

**constraint**

[kən'streɪnt] *n*

1. принуждение  
to act under constraint - действовать по принуждению /под давлением/
2. скованность; стеснение; напряжённость  
I write to you without any constraint - я пишу вам без всякого стеснения  
to feel constraint in smb.'s presence - чувствовать себя неловко в чьём-л. присутствии
3. тюремное заключение
4. *физ.* ограничительная связь; ограничивающее условие, ограничение

**constraint**

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

**con-straint** **AW** [constraint constraints] *BrE* [kən'streɪnt] <sup>Ⓜ</sup> *NAmE* [kən'streɪnt]

**noun**

1. **countable** a thing that limits or restricts sth, or your freedom to do sth

**Syn:** ↑restriction

- **constraints of time/money/space**
- **financial /economic/legal/political constraints**
- ~ **on sth** This decision will impose serious constraints on all schools.

2. **uncountable** strict control over the way that you behave or are allowed to behave

- At last we could relax and talk without constraint.

Word Origin:

late Middle English (in the sense 'coercion'): from Old French **constreinte**, feminine past participle of **constrainedre**, from Latin **constringere** 'bind tightly together'.

Synonyms:

**limit**

restriction • control • constraint • restraint • limitation

These are all words for sth that limits what you can do or what can happen.

**limit** • the greatest or smallest amount of sth that is allowed: ▫ The EU has set strict limits on pollution levels. ◇ ▫ the speed limit

**restriction** • (rather formal) a rule or law that limits what you can do: ▫ There are no restrictions on the amount of money you can withdraw.

**control** • (often in compounds) the act of limiting or managing sth; a method of doing this: ▫ arms control

**constraint** • (rather formal) a fact or decision that limits what you can do: ▫ We have to work within severe constraints of time and money.

**restraint** • (rather formal) a decision, a rule, an idea, etc. that limits what you can do; the act of limiting sth because it is necessary or sensible to do so: ▫ The government has imposed export restraints on some products. ◇ ▫ The unions are unlikely to accept any sort of wage restraint.

**limitation** • the act or process of limiting sth; a rule, fact or condition that limits sth: ▫ They would resist any limitation of their powers.

**restriction, constraint, restraint or limitation?**

These are all things that limit what you can do. A **restriction** is rule or law that is made by sb in authority. A **constraint** is sth that exists rather than sth that is made, although it may exist as a result of sb's decision. A **restraint** is also sth that exists: it can exist outside yourself, as the result of sb else's decision; but it can also exist inside you, as a fear of what other people may think or as your own feeling about what is acceptable: ▫ moral/social/cultural restraints. A **limitation** is more general and can be a rule that sb makes or a fact or condition that exists.

limits/restrictions/controls/constraints/restraints/limitations **on** sth

limits/limitations **to** sth

**severe** limits/restrictions/controls/constraints/restraints/limitations

**tight** limits/restrictions/controls/constraints

to **impose/remove** limits/restrictions/controls/constraints/restraints/limitations

to **lift** restrictions/controls/constraints/restraints

Example Bank:

- The government has placed tight constraints on spending this year.
- There are major financial constraints on all schools.
- We have to work within severe constraints.
- This decision will impose serious financial constraints on all schools.
- We are severely limited by legal and political constraints.

**constraint**

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

**con-straint** **AC** /kən'streɪnt/ *BrE* <sup>Ⓜ</sup> *AmE* <sup>Ⓜ</sup> **noun**

[Word Family: verb: ↑constrain; noun: ↑constraint]

[Date: 1300-1400; Language: Old French; Origin: **constrainte**, from **constrainedre**; ⇨ ↑constrain]

1. [**countable**] something that limits your freedom to do what you want **SYN** restriction

**constraint on**

▫ Constraints on spending have forced the company to rethink its plans.

▫ the constraints of family life

**financial/environmental/political etc constraints**

There have been financial and political constraints on development.

**impose/place constraints on somebody/something**

constraints imposed on teachers by large class sizes

2. **[uncountable]** control over the way people are allowed to behave, so that they cannot do what they want:

freedom from constraint

• • •

## COLLOCATIONS

### ADJECTIVES/NOUN + constraint

- **financial/legal/economic etc constraints** During the war, there were many physical and social constraints on citizens.
- **time constraints** (=the limited amount of time that is available) Exams are always done under strict time constraints.
- **budget constraints** (=the limited amount of money that is available) With any new project, you have to be aware of the budget constraints.
- **a major constraint** In Egypt, the shortage of land and water is a major constraint on agriculture.
- **a serious/severe constraint** The country's debts put serious constraints on its economic growth.
- **a tight constraint** (=a strict limit) They were operating within tight financial constraints.
- **an important constraint** Their religious beliefs were an important constraint on their behaviour.

### verbs

- **impose constraints on somebody/something** You have to work within the constraints that the software imposes.
- **place/put constraints on somebody/something** Lack of funding is putting severe constraints on research.
- **free somebody/something from constraints** Summer vacation is a time when children are freed from the constraints of routine.

### phrases

- **be subject to constraints** (=be limited by them) Teachers are subject to the constraints of the examination system.
- **be free from constraints** (=not be limited by them) No film producers are free from the constraints of censorship.
- **given the constraints on something** (=because there are particular constraints on something) Given the constraints on space in the city, most people live in tiny apartments.

## constraint

Freakuency Pack

12500 **3041**<sup>MCW</sup>

15000 **2829**<sup>COCA</sup>

RANGE: **5k** **CONSTRAIN**<sup>9393</sup>

constrain <sup>628</sup>

constrained <sup>1796</sup>

constraining <sup>312</sup>

constrains <sup>191</sup>

constraint <sup>1098</sup>

constraints <sup>5156</sup>

unconstrained <sup>212</sup>

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

<sup>744</sup> **20014**<sup>1093</sup> *nn1*

<sup>4</sup> **398299**<sup>5</sup> *nnu*