

foci. In its approach to its perihelion, it becomes visible, and after passing its perihelion, it departs into remote regions and disappears. In popular language, comets are *tailed, bearded or hairy*, but these terms are taken from the appearance of the light which attends them, which, in different positions with respect to the sun, exhibits the form of a tail or train, a beard, or a border of hair. When the comet is westward of the sun and rises or sets before it, the light appears in the morning like a train beginning at the body of the comet and extending westward and diverging in proportion to its extent. Thus the comet of 1769, [which I saw,] when it rose in the morning, presented a luminous train that extended nearly from the horizon to the meridian. When the comet and the sun are opposite, the earth being between them, the comet is, to the view, immersed in its train and the light appears around its body like a fringe or border of hair. From the train of a comet, this body has obtained the popular name of a *blazing star*.

Herschel observed several comets, which appeared to have no nucleus, but to be merely collections of vapor condensed about a center.

**COMET, n.** A game at cards. *Southern.*  
**COMETARIUM, n.** A machine exhibiting  
**COMETARY, n.** an idea of the revolution of a comet round the sun. *Encyc.*  
**COMETARY, a.** Pertaining to a comet. *Cheyne.*

**COMETIC, a.** Relating to a comet.  
**COMET-LIKE, a.** Resembling a comet.

**COMETOGRAPHY, n.** [comet and Gr. *γραφω*, to describe.] A description or treatise of comets.

**COMFIT, n.** [D. *konfyt*; G. *confect*; Fr. *confiture*; It. *confetto, confettura*; or *confezione*; Sp. *confite*; Port. *confeito*; from the L. *confectura, confectus, conficio, con and facio*, to make.]

A dry sweet-meat; any kind of fruit or root preserved with sugar and dried. *Johnson.*

**COMFIT, v. t.** To preserve dry with sugar. *Cowley.*

**COMFIT-MAKER, n.** One who makes or prepares comfits.

**COMFORT, v. t.** [Low L. *conforto*; Fr. *conforter*; Arm. *conforto*, or *conforta*; It. *confortare*; Sp. and Port. *confortar*; Ir. *comh-fhuacht*, comfort, and *fuircht*, i. e. *furlaighin*, to relieve or help; from the L. *con and fortis*, strong.]

1. To strengthen; to invigorate; to cheer or enliven.

Light excelleth in comforting the spirits of men. *Bacon.*

Comfort ye your hearts. *Gen. xviii.*  
2. To strengthen the mind when depressed or enfeebled; to console; to give new vigor to the spirits; to cheer, or relieve from depression, or trouble.

His friends came to mourn with him and to comfort him. *Job ii.*

3. In law, to relieve, assist or encourage, as the necessary to a crime after the fact.

*Blackstone.*

**COMFORT, n.** Relief from pain; ease; rest or moderate pleasure after pain, cold or distress or uneasiness of body. The

word signifies properly new strength, or animation; and relief from pain is often the effect of strength. In a popular sense, the word signifies rather negatively the absence of pain and the consequent quiet, but positive animation.

2. Relief from distress of mind; the ease and quiet which is experienced when pain, trouble, agitation or affliction ceases. It implies also some degree of positive animation of the spirits; or some pleasurable sensations derived from hope, and agreeable prospects; consolation.

Let me alone, that I may take comfort a little. *Job x.*

Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. *Mat. ix.*

3. Support; consolation under calamity, distress or danger.

Let thy merciful kindness be for my comfort. *Ps. cxix.*

4. That which gives strength or support in distress, difficulty, danger, or infirmity.

Pious children are the comfort of their aged parents.

5. In law, support; assistance; countenance; encouragement; as, an accessory affords aid or comfort to a felon.

6. That which gives security from want and furnishes moderate enjoyment; as the comforts of life.

**COMFORTABLE, a.** Being in a state of ease, or moderate enjoyment; as a person after sickness or pain. This is the most common use of the word in the U. States.

2. Admitting comfort; that may afford comfort.

Who can promise him a comfortable appearance before his dreadful judge? *South.*

3. Giving comfort; affording consolation. The word of my lord the king shall now be comfortable. *2 Sam. xiv.*

4. Placing above want and affording moderate enjoyment; as a comfortable provision for old age.

**COMFORTABLENESS, n.** The state of enjoying comfort.

**COMFORTABLY, adv.** In a manner to give comfort or consolation.

Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem. *Is. xl.*  
2. With comfort, or cheerfulness; without despair.

Hope comfortably and cheerfully for God's performance. *Hammond.*

**COMFORTED, pp.** Strengthened; consoled; encouraged.

**COMFORTER, n.** One who administers comfort or consolation; one who strengthens and supports the mind in distress or danger.

I looked for comforters, but found none. *Ps. lxi.*

Miserable comforters are ye all. *Job xvi.*

2. The title of the Holy Spirit, whose office it is to comfort, and support the christian.

But the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name—he shall teach you all things. *John xiv.*

**COMFORTING, ppr.** Giving strength or spirits; giving ease; cheering; encouraging; consoling.

**COMFORTLESS, a.** Without comfort; without any thing to alleviate misfortune, or distress.

I will not leave you comfortless. *John xiv.*

**COMFORTRESS, n.** A female that affords comfort.

**COMFREY, n.** [Qu. L. *confermo*, equiv. COMFREY, } n. lent to *consolida*.] A genus of plants, the *Symphylum*.

**COMIC, a.** [L. *comicus*; Gr. *κωμικός*. See *Comedy*.]

1. Relating to comedy, as distinct from tragedy. *Waller.*

2. Raising mirth; fitted to excite merriment. *Shak.*

**COMICAL, a.** Relating to comedy; comic. *Gay.*

2. Exciting mirth; diverting; sportive; droll. *Addison.*

We say, a buffoon is a comical fellow, or his story or his manners are comical.

**COMICALLY, adv.** In a manner befitting comedy.

2. In a comical manner; in a manner to raise mirth.

**COMICALNESS, n.** The quality of being comical; the power or quality of raising mirth. *Johnson.*

**COMING, ppr.** [See *Come*.] Drawing nearer or high; approaching; moving towards; advancing.

2. a. Future; yet to come; as, in coming ages.

3. Forward; ready to come.

How coming to the poet every muse. *Pope.*

[The latter sense is now unusual.]

**COMING, n.** The act of coming; approach.

2. The state of being come; arrival.

The Lord hath blessed thee since my coming. *Gen. xxx.*

**COMING-IN, n.** Entrance.

I know thy going-out and thy coming-in. *2 Kings xix.*

2. Beginning; commencement; as the coming-in of the year. *2 Kings xiii.*

3. Income; revenue. [Not now used.] *Shak.*

4. Compliance; submission. [Not in use.] *Massinger.*

**COMITIAL, a.** [L. *comitia*, from *comes*, mild, affable; Ir. *caomh*.]

Mildness and suavity of manners; courtesy; civility; good breeding. Wellbred people are characterized by comity of manners.

**COMMA, n.** [Gr. *κόμμα*, a segment, from *κόπτω*, to cut off.]

1. In writing and printing, this point [ , ] denoting the shortest pause in reading, and separating a sentence into divisions or members, according to the construction. Thus, "There is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not." "Virtue, wit, knowledge, are excellent accomplishments." "Live soberly, righteously, and piously, in the present world."

2. In music, an enharmonic interval, being the eighth part of a tone, or the difference between a major and a minor semitone; a term used in theoretic music to show the exact proportions between concords.

*Encyc. Harris.*