

accredit, *v.*

1. To put or bring into credit, to set forth as credible; to vouch for, sanction, or countenance.

1620 SHELTON *Don Quixote* II. IV. vi. 65 As well by these reasons as by many other..which accredit and fortifie mine opinion. **c1775** COWPER *Let.* 43 (T.) His censure will (to use the new diplomatic phrase) accredit his praises. **1802** HOWARD in *Phil. Trans.* 175 The exhibition of this stone..did not tend to accredit the account of its descent. **1822** SOUTHEY in *Q. Rev.* XXVIII. 29 The prediction of calamities for France accredited these dreams. **1850** A. JAMESON *Sacr. & Leg. Art* 223 It was not sufficiently accredited for a church legend. **1879** GLADSTONE *Sp. at Glasgow* 6 Dec. [His] mode of action at the Cape of Good Hope does not tend to accredit his advice in Affghanistan.

2. To send forth with credentials, to furnish with letters of credit; to recommend by documents as an envoy or messenger. *Const. to, at.*

c1794 MATHIAS *Pursuits of Lit.* 320 (1798) He represents the opinions of a very large portion of their body by whom he is accredited. **1852** GLADSTONE *Gleanings* IV. vi. 144 There are representatives of Portugal and Spain, accredited from Sovereigns themselves symbols of the popular principle. **1860** MOTLEY *Netherlands* II. xviii. 432 (1868) The sovereign to whom I am accredited. **1863** KINGLAKE *Crimea* I. vi. 89 (1876) There was a prospect of his being accredited at St. Petersburg.

3. a. To accredit *one* with *something*: To accredit it as his, to vouch for his being the owner or author of it; to ascribe or attribute it to him.

1864 *Morning Star* 13 June 4 Whenever topics fail them these worthy gentlemen fall back upon his Royal Highness and accredit him with the most wonderful sayings and doings. **1880** MCCARTHY *Hist. own Times* III. 208 Mr. Bright himself was accredited with having said that his own effort to arouse a reforming spirit..was like flogging a dead horse.

b. To attribute (a thing) *to* a person. *U.S.*

1876 A. WILDER in R. P. Knight *Symbolic Lang.* p. xxvii, To the fanatical hordes of Islam..is to be accredited the extinction of the Mystic Orgies of the East. **1900** N. & Q. 9th Ser. 22 Dec. 487/1 The introduction of the name [Columbia] as a poetic title for the United States is to be accredited to Dr. Timothy Dwight.

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► *trans. Educ.* (orig. *U.S.*). To certify (a school, course, etc.) as meeting standards laid down by external assessors or regulators. Cf. ACCREDITED *adj.*

1897 *Daily Republican* (Decatur, Illinois) 8 Nov. 3/6 The University..would prefer to accredit a small high school with less than the amount required for admission to the University than with the full amount less thoroughly done. **1916** *Bull. Univ. New Mexico* (Educ. Ser.) 1 262 The University reserves the right to accredit a school partially and to reconsider or modify the accrediting at any time in case of deterioration of work. **1944** A. CAMPBELL *Guidance Practices in Four Year Accredited Negro High Schools of Missouri* i. 13 This study is limited to the forty-six accredited four-year Negro high schools in Missouri that are accredited by the State Department of Education. **2001** *Daily Tel.* 28 Feb. 27/1 Similarly, the Engineering Council..refuses to accredit engineering courses on which fewer than 60 per cent of the students have at least three Cs or, in the case of four-year MEng degrees, three Bs.

References