

Oil of vitrol will throw the stomach into involuntary contractions. *Arbutnot.*

The contraction of the heart is called systole. Some things induce a contraction of the nerves. *Bacon.*

2. The act of shortening, abridging, or reducing within a narrower compass by any means. A poem may be improved by omissions or contractions.

3. In grammar, the shortening of a word, by the omission of a letter or syllable; as, *can't* for *cannot*; *burst* for *burst* or *burst-*; Swedish and Danish ord, a word.

4. A contract; marriage contract. *[Not used.] Shak.*

5. Abbreviation.
CONTRACTOR, *n.* One who contracts; one of the parties to a bargain; one who covenants to do any thing for another. *Taylor.*

2. One who contracts or covenants with a government to furnish provisions or other supplies or to perform any work or service for the public, at a certain price or rate.

CONTRA-DANCE, { *[Fr. contre-danse;*
COUNTER-DANCE, { *n. It. contraddanza;*
Sp. *contradanza.*

A dance in which the partners are arranged in opposition, or in opposite lines.

CONTRACT, *v. t.* *[L. contradico; contra and dico, to speak.]*

1. To oppose by words; to assert the contrary to what has been asserted, or to deny what has been affirmed.
It is not lawful to contradict a point of history known to all the world. *Dryden.*

The Jews—spoke against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. *Acts xiii.*

2. To oppose; to be directly contrary to.
No truth can contradict another truth. *Hooker.*

CONTRADICTED, *pp.* Opposed in words; opposed; denied.

CONTRADICTION, *n.* One who contradicts or denies; an opposer. *Swift.*

CONTRADICTING, *ppr.* Affirming the contrary to what has been asserted; denying; opposing.

CONTRADICTION, *n.* *[L. contradictio.]* An assertion of the contrary to what has been said or affirmed; denial; contrary declaration.

2. Opposition, whether by words, reproaches or attempts to defeat.

Consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself. *Heb. xii.*

3. Direct opposition or repugnancy; inconsistency with itself; incongruity or contrariety of things, words, thoughts or propositions. These theorems involve a contradiction.

If we perceive truth, we thereby perceive whatever is false in contradiction to it. *Gree.*

CONTRADICTIONAL, *a.* Inconsistent. *[Not in use.] Milton.*

CONTRADICTIONS, *a.* Filled with contradictions; inconsistent. *Collier.*

2. Inclined to contradict; disposed to deny or cavil.

3. Opposite; inconsistent.

CONTRADICTIONNESS, *n.* Inconsistency; contrariety to itself. *Norris.*

2. Disposition to contradict or cavil.

CONTRADICTORILY, *adv.* In a contra-

dictory manner; in a manner inconsistent with itself, or opposite to others. *Brown.*

CONTRADICTIONNESS, *n.* Direct opposition; contrariety in assertion or effect. *Baxter.*

CONTRADICTION, *a.* Affirming the contrary; implying a denial of what has been asserted; as *contradictory* assertions.

2. Inconsistent; opposite; contrary; as *contradictory* schemes.

CONTRADICTION, *n.* A proposition which denies or opposes another in all its terms; contrariety; inconsistency.

It is common with princes to will contradictory orders. *Bacon.*

CONTRADISTINCT, *a.* Distinguished by opposite qualities. *Smith.*

CONTRADISTINCTION, *n.* *[contra and distinction.]* Distinction by opposite qualities.

We speak of sins of infamy, in contradistinction to those of presumption. *South.*

CONTRADISTINCTIVE, *a.* Distinguished by opposites. *Harris.*

CONTRADISTINGUISH, *v. t.* *[contra and distinguish.]*

To distinguish not merely by differential, but by opposite qualities.

These are our complex ideas of soul and body, as *contradistinguished.* *Locke.*

CONTRADISTINGUISHED, *pp.* Distinguished by opposites.

CONTRADISTINGUISHING, *ppr.* Distinguishing by opposites.

CONTRAFISSURE, *n.* *[contra and fissure.]*

In surgery, a fissure or fracture in the cranium, on the side opposite to that which received the blow, or at some distance from it. *Care. Encyc.*

CONTRAINDICANT, *n.* A symptom that forbids to treat a disorder in the usual way. *Burke.*

CONTRAINDICATE, *v. t.* *[contra and indicare.]* In medicine, to indicate some method of cure, contrary to that which the general tenor of the disease requires; or to forbid that to be done which the main scope of the malady points out. *Harvey. Encyc.*

CONTRAINDICTION, *n.* An indication, from some peculiar symptom or fact, that forbids the method of cure which the main symptoms or nature of the disease requires. *Arbutnot.*

CONTRAMURE, *n.* An out wall. *[See Countermure.]*

CONTRANATURAL, *a.* Opposite to nature. *[Little used.] Bp. Rus.*

CONTRARIETY, *n.* *[L. contra and nitro, to strive.]* Reaction; resistance to force.

CONTRAPPOSITION, *n.* *[contra and position.]* A placing over against; opposite position.

CONTRAPUNTIST, *n.* One skilled in counterpoint. *Mason.*

CONTRAREGULARITY, *n.* *[contra and regularity.]* Contrariety to rule, or to regularity. *Norris.*

CONTRAIRIANT, *a.* *[Fr. from contrairer, to contradict, or run counter.]*

Contradictory; opposite; inconsistent. *[Little used.] Ayliffe.*

CONTRARIES, *n. plu.* *[See Contrary.]* In logic, propositions which destroy each

other, but of which the falsehood of one does not establish the truth of the other.

If two universals differ in quality, they are contraries; as, *every vine is a tree; no vine is a tree.* These can never be both true together; but they may be both false. *Watts.*

CONTRARIETY, *n.* *[L. contrarietas. See Contrary.]*

1. Opposition in fact, essence, quality or principle; repugnance. The expedition failed by means of a *contrariety* of winds. There is a *contrariety* in the nature of virtue and vice; of love and hatred; of truth and falsehood. Among men of the same profession, we find a *contrariety* of opinions.

2. Inconsistency; quality or position destructive of its opposite.

How can these *contrarieties* agree. *Shak.*

CONTRARILY, *adv.* In an opposite manner; in opposition; on the other side; in opposite ways.

CONTRARINESS, *n.* Contrariety; opposition. *Diet.*

CONTRARIOUS, *a.* Contrary; opposite; repugnant. *Milton.*

CONTRARIOUSLY, *adv.* Contrarily; oppositely. *Shak.*

CONTRARIWISE, *adv.* *[contrary and wise, manner.]*

On the contrary; oppositely; on the other hand.

Not rendering evil for evil, nor railing for railing; but *contrariwise*, blessing. *1 Pet. iii.*

CONTRARY, *a.* *[L. contrarius, from contra, against; Fr. contraire; Sp. It. contrario.]*

1. Opposite; adverse; moving against or in an opposite direction; as *contrary* winds.

2. Opposite; contradictory; not merely different, but inconsistent or repugnant.

The flesh lusteth against the spirit, and the spirit against the flesh; and these are *contrary*, the one to the other. *Gal. v.*

This adjective, in many phrases, is to be treated grammatically as an adverb, or as an adjective referring to a sentence or affirmation; as, this happened *contrary* to my expectations. The word here really belongs to the affirmation or fact declared, *this happened*; for *contrary* does not, like an adverb, express the manner of happening, but that the fact itself was contrary to my expectation. *According, agreeable, pursuant, antecedent, prior, anterior, &c.*, are often used in the like manner.

CONTRARY, *n.* A thing that is contrary or of opposite qualities.

No contraries hold more antipathy, Than I and such a knave. *Shak.*

2. A proposition contrary to another, or a fact contrary to what is alleged; as, this is stated to be a fact, but I will endeavor to show the *contrary*.

On the contrary, in opposition; on the other side. *Swift.*

To the contrary, to an opposite purpose, or fact.

They did it, not for want of instruction to the contrary. *Stillingfleet.*

He said it was just, but I told him the contrary.

CONTRARY, *v. t.* *[Fr. contrarier.]* To contradict or oppose. *Obs.*

CONTRARY-MINDED, *a.* Of a different mind or opinion. *Hall.*

CONTRAST, *v. t.* *[Fr. contraster, Norm. id., to contrast; It. contrastare, Sp. Port.*