

command (n.)

c.1400, "order, command," from Old French comand (14c.), from comander (see command (v.)). Meaning "control, authority" is from mid-15c.

command (v.)

c.1300, from Old French comander "to order, enjoin, entrust" (12c.), from Vulgar Latin *commandare, from Latin commendare "to recommend, entrust to" (see commend), altered by influence of Latin mandare "to commit, entrust" (see mandate (n.)). Replaced Old English bebeodan. Related: Commanded; commanding.

verb (used with object)

1. to direct with specific authority or prerogative; order:

The captain commanded his men to attack.

2. to require authoritatively; demand:

She commanded silence.

3. to have or exercise authority or control over; be master of; have at one's bidding or disposal:

The Pharaoh commanded 10,000 slaves.

4. to deserve and receive (respect, sympathy, attention, etc.):

He commands much respect for his attitude.

5. to dominate by reason of location; overlook:

The hill commands the sea.

6. to have authority over and responsibility for (a military or naval unit or installation); be in charge of.

verb (used without object)

7. to issue an order or orders.

8. to be in charge; have authority.

9. to occupy a dominating position; look down upon or over a body of water, region, etc.

noun

10. the act of commanding or ordering.

11. an order given by one in authority:

The colonel gave the command to attack.

12. Military. an order in prescribed words, usually given in aloud voice to troops at close-

order drill: The command was "Right shoulder arms!". the order of execution or the second part of any two-part close-

order drill command, as face in Right face! (initial capital letter) a principal component of the U.S. Air Force: Strategic Air Command. a body of troops or a station, ship, etc., under a commander.

13. the possession or exercise of controlling authority:

a lieutenant in command of a platoon.

14. expertise; mastery:

He has a command of French, Russian, and German.

15. British. a royal order.

16. power of dominating a region by reason of location; extent of view or outlook:

the command of the valley from the hill.

17. Computers. an electric impulse, signal, or set of signals for initiating an operation in a computer. a character, symbol, or item of information for instructing a computer to perform a specific task. a single instruction.

adjective

18. of, relating to, or for use in the exercise of command:

a command car; command post.

19. of or relating to a commander :

a command decision.

20. ordered by a sovereign, as if by a sovereign, or by the exigencies of a situation:

a command performance.