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adjective (15)noun (6)belonging equally to, or shared alike by, two or more or all in question.common property:common interests.Antonyms: individual, individual;pertaining or belonging equally to an entire community, nation, or culture: public.a common language or history;a common water-supply system;joint; united.widespread: general: universal.Synonyms: accepted, popular, prevalentof frequent occurrence; usual; familiar.a common event;a common mistake.Synonyms: everyday, habitual, customaryhackneyed: trite.of mediocre or inferior quality; mean: low.a rough-textured suit of the most common fabric.coarse: vulgar.lacking rank, station, distinction, etc.: unexceptional: ordinary: common people; a common thief.a common soldier;common people;the common man;a common thief.Dialect. friendly; sociable; unaffected.Anatomy. forming or formed by two or more parts or branches.the common carotid arteries.Prosody. (of a syllable) able to be considered as either long or short.Grammar. not belonging to an inflectional paradigm; fulfilling different functions that in some languages require different inflected forms.English nouns are in the common case whether used as subject or object.constituting one of two genders of a language, especially a gender comprising nouns that were formerly masculine or feminine.Swedish nouns are either common or neuter.noting a word that may refer to either a male or a female.French élève has common gender. English lacks a common gender pronoun in the third person singular.(of a noun) belonging to the common gender.Mathematics. bearing a similar relation to two or more entities.of, relating to, or being common stock.Chiefly New England. Often commons. a tract of land owned or used jointly by the residents of a community, usually a central square or park in a city or town.Law. the right or liberty, in common with other persons, to take profit from the land or waters of another, as by pasturing animals on another's land commonofpasturage or fishing in another's waters commonofpiscary.(used with a singular or plural verb) commons, the commonality; the nonruling class.the body of people not of noble birth or not ennobled, as represented in England by the House of Commons.Commons, the representatives of this body.Commons, the House of Commons.commons,(used with a singular verb) a large dining room, especially at a university or college.(usually used with a plural verb) food provided in such a dining room (usually used with a plural verb) food or provisions for any group.Ecclesiastical. Sometimes Commonsan office or form of service used on a festival of a particular kind the ordinary of the Mass, especially those parts sung by the choir the part of the missal and breviary containing Masses and offices of those saints assigned to them.Obsolete, the community or public.the common people.belonging to or shared by two or more people.belonging to or shared by members of one or more nations or communities; publicof ordinary standard; averageprevailing; widespreadwidely known or frequently encountered; ordinarywidely known and notoriousderogatory considered by the speaker to be low-class, vulgar, or coarse(prenominal) having no special distinction, rank, or statusmathshaving a specified relationship with a group of numbers or quantities(of a tangent) tangential to two or more circlesprosody (of a syllable) able to be long or short, or (in nonquantitative verse) stressed or unstressedgrammar (in certain languages) denoting or belonging to a gender of nouns, esp one that includes both masculine and feminine referentsanatomyhaving branchesthe common carotid arteryerving more than one functionChristianity of or relating to the common of the Mass or divine officeinformal ordinary, unexceptional"Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged" 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012(sometimes plural) a tract of open public land, esp one now used as a recreation arealaw the right to go onto someone else's property and remove natural products, as by pasturing cattle or fishing (esp in the phrase right of common )Christianitya form of the proper of the Mass used on festivals that have no special proper of their ownthe ordinary of the Massarchaic the ordinary people; the public, esp those undistinguished by rank or titlemutually held or used with another or others"Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged" 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012commonness nounovercommon adjectiveovercommonly adverbovercommonness nounquasi-common adjectivequasi-commonly adverbcommonness nounOrigin of common1 First recorded in 1250-1300; Middle English comun, from Anglo-French, Old French, from Latin communis "common," presumably originally "sharing common duties," akin to munia "duties of an office," minus "task, duty, gift," from an unattested base moin-, cognate with mean 2; com-, immuneOrigin of common1C13: from Old French comun, from Latin communis general, universalIdioms in common, in joint possession or use; shared equally They have a love of adventure in common.In addition to the idioms beginning with common, also see in common.See general. Common, vulgar, ordinary refer, often with derogatory connotations of cheapness or inferiority, to what is usual or most often experienced. Common applies to what is accustomed, usually experienced, or inferior, to the opposite of what is exclusive or aristocratic: The park is used by the common people. Vulgar properly means belonging to the people, or characteristic of common people; it connotes low taste, coarseness, or ill breeding: the vulgar view of things; vulgar in manners and speech. Ordinary refers to what is to be expected in the usual order of things; it means average or below average: That is a high price for something of such ordinary quality.Examples have not been reviewed.The most common criticism found the assessment of the risk patients posed to themselves was poor or incomplete.Mahmood cited cases where foreign criminals had invoked Article 8 to avoid deportation, saying this felt "out of step with common sense"."Nothing brings people together like a common enemy."This is common for new teachers - he had not long graduated from Pwani University - and such arrangements tend not to be well paid.Waymo's fleet of electric Jaguars has become a common sight in Los Angeles, where anyone can download the app and request a ride.Definitions and idiom definitions from Dictionary.com Unabridged, based on the Random House Unabridged Dictionary, © Random House, Inc. 2023Idioms from The American Heritage® Idioms Dictionary copyright © 2002, 2001, 1995 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.Commonof commonableBrowse#aaabccddeeffghhijkkllmmnooppqqrrssttuuvvwwxxyyzzAboutCareersContact usCookies, terms, & privacyHelpFollow usGet the Word of the Day every day!© 2025 Dictionary.com, LLC CommonadverbCommonly, ordinarily.Etymology: from the adjective.I am more than common tall. William Shakespeare, As you like it.COMMONnounEtymology: communis, Latin.1. Belonging equally to more than one. Though life and sense be common to man and brutes, and their operations in many things alike: yet by this form he lives the life of a man, and not of a brute, and hath the sense of a man, and not of a brute. Matthew Hale, Origin of Mankind. He who hath received damage, has, besides the right of punishment common to him with other men, a particular right to seek reparation. John Locke.2. Having no possessor or owner. Where no kindred are to be found, we see the possession of a private man revert to the community, and so become again perfectly common, no body having a right to inherit them; nor can any one have a property in them, otherwise than in other things common by nature. John Locke.3. Vulgar; mean; not distinguished by any excellence; often seen; easy to be had; of little value; not rare; not scarce. Or as the man whom princes do advance,Upon their gracious mercy-seat to sit,Doth common things, of course and circumstance,To the reports of common men commit. Davies.4. Public; general; serving the use of all. He was advised by a parliament-man not to be strict in reading all the common prayer, but make some variation. Izaak Walton. I need not mention the old common shore of Rome, which ran from all parts of the town, with the current and violence of an ordinary river. Joseph Addison, on Italy.5. Of no rank; mean; without birth or descent. Look, as I blow this feather from my face,And as the air blows it to me again,Such is the lightness of you common men. William Shakespeare, Henry VI. Flying bullets now,To execute his rage, appear too slow;They miss, or sweep but common souls away,For such a loss Opdam his life must pay. Edmund Waller.6. Frequent; usual; ordinary. There is an evil which I have seen common among men. Eccles. vi. 1. The Papists were the most common place, and the butt against whom all the arrows were directed. Edward Hyde. Neither is it strange that there should be mysteries in divinity, as well as in the commonest operations in nature. Jonathan Swift.7. Prostitute. 'Tis a strange thing, the impudence of some women! was the word of a dame, who herself was common. Roger L'Estrange. Hipparchus was going to marry a common woman, but consulted Philander upon the occasion. Spectator, №. 473.8. [In grammar.] Such verbs as signify both action and passion are called common; as asperno, I despise, or am despised; and also such nouns as are both masculine and feminine, as parens.CommonnounAn open ground equally used by many persons.Etymology: from the adjective.Then take we down his load, and turn him off,Like to the empty ass, to shake his ears,And graze in commons. William Shakespeare, Julius Caesar. Is not the separate property of a thing the great cause of its endearment? Does any one respect a common as much as he does his garden? South.To CommonverbTo have a joint right with others in some common ground.Etymology: from the noun. Common App and Reach Higher have united to inspire more people to complete their education and own their future, no matter what it holds. Get valuable advice from students who have been in your shoes.Learn about our access initiatives Also found in: Thesaurus, Medical, Legal, Financial, Acronyms, Idioms, Encyclopedia, Wikipedia.Related to common: common law, come on (kóm'ən)adj. com-mon-er, com-mon-est 1. a. Belonging equally to or shared equally by two or more; joint: common interests.b. Of or relating to the community as a whole; public: for the common good.2. Widespread; prevalent: Gas stations became common as the use of cars grew.3. a. Occurring frequently or habitually; usual: It is common for movies to last 90 minutes or more.b. Most widely known; ordinary: the common housefly.4. Having no special designation, status, or rank: a common sailor.5. a. Not distinguished by superior or noteworthy characteristics; average: the common spectator.b. Of no special quality; standard: common procedure.c. Of mediocre or inferior quality; second-rate: common cloth.6. Unrefined or coarse in manner; vulgar: behavior that branded him as common.7. Grammar a. Either masculine or feminine in gender.b. Representing one or all of the members of a class; not designating a unique entity.n.1. commons The common people; commonality 2. commonst(used with a sing. or pl. verb)a. The social class composed of humongers.b. The parliamentary representatives of this class.3. Commons The House of Commons.4. A tract of land, usually in a centrally located spot, belonging to or used by a community as a whole; a band concert on the village common.5. The legal right of a person to use the lands or waters of another, as for fishing.6. commonst(used with a sing. verb) A building or hall for dining, typically at a university or college.8. Ecclesiastical A service used for a particular class of festivals.Idiom: in commonSynonyms: common, ordinary, familiar These adjectives describe what is generally known or frequently encountered. Common applies to what takes place often, is widely used, or is well known: The botanist studied the common dandelion. The term also implies coarseness or a lack of distinction: My wallet was stolen by a common thief. Ordinary describes something usual that is indistinguishable from others, sometimes derogatorily: "His neighbors were all climbing into their cars and trucks and heading off to work as if nothing miraculous had happened and this were just another ordinary day" (Steve Yarbrough). Familiar applies to what is well known or quickly recognized: Most children can recite familiar nursery rhymes. See Also Synonyms at general.American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition. Copyright © 2016 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. ('kɒmən) adj.1. belonging to or shared by two or more people: common property. 2. belonging to or shared by members of one or more nations or communities; public: a common culture. 3. of ordinary standard; average: common decency. 4. prevailing; widespread: common opinion. 5. widely known or frequently encountered; ordinary: a common brand of soap. 6. widely known and notorious: a common nuisance. 7. derogatory considered by the speaker to be low-class, vulgar, or coarse: a common accent. 8. (prenominal) having no special distinction, rank, or status: the common man. 9. (Mathematics) maths a. having a specified relationship with a group of numbers or quantities: common denominator. b. (of a tangent) tangential to two or more circles10. (Phonetics & Phonology) prosody (of a syllable) able to be long or short, or (in nonquantitative verse) stressed or unstressed11. (Grammar) grammar (in certain languages) denoting or belonging to a gender of nouns, esp one that includes both masculine and feminine referents; Latin sacerdos is common. 12. (Anatomy) anatomy a. having branches: the common carotid artery. b. serving more than one function: the common bile duct. 13. (Ecclesiastical Terms) Christianity of or relating to the common of the Mass or divine office14. common or garden informal ordinary; unexceptional15. (Physical Geography) (sometimes plural) a tract of open public land, esp one now used as a recreation area16. (Law) law the right to go onto someone else's property and remove natural products, as by pasturing cattle or fishing (esp in the phrase right of common)17. (Ecclesiastical Terms) Christianity a. a form of the proper of the Mass used on festivals that have no special proper of their ownb. the ordinary of the Mass18. archaic the ordinary people; the public, esp those undistinguished by rank or title19. in common mutually held or used with another or others[C13: from Old French comun, from Latin communis general, universal]Collins English Dictionary - Complete and Unabridged, 12th Edition 2014 © HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2014 ('kɒm ən) adj. -er, -est, n. adj. 1. belonging equally to, or shared alike by, two or more or all in question: common objectives. 2. pertaining or belonging equally to an entire community, nation, or culture: a common language. 3. joint; united: a common defense. 4. widespread; general; universal: common knowledge. 5. of frequent occurrence; usual; familiar: a common mistake. 6. of mediocre or inferior quality; mean: a rough, common fabric. 7. coarse; vulgar: common manners. 8. lacking rank, station, distinction, etc.: ordinary: a common soldier. 9. in keeping with accepted standards; fundamental: common decency. 10. (of a syllable) able to be considered as either long or short. 11. a. (of a grammatical case) fulfilling different functions that in some languages would require different inflected forms: English nouns used as subject or object are in the common case. b. of or pertaining to a word or gender that may refer to either a male or female: French élève "pupil" has common gender. c. constituting a gender comprising nouns that were formerly masculine or feminine: Dutch nouns are either common or neuter in gender. 12. bearing a similar mathematical relation to two or more entities. 13. of or pertaining to common stock. n. 14. Often, commons. a tract of land owned or used jointly by the residents of a community, as a central square or park in a city or town. 15. the right, in common with other persons, to pasture animals on another's land or to fish in another's waters. 16. commons, a. the common people; commonality, b. the body of people not of noble birth, as represented by the House of Commons, c. (cap.) (used with a sing. v.) a large dining room, esp. at a university or college, b. (usu. with a pl. v.) food or provisions for any group. 18. (sometimes cap.) a. an ecclesiastical office or form of service used on a festival of a particular kind, b. the ordinary of the Mass, esp. those parts sung by the choir. Idioms: in common, in joint possession or use; shared equally. [1250-1300; Middle English comun < Anglo-French, Old French < Latin communis common