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zug-zwang 🗣️ (ts k tsväng')

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n.

A situation in a chess game in which a player is forced to make an undesirable or disadvantageous move.

[German *Zugzwang* : *Zug*, pull, move (from Middle High German *zuc*, pull, from Old High German, from *ziohan*, to pull; see **deuk-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)) + *Zwang*, compulsion (from Middle High German *twanc*, from Old High German).]

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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:

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