something that suffices to make an informal promise legally binding, usually some value given in exchange for the promise. **b.** the hearing of a case by a tribunal. **6.** thoughtful or sympathetic regard or respect; thoughtfulness for others: *They showed no consideration for his feelings.* **7.** importance or consequence. **8.** estimation; esteem: *He is held in great consideration by the community.* **9. in consideration of, a.** in view of. **b.** in return or recompense for: *The organization offered him a sum of money in consideration of his efforts.* **10. take into consideration,** to take into account; consider: *We failed to take into consideration the large number of tourists attending the exhibition.* [< L *considerātiōn-* (s. of *considerātiō*), equiv. to *considerāt(us)* (see CONSIDERATE) + *-iōn-* -ION]

—**Syn. 1.** reflection, contemplation, rumination; attention. **4.** payment, remuneration, fee. **6.** kindness, kindliness, patience, concern. **7.** weight, significance, moment. **8.** See **honor.**

con·sid·ered (kən sid′ərd), *adj.* **1.** thought about or decided upon with care: *a considered opinion.* **2.** regarded with respect or esteem: *a highly considered person.* [CONSIDER + -ED²]

con·sid·er·ing (kən sid′ər iŋ), *prep.* **1.** taking into account; in view of: *The campaign was a great success, considering the strong opposition.* —*adv.* **2.** *Informal.* with all things considered (used only after the statement it modifies): *He paints very well, considering.* —*conj.* **3.** taking into consideration that: *Considering they are newcomers, they've adjusted very well.* [ME; see CONSIDER, -ING²]

con·sign (kən sīn′), *v.t.* **1.** to hand over or deliver formally; commit (often fol. by *to*). **2.** to transfer to another's custody or charge; entrust. **3.** to set apart for or devote to (a special purpose or use): *to consign two afternoon hours to a siesta.* **4.** to banish or set apart in one's mind; relegate: *to consign unpleasant thoughts to oblivion.* **5.** *Com.* **a.** to ship, as by common carrier, esp. for sale or custody. **b.** to address for such shipment. **6.** *Obs.* to confirm or ratify, as with a seal or other token. —*v.i.* **7.** to agree or assent. **8.** *Obs.* to yield or submit. [appar. < ML *consign(āre)* (to) mark with sign of cross, L: to mark with a seal. See CON-, SIGN] —**con·sign′a·ble,** *adj.* —**con·sig·na·tion** (kon′sig nā′shən), *n.*

—**Syn. 1.** relegate, assign. **2.** confide.

con·sign·ee (kon′sī nē′, -si-, kən sī-), *n.* the person or party to whom something, usually merchandise, is consigned. [CONSIGN + -EE]

con·sign·ment (kən sīn′mənt), *n.* **1.** the act of consigning. **2.** something that is consigned. **3.** *Com.* property sent to an agent for sale, storage, or shipment. **4. on consignment,** (of goods) sent to an agent for sale, with title being held by the consignor until a sale is made. [CONSIGN + -MENT]

consign′ment note′, *Chiefly Brit.* See **air waybill.**

con·sign·or (kən sī′nər, kon′sī nôr′), *n.* a person or company that consigns goods, merchandise, etc. Also, **con·sign·er** (kən sī′nər). [CONSIGN + -OR²]

con·sist (*v.* kən sist′; *n.* kon′sist), *v.i.* **1.** to be made up or composed (usually fol. by *of*): *This cake consists mainly of sugar, flour, and butter.* **2.** to be comprised or contained (usually fol. by *in*): *Her charm does not consist only in her beauty.* **3.** to be compatible, consistent, or harmonious (usually fol. by *with*): *Their opinions consisted with one another.* **4.** *Archaic.* to exist together or be capable of existing together. **5.** *Obs.* to insist; urge. —*n.* *Railroads.* **6.** the rolling stock, exclusive of the locomotive, making up a train. **7.** a record made of this rolling stock. [< L *consist(ere)* (to) stand together, stand firm, equiv. to *con-* CON- + *sistere,* redup. v. akin to *stāre* to STAND]

—**Syn. 1, 2.** CONSIST OF, CONSIST IN are often confused. With CONSIST OF, parts, materials, or ingredients are spoken of: *Bread consists of flour, yeast, etc.* With CONSIST IN, something resembling a definition is given: *Cooperation consists in helping one another and in sharing losses or gains.*