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Language



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con·tra·band  (kŏn trə-bănd')

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n.

1.

a. Goods prohibited by law or treaty from being imported or exported.

b. Goods that are possessed contrary to law or rule, as in a prison or school.

2.

a. Illegal traffic in contraband; smuggling.

b. Smuggled goods.

3. Goods that may be seized and confiscated by a belligerent if shipped to another belligerent by a neutral.

4. An escaped slave during the Civil War who fled to or was taken behind Union lines.

adj.

Prohibited from being imported or exported.

[Italian *contrabbando* : *contra-*, against (from Latin *contrā-*; see [CONTRA-](#)) + *bando*, legal proclamation (from Late Latin *bannus*, of Germanic origin; see *bhā*-² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

con tra·band'age *n.*

con tra·band'ist *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

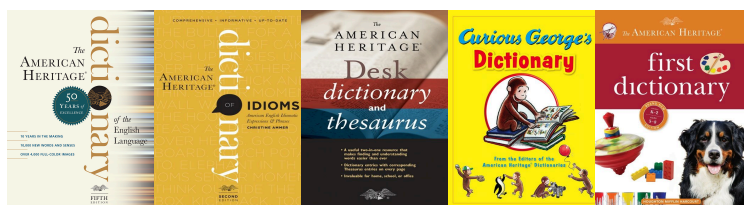
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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