

# The Prefix *con-*

In “Freedom’s Children,” Sheyann Webb describes a march for civil rights in Selma, Alabama.

“I got up in the morning, frightened to march. The people began to **congregate** and line up.”

The word *congregate* contains the prefix *con-*, which often means “together.” If you did not know the meaning of *congregate*, knowing the meaning of its prefix could have helped you guess that *congregate* means “to come together in a group.”

Each incomplete word below begins with the prefix *con-*. Use a dictionary to figure out the word that makes sense in the sentence, and fill in the missing letters. Below the sentence, write the definition that matches the word as it is used in the sentence.

1. Police soon discovered that the three suspects were part of a      s p r     .

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

2. After gaining independence, the states joined together to form a

     f           c     .

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

3. We wanted a thicker sauce, so we boiled it to      d n      it.

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

4. The two routes      v      g      in Blaire before they branch off again.

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

5. The paint sets each      s      s      of three brushes and five tubes of oil paint.

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

## Challenge



Using a dictionary, find five more words beginning with the prefix *con-*. For each word find a connection between the meaning of the prefix (“together”) and the meaning of the word. For example, the word *concourse* means a large, open space for the gathering of crowds, as in an airport. A concourse is an area where people gather together.

Write each word you chose and its definition. Then write a sentence explaining the connection between the prefix meaning and the word meaning. Use the word *together* in your sentence, as in the example above.