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com·fort  (kŭm fərt)

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tr.v. **com·fort·ed**, **com·fort·ing**, **com·forts**

1. To soothe in time of affliction or distress.

2. To ease physically; relieve: *comforted the feverish patient with a cool cloth.*

n.

1.

a. A condition or feeling of pleasurable physical ease or relief from pain or stress: *finally sat in comfort on the soft pillows.*

b. A condition of well-being, contentment, and security: *an income that allowed them to live in comfort.*

2.

a. Solace or consolation in time of sorrow or distress: *soothing words of comfort.*

b. Help; assistance: *gave comfort to the enemy.*

3.

a. Something providing ease, convenience, or security: *the comforts of modern living.*

b. A person or thing that brings consolation or mental ease: *a friend who was a comfort to me in my grief.*

4. *Chiefly Southern & Lower Northern US* A quilted bedcover; a comforter.

[Middle English *comforten*, from Old French *conforter*, to strengthen, from Late Latin *cōnfortāre* : Latin *com-*, intensive pref.; see [COM-](#) + Latin *fortis*, strong; see **bhergh-**² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.](#)]

com fort·ing·ly *adv.*

Synonyms: **comfort**, **console**¹, **solace**

These verbs mean to give hope or help to in time of grief or pain: *comforted the distressed child; consoling a recent widow; solaced myself with a hot cup of coffee.* See Also Synonyms at [amenity](#).

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Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

[Semitic Roots](#)

The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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