

2. Dispute; debate; violent controversy; strife in argument.

Leave all noisy contentions, all immodest clamors, and bawling language. *Watts.*

CONTESTABLE, *a.* That may be disputed or debated; disputable; controvertible.

CONTESTABLENESS, *n.* Possibility of being contested.

CONTESTATION, *n.* The act of contesting; strife; dispute.

After years spent in domestic contentations, she found means to withdraw. *Clarendon.*

2. Testimony; proof by witnesses. *Barrow.*

CONTENTINGLY, *adv.* In a contenting manner. *Moundagui.*

CONTENTLESS, *a.* Not to be disputed. *Hill.*

CONTEXT, *v. t.* To weave together. [*Not used.*] *Boyle.*

CONTEXT, *n.* [*L. contextus, from contexto; con and texo, to weave.*]

The general series or composition of a discourse; more particularly, the parts of a discourse which precede or follow the sentence quoted; the passages of scripture which are near the text, either before it or after it. The sense of a passage of scripture is often illustrated by the *context*.

CONTEXT, *a.* Knit or woven together; close; firm. *Derham.*

CONTEXT, *v. t.* To knit together. [*Not used.*]

TEXTURE, *n.* The manner of interweaving several parts into one body; the disposition and union of the constituent parts of a thing, with respect to each other; composition of parts; constitution; as a silk of admirable *texture*.

He was not of any delicate *texture*; his limbs rather sturdy than dainty. *Watson.*

TEXTURAL, *a.* Pertaining to texture, or to the human frame. *Smith.*

CONFIGNATION, *n.* [*L. confignatio; con and fignum, a beam.*] A frame of beams; a story. *Wotton.*

2. The act of framing together, or uniting beams in a fabric. *Burke.*

CONTIGUITY, *n.* [*See Contiguous.*] Actual contact of bodies; a touching. *Hale.*

CONTIGUOUS, *a.* [*L. contiguus; con and tango, to touch.*]

Touching; meeting or joining at the surface or border; as two *contiguous* bodies or countries.

The houses in ancient Rome were not *contiguous*. *Encyc.*

Usually followed by *to*. Bacon uses *with*, but he has not been followed.

CONTIGUOUSLY, *adv.* In a manner to touch; without intervening space. *Dryden.*

CONTIGUOUSNESS, *n.* A state of contact; close union of surfaces or borders.

CONTINENCE, *n.* [*L. continentia, from continere; n. continuo, to hold, or withhold; con and tenco, to hold. See Tenu.*]

1. In a general sense, the restraint which a person imposes upon his desires and passions; self-command.

2. Appropriately, the restraint of the passion for sexual enjoyment; resistance of concupiscence; forbearance of lewd pleasures; hence, chastity. But the term is usually applied to males, as *chastity* is to

females. Scipio the younger exhibited the noblest example of *continence* recorded in Pagan history; an example surpassed only by that of Joseph in sacred history.

3. Forbearance of lawful pleasure.

Content without lawful viceroy, is *continence*; without unlawful, is chastity. *Greul.*

4. Moderation in the indulgence of sexual enjoyment.

Chastity is either abstinence or *continence*; abstinence is that of virgins or widows; *continence*, that of married persons. *Taylor.*

5. Continuity; uninterrupted course. [*Not now used.*] *Ayliffe.*

CONTINENT, *a.* [*L. continens.*] Refraining from unlawful sexual commerce, or moderate in the indulgence of lawful pleasure; chaste.

2. Restrained; moderate; temperate. Have a *continent* forbearance. *Shak.*

3. Opposing; restraining. *Shak.*

4. Continuous; connected; not interrupted. The North East part of Asia, is not *continent* with America. *Brerewood.*

A *continent* fever. More generally we now say a *continued* fever.

CONTINENT, *n.* In geography, a great extent of land, not disjointed or interrupted by a sea; a connected tract of land of great extent; as the Eastern and Western *continent*. It differs from an *isle* only in extent. New Holland may be denominated a *continent*. Britain is called a *continent*, as opposed to the *isle* of Anglesey. *Henry, Hist. Brit. i. 34.*

In Spenser, *continent* is used for ground in general.

2. That which contains any thing. [*Not used.*] *Shak.*

CONTINENTAL, *a.* Pertaining or relating to a continent; as the *continental* powers of Europe. In America, pertaining to the United States, as *continental* money, in distinction from what pertains to the separate states; a word much used during the revolution.

CONTINENTLY, *adv.* In a continent manner; chastely; moderately; temperately.

CONTINGENCE, *n.* [*L. contingens; con and tingo, to fall or happen to; con and tango, to touch. See Touch.*]

1. The quality of being contingent or casual; a happening; or the possibility of coming to pass.

We are not to build certain rules on the *contingency* of human actions. *South.*

2. Casualty; accident; fortuitous event. The success of the attempt will depend on *contingencies*. [*See Accident and Casualty.*]

CONTINGENT, *a.* Falling or coming by chance, that is, without design or expectation on our part; accidental; casual. On our part, we speak of chance or *contingencies*; but with an infinite being, nothing can be *contingent*.

2. In law, depending on an uncertainty, as a *contingent* remainder. *Blackstone.*

CONTINGENT, *n.* A fortuitous event; that which comes without our design, foresight or expectation.

2. That which falls to one in a division or apportionment among a number; a quota; an equal or suitable share; proportion.

Each prince furnishes his *contingent* of men, money and munitions.

CONTINGENTLY, *adv.* Accidentally; without design or foresight.

CONTINGENTNESS, *n.* The state of being contingent; fortuitousness.

CONTINUAL, *a.* [*Fr. continué; L. continuus. See Continue.*]

1. Proceeding without interruption or cessation; unceasing; not intermitting; used in reference to time.

He that hath a merry heart hath a *continual* feast. *Prov. xv.*

I have great heaviness and *continual* sorrow of heart. *Rom. ix.*

2. Very frequent; often repeated; as, the charitable man has *continual* applications for alms.

3. *Continual* fever, or continued fever, a fever that abates, but never entirely intermits, till it comes to a crisis; thus distinguished from remitting and intermitting fever.

4. *Continual* claim, in law, a claim that is made from time to time within every year or day, to land or other estate, the possession of which cannot be obtained without hazard. *Conel.*

5. Perpetual.

CONTINUALLY, *adv.* Without pause or cessation; unceasingly; as, the ocean is *continually* rolling its waves on the shore.

2. Very often; in repeated succession; from time to time.

Thou shalt eat bread at my table *continually*. *2 Sam. ix.*

CONTINUALNESS, *n.* Permanence. *Hales.*

CONTINUANCE, *n.* [*See Continue.*] A holding on or remaining in a particular state, or in a course or series. Applied to time, duration; a state of lasting; as the *continuance* of rain or fair weather for a day or a week. Sensual pleasure is of short *continuance*.

2. Perseverance; as, no excuse will justify a *continuance* in sin.

By patient *continuance* in well doing. *Rom. ii.*

3. Abode; residence; as, during our *continuance* in Paris.

1. Succession uninterrupted; continuation; a prolonging of existence; as, the brute regards the *continuance* of his species. *Addison.*

5. Progression of time.

In thy book all my members were written, which in *continuance* were fashioned. *Ps. cxxxix.*

6. In law, the deferring of a suit, or the giving of a day for the parties to a suit to appear. After issue or demurrer joined, as well as in some of the previous stages of proceeding, a day is *continually* given, and entered upon record, for the parties to appear on from time to time. The giving of this day is called a *continuance*.

Blackstone.

7. In the *United States*, the deferring of a trial or suit from one stated term of the court to another.

8. Continuity; resistance to a separation of parts; a holding together. [*Not used.*]

CONTINUATE, *v. t.* To join closely together. *Potter.*