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commendation

commit

3. To commit to the care of another; entrust. [ME *commendēn* < Lat. *commendāre* : *com-*, *com-* + *mandāre*, to entrust; see *man-2\**.] — *com·mend'a·ble* *adj.* — *com·mend'a·ble·ness* *n.* — *com·mend'a·bly* *adv.* — *com·men'da'tō'ry* *adj.*

**com·men·da'tion** (kōm'ən-dā'shən) *n.* 1. The act of commending. 2. Something, as an award, that commends.

**com·men·sal** (kō-mən'sal) *Biol.* — *adj.* Of, relating to, or characterized by commensalism. — *n.* An organism participating in a commensal relationship. [ME, sharing a meal < Med.Lat. *commensālis* : Lat. *com-*, *com-* + Lat. *mēnsa*, table.] — *com·men'sal·ly* *adv.*

**com·men·sal·ism** (kō-mən'sə-liz'əm) *n.* *Biol.* A symbiotic relationship between two organisms of different species in which one derives some benefit while the other is unaffected.

**com·men·su·ra·ble** (kō-mən'sə-rə-bəl, -shər-) *adj.* 1. Measurable by a common standard. 2. Commensurate; proportionate. 3. *Math.* Exactly divisible by the same unit an integral number of times. Used of two quantities. [LLat. *commensurābilis* : Lat. *com-*, *com-* + *mēnsurābilis*, measurable (< *mēnsūrāre*, to measure; see *COMMENSURATE*)] — *com·men'su·ra·bil'i·ty* *n.* — *com·men'su·ra·bly* *adv.*

**com·men·su·rate** (kō-mən'sə-rət, -shər-) *adj.* 1. Of the same size, extent, or duration as another. 2. Corresponding in size or degree; proportionate. 3. Measurable by a common standard; commensurate. [LLat. *commensurātus* : Lat. *com-*, *com-* + *mēnsūrātus* < p.part. of *mēnsūrāre*, to measure (< Lat. *mēnsūra*, measure; see *MEASURE*)] — *com·men'su·rate·ly* *adv.* — *com·men'su·ra'tion* *n.*

**com·ment** (kōm'ənt) *n.* 1. *a.* A written note intended as an explanation, an illustration, or a criticism of a passage in a book or other writing; an annotation. *b.* A series of annotations or explanations. 2. *a.* A statement of fact or opinion, esp. one that expresses a personal reaction or attitude. *b.* An implied conclusion or judgment. 3. Talk; gossip. 4. *Comp. Sci.* Text in a program that does not function in the program itself but is used by the programmer to explain instructions. — *v.* **ment·ed**, **ment·ing**, **ments**. — *intr.* 1. To make a comment; remark. 2. To serve as a judgmental commentary. — *tr.* To make comments on; annotate. [ME < LLat. *commentum*, interpretation < Lat., contrivance < neut. p.part. of *committēre*, to devise. See *men-1\**.]

*Syns:* comment, observation, remark. The central meaning shared by these nouns is "an expression of fact, opinion, or explanation": an unpleasant comment about me; an observation about the movie; an offensive remark.

**com·men·tar'y** (kōm'ən-tēr'ē) *n., pl. -ies*. 1. A series of explanations or interpretations. 2. An expository treatise or series of annotations; an exegesis. Often used in the plural. 3. An apt explanation or illustration. 4. A personal narrative; a memoir. Often used in the plural. — *com·men'tar'i·al* (-tār'ē-əl) *adj.*

**com·men·tate** (kōm'ən-tāt'ē) *v.* **-tat·ed**, **-tat·ing**, **-tates**. — *intr.* To serve as commentator. — *tr.* To make a running commentary on. [Back-formation < COMMENTATOR.]

**com·men·ta'tor** (kōm'ən-tā'tər) *n.* 1. A broadcaster or writer who reports and analyzes events in the news. 2. One who writes or delivers a commentary or commentaries.

**com·merce** (kōm'sərs) *n.* 1. The buying and selling of goods, esp. on a large scale, as between cities or nations. See *Syns* at *business*. 2. Intellectual exchange or social interaction. 3. Sexual intercourse. [Fr. < OFr. < Lat. *commercium* : *com-*, *com-* + *merx*, *merc-*, merchandise.]

**Com·merce City** (kōm'sərs) *n.* A city of N-central CO, a suburb of Denver. Pop. 16,466.

**com·mer·cial** (kō-mūr'shəl) *adj.* 1. *a.* Of or relating to commerce. *b.* Engaged in commerce. *c.* Involved in work that is intended for the mass market. 2. Of, relating to, or being goods, often unrefined, produced and distributed in large quantities for use by industry. 3. Having profit as a chief aim. 4. Sponsored by an advertiser or supported by advertising. — *n.* An advertisement on television or radio. — *com·mer'cial·ly* *adv.*

**commercial bank** *n.* A bank whose principal functions are to receive demand deposits and make short-term loans.

**com·mer·cial·ism** (kō-mūr'shə-liz'əm) *n.* 1. The practices, methods, aims, and spirit of commerce or business. 2. An attitude that emphasizes tangible profit or success. — *com·mer'cial·ist* *n.* — *com·mer'cial·is'tic* *adj.*

**com·mer·cial·ize** (kō-mūr'shə-liz'ē) *tr.v.* **-ized**, **-iz·ing**, **-izes**. 1. To apply business methods to for profit. 2. *a.* To do, exploit, or make chiefly for financial gain. *b.* To sacrifice the quality of for profit. — *com·mer'cial·i·za'tion* (-shə-lī-zā'shən) *n.*

**commercial paper** *n.* Short-term, unsecured, discounted, and negotiable notes sold by one company to another in order to satisfy immediate cash needs.

**commercial traveler** *n.* A traveling sales representative.

**com·mie** also **Com·mie** (kōm'ē) *n.* *Informal.* A Communist. [Short for *COMMUNIST*.]

**com·mi·na'tion** (kōm'ə-nā'shən) *n.* A formal denunciation. [ME *comminacioun* < Lat. *comminātiō*, *comminātiō* <

*comminātus*, p.part. of *commināre*, to threaten : *com-*, *com-* + *mināre*, to threaten; see *MENACE*.] — *com·min'a'tō'ry* (kō-mīn'ə-tōr'ē, -tōr'ē, kōm'ī-nə-) *adj.*

**Com·mines** (kō-mēn'), Philippe de. See Philippe de Comines.

**com·min·gle** (kō-mīng'gəl) *v.* **-gled**, **-gling**, **-gles**. — *intr.* To become blended. — *tr.* To cause to blend together; mix.

**com·mi·nute** (kōm'ə-nōot', -nyōot') *tr.v.* **-nut·ed**, **-nut·ing**, **-nutes**. To reduce to powder; pulverize. [Lat. *comminuere* : *com-*, *com-* + *minuere*, to lessen; see *mel-2\**.] — *com·mi·nu'tion* *n.*

**com·mis·er·ate** (kō-mīz'ə-rət'ē) *v.* **-at·ed**, **-at·ing**, **-ates**. — *tr.* To feel or express sorrow or pity for; sympathize with. — *intr.* To feel or express sympathy. [Lat. *commiserari*, *commiserat'ē* : *com-*, *com-* + *miserari*, to pity (< *miser*, wretched).] — *com·mis'er'a'tive* *adj.* — *com·mis'er'a'tive·ly* *adv.* — *com·mis'er'a'tor* *n.*

**com·mis·er·a'tion** (kō-mīz'ə-rā'shən) *n.* The feeling or expression of pity or sorrow.

**com·mis·sar** (kōm'ī-sār') *n.* 1. *a.* An official of the Communist Party in charge of political indoctrination and the enforcement of party loyalty. *b.* The head of a commissariat in the Soviet Union until 1946. 2. A person who tries to control public opinion. [Russ. *kommisar* < Ger. *Kommissar*, deputy < Med.Lat. *commissarius*, agent. See *COMMISSARY*.]

**com·mis·sar'i·at** (kōm'ī-sār'ē-īt) *n.* 1. A department of an army that provides supplies. 2. A food supply. 3. A major government department in the Soviet Union until 1946. [Fr. < Med.Lat. *commissarius*, agent. See *COMMISSARY*.]

**com·mis·sar'y** (kōm'ī-sār'ē) *n., pl. -ies*. 1. *a.* A supermarket for military personnel and their dependents, usu. located on a military installation. *b.* A store where food and equipment are sold, as in a mining camp. 2. A lunchroom or cafeteria, esp. one in a film or television studio. 3. A person to whom a special duty is given by a higher authority; a deputy. [ME *commissarie*, agent < Med.Lat. *commissarius* < Lat. *commissus*, entrusted. See *COMMISSION*.]

**com·mis·sion** (kōm'ī-shən) *n.* 1. *a.* The act of granting certain powers or the authority to carry out a particular task or duty. *b.* The authority so granted. *c.* The matter or task so authorized. *d.* A document conferring such authorization. 2. *a.* A group of people officially authorized to perform certain duties or functions. *b.* Often *Commission*. A ruling council within the Mafia. 3. The act of committing or perpetrating. 4. A fee or percentage allowed to a sales representative or an agent for services rendered. 5. *a.* An official document issued by a government, conferring on the recipient the rank of a commissioned officer in the armed forces. *b.* The rank and powers so conferred. — *tr.v.* **-sioned**, **-sion·ing**, **-sions**. 1. To grant a commission to. 2. To place an order for. 3. To put (a ship) into active service. — *idioms*. **in commission**. 1. In active service. Used of a ship. 2. In use or in usable condition. **on commission**. With a sales commission serving as full or partial recompense for the work done. **out of commission**. 1. Not in active service. Used of a ship. 2. Not in use or in working condition. [ME *commissioun* < Lat. *commissio*, *commissiō* < *commissus*, p.part. of *mittere*, to entrust. See *COMMIT*.] — *com·mis'sion·al* *adj.*

**com·mis·sion·aire** (kō-mīsh'ə-nār') *n.* *Chiefly British.* A uniformed attendant. [Fr. < Med.Lat. *commissiōnarius* < Lat. *commissio*, *commissiō*, commission. See *COMMISSION*.]

**com·mis·sioned officer** (kō-mīsh'ənd) *n.* An officer who holds a commission and ranks as a second lieutenant or above in the U.S. Army, Air Force, or Marine Corps or as an ensign or above in the U.S. Navy or Coast Guard.

**com·mis·sion·er** (kō-mīsh'ə-nər) *n.* 1. A member of a commission. 2. A person authorized by a commission to perform certain duties. 3. A governmental official in charge of a department. 4. *Sports.* An official selected by an athletic association or league to exercise administrative or regulatory powers over it. — *com·mis'sion·er·ship* *n.*

**commission merchant** *n.* One that buys and sells goods for others on a commission basis.

**commission plan** *n.* Municipal government in which legislative and administrative functions and powers are vested in an elected common body rather than in a mayor and city council.

**com·mis·sure** (kōm'ə-shōōr') *n.* 1. A line or place at which two things join. 2. *Anat.* *a.* A tract of nerve fibers passing from one side to the other of the spinal cord or brain. *b.* The point or surface where two parts, such as the eyelids, join or form a connection. [ME < Lat. *commissura* < *commissus*, p.part. of *mittere*, to join. See *COMMIT*.] — *com·mis'sur'al* *adj.*

**com·mit** (kō-mīt') *v.* **-mit·ted**, **-mit·ting**, **-mits**. — *tr.* 1. To do, perform, or perpetrate. 2. To put in trust or charge; entrust. 3. To place officially in confinement or custody. 4. To consign for future use or reference or for preservation. 5. To put into a place to be kept safe or to be disposed of. 6. *a.* To make known the views of (oneself) on an issue. *b.* To bind or obligate, as by a pledge. 7. To refer (a legislative bill, for example) to a committee. — *intr.* To pledge or obligate one's own self. [ME *committen* < Lat. *mittere* : *com-*, *com-* + *mittere*, to send.] — *com·mit'ta·ble* *adj.*

**com·mit·ment** (kō-mīt'mənt) *n.* 1. The act or committing, esp.: *a.* The act of referring a legal matter to a committee. *b.* Official consent, as to a prior order authorizing consignment to a prison. 2. *a.* Something pledged, esp. an engagement involving financial obligation. 3. The state of emotionally or intellectually to someone or so.

**com·mit·tal** (kō-mīt'təl) *n.* 1. The act of entrusting or an instance of committing to confinement, pledging oneself to a particular view or position.

**com·mit·tee** (kō-mīt'tē) *n.* 1. A group of people delegated to perform a function. See *Usage Note*. 2. *Archaic.* A person to whom a trust is committed. [ME *commite*, trustee < AN *cometre*, to commit < Lat. *mittere*. See *COMMIT*.] — *com·mit·tee·man* (kō-mīt'tē-mən, -mān') *n.* 1. A member of a committee. 2. A man who is of a ward or precinct.

**committee of the whole** *n.* The whole membership sitting as a committee to consider.

**com·mit·tee·wom·an** (kō-mīt'tē-wōm'ən) *n.* A woman who is a member of a committee. 2. A woman leader of a ward or precinct.

**com·mix** (kō-mīks', kō-) *v.* **-mixed**, **-mix·ing**. — *intr.* To be or become mixed. — *tr.* To cause to mix; mix. — *com·mix'ture (kō-mīks'tʃər, -tʃər) *n.* 1. The act of mixing. 2. The result of mixing; a mixture.*

**com·mode** (kō-mōd') *n.* 1. A low cabinet or chest often elaborately decorated and usu. standing on feet. 2. *a.* A movable stand or cupboard containing a bowl. *b.* A chair enclosing a chamber pot. *c.* A woman's ornate headdress, fashionable around 1800. — *com·mode·con·venient* < Lat. *commodus*. See *COM·MODIOUS*.

**com·mo·di·ous** (kō-mōd'ē-əs) *adj.* 1. Spacious. 2. *Archaic.* Suitable; handy. [ME, convenient *commodiosus* < Lat. *commodus* : *com-*, *com-* + *modus*, measure; see *med-\**.] — *com·mo'di·ous·ly* *adv.* — *com·mo'di·ous·ness* *n.*

**com·modi·ty** (kō-mōd'ē-tē) *n., pl. -ties*. 1. Something that can be turned to commercial or other advantage. 2. An article of trade or commerce, esp. an agricultural product, that can be transported. 3. Advantage. 4. *Obsolete.* A quantity; lot. [ME *commodite·venience* < Lat. *commoditas* < *commodus*, *commodiosus*.]

**com·mo·dore** (kōm'ə-dōr', -dōr') *n.* 1. *a.* A former rank in the U.S. Navy that is above captain and below admiral. *b.* One who holds this rank. 2. *a.* A captain of a naval squadron or merchant fleet. *b.* The commanding officer of a yacht club. [Obsolete *commandeur*, *komandeur*, commander < Fr. *commander*, commander, to command. See *COMMAND*.]

**Com·mo·dus** (kōm'ə-dəs), Lucius Aelius Aurelius *n.* Emperor of Rome (180–192) who was in a conspiracy led by his mistress.

**com·mon** (kōm'ən) *adj.* **-er**, **-est**. 1. *a.* Belonging to, shared equally by two or more; joint. *b.* Of or in common to a whole or public. See *Syns* at *general*. Note at *mutual*. 2. Widespread; prevalent. 3. *a.* Frequently or habitually; usual. *b.* Most widely known. 4. Having no special designation, status. 5. *a.* Not distinguished by superior or noteworthy qualities; average. *b.* Of no special quality; standard; mediocre or inferior quality; second-rate. 6. Unrefined in manner; vulgar. 7. *Gram.* *a.* Either masculine or feminine. *b.* Representing one or all of the members of a class; not designating a unique entity. — *n.* 1. *a.* A common people; commonalty. 2. *Commons*. (*pl.* *Commons*, *pl.* *Commons*). *a.* The political class composed of the members of the House of Commons. *b.* The parliamentary representatives of this class. 3. A tract of land belonging to a community as a whole. 4. The legal right of use of the lands or waters of another, as for fishing. (*used with a sing. v.*) *a.* A building or hall typically at a university or college. 7. *Gram.* *a.* A service used for a particular class. — *idiom*. **in common**. Equally with or by all. [ME < OFr. *commun* < Lat. *communis*. See *mel-1\**.] — *com·mon·ly* *adv.* — *com·mon·ness* *n.*

**com·mon·age** (kōm'ə-nij) *n.* 1. The right to pasture on common land. 2. The state of being held in common.

**com·mon·al·ity** (kōm'ə-nəl'ē-tē) *n., pl. -ties*. 1. The state of sharing with another or others of a certain set of attributes. 2. See *commonality*.

**com·mon·al·ty** (kōm'ə-nəl-tē) *n., pl. -ties*. 1. The state of being opposed to the upper classes. 2. A body or corporation. 3. An entire group. [ME *communialite* < Med.Lat. *communalitās* < LLat. *communis*, the community. See *COMMUNAL*.]

**com·mon·bile duct** *n.* The duct formed by the union