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Need to Know

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Advice on How to Spell,
Pronounce, and Use Words

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data:

Webster's New World basic dictionary of American English / the editors of Webster's New World dictionaries ; Michael Agnes, editor-in-chief
p. cm.

"Based on and includes material from Webster's New World student's dictionary, copyright 1996 Hungry Minds, Inc."—T.p. verso.

"A Webster's New World book"—T.p. verso.

ISBN: 978-0-02-862381-8

1. English language—Dictionaries. 2. English language—United States—Dictionaries. I. Agnes, Michael. II. Webster's New World student's dictionary.

PE1628.W56287 1998

423—dc21

98-10472
CIP

Manufactured in the United States of America

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Foreword.

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commandeered the school for use as a hospital.] 2 [Informal] to take by force [The robbers *commandeered* a cab to make their getaway.]

com-mand-er (kə man'dər) *n.* 1 a person who commands, especially one who commands a military force 2 a U.S. Navy officer who ranks just above a lieutenant commander
commander in chief *n.* the top commander of the armed forces of a nation: in the U.S., the commander in chief is the President —*pl. commanders in chief*

com-mand-ing (kə man'diŋ) *adj.* 1 in command or control [a *commanding* officer] 2 that has or seems to have authority [a *commanding* voice]

com-mand-ment (kə mand'mənt) *n.* 1 a law or order 2 in the Bible, any of the Ten Commandments that God gave to Moses

com-man-do (kə man'dō) *n.* any member of a small group of specially trained soldiers who make surprise raids behind enemy lines —*pl. -dos or -does*

com-mem-o-rate (kə mem'ə rāt) *v.* to honor or keep alive the memory of [The ceremony *commemorated* the soldiers who died in battle.] —*rat-ed, -rat-ing*

com-mem-o-ra-tion (kə mem ə rā'shən) *n.* 1 the act of commemorating 2 a celebration or ceremony in memory of someone or something

—*in commemoration of* in honor of the memory of

com-mence (kə mens') *v.* to begin or start [The trial will *commence* at noon.] —*menced', -menc'ing*

com-mence-ment (kə mens'mənt) *n.* 1 a beginning or start 2 the graduation ceremony of a school or college, at which graduates receive their degrees or diplomas

com-mend (kə mend') *v.* 1 to mention with approval; praise [Father *commended* us for our good grades.] 2 to put in someone's care; entrust [I *commend* my safety into your hands.]

com-mend-a-ble (kə men'də bəl) *adj.* deserving to be praised [a *commendable* effort]

com-men-da-tion (kəm ən dā'shən) *n.* the act of commending; approval; praise

com-men-su-rate (kə men'sə rət) *adj.* 1 equal in measure or size 2 in the right proportion; of equal value [She wants a salary *commensurate* with her ability.]

com-ment (kəm'ent) *n.* 1 a remark or note that explains or gives an opinion [The teacher wrote *comments* on our report cards.] 2 talk or gossip [Your absence caused much *comment*.]

—*v.* to make comments or remarks [The attorney would not *comment* on the case to reporters.]

com-men-tar-y (kəm'ən ter'ē) *n.* 1 a series of notes, remarks, observations, etc. on some subject or thing [His *commentaries* on the

news helped us better understand world affairs.] 2 something serving like a comment or illustration [This political scandal is a *commentary* on our corrupt society.] —*pl. -tar'ies*
com-men-ta-tor (kəm'ən tāt'ər) *n.* 1 a person who writes or gives a commentary 2 a person whose work is reporting and commenting on the news on radio or TV

com-merce (kəm'ərs) *n.* the buying and selling of goods, especially such buying and selling done on a large scale between cities, states, or countries; trade

com-mer-cial (kə mər'shəl) *adj.* 1 having to do with commerce or trade [*commercial* relations between the U.S. and Japan] 2 in, for, or concerned with the making of profit [Their new restaurant is a great *commercial* success.]

—*n.* a paid advertisement on radio or TV

—*com-mer'cial-ly adv.*

com-mer-cial-ism (kə mər'shəl iz'əm) *n.* too much emphasis on making a profit or earning a great deal of money

com-mer-cial-ize (kə mər'shəl iz) *v.* to make into a business matter, especially in order to make a profit [Advertisers have even managed to *commercialize* Christmas.] —*ized, -izing*

commercial paper *n.* the same as PAPER (*n.* sense 7)

com-ming-ple (kə miŋ'g'l) *v.* to mingle or mix together; blend [a confusing reaction that *commingled* smiles and tears] —*gled, -gling*

com-mis-er-ate (kə miz'ər āt) *v.* to feel or show sorrow or pity for another's troubles; sympathize [We *commiserated* with the victims of the flood.] —*at-ed, -at-ing*

—*com-mis'er-a'tion n.*

com-mis-sar (kəm'i sār) *n.* at one time, the head of any of the government departments in the U.S.S.R.

com-mis-sar-y (kəm'i ser'ē) *n.* a store, such as one in a military camp or lumber camp, where food and supplies can be bought —*pl. -sar'ies*

com-mis-sion (kə mish'ən) *n.* 1 the right to perform certain duties or to have certain powers, or a paper giving this right [Officers in the U.S. armed forces hold their rank by a *commission* from the President.] 2 a thing that a person is given the power to do for another 3 a group of people chosen to do a certain thing [A *commission* was appointed to study the traffic problem.] 4 the act of committing, or doing [the *commission* of a crime] 5 a part

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ā	ape	ō	fall, for	ch	chin	= e in agent
ā	cot, car	oo	look	sh	she	= i in pencil
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of the money taken in on sales that is paid to the person making the sale [She received 10% of the price as her *commission*.]
 —*v.* 1 to give a commission to [Hundreds of new officers were *commissioned*.] 2 to give the right to do something; authorize [The actor *commissioned* her to write a book about his life.] 3 to put a ship into service
 —in *commission* 1 in use 2 in fit condition for use —out of *commission* 1 not in use 2 not in fit condition for use

com-mis-sion-er (kə mish'ənər) *n.* 1 a member of a commission 2 the head of a government commission or department [a water *commissioner*]

com-mit (kə mit') *v.* 1 to put in custody; deliver for safekeeping [to *commit* a patient to a mental hospital] 2 to do or perform something bad or wrong [to *commit* a crime] 3 to put someplace or set apart for some purpose [We *committed* the revealing letters to the incinerator. She *commits* much of her time to church work.] 4 to do or say something that will involve or pledge one [If you join that book club, you *commit* yourself to buying four books.] 5 to make known the opinions of [He refused to *commit* himself on the matter.]
 —mit'ted, —mit'ting
 —commit to memory to memorize

SYNONYMS—commit

When we *commit* someone to the care of others, we put that person into their keeping. When we *entrust* someone to the care of others, we are committing that person with the hope and trust that he or she will be kept safely and cared for properly.

com-mit-ment (kə mit'mənt) *n.* 1 a committing or being committed 2 a promise; pledge
com-mit-tee (kə mit'tē) *n.* a group of people chosen to study some matter or to do a certain thing [a *committee* to plan the party]
com-mode (kə mōd') *n.* 1 a chest of drawers 2 a small, low table with drawers or cabinet space 3 a washstand 4 the same as TOILET (*n.* sense 1)
com-mo-di-ous (kə mō'dē əs) *adj.* having plenty of room; roomy; not crowded
com-mod-i-ty (kə mād'i tē) *n.* anything that is bought and sold; article of trade or commerce —*pl.* —ties
com-mo-dore (käm'ə dōr) *n.* 1 at one time, an officer in the navy who ranked just above a captain 2 the president of a yacht club
com-mon (käm'ən) *adj.* 1 belonging equally to each or all [England, Canada, and the U.S. share a *common* language.] 2 of, from, by, or to all [the *common* good] 3 often seen or heard; widespread; usual [Squirrels are *common* in these woods. That's a *common* saying.] 4 of the usual kind; ordinary; not

special [the *common* man] 5 having no rank [Privates are *common* soldiers.] 6 coarse or crude; vulgar [She has rather *common* manners.]
 —*n.* **commons** land that is owned or used by all the people of a town or village; public land [They held a meeting on the *commons*.]: the singular form *common* is also often used
 —in *common* owned, used, or shared equally by all
 —com'mon-ness *n.*

SYNONYMS—common

Whatever is *common* is found in all or most places or is shared by all or most members of a group [a *common* sight; a *common* meal]. Whatever is *general* extends widely through all or nearly all those included in a certain kind, class, or group [There is *general* poverty among the people in that neighborhood.]

common carrier *n.* a person or company in the business of transporting passengers or goods for a fee
common cold *n.* the same as COLD (*n.* sense 2)
common denominator *n.* 1 a number that can be divided without a remainder by each denominator of two or more fractions [The *common denominator* of $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{3}{5}$ is 10; $\frac{1}{2}$ becomes $\frac{5}{10}$ and $\frac{3}{5}$ becomes $\frac{6}{10}$.] 2 something held in common or shared by two or more people or things [The *common denominator* of that group is the school that they all went to.]
common divisor or common factor *n.* a number that is a factor of two or more other numbers [A *common divisor* of 12 and 18 is 6.]
com-mon-er (käm'ən ər) *n.* any person who is not a member of the nobility
common fraction *n.* a fraction with the numerator separated from the denominator by a diagonal or horizontal line, such as $\frac{3}{4}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$
com-mon-ly (käm'ən lē) *adv.* as a general rule; usually; ordinarily
Common Market the European Economic Community: see EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
common multiple *n.* a number that is a multiple of each of two or more whole numbers [A *common multiple* of 2, 3, 4, and 6 is 12.]
common noun *n.* any noun that is not the name of a particular person or thing and is not begun with a capital letter [Some *common nouns* are "man," "car," "cat," and "sea.": see also PROPER NOUN
com-mon-place (käm'ən plās) *adj.* not new or interesting; ordinary
 —*n.* a common or ordinary thing, idea, remark, etc. [Travel by jet airplane has by now become a *commonplace*.]
com-mons (käm'ənz) *pl.n.* all the people who do not belong to the nobility; the common people [The House of *Commons* is the group of elected representatives in the British parliament.]
common sense *n.* ordinary good sense; intelli-

gence that comes from experience
com-mon-sense to be careful with money
com-mon-weal (käm'ən wēl) *n.* the general welfare
com-mon-wealth (käm'ən wēlth) *n.* 1 a people of a nation or state 2 a nation in which the people hold the ruling power: a democracy or republic: some States such as Kentucky and Massachusetts call themselves *commonwealths*
 —the *Commonwealth* a group of nations united to help one another: the British monarch as its symbol
Commonwealth of Independent States a confederation of countries that includes Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan
com-mo-tion (kə mō'shən) *n.* a state of about; confusion [There was a *commotion* as the ship began to sink.]
com-mu-nal (käm'yūnəl) *n.* or *ka* 1 of or belonging to the community [This park is *communal* property.] 2 to do with a commune —*com-mu'nal-ly* *adv.*
com-mune¹ (kə myūn') *v.* to meditate in close understanding [In the woods, they *communed* with nature.]
 —muned', —mun'ing
com-mune² (käm'yūn) *n.* 1 a district that has a local government: Belgium, and some other countries 2 a small group of people living together and sharing their earnings, labor, etc.
com-mu-ni-ca-ble (kə myūn'i kə bəl) *adj.* capable of being passed along from one person to another [a *communicable* disease]
com-mu-ni-cant (kə myūn'i kə kənt) *n.* one who receives Holy Communion
com-mu-ni-cate (kə myūn'i kə kət) *v.* 1 to belong to a church that performs Holy Communion 2 to tell, show, or share information [Tears can *communicate* joy.] 3 to exchange information [We *communicated* often over the telephone.] 4 to share information [The living room *communicates* with the dining room.]
 —cat'ed, —cat'ing
com-mu-ni-ca-tion (kə myūn'i kə kət'ən) *n.* the act of communicating [communication] 2 a way or means of communicating [The hurricane broke down *communication* between the two cities.]
 —letter, etc. [They received the *communication* from their lawyer.]
com-mu-ni-ca-tive (kə myūn'i kə kət'iv) *adj.* willing to share information about something
com-mun-ion (kə myūn'yən) *n.* the act of sharing things in common [These people share a *communion* of spirit.]