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con·found  (kən-fəund , kɒn-)

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tr.v. **con·found·ed, con·found·ing, con·founds**

1. To cause to become confused or perplexed. See Synonyms at [perplex](#).
2. To fail to distinguish; mix up: *Don't confound fiction and fact.*
3. To make (something bad) worse: *Do not confound the problem by losing your temper.*
4. To cause to be ashamed; abash: *an invention that confounded the skeptics.*
5. Used in mild curses: *Confound you!*
6.
 - a. To frustrate or thwart: *trivial demands that confounded the peace talks.*
 - b. *Archaic* To defeat or overthrow (an enemy).

[Middle English *confounden*, from Anglo-Norman *confundre*, from Latin *cōfundere*, to mix together, confuse : *com-*, *com-* + *fundere*, to pour; see **gheu-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

con·found *er n.*

con·found *ing-ly adv.*

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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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