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con·duct  (kən-dŭkt)

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v. con·duct·ed, con·duct·ing, con·ducts

v.tr.

1. To direct the course of; manage or control: *a police officer who conducts traffic; a scientist who conducts experiments.*
2. To lead or guide: *conducted the tourists through the museum.*
3. *Music* To direct the performance of (an orchestra or chorus, for example).
4. To serve as a medium for conveying; transmit: *Some metals conduct heat.*
5. To comport (oneself) in a specified way: *The students conducted themselves with dignity throughout the ceremony.*

v.intr.

1. To act as a director or conductor.
2. To show the way; lead.

n. (kŏn dŭkt')

1. The way a person acts, especially from the standpoint of morality and ethics.
2. The act of directing or controlling; management.
3. *Obsolete* A guide; an escort.

[Middle English *conducten*, from Latin *condŭcere*, *conduct-*, to lead together; see [CONDUCE](#).]

con·duct'i·bil i·ty n.

con·duct i·ble adj.

Synonyms: **conduct, direct, manage, control, steer**¹

These verbs mean to exercise direction over an activity: *Conduct* applies to the guidance, authority, and responsibility of a single person or group: *The judge conducted the hearing. The committee conducted an investigation into the scandal.*

Direct stresses regulation to ensure proper planning and implementation: *The seasoned politician directed a brilliant political campaign.*

Manage suggests ongoing guidance of a person, group, or organization: *It takes skill to manage a large hotel.*

Control stresses regulation and usually domination through restraint: *The harbormaster controls the number of boats allowed inside the breakwater.*

Steer suggests guidance that controls direction or course: *I deftly steered the conversation away from politics.* See Also Synonyms at [accompany](#), [behavior](#).

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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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