

*common* to man and beast; the *common* privileges of citizens; the *common* wants of men.

2. Belonging to the public; having no separate owner. The right to a highway is *common*.
3. General; serving for the use of all; as the *common* prayer.
4. Universal; belonging to all; as, the earth is said to be the *common* mother of mankind.
5. Public; general; frequent; as *common* report.
6. Usual; ordinary; as the *common* operations of nature; the *common* forms of conveyance; the *common* rules of civility.
7. Of no rank or superior excellence; ordinary. *Applied to men*, it signifies, not noble, not distinguished by noble descent, or not distinguished by office, character or talents; as a *common* man; a *common* soldier. *Applied to things*, it signifies, not distinguished by excellence or superiority; as a *common* essay; a *common* exertion. It however is not generally equivalent to *mean*, which expresses something lower in rank or estimation.
8. Prostitute; lewd; as a *common* woman.
9. In *grammar*, such verbs as signify both action and passion, are called *common*; as *aspersion*, I despise or am despised; also, such nouns as are both masculine and feminine, as *parents*.
10. A *common bud*, in botany, is one that contains both leaves and flowers; a *common peduncle*, one that bears several flowers; a *common perianth*, one that incloses several distinct fructifications; a *common receptacle*, one that connects several distinct fructifications.

*Martyr.*

*Common divisor*, in mathematics, is a number or quantity that divides two or more numbers or quantities without a remainder.

*Common Law*, in Great Britain and the United States, the *unwritten law*, the law that receives its binding force from immemorial usage and universal reception, in distinction from the *written* or statute law. That body of rules, principles and customs which have been received from our ancestors, and by which courts have been governed in their judicial decisions. The evidence of this law is to be found in the reports of those decisions, and the records of the courts. Some of these rules may have originated in edicts or statutes which are now lost, or in the terms and conditions of particular grants or charters; but it is most probable that many of them originated in judicial decisions founded on natural justice and equity, or on local customs.

*Common pleas*, in Great Britain, one of the king's courts, now held in Westminster Hall. It consists of a chief justice and three other justices, and has cognizance of all civil causes, real, personal or mixed, as well by original writ, as by removal from the inferior courts. A writ of error, in the nature of an appeal, lies from this court to the court of king's bench.

*Blackstone.*

In some of the American states, a *court of common pleas* is an inferior court, whose jurisdiction is limited to a county, and it is sometimes called a county court. This court is variously constituted in different

states, and its powers are defined by statutes. It has jurisdiction of civil causes, and of minor offenses; but its final jurisdiction is very limited; all causes of magnitude being removable to a higher Court by appeal or by writ of error.

*Common prayer*, the liturgy of the Church of England, which all the clergy of the Church are enjoined to use, under a penalty.

*Common recovery*, a legal process for recovering an estate or barring entails.

*Common time*, in music, double or double time, when the semibreve is equal to two minims.

In *common*, equally with another, or with others; to be equally used or participated by two or more; as tenants in *common*; to provide for children in *common*; to assign lands to two persons in *common*, or to twenty in *common*; we enjoy the bounties of providence in *common*.

*COMMON, n.* A tract of ground, the use of which is not appropriated to an individual, but belongs to the public or to a number. Thus we apply the word to an open ground or space in a highway, reserved for public use.

2. In *law*, an open ground, or that soil the use of which belongs equally to the inhabitants of a town or of a lordship, or to a certain number of proprietors; or the profit which a man has in the land of another; or a right which a person has to pasture his cattle on land of another, or to dig turf, or catch fish, or cut wood, or the like; called *common of pasture*, of turbary, of piscary, and of estovers.

*Common, or right of common*, is *appendant*, *appurtenant*, because of vicinage, or in gross.

*Common appendant* is a right belonging to the owners or occupiers of arable land to put commonable beasts upon the lord's waste, and upon the lands of other persons within the same manor. This is a matter of most universal right.

*Common appurtenant* may be annexed to lands in other lordships, or extend to other beasts, besides those which are generally commonable; this is not of common right, but can be claimed only by immemorial usage and prescription.

*Common because of vicinage* or neighborhood, is where the inhabitants of two townships, lying contiguous to each other, have usually intercommoned with one another, the beasts of the one straying into the other's fields; this is a permissive right.

*Common in gross* or at large, is annexed to a man's person, being granted to him and his heirs by deed; or it may be claimed by prescriptive right, as by a parson of a church or other corporation sole.

*Blackstone.*

*COMMON, v. i.* To have a joint right with others in common ground.

*Johnson.*

2. To board together; to eat at a table in common.

*Encyc.*

*COMMON, adv.* Commonly.

*Shak.*

*COMMON-COUNCIL, n.* The council of a city or corporate town, empowered to make by-laws for the government of the citizens. The common council of London consists of two houses; the upper house, composed of the Lord Mayor and

Aldermen; and the lower house, of the common-council-men, elected by the several wards. In most of the American cities, the Mayor, Aldermen and common-council-men constitute one body, called a *Court of Common-Council*.

*COMMON-CRIER, n.* A crier whose occupation is to give notice of lost things.

*COMMON-HALL, n.* A hall or house in which citizens meet for business.

*COMMON-LAWYER, n.* One versed in Common Law.

*COMMONPLACE, n.* A memorandum; a common topic.

*COMMONPLACE, v. t.* To enter in a commonplace-book, or to reduce to general heads.

*Fellon.*

*Commonplace-book*, a book in which are registered such facts, opinions or observations as are deemed worthy of notice or remembrance, so disposed that any one may be easily found. Hence *commonplace* is used as an epithet to denote what is common or often repeated, or trite; as a *commonplace* observation.

*COMMONABLE, a.* Held in common.

*Bacon.*

2. That may be pastured on common land. *Commonable* beasts are either beasts of the plow, or such as manure the ground.

*Blackstone.*

*COMMONAGE, n.* The right of pasturing on a common; the joint right of using any thing in common with others.

*Johnson.*

*COMMONALTY, n.* The common people. In Great Britain, all classes and conditions of people, who are below the rank of nobility.

The *commonalty*, like the nobility, are divided into several degrees.

*Blackstone.*

In the United States, *commonalty* has no very definite signification. It is however used to denote that part of the people who live by labor, and are not liberally educated, nor elevated by office or professional pursuits.

2. The bulk of mankind.

*Hooker.*

*COMMONER, n.* One of the lower rank, or common people; one under the degree of nobility.

*Addison.*

2. A member of the house of commons.

*Swift.*

3. One who has a joint right in common ground.

*Bacon.*

4. A student of the second rank in the universities in England; one who eats at a common table.

*Johnson.*

5. A prostitute.

*Shak.*

6. A partaker.

*Fuller.*

*COMMONITION, n.* [L. *communio*.] See *Monition*.] Advice; warning; instruction. [Little used.]

*COMMONITIVE, a.* Warning; monitory. [Little used.]

*COMMONLY, adv.* Usually; generally; ordinarily; frequently; for the most part; as, confirmed habits *commonly* continue through life.

*COMMONNESS, n.* Frequent occurrence; a state of being common or usual.

2. Equal participation by two or more. [Little used.]

*COMMONS, n. plu.* The common people, who inherit or possess no honors or titles; the vulgar.

*Chaucer. Shak. Dryden.*

2. In England, the lower house of Parliament, consisting of the representatives of