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dictionary

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Language



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cir·cum·vent  (sûr'kəm-věnt)

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tr.v. **cir·cum·vent·ed**, **cir·cum·vent·ing**, **cir·cum·vents**

1. To go around; bypass: *circumvented the city.*
2. To avoid or get around by artful maneuvering: *circumvented the bureaucratic red tape.*
3. To surround (an enemy, for example); enclose or entrap.

[Early Modern English, to surround (an enemy) by stratagem, overcome by craft or fraud, outwit, from Middle English, hoodwinked, from Latin *circumventus*, past participle of *circumvenīre*, to surround in a hostile manner, deceive, evade : *circum-*, *circum-* + *venīre*, to go, come; see **g^wā-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

cir'cum·vent *er*, **cir'cum·ven** *tor* *n.*

cir'cum·ven *tion* *n.*

cir'cum·ven *tive* *adj.*

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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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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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