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 - Spelling
 - [Common misspellings](#)
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 - [More rules and tips](#)
 - Punctuation
 - [How to use commas](#)
 - [How to punctuate abbreviations](#)
 - [More punctuation guidance](#)
 - Usage
 - [Commonly confused words](#)
 - [British and American terms](#)
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 - [Writing job applications](#)
 - [Putting together an impressive CV](#)
 - [More practical writing help](#)
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 - Professional reference works
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 - Wordlists
 - [Two-letter words](#)
 - [Weird and wonderful words](#)
 - [More wordlists](#)
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 - [How many words are there in the English language?](#)
 - [What is the longest English word?](#)
 - [More language questions](#)
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 - [The Oxford Dictionaries Apostrophe Challenge](#)
 - [Which Charles Dickens character are you?](#)
 - [Can you identify these classic last lines?](#)
 - [More games and quizzes](#)
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 - [What is the origin of the word 'snob'?](#)
 - [What is the origin of the word 'quiz'?](#)
 - [Pirate phrases and their origins](#)
 - [More word origins](#)

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English (US)

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Definition of *commerce* in English:

commerce

Syllabification: com·merce

[Pronunciation](#): /ˈkɑːmərs/

/
(abbreviation: comm.)

noun

- 1 The activity of buying and selling, especially on a large scale: *the possible increase of commerce by a great railroad*

More example sentences

- If we focus on employment, we lose sight of the subtle but very real benefits that commerce and free trade bring.
- Everyone suddenly began to see the worth in 'buying and selling' and generating commerce to turn a profit.
- Mr Monks added that by bringing new residents to the area, local commerce and businesses would benefit and it would help rejuvenate the town centre.
- [Get more examples](#)

Synonyms

[trade](#), [trading](#), buying and selling, [business](#), dealing, [traffic](#); (financial) transactions, [dealings](#)

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- 2 • *dated* Social dealings between people: *outside the normal commerce of civilized life*

More example sentences

- I would assume that a prostitute, in ordinary social commerce, does not admit to her profession.
- Reputations are crucial for the effective functioning of human society and commerce.
- There wasn't a lot of social commerce going on between the two groups.
- [Get more examples](#)

Synonyms

[relations](#), [dealings](#), socializing, [communication](#), association, [contact](#), [intercourse](#)

[View synonyms](#)

- 3 • *archaic* Sexual intercourse.

More example sentences

- In that city at that time it was the custom that any woman who had commerce with any man not her husband would be taken as an adulteress and die for it, unless she was a woman of the streets.
- For it is said that it was two months after the marriage before she had commerce with you.

Origin

mid 16th century ([sense 2](#)): from French, or from Latin *commercium* 'trade, trading', from *com-* 'together' + *mercium* (from *merx*, *merc-* 'merchandise').

More definitions of commerce

Definition of **commerce** in:

- The [British & World English](#) dictionary
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More on commerce

Nearby words

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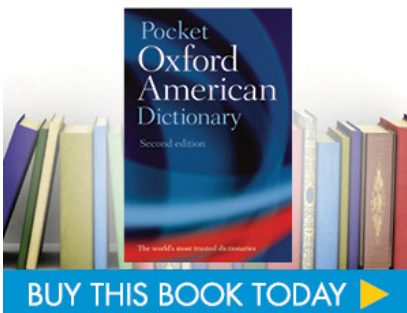
Word of the day [welkin](#)

Pronunciation: 'welkin

noun

the sky or heaven

[See full definition](#)



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