



SINCE 1828

REVIEWED

By Chris at 3:49 pm, Oct 14, 2020

- [GAMES](#)
- [BROWSE THESAURUS](#)
- [WORD OF THE DAY](#)
- [WORDS AT PLAY](#)

- [LOG IN](#)
- [REGISTER](#)
-



[settings](#)

-  [SAVED WORDS](#)

contact



dictionary thesaurus [view recents](#)

[Login](#) or [Register](#)

Hello,

- [GAMES](#)
- [BROWSE THESAURUS](#)
- [WORD OF THE DAY](#)
- [WORDS AT PLAY](#)
- [SETTINGS](#)
-

-  [SAVED WORDS](#) [view recents](#)


contact

[noun](#)

 [Save Word](#)

To save this word, you'll need to log in.

[Log In](#) ☐

con·tact | \ 'kän-, takt  \

Definition of *contact*

(Entry 1 of 3)

1a : union or junction of surfaces Cooling begins when the lava makes contact with the air.

b : the apparent touching or mutual tangency of the limbs of two celestial bodies or of the disk of one body with the shadow of another during an eclipse, transit, or occultation

c(1) : the junction of two electrical conductors through which a current passes

(2) : a special part made for such a junction The camera's flash wasn't working because the electrical contacts needed to be cleaned.

2a : [association](#), [relationship](#) students and teachers in daily contact

b : [connection](#), [communication](#) I lost contact with her years ago.


c : an establishing of communication with someone or an observing or receiving of a significant signal from a person or object radar contact with Mars

3 : a person serving as a go-between, messenger, connection, or source of special information business contacts

4 : [contact lens](#) She wears contacts more often than glasses.

contact

[verb](#)

con·tact | \ 'kän-, takt  , kən-'takt \
contacted; contacting; contacts

Definition of *contact* (Entry 2 of 3)

[intransitive verb](#)

: to make [contact](#) the point at which the two surfaces contact

[transitive verb](#)

1 : to bring into contact

2a : to enter or be in contact with : [join](#) The spark contacted the gunpowder.

b : to get in communication with Contact your local dealer.


contact

[adjective](#)

con·tact | \ 'kän-, takt  \

Definition of *contact* (Entry 3 of 3)

: maintaining, involving, or activated or caused by contact contact poisons contact sports contact dermatitis

 [Synonyms](#)  [Is contact a verb?: Usage Guide](#)  [More Example Sentences](#)  [Learn More about](#)

[contact](#)

Keep scrolling for more

Synonyms for *contact*

Synonyms: Noun

- [connection](#)

Synonyms: Verb

- [address](#),
- [communicate \(with\)](#),
- [get](#),
- [reach](#)

[Visit the Thesaurus for More](#) »

Is contact a verb?: Usage Guide

Verb

The use of *contact* as a verb, especially in sense 2b, is accepted as standard by almost all commentators except those who write college handbooks.

Examples of *contact* in a Sentence

Noun Physical *contact* between a mother and child is very important. a disease that is spread by sexual *contact*

See More  

Recent Examples on the Web: Noun One nurse was denied a dental appointment after breaking a tooth, because the dentist didn't want to have *contact* with someone who worked with coronavirus patients. — [Washington Post](#), "Inside a Florida hospital, coronavirus cases wane as strained staff brace for a fall surge," 7 Oct. 2020 Students who had close *contact* with infected peers have been encouraged to get tested, officials said. — [From Usa Today Network And Wire Reports, USA TODAY](#), "Voting lines, positive pastors, caterer quarantine: News from around our 50 states," 7 Oct. 2020

These example sentences are selected automatically from various online news sources to reflect current usage of the word 'contact.' Views expressed in the examples do not represent the opinion of Merriam-Webster or its editors. [Send us feedback](#).

See More  

First Known Use of *contact*

Noun

1626, in the meaning defined at [sense 1a](#)

Verb

1834, in the meaning defined at [intransitive sense](#)

Adjective

1859, in the meaning defined [above](#)

History and Etymology for *contact*

Noun

borrowed from French & Latin; French, going back to Middle French, borrowed from Latin *contāctus* "touching, joining of surfaces, association," from *contag-*, variant stem of *contingere* "to be in contact with, arrive at, affect, fall to one's lot" + *-tus*, suffix of action nouns — more at [contingent entry 1](#)

Verb

derivative of [contact entry 1](#)

Adjective

derivative of [contact entry 1](#)

Keep scrolling for more

Learn More about *contact*

Share *contact*

[Post the Definition of contact to Facebook](#)



[Share the Definition of contact on Twitter](#)



Time Traveler for *contact*



The first known use of *contact* was in 1626

[See more words from the same year](#)

From the Editors at Merriam-Webster

[Is 'Contact' a Verb?](#)

[Is 'Contact' a Verb?](#)

[Once frowned upon, the verb 'contact' is now widely accepted](#)

Dictionary Entries near *contact*

[consumptive use](#)

[cont](#)

[contabescence](#)

[contact](#)

[contact acid](#)

[contactant](#)

[contact bed](#)

[See More Nearby Entries](#)

Phrases Related to *contact*

[come in/into contact with](#)

[human contact](#)

[make contact](#)

[make contact with](#)

[on contact](#)

Statistics for *contact*

Last Updated

10 Oct 2020

Look-up Popularity

Top 1% of words

Cite this Entry

“Contact.” *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/contact>. Accessed 14 Oct. 2020.

Style: MLA

Keep scrolling for more

More Definitions for *contact*

contact

[noun](#)



English Language Learners Definition of *contact*

(Entry 1 of 3)

: the state or condition that exists when two people or things physically touch each other : a state of touching
: the state or condition that exists when people see and communicate with each other
: an occurrence in which people communicate with each other

contact

[verb](#)



English Language Learners Definition of *contact* (Entry 2 of 3)

: to call or write to (someone or something) : to communicate with (someone or something)

contact

[adjective](#)




English Language Learners Definition of *contact* (Entry 3 of 3)

sports : allowing players to touch or hit each other
: acting when physical contact occurs

[See the full definition for *contact* in the English Language Learners Dictionary](#)

contact

[noun](#)

con·tact | \ 'kăn-, takt  \

Kids Definition of *contact*

(Entry 1 of 3)

1 : a meeting or touching of persons or things
2 : communication with other people Have you been in *contact* with her? He has no outside *contact*.
3 : a person someone knows who serves as a connection especially in the business or political world I've got *contacts* in the company.
4 : [contact lens](#)

contact

[verb](#)

contacted; contacting

Kids Definition of *contact* (Entry 2 of 3)

1 : to touch or make touch physically

2 : to get in touch or communication with

contact


[adjective](#)

Kids Definition of *contact* (Entry 3 of 3)

: involving or activated by physical interaction *contact sports contact poisons*

contact

[noun](#)

con·tact | \ ˈkän-, takt  \

Medical Definition of *contact*

(Entry 1 of 2)

1 : union or junction of body surfaces sexual contact

2a : the junction of two electrical conductors through which a current passes

b : a special part that has been made for such a junction

3 : direct experience through the senses loss of contact with reality

4 : [contact lens](#)

contact

[adjective](#)

Medical Definition of *contact* (Entry 2 of 2)

: caused or transmitted by direct or indirect contact (as with an allergen or a [contagious](#) disease) a contact allergy

Keep scrolling for more

More from Merriam-Webster on *contact*

Thesaurus: [All synonyms and antonyms for contact](#)

Nglish: [Translation of contact for Spanish Speakers](#)

Britannica English: [Translation of contact for Arabic Speakers](#)

Comments on *contact*

What made you want to look up *contact*? Please tell us where you read or heard it (including the quote, if possible).

[SHOW COMMENTS](#) 

WORD OF THE DAY

benefic 

[See Definitions and Examples »](#)

Get Word of the Day daily email!

Your email address:

SUBSCRIBE

[Test Your Vocabulary](#)

Forms of Government Quiz

- A *gerontocracy* is rule by:

[animals](#)

[unwritten laws](#)

[soothsayers](#)

[elders](#)

Can you spell these 10
commonly misspelled words?

[TAKE THE QUIZ](#)

Test Your Knowledge - and
learn some interesting things
along the way.

[TAKE THE QUIZ](#)

Love words? Need even more definitions?

Subscribe to America's largest dictionary and get thousands more definitions and
advanced search—ad free!

MERRIAM-WEBSTER UNABRIDGED

WORDS AT PLAY

•

What Counts as a 'Dilemma'?

Does it have to be between two
things?

•

The Words of the Week -

10/9/20

Words from the week of 10/9/2020

•

**A Brief on 'Squadron' and
'Squad'**

By land, sea, or air

•

Keeping Watch on 'Surveil'

Keeping tabs on a back-formation.

ASK THE EDITORS

•

**'Intensive purposes': An
Eggcorn**

We're intent on clearing it up

•

**'Nip it in the butt': An
Eggcorn**

We're gonna stop you right there

•

Literally

How to use a word that (literally)
drives some pe...

•

Is Singular 'They' a Better Choice?

The awkward case of 'his or her'

WORD GAMES

•

Forms of Government Quiz

Name that government! Or
something like that.

TAKE THE QUIZ

•

Semantic Drift Quiz

A challenging quiz of changing
words.

TAKE THE QUIZ

•

Spell It

Can you spell these 10 commonly
misspelled words?

[TAKE THE QUIZ](#)

•

Add Diction

Build a chain of words by adding
one letter at a ...

[PLAY THE GAME](#)

Learn a new word every day. Delivered to your inbox!

Your email address



OTHER MERRIAM-WEBSTER DICTIONARIES

- [LEARNER'S ESL DICTIONARY](#)
 - [VISUAL DICTIONARY](#)
 - [SCRABBLE® WORD FINDER](#)
- [MERRIAM-WEBSTER'S UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY](#)
- [BRITANNICA ENGLISH - ARABIC TRANSLATION](#)
- [ENGLISH - SPANISH-ENGLISH TRANSLATION](#)

FOLLOW US

• • • •

[Browse the Dictionary:](#) [A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#)
[Y](#) [Z](#) [0-9](#)

[Home](#) | [Help](#) | [Apps](#) | [About Us](#) | [Shop](#) | [Advertising Info](#) | [Dictionary API](#) |
[Contact Us](#) | [Join MWU](#) | [Video](#) | [Word of the Year](#) | [Puku](#) |
[Vocabulary Resources](#) | [Law Dictionary](#) | [Medical Dictionary](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) |
[Terms of Use](#) | [Do Not Sell My Info](#)

[Browse the Thesaurus](#) | [Browse the Medical Dictionary](#) |
[Browse the Legal Dictionary](#)

© 2020 Merriam-Webster, Incorporated