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commerce

[noun](#)

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com·merce | \ 'kă-(.)mərs  [How to pronounce commerce \(audio\)](#) \

Definition of *commerce*

(Entry 1 of 2)

1 : social intercourse : interchange of ideas, opinions, or sentiments ... a negotiated peace that will reestablish intellectual commerce among them ... — P. B. Rice

2 : the exchange or buying and selling of [commodities](#) on a large scale involving transportation from place to place a major center of commerce interstate commerce

3 : [sexual intercourse](#)

commerce

[verb](#)

com·merce | \ 'kă-(,)mərs  [How to pronounce commerce \(audio\)](#) , kə-'mərs \
commerced; commercing

Definition of *commerce* (Entry 2 of 2)

[intransitive verb](#)

archaic

: [commune](#)

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Synonyms for *commerce*

Synonyms: Noun

- [business](#),
- [marketplace](#),
- [trade](#),
- [traffic](#)

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Choose the Right Synonym for *commerce*

Noun

[business](#), [commerce](#), [trade](#), [industry](#), [traffic](#) mean activity concerned with the supplying and distribution of commodities. [business](#) may be an inclusive term but specifically designates the activities of those engaged in the purchase or sale of commodities or in related financial transactions. [commerce](#) and [trade](#) imply the exchange and transportation of commodities. [industry](#) applies to the producing of commodities, especially by manufacturing or processing, usually on a large scale. [traffic](#) applies to the operation and functioning of public carriers of goods and persons.

Examples of *commerce* in a Sentence

Noun He was the Secretary of *Commerce* under the last President. a government agency in charge of regulating interstate *commerce*
Recent Examples on the Web: Noun Employees of the e-commerce giant have used data about independent sellers on its platform to develop competing products, the WSJ's Dana Mattioli reports, a practice at odds with the Amazon's stated policies. — [Paul Page, WSJ, "Today's Logistics Report: Building Bigger Ships; Falling Freight Rail; Amazon Eyes on Sellers," 24 Apr. 2020](#) The e-commerce giant has seen soaring demand for its products and services during the pandemic as people stay home and increasingly look to Amazon as a lifeline for household essentials. — [Sara Ashley O'Brien, CNN, "Fear and a firing inside an Amazon warehouse," 22 Apr. 2020](#) And earlier this month, Uber struck deals with French supermarket chain Carrefour as well as e-commerce giant Flipkart in India to deliver essential goods globally. — [Michelle Cheng, Quartz, "Uber is shifting from moving people to delivering essentials," 21 Apr. 2020](#) The e-commerce giant is focusing on backlogged orders placed by existing Amazon Fresh and Whole Foods Market delivery customers, for the time being, the company said in a blog post on Sunday. — [Dalvin Brown, USA TODAY, "Coronavirus fallout: Amazon is placing new online grocery customers on a waiting list," 14 Apr. 2020](#) Reuters reports that popular gray market Chinese e-commerce sites Pinduoduo and Taobao have taken down all listings for Animal Crossing as of this morning. — [Kyle Orland, Ars Technica, "Amid in-game Hong Kong protests, Chinese retailers drop Animal Crossing sales," 10 Apr. 2020](#) For its part, Jumia, the pan-African e-commerce giant, has donated face masks to Nigeria's health ministry and has replicated the gesture in Kenya, Ivory Coast, Uganda and Morocco. — [Yomi Kazeem, Quartz Africa, "Tech startups are joining Nigeria's fight against coronavirus," 30 Mar. 2020](#) The e-commerce giant that has already shaken up the way people shop for pretty much everything is now expanding into the grocery business and is aiming to change the way people go to the supermarket by eliminating lines and checkout registers. — [Catherine Thorbecke, ABC News, "Amazon opens a grocery store with no cashiers," 25 Feb. 2020](#) The contracts drafted by Amazon's lawyers for the delivery companies also shielded the e-commerce giant from just about every imaginable liability. — [James Bandler, ProPublica, "Inside Documents Show How Amazon Chose Speed Over Safety in Building Its Delivery Network," 28 Dec. 2019](#)

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First Known Use of *commerce*

Noun

1537, in the meaning defined at [sense 1](#)

Verb

1596, in the meaning defined [above](#)

History and Etymology for *commerce*

Noun and Verb

Middle French, from Latin *commercium*, from *com-* + *merc-*, *merx* merchandise

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Time Traveler for *commerce*

 [Time Traveler](#)

The first known use of *commerce* was in 1537

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commerce

[noun](#)

Financial Definition of *commerce*

What It Is

Commerce is the exchange of goods, services or commodities on a large scale.

How It Works

Nearly every business transaction is a form of commerce: purchasing food at a restaurant, buying [stocks](#) on the [stock market](#), selling goods in a store, drilling for oil, etc.

The financial industry often breaks down commerce into more specific categories. For example, international commerce takes place between countries, interstate commerce is done across state lines, and electric commerce (e-commerce) takes place via the Internet.

Why It Matters

Commerce is the fundamental action that takes place in every transaction involving [money](#) and/or trade. It is the basic component of the business and financial world.

In most countries, commerce is regulated; the extent of the regulation is a reflection of [monetary policy](#), fiscal policy and political conditions. In the U.S., the Department of Commerce has a broad mandate to advance economic growth and job opportunities for Americans. It has a broad range of responsibilities, a very small sample of which includes gathering and releasing data on [GDP](#), performing the decennial census, and running the [Patent](#) and [Trademark](#) Office.

Source: [Investing Answers](#)

commerce

[noun](#)

 [How to pronounce commerce \(audio\)](#)

English Language Learners Definition of *commerce*

: activities that relate to the buying and selling of goods and services

[See the full definition for *commerce* in the English Language Learners Dictionary.](#)

commerce

[noun](#)

com·merce | \ ˈkā-mərs  [How to pronounce commerce \(audio\)](#) , -mərs \

Kids Definition of *commerce*

: the buying and selling of goods especially on a large scale and between different places : [trade](#)

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commerce

[noun](#)

com·merce

Legal Definition of *commerce*

1 : the exchange or buying and selling of goods, commodities, property, or services especially on a large scale and involving transportation from place to place : [trade sense 2](#) — see also [commerce clause](#), [Fair Labor Standards Act](#)
2 : the act of engaging in sexual intercourse

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There's no need for a rain check.

-

Words From Your Neighborhood

A beautiful day for a vocab list

•

The Words of the Week -

4/24/20

Words from the week of 4/24/2020

•

'Dord': A Ghost Word

It once haunted our books.

ASK THE EDITORS

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A definitive answer.

•

Video: Why Is There a 'C' in 'Indict'?

And who put it there, anyway?

•

Literally

How to use a word that (literally).
drives some people nuts.

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The awkward case of 'his or her'

WORD GAMES

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