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dictionary

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Language



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con·tra·dict  (kŏn'trə-dīkt)

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v. con·tra·dict·ed, con·tra·dict·ing, con·tra·dicts

v.tr.

1. To assert to be untrue, often by saying the opposite: "*The study contradicts the notion that merely keeping busy keeps people healthy*" (Richard A. Knox). See Synonyms at [deny](#).

2. To assert the opposite of a statement or idea put forward by (someone).

3. To be contrary to; be inconsistent with: "[Her] almost giddy warmth in conversation appears to contradict her image as a confrontational, politically outspoken performer" (Elysa Gardner).

v.intr.

To make a contradictory statement.

[Latin *contrādicere*, *contrādict-*, to speak against : *contrā-*, contra- + *dicere*, to speak; see **deik-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

con'tra·dict a·ble *adj.*

con'tra·dict er, con'tra·dic tor *n.*

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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:

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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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