

English Vocabulary Study

Contents

Webster's Dictionary of Synonyms 1

abandon etc.	1
adduce etc.	1
impertinent etc.	2
abandoned etc.	2
irritable etc.	3
sullen etc.	4
irascible etc.	4
abusive etc.	5
incite etc.	5
vociferous etc.	6
caprice etc.	7
melancholy etc.	7
inflexible etc.	8
infuse etc.	8
gaudy etc.	9
limp etc.	9
ominous etc.	10
licentious etc.	11

OED: A 13

abash	13
abashed	14
abate	14
abdicate	20
aberrant	22
abominate	23
abrasive	23
abrogate	24
abstemious	25
abstinent	25
abstruse	26
accolade	27
acerbic	28
acme	28

acolyte	30
acquiesce	31
acrimonious	33
acronym	33
adage	34
admonitory	34
adroit	35
adulation	35
adversity	36
aegis	37
affable	38
aficionado	38
affinity	39
aggrandize	42
alacrity	43
allay	44
allegory	48
alleviate	49
alliteration	50
amanuensis	50
ambience	51
ambiguous	52
ambivalent	54
ambulatory	55
ameliorate	56
amenable	56
amenity	58
amorous	59
amorphous	62
anachronism	63
anagram	64
analogy	65
anathema	68
ancillary	70
animus	72
annals	73
anomaly	74
antecedent	76
anthropology	78

antic	79	augur	128
antipathy	83	auspicious	129
antiquity	84	autonomous	130
antithesis	87	avuncular	130
aphorism	88	awry	131
aplomb	89	axiom	133
apocalypse	89		
apocryphal	90	OED: B	135
apogee	91	badinage	135
apostate	92	bailiwick	135
apotheosis	94	baleful	136
appellation	95	banal	137
apposite	96	bastion	138
apprehend	97	bathos	138
appropriate	100	behemoth	139
apt	102	beleaguer	140
arbiter	104	bellicose	140
arcane	105	belligerent	141
arch	106	bemuse	142
arduous	107	bestow	142
argot	107	bibliophile	145
arid	108	bibulous	146
Armageddon	108	blandishment	146
arrant	109	blatant	147
arrogate	111	bovine	148
arsenal	113	bravado	149
artful	114	brickbat	150
artless	115	bromide	151
ascetic	116	brook	153
asperity	118	brouhaha	155
aspersion	119	brusque	155
assiduous	120	bucolic	156
assuage	121	burgeon	157
atavistic	123		
atrophy	123	OED: C	159
attenuate	124	cabal	159
augment	125	cachet	162
augment	126	cacophony	163
augur	127	cadaverous	163

cadge	164	cleave	238
cajole	166	cleave	241
callow	167	clemency	244
calumny	169	cloy	244
canard	169	cogent	247
candour	171	cognizant, -isant	248
canon	172	collation	248
cant	178	colloquy	255
cantankerous	182	compendium	256
capitulate	183	complacent	258
capricious	185	complaisant	259
captious	185	complement	259
carnal	187	compliant	261
carnivorous	189	concomitant	262
carp	189	concrete	263
carrion	192	conduit	269
castigate	196	congenital	273
casuistry	197	consensus	274
cataclysm	198	consortium	275
catharsis	198	consummate	277
catholic	199	consummate	278
caveat	210	contentious	280
cavil	212	context	281
celibacy	213	contiguous	283
champion	214	contretemps	284
charlatan	215	contrite	286
chary	216	contumacious	287
chasm	218	conundrum	288
chicanery	220	co-opt	290
chide	221	copious	291
chimera	225	corollary	293
churlish	227	corporeal	295
cipher	229	correlate	297
circuitous	233	coruscate	298
circumlocution	233	cosset	298
circumspect	235	cosset	299
clamorous	235	coterie	300
clandestine	236	craven	302
claptrap	237	craw	303

credible	305	spurn	355
creditable	306	conspicuous	358
credulous	308	sundry	360
crest-fallen	309	mundane	365
culpable	309	precocious	368
curmudgeon	311	meridian	369
cursory	312	defer	373
curt	313	procure	376
cynosure	314	exonerate	381
OED: D	315	exculpate	383
dalliance	315	remit	384
daub	316	eschew	392
dauntless	319	comport	394
dearth	319	proscribe	397
debacle	321	sapid	398
debase	322	luscious	399
debilitate	323	caustic	402
debunk	323	mordant	404
decimate	324	morose	406
déclassé	325	fastidious	407
decorous	326	peevish	408
decorum	327	scruple	411
decry	329	scrupulous	415
deduce	330	wayward	418
deem	334	fretful	421
OED: Webster	341	sullen	422
hoard	341	crabbed	426
inculpate	342	venomous	430
incriminate	343	wroth	435
arraign	343	urbane	439
piquant	344	irascible	440
suave	346	cranky	442
bland	347	rancour	443
divulge	348	irenic	444
gainsay	349	fray	445
impugn	351	galvanize	447
repudiate	352	goad	448
		instigate	450
		foment	451

abet	452	scurrility	534
thwart	453	Billingsgate	535
balk	457	lascivious	536
brisk	459	voluptuous	537
supine	462	ostensible	541
indolent	464	specious	542
reify	465	opprobrious	546
sway	466	vituperative	547
shrewd	473	contumelious	549
perspicacity	483	scurrilous	550
astute	484	bellow	550
obtuse	484	vociferous	552
trenchant	486	strident	553
insolent	487	boisterous	554
impertinent	490	obstreperous	556
impudent	493	whimsical	557
crass	494	quaint	559
peril	495	frivolous	564
devout	498		
demur	500		
imposition	502		
adjuvant	505		
subservient	506		
efficacious	508		
ennui	508		
revere	509		
venerate	510		
contemn	511		
tinge	512		
smack	513		
leaven	516		
reprove	518		
reprimand	521		
reprobate	522		
contempt	524		
vitiate	527		
vituperate	531		
invective	532		
obloquy	533		

Webster's Dictionary of Synonyms

abandon, desert, forsake v.

- ▶ **Abandon** implies surrender of control or possession often with the implication that the thing abandoned is left to the mercy of someone or something else.
- ▶ **Desert** commonly implies previous occupation, companionship, or guardianship and often connotes desolation.
- ▶ **Forsake** often retains connotation of repudiation, frequently suggests renunciation, and stresses the breaking off of an association with someone or something.
- ¶ MARY AUSTIN, The ghost of grandeur that lingers between the walls of **abandoned** haciendas in New Mexico.
- ¶ HEISER, In the frantic rush to escape the insane had usually been forgotten and **abandoned** to horrible death.
- ¶ **deserted** farms growing up to bush
- ¶ **forsake** the world and all its pleasure
- ¶ DELAND She was **forsaken** at the altar.

adduce, advance, allege, cite v.

They may be used interchangeably to mean to bring forward by way of explanation, proof, illustration, or demonstration; however, they usually are clearly distinguishable in their implications and in their idiomatic associations.

- ▶ One **adduces** facts, evidence, instances, passages, reasons, arguments when one presents these in support of a contention.
- ▶ One **advances** something (as a theory, a proposal, a claim, an argument) that is in itself contentious when one presents it for acceptance or consideration.
- ▶ **Allege** may indicate a bringing forward or stating as if needing no proof. It may on the other hand stress doubt about an assertion or convey a warning about or a disclaimer of responsibility for the truth of matter under discussion. Its participial adjective *alleged*, especially, often serves as a disclaimer of responsibility for the assertion.

- ▶ One **cites** only something concrete and specific (as a passage from a book or a definite instance) when one adduces it in support of a contention; one *cites* by quoting a passage to give an authority; one *cites* an instance that serves as a precedent or illustration; one *cites* an instance that serves as a precedent or illustration; one *cites* define facts in support of something (as a claim or proposal) advanced.

impertinent, officious, meddlesome, intrusive, obtrusive a.

- ▶ They applied to persons and their acts and utterances and mean exceeding or tending to exceed the bounds of propriety regarding the interposition of oneself in another person's affairs.
- ▶ **Impertinent** implies concerning oneself more or less offensively with things which are another's business or, at least, not in any sense one's own business.
- ▶ **Officious** implies the offering, often well-meant, of services, attentions, or assistance that are not needed or that are unwelcome or offensive
- ▶ **Meddlesome** carries a stronger implication of annoying interference in other people's affairs; it usually also connotes a prying or inquisitive nature.
- ▶ **Intrusive** applies largely to persons, actions, or words that reveal a disposition to thrust oneself into other people's affairs or society or to be unduly curious about what is not one's concern
- ▶ **Obtrusive** is similar to **intrusive**. it also connotes objectionable actions more than an objectionable disposition and so stresses a thrusting forward of oneself, as into a position where one can harm more often than help or where one is unduly or improperly conspicuous.

abandoned, reprobate, profligate, dissolute a.

- ▶ They fundamentally mean utterly depraved.
- ▶ *Abandoned* and *reprobate* were originally applied to sinners and to their acts.
- ▶ One who is **abandoned** by his complete surrender to a life of sin seems spiritually lost or morally irreclaimable.
- ▶ One who is **reprobate** is abandoned and therefore rejected by God or by his fellows; *reprobate* implies ostracism by or exclusion from a social group for a serious offense against its code.

- ▶ *Profligate* and *dissolute* convey little if any suggestion of divine or social condemnation but both imply complete moral breakdown and self-indulgence to such an extreme that all standards of morality and prudence are disregarded.
- ▶ One who is **profligate** openly and shamelessly flouts all the decencies and wastes his substance in dissipation.
- ▶ One who is **dissolute** has completely thrown off all moral and prudential restraints on the indulgence of his appetites.

irritable, fractious, peevish, snappish, waspish, petulant, pettish, huffy, fretful, querulous a.

- ▶ They apply to persons or to their moods or dispositions in the sense of showing impatience or anger without due or sufficient cause.
- ▶ **Irritable** implies extreme excitability of temperament, often associated with or arising from fatigue or physical or mental distress, that makes one exceedingly easy to annoy or difficult to please.
- ▶ **Fractious** carries a stronger implication of willfulness or of unruliness than *irritable*, and although it also implies extreme excitability, it suggests even greater loss of self-control; the term is often applied to animals as well as to persons.
- ▶ **Peevish** implies childish irritability and a tendency to give expression to petty complaints or ill-humored trivial criticisms.
- ▶ **Snappish** implies irritability or sometimes peevishness that manifests itself in sharp, cutting questions, comments, or objections that discourage conversation or sociability.
- ▶ **Waspish** stresses testiness rather than irritability, but it implies a readiness to sting or hurt others without warrant or without sufficient warrant.
- ▶ **Petulant** usually suggests the sulkiness of a spoiled child as well as peevishness and capricious impatience.
- ▶ **Pettish** implies sulky or childish ill humor (as of one who is slighted or offended).
- ▶ **Huffy** also implies a tendency to take offense without due cause, but it suggests more of a display of injured pride than *pettish*.
- ▶ **Fretful** implies irritability and restlessness that may manifest itself in complaints or in a complaining tone of voice, but often is merely suggested by

a lack of ease and repose.

- ▶ **Querulous** implies an often habitual discontent that manifests itself in whining complaints or in fretfulness of temper; it often also suggests petulance.

sullen, glum, morose, surly, sulky, crabbed, saturnine, dour, gloomy a.

- ▶ They can mean governed by or showing, especially in one's aspect, a forbidding or disagreeable mood or disposition.
- ▶ One is **sullen** who is, often by disposition, gloomy, silent, and ill-humored and who refuses to be sociable, cooperative, or responsive.
- ▶ One is **glum** who is dismally silent either because of low spirits or depressing circumstances.
- ▶ One is **morose** who is austere sour or bitter and inclined to glumness.
- ▶ One is **surly** who adds churlishness or gruffness of speech and manner to sullenness or moroseness.
- ▶ One is **sulky** who manifests displeasure, discontent, or resentment by giving way childishly to a fit of peevish sullenness.
- ▶ One is **crabbed** who is actually or seemingly ill-natured, harsh, and forbidding. The term often refers to one's aspect and manner of speaking and usually implies a sour or morose disposition or a settled crossness.
- ▶ One is **saturnine** who presents a heavy, forbidding, taciturn gloom, but *saturnine* may come close to *sardonic* and then suggests less a depressing heaviness and gloom than a wry mocking disdain and skepticism that is often at least superficially attractive.
- ▶ One is **dour** who gives a sometimes superficial effect of severity, obstinacy, and grim bitterness of disposition.
- ▶ One is **gloomy** who is so depressed by events or conditions or so oppressed by melancholy that all signs of cheerfulness or optimism are obscured, so that he appears sullen, glum, or dour as well as low-spirited.

irascible, choleric, splenetic, testy, touchy, cranky, cross a.

- ▶ They mean easily angered or enraged.

- ▶ **Irascible** implies the possession of a fiery or inflammable temper or a tendency to flare up at the slightest provocation.
- ▶ **Choleric** implies excitability of temper, unreasonableness in anger, and usually an impatient and uniformly irritable frame of mind.
- ▶ **Splenetic** implies a similar temperament, but one especially given to moroseness and fits of bad temper which exhibit themselves in angry, sullen, or intensely peevish moods, words, or acts.
- ▶ **Testy** implies irascibility occasioned by small annoyances.
- ▶ **Touchy** suggests readiness to take offense; it often connotes undue irritability or oversensitiveness.
- ▶ *Cranky* and *cross* often mean little more than irritable and difficult to please.
- ▶ **Cranky** may carry an implication of the possession of set notions, fixed ideas, or unvarying standards which predispose one to anger or a show of temper when others (as in their speech, conduct, requests, or work) do not conform to these standards.
- ▶ **Cross** may imply a being out of sorts that results in irascibility or irritability but only for the duration of one's mood.

abusive, opprobrious, vituperative, contumelious, scurrilous a.

- ▶ They apply chiefly to language or utterances and to persons as they employ such language: the words agree in meaning coarse, insulting, and contemptuous in character or utterance.
- ▶ **Abusive** means little more than this, all the other terms carry specific and distinctive implications.
- ▶ **Opprobrious** suggests the imputation of disgraceful actions or of shameful conduct: it implies not only abusiveness but also severe, often unjust, condemnation.
- ▶ **Vituperative** implies indulgence in a stream of insulting language especially in attacking an opponent.
- ▶ **Contumelious** adds to *opprobrious* the implications of insolence and extreme disrespect and usually connotes the bitter humiliation of its victim.
- ▶ **Scurrilous** often approaches *vituperative* in suggesting attack and abuse but it always implies gross, vulgar, often obscenely ribald language.

incite, instigate, abet, foment v.

- ▶ They are comparable when they mean to spur on to action or to excite into activity.
- ▶ **Incite** stresses stirring up and urging on; frequently it implies active prompting.
- ▶ **Instigate**, in contrast with *incite*, unequivocally implies prompting and responsibility for the initiation of the action; it also commonly connotes underhandedness and evil intention; thus, one may be *incited* but not *instigated* to the performance of a good act; one may be *incited* or *instigated* to the commission of a crime.
- ▶ **Abet** tends to lose its original implication of baiting or hounding on and to emphasize its acquired implications of seconding, supporting, and encouraging.
- ▶ **Foment** stresses persistence in goading; thus, one who *incites* rebellion may provide only the initial stimulus; one who *foments* rebellion keeps the rebellious spirit alive by supplying fresh incitements.

vociferous, clamorous, blatant, strident, boisterous, obstreperous a.

- ▶ They are comparable when they mean so loud and noisy, especially vocally, as to compel attention, often unwilling attention.
- ▶ **Vociferous** implies both loud and vehement cries or shouts; it often suggests also a deafening quality.
- ▶ **Clamorous** can imply insistency as well as vociferousness in demanding or protesting, but as often it stresses the notion of sustained din or confused turbulence.
- ▶ **Blatant** implies a tendency to bellow or be conspicuously, offensively, or vulgarly noisy or clamorous.
- ▶ **Strident** basically implies a harsh and discordant quality characteristic of some noises that are peculiarly distressing to the ear; it is applied not only to loud, harsh sounds but also to things which, like these, irresistibly and against one's will force themselves upon the attention.
- ▶ **Boisterous** has usually an implication of rowdy high spirits and flouting of customary order and is applied to persons or things that are extremely noisy and turbulent, as though let loose from all restraint.

- ▶ **Obstreperous** suggests unruly and aggressive noisiness, typically occurring in resistance to or defiance of authority or restraining influences.

caprice, freak, fancy, whim, whimsy, conceit, vagary, crotchet n.

- ▶ These words are comparable when denoting an arbitrary notion that usually lacks a logical basis and therefore may be unsound, impractical, or even irrational.
- ▶ **Caprice** emphasizes the lack of apparent motivation and implies a certain willfulness or wantonness.
- ▶ **Freak** suggests an impulsive, seemingly causeless change of mind, like that of a child or a lunatic.
- ▶ **Fancy** stresses casualness and lack of reflection in forming an idea and may sometimes suggest a kind of harmless perverseness in the idea formed.
- ▶ **Whim** and **whimsy** suggest not so much a sudden as a quaint, fantastic, or humorous turn or inclination, but *whim* often stresses capriciousness, and *whimsy* fancifulness.
- ▶ **Conceit** suggests more strongly than *whim* or *whimsy* the quaint, fantastic, or erratic character of the notion formed and also may suggest the firmness and persistence with which it is held.
- ▶ **Vagary** suggests still more strongly the erratic, extravagant, or irresponsible character of the notion or fancy.
- ▶ **Crotchet** implies even more perversity of temper or more indifference to right reason than *vagary*; it often is applied to a capriciously heretical opinion on some frequently unimportant or trivial point.

melancholy, dolorous, doleful, lugubrious, rueful, plaintive a.

- ▶ They are comparable when they mean expressing or suggesting sorrow or mourning. All of these words have, to a greater or less extent, weakened from their original meaning and are often used with a half-humorous connotation.
- ▶ **Melancholy** may stress a quality that inspires pensiveness or sad reflection or awakens mournful thoughts or recollections which are not only

not necessarily painful or disagreeable, but often agreeable, especially to the poetic or thoughtful mind.

- ▶ **Dolorous** describes what is lamentable in its gloom or dismalness or is exaggeratedly dismal.
- ▶ *Doleful* and *lugubrious* are also frequently applied to what is exaggeratedly dismal or dreary, but **doleful** connotes a weight of woe, and **lugubrious**, an undue, and often an affected, heaviness or solemnity.
- ▶ **Rueful** implies sorrow and regret but it often suggests a quizzical attitude.
- ▶ **Plaintive** applies chiefly to tones, sounds, utterances, or rhythms that suggest complaint or mourning or that excite pity or compassion.

inflexible, inexorable, obdurate, adamant, adamantine a.

- ▶ They mean not to be moved from or changed in a predetermined course or purpose. All are applicable to persons, decisions, laws, and principles; otherwise, they vary in their applications.
- ▶ **Inflexible** usually implies firmly established principles rigidly adhered to; sometimes it connotes resolute steadfastness, sometimes slavish conformity, sometimes more pigheadedness.
- ▶ **Inexorable**, when applied to persons, stresses deafness to entreaty. When applied to decisions, rules, laws, and their enforcement, it often connotes relentlessness, ruthlessness, and finality beyond question.
- ▶ **Obdurate** is applicable chiefly to persons and almost invariably implies hardness of heart or insensitiveness to such external influences as divine grace or to appeals for mercy, forgiveness, or assistance.
- ▶ **Adamant** and **adamantine** usually imply extraordinary strength of will or impenetrability to temptation or entreaty.

infuse, suffuse, imbue, ingrain, inoculate, leaven v.

- ▶ They can all mean to introduce one thing into another so as to affect it throughout.
- ▶ **Infuse** implies a permeating like that of infiltrating fluid, usually of something which imbues the recipient with new spirit, life, or vigor or gives it or him a new cast or new significance.

- ▶ **Suffuse** implies an overspreading of a surface by or a spreading through an extent of something that gives the thing affected a distinctive or unusual color, aspect, texture, or quality.
- ▶ **Imbue** implies the introduction of something that enters so deeply and so extensively into the thing's substance or nature that no part is left untouched or unaffected; unlike *infuse*, which it otherwise closely resembles, *imbue* takes as its object the person or thing affected, not the thing that is introduced.
- ▶ **Ingrain** is found in the past participle or passive forms only; like *imbue*, it implies an incorporation of something comparable to a pervading dye with the body, substance, or nature of whatever is affected, but unlike *imbue*, it takes for its object or, when the verb is passive, as its subject the thing introduced rather than the person or thing affected.
- ▶ **Inoculate** implies imbuing a person with something that alters him in a manner suggestive of a disease germ or an antigen. Often, the term implies an introduction of an idea, a doctrine, an emotion, or a taste by highly surreptitious or artificial means, in order to achieve a desired end; less often, it additionally implies an evil and destructive quality in what is introduced.
- ▶ **Leaven** implies a transforming or tempering of a body or mass by the introduction of something which enlivens, elevates, exalts, or, occasionally, causes disturbance, agitation, or corruption.

gaudy, tawdry, garish, flashy, meretricious a.

- ▶ They are comparable when meaning vulgar or cheap in its showiness.
- ▶ Something is **gaudy** which uses gay colors and conspicuous ornaments or ornamentation lavishly, ostentatiously, and tastelessly.
- ▶ Something is **tawdry** which is not only gaudy but cheap and sleazy.
- ▶ Something is **garish** which is distressingly or offensively bright.
- ▶ Something is **flashy** which dazzles for a moment but then reveals itself as shallow or vulgar display.
- ▶ Something is **meretricious** which allures by false or deceitful show (as of worth, value, or brilliancy).

limp, floppy, flaccid, flappy, flimsy, sleazy a.

- ▶ They mean deficient in firmness of texture, substance, or structure and therefore unable to keep a shape or in shape.
- ▶ **Limp** applies to something that lacks or has lost the stiffness or firmness necessary to keep it from drooping or losing its original sturdiness or freshness.
- ▶ **Floopy** applies to something that sags or hangs limply.
- ▶ **Flaccid** implies a loss or lack of elasticity or resilience and therefore an incapacity to return to an original shape or condition or to keep a desired shape; the term applies primarily to flesh and other living tissues. In extended use the term implies lack of force or energy or substance.
- ▶ **Flabby** applies to something that is so soft that it yields readily to the touch or is easily shaken. In extended use the term implies the loss or lack of what keeps a thing up or in good sound condition; it often carries suggestions of spinelessness, spiritlessness, or lethargy.
- ▶ **Flimsy** applies to something that by its looseness of structure or insubstantiality of texture cannot hold up under use or strain. In extended use the term applies to whatever is so frail or slight as to be without value or endurance.
- ▶ **Sleazy** applies especially to flimsy textiles, but it often suggests, as *flimsy* need not, fraud or carelessness in its manufacture. In extended use the term may stress lack or inferiority of standards or inferiority of the resultant product but often its suggestion is one of cheap shabby inferiority.

ominous, portentous, fateful, inauspicious, unpropitious a.

- ▶ They basically mean having a menacing or threatening character or quality.
- ▶ What is **ominous** has or seems to have the character of an omen, especially of an omen forecasting evil; the term commonly suggests a frightening or alarming quality that bodes no good, and it may imply impending disaster.
- ▶ What is **portentous** has or seems to have the character of a portent; *portentous*, however, less often than *ominous* suggests a threatening character; it usually means little more than prodigious, monstrous, or almost frighteningly marvelous, solemn, or impressive.
- ▶ What is **fateful** has or seems to have the quality, character, or importance decreed for it by fate or suggests inevitability, but the term often means little more than momentous or appallingly decisive.

- ▶ What is **inauspicious** is or seems to be attended by signs that are distinctly unfavorable. But *inauspicious* usually means nothing more than unlucky, unfortunate, or unlikely to succeed.
- ▶ What is **unpropitious** carries or seems to carry no sign of favoring one's ends or intentions. In its more common extended sense the term means merely unfavorable, discouraging, or harmful.

licentious, libertine, lewd, wanton, lustful, lascivious, libidinous, lecherous a.

- ▶ They all suggest unchaste habits, especially in being given to or indicative of immorality in sex relations.
- ▶ **Licentious** basically implies disregard of the restraints imposed by law or custom for the enforcement of chastity; the term stresses looseness of life and of habits rather than the imperiousness of one's desires.
- ▶ **Libertine** suggests a more open and a more habitual disregard of moral laws, especially those pertaining to the sex relations of men and women.
- ▶ **Lewd** often carries strong connotation of grossness, vileness, and vulgarity which color its other implications of sensuality, dissoluteness, and unconcern for chastity. As a result it is applied less often than the preceding terms to persons, or to the manners, thoughts, and acts of persons, who retain in their immorality evidence of breeding, refinement, or gentility.
- ▶ **Wanton** implies moral irresponsibility or a disposition or way of life marked by indifference to moral restraints; it often suggests freedom from restraint comparable to that of animals, thereby connoting lightness, incapability for faithfulness or seriousness, or a generally unmoral attitude.
- ▶ **Lustful** implies the influence or the frequent incitement of desires, especially of strong and often unlawful sexual desires.
- ▶ **Lascivious**, like *lewd*, definitely suggests sensuality, but it carries a clearer implication of an inclination to lustfulness or of a capacity for inciting lust.
- ▶ *Libidinous* and *lecherous* are the strongest of all these terms in their implications of deeply ingrained lustfulness and of debauchery.
- ▶ **Libidinous** distinctively suggests a complete surrender to one's sexual desires.
- ▶ **Lecherous** clearly implies habitual indulgence of one's lust, the term often being used when any of the others would seem too weak to express one's

contempt.

9

A

The list of words is from Schur, *1000 Most Important Words*.

abash v.

(ə'bæʃ)

[ad. Anglo-Fr. abaïss- = OFr. ebaïss-, esbaïss-, lengthened stem (occurring in pple. abaïss-ant, 3 pl. abaïss-ent, subj. abaïsse, etc.) of ésb-air, mod.Fr. ébahir; f. es:—Lat. ex 'out, utterly' + baïr, bahir = Ital. baïre to astound, regarded as formed on bah! a natural exclamation of astonishment. The OFr. -iss here became -ish, as in perish, finish, punish, and the i was absorbed, as in punch; in the north the -s remained, as in cheriss, fluriss, punyss; hence a formal confusion between northern forms of abash, and the distinct vb. abase, q.v.]

1. To destroy the self-possession or confidence of (any one), to put out of countenance, confound, discomfit, or check with a sudden consciousness of shame, presumption, error, or the like. **a.** active.

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* viii. 247 And thouch that thai be ma than we,
That suld abaïss ws litill thing. ¶1430 *Pilg. Lyf of Man* 117 It is thilke bi
whiche I abashe alle the bestes of the cuntre. ¶1496 W. DE WORDE *Dives*
& *Pauper* xiv. viii. 340/1 The lyon with his crye abassheth all other bestes.

¶1570 LEVINS *Manipulus*, To Abashe Stupefacere. ¶1574 tr. *Marlorats*
Apocalips 26 For although lightning be bright, yet is it not chærefull, but rather
abasheth men. ¶1600 HEYWOOD *1st Edw. IV*, iv. 27 To weaken and abash
their fortitude. ¶1751 FIELDING *Amelia* iii. ix. Wks. 1784 VIII. 304 A
man whom no denial, no scorn could abash. ¶1863 H. ROGERS *Life of J.*
Howe iii. 83 If not to convince, to silence and abash the gainsayer.

b. refl. [mod.Fr. has only the refl. form s'ébahir.] To gape with surprise, to stand confounded. Obs.

c1450 LONELICH *Holy Grail* xxi. 291 Thanne the Kyng Abasched him
sore For þe wordes he herde thore. ¶1485 CAXTON *Paris & Vienne* 62
Abasshe you not for thys derkenes.

c. Most common in the pass.: to be, stand, or feel abashed; at an occasion, of (obs.), by a cause.

c1325 *E.E. Allit. P.* 42. 149 Þat oþer burne wat3 abayst of his broþe worde3.
¶1366 MANDEVILLE xxix. 295 Alisandre was gretly astoneyed and abayst.

¶1382 WYCLIF *Mark* v. 42 And thei weren abaischt [1388 abaischid] with greet stoneyng. ¶c1386 CHAUCER *Clerk's T.* 955 Right nought was sche abaissht of her clothing [v.r. abayst—2, abast, abayssht, abasshed, abassched].

¶1483 CAXTON *G. Leg.* 70/3 Whan Daudid herd this he was sore abasshed.

¶1535 COVERDALE *Is.* xiii. 8 One shall euer be abaszshed of another.

¶1667 MILTON *P.L.* i. 331 They heard, and were abasht, and up they sprung.

¶1807 CRABBE *Village* ii. 79 And while she stands abash'd, with conscious eye. ¶1876 GLADSTONE *Homeric Synch.* 72 I might have been abashed by their authority.

2. intr. (by omission of refl. pron.) To stand dumb with confusion or astonishment; to lose self-possession or confidence; to flinch or recoil with surprise, shame, or sense of humiliation. Obs.

1391 CHAUCER *Boeth.* 146 (1868) No strong man ne semeþ nat to abassen or disdainer as ofte tyme as he hereþ þe noise of þe bataile. ¶1477 CAXTON *Jason* 45 b, The herte of man sholde not abasshe in no thing. ¶1530 PALSGR. I abasshe, or am amazed of any thing, Je me esbahis. ¶1577–87 HOLINSHED *Chron.* III. 1098/2 For she, notwithstanding all the fearefull newes that were brought to hir that daie, neuer abashed. ¶1585 JAMES I *Essayes in Poesie* 44 She did shame The Sunne himself, her coulour was so bright, Till he abashit beholding such a light.

abashed ppl. a.

(ə'bæʃt)

[abash v. + -ed.]

Put out of self-possession, stricken with surprise; confounded, discomfited, disconcerted; checked with a sense of shame, presumption, or error.

1340 Hampole *Pr. Consc.* 1431 Swa þat man suld mare drede and be abayste, Over mykel in þe world here to trayste. ¶1534 Ld. Berners *Golden Bk. of Marc. Aurel.* (1546) O iiiii b, We holdyng downe our heddes abashed.

¶1718 Pope *Iliad* viii. 540 The pensive goddesses, abash'd, controll'd. ¶1859 Tennyson *Enid* 765 Enid, all abash'd she knew not why, Dared not to glance at her good mother's face.

abate v.

(ə'beɪt)

[a. OFr. abat-re, abat-tre, f. à prep. to + batre, battre to beat:—late L. battĕre, batĕre, from cl. L. batuĕre. In the technical senses 18, 19, the identity of the prefix is uncertain, and the relation to the other senses undetermined.]

I. To beat down, demolish, destroy.

1. trans. To beat down, throw down, demolish, level with the ground. Obs. exc. in Law.

1366 MANDEVILLE viii. 95 (1839) Jerusalem hath often tyme ben destroyed, & the Walles abated & beten down. ¶c1420 *Palladius on Husb.* ii. 5 Hem to desolate Of erthe, and all from every roote abate. ¶1494 FABYAN vii. 490 Ye gates of Bruges, of Ipre, of Courtray, and of other townes were abated and throwyn downe. ¶1576 LAMBARDE *Peramb. Kent* 185 (1826) Bycause Apultre was not of sufficient strength for their defence and coverture they abated it to the ground. ¶1643 PRYNNE *Doom of Cowardice & Treach.* 4 And that night came a great party of them, and by fine force made an assault and abated the Baracadoes. ¶1664 EVELYN *Kal. Hort.* 13 (1729) During the hottest months carefully abate the weeds. ¶1809 TOMLINS *Law Dict.* s.v., To abate; to prostrate, break down, or destroy. In law to abate a castle or fort is to beat it down. ¶1864 *Wandsw. Br. Act* 44 If any work made by the Company in, over, or across the River Thames..be abandoned or suffered to fall into disuse or decay, the Conservators of the River Thames may abate and remove the same.

2. fig. To put down, put an end to, do away with (any state or condition of things). Obs.

c1270 *E.E.P., Old Age* 149 When eld blowid he is blode . his ble is sone abatid. ¶1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 1672 Ded [= death], of al þat it comes to, abates And chaunges all myghtes and states. ¶c1350 *Will. Palerne* 1141 To abate þe bost of þat breme duke. ¶1413 LYDGATE *Pylg. Sowle* v. xii. 103 (1843) And fynally abatid is the strif. ¶1585 ABP. SANDYS *Serm.* 79 (1841) St. Paul abateth this opinion. *Ibid.* 293 To abate the haughty conceit which naturally we have of ourselves.

3. Esp. Law. a. To put an end to, do away with (as a nuisance, or an action).

1297 R. GLOUC. 447 And oþer monye luper lawes, þat hys elderne adde ywroȝt, He behet, þat he wolde abate. ¶1768 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* III. 168 The primitive sense is that of abating or beating down a nuisance. ¶1780 BURKE *Sp. on Econ. Ref. Wks.* III. 247 They abate the nuisance, they pull down the house. ¶1844 H. ROGERS *Essays* I. ii. 88 He has not lived in vain who has successfully endeavoured to abate the nuisances of his own time.

¶1859 DE QUINCEY *The Cæsars* Wks. X. 104 To put him down and abate him as a monster.

b. To render null and void (a writ).

1580 BARET *Alvearie*, His accusation or writte is abated or ouerthrowne when the Attorney by ignorance declareth not the processe in due forme, or the writte abateth. ¶1621 SANDERSON *Serm.* Ad. Cl. ii. xxii. 30 (1674) And any one short Clause or Proviso, not legal, is sufficient to abate the whole Writ or Instrument. ¶1726 AYLIFFE *Parergon* 266 This only suspends but does not abate the action. ¶1741 ROBINSON *Gavelkind* vi. 109 The Writ was abated by the Court. ¶1809 TOMLINS *Law Dict.* s.v., To abate a nuisance is to destroy, remove, or put an end to it... To abate a writ is to defeat or overthrow it by shewing some error or exception.

4. intr. (through refl.) To be at an end, to become null or void; esp. of writs, actions, appeals.

1602 W. FULBECKE *First Part of Parallele* 62 In the summons A. was omitted, wherefore the writte abated. ¶1745 DE FOE *Eng. Tradesm.* I. xvi. 148 Commissions shall not abate by the death of his majesty. ¶1768 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* III. 247 The suit is of no effect, and the writ shall abate. ¶1809 TOMLINS *Law Dict.* s.v. It is said an appeal shall abate, and be defeated by reason of covin or deceit. ¶1860 MASSEY *Hist. Engl.* III. xxxi. 437 The Committee of Privileges resolved, that impeachments stood on the same footing as appeals and writs of error; consequently they did not abate.

II. To bring down, lower, depress.

5. To bring down (a person) physically, socially, or mentally; to depress, humble, degrade; to cast down, deject. Obs.

c1325 GROSSETESTE *Castel of Loue* 1334 He was abated of his tour [= in his turn]. ¶c1386 CHAUCER *Pars. T.* 118 The heyher that they were in this present lif, the more schuln thay ben abatid and defouled in helle. ¶1470–85 MALORY *Morte Arthur* (1634 repr. 1816) I. 241 Then sir Beaumains abated his countenance. ¶1564 BAULDWIN *Moral Phil.* (ed. Palfr.) iii. 4 Hee is to be honoured among them that be honoured, that fortune abateth without fault. ¶1618 RALEIGH *Remains* (1644) 27 If any great person to be abated, not to deal with him by calumnation or forged matter. ¶1651 JER. TAYLOR *Sermons* i. ix. 104 They were abated with humane infirmities and not at all heightened by the Spirit.

6. intr. To fall, be dejected, humbled. Obs.

1306 *Political Songs* (Camd. S.) 216 Ys continaunce abated eny bost to make. ¶1387 TREVISA *Higden Rolls Ser.* II. 185 Þe bolde nolle abateþ [cervix deprimitur]. ¶c1460 *Urbanitatis in Babees Book* (1868) 16 Lette not þy contynaunce also abate. ¶1642 ROGERS *Naaman* 30 The naturall spirit of the hautiest.. will abate and come downe.

7. To abate of; to bring down (a person) from; hence to deprive of, curtail of. Obs.

c1430 *Octouian Imperator* 1316 (Weber III. 212) He was abated of all hys hete. ¶c1530 LD. BERNERS *Arthur of Lytell Bryt.* 105 (1814) That she be not thereby abbated of her noblenesse and estate. ¶1605 SHAKES. *Lear* ii. iv. 161 She hath abated me of halfe my Traine. ¶1637 LISLE tr. *Du Bartas* 30 Mens bodies were abated of their bignesse.

III. To bring down in size, amount, value, force.

8. To beat back the edge or point of anything; to turn the edge; to blunt. lit. and fig. Obs.

1548 HALL *Chron.* 689 Such wepons as the capitain of the Castle shall occupie, that is, Morrice pike sworde target, the poynt and edge abated.

¶1594 SHAKES. *Rich.* III, v. v. 35 Abate the edge of Traitors, gracious Lord.

¶1613 W. BROWNE *Brit. Past.* i. iv. (1772) 107 With plaints which might abate a tyrant's knife. ¶1625 BACON *Essays* ix, To abate the edge of envy.

¶1634 HEYWOOD *Maidenh.* lost xi. 120 The name of Childe Abates my Swords keene edge. ¶1699 EVELYN *Acetaria* 145 (1729) Such as abate and take off the keenness.

9. To bring down in size; lower, lessen or diminish (things tangible). arch.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De Pr. Rerum* (1495) xvii. lxxviii. 652 Gutta abatyth all swellynge and bolnynge. ¶1611 BIBLE *Gen.* viii. 3 After the end of the hundred and fiftie dayes, the waters were abated. ¶1612 WOODALL *Surgeon's Mate* Wks. (1653) 11 Small Files are used.. to abate any end of a bone..which is fractured. ¶1662 EVELYN *Chalcog.* (1769) 59 In wood, which is a graving much more difficult; because all the work is to be abated and cut hollow. ¶1823 SCOTT *Peveril* (1865) 241 A lucky accident had abated Chiffinch's party to their own number.

10. intr. To decrease in size or bulk. arch.

1587 GOLDING *Mornay's Chr. Relig.* xiv. 220 (1617) The more that the body abateth in flesh, the more workfull is the mind. ¶1597 WARNER *Albion's Eng.* iii. xviii. 86 Their poyson, growing when it seemeth to abate. ¶1726 DE FOE *Hist. Devil* i. x. 121 (1840) The arke rested, the waters abating.

11. trans. To bring down in value, price, or estimation. arch.

1340 *Ayenb.* 28 Vor þe guode los to abatye, and hire guodes to lo3y, þe envious agrayþeþ alle his gynnes. ¶c1400 *Rom. Rose* 286 She ne might all abate his prise. ¶c1460 FORTESCUE *Absol. & Lim. Mon.* (1714) 116 Hou the Pricys of Merchaundises, growyn in this Lond, may be holdyn up, and encreasyd, and the Prycys of Merchaundise, brought into this Lond abatyd. ¶1651 HOBBS *Leviathan* ii. xxii. 119 They raise the price of those, and abate the price of these. ¶1670 R. COKE *Disc. of Trade* 33 If the Importation of Irish Cattel had abated the Rents of England one half.

12. intr. To fall in amount, value, or price, suffer reduction, be reduced. arch. exc. in Law.

1745 DE FOE *Eng. Tradesm.* II. xxxii. 101 As wages abate to the poor, provisions must abate in the market, and rents must sink and abate to the landlords. ¶1768 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* II. 512 And in case of a deficiency of assets, all the general legacies must abate proportionably, in order to pay the debts.

13. trans. To lessen or lower in force or intensity (a quality, feeling, action, etc.); to diminish, lessen, lighten, relieve, mitigate.

1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* 269 His moder Helianore abated þer grete bale. ¶1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 2840 For na thyng may abate þair pyne. ¶1574 tr. *Marlorats Apocalips* 33 Charitie is lyke fyre, whyche is easily put oute if it be abated. ¶1593 T. HILL *Profitable Arte of Gard.* 137 The sauor of them [garlic] wilbe greatly abated. ¶1599 SHAKES. *Hen. V*, iii. ii. 24 Abate thy Rage, abate thy manly Rage. ¶1611 BIBLE *Deut.* xxxiv. 7 His eye was not dimme, nor his naturall force abated. ¶1670 WALTON *Lives* iv. 288 Lord, abate my great affliction, or increase my patience. ¶1759 ROBERTSON *Hist. Scot.* I. ii. 156 She shook the fidelity, or abated the ardour of some. ¶1859 MILL *Liberty* ii. 68 To abate the force of these considerations.

14. intr. To fall off in force or intensity; grow less, calm down.

c1400 *Destr. Troy* xi. 4665 Sesit the wyndis; The bremnes abated. ¶1599 SHAKES. *Hen. V*, iv. iv. 50 My fury shall abate, and I The Crownes will take. ¶1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* i. 463 (1721) When Winter's Rage abates, when chearful Hours Awake the Spring. ¶1720 DE FOE *Capt. Singleton* xvi. 274 Towards morning the wind abated a little. ¶1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. vi. iii. 322 This conflagration of the South-East will abate. ¶1869 *Echo* Oct. 9 The Foot and Mouth Disease which has been raging with some virulence is now beginning to abate.

IV. To strike off, deduct.

15. trans. To strike off or take away a part, to deduct, subtract. *a.* with of (out of, from obs.).

¶c1391 CHAUCER *Astrol.* 34 Abate thanne thees degrees And minutes owt of 90. ¶1413 LYDGATE *Pylgr. Sowle* iv. viii. 62 (1483) He nele noo thyng abaten of the prys. ¶1551 RECORDE *Pathway to Knowl.* ii. Introd., And if you abate euen portions from things that are equal, those partes that remain shall be equall also. ¶1570 DEE *Math. Praef.* 9 If from 4. ye abate 1. there resteth 3. ¶1611 BIBLE *Lev.* xxvii. 18 It shall be abated from thy estimation. ¶1679–88 *Secret Service Moneys of Chas. & Jas.* II, 126 (Camd. S. 1851) To be abated out of the moneys that are or shall be due to him for work. ¶1741 *Complete Family-Piece* i. ii. 192 Take..9 eggs, abating 4 whites.

¶1745 DE FOE *Eng. Tradesm.* I. xix. 178 Rather than abate a farthing of the price they had asked. ¶1866 ROGERS *Agric. & Prices* I. xx. 506 The merchant abating something of his morning price.

b. with obj. (orig. dat.) of the person.

1465 *Manners & Househ. Exps.* 465 Roberd Thrope lente me l.s...and herof he moste a bate me [= to me] .xiiiij.s. ¶1647 SANDERSON *Sermons Ad Aul.* xv. 1 (1673) 209 He therefore sendeth for his Master's Debtors forthwith; abateth them of their several Sums, and makes the Books agree. ¶1671 J. FLAVEL *Fount. of Life* iii. 6 When the Payment was making, he will not abate him one Farthing. ¶1771 FRANKLIN *Autobiog.* Wks. 1840 I. 61 She would abate me two shillings a week for the future.

c. absol. To make an abatement.

1530 PALSGR. 420, I alowe or abate upon a rekenyng or accompte made. ¶1745 DE FOE *Eng. Tradesm.* I. xix. 179 He cannot abate without underselling the market, or underrating the value of his goods. ¶1817 JAS. MILL *Brit. India* II. iv. iv. 134 Lacey offered to abate in his pecuniary demand.

16. fig. To omit, leave out of count; to bar or except.

1588 SHAKES. *L.L.L.* v. ii. 547 Abate [a] throw at Novum, and the whole world againe, Cannot pricke out five such. ¶1700 LAW *Council of Trade* 253 (1751) Abating accidents which happen but seldom. ¶1772 JOHNSON in *Boswell* (1816) II. 149 Abating his brutality, he was a very good master. ¶1865 SALA *Diary in America* I. 307 Abating the gold and silver plate.

17. To abate of (a thing): to deduct something from, make an abatement from; to lower, or lessen in amount. arch.

1644 BULWER *Chirologia* 144 It falls short and abates of the perfection of the thing. ¶1645 BP. HALL *Remedy of Discontent*. 27 Their fading condition justly abates of their value. ¶1653 IZAAK WALTON *Compl. Angler* 2 [I shall] either abate of my pace, or mend it, to enjoy such a companion. ¶1765 TUCKER *Lt. of Nat.* II. 635 Their own experience and the world they converse with will abate of this excess. ¶1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* v. iii. 22 The guide abating of his pace Led slowly through the pass's jaws.

V. Technical.

18. Falconry. To beat with the wings, flutter. More commonly aphetized to bate. Obs.

c1430 *Bk. of Hawkyng in Rel. Antiq.* I. 297 If that she [the hawk] abate, let her flee, but be war that thou constreyned her not to flee. ¶1575 TURBERVILLE *Booke of Falc.* 135 You shall keepe hir alwayes in best plighte and leaste daunger to abate.

19. In Horsemanship. 'A Horse is said to Abate, when working upon Curvets, he puts his two hind Legs to the Ground, both at once, and observes the same Exactness at all Times.' Bailey 1721; whence in J. and subseq. Dicts. Obs.

abdicate v.

(ˈæbdɪkeɪt)

[f. L. *abdicāt-*, ppl. stem of *abdicā-re* to renounce, disown, reject; f. *ab* off, away + *dicā-re* to proclaim, make known.]

1. trans. To proclaim or declare to be no longer one's own, to disclaim, disown, cast off; esp. to disown or disinherit children. Now only as a tech. term of Rom. Law (L. *abdicare filium*, also *patrem*).

1541 ELYOT *Im. Gov.* 149 The father..doeth abdicate nowe and then one, that is to saie, putteth them out of his familie. ¶1644 MILTON *Jus Pop.* 34 Parents may not causelessly abdicate or disinherit children. ¶1697 POTTER *Antiq. Greece* iv. xv. 351 (1715) Parents were allow'd to be reconcil'd to their children, but after that could never abdicate them again. ¶1763 SHENSTONE *Essays* 117 Wherever I disesteemed, I would abdicate my first cousin.

¶1828 SEWELL *Oxf. Pr. Essay* 70 Sons were exposed, abdicated, and sold by the laws of Solon.

2. To depose (from an office or dignity). Obs.

1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* i. 2. iii. xv. 127 (1651) The Turks abdicated Cernutus, the next heir, from the empire.

3. refl. To formally cut oneself off, sever, or separate oneself from anything; esp. to divest oneself of an office (L. *abdicare se magistratu*). Obs.

1548 HALL *Chron. Introd. Hist. Hen. IV.* 11 (1809) To perswade a man.. to Abdicate himselfe from his empire and imperiall preheminnence.

¶1689 EVELYN *Mem.* (1857) II. 299 The great convention..resolved that King James..had by demise abdicated himself and wholly vacated his right. ¶1689 H. MORE *Myst. Iniq.* 28 A Prince..who, by transgressing against the Laws of the Constitution, hath abdicated himself from the Government, and stands virtually Deposed.

4. trans. To put away, cast off, discard (anything). Obs.

1553–87 FOXE *A. & M.* (1596) 333/2 The King our souereigne lord and maister cannot abdicate from himselfe this right. ¶1633 BP. HALL *Hard Texts* 343 Neither hast thou, O Cyrus, so well known me as to abdicate thine Idolatry. ¶1642 ROGERS *Naaman* 527 If the Lord Jesus purposely would defile and abdicate the seventh day Sabbath of the Jew. ¶1688–9 LADY R. RUSSELL *Letters* No. 84. II. 11 Accidents may abdicate your opinion.

5. To formally give up (a right, trust, office, or dignity); to renounce, lay down, surrender, abandon; at first implying voluntary renunciation, but now including the idea of abandonment by default. See the parliamentary discussions of 1688.

1633 BP. HALL *Hard Texts* 41 Abdicating our just privileges. ¶1688 LD SOMERS *Speech on the Vacation of the Throne* The word abdicate doth naturally and properly signify, entirely to renounce, to throw off, disown, relinquish any thing or person, so as to have no further to do with it; and that whether it be done by express words or in writing (which is the sense your Lordships put upon it, and which is properly called resignation or cession), or by doing such acts as are inconsistent with the holding and retaining of the thing, which the Commons take to be the present case. ¶1726 DE FOE *Hist. Devil* (1840) i. i. 14 The thrones which the Devil and his followers abdicated and were deposed from. ¶1783 JOHNSON *Club Rules in Boswell* (1816) IV. 277 Whoever shall for three months together omit to attend..shall be considered as having abdicated the club. ¶1805 FOSTER *Essays* i. vii. 90 To have abdicated the dignity of reason. ¶1857 PRESCOTT *Philip* i. i. 10 The Regent Mary formally abdicated her authority. ¶1857 RUSKIN *Pol. Econ. Art.*, 5 A power not indeed to be envied..but still less to be abdicated or despised.

6. Comm. Law. Said of the insurer surrendering his rights of ownership to the underwriters.

1755 N. MAGENS *Ess. Insur.* II. 36 The Owners of such Gold, Silver, or Pearls, cannot renounce or abdicate them to the Underwriters.

7. absol. (by ellipsis of the thing resigned, usually the throne or crown). To renounce or relinquish sovereignty, or its equivalent.

a1704 T. BROWN *Epigr.* Wks. 1730 I. 121 Either he must abdicate or thou. ¶1726 DE FOE *Hist. Devil* (1840) ii. i. 181 The Devil abdicated for awhile. ¶1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. vii. xi. 399 Is it not strange so few kings abdicate; and none yet heard of has been known to commit suicide? ¶1879 GLADSTONE *Gleanings* III. i. 5 The Majority have in virtue and effect abdicated, and their opponents are the true and genuine corporation.

aberrant a.

(ə'berənt)

[ad. L. aberrant-em, pr. pple. of aberrā-re. See aberr.]

1. lit. Wandering away or straying from a defined path; hence fig. diverging or deviating from any moral standard.

¶1848 KINGSLEY *Saint's Trag.* (1878) iv. ii. 123 Such a choice must argue Aberrant senses, or degenerate blood. ¶1864 COCKRAN *tr. Pressensé's Reply to Renan* 83 People see in it the signs of a diseased, aberrant genius.

2. Deviating widely from the ordinary or natural type, exceptional, irregular, abnormal; especially in Nat. Hist.

¶1830 LYELL *Princ. Geol.* (1875) II. iii. xxxvii. 322 If there be such prone-ness in each aberrant form to merge into the normal type. ¶1835 KIRBY *Habits & Inst. An.* II. xvi. 74 The usual oral organs, though a little aberrant in their structure. ¶1839 HALLAM *Lit. Eur.* i. viii. §28 These aberrant lines are much more common in the dramatic blank verse of the seventeenth century. ¶1857 H. MILLER *Sch. & Schoolm.* viii. 167 His mother, though of a devout family of the old Scottish type, was an aberrant specimen. ¶1878 M. FOSTER *Physiology* iv. v. 560 The events are much more characteristic in the typical female than in the aberrant male. ¶1881 WESTCOTT & HORT *N.T. in Greek* II. 240 It would be..difficult to derive the neutral reading from any coalescence of the aberrant readings.

Hence **aberrantly** adv.

¶1878 G.G. SCOTT *Recoll.* (1879) vii. 291 Skidmore followed my design, but somewhat aberrantly. ¶1929 *New Statesman* 31 Aug. 614/1 Most unfortunately we have aberrantly accepted a mandate for Palestine.

abominate v.

(ə'bɒmineɪt)

[f. L. *abōmināt-* ppl. stem of *abōminā-ri*: see *abominable* and *-ate*.]

1. To feel extreme disgust and hatred towards; to regard with intense aversion; to abhor, loathe.

¶1644 BULWER *Chironomia* 53 Who refuse, abhor, detest or abominate some execrable thing. ¶1649 MILTON *Eikon*. i. 339 (1851) A Scotch Warr, condemn'd and abominated by the whole kingdom. ¶1706 DE FOE *Jure Divino Pref.* 4 Those who Swore to him when he was King..are all Perjur'd Rebels; abominable, and to be abominated by all good Men. ¶1728 NEWTON *Chronol. Amended* 9 The Egyptians..lived only on the fruits of the earth, and abominated flesh-eaters. ¶1866 MOTLEY *Dutch Rep.* iii. v. 437 Influential persons in Madrid had openly abominated the cruel form of amnesty which had been decreed.

2. loosely. To dislike strongly.

¶1880 V. LEE *Italy* iv. iii. 170 Steele..had no musical sense, and abominated operas. ¶1881 A. TROLLOPE *Ayala's Angel* III. xlv. 37 Then he spake again 'I do abominate a perverse young woman.'

abrasive a. and n.

(ə'breɪsɪv)

[f. L. *abrās-us*: see *abrase* + *-ive*; as if from a L. **abrāsivus*.]

A. adj. **a.** Having the property of abrading.

¶1875 URE *Dict. Arts* s.v. Abrasion, The abrasive tool or grinder is exactly a counterpart of the form to be produced. ¶1880 G.C. WALLICH in *Athen.* 6 Mar. 316 To dispose of the supposition that the shape of the Pyrospores is due to any rolling or abrasive action at the sea bed.

b. fig.

¶1925 T. DREISER *Amer. Trag.* (1926) I. ii. xxxiv. 387 His mind was troubled with hard, abrasive thoughts. ¶1963 EDMUND WILSON in *New Statesman* 8 Feb. 198/3 Abrasive is coming in, in application to literary qualities.

B. n. An abrasive substance or body.

¶1853 O. BYRNE *Artisan's Handbk.* 17 To polish the tool upon the oil-stone, or other fine abrasive for setting the edge. ¶1951 *Good Housek. Home*

Encycl. 11/1 Abrasives are useful for heavily soiled surfaces, when soap and water or detergents are unsuccessful and some gentle friction is required.

¶1960 *Jrnl. Iron & Steel Inst.* CXIV. 406/1 A study of bonded abrasives.

abrogate v.

(ˈæbrəgeɪt)

[f. prec., or on analogy of vbs. so formed.]

1. To repeal (a law, or established usage), to annul, to abolish authoritatively or formally, to cancel.

¶1526 TINDALE *Heb.* viii. 13 In that he sayth a new testament he hath abrogat the olde. ¶1553 WILSON *Rhetorique* 24b, They abrogate suche vowes as were proclaimed to be kept. ¶1649 MILTON *Eikon.* 46 Doubtless it repented him to have establish'd that by Law, which he went about so soon to abrogat by the Sword. ¶1666 FULLER *Hist. Cambr.* (1840) 157 Thus was the pope's power fully abrogated out of England. ¶1775 BURKE *Sp. Con-cil. with Amer.* Wks. III. 60 We wholly abrogated the ancient government of Massachuset. ¶1841 MYERS *Cath. Thoughts* iv. §26. 305 The Law of the Jews..was not rejected nor contradicted by the Gospel..but simply abrogated by being absorbed. ¶1862 LD. BROUGHAM *Brit. Constitn.* i. 22 But the same power which formed these rules may abrogate or suspend them.

2. To do away with, put an end to.

¶1588 SHAKES. *L.L.L.* iv. ii. 55 Perge, good M. Holofernes, perge, so it shall please you to abrogate scurilitie. ¶1634 T. HERBERT *Travaile* 141 Others say all the world was a paradise till sinne abrogated its glory. ¶1851 MRS. BROWNING *Casa Guidi Wind.* 95 Pay certified, yet payers abrogated.

¶1855 OWEN *Skel. & Teeth* 86 In the whales the movements of these vertebræ upon one another are abrogated.

3. Immunol. To suppress or prevent (a physiological process).

¶1959 [implied in *ABROGATION n. below]. ¶1965 *Science* 2 July 82/2 The inhibition of cell growth in the hybrids., which is detected by tumor transplantation into mice, could be abrogated by treatment of the recipient mice with cortisone acetate. ¶1974 *Nature* 10 May 161/1 (heading) Lymphocytes from human newborns abrogate mitosis of their mother's lymphocytes. ¶1990 *EMBO Jrnl.* IX. 3821/2 PT application abrogates interleukin-2 (IL-2) secretion from a murine hybridoma.

abstemious a.

(æb'sti:mɪəs)

[f. L. abstēmi-us + -ous. Abstemius was considered by L. writers to be f. abs away from + tēmētum intoxicating liquor; but even in L. was extended to temperance in living generally. The verbal resemblance to abstain, absteine, has in Eng. given it a still wider use, and also produced the forms absteinous, abstenious.]

1. Dispensing with wine and rich food; temperate or sparing in food; characterized by or belonging to such temperance; sparing. **a.** Of persons, their lives, or habits.

¶1624 HEYWOOD *Gunaikeion* v. 226 To this absteinous life shee added the strict vow of chastitie. ¶1718 POPE *Iliad* xix. 328 Let me pay To grief and anguish one abstemious day. ¶1832 CARLYLE *Remin.* i. 26 Mother and father were assiduous, abstemious, frugal without stinginess. ¶1878 BLACK *Green Past. and Picc.* xxix. 234 They were remarkably abstemious at breakfast.

b. Of the food.

¶1776–88 GIBBON *Decl. & Fall* lviii, His [Peter the Hermit's] diet was abstemious, his prayers long and fervent. ¶1832 SCOTT *Talism.* ii. 26 The meal of the Saracen was abstemious.

2. Abstinent, refraining, sparing (with regard to other things than food). rare.

¶1610 SHAKES. *Temp.* iv. i. 53 Be more abstemious, Or else good night your vow. ¶1632 MASSINGER *Maid of Hon.* ii. ii. The king..Is good and gracious..Abstemious from base and goatish looseness. ¶1823 LAMB *Elia* (1865) i. xxi. 163 You advised an abstemious introduction of literary topics.

abstinent a. and n.

('æbstɪnənt)

[a. Fr. abstinent, refashioned on OFr. astenant:—L. abstinent-em, pr. pple. of abstinē-re: see abstain.]

A. adj. Holding back or refraining; esp. from indulgence of appetite; continent, abstemious, temperate.

¶c1386 CHAUCER *Pars. T.* 873 Abstinent in etyng and drynkyng, in speche and in dede. ¶c1440 *Prompt. Parv.* Abstynent, or absteynyng.

¶1588 A. KING *Canisius' Catech.* 132 b, Bot he, quha is abstinent, sal prolonge his lyf. ¶1603 HOLLAND *Plutarch's Morals* 651 And he againe, who is too too sober, and abstinent altogether, becommeth unpleasant and unsociable. ¶1713 *Guardian* (1756) I. 16 She has passed several years in widowhood with that abstinent enjoyment of life, which has done honour to her deceased husband. ¶1867 J. MARTINEAU *Chr. Life* (ed. 4) 84 What abstinent integrity is..demanded by many a master.

B. n. One who abstains, an abstainer, a faster. In Eccl. Hist. the Abstinentes were a sect who appeared in the 3rd century.

¶c1440 *Prompt. Parv.* Abstynent..or he that dothe abstynence. ¶1615 CHAPMAN *Odyssey* xvii. 381 And this same harmful belly by no mean The greatest abstinent can ever wean. ¶1669 J. REYNOLDS *Disc. in Harl. Misc.* (1745) iv. 48 Some of these Abstinentes were of melancholick complexions.

¶1753 CHAMBERS *Cyc. Suppl.* s.v., Some represent the Abstinentes..that they particularly enjoined abstinence from the use of marriage; others say, from flesh; and others, from wine. ¶1860 *All Y. Round* No. 64. 322 There is also [in China] a female sect called the Abstinentes..who make a vow to abstain from everything that has enjoyed life, and to eat nothing but vegetables.

abstruse a.

(æb'stru:s)

[ad. L. abstrūs-us thrust away, concealed, pa. pple. of abstrūd-ĕre: see prec. Mentioned by P. Heylin as an 'uncouth and unusual word' in 1656.]

1. Concealed, hidden, secret. Obs.

¶1602 THYNNE *Chaucer* (1865) 107 The Abstruse skill, the artificiall veine; By true Annalogie I ryhtly find. ¶1620 SHELTON *Don Quixote* (1746) II. iv. xv. 194 Hidden in the most abstruse dungeons of Barbary. ¶1667 MILTON *P.L.* v. 712 The eternal eye, whose sight discerns Abstrusest thoughts. ¶1762 B. STILLINGFLEET *Linn. Or. in Misc. Tracts* 9 That the abstruse forces of the elements, which otherwise would escape our senses, may be made manifest.

2. Remote from apprehension or conception; difficult, recondite.

¶1599 THYNNE *Animadv.* (1865) 36 That abstruce scyence whiche Chaucer knewe full well. ¶1671 MILTON *Samson* 1064 Be less abstruse, my riddling days are past. ¶1704 SWIFT *Tale of a Tub* Wks. 1760 I. 13 Readers, who cannot enter into the abstruser parts of the discourse. ¶1751 WATTS *Improv. Mind* (1801) 107 Let not young students apply themselves to search out

deep, dark, and abstruse matters, far above their reach. ¶1848 H. MILLER *First Impr.* (1857) xix. 340 Men who had wrought their way..into some of the abstrusest questions of the schools. ¶1855 MILMAN *Lat. Chr.* (1864) V. ix. viii. 380 But these were solitary abstruse thinkers or minds which formed a close esoteric school.

accolade *n.*

(ækəʊˈleɪd, ækəʊˈlɑːd; now usu. ˈækəʊleɪd)

[a. mod.Fr. *accolade*, ad. It. *accollata*, n. f. pa. pple. of *accollare* to embrace about the neck; see *accol*, and *-ade*. Introduced into Fr. in 16th c. superseding the OFr. cogn. *acolée*; it has similarly superseded the earlier *acolee* in Eng.]

1.a. Properly, an embrace or clasping about the neck; technical name of the salutation marking the bestowal of knighthood, applied at different times to an embrace, a kiss, and a slap on the shoulders with the flat blade of a sword.

[Not in Cotgrave 1611 who has *Accollade* (Fr.) a colling, clipping, imbracing about the necke; Hence, the dubbing of a Knight, or the ceremony used therein.]

¶1623 FAVINE *Theat. Honour* i. vi. 51 Giuing him also the Accollade, that is to say, Kissing him. ¶1706 PHILLIPS *Accollade*, clipping and colling, embracing about the Neck. ¶1753 CHAMBERS *Cycl. Supp.* s.v. Antiquaries are not agreed, wherein the Accolade properly consisted. ¶1817 SCOTT *Wav.* I. x. 131 The quantities of Scotch snuff which his accolade communicated. ¶1852 C.M. YONGE *Cameos* I. xvi. 122. (1877) Henry conferred on him the accolade, or sword blow, which was the chief part of the ceremony. ¶1858 WISEMAN *Last Four Popes* 511 Could he [the Pope] receive him [Czar Nicholas] with a bland smile and insincere accolade?

b. fig. A supreme honour; a mark of approval or admiration; a bestowal of praise, a plaudit; an acknowledgement of merit.

¶1852 P.J. BAILEY *Festus* (ed. 5) 250, I would knight you on the spot, But, really, I'm afraid, my sword's forgot. However, take my verbal accolade!

¶1906 'O. Henry' in *Munsey's Mag.* Aug. 559/2 All this meant that Curly had won his spurs, that he was receiving the puncher's accolade. ¶1940 W. FAULKNER *Hamlet* ii. ii. 131 The impotent youths who..had conferred upon them likewise blindly and unearned the accolade of success. ¶1955 E. BLISHEN *Roaring Boys* i. 18 Improbable accolades. 'Good old sir!' 'You're a sport, sir!' ¶1961 M. BEADLE *These Ruins are Inhabited* (1963) ix. 113 A

Nobel Prize is the top accolade a scientist can receive. ¶1974 'J. Herriot' *Vet in Harness* xii. 89 Once the long process had been completed and the last piece of marzipan and icing applied she dearly loved to have the accolade from an expert. ¶1984 *Ann. Rep. Racal Electronics PLC* 7/1 The highest accolade in the engineering profession—election to the Fellowship of Engineering—was bestowed in April 1984 on Geoffrey Lomer.

2. Music. A vertical line or brace, used to couple together two or more staves. (Sometimes confined to a straight thick line so used, as distinguished from a brace or double curve; but in mod.Fr. *accollade* = the brace or double curve ⟨horizb⟩, used not merely in music but in ordinary printing, algebra, classification, etc.)

¶1882 ROCKSTRO in *Grove Dict. Mus. s.v. Score*, In Scores..the Staves are united, at the beginning of every page, either by a Brace, or by a thick line, drawn, like a bar, across the whole, and called the Accolade.

acerbic a.

(ə'sɜːbɪk)

[f. L. *acerb-us* + *-ic*.]

Of a sour, harsh, or severe character. Freq. of speech, manner, or temper: sharp, cutting.

¶1865 *North Brit. Daily Mail* 4 Dec., Exaggerated notions are entertained now-a-days regarding the gloomy acerbic nature of Sabbath observance among the ancient Jews. ¶1971 *Times Lit. Suppl.* 21 May 582/1 The fury he aroused in the acerbic breast of Karl Marx. ¶1976 *Economist* 13 Mar. 33 As defeat in Florida came closer., his speeches grew less polite and more acerbic. ¶1984 *Washington Post* 3 Aug. b7 Although they borrow from Tom Lehrer and Mark Russell., they are far less acerbic—perhaps because they are part of what they lampoon.

acme n.

(ˈækmiː)

[a. Gr. ἀκμή point. Long consciously used as a Gr. word, and written in Gr. letters from Ascham 1570 to Goldsmith 1750, although spelt as Eng. by B. Jonson 1625, and commonly afterwards.]

1. gen. The highest point or pitch; the culmination, or point of perfection, in the career or development of anything.

¶1570 R. ASCHAM *Scholem*. (1863) 93 The Latin tong, even whan it was, as the Grecians say, in ἀκμή, that is, at the hiest pitch of all perfitnesse. ¶a1637 B. JONSON *Discov*. So that he may be named, and stand as the mark and ἀκμή of our language. ¶1641 W. CARTWRIGHT *Lady Err*. ii. iv. (1651) 23 I' th' heat and achme of devotion. ¶1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist*. iii. 78 Date we from this day, the achme or vertical height of Abbeys, which henceforward began to stand still, & at last to decline. ¶1659 LESTRANGE *Alliance Div. Off*. ix. The Liturgy and ceremonie of our Church, drawing nigh to its ἀκμή. ¶1675 OGILBY *Brit. Ded.*, In the Achma of the Three Last Empires of the World. ¶1765 GOLDSM. *Ess., Taste*, By the age of ten his genius was at the ἀκμή. ¶1790 BURKE *Fr. Revol.* Wks. V. 236 The growth of population in France was by no means at its acmé in that year. ¶1800 WEEMS *Washington* (1877) xi. 155 Having at length attained the acme of all his wishes. ¶1817 MALTHUS *Population* III. 57 No country has ever reached, or probably ever will reach, its highest possible acme of produce. ¶1835 I. TAYLOR *Spir. Despotism* §5. 188 A position whence the transition was easy to the acmé of unbounded despotism. ¶1868 GLADSTONE *Juv. Mundi* (1870) xi. 421 It is however in Achilles that courtesy reaches to its acmé. ¶1880 *Boy's Own Bk.* 240 The acme of bicycle riding.

2. esp. a. The period of full growth, the flower or full-bloom of life. Obs.

¶1620 VENNER *Via Recta* viii. 174 They haue not attained vnto the Acme, or full height of their growing. ¶1625 B. JONSON *Staple of News Prol.* (1631) 5 He must be one that can instruct your youth, And keepe your Acme in the state of truth. ¶1650 BULWER *Anthropometam.* §22. 245 [It] may be either in the achma or declination of our age. ¶1660 T. STANLEY *Hist. Philos.* (1701) 259/2 Youth is the encrease of the first Refrigerative part, Age the decrease thereof, ἄκμη, the constant and perfect Life which is betwixt both. ¶1664 EVELYN *Sylva* 37 Every tree..after each seven years improving twelve pence in growth, till they arriv'd to their acme. ¶1844 STANLEY *Arnold's Life & Corr.* II. x. 314 The thought that the forty-ninth year, fixed by Aristotle as the acme of the human faculties, lay still some years before him.

b. The point of extreme violence of a disease, the crisis. arch.

¶c1630 JACKSON *Creed* viii. xiii. Wks. VII. 496 Christ Jesus..in the very ἀκμή of his agony..did set the fairest copy of that obedience. ¶1676 GREW *Plants, Lect.* ii. i. §26 (1682) 242 We may conceive the reason of the sudden access of an acute Disease, and of its Crisis..when the Cause is arrived unto such an ἀκμή. ¶1752 in *Phil. Trans.* XLVII. lxxiii. 586 From the beginning to the flatus or acme of the disease, they almost all die. ¶1837 CARLYLE *Fr.*

Rev. (1872) I. v. vi. 167 Paris wholly has got to the acme of its frenzy.

3. Used attrib. to designate (a screw having) a type of modified square thread whose grooves have sides inclined at an angle of 29°.

¶1895 *Amer. Machinist* XVIII. 2 Mr. Handy has named the new thread the 'Acme Standard'. ¶1920 *Ibid.* LIII. 105 The Acme thread was not designed for any particular ratio of pitch for a given diameter although W. S. Dix..recommended that the ratios of pitch to diameter be in the proportion of one half the number of threads or twice the pitch of the U.S. standard screw.

¶1930 *Engineering* 6 June 721/1 A narrow thread must throw up less metal in its thread than a Vee-thread, or an acme thread. ¶1964 S. CRAWFORD *Basic Engin. Processes* (1969) v. 116 Travel of the cross-slide is controlled by a screw, usually of square or acme thread form.

acolyte n.

(ˈækələɪt)

[ad. med.L. acolitus, acolithus, acolythus, corrupt forms of acolūthus a. Gr. ἀκόλουθος following, attending upon, subst. an attendant. The normal form is acoluth, as written by some of the 16th c. scholars. Occ. aphetized to colet, and expanded to acolythist, acolouthite.]

1. *Eccl.* An inferior officer in the church who attended the priests and deacons, and performed subordinate duties, as lighting and bearing candles, etc.

¶c1000 *ÆLFRIC Past. Ep. in Anc. Laws* II. 378 Acolitus is se þe leoht berð æt Godes þenungum. ¶c1315 *SHOREHAM* 45 The ferthe [degree in orders] acolyt hys to segge y-wys Tapres to bere wel worthe. ¶1382 *WYCLIF Coloss. Prol.*, Therefore the apostle, thennis boundyn, writith to hem fro Efficie bi Tyte, a dekene, and Honesym, acolite. ¶1460 J. CAPGRAVE *Chron.* 74 He that schuld be mad a Bischop schuld first be a benet..and then a colet; and then subdiacone, diacone, and prest. ¶1555 *Fardle of Facions* ii. xii. 267 The Acholite, whiche we calle Benet or Cholet, occupieth the rume of Candle-bearer. ¶1561 T. N[ORTON] *Calvin's Inst.* (1634) iv. 155 They play ye Philosophers about ye name of Acoluth, calling him a Ceroferar, a taper bearer with a worde..wheras Acoluthos in Greke simply signifieth a folower.

¶1588 A. KING *Canisius' Catech.* 109 Gif ony man deseruis to be ane Bishope lat him first be ostiar, secundlie lecteur, nixt ane Exorcist, efter ane Acolyt.

¶1594 *HOOKE Eccl. Pol.* vii. xx. Wks. III. 347 The bishops attendants, his followers they were; in regard of which service the name of Acolythes seemeth plainly to have been given. ¶1637 *GILLESPIE Eng. Popish Cerem.* iii. viii.

161 Exorcists, Monkes, Eremites, Acoluths, and all the whole rabble of Popish orders. ¶1649 SELDEN *Laws of Eng.* i. x. (1739) 18 Acolites, which waited with the Taper ready lighted. ¶1824 SOUTHEY *Bk. of the Ch.* I. 353 The candlestick, taper and urceole were taken from him as acolyte. ¶1849 W. FITZGERALD tr. *Whitaker's Disput.* 505 The apostolic canons..name only five orders,—the bishop, priest, deacon, reader, and chanter, omitting the exorcist, porter, and acolyth. ¶1855 tr. *Labarte's Arts Mid. Ages & Renaiss.* i. 15 Two acolythes carried the candlesticks. ¶1873 W.H. DIXON *Two Queens* I. vi. x. 369 At every porch a priest came out with acolyte and choir.

2. In other senses: **a.** An attendant or junior assistant in any ceremony or operation; a novice.

¶1829 SCOTT *Demonol.* vii. 213 Nor are such acolytes found to evade justice with less dexterity than the more advanced rogues. ¶1831 *Kenilw.* xxxii. (1853) 296 To awaken the bounty of the acolytes of chivalry. ¶1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* i. 137 It was the function of the acolyte to dart at sleeping infants.

b. An attendant insect or other animal. ¶1876 BENEDEN *An. Paras.* 4 Species at the mercy of others, and dependent on acolytes, which are in every respect inferior to themselves.

c. An attendant star. ¶1876 CHAMBERS *Astron.* 910 Acolyte..sometimes used to designate the smaller of two stars placed in close contiguity.

acquiesce v.

(ækwɪ'ɛs)

[a. MFr. acquiesce-r (16th c. in Littré), f. L. acquiēsc-ēre; f. ac- = ad- to, at + quiēsc-ēre to rest.]

1. intr. To remain at rest, either physically or mentally; to rest satisfied (in a place or state). Obs.

¶c1620 A. HUME *Orthogr. Brit. Tongue* (1865) 9 But as now we sound it in quies and quiesco, the judicious ear may discern tuæ soundes. But because heer we differ not, I wil acquiess. ¶1642 HOWELL *For. Trav.* (1869) 88 Being safely returned to his Mother soile, he may very well acquiesse in her lap. ¶1756 BURKE *Subl. & B. Wks.* I. i. §9. 136 We were not made to acquiesce in life and health. ¶1788 PRIESTLEY *Lect. on Hist.* v. li. 386 No situation—in which he can entirely acquiesce, so as to look out for no farther improvements.

b. To acquiesce from: To rest, or cease from. Obs. rare.

¶1659 LESTRANGE *Alliance Div. Off.* (1846) 12, I resolved totally to acquiesce from such contests.

c. To acquiesce under: To remain in quiet subjection, to submit quietly, to remain submissive. Obs.

¶1680 in SOMERS *Tracts* II. 90 For if he be innocent, and that the Right of Succession be his, all Men will quietly acquiesce under him. ¶1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* ix. vii. (1840) 137/2 Our readers may not so easily acquiesce under the same ignorance. ¶1771 Junius *Lett.* xlv. 236 Privilege of parliament..has hitherto been acquiesced under. ¶1781 T. JEFFERSON *Corr. Wks.* 1859 I. 310 [It may] lead the minds of the people to acquiesce under those events which they see no human power prepared to ward off.

2. To agree tacitly to, concur in; to accept (the conclusions or arrangements of others).

¶1651 HOBBS *Leviathan* i. vii. 32 Our Beleefe..is in the Church; whose word we take, and acquiesce therein. ¶1672 MARVELL *Rehearsal Transp.* i. 52 You are bound to acquiesce in his judgment, whatsoever may be your private Opinion. ¶1690 LUTTRELL *Brief Rel.* (1857) II. 21 The said city acquiesced, and wrote a submissive letter to the king. ¶1781 COWPER *Lett.* 4 Oct. Wks. 1876, 85, I perfectly acquiesce in the propriety of sending Johnson a copy of my productions. ¶1831 SCOTT *F.M. Perth* xi. (1874) 115 Douglas seemed to acquiesce in the necessity of patience for the time. ¶1877 MOZLEY *Univ. Serm.* iv. 76 They speak with an air of men whose claims have been acquiesced in by others.

b. Const. to, with. Obs.

¶1651 HOBBS *Gov. & Soc.* xi. §6. 171 We must acquiesce to their sayings, whom we have truly constituted to be Kings over us. ¶1685 LADY R. RUSSELL *Lett.* 24. I. 64 The great thing is to acquiesce with all one's heart to the good pleasure of God. ¶1703 DE FOE *Shortest way to Peace in Miscell.* I. 465 If they acquiesce with a Church of England Government. ¶1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) V. 33 Clarissa had a double inducement for acquiescing with the proposed method.

3. trans. To bring to rest; to appease, satisfy, or harmonize. Obs.

¶1658–9 LOCKYER in Burton *Diary* (1628) IV. 114 This union did most acquiesce all interests.

acrimonious a.

(ˌækriˈmɒniəs)

[ad. Fr. *acrimonieux*, -euse, ad. med.L. *ācrimōniōs*-us, f. *ācrimōnia*; see *acrimony* and -ous.]

1. 1 = acrid 1. arch.

¶1612 WOODALL *Surgeon's Mate* Wks. 1653, 180 If it proceed of an acrimonious fretting humor, etc. ¶1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 336 Artificiall copperose..is a rough and acrimonious kinde of salt. ¶1664 H. POWER *Exp. Philos.* i. 63 A sharp and acrimonious vapour that strikes our nostrils. ¶1732 ARBUTHNOT *Rules of Diet* 298 All Substances that abound with an acrimonious Salt and Volatile Oil are hurtful. ¶1813 MARSHALL *Gardening* §19, 328 (ed. 5) The sap is very (even dangerously) acrimonious. ¶1856 MILL *Logic* iv. v. §4 (1868) II. 244 Natural substances which possessed strong and acrimonious properties.

2. Bitter and irritating in disposition or manner; bitter-tempered.

¶1775 JOHNSON *Tax. no Tyr.* 69 Malignity thus acrimonious. ¶1831 SCOTT *Abbot* i. 12 Engaged in a furious and acrimonious contest. ¶1833 I. TAYLOR *Fanaticism* §1, 2 If..his feelings are petulant and acrimonious. ¶1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* I. 565 Only a single acrimonious expression escaped him. ¶1861 MAY *Const. Hist. Eng.* I. i. 54 (1863) Political hostility had been embittered by the most acrimonious disputes.

acronym n., orig. U.S.

(ˈækrənɪm)

[f. *acro-* (Gr. *ἀκρο-* highest) + *-onym* after homonym.]

A word formed from the initial letters of other words. Hence as v. trans., to convert into an acronym (chiefly pass. and as pa. pple.). Also acronymic a.; acronymically adv.; acronyming vbl. n.; acronymize v. trans.

¶1943 *Amer. N. & Q.* Feb. 167/1 Words made up of the initial letters or syllables of other words..I have seen..called by the name acronym. ¶1947 *Word Study* 6 (title) Acronym Talk, or 'Tomorrow's English'. ¶1947 *Word Study* May 6/2 Some new forms combine the initial syllables (resembling blends) instead of initial letters, as in the case of Amvets (American Veterans' Association)..but they still are in the spirit of acronyming. Ibid. 7/2 There has definitely been a speed-up in 'acronyming'. ¶1950 S. POTTER *Our Language* 163 Acronyms or telescoped names like nabisco from National Biscuit

Company. ¶1954 *Britannica Bk. of Yr. 1954* 638/1 Typical of acronymic coinages, or words based on initials, were..mash (Mobile Army Surgical Hospital). ¶1956 R. WELLS in M. Halle et al. *For Roman Jakobson* 665 Take the WE counterpart of the SE expression to be acronymized (North Atlantic Treaty Organization), and select from each word the first one or two or three letters in such a way that the selected letters, assembled and regarded as one word, will have a normal, pronounceable SE counterpart. ¶1967 *Sci. News* 19 Aug. 177/1 The TacSatCom, as it is acronymed, is a small-scale system which should be in the field soon. ¶1971 *Daily Tel.* 3 Feb. 12 Has the Establishment realised, inquires an acronymically-minded reader, that if the Industrial Relations Bill becomes law, it will not be only Ireland that is saddled with an IRA? ¶1972 *Sat. Rev. (U.S.)* 3 June 30 Nitrogen oxide, acronymed NO_x, is another of the plant's noxious by-products. ¶1981 *Amer. Speech* LVI. 65 Byte is a fairly far-fetched way of acronymizing binary digit eight. ¶1981 *Maledicta* V. 99 Who were the real 'ethnics', acronymically speaking? ¶1983 *Verbatim* Spring 2/2 Paulies play puck (ice hockey) or hoop (basketball, also acronymed to b-ball).

adage n.

(ˈædɪdʒ)

[a. Fr. adage, ad. L. adagium a proverb, f. ad to + *agi- root of ajo = ago I say. (Fick I. 481.) A by-form was adagy.]

'A maxim handed down from antiquity; a proverb.' J.

¶1548 HALL *Chron. Edw. IV*, an. 9, 209 He forgat the olde adage, saynge in tyme of peace prouyde for warre. ¶1593 SHAKES. 3 *Hen. VI*, i. iv. 126 Vnlesse the Adage must be verifi'd, That Beggars mounted, runne their Horse to death. ¶1605 *Macb.* i. vii. 45 Letting, I dare not, wait vpon I would, Like the poore Cat i'th'Addage. ¶1642 HOWELL *For. Trav.* 25 Every Nation hath certain Proverbs and Adages peculiar to it selfe. ¶a1733 NORTH *Lives of Norths* (1826) II. 355 According to the philosophic adage, omnes stulti insaniunt, all fools are out of their wits. ¶1847 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg.* (1877) 6 That truest of adages—'Murder will out.' ¶1872 JENKINSON *Guide to Eng. Lakes* (1879) 189 Tourists in their anxiety to cut off a corner are sometimes induced to cross the valley, but..discover the truth of the adage 'most haste, least speed.'

admonitory a.

(æd'mɒnɪtəri)

[ad. L. admonitōri-us; see admonitor and -y.]

Of or pertaining to an admonitor; giving or conveying admonition; warning.

¶1594 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* i. §8 (J.) The sentence of reason is either mandatorie..or else permissiue..or thirdly, admonitorie. ¶1679 in Somers *Tracts* I. 44 This little Admonitory Address. ¶1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* 279 The clergyman..fixed upon her a glance, at once steady, compassionate, and admonitory. ¶1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* xi. 254 A raised admonitory finger.

adroit a.

(ə'drɔɪt)

[a. Fr. adroit, orig. adv. phrase à droit according to right, rightly, properly, f. à to + droit right, OFr. dreit:—late L. drictum, dirictum:—cl. L. directum right: see direct. Subseq. used as adj., and in this sense adopted in Eng.]

Possessing address or readiness of resource, either bodily or mental; having ready skill, dexterous, active, clever.

¶1652 EVELYN *France* (R.) The best esteemed and most adroit cavalry in Europe. ¶1678 BUTLER *Hudibras* iii. i. 365 He held his talent most adroit, For any mystical exploit. ¶1718 *Free-thinker* No. 150, 326 The Right-Hand and Arm of most Men are..more adroit than the Left. ¶1809 W. IRVING *Knickerb.* xi. vii. (1849) 122 The adroit bargain by which the island of Manhattan was bought for sixty guilders. ¶1825 *Br. Jonathan* I. 269 They played about one another now like adroit wrestlers. ¶1860 MOTLEY *Netherl.* (1868) II. xiii. 139 Adroit intriguers burned incense to him as to a god.

adulation n.

(ædju:'leɪʃən)

[a. OFr. adulacion, ad. L. adūlātiōn-em, n. of action f. adūlā-ri: see adulate.]

Servile flattery or homage; exaggerated and hypocritical praise to which the bestower consciously stoops.

¶c1380 CHAUCER *Bal. Good Counsail* (R.) Men woll..call faire speache adulacion. ¶1429 *Pol. Poems* (1859) II. 145 Eschew flatery and adulacioun. ¶1538 BALE *Thre Lawes* 964 By fayned flatterye, and by coloured adulacyon. ¶1582 N.T. (Rhem.) *1 Thess.* ii. 5 For neither haue we been at any time in

the word of adulation, as you know. ¶1599 SHAKES. *Hen.* V, iv. i. 271
Thinks thou the fierie Feuer will goe out With Titles blowne from Adulation?

¶1766 GOLDSM. *Vic. W.* iii. 18 Adulation ever follows the ambitious, for
such alone receive pleasure from flattery. ¶1858 O.W. HOLMES *Aut. Brkf.*
Table xii. 115, I have two letters on file; one is a pattern of adulation, the other
of impertinence.

adversity n.

(æd'vɜ:sɪtɪ)

[a. MFr. *adversité*, refash. f. OFr. *aversite*:—L. *adversitāt-em* opposition,
contrariety, f. *adversus*: see *adverse* and *-ity*.]

1. The state or condition of being contrary or opposed; opposition, contrariety. Obs.

¶1382 WYCLIF *Ps.* iii. 8 For thou hast smyte all doende adversite [1388
beynge adversaries] to me with oute cause. ¶a1420 HOCCLEVE *De Reg. Princ.*
390, I was agast fulle sore of the, Leste thow thurghe thoughtfulle adversitee
Not hadest stonden in the feithe aright. ¶1450 LONELICH *Grail* xviii. 174
One bone, sire kyng, þat thow graunte me Withowten lettynge owthir adver-
site.

2. The condition of adverse fortune; a state opposed to well-being or prosper-
ity; misfortune, distress, trial, or affliction. (The earliest sense in Eng.)

¶c1230 *Ancren Riwe* 194 Þe uttre uondunge is mislicunge in aduersite.
¶1340 *Ayenb.* 27 Kuead of aventure, ase povertie oþer adversitie. ¶1483
CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 399/4 Thenne late us praye..that he so gouerne us bytwene
welth & aduersyte in this present lyf. ¶1535 COVERDALE *Prov.* xvii. 17
In aduersite a man shall know who is his brother [1611 A brother is borne
for aduersitie]. ¶1570–87 HOLINSHED *Scot. Chron.* (1806) I. 81 Adversiti-
tie findeth few friends. ¶1592 SHAKES. *Rom. & Jul.* iii. iii. 55 Aduersities
sweete milke, Philosophie. ¶1600 A.Y.L. ii. i. 12 Sweet are the vses of aduer-
sitie. ¶1750 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 150 ¶5 He that never was acquainted
with adversity has seen the world but on one side. ¶1771 JUNIUS *Lett.* xlix.
254 A virtuous man, struggling with adversity, [is] a scene worthy of the gods.
¶a1852 D. WEBSTER *Wks.* 1877, III. 341 The discipline of our virtues in the
severe school of adversity.

3. An adverse circumstance; a misfortune, calamity, trial.

¶1340 *Ayenb.* 84 Þe kueades and þe aduersetes of þe wordle. ¶c1386
CHAUCER *Clerk's T.* 551 Noon accident for noon aduersitee Was seyn in hire.

¶1483 CAXTON *Cato* b ij. b, Strengthe for to resiste ageynst all aduersytees. ¶1526 TINDALE *Acts* vii. 10 And God was with him, and delivered hym out off all his adversities. ¶1651 HOBBS *Leviathan* ii. xxxi 188 The Prosperities and Adversities of this life. ¶1842 LONGFELLOW *Sp. Stud.* ii. i. 1 Pray, tell me more of your adversities.

4. Contrariness of nature; perversity. (In Shak. = perverse one, quibbler.) Obs.

¶1489 CAXTON *Faytes of Armes* iii. ix. 186 The felawes muste be chaunged by som aduersyte that is in them. ¶1606 SHAKES. *Tr. & Cr.* v. i. 14, P. Who keepes the Tent now? T. The Surgeons box, or the Patients wound. P. Well said aduersity.

aegis n.

(ˈiːdʒɪs)

[L. *ægis*, a. Gr. αἰγίς, of uncert. etym.; see Liddell and Scott, s.v.]

1. A shield, or defensive armour; applied in ancient mythology to that of Jupiter or Minerva.

¶1704 ROWE *Ulysses* iii. i. 1128 She [Pallas] shakes her dreadful *Ægis* from the Clouds. ¶1760 HOME *Siege of Aquileia* iv, His adamantine *ægis* Jove extends. ¶1812 BYRON *Ch. Har.* ii. xiv, Where was thine *Ægis*, Pallas, that appalled Stern Alaric?

2. fig. A protection, or impregnable defence. Now freq. in senses ‘auspices, control, etc.’ esp. in phr. under the *ægis* (of).

¶1793 HOLCROFT *Lavater’s Physiog.* xxix. 137 Feeling is the *ægis* of enthusiasts and fools. ¶1836 THIRLWALL *Greece* III. xviii. 83 They were sheltered by the *ægis* of the laws. ¶1865 LECKY *Rationalism* (1878) II. 323 He cast over them the *ægis* of his own mighty name. ¶1910 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 936/2 Under the *aegis* of the Billiard Association a tacit understanding was arrived at that the position must be broken up, should it occur. ¶1958 P. GAMMOND *Duke Ellington* i. 18 They make their valuable individual contributions, but under the Ellington *aegis* they find themselves constantly enriched musically. ¶1963 *B.S.I. News* May 14/2 These basic criteria and recognized methods of assessment, drawn up under the *aegis* of BSI.

3. attrib. and Comb., *ægis*-bearing, *ægis*-orb.

¶1793 WORDSWORTH *Even. Walk* 69 The broadening sun appears; A long blue bar its ægis orb divides. ¶1877 BRYANT *Odyss. v.* 128 The purposes Of Ægis-bearing Jove.

affable a.

(ˈæfəb(ə)l)

[a. Fr. affable (14th c. in Litt.) ad. L. affābilis easy to be spoken to; f. affāri or adfāri to address; f. ad to + fāri to speak.]

a. Easy of conversation or address; civil and courteous in receiving and responding to the conversation or address of others—especially inferiors or equals; accostable, courteous, complaisant, benign. (Const. to comparatively recent.)

¶1540 WHITTINTON *Tullyes Offyce* I. 50 Ulysses..wolde shewe hym selfe to all persones effable and gentyll to speake vnto. ¶1545 JOYE *Expos. Dan.* xi. (R.) He was prudent, comely, princely, affable, ientle and amiable. ¶1596 SHAKES. *1 Hen. IV*, iii. i. 168 Valiant as a Lyon, and wondrous affable.

¶1610 B. JONSON *Alchem.* ii. iii. (1616) 628 [She is] the most affablest creatur, sir! so merry! ¶1667 MILTON *P.L.* vii. 42 Raphaël, The affable archangel. ¶1723 J. SHEFFIELD (Dk. Buckhm.) *Wks.* (1753) I. 53 Gentle his look, and affable his mien. ¶1876 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* II. vii. 27 When not stirred up by passion he was gentle and affable to all men.

b. Formerly used more loosely. Obs.

¶1622 MALYNES *Anc. Law-Merch.* 501 The judiciall and affable judgments of this age. ¶1641 MILTON *Ch. Govt.* ii. (1851) 148 The learned and affable meeting of frequent Academies. ¶1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 101 ¶5 A Country Foxhunter..shall in a Week's Time look with a courtly and affable Paleness.

aficionado n.

(afθioˈnaðo; anglicized as əfɪsɪəˈnɑːdɒ)

[Sp. = amateur, f. pa. pple. of aficionar to become fond of, f. afición affection.]

A devotee of bull-fighting; by extension an ardent follower of any hobby or activity.

¶1845 R. FORD *Handbk. Travellers in Spain* i. ii. 178 This sham fight is despised by the torero and aficionado, who aspire only to be in at the death.

¶1902 W.D. HOWELLS *Lit. & Life* iii. 58 The last [bull] was uncommonly

fierce, and when his hindquarters came off or out, his forequarters charged joyously among the aficionados on the prisoners' side. ¶1957 *Times* 12 Oct. 7/6 The bull-fight is the most Spanish of spectacles... Some old aficionados will go so far as to say that it is dying. ¶1882 C.G. LELAND *Gypsies* 25 The aficionados, or Romany ryes, by whom I mean those scholars who are fond of studying life and language from the people themselves. ¶1928 F.O. LINDLEY *Diplomat off Duty* iv. 64 All amateurs, or to use a much more expressive Spanish word, aficionados, of bathing agree that the full flavour of the pastime is only tasted in beautiful surroundings. ¶1948 J. STEINBECK *Russian Jnl.* (1949) iii. 37 A little swing band was led by Ed Gilmore, who is a swing aficionado. ¶1957 *Technology* Apr. 70/3 The aficionados of science fiction and golf. ¶1959 J. WAIN *Trav. Woman* 41, I didn't tell you I had a son who was an aficionado of railways, did I?

affinity n.

(ə'fɪnɪtɪ)

[a. Fr. *afinité*, *affinité*, ad. L. *affinitāt*-em, n. of state f. *affin*-is: see *affine* n.]

I. Affinity by position.

1. a. Relationship by marriage; opposed to consanguinity. Hence collect. Relations by marriage.

¶1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Sinne* 7379 Or 3yf he wyþ a womman synne þat sum of hys kyn haþ endyde ynne..He calleþ hyt an affynyte. ¶c1315 SHOREHAM 70 Alle here sybbe affinitè. ¶1483 CAXTON *G. de la Tour* C viij b, Be he of his parente his affynyte or other. ¶1509 FISHER *Wks.* 1876, 293 What by lygnage what by affinite she had xxx. kinges & quenes within the iiij. degre of maryage vnto her. ¶1649 SELDEN *Laws Eng.* i. lv. (1739) 98 Many.. that by affinity and consanguinity were become English-men. ¶1726 AYLIFFE *Parergon* 326 Affinity is a Civil Bond of Persons, that are ally'd unto each other by Marriage or Espousals. ¶1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* I. 172 He was closely related by affinity to the royal house. His daughter had become, by a secret marriage, Duchess of York.

b. In R.C. Ch.: The spiritual relationship between sponsors and their god-child, or between the sponsors themselves, called in older English gossip-red (cf. kin-red).

¶c1440 *Relig. Pieces fr. Thornton MS.* (1867) 13 His sybb frendes or any oper þat es of his affynyte gastely or bodyly. ¶1751 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v.,

The Romanists talk of a spiritual Affinity, contracted by the sacrament of baptism and confirmation. ¶1872 FREEMAN *Hist. Ess.* (ed. 2) 23 When he has succeeded in placing the bar of spiritual affinity between the King and his wife.

2. Relationship or kinship generally between individuals or races. collect. Relations, kindred.

¶1382 WYCLIF *Ruth* iii. 13 If he wole take thee bi riȝt of affynyte the thing is wel doo. ¶1440 J. SHIRLEY *Dethe of K. James* (1818) 7 With many other of thare afinite. ¶1494 FABYAN iv. lxx. 49 He therfore with helpe of his affynyte and frendes, withstode the Romaynes. ¶1677 GALE *Crt. Gentiles* i. i. ix. 47 The great Identitie, or at least, Affinitie that was betwixt the old Britains, and Gauls. ¶1794 G. ADAMS *Nat. & Exp. Philos.* III. xxxii. 316 The labour of individuals..weaves into one web the affinity and brotherhood of mankind. ¶1872 YEATS *Growth & Viciss.* Comm. 37 The affinities of the people which connected them..with the Semitic races of Arabia.

3. Philol. Structural resemblance between languages arising from and proving their origin from a common stock.

¶1599 THYNNE *Animadv.* (1865) 66 The latyne, frenche, and spanshe haue no doble W, as the Dutche, the Englishe, and suche as have affynytye with the Dutche. ¶1659 PEARSON *Creed* (1839) 245 We know the affinity of the Punic tongue with the Hebrew. ¶1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* I. 80 Between some of these languages, there is indeed a great affinity. ¶1859 JEPHSON *Brittany* xx. 313 To trace the affinities of words in different languages.

4. Nat. Hist. Structural resemblance between different animals, plants, or minerals, suggesting modifications of one primary type, or (in the case of the two former) gradual differentiation from a common stock.

¶1794 SULLIVAN *View of Nat.* I. 458 Thus we shall find that antimony has an affinity with tin. ¶1830 LYELL *Princ. Geol.* (1875) II. iii. xxxiv. 250 The species are arranged..with due regard to their natural affinities. ¶1862 DARWIN *Orchids* iii. 115 In the shape of the labellum we see the affinity of *Goodyera* to *Epipactis*. ¶1872 NICHOLSON *Palæont.* 353 The true Reptiles and the Birds..are nevertheless related to one another by various points of affinity.

5. fig. Causal relationship or connexion (as flowing the one from the other, or having a common source), or such agreement or similarity of nature or character as might result from such relationship if it existed; family likeness.

¶1533 ELYOT *Castel of Helth* (1541) 35 By reason of the affinitie whiche it hath with mylke, whay is convertible in to bloude and fleshe. ¶1540 MORYSINE tr. *Vives Introd. Wysdome* C iiij, Vyces and their affynities, as foolyshnes, ignorancy, amased dulnesse. ¶1642 R. CARPENTER *Experience* iii. v. 46 What is the reason that Grace hath such marvellous affinity with Glory? ¶1795 MASON *Ch. Mus.* i. 76 The sound of every individual instrument bears a perfect affinity with the rest. ¶1855 H. REED *Lect. Eng. Lit.* ii. (1878) 74 Philosophy and poetry are for ever disclosing affinities with each other. ¶1861 TULLOCH *Eng. Purit.* iv. 421 This spiritual affinity between Luther and Bunyan is very striking.

6. Neighbourhood, vicinity. [OFr. *afinité*.] Obs.

¶1678 R. RUSSELL tr. *Geber* iv. ii. 242 The third Property is Affinity (or Vicinity) between the Elixir and the Body to be transmuted. ¶1770 HASTED in *Phil. Trans.* LXI. 161 Some kinds of wood..decay by the near affinity of others.

II. Affinity by inclination or attraction.

7. Voluntary social relationship; companionship, alliance, association. Obs.

¶1494 FABYAN v. ciii. 78 Gonobalde..promysed ayde to his power. Lotharius, of this affynyte beyng warned, pursued the sayde Conobalde. ¶1580 NORTH *Plutarch* (1676) 4 That so many good men would have had affinity with so naughty and wicked a man. ¶1611 BIBLE 2 *Chron.* xviii. 1 Now Jehosaphat..ioyned affinitie with Ahab.

8. Hence fig. A natural friendliness, liking, or attractiveness; an attraction drawing to anything.

¶1616 SURFLET & MARKH. *Countrey Farme* 322 For this dung, by a certaine affinitie, is gratefull and well liked of Bees. ¶1652 FRENCH *Yorksh. Spa* viii. 71 With this hath the spirit of the Spaw water great affinity. ¶1832 H. MARTINEAU *Each & All* iv. 61 Natural affinities are ever acting, even now, in opposition to circumstance. ¶1860 MAURY *Phys. Geog. Sea* ii. §70 So sharp is the line, and such the want of affinity between those waters.

9. esp. Chemical attraction; the tendency which certain elementary substances or their compounds have to unite with other elements and form new compounds.

¶1753 CHAMBERS *Cycl. Supp.* s.v., M. Geoffroy has given [in 1718] a table of the different degrees of affinity between most of the bodies employed in chemistry. ¶1782 KIRWAN in *Phil. Trans.* LXXIII. 35 Chymical affinity or attraction is that power by which the invisible particles of different bodies

intermix and unite with each other so intimately as to be inseparable by mere mechanical means. ¶1831 T.P. JONES *Convers. Chem.* i. 22 Elective affinity, or elective attraction, you will find spoken of in every work upon chemistry. ¶c1860 FARADAY *Forces of Nat.* iii. 93 This new attraction we call chemical affinity, or the force of chemical action between different bodies.

10. A psychical or spiritual attraction believed by some sects to exist between persons; sometimes applied concretely to the subjects or objects of the 'affinity.'

¶1868 DIXON *Spir. Wives* I. 99 All these Spiritualists accept the doctrine of special affinities between man and woman; affinities which imply a spiritual relation of the sexes higher and holier than that of marriage. Ibid. II. 204 Such natures as, on coming near, lay hold of each other, and modify each other, we call affinities.

III. Special Comb. affinity group U.S., a group or association of people sharing a common purpose or interest; spec. one allowed certain privileges when chartering an aeroplane.

¶1970 *Hearings Subcomm. Transportation of Comm. Interstate & Foreign Commerce* (91st. U.S. Congress 2 Sess.) 8 Legitimate *affinity groups, the American Legion, the American Bar Association, the Knights of Columbus [etc.]. ¶1976 *Time* 19 Jan. 62 No longer does the traveler have to belong to a so-called affinity group, such as a club or union, to qualify for the reduced rates. ¶1984 *Amer. Banker* 22 June 4 Insurance companies increasingly look to third-party channels for marketing their products. They include sponsored markets, such as employers and associations; affinity groups in banks and real estate enterprises; [etc.].

aggrandize v.

(ˈægrændaɪz)

[f. Fr. agrandiss- extended stem of agrand-ir (16th c. aggr-), prob. ad. It. aggrandire; f. ag- = ad- to + grandire, L. grandire to make great; f. grandis large. The ending is assimilated to words of Gr. origin with -ize.]

1. trans. To enlarge, increase, magnify, or intensify (a thing).

¶1634 T. HERBERT *Trav.* 7 (T.) The devil has infused prodigious idolatry into their hearts, enough to relish his palate and aggrandize their tortures.

¶1656 EARL OF MONMOUTH *Adv. fr. Parnass.* 48 Making use of the calamities of others, as an instrument thereby to agrandize his authority.

¶1748 ANSON *Voy.* i. viii. (ed. 4) 110 That no circumstance might be wanting

which could aggrandize our distress. ¶1855 BAIN *Senses & Intell.* iii. ii. §11 The whole soul, passing into one sense, aggrandizes that sense and starves the rest. ¶1868 RUSKIN *Pol. Econ. Art* i. 80 The selfish and tyrannous means they commonly take to aggrandize or secure their power.

2. To increase the power, rank, or wealth of (a person or a state). Often refl.

¶1682 BURNET *Rights of Princes Pref.* 3 For the aggrandizing or maintaining his nephews and kindred. ¶1780 W. COXE *Russ. Discov.* 22 Every circumstance which contributes to aggrandize the Russian empire. ¶1800 WELLINGTON in *Gen. Desp.* I. 207 If we aggrandize ourselves at the expense of the Mahrattas. ¶1872 YEATS *Growth & Viciss. Comm.* 96 Venice was aggrandised by this traffic.

3. To make (a thing) appear greater; to give a character of grandeur to; to embellish, exaggerate.

¶1687 *Death's Vis.* (1713) Pref. 2 'Tis pleaded, that Religion aggrandizes a Poem. ¶1775 T. WARTON *Hist. Eng. Poetry* I. 53 Nothing could aggrandise Fingal's heroism more highly. ¶1779 JOHNSON *L.P., Pope* Wks. 1787 IV. 119 The ship-race, compared with the chariot-race, is neither illustrated nor aggrandised. ¶1848 H. MILLER *First Impr.* ix. (1857) 144 The scene, though small, is yet aggrandized with much art.

4. To make (a person) appear greater; to exalt.

¶1753 RICHARDSON *Grandison* (1781) III. xviii. 161 Your pretty imagination is always at work to aggrandize the man, and to lower the babies. ¶1823 LAMB *Elia Ser.* ii. xxiv. (1865) 433 The first thing to aggrandise a man in his own conceit, is to conceive of himself as neglected.

5. intr. To become greater; to increase. Obs. Cf. Fr. *s'agrandir*.

¶1646 HALL *Poems* 8 Follies continued till old age, do aggrandize and become horrid. ¶1704 *Lond. Gaz.* mmmmlxxiv/2 Could not but with Horrour see him aggrandize in Power.

alacrity *n.*

(ə'lækritɪ)

[ad. L. *alacritāt-em*, *n.* of quality *f.* *alacer* brisk (also in It. *alacrità*): see *-ty*.]

Briskness, cheerful readiness, liveliness, promptitude, sprightliness.

¶c1510 MORE *Picus* Wks. 1557, 8/1 That meruelouse alacritee languished. ¶1594 SHAKES. *Rich. III*, v. iii. 73, I haue not that alacrity of spirit, Nor

cheere of Minde that I was wont to haue. ¶1687 T. BROWN *Saints in Uproar* Wks. 1730 I. 79 With what wonderful alacrity you scamper'd over the Alps.
 ¶1710 STEELE *Tatler* No. 34 ¶2 It immediately gives an Alacrity to the Visage and new Grace to the whole Person. ¶1791 COWPER *Il.* v. 145 She wing'd him with alacrity divine. ¶1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xv. 98 He accepted with grateful alacrity.

allay v.

(ə'lei)

[f. a- prefix 1 + lay, OE. *lēcæan*, causal of *licæan* to lie. OE. *alēcæan* (cogn. w. Goth. *uslagjan*, OHG. *irleccan*, mod.G. *erlegen*) was inflected : Imper. *aleæe*, *alecæað*; Ind. pres. *ic alecæe*, *þú aleæest*, *he aleæ(e)þ*, *we alecæað*; pa. tense *aleæde*, *aléde*; Pa. pple. *aleæd*, *aléd*; whence ME. *aleggen* (ə'ledʒən); *aley*, *alaye* (ə'leiə, ə'leia, ə'lei), *aleggeþ*; I *alegge*, *þou aleyest*, *he aleyeþ*, *we aleggeþ* or *aleggen*; *aleyde*; *aleyde*, -eid, -ayd, -aid; levelled c 1400, by substitution of *aley* for *alegge* all through; as inf. to *aleyen*, *alaye(n)*, *alay(e)*; subsequently mis-spelt *allay*, after words from L. in *all-* (see *ad-* 2). In its two forms, *alegge* and *aley*, this vb. was formally identical with 4 other vbs. of Romance origin; viz. 1. *alegge*, *allege* v.1:—L. *alleviāre*; 2 *alaye*, *allay* v.2:—L. *alligāre*; 3. *aley*, *allay* v.3:—L. *allēgāre*; 4. *alegge*, *allege* v.2 = OFr. *allēguer*, L. *allēgāre*, a learned form of *allay* v.3 Amid the overlapping of meanings that thus arose, there was developed a perplexing network of uses of *allay* and *allege*, that belong entirely to no one of the original vbs., but combine the senses of two or more of them. Those in *allay* are placed at the end of this word.]

I. Unmixed senses: To lay from one, lay aside or down; put down; put down the proud, pride, tumult, violence; to quell, abate.

1. To lay, lay down, lay aside. Obs.

¶c970 *Canons of K. Edgar in Anc. Laws* II. 286 *Alecæe þonne his wæpna.*
 ¶c1000 *Ags. G.* Luke ii. 16 *Hiæ æmetton..ðæt cild on binne aléd.* ¶c1160 *Hatton G.* *ibid.*, *Gemetton þæt chyld on binne aleiæd.*

2. To lay aside (a law, custom, practice); hence, to set aside, annul, abolish, destroy the legal force of (anything). Obs.

¶c1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 91 *Þenne beoð eowre sunnen aleide.* *Ibid.* 115 *He scal wicche creft aleggan.* ¶1205 LAYAM 7714 *Þurh þa luue of þan feo feond-scipe aleggen.* ¶1297 R. GLOUC. 144 *Gode lawes, þat were aleyd, newe he lette make.* ¶c1350 *Will. Palerne* 5240 *Þan william wiztli..a-leide*

alle luþer lawes. ¶1413 LYDG. *Pylgr. Sowle* iv. xxxvi. (1483) 84 Worshyp is aleyde and neuer shal retourne.

3. To abandon, give up (a course of action). Obs.

¶a1330 *Sir Otuel* 38 Bi me he sente the to segge, Thou sscoldest Christendom alegge. ¶c1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 3300 Hot þat þyn assaut be noȝt aled <revsc> and let by-gynne hit newe.

4. To put down, bring low, quell (a person). Obs.

¶c1000 ÆLFRIC *Josh.* x. 13 HiÆ aledon heora fynd. ¶c1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 91 Ic alegge þine feond under þine fot-sceomele. ¶c1300 in *Wright Lyric P.* xxxvii. 105 Alle thre shule ben aleyd, with huere foule crokes. ¶1387 TREVISA *Higden Rolls Ser.* III. 237 [The Greeks] schulle be aleyde [obruentur] wiþ the multitude of Perses.

5. To put down or overthrow (a principle or attribute of men). Obs.

¶a1000 *Sec. Laws of Cnut* (Thorpe I. 380) Unriht alecÆan. ¶c1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 11 Unbileue is aiware aleid, and rihte leue arered. ¶c1300 *Beket* 1928 Forto awreke ous wel of him ·and alegge his prute. ¶c1440 *Arthur* 219 Thy pryde we wolle alaye. ¶1593 SHAKES. 2 *Hen.* VI, iv. i. 60, I, and alay this thy abortiue Pride. ¶1642 ROGERS *Naaman* 205 Wherby carnall reason is somewhat alaied and abated. ¶1659 PEARSON *Creed* (1839) 88 Sufficiently refuting an eternity, and allaying all conceits of any great antiquity.

6. To put down by argument, confute, overthrow. Obs. rare.

¶a1250 *Owl & Night.* 394 Heo ne miȝte noȝt alegge That the hule hadde hire i-sed.

7. To cause to lie, to lay (dust, etc.). Obs. rare.

¶1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* v. xiv. 413 That in Noahs floud the dust was but sufficiently allayed.

8. To put down or repress (any violence of the elements, as heat, wind, tempest); to calm, assuage, 'lay' a storm. (This and the next sense are perhaps influenced by allege v.1: see 11 below.)

¶1488 CAXTON *Chastys. Goddes Chyld.* 12 Hete is thenne ful colde and alayed. ¶1580 BARET *Alv.* A 282 The tempest is alaied. ¶1610 SHAKES. *Temp.* i. ii. 2 If by your Art (my deerest father) you haue Put the wild waters in this Rore; alay them. ¶1781 J. MOORE *Italy* (1790) I. ii. 23 One of the virtues of the holy water [is] that of allaying storms. ¶1847 DISRAELI *Tancred* iii. iv. (1871) 183 The fervour of the air was allayed. ¶1862 TRENCH *Mirac.* iv. 147 Having allayed the tumult of the outward elements.

9. To quell or put down (any disturbance in action or any tumult of the passions); to appease.

¶c1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 1373 Y-blessed mot þou be, For aled þow hast muche debate. ¶1387 *TREVISA Higden Rolls* Ser. IV. 293 Forto alegge þe outrage of þe kyngdom of Jewes. ¶1600 *FAIRFAX Tasso* xix. xx. 340 Tancred..Asswag'd his anger and his wrath alaid. ¶1623 *BINGHAM Xenophon* 35 To allay, if he could, these distrusts, before they broke out into open hostilitie. ¶1697 *DRYDEN Virg. Georg.* iv. 131 This deadly Fray, A Cast of scatter'd Dust will soon allay. ¶1711 *ADDISON Spect.* No. 16 ¶4 If I can any way assuage private Inflammations, or allay publick Ferments. ¶1855 *PRESCOTT Philip II*, I. ii. xi. 265 The best means of allaying the popular excitement. ¶1863 *KINGLAKE Crimea* (1876) I. xiv. 236 Words tending to allay suspicion. ¶1880 *MCCARTHY Own Time* III. xxxii. 48 Various efforts were made to allay the panic.

10. intr. (for refl.) To subside, sink, abate, cease; to become mild. Obs.

¶1526 *TINDALE Mark* iv. 39 And the wynde alayed. [So 1557 (Genev.).] ¶1561 *HOLLYBUSH Hom. Apoth.* 33 a, For as ~ sone as the stomake perceyveth the savoure of the bread, then doth the wambling alaye. ¶1593 *SHAKES. 3 Hen. VI*, i. iv. 146 And, when the Rage allayes, the Raine begins. ¶1723 *WODROW Corr.* (1843) III. 78 If there were any room to hope that your hearts were allaying.

II. Confused with allege v. to lighten or alleviate, both verbs being in 14th c. alegge, and both used of pains, etc., so that alegge peine was in the one sense = quell pain, in the other = alleviate pain. Both senses might be expressed by abate, and they came to be regarded as the same word, so that from c 1400 alaye was used for alegge in both (cf. Caxton's 't' alegge thurste,' see allege v. 2, Gower's 'to allay thirst'); and finally alegge became obs., and allay remained with the combined meaning.

11. To subdue, quell (any trouble, as care, pain, thirst); to abate, assuage, relieve, alleviate.

¶c1220 *Ureisun Ure Lefdi* 133 Þu miht lihtliche..al mi sor aleggen. ¶1250 *LAY* 25684 Al þis lond he wole for-fare <revsc>bote þou alegge oure care. ¶1393 *GOWER Conf.* III. 11 Which may his sory thirst allay. Ibid. III. 273 If I thy paines mighte alaie. ¶1578 *LYTE Dodoens* 341 The roote Rhodia..alayeth head ache. ¶1667 *MILTON P.L.* x. 566 Fondly thinking to allay Thir appetite. ¶1681 *WYNDHAM King's Concealm.* 76 The pleasantness of the Host..allayed and mitigated the weariness of the Guests. ¶1768 *BEATTIE*

Minstrel ii. xxxii, I would allay that grief. ¶1836 MACGILLIVRAY tr. *Humboldt's Trav.* xix. 283 These Indians swallow quantities of earth for the purpose of allaying hunger.

III. Confused with allay v.2, to alloy, mix, temper, qualify. The two verbs were from the 15th c. completely identical in form, and thus in appearance only different uses of the same word. (The earlier of the following senses are more closely related to the next vb. than to this; but it is, on the whole, more convenient to place them here, than under a word which is obs. or arch. in its own proper sense.)

12. To temper (iron, steel, etc.) Obs.

¶1409 *Roll for Building Durham Cloisters*, Pro alayng secur', chyselle, wegges.

¶1486 *Bk. St. Albans* (1810) h iij, Ye shall put the quarell in a redde chark-cole fyre tyll that it be of the same colour that the fyre is. Thenne take hym oute and lete hym kele, and ye shall find him well alayd for to fyle.

13. To temper or abate (a pleasure or advantage) by the association of something unpleasant.

¶1514 BARCLAY *Cyt. & Uplondyshm.* 48 Because one service of them continuall Allayeth pleasure. ¶a1670 HACKET in Wolcott *Life* (1865) 175 If the comfort of our joy be not allayed with some fear. ¶1759 JOHNSON *Rasselas* xxvi. (1787) 71 Benefits are allayed by reproaches. ¶1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* I. 310 The principal circumstance that allayed the joys of victory.

¶1839 HALLAM *Hist. Lit.* III. iii. iii. §131. 115 But this privilege is allayed by another, i.e. by the privilege of absurdity.

14. To dilute, qualify (wine with water, etc.). Obs.

¶c1450 J. RUSSELL *Bk. Nurt. in Babees Bk.* (1868) 132 Watur hoot & cold, eche oper to alay. ¶1470 HARDING *Chron.* lxxii, He vsed the water ofte to alaye His drynkes. ¶1533 ELYOT *Cast. Helth* (1541) 32 White wyne alayd with moche water. ¶1655 CULPEPER *Riverius* xv. v. 419 Clysters..made of Vinegar allaiied with Water. ¶1676 HOBBS *Odyss.* ix. 212 Which when he drank, he usually allaid With water pure.

15. fig. Obs.

¶1586 T.B. tr. *La Primaudaye's Fr. Acad.* Ded., To alay the strength of the word of Christ with the waterish sayings and fables of men. ¶1650 FULLER *Pisgah Sight* iv. vii. 125 God..allaying the purity of his nature, with humane Phrases.

16. To abate, diminish, weaken, mitigate.

¶1603 FLORIO *Montaigne* (1634) 624 To allay or dim the whitenesse of paper. ¶1628 PRYNNE *Cens. Cozens* 96 This pretence..will not mittigate nor allay his Crime. ¶1748 CHESTERFIELD *Lett.* 166 II. 111 Neither envy, indignation, nor ridicule, will obstruct or allay the applause which you may really deserve. ¶1805 FOSTER *Ess.* ii. iv. 169 They must allay their fire of enterprise. ¶1842 H. ROGERS *Introd. Burke's Wks.* 59 To allay and temper its splendour down to that sober light which may enable his audience to see his argument.

allegory ^{n.}

(ˈælɪɡəri)

[ad. L. *allēgoria*, a. Gr. ἀλληγορία, lit. speaking otherwise than one seems to speak, f. ἄλλος other + -ᾱγορία speaking; cf. ἀγορεύω to speak, orig. to harangue, f. ἀγορά the public assembly. Cf. Fr. *allégorie*, perh. the direct source of the Eng. The L. *allegoria* was occas. used unchanged in 16th c.]

1. Description of a subject under the guise of some other subject of aptly suggestive resemblance.

¶1382 WYCLIF *Gal.* iv. 24 The whiche thingis ben seid by allegorie, or goostly vndirstondinge [Vulg. per allegoriam]. ¶1477 EARL RIVERS (Caxton) *Dictes* 66 The sayd Platon dide teche his sapyence by allegorye. ¶1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* (1869) 196 Properly and in his principall vertue Allegoria is when we do speake in sence translatiue and wrested from the owne signification, neuerthesse applied to another not altogether contrary, but hauing much conueniencie with it. ¶1712 PARNELL *Spect.* No. 501 ¶1 Some of the finest compositions among the ancients are in allegory. ¶1840 CARLYLE *Heroes* (1858) 207 Allegory and Poetic Delineation, as I said above, cannot be religious Faith.

b. attrib.

¶1532 MORE *Confut. Tindale Wks.* 1557, 415/1 These heretikes nowe not onely rob the churche in an allegorye sense. Answ. Frith 835/1 The wordes of Chryste might beside the lyttarall sence bee vnderstanden in an allegorye.

2. An instance of such description; a figurative sentence, discourse, or narrative, in which properties and circumstances attributed to the apparent subject really refer to the subject they are meant to suggest; an extended or continued metaphor.

¶1534 MORE *On the Passion* Wks. 1557, 1340/1 It might be taken for an allegory or some other trope or figure. ¶1577 T. VAUTROLLIER tr. *Luther's Ep. Gal.* 149 The allegorie of the two sonnes of Abraham, Isaacke and Ismael.

¶1611 BIBLE *Gal.* iv. 24 Which things are an Allegorie. ¶1751 JOHNSON *Rambl.* No. 176 ¶11 They discover in every passage..some artful allegory.

¶1846 T. WRIGHT *Mid. Ages* II. xix. 257 The spirited and extremely popular political allegory of the 'Vision of Piers Ploughman.'

3. An allegorical representation; an emblem.

¶a1639 W. WHATELY *Protot.* i. xi. (1640) 154 These two mothers and the children borne of them were allegories, that is, figures of some other thing mystically signified by them. ¶1769 BURKE *State Nat.* Wks. II. 134 Procrustes..with his iron bed, the allegory of his government. ¶1882 MRS. PIT-

MAN *Mission Life in Greece* 30 That Hercules is only an allegory of the sun.

alleviate v.

(ə'li:vɪeɪt)

[f. prec. 'Reckoned by Heylin, in 1656, among uncouth and unusual words.' Todd.]

1. To make lighter, diminish the weight of. Obs.

¶1665-6 *Phil. Trans.* I. 157 Such as have exact Wheel-Barometers may try whether Odors or Fumes do alleviate the Air.

2. To lighten, or render more tolerable, or endurable; to relieve, mitigate. Also absol.

¶1528 PAYNELL tr. *Salernes Regiment* 22 Milk..alleviateth the griefes of the breast. ¶a1656 BP. HALL *Balm of Gil.* i. §ii. (1863) 6 To alleviate the sorrows of their heavy partners. ¶1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 450 ¶3, I..found means to alleviate, and at last conquer my Affliction. ¶1871 G.H. NAPHEYS *Prevent. Dis.* iii. ii. 619 To alleviate the sufferings of the invalid. ¶1876 MOZLEY *Univ. Sermon.* v. 120 Hope alleviates the sorrow of that home. ¶1888 MRS. H. WARD R. *Elsmere* xli, The constant effort to serve and to alleviate.

3. To lighten the gravity of (an offence); to extenuate, palliate. Obs.

¶1768 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* IV. 15 The violence of passion, or temptation, may sometimes alleviate a crime. ¶1777 R. WATSON *Philip II* (1793) II. xiv. 181 They began to alleviate the outrages of the soldiers.

alliteration n.

(əˈlɪtəˈreɪʃən)

[n. of action f. alliterate v.: see -ation.]

1. gen. The commencing of two or more words in close connexion, with the same letter, or rather the same sound.

¶1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Alliteration*, a figure in Rhetorick, repeating and playing on the same letter. ¶1749 POWER *Pros.* Numbers 71 That which some call Alliteration, i.e. beginning several Words with the same Letter, if it be natural, is a real Beauty. ¶1763 CHURCHILL *Proph. Famine Poems* I. 101 Apt Alliteration's artful aid. ¶1831 MACAULAY *Johnson* 126 Taxation no Tyranny..was..nothing but a jingling alliteration which he ought to have despised. ¶1871 R.F. WEYMOUTH *Euph.* 4 'Delightful to be read, and nothing hurtfull to be regarded; wherein there is small offence by lightness given to the wise, and lesse occasion of loosenesse proffered to the wanton.' Lilie's favourite form of alliteration is well marked in this sentence.

2. The commencement of certain accented syllables in a verse with the same consonant or consonantal group, or with different vowel sounds, which constituted the structure of versification in OE. and the Teutonic languages generally. Thus from the beginning of Langland's *Piers Ploughman*, text C.:

In a somere seyson · whan softe was þe sonne,
Y shop me into shrobbis · as y a shepherde were;
In abit as an ermite · vnholý of werkes,
Ich wente forth in þe worlde · wonders to hure,
And sawe meny cellis · and selcouthe þynges.

¶1774 T. WARTON *Eng. Poetry* (1840) I. Diss. i. 38 The Islandic poets are said to have carried alliteration to the highest pitch of exactness. ¶1846 T. WRIGHT *Ess. Mid. Ages* I. i. 14 The form of Saxon poetry is alliteration—not rhyme. ¶1871 EARLE *Philol. Eng. Tong.* §626 Alliteration did not necessarily act on the initial letter of the word.

amanuensis n.

(əˈmænjuːˈɛnsɪs)

[L. (in Suetonius) adj. used subst., f. denominative phrase a manu a secretary, short for servus a manu + -ensis belonging to.]

One who copies or writes from the dictation of another.

¶1619 SCLATER *Expos. Thess.* (1627) I. To Reader 6 An Amanuensis to take my Dictates. ¶1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel. Democr.* 11 Allowing him six or seven amanuenses to write out his dictates. ¶1714 *Spect.* No. 617 ¶4 Our Friend..by the help of his Amanuensis, took down all their Names. ¶1765 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* II. 446 Cæsar could dictate to three amanuenses together. ¶1860 SMILES *Self-Help* ii. 38 For many years after their marriage, she acted as his amanuensis.

ambience ('æmbiəns)

[f. ambient a.: see -ence; cf. F. *ambiance*.]

1. Environment, surroundings; atmosphere. The Fr. form *ambiance* is used in Art for the arrangement of accessories to support the main effect of a piece.

¶1889 *Harper's Mag.* Sept. 500/2 The form which we discern in the dreamy ambience is of supreme elegance. ¶1902 W. WATSON *Ode on Coronation of King Edward VII* 5 Slowly in the ambience of this crown Have many crowns been gathered. ¶1923 R.H. MYERS *Mod. Music* iv. 47 No other composer has ever reproduced in music with such complete success the very perfume and ambience of a literary text. ¶1944 *Burlington Mag.* June 156/1 But the present picture was never meant to be microscopically dissected thus, for it is..an impression, a single figure in its ambience, which is vaguely suggested as reflections in a mirror. ¶1952 *Ballet Ann.* VI. 25 The costumes and sets..have such a suggestion of space that they give the Sadler's Wells stage the ambience of Covent Garden. ¶1957 *London Mag.* Jan. 52 For some writers the urban ambience may provide just the kind of stimulus they need. ¶1961 *Listener* 5 Oct. 527/2 The Zoo provides a colourful ambience for this Administrative Novel [sc. Angus Wilson's 'Old Men at the Zoo']. ¶1965 *N. & Q.* CCX. 15/1 The way in which the poet by the use of the traditional vocabulary gives the impression that he was introducing his heroine into a Germanic ambience.

2. Audio. The acoustic quality of a particular environment, as reproduced in a recording; spec. a sense of some specific or individual atmosphere, esp. an impression of live performance, created or enhanced by recording techniques (such as added reverberation), or by the presence of background noise.

¶1961 G.A. BRIGGS *A to Z in Audio* 15 For domestic use a reasonable amount of ambience in most records is desirable to give the listener a sensation of being in the concert hall, but too much blurs the fine detail. ¶1971 *Hi-Fi Sound* Feb. 71/3 The shape and the furnishing of the listening room, modifying the ambience that is built-in by the recording engineer, can broaden and

smudge the stereo image. ¶1977 *Gramophone* Sept. 512/2 In quadraphony the back speakers make the contribution..of added ambience, to add a subtle extra dimension to the realism of the orchestral image at the front. ¶1986 *Electronic Musician* Aug. 29/1 How would you like to beef up the sounds you already have by adding a software-controllable dose of ambience or punch? ¶1993 *Rolling Stone* 14 Oct. 54/2 We were starting to lose trust in the conventional sound of rock and roll., those big beautiful pristine vocal sounds with all this lush ambience and reverb.

3. = ambient music s.v. *ambient a. 3 c.

¶1991 *Vox* Sept. 66/3 If we were to talk Brian Eno, The Blue Nile and ambience, the picture would be clearer... This is dance music without the wild agitation. ¶1995 *Face* Jan. 47/1 Ambience doesn't have its immediate roots in the chill-out rooms of danceterias: its connection to the original vision of Cage and Eno is far more explicit.

ambiguous a.

(æm'bigju:əs)

[f. L. ambigu-us doubtful, driving hither and thither (f. ambig-ĕre, f. amb-both ways + ag-ĕre to drive) + -ous.]

The objective meanings, though second in Latin, seem earliest in Eng.

I. Objectively.

1. Doubtful, questionable; indistinct, obscure, not clearly defined.

¶1528 MORE *Heresyes* iv. Wks. 1557, 247/2 If it wer nowe doutful & ambiguous whether the church of Christ wer in the right rule of doctrine or not.

¶1573 MURRAY *Let. in Wodrow Soc. Misc.* (1844) 289 Cairfull for the gude ordour of the Kirk in thingis ambiguous. ¶c1800 K. WHITE *Contempl.* 133 Faint ambiguous shadows fall. ¶1851 RUSKIN *Mod. Paint.* I. ii. 2. v. §10 Even the most dexterous distances of the old masters..are ambiguous.

2. Of words or other significant indications: Admitting more than one interpretation, or explanation; of double meaning, or of several possible meanings; equivocal. (The commonest use.)

¶1532 MORE *Confut. Tindale* Wks. 1557, 437/1 This englishe word knowl- edge is ambiguous and doubtfull. ¶1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* (1869) 267 The ambiguous, or figure of sence incertaine, as if one should say Thomas Tayler saw William Tyler dronke, it is indifferent to thinke either th'one or

th'other dronke. ¶1671 MILTON *P.R.* i. 435 Answers..dark, Ambiguous, and with double sense deluding. ¶1752 JOHNSON *Rambl.* No. 192 ¶8 The gentlemen..irritated me with ambiguous insults. ¶1853 MAURICE *Proph. & Kings* xvii. 288, I do not rest anything upon tenses. Every reader of the prophets must feel how ambiguous they are. ¶1867 A.J. ELLIS *E.E. Pronunc.* i. i. 25 The Welsh alphabet..having only one ambiguous letter, y.

3. Of doubtful position or classification, as partaking of two characters or being on the boundary line between.

¶1603 FLORIO *Montaigne* (1634) 294 Mungrell and ambiguous shapes.

¶1667 MILTON *P.L.* vii. 473 Ambiguous between sea and land The river-horse and scaly crocodile. ¶1756 HUME *Hist. Eng.* II. xx. 20 His character became fully known. and was no longer ambiguous to either faction. ¶1839 MURCHISON *Silur. Syst.* 418 Stratified rocks of ambiguous character.

II. Subjectively.

4. Of persons: Wavering or uncertain as to course or conduct; hesitating, doubtful. Obs.

¶1550 NICOLS *Thucyd.* 175 (R.) People that be ambiguous or doubtfull.

¶1649 MILTON *Eikon.* 239 Thus shall they be too and fro, doubtfull and ambiguous in all thir doings.

5. Of things: Wavering or uncertain in direction or tendency; of doubtful or uncertain issue.

¶1612 SHELTON *Don Quix.* I. ii. v. 90 That she do favour and protect him in that ambiguous Trance which he undertakes. ¶1813 SCOTT *Rokeby* i. xii, The eddying tides of conflict wheeled Ambiguous. ¶1850 MRS. BROWNING *Prometh. Bound Poems* I. 184 Do not cast Ambiguous paths, Prometheus, for my feet.

6. Hence, Insecure in its indications; not to be relied upon.

¶1756 BURKE *Subl. & B. Wks.* 1842 I. 26 The taste, that most ambiguous of the senses.

7. Of persons, oracles, etc.: Using words of doubtful or double meaning.

¶1566 KNOX *Hist. Ref. Wks.* 1846 I. 370 To no point wald sche answer directlie; bot in all thingis sche was..ambigua. ¶a1700 DRYDEN (J.) Th' ambiguous god, who rul'd her lab'ring breast. ¶a1725 POPE *Odyss.* i. 490 Antinous..Constrain'd a smile and thus ambiguous spoke. ¶1864 SWINBURNE *Atalanta* 1500 What mutterest thou with thine ambiguous mouth.

ambivalent a.

(æm'bi:vələnt)

[f. ambivalence, after equivalent a.]

Of, pertaining to, or characterized by ambivalence; having either or both of two contrary or parallel values, qualities or meanings; entertaining contradictory emotions (as love and hatred) towards the same person or thing; acting on or arguing for sometimes one and sometimes the other of two opposites; equivocal. (a) In Psychology.

¶1916 C.E. LONG tr. *Jung's Analytical Psychol.* vi. 200 Tendencies, under the stress of emotions, are balanced by their opposites—thus giving an ambivalent character to their expression. ¶1920 P.M. BLANCHARD *Adolescent Girl* (1921) v. 125 A second case where the falsehoods were..the result of ambivalent desire for and fear of the erotic life. ¶1922 J. RIVIERE tr. *Freud's Introd. Lect. Psycho-Analysis* ii. xv. 194 The coincidence of opposites in the dream-work is analogous to what is called the antithetical sense of primal words in the oldest languages. The philologist, R. Abel..begs us not..to imagine that there was any ambiguity in what one person said to another by means of ambivalent words of this sort. ¶1924 A.A. BRILL tr. *Bleuler's Textbk. Psychiatry* ii. 126 It is chiefly ambivalent complexes that influence pathology. ¶1954 *Listener* 30 Sept. 523/2 Our deeper urges are strangely ambivalent, ready to spend themselves on love or hate, altruism or destruction.

(b) In literary and general use.

¶1929 B. RUSSELL *Marriage & Morals* xiii. 140 Christianity..has always had an ambivalent attitude towards the family. ¶1939 L. TRILLING *M. Arnold* iv. 123 The story of ambivalent love is a characteristic one of the 19th century. ¶1947 C.S. LEWIS *Miracles* xiv. 151 Death is..what some modern people would call 'ambivalent'. It is Satan's great weapon and also God's great weapon; it is holy and unholy; our supreme disgrace and our only hope. ¶1957 D.J. ENRIGHT *Apothecary's Shop* 196 Where Rilke is concerned..Auden's attitude in his poetry is ambivalent. He cannot help disapproving the application, but..he cannot help praising the technique. ¶1958 A.E. DYSON in *Ess. & Stud.* 53 Irony is..the most ambivalent of modes, constantly changing colour and texture. ¶1958 J. PRESS *Chequer'd Shade* v. 93 Some readers obviously derive from poetry which they do not comprehend a peculiar, ambivalent pleasure. ¶1963 *Times Lit. Suppl.* 15 Feb. 103/2 Ambivalent-seeming relations with his brilliant Eton tutor. ¶1965 *Camb.*

Rev. 20 Feb. 273/1 A Ph.D. is a somewhat ambivalent acquisition: it is not always clear whether it is mentioned as a positive desideratum or a last resort.

ambulatory a.

(ˈæmbjʊlətəri)

[ad. L. ambulātōri-us of or pertaining to a walker, f. ambulātor, q.v.; cf. Fr. ambulateire.]

1. Of or pertaining to a walker, or to walking.

¶1622 HEYLYN *Cosmogr.* iii. (1682) 129 Being at his ambulatory Exercise.

¶1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* II. 83 The ambulatory life of herdsmen and shepherds. ¶1874 HELPS *Soc. Press.* iv. 63 When that man has an object, it is astonishing what ambulatory powers he can develop.

2. Adapted or fitted for walking.

¶1835 KIRBY *Habits & Inst. An.* II. xvi. 84 The thoracic legs..become also its ambulatory legs. ¶1852 DANA *Crustacea* i. 10 Feet ambulatory or prehensile. ¶1877 W. THOMSON *Voy. Challenger* I. ii. 133 Leaf-like sacs..which fringe the ambulatory disk.

3. Moving from place to place, having no fixed abode; movable.

¶1622 HOWELL *Lett.* 5 Mar., His council of state went ambulatory always with him. ¶1649 JER. TAYLOR *Gt. Exemp. Pref.* ¶25 They served the ends of God..by their ambulatory life. a ¶1703 BURKITT *On N.T. Acts* vii. 50 The tabernacle was an ambulatory temple. ¶1845 R. HAMILTON *Pop. Educ.* 191 Many [schools] are ambulatory, and..are held only during four or five months in farm houses. ¶1858 GEN. P. THOMPSON *Audi Alt. Part.* I. xxv. 96 While the ambulatory guillotine was doing its work in the provinces.

4. fig. Shifting, not permanent, temporary, mutable. (So in L. and Fr.) ambulatory will: one capable of revocation.

¶1621–31 *Laud Serm.* (1847) 73 Nor is this ceremony Jewish or ambulatory, to cease with the law. ¶1651 W.G. Cowel's *Instit.* 133 A mans will..according to the Civill Law is ambulatory, or alterable, untill Death. ¶1789 MRS. PI-OZZI *Fr. & It.* II. 387 They learn to think virtue and vice ambulatory. ¶1832 J. AUSTIN *Jurispr.* I. xxi. 452 Every intention..which regards the future is ambulatory or revocable.

5.a. Path. and Med. = ambulant a. sense 3.

¶1857 DUNGLISON *Med. Lex.* s.v., A morbid affection is said to be ‘ambulatory’..when it skips from one part to another. ¶1882 QUAIN *Dict. Med.*

I. 38/1 Ambulatory, a term given to typhoid fever, showing that the patient is able to walk about during the attack. ¶1903 *Westm. Gaz.* 21 Feb. 6/1 That the cause of death was ambulatory typhoid. ¶1947 L.K. FERGUSON *Surg. Ambulatory Patient* (ed. 2) p. ix, Surgery of the ambulatory patient is the surgery performed more often by the younger men and general practitioners. Ibid. i. 1 (heading) A survey of the field of ambulatory surgery.

b. Of places or apparatus: intended or suitable for ambulant patients.

¶1890 BILLINGS *Med. Dict.* I. 47/1 Ambulatory clinic, clinic for persons able to walk about; a dispensary. ¶1973 *Sci. Amer.* Sept. 29/3 The vast bulk of care is provided by physicians in ambulatory settings. ¶1978 B. PYM *Very Private Eye* (1984) 317 Had an ambulatory electro-cardiogram attached to me for 24 hours. ¶1981 *Times* 1 Dec. 15/7 The Tracker ambulatory recorder uses a standard C-90 tape cassette running at slow speeds to record a continuous electrocardiograph. ¶1990 *Brain* CXIII. 1584 Subcutaneous administration of apomorphine by ambulatory minipump.

ameliorate (ə'mi:liəreɪt)

[a recent formation (not in Johnson 1773), after the earlier meliorate q.v., on Fr. améliorer, refashioned from OFr. ameillorer to make better, f. à to + meillorer:—L. meliōrāre, f. melior better.]

1. trans. To make better; to better, improve.

¶1767 [See AMELIORATING]. ¶1779 SWINBURNE *Trav. Spain* xxxvi. (T.) The probability of their lot being so much ameliorated. ¶1813 SIR H. DAVY *Agric. Chem.* 203 A sterile soil..may be ameliorated by the application of quick lime. ¶1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* I. 279 In every human being there is a wish to ameliorate his own condition. ¶1879 *Quatrefages' Hum. Spec.* 70 Gardeners and breeders..ameliorate..the plants and animals in which they are interested.

2. intr. To grow better.

¶1789–96 Morse *Amer. Geog.* I. 626 The state of things is rapidly ameliorating. ¶1882 GEIKIE in *Macm. Mag.* Mar. 365/2 [Man]..would find his way back as the climate ameliorated.

amenable a.

(ə'mi:nəb(ə)l)

[apparently a. AFr. amenable (not in Godef.), f. amener to bring to or before, f. à to + mener to lead:—L. mināre to threaten, hence to drive cattle with minatory shouts. Cf. Sc. ca' = call and drive. The spelling amesnable is quite artificial, influenced by mesne, demesne, etc.]

1. Of persons: Liable to be brought before any jurisdiction; answerable, liable to answer, responsible (to law, etc., or absol.).

¶1596 SPENSER *State of Irel.* 100 Not amesnable to Law. ¶1662 FULLER *Worthies* ii. 74 The inferiour sort of the Irish were..not Amesnable by Law. ¶1691 BLOUNT *Law Dict.*, Amenable, others write it amainable, from the Fr. main, a hand..is applied in our Law Books to a Woman that is supposed governable by her Husband. ¶1769 JUNIUS *Lett. Pref.* 12 The sovereign of this country is not amenable to any form of trial. ¶1810 COLERIDGE *Friend* (ed. 3) II. 5 The sufficiency of the conscience to make every person a moral and amenable being. ¶1876 GRANT *Burgh. Sch. Scotl.* i. i. 6 The Abbots of Dunfermline, to whom only he was amenable.

2. Of things: Liable to the legal authority of.

¶1768 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* III. 413 Personal property, which is..always amesnable to the magistrate. ¶1817 JAS. MILL *Brit. India* II. v. ix. 697 All offences against the act were rendered amenable to the courts of law.

3. Hence loosely. Liable (to a charge, claim, etc.).

¶1863 MRS. C. CLARKE *Shaks. Char.* xvii. 431 He is amenable to the charge of a host of vices. ¶1876 E. MELLOR *Priesth.* vii. 312 The next witness..is amenable to the same imputation of uncandid..quotation. ¶1844 DICKENS *Mart. Chuz.* (C.D. ed.) 270 Your property..being amenable to all claims upon the company.

4. fig. Answerable at the bar of (any critical instrument): capable of being tested by. Const to.

¶1828 MILL *Autobiogr.* (1924) 298 Make them amenable to the general tribunal of the public at large. ¶1843 *Logic* I. ii. i. 216 Such of them [sc. assertions]..as, not being amenable to direct consciousness or intuition, are appropriate subjects of proof. ¶1845 *Ess.* II. 220 Historical facts are hardly yet felt to be..amenable to scientific laws. ¶1867 BUCKLE *Civilis.* III. v. 369 Amenable to the touch, but invisible to the eye.

5. Of persons and things: Disposed to answer, respond, or submit (to influence); responsive, tractable; capable of being won over.

¶1803 WELLINGTON in *Gen. Disp.* II. 417 A high spirited people..by no means amenable to discipline. ¶1861 MILL *Utilitar.* iv. 60 Will..is amenable

to habit. ¶1874 SPURGEON *Treas. David* lxxxii. i. IV. 40 Oriental judges are frequently..amenable to bribes. ¶1878 E. WHITE *Life in Christ* v. xxix. 496 Perplexed but amenable spirits whom sorrow and fear..are drawing back to their Father.

amenity n.

(ə'mi:nɪtɪ, ə'menɪtɪ)

[? a. Fr. *amenité* (in *Cotgr.* 1611), or perh. direct ad. of its original L. *amœnitāt-em*, f. *amœn-us* pleasant: see *amene* and *-ity*.]

1. The quality of being pleasant or agreeable: **a.** of places, their situation, aspect, climate, etc.

¶1432–50 tr. *Higden* (1865) I. 77 That place hath also amenite. ¶1611 CORYAT *Crudities* 448 For amenity of situation..it doth farre excel all other cities. ¶1683 *Brit. Spec.* 17 The amœnity and Utility of its Seas, Rivers and Ponds. ¶1832 J. AUSTIN *Jurispr.* (1879) II. l. 858 The fiar may also cut and sell timber, so as not to injure the amenity. ¶1846 PRESCOTT *Ferd. & Is.* I. ii. 120 The superior amenity of the climate.

b. of persons, their habits, actions, etc.

¶1815 M. EDGEWORTH *Patron.* xvii. 279 His manners wanted amenity, gaiety, and frankness. ¶1824 DIBDIN *Libr. Comp.* 90 Who does not love the amenity of Erasmus? ¶1873 DIXON *Two Queens* I. i. vii. 46 In amenity of life, his Court had been a Moorish rather than a Gothic Court.

c. In mod. use (freq. in pl.) applied to the more 'human' and pleasurable environmental aspects of a house, factory, town, etc., as distinguished from the features of the house, etc., considered in or by itself. Also concr. (usu. in sing.), a particular advantageous or convenient feature of this kind. Also attrib. Also, amenity bed (see *quots.*). (See also sense 3 b.)

¶1908 *Royal Comm. Care Feeble-Minded, Min. Evid.* II. 63/1 Social Amenities. The experience we have gained emphasises the desirability of organised recreation. ¶1928 *Britain's Industr. Future (Liberal Ind. Inquiry)* iv. xxiv. §9. 336 Amenity woodland definitely uneconomic. ¶1929 *Oxford Times* 8 Feb. 13/4 The payment of £88 for the purchase of the land; the payment of £250 as compensation for the loss of amenities and disturbance of existing garden and grounds. ¶1936 *Times* 2 Apr. 10/3 Repairable cottages of amenity value..could be acquired and sympathetically repaired by the local authorities. ¶1951 *Brit. Med. Jnl.* 13 Oct. Suppl. 146/2 Amenity beds,

for which the maintenance charge is almost negligible and medical service is given under the National Health Service Act. ¶1951 B.J. COLLINS *Devel. Plans Explained* 42 Amenity, the quality which makes a desirable residence desirable, a favoured locality favoured, or enchanting views in all directions enchanting. ¶1952 *Lancet* 2 Aug. 229/1 No privileges can be bought within the service (except the amenity bed, for which a relatively small charge has been made). ¶1957 *Times* 12 Dec. 18/4 Arrangements were made to provide an amenity centre for the labour on Effingham and Seventh Mile Estates, the centre comprising a clubroom with cinema and a playing field. ¶1958 *Times* 1 July i/3 There are, of course, many holdings below 20 acres, especially those that are part-time or amenity holdings where the earning of an income from the holding is not of great importance. ¶1958 *Listener* 11 Sept. 368/2 Where the people themselves want a new amenity—a school, a meeting house, a road to link up with the outside world, [etc.]. ¶1964 G.L. COHEN *What's Wrong with Hospitals?* i. 23 'Amenity beds'..were designated under the Act for patients who want more privacy and will pay extra for it.

2. Joyousness, exhilaration. Obs. rare.

¶1627 FELTHAM *Resolves* ii. lxx. (1677) 307 The Amœnity and Floridness of the warm and spirited blood.

3. concr. in pl. **a.** Pleasant places or scenes. (Cf. pleasance.) Obs.

¶1664 EVELYN *Silva* (1776) 604 Arboreous Amenities and plantations of woods. ¶1671 *Diary* (1827) II. 354 The suburbs are large, the prospects sweete, with other amenities. ¶1762 H. WALPOLE *Vertue's Anecd. Paint.* (1786) IV. 140 A country so profusely beautified with the amœnities of nature.

b. Pleasant ways or manners; pleasant pursuits, pleasures, delights, agreeable relations, civilities.

¶1841 D'ISRAELI (*title*) Amenities of authors. ¶1860 MOTLEY *Netherl.* (1868) I. v. 234 This interchange of dainties led the way to the amenities of diplomacy. ¶1866 *Cornh. Mag.* Aug. 157 All the amenities of home life are wanting. ¶1883 *Scotsman* 12 May 9/7 Talking amenities with Sir Stafford Northcote.

amorous **a.**

(*ˈæməɹəs*)

[**a.** OFr. *amorous* (mod.Fr. *amoureux*):—L. *amōrōs*-um, f. *amōr* love: see -ous.]

I. actively.

1. Of persons: Inclined to love; habitually fond of the opposite sex. Also fig. of things: Loving, fond.

¶1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 7988 Þys was a prest ryȝt ameraus, And ameraus men are leccherous. ¶1393 GOWER *Conf.* I. 304 Whiche of the two more amorous is Or man or wife. ¶1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 90/1 Therefore saith the holy ghoost to the sowle that is amerouse. ¶1607 TOPSELL *Four-footed Beasts* (1673) 341 The hairs layed to Womens lips, maketh them amorous. ¶1610 J. GUILLIM *Displ. Herald.* iii. vii. (1660) 133 The Woodbine is a loving and amorous plant, which embraceth all that it growes near unto. ¶1616 R.C. *Times' Whistle* vi. 2583 Doth captive the hart Of amarous ladies. ¶1728 YOUNG *Odes to King Wks.* 1757 I. 177 Beneath them lies, With lifted eyes, Fair Albion, like an amorous maid. ¶1807 CRABBE *Par. Reg.* ii. 405 Sir Edward Archer is an amorous knight.

b. with unto. Obs. rare. ¶c1400 *Destr. Troy* viii. 3926 Troilus was..amirous vnto Maidens & mony hym louyt.

2. Affected with love towards one of the opposite sex; in love, enamoured, fond. Also fig. of things (both as subject and object of love). a. absol. ¶c1314 *Guy Warw.* 37 Namore wostow of armes loue..So ameraus thou were anon right. c ¶1385 CHAUCER *L.G.W.* 1189 This ameraus quien. ¶c1440 *Gesta Rom.* ii. v. 285 The thirde knyght is wondir ameraus, and loveth the you passyng well. ¶1596 SHAKES. *Tam. Shr.* iii. i. 63 Our fine Musitian groweth amorous. ¶1647 COWLEY *Bathing* iii. in *Mistress* (1669) 79 The amorous Waves would fain about her stay. ¶1711 STEELE *Spect.* No. 78 ¶4 The young Lady was amorous, and had like to run away with her Father's Coachman. ¶1822 W. IRVING *Braceb. Hall* xix. 164 The amorous frog piped from among the rushes.

b. with on. Obs.

¶c1386 CHAUCER *Frankl. T.* 764 This squier On Dorigen that was so amorus. ¶1477 EARL RIVERS (*Caxton*) *Dictes* 146 He was ameraus on somme noble lady. ¶1599 SHAKES. *Much Ado* ii. i. 161 Sure my brother is amorous on Hero. ¶1625 MILTON *Death Fair Inf.* i, Being amorous on that lovely dye That did thy cheek envermeil.

c. with of.

¶a1450 *Knt. de la Tour* (1868) 168 There came another knyght which was also ameraus of that lady. ¶1606 SHAKES. *Ant. & Cl.* ii. ii. 202 And made The water to follow faster, As amorous of their strokes. ¶1692 DRYDEN *St.*

Euremont's Ess. 212 One must be very amorous of a Truth, to search after it at that Price. ¶1821 KEATS *Isabel* xix, Thy roses amorous of the moon.

d. with in: Delighting in. Obs. rare.

¶a1674 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* II. viii. 392 He was amorous in Poetry, and Musick, to which he indulged the greatest part of his time.

3. Of action, expression, etc.: Showing love or fondness; fond, loving. **a.** (sexual.)

¶c1385 CHAUCER *L.G.W.* 1102 Many an Amorous [v.r. amorous, amorows] lokynge & devys. ¶1493 *Petronylla* (Pynson) 123 Nightyngalys with amorous notys clere Salueth Esperus. ¶1525 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* II. xxvi. 72 His eyen gray and amorous. ¶1605 SHAKES. *Lear* i. i. 48 France & Burgundy, Great Riuals in our yongest daughters loue, Long in our Court, haue made their amorous sojourne. ¶1750 JOHNSON *Rambl.* No. 182 ¶7 Not being accustomed to amorous blandishments. ¶1863 B. TAYLOR *Poet's Jrnl.* (1866) 54 Earth in amorous palpitation Receives her bridegroom's kiss.

b. (general): Loving, affectionate, devoted, ardent.

¶1677 GALE *Crt. Gentiles* II. iii. 64 Those amorse impetuositities that are in men and tend to pietie or impietie. Ibid. 145 An amorous vehemence against sin. ¶1784 J. BARRY *Lect. Art* v. (1848) 187 With attention and amorous assiduity. ¶1856 R. VAUGHAN *Ho. w. Mystics* (1860) I. 65 The amorous quest of the soul after the Good.

4. Of or pertaining to (sexual) love.

¶c1385 CHAUCER *L.G.W.* 2616 Fful is the place..Of songis ameraus, of maryage. ¶1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 31/2 The holy institucion of this ameraus sacrament shold be the more honourably halowed. ¶1567 DRANT *Horace Ep.* To Reader, So greate a scull of amarouse Pamphlets. ¶1592 SHAKES. *Rom. & Jul.* iii. ii. 8 Louers can see to doe their Amorous rights, And by their owne Beauties. ¶1635 SWAN *Spec. Mundi* vi. §4 (1643) 266 Sow-bread..is a good amorous medicine, and will make one in love. ¶1741 H. WALPOLE *Lett. to H. Mann* 7 (1834) I. 23 The poor Princess and her conjugal and amorous distresses. ¶1809 W. IRVING *Knickerb.* 75 To manhood roused, he spurns the amorous flute. ¶1846 PRESCOTT *Ferd. & Is.* I. viii. 373 Offered up his amorous incense on the altar of the Muse.

II. passively, Of persons and things: Lovable, lovely. Obs.

¶c1400 *Rom. Rose* 2901 It is thyng most ameraus, For to aswage a mannes sorowe, To sene his lady by the morowe. ¶1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* II. 37 His wyfe..buir to him ane virgin amorus. ¶1557 *Primer Sarum* D iij, O

mother of God moste glorious, and amorous. ¶1567 *Trial of Treas.* in Hazl. *Dodsley* III. 288 O she is a minion of amorous hue. ¶1611 DEKKER *Roaring Girle* 213, J. Here's most amorous weather, my Lord. Omnes. Amorous weather! J. Is not amorous a good word?

b. quasi-n. A lover; one in love. Obs.

¶a1440 *Sir Degrev.* 655 Sir Degriuaunt that amerus Had joye of that sy3th.
 ¶1491 CAXTON *Vitas Patr.* (W. de Worde) i. xli. 62/2 How ofte she hath..made fayre herself for to playse her amourouse or loues.

amorphous a.

(ə'mɔːfəs)

[f. mod.L. *amorphus*, a. Gr. ἄμορφ-ος shapeless (f. ἄ priv. + μορφή form) + -ous. Cf. mod.Fr. *amorphe*.]

Not in J.

1. Having no determinate shape, shapeless, unshapen; irregularly shaped, unshapely. ¶1731 BAILEY *Amorphous*, without form or shape, ill-shapen. ¶1791 D'ISRAELI *Cur. Lit.* (1866) 148/1 An amorphous hat, very much worn. ¶1831 CARLYLE *Sart. Res.* (1858) 178 The enormous, amorphous Plum-pudding, more like a Scottish Haggis. ¶1870 LOWELL *Among my Bks.* Ser. i. (1873) 203 That quality in man which..gives classic shape to our own amorphous imaginings. ¶1878 BLACK *Green Past.* xxxviii. 301 All three wore heavy and amorphous garments.

b. Belonging to no particular type or pattern; anomalous, unclassifiable.

¶1803 *Phil. Trans.* XCIV. 38 This kind of attraction is either regular, irregular, or amorphous. ¶1845 CARLYLE *Cromwell* (1871) I. 63 A morose, amorphous, cynical Law-pedant.

2. Min. & Chem. Not composed of crystals in physical structure; uncrystallized, massive.

¶1801 BOURNON *Arseniates* in *Phil. Trans.* XCI. 171 The matrix..siliceous; sometimes crystalline; and sometimes in an amorphous mass. ¶1842 W. GROVE *Corr. Phys. Forces* (ed. 6) 84 An opaque amorphous state, as graphite or charcoal. ¶1870 TYNDALL *Heat* xiii. §639 A fragment of almost black amorphous phosphorus. ¶1879 RUTLEY *Stud. Rocks* x. 123 Augite often contains inclosures of amorphous glass.

3. Geol. Occurring in a continuous mass, without stratification, cleavage, or other division into similar parts.

¶1830 LYELL *Princ. Geol.* I. 346 An amorphous mass passing downwards into lava, irregularly prismatic. ¶1853 PHILLIPS *Rivers, etc. Yorksh.* iv. 124 These perishing cliffs show at the bottom the amorphous boulder-clay.

4. Biol. Without the definite shape or organization found in most higher animals and plants.

¶1848 DANA *Zoophytes* 711 The structure was completely amorphous. ¶1868 WRIGHT *Ocean W.* iv. 74 A sort of animated jelly, amorphous and diaphanous. ¶1877 ROBERTS *Handbk. Med.* I. 51 Coagulated fibrin, either amorphous or fibrillated.

5. fig. Ill-assorted, ill-digested, unorganized.

¶1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* (1872) III. iii. v. 121 An amorphous Sansculotism taking form. ¶1869 LECKY *Europ. Mor.* I. i. 247 [Rome's] population soon became an amorphous, heterogeneous mass.

anachronism *n.*

(ə'nekrənɪz(ə)m)

[a. Fr. *anachronisme*, ad. L. *anachronism-us*, a. Gr. ἀναχρονισμ-ός, *n.* of action f. ἀναχρονί-ειν to refer to a wrong time, f. ἀνά up, backwards + χρόν-ος time.]

1. An error in computing time, or fixing dates; the erroneous reference of an event, circumstance, or custom to a wrong date. Said etymologically (like *prochronism*) of a date which is too early, but also used of too late a date, which has been distinguished as *parachronism*. ¶a1646 J.G[REGORY] *De Æris et Ep.* (1650) 174 An error committed herein [in a *Synchronism*] is called *Anachronism*. ¶1669 GALE *Crt. Gentiles* i. iii. viii. 85 This error sprang from *Anachronisme*, and confusion of *Histories*. ¶1704 HEARNE *Duct. Hist.* (1714) I. 7 Virgil making Dido and Æneas Co-temporaries, whereas they lived at Three Hundred Years distance..committed an *Anachronism*. ¶1798 FERRIAR *Eng. Histor.* 249 An *anachronism* of thirty or forty years..is easily overlooked. ¶1856 MRS. STOWE *Dred* (1856) I. Pref., Some *anachronisms* with regard to the time of the session of courts have been allowed. ¶1876 E. MELLOR *Priesth.* iv. 172 The so-called literal interpretation involves an *anachronism*, inasmuch as it antedates the death of our Lord upon the cross.

2. Anything done or existing out of date; hence, anything which was proper to a former age, but is, or, if it existed, would be, out of harmony with the present; also called a practical anachronism. Also transf. of persons.

¶1816 COLERIDGE *Lay Serm.* 329 If this one-eyed experience does not seduce its worshipper into practical anachronisms. ¶1859 JEPHSON *Brittany* ix. 145 A pilgrimage now seems an anachronism. ¶1864 *Round Table* 18 June 4/3 She gives them phrases and words which..had their beginning long since that period, and are in fact linguistic anachronisms. ¶1871 *Daily News* 15 Apr. 2 [The Benchers] would be living anachronisms in this age of progress, were it not that they are extremely fond of good eating. ¶1899 B. HARRADEN *Fowler* i. vii, 'Sentiment,' she repeated. 'It is absurd to try and hustle sentiment off the scenes'.. 'You are always an anachronism,' he said, quietly. ¶1952 M. MCCARTHY *Groves of Academe* iii. 37 She herself was a smoldering anachronism, a throwback to one of those ardent young women of the Sixties, Turgenev's heroines.

anagram n.

('ænəgræm)

[a. Fr. anagramme, or ad. mod.L. anagramma (16th c.), f. Gr. ἀνα-γράφ-ειν, to write up, write back or anew. Ἀνάγραμμα was not in Greek, though the grammarians had ἀναγραμματίζ-ειν to transpose the letters of a word, and ἀναγραμματισμός transposition of letters.]

1. A transposition of the letters of a word, name, or phrase, whereby a new word or phrase is formed.

¶1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* (Arb.) 115 Of the Anagramme, or poesie transposed. ¶1609 B. JONSON *Silent Wom.* iv. iii. (1616) 572 Who will..make anagrammes of our names. ¶1632 HOWELL *Lett.* (1650) I. 261 This Gustavus (whose anagram is Augustus) was a great Captain. ¶1705 HICKERINGILL *Priest-Cr.* ii. iii. 36 The true Anagram of Jesuita, is Sevitia, Cruelty. ¶1865 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* II. vi. ii. 14 Monsieur Arouet Junior (le Jeune, or l. j.), who, by an ingenious anagram..writes himself Voltaire ever since.

2. loosely or fig. A transposition, a mutation. Obs.

¶1634 HEYWOOD *Maidenh. well Lost* xi. 119 What meane these strange Anagrams? ¶1659 CLEVELAND *Comm. Place* (1677) 167 Heaven descends into the Bowels of the Earth, and, to make up the Anagramm, the Graves

open and the Dust ariseth. ¶1678 BUTLER *Hudibr.* iii. i. 772 His body, that stupendous frame, Of all the world the anagram.

analogy *n.*

(əˈnælədʒɪ)

[ad. L. *analogia*, a. Gr. ἀναλογία equality of ratios, proportion (orig. a term of mathematics, but already with transf. sense in Plato), f. ἀνάλογ-ος adj.: see *analogon*. Cf. mod.Fr. *analogie*.]

1. Math. Proportion; agreement of ratios.

¶1557 RECORDE *Whetst.* C ij, If any one proportion be continued in more then 2 numbers, there maie be then a conference also of these proportions..that conference or comparison is named Analogie. ¶1570 BILLINGSLEY *Euclid* v. Introd. 126 This booke..entreateth of proportion and Analogie, or proportionalitie. ¶1660 BARROW *Euclid* v. def. 4 That which is here termed Proportion is more rightly called Proportionality or Analogy. ¶1742 BAILEY *Analogy* [in the Mathematicks] the Comparison of several Ratio's of Quantities or Numbers one to another. ¶1855 H. SPENCER *Psychol.* (1872) II. vi. viii. 112 An analogy is 'an agreement or likeness between' two ratios in respect of the quantitative contrast between each antecedent and its consequent.

2. Hence, Due proportion; correspondence or adaptation of one thing to another. Obs.

¶1577 tr *Bullinger's Decades* 1018 Analogie is an aptnes, proportion and a certaine conuenance of the signe to ye thing signified. ¶1626 BP. ANDREWES *Serm.* (1856) I. 429 If there be an analogy of faith, so is there of hearing also. ¶1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* vi. 204 This bastard Pleurisie..arose from a pituitous matter gathered in the Bloud through Analogy with Winter.

¶1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* I. 143 Some philosophers have perceived so much analogy to man in the formation of the ocean, that they have not hesitated to assert its being made for him alone.

3. Equivalency or likeness of relations; 'resemblance of things with regard to some circumstances or effects' (J.); 'resemblance of relations' (Whately); a name for the fact, that, the relation borne to any object by some attribute or circumstance, corresponds to the relation existing between another object and some attribute or circumstance pertaining to it. Const. to, with, between.

This is an extension of the general idea of proportion from quantity to relation generally, and is often expressed proportionally, as when we say 'Knowledge is to the mind, what light is to the eye.' The general recognition of this analogy makes light, or enlightenment, or illumination, an analogical word for knowledge.

¶1550 VERON *Godly Sayings* (1846) 28 Marke well, good reader, the analogye of the old and new sacramentes. ¶1605 BACON *Adv. Learn.* ii. viii. §3 (1873) 122 Which three parts active [experimental, philosophical, magical] have a correspondence and analogy with the three parts speculative. ¶1658 PHILLIPS, *Analogy*, Like Reason, Relation, Proportion, Agreement, Correspondency. ¶1675 BAXTER *Cath. Theol.* ii. i. 13 We can think no otherwise of the Divine Conceptions and Volitions, but as we are led by the analogy of humane acts. ¶1765 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* II. 466 Analogy is the similitude or correspondence of particulars between things. ¶1785 REID *Intell. Powers* 65 Some conceived analogy between body and mind. ¶1833 BREWSTER *Nat. Magic* viii. 195 There is still one property of sound, which has its analogy also in light. ¶1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* ii. 10. 285 The analogy between a river and a glacier moving through a sinuous valley is therefore complete. ¶1879 LUBBOCK *Sci. Lect.* iv. 137 There seem to be three principal types [of ants] offering a curious analogy to the three great phases: the hunting, pastoral, and agricultural stages, in the history of human development.

4. more vaguely, Agreement between things, similarity.

¶1605 TIMME *Quersit.* i. iv. 18 A great analogie or conuenience is found in this contrarietie of beginnings. ¶1682 SIR T. BROWNE *Tracts* 45 Who from some analogy of name conceive the Ægyptian Pyramids to have been built for granaries. ¶1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 416 ¶1 Places, Persons, or Actions in general which bear a Resemblance, or at least some remote Analogy, with what we find represented. ¶1806 SYD. SMITH *Elem. Mor. Phil.* (1850) 359 There is a certain analogy to this in drunkenness. ¶1839 MURCHISON *Silur. Syst.* i. xxvii. 358 The trilobites..bear so strong an analogy to those described by M. Brongniart.

5. As a figure of speech: The statement of an analogy, a simile or similitude. Obs.

¶1536 TINDALE *Wks.* 473 (R.) Fetching his analogie and similitude at the naturall bodie. ¶1570 DEE *Math. Præf.* 21 Parables and Analogies of whose natures, etc. ¶1651 HOBBS *Leviath.* iii. xxxiv. 213 According to the same Analogy, the Dove, and the Fiery Tongues..might also be called Angels.

6. = analogue.

¶1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 158 Many have nostrills which have no lungs, as fishes, but none have lungs or respiration, which have not some shew, or some analogy of nostrills. ¶1661 in Heath *Grocers' Comp.* (1869) 486 Man..is the worlds analogy, And hath with it a Co-existency. ¶1837 LYTTON *Athens* I. 296 The child is the analogy of a people yet in childhood. ¶1877 W. LYTTEIL *Landm.* i. iii. 28 We readily find many analogies to such a name as Kairguin.

7. Logic. **a.** Resemblance of relations or attributes forming a ground of reasoning. **b.** The process of reasoning from parallel cases; presumptive reasoning based upon the assumption that if things have some similar attributes, their other attributes will be similar.

¶1602 in *Thynne's Animadv.* Pref. 107 By true Annalogie I rightly find. ¶1692 BENTLEY *Boyle Lect.* iv. 127 He hath made out from Example and Analogy. ¶1736 BUTLER *Anal.* Introd. 4 Analogy is of weight..towards determining our Judgment. ¶1832 J. AUSTIN *Jurispr.* (1879) II. 1040 Analogy denotes an inference or a reasoning or argumentation, whereof an analogy of objects is mainly the cause or ground. ¶1843 MILL *Logic* iii. xx. §1 The word Analogy as the name of a mode of reasoning is generally taken for some kind of argument supposed to be of an inductive nature but not amounting to a complete induction. ¶1853 ROBERTSON *Serm.* Ser. iv. xxx. (1863) 231 Analogy is probability from a parallel case. We assume that the same law which operates in the one case will in another, if there be a resemblance between the relations of the things compared. ¶1871 C. DAVIES *Metric Syst.* iii. 176 The analogy of all experience warrants the conjecture. ¶1875 STUBBS *Const. Hist.* I. i. 11 Analogy, however, is not proof, but illustration.

8. Language. Similarity of formative or constructive processes; imitation of the inflexions, derivatives, or constructions of existing words, in forming inflexions, derivatives, or constructions of other words, without the intervention of the formative steps through which these at first arose. Thus the new inflexion *bake*, *baked*, *baked* (instead of the historical *bake*, *book*, *baken*) is due to analogy with such words as *rake*, *raked*, *raked*, etc. When the formative steps are not only absent, but could not have been present, the process is often called False Analogy; as when *starvation* was formed to bear the same relation to *starve*, that *vexation* does to *vex*. *Vexation* being historically due to the existence of *vexāt-* the ppl. stem of a L. vb. *vexā-re*, whence through Fr. *vexe-r* we have *vex*, there could be no such formative steps in the case of the Teut. vb. *starve*. But as all mere analogy, even that of *vex-es*, *vex-ed*, *vex-ing*, is in this sense 'false,' the term form-association is now commonly used of an

analogical process which considers the mere forms of existing words, apart from their history.

¶1659 B. WALTON *Consid. Considered* 264 There [is]..a particular Grammar analogy in each particular tongue, before it be reduced into rules. ¶1706 PHILLIPS, *Analogy*..in Grammar, the Declining of a Noun, or Conjugating of a Verb, according to its Rule or Standard. ¶1747 JOHNSON *Plan of Dict.* Wks. 1787 IX. 178 To our language may be with great justness applied the observation of Quintilian, that speech was not formed by an analogy sent from heaven. ¶1751 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. Analogy, In matters of language, we say, new words are formed by Analogy. ¶1874 MORRIS *Hist. Eng. Gram.* 95 The th in farther has crept in from false analogy with further. ¶1878 SWEET in *Trans. Philol. Soc.* (1877–9) 391 Paul goes on to protest against the epithet ‘false’ analogy, remarking that it is really ‘correct,’ working as it does with unerring psychological instinct.

9. Nat. Hist. Resemblance of form or function between organs which are essentially different (in different species), as the analogy between the tail of a fish and that of the whale, the wing of a bat and that of a bird, the tendril of the pea and that of the vine.

¶1814 SIR H. DAVY *Agric. Chem.* 62 Linnæus, whose lively imagination was continually employed in endeavours to discover analogies between the animal and vegetable systems, conceived ‘that the pith performed for the plant the same functions as the brain and nerves in animated beings.’ ¶1854 WOODWARD *Man. Mollusca* 55 Resemblances of form and habits without agreement of structure..are termed relations of..analogy. ¶1857 BERKELEY *Cryptog. Bot.* §25 We understand by analogy those cases in which organs have identity of function, but not identity of essence or origin. ¶1870 HOOKER *Stud. Flora* 13 Nymphæaceæ..Affinities. With Papaveraceæ, but not close; presents analogies with Hydrocharideæ and Villarsia.

anathema n. and adj.

(əˈnæθɪmə)

[a. L. anathema an excommunicated person, also the curse of excommunication, a. Gr. ἀνάθεμα, orig. ‘a thing devoted,’ but in later usage ‘a thing devoted to evil, an accursed thing’ (see Rom. ix. 3). Orig. a var. of ἀνάθημα an offering, a thing set up (to the gods), n. of product f. ἀνατιθέναι to set up, f. ἀνά up + τιθέναι (stem θε-) to place. Cf. prec., and anatheme.]

I. From eccl. Greek and Latin.

1. Anything accursed, or consigned to damnation. Also quasi-adj. Accursed, consigned to perdition.

¶1526 [See **ANATHEMA MARANATHA**]. ¶1625 BACON *Ess., Goodness* (Arb.) 207 He would wish to be an Anathema from Christ, for the Salvation of his Brethren. ¶1634 CANNE *Necess. Separ.* (1849) 162 Delivered over unto Satan, proclaimed publicans, heathens, anathema. ¶1765 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* II. 299 Saint Paul wished to become anathema himself, so he could thereby save his brethren.

2. The formal act, or formula, of consigning to damnation. **a.** The curse of God. **b.** The great curse of the church, cutting off a person from the communion of the church visible, and formally handing him over to Satan; or denouncing any doctrine or practice as damnable. Hence **c.** Any denunciation or imprecation of divine wrath against alleged impiety, heresy, etc. **d.** A curse or imprecation generally. (The weakening of the sense has accompanied the free use of anathemas as weapons of ecclesiastical rancour.)

a. ¶1619 DONNE *Biathan.* (1644) 192 Which Anathema..was utter damnation, as all Expositors say. ¶1756 BURKE *Vind. Nat. Soc. Wks.* I. 64 The divine thunders out his anathemas. ¶1877 MOZLEY *Univ. Sermon.* ii. 37 To strike with His anathema those who made a gain of their virtues.

b. ¶1590 SWINBURN *Testaments* 60 Vnlesse he be excommunicate with that great curse, which is called Anathema. ¶1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* v. xi. 404 The Donatists, whilst blessing themselves, cared not for the Churches Anathema's. ¶1726 AYLIFFE *Parerg.* 256 An Anathema..differs from an Excommunication only in respect of a greater kind of Solemnity. ¶1769 ROBERTSON *Charles V, III.* viii. 71 Against all who disclaimed the truth of these tenets, anathemas were denounced. ¶1844 GLADSTONE *Gleanings* V. xlv. 114 The Pope..has condemned the slave trade—but no more heed is paid to his anathema than to the passing wind.

c. ¶1782 PRIESTLEY *Nat. & Rev. Relig.* II. 80 The Mohammedans denounce anathemas against unbelievers. ¶1850 GLADSTONE *Gleanings* V. xiv. 182 To deliver over to anathema the memories of our forefathers in the Church.

d. ¶1691 NORRIS *Pract. Disc.* 90 Willing rather to err with the Multitude..than incur the great Censure, the heavy Anathema of Singularity. ¶1757 CIBBER in *Dilworth Pope* 16 How then could you thunder out such anathema's on your own enemies? ¶1827 LYTTON *Pelham* lxvii. (1840) 294 'Confound the man!' was my mental anathema. ¶1867 L.M. CHILD *Ro-*

mance Repub. xx. 237 The Signor..succeeded in smothering his half-uttered anathemas.

II. From the earlier sense of ἀνάθεμα or ἀνάθημα. (In this sense better pronounced ænə'θi:mə)

3. A thing devoted or consecrated to divine use.

¶1581 MARBECK *Bk. of Notes* 39 Anathema (saith Chrisostome) are those things which being consecrated to God, are laied up from other things.

¶1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* 779 Will not permit a [spider's] web—the very pattern, index, and anathema of supernaturall wisdom—to remain untouched.

¶1857 BIRCH *Anc. Pottery* (1858) I. 178 The little figures, in the shape of animals..may have been votive offerings to the gods, such anathemata being offered by the poor.

Draft partial entry February 2007

III. adj. In predicative use: loathsome, repugnant, or extremely objectionable to.

¶1648 R. HERRICK *Hesperides* sig. S7, Who read'st this Book that I have writ, And can'st not mend, but carpe at it: By all the muses! thou shalt be Anathema to it, and me. ¶1862 *Littell's Living Age* 5 Apr. 22/1 Apple-green papers in bedrooms have long been anathema to nervous men. ¶1880 *Littell's Living Age* 6 Mar. 617/2 Glory such as Rajah Brooke has won was 'anathema' to him. ¶1919 R. FIRBANK *Valmouth* xi. 189 A book is anathema to her. ¶1944 *Sun (Baltimore)* 19 Oct. 21/2 Defeats are anathema to gridsters with January 1 [i.e. the day on which post-season bowl games are played] on their minds. ¶1970 M. TORMÉ *Other Side of Rainbow* (1971) iii. 50 While lip-syncing is anathema to most singers, it was Judy's particular teacup. 2005 *Gay Times* Dec. 150/1 The idea of paying to simply go into a bar is anathema to us Northerners.

ancillary a. and n.

(ˈænsɪləɹɪ, æn'sɪləɹɪ)

[ad. L. ancillāri-us (more correctly ancillār-is) of or pertaining to a handmaid, f. ancilla: see prec.]

A. adj.

1. Subservient, subordinate, ministering (to).

¶1667 WATERHOUSE *Fire of Lond.* 60 God makes every thing ancillary hereunto. ¶1768 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* iii. vii. (R.) It is beneath the dignity

of the king's courts to be merely ancillary to other inferior jurisdictions.

¶1836 H. TAYLOR *Statesm.* viii. 49 It will be rather ancillary than essential.

¶1848 ARNOULD *Mar. Insur.* II. ii. v. 652 Warlike stores..directly ancillary to warlike purposes. ¶1869 RAWLINSON *Anc. Hist.* 8 Geography, the other ancillary science to History.

2. lit. (after L.) Of or pertaining to maid-servants. rare and affected.

¶1852 THACKERAY *Esmond* iii. ix. (1876) 404 The ancillary beauty was the one whom the Prince had selected. ¶1854 BADHAM *Halieut.* 399 Ancillary reformation has not yet begun to be thought of; cats are not more detrimental to mice..than these smashing wenches to..Sèvres teacups.

3. Designating activities and services that provide essential support to the functioning of a central service or industry; also, of staff employed in these supporting roles. Now used esp. of non-medical staff and services in hospitals.

¶1948 B. NEWMAN *Baltic Background* vi. 139 Sixty-five per cent of the Estonians are directly engaged in agriculture, and many more in its ancillary occupations. ¶1955 *Times* 10 May 9/2 There were inadequate ancillary services such as laundries, kitchens, bathrooms, and lavatory accommodation.

¶1957 *Encycl. Brit.* XVIII. 948/1 The Transport act..nationalized the railways, together with their ancillary services—docks, steamers, road vehicles, hotels and canals. ¶1962 *Lancet* 26 May 1114/1 Ancillary workers.—An ample complement of ancillaries is essential. We would suggest one psychiatric social worker for each consultant team. ¶1976 *Daily Tel.* 20 July 2/4 Ancillary and other staff from five trade unions are to stage a 24-hour strike from midnight tonight. ¶1982 *Financial Times* 7 July 12/6 The Government was not prepared to improve on its latest offer of 7.5 per cent for nurses and 6 per cent for ancillary staff and other grades.

B. n.

1.a. One who acts as an assistant or servant. Obs.

¶1867 G. MEREDITH in *Fortn. Rev.* 1 Sept. 294 They were yoked before the glad youth by his sister-ancillaries.

b. An ancillary worker. See sense 3 of the adj.

¶1962 [see sense A. 3 above]. ¶1982 *Financial Times* 17 Aug. 12/1 Bank staff can hardly expect..the kind of public support enjoyed by the low-paid hospital ancillaries. ¶1985 *Ibid.* 15 Nov. 24/8 Local authority manual workers have settled.; health service ancillaries are expected to secure a similar deal.

2. Something which is ancillary; an auxiliary or accessory.

¶1929 *Morning Post* 2 Oct. 10/4 Aircraft must be regarded only as a very useful and necessary ancillary to the main fleet. ¶1942 W.S. CHURCHILL *Secret Session Speeches* (1946) 63 He had expected to meet the three Kongos and perhaps two aircraft carriers together with ancillaries. ¶1972 *Proc. Inst. Electr. Engineers* CXIX 189 A design of great simplicity has been developed in which the vacuum-interrupter circuit-breakers and all ancillaries are housed in one modular enclosure. ¶1980 *Daily Tel.* 23 Apr. 3 (Advt.), Cave Tab are the specialists in ancillaries, equipment and supplies for all DP and WP operations. ¶1986 *New Yorker* 27 Jan. 47/1, I thought I might as well do some air tests. That involves two stages: first the airframe and its ancillaries, then the engine.

animus n.

(ˈæniməs)

[a. L. animus (1) soul, (2) mind, (3) mental impulse, disposition, passion.]

No pl.

1. Actuating feeling, disposition in a particular direction, animating spirit or temper, usually of a hostile character; hence, animosity.

¶ [1818 Not in Todd.] ¶1820 *Ann. Reg.* 1819 74/2 The original design..was demonstrative of the animus of the projectors. ¶1831 GEN. P. THOMPSON *Exerc.* I. 424 The animus is to impress upon the British soldiery the duty of putting down the liberties of their country. ¶1840 THACKERAY *Paris Sk.-bk.* (1872) 212 The animus with which the case has been conducted.

¶1863 I. TAYLOR *Pentateuch* 16 Almost every page..affords an instance..of an intense feeling, or, as we say, animus; this is the word we use when a speaker or writer, who is labouring to substantiate a defamation, finds it more than he can do to repress emotions, that are not of the most amiable sort, and which he does not choose to avow. ¶1864 LOWELL *Biglow P. Wks.* 1879, 264/2 The animus that actuates the policy of a foreign country. ¶1953 L. EDEL *Henry James, Untried Years* iv. 195 Henry James expressed..the starch that congealed the blood of some New Englanders, with an often ill-concealed..animus.

2. Psychol. Jung's term for the masculine component of a female personality. Cf. anima.

¶1923 [see anima]. ¶1943 *Horizon* VIII. 262 The dominating animus peeping through the light-heartedness of the young girl. ¶1943 H. READ

Educ. through Art iv. 95 According to Jung, the conscious aspect of the individual's personality..is balanced..by a contra-sexual counterpart—that individual's animus (the male counterpart in the case of a woman) or anima (the female counterpart in the case of a man). ¶1962 J. JACOBI *Psychol. of C. G. Jung* (ed. 6) iii. 111 The animus-possessed woman, opinionated and argumentative, the female know-it-all, who reacts in a masculine way and not instinctively.

annals n.pl.

(ˈænəlz)

[ad. L. annāl-es the historical record of the events of each year, prop. masc. pl. (sc. libri) of annālis yearly, f. annus year. Occas. used in sing.]

1. A narrative of events written year by year.

¶1563 GRAFTON *Epist. to Cecil* (R.) Short notes in maner of Annales commonly called Abridgements. ¶1607 SHAKES. *Cor.* v. vi. 114 If you haue writ your Annales true, 'tis there. ¶1622 HEYLIN *Cosmogr.* Introd. (1674) 17/2 Annals..are a bare recital only of the Actions happening every year. ¶1759 ROBERTSON *Hist. Scotl.* I. i. 1 Everything beyond that period to which well-attested annals reach is obscure. ¶1867 STUBBS *Benedict's Chron.* Pref. I. 12 The difference between chronicles and annals was..that the former have a continuity of subject and style, whilst the latter contain the mere jottings down of unconnected events.

b. sing. The record or entry of a single year, or a single item, in a chronicle.

¶1699 BENTLEY *Phal.* 282 Diodorus in the Annal of that year, says Phæon was Archon. ¶1814 SIR R. WILSON *Pr. Diary* II. 309 A modest inscription to record the act of restoration..an annal which the greatest anti-Buonapartist ought to respect. ¶1865 EARLE *Sax. Chron.* Introd. 10 Here and there may be seen an annal, expressed in riper language, which must be marked as the interpolation of a later Editor.

c. attrib. quasi-adj.

¶1670 MILTON *Hist. Eng.* iv. Wks. 1851, 175 Huntingdon, as his manner is to comment upon the annal Text, makes a terrible description of that fight.

2. Historical records generally.

¶a1581 CAMPION *Hist. Irel., Ep. Ded.* (1633) 1 Containing Annales and other worthy memorialls. ¶a1687 PETTY *Pol. Anat. Ded.*, An Adventure that shall shine in the Annals of Fame. ¶1706 ADDISON *Rosamond* iii. i,

Whatever glorious and renowned In British annals can be found. ¶1750 GRAY *Elegy* viii, The short and simple annals of the poor. ¶1844 DISRAELI *Coningsby* vi. ii. 226 The glorious annals of their great country. ¶1878 C. STANFORD *Symb. Christ* i. 5 The first war recorded in the annals of the human race.

3. Masses said for the space of a year.

¶1536 LATIMER *2nd Serm. bef. Conv.* I. 52 No priest should sell his saying of tricennals or annals. ¶1726 AYLIFFE *Parerg.* 190 Annals are Masses said in the Romish Church for the Space of a Year, or for any other Time, either for the Soul of a Person deceas'd, or for the Benefit of a Person living.

anomaly n.

(ə'noməli)

[ad. L. *anōmalia*, a. Gr. *ἀνωμαλία*, n. of quality f. *ἀνώμαλ-ος*; see *anomal*.]

1. Unevenness, inequality, of condition, motion, etc.

¶1571 DIGGES *Pantom.* (1591) 178 The excesse wherby the Semidiameter of the Ringe or Cornice of the Head dooth exceed the Cornice of the Coyle [of cannon] I call the Anomalye. ¶1684 T. BURNET *Th. Earth* II. 98 The great shakings and concussions of our globe at that time, affecting some of the neighbouring orbs..may cause anomalies and irregularities in their motions.

¶1837 WHEWELL *Hist. Induct. Sc.* I. iii. ii. 175 The motions of the sun and moon..had other anomalies or irregularities.

2. a Irregularity, deviation from the common order, exceptional condition or circumstance. concr. A thing exhibiting such irregularity; an anomalous thing or being.

¶1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* i. 78 To admire Nature's Anomaly..in the number of Eyes, which she has given to several Animals. ¶1722 WOLLASTON *Relig. Nat.* ix. 217 Support him under all the anomalies of life. ¶1818 HALLAM *Mid. Ages* (1872) II. 213 Time changes anomaly into system.

¶1852 GLADSTONE *Gleanings* IV. xvi. 152 The intolerable anomaly of a state obeying in the civil sphere the dictates of the Church. ¶1870 DISRAELI *Lothair* I. 274 A capital without a country is an apparent anomaly.

b. Nat. Sci. Deviation from the natural order.

¶1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 135 They confound the generation of perfect animalls with imperfect..and erect anomalies, disturbing the lawes of Nature. ¶1859 DARWIN *Orig. Spec.* v. (1873) 108 There is no greater anomaly

in nature than a bird that cannot fly. ¶1860 MAURY *Phys. Geog.* xv. §669 A low barometer..was considered an anomaly peculiar to the regions of Cape Horn.

c. Gram. Irregularity, exception to the prevailing form of inflexion, etc.

¶1612 BRINSLEY *Lud. Lit.* xx. (1627) 224 Most exceptions or Anomalies may be learned after. ¶1751 WATTS *Improvem. Mind* (1801) 57 Let but few of the anomalies or irregularities of the tongue be taught..to young beginners.

1874 Blackie *Self-Culture* 34 Some anomalies, as in the conjugation of a few irregular verbs.

3. Astr. The angular distance of a planet or satellite from its last perihelion or perigee: so called because the first irregularities of planetary motion were discovered in the discrepancy between the actual and the computed distance.

¶1669 FLAMSTEAD in *Phil. Trans.* IV. 1109 The moons mean Anomaly is 0 s. 15 d. 10 m. 37 sec. ¶1706 PHILLIPS, *Anomaly* of the Orbit is the Arch, or Distance of a Planet from its Aphelion. ¶1867 E. DENISON *Astron.* 32 The distance of a planet from perihelion, or of the moon from perigee..is called its true anomaly; and the distance it would have gone in the same time if it moved uniformly, or in a circle instead of an ellipse, is its mean anomaly; and their difference is called the equation of the centre. ¶1868 *Chambers's Encycl.* I. 280 The anomaly was formerly measured from the aphelion; but from the fact that the aphelia of most of the comets lie beyond the range of observation, the perihelion is now taken as the point of departure for all planetary bodies.

4. Mus. A small deviation from a perfect interval, in tuning instruments with fixed notes; a temperament. Ed. *Encycl.* 1830.

5. a. Meteorol. (See quotes.)

¶1853 E.J. SABINE tr. *Dove's Distribution of Heat* 20 We require..to exhibit the relation of the actual temperature of each place to the mean or normal temperature of its geographical latitude. I call the difference between the actual and normal temperature the 'thermic anomaly'. ¶1922 W.G. KENDREW *Clim. Cont.* i. i. 3 The 'anomaly of temperature' for that place, a positive anomaly if the place is warmer than the mean, a negative anomaly if it is colder.

b. Geogr. A local departure from the normal pull of gravity.

¶1924 H. JEFFREYS *Earth* 121 This anomaly is always negative. In other words, the gravity on a mountain top is less than elsewhere. ¶1944 A. HOLMES *Princ. Physical Geol.* xviii. 404 This band of what are called 'neg-

ative anomalies of gravity' implies that there is a corresponding deficiency of density in the materials of the crust beneath.

antecedent n.

(æntɪ'sɪdənt)

[a. Fr. *antécédent* (see next), subst. use of the adj. Already in L. *antecēdens* was used subst. as a term of philosophy, and in this technical sense it first appeared in the modern languages.]

1. A thing or circumstance which goes before or precedes in time or order; often also implying causal relation with its consequent. **a.** generally.

¶1612 T. TAYLOR *Comm. Titus* i. ii (1619) That there may be full content with it selfe, the antecedents and consequents. ¶1680 in Somers *Tracts* II. 548 Consider the Antecedents to the calling the Convention. ¶a1716 SOUTH (J.) It is..the necessary antecedent..of a sinner's return to God. ¶1824 COLERIDGE *Aids to Refl.* (1848) I. 92 Conscience is the ground and antecedent of human (or self-) consciousness, and not any modification of the latter. ¶1862 BUCKLE *Civilis.* (1869) III. iii. 130 Circumstances..governed by a long chain of antecedents.

Hence, in various special applications, of which the logical and grammatical are the earliest uses of the word in Eng.

b. Logic. (Opposed to consequent.) The statement upon which any consequence logically depends; hence †(a) The premisses of a syllogism (obs.); (b) The part of a conditional proposition on which the other depends. †(c) By some early logicians the subject and predicate were called antecedent and consequent.

¶c1400 *Test. Love* ii. (1560) 284 b/1 The consequence is false, needes the antecedent mote beene of the same condition. ¶1425 WYNTOUN *Cron.* viii. iii. 67 [I] grantis..þe Antecedens Bot I deny þe consequens. ¶1587 FLEMING *Contn. Holinshed* III. 324/1 You have shewn us the antecedent, now let us have the ergo. ¶1628 T. SPENCER *Logick* 161 Ramus doth call the subiect, and the predicate..antecedent, and consequent: but very vnduely. ¶1665 J. GOODWIN *Filled w. Spirit* (1867) 191 Let the word person in the antecedent of the proposition be supposed to signify either something or nothing. ¶1870 BOWEN *Logic* v. 128 All Hypothetical Judgments obviously consist of two parts, the first of which is called the Condition or Antecedent.

c. Gram. (a) The noun to which a following pronoun refers, and to avoid the repetition of which it is used. (b) esp. The substantive (word, clause, or sentence) to which a relative pronoun or adverb points back, and to which the relative clause stands in an attributive or adjective relation.

¶1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. iv. 364 Adjectif and substantif Acordeþ in alle Kyndes · with his antecedent. ¶1523 WHITTINTON *Vulg.* 2 The relatyue of substaunce shall accorde with his antecedent. ¶1655 GOUGE *Comm. Hebr.* i. 10 This relative ‘Thou’ must have an antecedent. ¶1765 W. WARD *Eng. Gram.* 128 The connexion of a personal pronoun with its antecedent is very different from that of a relative pronoun. ¶1876 MASON *Eng. Gram.* 51 In the nominative and objective cases, what is never preceded by an antecedent.

d. Math. The first of two numbers or magnitudes between which a ratio is expressed; the first and third in a series of four proportionals.

¶1570 BILLINGSLEY *Eucl.* v. def. 3 The first Terme, namely, that which is compared, is called the antecedent. ¶1695 W. ALINGHAM *Geom. Epit.* 14 In the Comparison of 7 to 3, 7 is named the Antecedent, and 3 the Consequent. ¶1862 TODHUNTER *Euclid* vi. iv, Those [sides] which are opposite to the equal angles are homologous sides, that is, are the antecedents or the consequents of the ratios.

e. Music. (See quot.)

¶1869 OUSELEY *Counterp.* xv. 95 The leading part [in a Canon] is called the antecedent, the following part the consequent.

2. pl. The events of a person’s bygone history (usually, as affecting the position now to be accorded him); also used of institutions, etc.

¶1841 GEN. THOMPSON *Exerc.* VI. 237 They will..sift what the French call their antecedents, with the most scrupulous nicety. ¶1854 DE QUINCEY *Selections* ii. 86 What modern slang denominates his antecedents. ¶1864 J.H. NEWMAN *Apol.* 106 Froude and I were nobodies; with..no antecedents to fetter us. ¶1868 M. PATTISON *Academ. Organ.* §4. 111 Young fellows unacquainted with the antecedents of the estates.

3. concr. A predecessor in the chain of development; an earlier form. rare.

¶1865 LECKY *Rational.* (1878) I. 254 A wind instrument which some have placed among the antecedents of the organ.

4. lit. A person that walks in front; an usher, an anteambulo. Obs.

¶1608 DAY *Hum. out of Br.* ii. ii, Boy. I say a servingman is an antecedent. Oct. Because he sits before a cloakebag. ¶1632 MASSINGER *City Madam* ii. ii, My antecedent, or my gentleman-usher.

anthropology n.

(-'nlədʒɪ)

[f. Gr. ἄνθρωπο-ς man + -logy. Gr. had ἄνθρωπολόγος (Aristotle) treating of man, of which *ἄνθρωπολογία was analogically the abst. n. Anthropologia occurs as mod.L. in 1595, and anthropologie as mod.Fr.]

1. The science of man, or of mankind, in the widest sense. This seems to have been the original application of the word in Eng. but for two and a half cent., to c 1860, the term was commonly confined to the restricted sense b. Since that date, it has sometimes been limited, by reaction, to c.

¶1593 R. HARVEY *Philad.* 15 Genealogy or issue which they had, Artes which they studied, Actes which they did. This part of History is named Anthropology. ¶1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, Anthropology, a speaking or discoursing of men.

b. The science of the nature of man, embracing Human Physiology and Psychology and their mutual bearing. The sense in which ἄνθρωπολόγος was used by Aristotle, and Anthropologia by Otto Casmann 1594–5 in his *Psychologia Anthropologica*, sive *Animæ Humanæ Doctrina*; and *Anthropologia: Pars II. hoc est de fabrica Humani Corporis*. This author seems to have first used the term.

¶[1706 J. DRAKE (*title*) *Anthropologia Nova*; or, A new System of Anatomy.] ¶1706 PHILLIPS, *Anthropology*, a Discourse or Description of Man, or of a Man's Body. ¶1727–51 CHAMBERS *Cycl.*, Anthropology includes the consideration both of the human body and soul, with the laws of their union, and the effects thereof, as sensation, motion, etc. ¶1810 COLERIDGE *Taste in Lect. Shaks.* II. 223 The analysis of our senses in the commonest books of anthropology. ¶1834 PENNY *Cycl.* II. 97 Anthropology..considers man as a citizen of the world, and has nothing properly to do with the varieties of the human race.

c. The 'study of man as an animal' (Latham). The branch of the science which investigates the position of man zoologically, his 'evolution,' and history as a race of animated beings.

¶1861 HULME *Moquin-Tandon* Pref. 8 Natural History, or Anthropology..the principal characters of our species, its perfection, its accidental degradations, its unity, its races, and the manner in which it has been classified. ¶1881 FLOWER in *Nature* No. 619. 437 The aim of zoological anthropology is to discover a natural classification of man.

2. A speaking after the manner of men; anthropomorphic language. [The sense in which ἀνθρωπολογέ-ειν was used by Philo.] Obs.

¶1727–51 CHAMBERS *Cycl.*, Anthropology is particularly used in theology, for a way of speaking of God, after the manner of men, by attributing human parts and passions to him.

antic a. and n.

(ˈæntɪk)

[app. ad. It. antico, but used as equivalent to It. grottesco, f. grotta, ‘a cauerne or hole vnder grounde’ (Florio), orig. applied to fantastic representations of human, animal, and floral forms, incongruously running into one another, found in exhuming some ancient remains (as the Baths of Titus) in Rome, whence extended to anything similarly incongruous or bizarre: see grotesque. Cf. Serlio *Architettura* (Venice 1551) iv. lf. 70 a: ‘seguire le uestigie de gli antiqui Romani, li quali costumarono di far..diuerse bizzarrie, che si dicono grottesche.’ Apparently, from this ascription of grotesque work to the ancients, it was in English at first called antike, anticke, the name grottesco, grotesque, not being adopted till a century later. Antic was thus not developed in Eng. from antique, but was a distinct use of the word from its first introduction. Yet in 17th c. it was occas. written antique, a spelling proper to the other word.]

A. adj.

1. Arch. and Decorative Art. Grotesque, in composition or shape; grouped or figured with fantastic incongruity; bizarre.

¶1548 HALL *Chron. Hen. VIII* an. 12 (R.) A fountayne of embowed woorke..ingrayled with anticke woorkes. ¶1589 Hawkins’ *2nd Voy.* in Arber *Eng. Garner* V. 126 To paint their bodies with curious knots or antike work, as every man, in his own fancy deviseth. ¶1598 FLORIO, *Grottesca*, a kind of rugged vnpolished painters worke, anticke work. ¶1603 Montaigne i. xxvii. (1632) 89 All void places..he filleth up with antike Boscage or Grotesko workes. ¶1623 COCKERAM *Anticke Worke*, a worke in painting or caruing of diuers shapes of Beasts, Birds, Flowers, etc., vnperfectly mixt, and made one of another. 1624 Wotton *Archit.* 97 Whether Grotesca (as the Italians) or Antique worke (as wee call it) should be receiued. ¶1703 *City & Country Build.* 5 Antick, or Antique-work..a confused Composure of Figures of different Natures, and Sexes, etc. As of Men, Beasts, Birds, Flowers, Fishes, etc. And such like Fancies as are not in Rerum Natura... This Work

which we call Antick, the Italians call Grotesca..and the French Grotesque.

¶1826 J. ELMES *Dict. Fine Arts, Antick*, Odd, ridiculously wild.

2. Absurd from fantastic incongruity; grotesque, bizarre, uncouthly ludicrous:
a. in gesture.

¶1590 MARLOWE *Edw. II*, i. i. 167 My men, like satyrs,..Shall with their goat-feet dance the antic hay. ¶1602 SHAKES. *Ham.* i. v. 172 How strange or odde so ere I beare myselfe..To put an Anticke disposition on.

¶1603 DRAYTON *Her. Epist.* xi. 13 A Satyres Anticke parts he play'd.

¶1645 MILTON *Colast. Wks.* 1851, 365 No antic hobnaile at a Morris, but is more hansomly facetious. ¶1660 H. MORE *Myst. Godl.* iii. ix. 77 Their religious Rites and Ceremonies being uncouth and antick.

¶1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* 183 He came running to me..making a many antic gestures. ¶1805 WORDSWORTH *Prel.* vii. (1850) 178 An antic pair Of monkeys on his back.

¶1878 G. MACDONALD *Phantastes* x. 149 Performing the most antic homage.

b. in shape.

¶1642 R. CARPENTER *Exper.* iii. v. 53 To appeare in strange and antick shapes. ¶1788 *New Lond. Mag.* 17 Several antic figures in shapes of boys danced. ¶1861 *Tannhäuser* 20 The twilight troop'd with antic shapes.

c. in dress or attire.

¶1642 MILTON *Apol. Smect.* Wks. 1738 I. 125 It had no Rubric to be sung in an antic Cope upon the Stage of a High Altar. ¶1665 GLANVILL *Sceps. Sci.* 96 Their antick deckings with feathers. ¶1727 SWIFT *Gulliver* iii. vii. 223 Two rows of guards..dressed after a very antic manner.

¶1776 *Chron.* in *Ann. Reg.* 155/2 An ass..with a fellow in an antick dress riding upon it.

¶1858 HAWTHORNE *Fr. & It. Jrnls.* I. 80 The papal guards, in the strangest antique and antic costume that was ever seen.

3. Having the features grotesquely distorted like 'antics' in architecture; grinning. Obs.

¶1594 DRAYTON *Idea* 424 Making withall some filthy Antike Face.

¶1611 COTGR, *Gargouille*, The mouth of a Spowt, representing a Serpent, or the Anticke face of some other ouglie creature. ¶1620 QUARLES *Jonah* (1638) 41 Your mimick mouthes, your antick faces.

¶1631 DONNE *Elegies* (R.) Name not these living death-heds unto me, For these not ancient but antique be.

¶1659 CLEVELAND *Wks.* (1687) 31 The Antick heads which plac'd without The Church, do gape and disembogue a Spout. ¶1697 W.

DAMPIER *Voy.* (1729) III. i. 406 The little Tame-Owl..making divers antick faces.

4. Comb., as †antic-faced (see 3).

¶1635 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Parr* in *Harl. Misc.* (Malh.) IV. 205 An antick-faced fellow, called Jack, or John the Fool.

B. n.

1. Arch. and Decorative Art. An ornamental representation, purposely monstrous, caricatured, or incongruous, of objects of the animal or the vegetable kingdom, or of both combined. a.B.1.a Fantastic tracery or sculpture. Obs.

¶1548 HALL *Chron. Hen. VIII* an. 18 (R.) Aboue the arches were made many sondri antikes and diuises. ¶1596 SPENSER *F.Q.* ii. vii. 4 Woven with antickes and wyld ymagery. ¶1645 EVELYN *Mem.* (1857) I. 146 The walls and roof are painted, not with antiques and grotesques, like our Bodleian.

¶1653 URQUHART *Rabelais* i. viii, A faire Cornucopia or Horne of abundance, such as you see in Anticks. ¶1725 BRADLEY *Fam. Dict.*, Grotesque or Grotesc, a work, the same with what is sometimes called Antick. ¶1830 R. STUART *Dict. Archit.: Antics*, In architecture, Fancies having no foundation in nature, as sphinxes, centaurs, syrens, representations of different sorts of flowers growing on the same stem; grotesque ornaments of all kinds, as lions and pards with acanthus' tails, or any other tails but their own proper ones; human forms with similar ridiculous appendages. Ornaments, although strictly natural, in an unnatural situation; as, caryatidæ of all kinds..The villa Palagonia, in Sicily, is an antic, from entrance gate to chimney top.

b. A caryatid, or (sculptured) human figure represented in an impossible position.

¶c1590 MARLOWE *Faustus* (2nd vers.) 715 To make his monks..stand like apes, And point like antics at his triple crown. ¶1615 BP. HALL *Contempl.* (1837) I. xviii. iii. 395 Like some antic statue, in a posture of impotent endeavour. ¶1638 CHILLINGWORTH *Relig. Prot.* i. vi. §54, 374 Those crouching Anticks which seeme in great buildings to labour under the weight they beare. ¶1640 BP. HALL *Chr. Moder.* 20/1 Those antics of stone..carved out under the end of great beams in vast buildings, which seem..as if they were hard put to it with the weight. ¶1656 HALES *Gold. Rem.* (1688) 167 Those that build houses make anticks that seem to hold up the beams. ¶1830 [See sense a].

c. A grotesquely figured representation of a face, such as are used in gargoyles.

¶1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* (1634) II. 552 To set vp Gargils or Antiques at the top of a Gauill end, as a finiall to the crest tiles. ¶1683 *Lond Gaz.* mdccclix/8 Three Gold Seals, one with an Old Man's Head, another with a Woman's Head, and the other with an Antick.

2. A grotesque or ludicrous gesture, posture, or trick; also fig. of behaviour. (Commonly in pl.)

¶1529 FOXE in *Supplic.* (1871) Introd. 9 In sothe it maketh me to laugh, to see ye mery Antiques of M. More. ¶1572 SIR T. SMITH in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* ii. 191 III. 20 Vaulting with notable supersaltes and through hoopoes, and last of all the Antiques, of carrying of men one uppon an other which som men call labores Herculis. ¶1633 FORD *Love's Sacr.* iii. iv, A pox upon your outlandish feminine anticks. ¶1823 LAMB *Elia* ii. v. (1865) 266 This mortal frame, while thou didst play thy brief antics amongst us. ¶1843 LEVER *Jack Hinton* xxvii. 189 Performing more antics than Punch in a pantomine.

3. A grotesque pageant or theatrical representation. Obs.

¶1588 SHAKES. *L.L.L.* v. i. 119 Some delightfull ostentation, or show, or pageant, or anticke, or fire-worke. Ibid. v. i. 154 We will haue, if this fadge not, an Antique. ¶1633 FORD *Love's Sacr.* iii. ii, Performed by knights and ladies of his court, In nature of an antick. ¶1673 *Ladies Call.* ii. iii. §26 How preposterous is it for an old woman..to be at masks and dancings, when she is only fit to act the antics.

b. Hence, A grotesque or motley company. rare.

¶1589 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* (1612) 345 Heard-men, Sheapheard, Plowmen, and Hinds: this Anticke of Groomes.

4. A performer who plays a grotesque or ludicrous part, a clown, mountebank, or merry-andrew.

¶1564 *Cap* in *Thynne's Animadv.* App. 130 Thou wearest me..sometime lyke a Royster, sometime like a Souldiour, sometime lyke an Antique. ¶1592 GREENE in *Shaks. Cent. Praise* 2 Those Anticks garnisht in our colours. ¶1618 BP. HALL *Serm.* v. 113 Are they Christians, or Antics in some Carnival? ¶1671 MILTON *Samson* 1325 Jugglers and dancers, antics, mummers, mimics. ¶1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* (1858) 341 Dancing and hallooing like an antic. ¶1827 HOOD *Mids. Fairies* liv, How Puck, the antic..Had blithely jested with calamity.

b. transf. and fig.

¶1593 SHAKES. *Rich. II*, iii. ii. 162 There [death] the Antique sits, Scoffing his state, and grinning at his Pompe. [Cf. a 1631 in A3. A death's head

grins like an ‘antic.’] ¶1606 G. W[OODCOCKE] *Hist. Justine* 10 b, There flocked a great throng of souldiers about him, wondering at this so mishapen an Anticke. ¶1823 LAMB *Elia* ii. xxiv. (1865) 409 [A pun] is an antic which does not stand upon manners, but comes bounding into the presence. ¶1864 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* ii. i. 172 A little crooked antic of a child.

c. phr. to dance antics. Obs.

¶1544 R. ASCHAM *Toxoph.* (Arb.) 47 Myght be thought to daunce Anticke very properly. Ibid. 147 Menne that shoulde daunce antiques. ¶1602 DEKKER *Satirom.* 245 Yet must we Dance Antickes on your Paper. [¶1635 AUSTIN *Medit.* 208 Will Herod reward the Dance of an Antique with the Head of a Prophet? ¶1687 CONGREVE *Old Bachelor* iii. x. Stage Direct., After the song a dance of Antics.]

5. Comb., as antick-cutter, a carver of grotesques.

¶1660 H. BLOOME *Archit.* (title-page), Antick-Cutters.

antipathy *n.*

(æn'tɪpəθɪ)

[ad. L. *antipathīa*, a. Gr. ἀντιπάθεια, *n.* of state f. ἀντιπαθής opposed in feeling, f. ἀντί against + πάθος, πάθε-, feeling. Cf. Fr. *antipathie*, in Cotgr. 1611.]

1. Contrariety of feeling, disposition, or nature (between persons or things); natural contrariety or incompatibility. The opposite of sympathy. Obs.

¶1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* (1634) II. 430 The repugnancie and contrariety in nature which the Greeks call antipathie. ¶1605 SHAKES. *Lear* ii. ii. 93 No contraries hold more antipathy, Then I, and such a knaue. ¶1692 BENTLEY *Boyle Lect.* 97 When occult quality, and sympathy and antipathy were admitted for satisfactory explications of things.

b. Const. with a thing; between things. Obs.

¶1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* (1634) II. 227 Such a contrarietie in nature or Antipathie there is..between them and this herb. ¶1626 BACON *Sylva* §983 The Sea Hare hath an Antipathy with the Lungs.. and erodeth them. ¶1655 W. GURNALL *Chr. in Arm.* ix. §2 (1669) 348/1 An Antipathy betwixt sinning and praying.

2. Feeling against, hostile feeling towards; constitutional or settled aversion or dislike.

¶1606 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* xiv. lxxxii. 344 Were other Rankes not free of Publique-weales Antipathie. ¶1663 BUTLER *Hud.* i. i. 208 A Sect, whose chief Devotion lies In odd perverse Antipathies; In falling out with that or this.

¶1734 tr. *Rollin's Anc. Hist.* (1827) I. 144 Mutual hatred and antipathy. ¶1853 C. BRONTË *Villette* viii. (1876) 67 To attempt to touch her heart was the surest way to rouse her antipathy.

b. Const. against, to; between persons.

¶1618 WITHER *Nec Habeo* Wks. 1633, 517, I no Antipathy (as yet) have had Twixt me and any Creature God hath made. ¶1667 PRIMATT *City & Count. Build.* 28 A kind of Antipathy against the thriving of any but themselves. ¶1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 440 ¶5 Having the same Natural Antipathy to a Pun, which some have to a Cat. ¶1858 MAX MÜLLER *Chips* (1880) II. xxvii. 324 A mutual antipathy between the white and the black man.

3. concr. **a.** That which is contrary in nature (obs.). **b.** The object of antipathy or settled dislike.

¶1622 MASSINGER & DEKKER *Virg. Mart.* iv. iii, To go Where all antipathies to comfort dwell. ¶1691 NORRIS *Pract. Disc.* 205 Evil is the great antipathy of Human Nature..her great and general Abhorrence. ¶1777 SHERIDAN *Trip to Scarb.* xi. i, Men that may be called the beau's antipathy, for they agree in nothing but walking upon two legs.

antiquity n.

(æn'tɪkwɪtɪ)

[a. Fr. *antiquité*, 11th c. *antiquitet*, ad. L. *antiquitāt*-em, n. of quality f. *antīquus*: see antique and -ity.]

I. As abstract n.

1. The quality of being old (in the world's history) or ancient; long standing, oldness, ancientness.

¶1450 *Court of Love* lxxii, This statute was of old antiquite. ¶1532 MORE *Confut. Tindale* Wks. 1557, 707/1 Then be you Jewes of more antiquitie then they. ¶1687 T. BROWN *Saints in Upr.* Wks. I. 73 A rusty spear, and a cloak of antiquity. ¶1752 JOHNSON *Rambl.* No. 192 ¶2 Every Man boasted the antiquity of his family. ¶1851 D. WILSON *Preh. Ann.* II. iii. vi. 153 The geological antiquity of man.

2. Old age (of human life); seniority. Obs.

¶1596 SHAKES. *2 Hen. IV*, i. ii. 208 Is not your voice broken?..and euery part about you blasted with Antiquity. ¶1618 BOLTON *Florus* i. i. 7 Who for their authoritie should be called Fathers, and for their antiquitie, Senators, or Aldermen. ¶1677 *Act in Marvell Growth Popery* 30 Three..to be placed in such Order as the said Prelates..think fit, without regard to dignity, antiquity, or any other form.

3.I.3 Ancient character or style.

¶1850 LYNCH *Theoph. Trin.* ix. 164 There is much novelty without hope, much antiquity without sacredness. ¶1867 MAX MÜLLER *Chips* (1880) III. xiii. 248 The air of antiquity which pervades that county [Cornwall].

II. Elliptical senses.

4.II.4 The time of antiquity, olden time. a.II.4.a generally.

c¶1380 *Sir Ferumb.* ¶1316 An old for-sake 3eate<revsc> of þe olde antiquyte. ¶1580 BARET *Alv.* A 421 Historie is the reporter of antiquitie, or of things done in olde tyme. ¶1605 BACON *Adv. Learn.* ii. ii. §7 Antiquity is like fame, caput inter nubila condit, her head is muffled from our sight. ¶1664 H. MORE *Myst. Iniq.* 473 The erroours and Mistakes of dark Antiquity. ¶1712 *Spect.* No. 548 ¶4, I cannot think of one real hero in all antiquity so far raised above human infirmities. c¶1854 STANLEY *Sinai & Pal.* ii. (1858) 119 To what an antiquity does this carry us back! Ruins before the days of those who preceded the Philistines!

b. spec. The period before the middle ages, the time of the ancient Greeks and Romans.

¶1450 *Songs & Poems Costume* 53 Famous poetis of antyquyté, In Grece and Troye. ¶1594 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* II. 535 The writings of al antiquity. a¶1704 T. BROWN *Comic. View Wks.* I. 157 Galen and other reverend blockheads of antiquity. ¶1874 BLACKIE *Self-Cult* 73 The coolest and most practical thinker of all antiquity..Aristotle.

c. The early ages of the Christian era; the early centuries of the Church; more explicitly Christian antiquity.

¶1564 HARDING *Answ. Jewel* 173 To see antiquitie for proufe hereof..Let him reade [etc.]. ¶1574 BRISTOW *Brief Treat. Diuerse Plain Waies* (1599) 54 All Antiquity is full of such practise. ¶1753 CHALLONER *Cath. Chr. Instr.* 77 This Custom..is as ancient as Christianity, as appears from the most certain Monuments of Antiquity. ¶1850 NEWMAN *Difficulties of Anglicans* ii. 34 He would..have given up the Establishment, rather than have rejected

antiquity. ¶1860 A. P. DE LISLE in E. Purcell *Life* (1900) I. x. 185 Christian Antiquity.

5. The people (or writers, etc.) of ancient times collectively; 'the Ancients.'

¶1538 STARKEY *England* iii. 78 Aftur the opynyon of the wyse and aun-cyent antyquyte. ¶1598 BARRET *Theor. Warres* v. iii. 152 This manner of marching..we reade antiquitie to have vsed. ¶1641 MILTON *Prel. Episc.* (1851) 73 That indigested heap, and frie of Authors, which they call Anti-quity. ¶1726 DE FOE *Hist. Devil* ii. vi. (1840) 246 We have Antiquity on our side, we have this truth confirmed by the testimony of many ages. ¶1876 MOZLEY *Univ. Serm.* i. 3 We think we have excelled all antiquity. We have excelled a later antiquity, but not the earliest and first.

6. (Now pl. or collect., formerly often sing.) Matters, customs, precedents, or events of earlier times; ancient records.

¶1557 NORTH *Diall of Princes* A ij b, Paulus Diaconus..sheweth an an-tiquitie right worthy to remember. ¶1629 COKE *On Litt.* 69 a, Which An-tiquity I cite for that it concurrerth with the act of Parliament. ¶1660 H. BLOOME *Archit.* Title-page, Gathered with great diligence..out of Antiqui-ties. ¶1782 PRIESTLEY *Corrupt. Chr.* I. i. 107 Whiston..was certainly well read in Christian antiquity. ¶1876 DIGBY *Real Prop.* ii. §8. 94 The subject belongs entirely to the antiquities of our law.

7. (Now usually pl.; formerly sing. or collect.) Remains or monuments of antiquity; ancient relics.

¶1513 MORE *Hist. Edw. V, Ded.* 1 The great care..that hath alwaies been observed..for the preservation of antiquities. ¶1605 BACON *Adv. Learn.* ii. ii. §1 Antiquities are history defaced, or some remnants of history which have casually escaped the shipwreck of time. ¶1622 PEACHAM *Compl. Gentl.* xii. (1634) 112, I come to the last of our select Antiquities, Coynes. ¶1676 D'URFEY *Mad. Fickle* iii. i, Rust adds to an Antiquity, 'tis our Friend. ¶1728 STUKELEY in *Phil. Trans.* XXXV. 430 At Paunton..I have heard of much Antiquity being found. ¶1787 T. JEFFERSON *Writ.* (1859) II. 133 The Pont du Gard, a sublime antiquity, and well preserved. ¶1869 RAWLINSON *Anc. Hist.* 2 Antiquities, or the actual extant remains of ancient times.

8. Comb. or attrib., as antiquity-hunting, antiquity piece.

¶1860 *Vac. Tour.* 119 The bishop of Ossory, who was antiquity-hunting in Sutherland. ¶1711 *London Gaz.* mmmmdccclv/4 A small Gold Ring, with an Antiquity Piece hanging to it.

antithesis *n.*

(æn'tɪθɪsɪs)

[a. L. antithesis, a. Gr. ἀντίθεσις opposition, *n.* of action *f.* ἀντιτιθέναι, *f.* ἀντί against + τιθέναι (stem θε-) to place; already in Gr. a term of Logic and Rhetoric.]

1. Rhet. An opposition or contrast of ideas, expressed by using as the corresponding members of two contiguous sentences or clauses, words which are the opposites of, or strongly contrasted with, each other; as 'he must increase, but I must decrease,' 'in newness of spirit, not in the oldness of the letter.'

¶1529 FRITH (*title*) Antithesis; wherein are compared togeder Christes actes and oure holye Father the Popes. ¶1674 Gove. *Tongue* iii. §17. 115 These are miserable antithesis's. ¶1728 POPE *Dunc.* i. 254 All arm'd with points, antitheses and puns. ¶1748 J. MASON *Elocution* 29 In an Antithesis, one contrary must be pronounced louder than the other. ¶1872 W. MINTO *Eng. Lit.* Introd. 9 When the balanced clauses stand in antithesis, it lends emphasis to the opposition.

2. The second of two such opposed clauses or sentences; a proposition opposed to a thesis; a counter-thesis or -proposition.

¶1533 FRITH *Answ. More* F ij, As the contrarye antithesis doth euidently expresse. ¶1677 GALE *Crt. Gentiles* III. Pref., Impossible..to discusse such an hypothesis without some opposition against such as defend the antithesis.

¶1678 OWEN *Mind of God* iii. 91 Given to disputing, or the maintaining of Antitheseses, or oppositions unto the Truth ¶1833 COLERIDGE *Table T.* 264 The style of Junius is a sort of metre, the law of which is a balance of thesis and antithesis.

3. By extension: Direct or striking opposition of character or functions (between two things); contrast. Const. of, between (with obs.).

¶1631 PRESTON *Effec. Faith* 40 That Antithesis, that opposition that is made in that withdrawing of a mans selfe from God. ¶1850 KINGSLEY *Alt. Locke* xxxviii. (1879) 410 The antithesis of natural and revealed religion.

¶1872 DARWIN *Emotions* i. 5 Movements, so clearly expressive of affections..being in complete opposition or antithesis to the attitude and movements which are expressive of anger.

4. The direct opposite, the contrast. Const. of, to.

¶1831 MACAULAY *Moore's Byron, Ess.* I. 161 The reverse of a great dramatist, the very antithesis to a great dramatist. ¶1857 H. REED *Lect. Brit. Poets*

vii. 244 Rhyme is sometimes taken as the antithesis of reason. ¶1879 FARRAR *Paul* II. 327 Is not the Pharisaic spirit..the antithesis of the Christian?

5. (See quot.) Obs.

¶1591 PERCIVALL *Sp. Dict.* B ij a, Antithesis, or Antistœchon: where if l follows immediately after r..they change r into l, to make the sound the pleasanter, as for Dexarle, dexalle. ¶1657 J. SMITH *Myst. Rhet.* 172 Antithesis is sometimes a figure, whereby one letter is put for another; and then it is the same with Antistoichon.

aphorism n.

(ˈæfərɪz(ə)m)

[a. Fr. aphorisme, afforisme, ad. med.L. aphorism-us, aforismus, a. Gr. ἀφορισμός a distinction, a definition, f. ἀφορίζ-ειν; see aphorize. From the ‘Aphorisms of Hippocrates,’ transferred to other sententious statements of the principles of physical science, and at length to statements of principles generally.]

1. A ‘definition’ or concise statement of a principle in any science.

¶1528 PAYNELL *Salerne Regim.* B iv b, Galen saythe in the glose of this aphorisme, qui crescunt, etc. ¶1541 R. COPLAND *Guydon’s Quest. Cyrurg.*, Of this vtylyte Arnolde of vylle maketh an afforisme. ¶1605 BACON *Adv. Learn.* i. v, Knowledge, while..in aphorisms and observations..is in growth.

¶1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* iii. 190 The old and uncomfortable Aphorism of our Hippocrates. ¶1879 *De Quatrefages’ Hum. Spec.* 50 The aphorism..which was formulated by Linnæus in regard to plants.

2. Any principle or precept expressed in few words; a short pithy sentence containing a truth of general import; a maxim.

¶c1590 MARLOWE *Faustus* i. 19 Is not thy common talk sound aphorisms? ¶1642 HOWELL *For. Trav.* (Arb.) 37 ’Tis an old Aphorisme Oderunt omnes quem metuunt. ¶1687 H. MORE *App. Antidote* (1712) 191 That sensible Aphorism of Solomon, Better is a living Dog than a dead Lion. ¶1750 JOHNSON *Rambl.* No. 68 ¶10 Oppression, according to Harrington’s aphorism, will be felt by those that cannot see it. ¶1880 GOLDW. SMITH in *Atl. Month.* No. 268. 201 The suggestive aphorism, ‘The want of belief is a defect that ought to be concealed when it cannot be overcome.’

3. abstractly, The essence or pith. Obs. rare.

¶1594 J. KING *Jonah* (1864) 184 The aphorism and juice of the whole song.

aplomb *n.*

(a'plʌm, ə'plɒm)

[Fr. *aplomb* perpendicular position, steadfastness, assurance, f. the phr. *à plomb* 'according to the plummet.']

1. 'The perpendicular'; perpendicularity.

¶1872 C. KING *Sierra Nev.* iii. 69 We sprang on, never resting long enough to lose the *aplomb*. ¶1880 MRS. WHITNEY *Odd or Even* iii. 23 The girl jumped, with clean *aplomb*, from the wagon-wheel to the broad door-stone.

2. Assurance, confidence, self-possession, coolness.

¶1828 GEN. P. THOMPSON *Exerc.* (1842) IV. 548 They never present themselves with any *aplomb*; but always with some lurking recognition of the power of their adversaries. ¶1849 C. BRONTË *Shirley* xi. 162 Impatience of her chilly ceremony and annoyance at her want of *aplomb*.

3. attrib. quasi-adj. Self-possessed, confident.

¶1865 *Gayworthys* II. 29 Her ordinary *aplomb* fashion of speech.

apocalypse *n.*

(ə'pɒkəlɪps)

[ad. L. *apocalypsis*, a. Gr. ἀποκάλυψις, *n.* of action f. ἀποκαλύπτειν to uncover, disclose, f. ἀπό off + καλύπτειν to cover.]

1. (With capital initial.) The 'revelation' of the future granted to St. John in the isle of Patmos. The book of the New Testament in which this is recorded.

¶[c1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 81 Herof seid Seint Johan þe ewangeliste in apocalipsi.] ¶c1230 *Ancr. R.* 94 'Hit is a derne halewi,' seið sein Johan ewangeliste in þe Apocalipse. ¶c1400 *Rom. Rose* 7395 That sallow horse of hewe, That in the Apocalips is shewed. ¶a1440 *Sir Degrev.* 1437 The Pocalyps of Ion. ¶1581 WALKER in *Confer.* iv. (1584) Z iiij b, The Laodicean Councill omit-teth Lukes Gospel & the Apocalyps. ¶1667 MILTON *P.L.* iv. 2 That warning voice which he who saw Th' Apocalyps, heard cry in Heaven aloud. ¶1870 DISRAELI *Lothair* xlv. 230 The long-controverted point whether Rome in the great Apocalypse was signified by Babylon.

2. By extension: Any revelation or disclosure.

¶1382 WYCLIF *1 Cor.* xiv. 26 He hath techinge, he hath apocalips, or reuelacioun, he hath tunge. ¶1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* 677 (L.) Interpret

apocalypses, and those hidden mysteries to private persons. ¶1704 SWIFT *T. Tub* i. (1750) 31 The Revelation or rather the Apocalypse of all Stateꝝarcana.

¶1831 CARLYLE *Sart. Res.* ii. v, The new apocalypse of Nature unrolled to him.

3.a. Christian Church. The events described in the revelation of St John; the Second Coming of Christ and ultimate destruction of the world.

¶1862 *R.I. Schoolmaster* (Rhode Island Commissioner Public Schools) 8 22/2 There are those who..think they already behold its fearful apocalypse terminating in darkness and in blood. ¶1947 N. FRYE *Fearful Symmetry* (1990) iii. 67 The apocalypse will necessarily begin with a slaughter of tyrants, and Christ came, Blake says, to deliver those bound under the knave. ¶2008 *Washington Post* (Electronic ed.) 28 Jan. c3 Eddy sends an e-mail to thousands of like-minded Christians announcing: 'The End Days have arrived. The Apocalypse and the Rapture are at hand.'

b. More generally: a disaster resulting in drastic, irreversible damage to human society or the environment, esp. on a global scale; a cataclysm. Also in weakened use.

¶1894 J. SWINTON *Striking for Life* 357 Comrades of Chicago!.. In these times there are..prophecies of approaching apocalypse... It will surely come.

¶1940 *Common Sense* Mar. 4/2 Washington is preoccupied with the threat of apocalypse across the Atlantic. ¶1980 *Bookseller* 26 Jan. 316/2 Although most people are saddened by the enforced abandonment of some titles, no one is prepared to interpret it as the publishers' apocalypse. ¶1994 *Time* 24 Oct. 33 While the poor are bewitched by dreams of peace and plenty, the rich are preparing for an apocalypse.

apocryphal a. and n.

(ə'pɒkrɪfəl)

[f. as prec. + -al1.]

A. adj. Of doubtful authenticity; spurious, fictitious, false; fabulous, mythical. **a.** orig. of a writing, statement, or story.

¶1590 J. GREENWOOD *Sland.* Art B ij b, We hold them..not only a babbling, but apochriphall & Idolatrous. ¶1678 BUTLER *Hud.* iii. i. 492 If but one word be true..In all th' apocryphal romance. ¶1868 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* II. App. 569 The tale has a somewhat apocryphal sound.

b. spec. Of or belonging to the Jewish and early Christian uncanonical literature.

¶1615 *Curry-C for Coxe-C.* ii. 93 Peremptory..against the Canonizing of these Apogriphall bookes. ¶1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 28 ¶6 Our Apocryphal Heathen God [Bel]..in conjunction with the Dragon. ¶1865 LECKY *Ration.* (1878) I. 210 The apocryphal gospels..were for the most part of Gnostic origin.

c. gen. Unreal, counterfeit, sham, ‘imitation.’

¶1610 B. JONSON *Alchemist* i. i, A whoreson, upstart, apocryphal captain. ¶1649 C. WALKER *Hist. Indep.* ii. 226 This Agreement was..complained of in the apocryphal House of Commons. ¶1843 JERROLD *Punch's Lett.* xx. Wks. I. 473 He lived by putting off pencils, with apocryphal lead in them.

B. n. An apocryphal writing. Obs. rare.

¶1661 *Grand Debate* 13 Some Psalm or Scripture Hymn..instead of that Apocryphal [the Benedicite]. ¶1677 J. HANMER *View of Antiq.* 419 (T.) Nicephorus and Anastasius..did rank these epistles in the number of apocryphals.

apogee Astr.

(ˈæpəʊdʒiː)

[a. Fr. *apogée* (in Cotgr. 1611), f. L. *apogæum*, a. Gr. *ἀπόγειον* (also *ἀπόγειον*), adj. neut. ‘away from the earth,’ (f. *ἀπό* off, from + *γᾱῖος*, *γεῖος* of the earth, f. *γαῖα*, *γῆ* the earth), but used absol. by Ptolemy (sc. *διάστημα* distance) in the modern astronomic sense. Formerly used in Gr. or L. form *apogeon*, -*gæum*, -*geum*.]

1. The point in the orbit of the moon, or of any planet, at which it is at its greatest distance from the earth; also, the greatest distance of the sun from the earth when the latter is in aphelion. (A term of the Ptolemaic Astronomy, which viewed the earth as the centre of the universe; in modern astronomy strictly used in reference to the moon, and popularly said of the sun in reference to its apparent motion.)

¶1594 J. DAVIS *Seamans Secr.*, Her Slowe Motion is in the point of Auge or apogeo. ¶1656 tr. *Hobbes' Elem. Philos.* (1839) 443 The *apogæum* of the sun or the aphelium of the earth. 1727–51 *Chambers Cycl.*, Apogee is a point in the heavens at the extreme of the line of the apsides. ¶1812 WOODHOUSE *Astron.* xix. 206 Apogee, if the Sun be supposed to revolve, Aphelion, if the

Earth. ¶1868 LOCKYER *Heavens* (ed. 3) 130 The greatest distance of the Moon from the Earth is about 643/4 the equatorial radius of our globe. When the Moon is at this distance, it is said to be in apogee.

2. The greatest altitude reached by the sun in his apparent course; his meridional altitude on the longest day. Obs.

¶1605 BACON *Adv. Learn.* (1640) 146 The Apogée or middle point; and Perigée or lowest point of heaven. ¶1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* vi. v. (1686) 242 In the Apogæum or highest point it is not so hot under that Tropick.

3. Hence fig. a. The most distant or remote spot. b.3.b The highest point, climax, culmination.

¶1600 FAIRFAX *Tasso* ii. lxvii. 33 Thy Sunne is in his Apogæon placed, And when it moueth next, must needes descend. ¶1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* ii. iii. ii. xii, She [the Soul] doth ascend, Unto her circles ancient Apogie.

¶1670 EACHARD *Contempt Clergy* 54 Sometimes he withdraws himself into the apogæum of doubt, sorrow, and despair. ¶1858 MOTLEY *Dutch Rep.* vi. Introd. 33 The trade of the Netherlands..had however by no means reached its apogee.

4. The point in the trajectory of a missile, rocket, or the like at which it is at its greatest distance from the earth.

¶1958 in *Aero-Space Terms*. ¶1961 *Flight* LXXX. 756/1 When the satellite reaches the 22,300 mile apogee of the trajectory..the solid-propellant apogee motor will be used to inject the satellite into a circular, near-synchronous orbit.

¶1962 J. GLENN in *Into Orbit* 6 The apogee or highest point of the capsule's orbit was over eight times that altitude.

apostate n. and a.

(ə'pɒstət)

[a. Fr. apostate and L. apostata, ad. Gr. ἀποστάτης, n. of agent f. ἀποστα- (see apostasy). The L. apostata was by far the commoner form from ¶1350 to 1650, with pl. apostata(e)s.]

A. n.

1. One who abjures or forsakes his religious faith, or abandons his moral allegiance; a pervert.

¶1340 *Ayenb.* 19 Þe heretike and þe apostate þet reneyeþ hire bileaue. ¶c1380 WYCLIF *Wycket* 1 Infideles papistes and apostates. ¶c1400 *Apol. Loll.*

93 To haue brokyn þe cristun feiþ..& to be paynims & apostatais. ¶1491 CAXTON *Vitas Patr.* (W. de W.) ii. 309 a/1 Julyan thappostata. ¶1583 GOLDING *Calvin on Deut.* cc. 1246 For if we play ye Papistes..we shall be apostataes. ¶1622 MASSINGER *Virg. Mart.* iii. i, In hopes to draw back this apostata..Unto her father's faith. ¶1667 MILTON *P.L.* vi. 100 High in the midst exalted as a God Th' Apostate in his Sun-bright Chariot sate. ¶1728 YOUNG *Love Fame* i. (1757) 80 Polite apostates from God's Grace to Wit. ¶1808 SCOTT *Marm.* ii. iv, For inquisition stern and strict On two apostates from the faith.

b. R.C. Ch. A member of a religious order who renounces the same without legal dispensation.

¶c1387 TREVISA *Higden* vii. iv. Rolls Ser. VII. 309 An apostata þat brekeþ his ordre þey fongeþ nevere azen. ¶1401 *Pol. Poems* II. 19 If you leave your habite a quarter of a yeare, ye should be holden apostataes. ¶1577 HOLINSHED *Chron.* III. 1239/1 One Rafe sometime a moonke of Glastenburie, and now become an apostata. ¶1855 MILMAN *Lat. Chr.* (1864) IX. xiv. i. 26 The renegade who pursued his private interests by sacrificing those of his order..stood alone a despised and hated apostate.

2. One who deserts his party, or forsakes his allegiance or troth; a turncoat, a renegade.

¶1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. i. 102 He þat passeþ þat poynt is apostata in þe ordre. [¶1393 Ys apostata of knyzt-hod.] ¶1608 J. DAY *Hum. out Breath* (1881) 53 Should he proue Apostata, denie Loue which he first enforcd vs to profes. ¶a1687 PETTY *Pol. Arith.* iii. (1691) 58 Apostates, to their own Country, and Cause. ¶1769 *Junius Lett.* i. (1804) I. 5 We see him, from every honourable engagement to the public, an apostate by design. ¶1826 DISRAELI *Viv. Grey* vii. ii. 388 No one is petted so much as a political apostate, except, perhaps a religious one.

B. adj.

1. Unfaithful to religious principles or creed, or to moral allegiance; renegade, infidel; rebellious.

¶1382 WYCLIF *Ezek.* ii. 2 Folkis apostataas, that han broken her religioun. ¶c1486 *Bk. St. Albans Arms* C j a, The maruellis deth of Julian thapostita Emproure. ¶1590 H. BARROW in J. Greenwood *Confer.* 6 All the parish..were generally apostate. ¶1592 NASHE *P. Peniless* 33 b, Those Apostata spirits that rebelled with Belzebub. ¶1667 MILTON *P.L.* i. 125 So spake th' Apostate Angel. ¶1758 JORTIN *Erasmus* I. 176 Eggs of heresy, which the

apostata Fryer Luther had before laid. ¶1878 C. STANFORD *Symb. Christ* i. 7 The last witness left for God in the midst of an apostate land.

2. gen. Deserting principles or party; perverted.

¶1671 MARVELL *Corr.* 198 Wks. 1872 II. 394 The apostate patriots, who were bought off. ¶1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 516 ¶7 Those apostate abilities of men.

apotheosis n.

(æpəʊˈθiːəsis, əˈpɒθiːəsis)

[a. L. apotheōsis (Tertull.), a. Gr. ἀποθέωσις, n. of action f. ἀποθεό-ειν to deify, f. ἀπό off, (in comb.) completely + θεό-ειν to make a god of, f. θεός god. The great majority of orthoepists, from Bailey and Johnson downward, give the first pronunciation, but the second is now more usual.]

1. The action of ranking, or fact of being ranked, among the gods; transformation into a god, deification; divine status.

[¶1577 tr. *Bullinger's Decades* (1592) 759 Truly Aurelius Prudentius in his Apotheosis..saith.] ¶1605 BACON *Adv. Learn.* i. 32 That which the Grecians call Apotheosis..was the supreme honour, which a man could attribute unto man. ¶1677 HALE *Prim. Orig. Man.* ii. ii. 137 The Apotheoses or Inaugurations of many of the Heathenish Deities. ¶1879 FARRAR *Paul* I. 664 The early Emperors rather discouraged..this tendency to flatter them by a premature apotheosis.

2. By extension: The ascription of extraordinary, and as it were divine, power or virtue; glorification, exaltation; the canonization of saints.

¶ [1553–87 FOXE *A. & M.* I. 662/2 You..affirm, that in this my Calendar, I make an ἀποθεωσιν, or Canonization of false Martyrs.] ¶1651 HOBBS *Govt. & Soc.* xviii. §14. 362 The canonization of Saints which the Heathen called Apotheosis. ¶1739 *Gentl. Mag.* (title) The Apotheosis of Milton.

¶1758 JORTIN *Erasmus* I. 305 He promises..to send him the apotheosis of his friend Reuchlin. ¶1879 O'CONNOR *Beaconsfield* 73 The meeting developed into an apotheosis of the Marquis of Chandos.

3. The deification, glorification, or exaltation of a principle, practice, etc.; a deified ideal.

¶1651 BIGGS *New Disp.* ¶211 Because in the Apotheosis of phlebotomy they will have good blood emitted. ¶1810 COLERIDGE *Friend* (1865) 143 The apotheosis of familiar abuses..is the vilest of superstitions. ¶1846

PRESCOTT *Ferd. & Is.* I. Introd. 35 The apotheosis of chivalry, in the person of their apostle and patron, St. James. ¶1852 A. JAMESON *Leg. Madonna* (1857) 47 Here all is spotless grace, etherial delicacy..the very apotheosis of womanhood.

4. In loose usage: Ascension to glory, departure or release from earthly life; resurrection.

¶1649 C. WALKER *Hist. Indep.* ii. 111 His Majesties Speech upon the Scaffold, and His Death or Apotheosis. ¶1680 H. MORE *Apocal. Apoc.* Pref. 17 The most assured argument..of the apotheosis of Christ. ¶1684 T. BURNET *Th. Earth* I. 326 The general apotheosis; when death and hell shall be swallowed up in victory. ¶1850 CARLYLE *Latter-d. Pamph.* i. (1872) 25 Let us hope the Leave-alone principle has now got its apotheosis; and taken wing towards higher regions than ours. ¶1858 R. VAUGHAN *Ess. & Rev.* I. 8 The philosophical school of Alexandria had become extinct, and there was no apotheosis.

appellation *n.*

(æpəˈleɪʃən)

[a. Fr. *appellation* (13th c.), ad. L. *appellātion-em*, *n.* of action f. *appellāre*: see *appeal* *v.* and *-tion*.]

I. Appealing, appeal. [from OFr. *apeler*.] Obs.

1. The action of appealing to a higher court or authority against the decision of an inferior one; the appeal so made; = *appeal* *n.* 3. Obs.

¶1494 FABYAN vii. 479 In iugement vpon the appellacions before made by the erle of Armenak..agayne prynce Edwarde. ¶1538 STARKEY *England* 125 Another grete mysordur, in appellatyon of such as be callyd spiritual causys. ¶1547 *Homilies* i. ix. (1859) 92 The condemnation both of body and soul, without either appellation or hope of redemption. ¶1609 SKENE *Reg. Maj.* 65 In Ecclesiasticall causes appellation is admitted within fourtie dayes.

¶1669 HONYMAN *Surv. Naphtali* II. 105 Pauls appellation to Cæsar, Acts xxv. ii. ¶1679 FILMER *Freeholder* 66 There might be Appellation made to the Kings Person.

b. Ground of appeal, title, claim. Obs. rare.

¶1630 NAUNTON *Fragm. Reg.* (Arb.) 26 He could not find out any appellation to assume the Crown in his own Person.

2. gen. The action or process of appealing or calling on; entreaty, or earnest address. Obs.

¶1587 M. GROVE *Pelops & Hipp.* (1878) 18 No god there was but him they had in appellation. ¶1589 *Hay any Work* 43 His appellation to the obedient cleargie. ¶1671 *True Non-Conf.* 399 Master Knox his reasoning..in his appellation and admonition to the commonalty.

II. Calling, designation. [from later Fr. *appeler*, or L. *appellāre*.]

3. The action of calling by a name; nomenclature.

¶1581 CAMPION in *Confer.* iii. (1584) U iiij, Euery piece of bread is called bread..because it was bread by appellation. ¶1630 PRYNNE *Anti-Armin*, 126 If it be grace in truth, as well as in appellation. ¶1742 HUME *Ess.* (1817) I. 36 The government, which in common appellation receives the appellation of free. ¶1875 WHITNEY *Life Lang.* ii. 27 They must be carefully distinguished in appellation.

4. A designation, name, or title given: a.II.4.a to a particular person or thing.

¶1447 O. BOKENHAM *Lyvys of Seyntys* 44 Anne is as myche to seyn as grace And worthyly thys appellacyoun To hyr pertenyth. ¶1610 *Histrion.* i. 136 Seri. Your appellations? Post. Your names he meanes. The man's learn'd. ¶1674 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* I. i. 15 Stenny, an appellation he allways used of and towards the Duke. ¶1774 PRIESTLEY *Observ. Air* 178 By the common appellation of phlogisticated air. ¶1833–48 H. COLERIDGE *North. Worth.* (1852) I. 69 Which entitles him to the appellation of a prose Juvenal.

b. to a class: A descriptive or connotative name.

¶1581 MARBECK *Bk. of Notes* 665 Manes the Hereticke, whereof the Maniches haue their appellation. ¶1651 HOBBS *Govt. & Soc.* vii. §3. 112 If he..Rule well..they afford him the appellation of a King; if not, they count him a Tyrant. ¶1709 SWIFT *T. Tub.* iii. 50 These men seem..to have understood the appellation of critic in a liberal sense. ¶1841 BORROW *Zincali* I. vi. §1. 102 If not sorcerers, they have always done their best to merit that appellation.

apposite a.

(ˈæpəzɪt)

[ad. L. *apposit-us*, pa. pple. of *app-*, *adpōnĕre*, f. *ad* to + *-pōnĕre* to place, put.]

1. Put or applied to. Obs. rare—0.

¶1656 in BLOUNT, ¶1706 in PHILLIPS, etc.

2. Well put or applied; appropriate, suitable (to).

¶1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* ii. ii. ii. (1651) 239 A most apposite remedy.

¶1634 HABINGTON *Castara* (1870) 15 Her language is not copious but apposit. ¶1709 SWIFT *T. of Tub* §3. 54 The types are so apposite. ¶1849 GROTE *Greece* ii. lv. (1862) V. 31 Mastery of apposite and homely illustrations. ¶1869 GOULBURN *Purs. Holiness* i. 6 The truth most apposite to the whole argument.

3. Of persons: Ready with appropriate remarks, apt. Obs.

¶1703 POMFRET *Poet. Wks.* (1833) 31 In all discourse she's apposite and gay. ¶1788 H. WALPOLE in *Reader* 7 Oct. 1865, 392/3 Qualified to talk on any subject; easy, agreeable, and apposite in their observations.

4. absol. or as n. That which is placed beside or in apposition. Obs.

¶1677 GALE *Crt. Gent.* II. iv. 516 The negation of it implies a contradiction in the Adject or an Opposite in an Apposite.

5. See OPPOSITE.

apprehend ^{v.}

(æpri'hend)

[a. Fr. *appréhende-r* (15th c. in Godef.), ad. L. *app-*, *adprehend-ěre* to lay hold of, seize, f. *ad to* + *prehend-ěre* to seize. In the contracted form *apprend-ěre*, the word survived in the Romance langs. in the fig. sense 'lay hold with the mind, comprehend, learn,' whence also later 'teach, inform': cf. Fr. *apprendre*, and Eng. *apprise*. Subsequently, the full *apprehend-ěre* was taken into Fr. and Eng. in its orig. form and sense. *apprend* is occas. in 16–17th c.]

I. Physical.

1. To lay hold upon, seize, with hands, teeth, etc. Also said of fire, and fig. of trembling, fear, etc. Obs. or arch.

¶1572 J. BOSSEWELL *Armorie* iii. 5 A great quakyng and tremblyng dyd apprehende hys hande. ¶1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 124 His dogs..apprehending the garments of passengers. ¶1613 *Life William I* in *Harl. Misc.* (1793) 28 A fire began..which apprehending certain shops and warehouses, etc. ¶c1643 *Maximes Unf.* 8 Fury and affrightment apprehend the desperate. ¶1645

RUTHERFORD *Tryal & Tri. Faith* (1845) 63 A lame hand that cannot apprehend. ¶1843 E. JONES *Sensat. & Event* 122 While those two lips his brow did apprehend.

b. transf. To seize upon, take down, in writing. fig. To seize upon (points of a subject). Obs.

¶1611 CORYAT *Crudities* 480, I apprehended it [an epitaph] with my pen while the Preacher was in his pulpit. ¶1615 T. ADAMS *Spir. Navig.* 24, I will only apprehend so much as may serve to exemplify this dangerous world.

2. To seize (a person) in name of law, to arrest.

¶1548 UDALL, etc. *Erasm. Par. John* vii. 1 (R.) To fynde sum occasion..to attache and apprehende him. ¶1642 ROGERS *Naaman* 44 Paul..going like a Pursivant..to Damascus, to apprehend the Saints there. ¶1768 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* IV. 287 A justice of the peace cannot issue a warrant to apprehend a felon upon bare suspicion. ¶1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* III. 328 Troops had been sent to apprehend him.

3. To seize upon for one's own, take possession of. Also fig. Obs.

¶1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* xi. vii. 70 Ellis quhare..to wend, Thayre dwelling place for ay to apprehend. ¶1611 BIBLE *Phil.* iii. 12 If that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Iesus. ¶1652 NEEDHAM tr. *Selden's Mare Cl.* 21 That Vacancies are his who apprehend's them first by occupation.

4. To seize or embrace (an offer or opportunity).

¶1586 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* 750 If we apprehend not that great grace and mercy of the Father offered to all. ¶1619 DONNE *Biathan.* (1644) 126 If he apprehend not an opportunity to escape. ¶1633 BP. HALL *Hard Texts* 56 His faith, whereby he did firmly apprehend the..aid of his eternal Father.

II. Mental.

5. gen. To learn, gain practical acquaintance with. Also absol. (The earliest use in Eng.; cf. Fr. *apprendre*.) Obs.

¶1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P.R.* ii. ii. (1495) 28 He holdeth in mynde..without foryetynge, all that he apprehendyth. ¶1531 ELYOT *Governour* (1834) 215 Thereby they provoke many men to apprehend virtue. ¶1680 BUTLER *Rem.* (1759) I. 204 Children..Improve their nat'ral Talents without Care, And apprehend, before they are aware.

6. To become or be conscious by the senses of (any external impression).

¶1635 AUSTIN *Medit.* 60 When this Light shone in darkenesse, and our darkenesse, though it apprehended, yet it comprehended it not. ¶1651 HOBBS *Leviath.* iii. xxxiv. 212 That caused Agar supernaturally to apprehend a voice from heaven. ¶1855 BAIN *Sens. & Int.* iii. i. §37 If I see..two candle flames, I apprehend them as different objects.

7. To feel emotionally, be sensible of, feel the force of. Obs.

¶1592 NASHE *P. Penillesse* 29 b, The..soules of them that haue no power to apprehend such felicitie. ¶1605 B. JONSON *Volpone* ii. i, Dead. Lord! how deeply, sir, you apprehend it. ¶1670 WALTON *Lives*, That [kindness] was so gratefully apprehended by M. Hooker.

8. To lay hold of with the intellect: **a.** to perceive the existence of, recognize, see.

¶1577 T. VAUTROLIER *Luther's Ep. Gal.* 5 Who so doth not understand or apprehend this righteousness in afflictions and terrors of conscience.

¶1609 C. Butler's *Fem. Mon.* Ad Auth. 16 There is not half that worth in Mee Which I have apprehended in a Bee. ¶1743 J. MORRIS *Serm.* vii. 184 We shall apprehend reason to conclude, that..they were not so very young.

¶1872 BROWNING *Fifine* lxxi. 7 Each man..avails him of what worth He apprehends in you.

b. to catch the meaning or idea of; to understand.

¶1631 HEYWOOD *Lond. Jus Hon.* 279 As soone known as showne, and apprehended as read. ¶1755 B. MARTIN *Mag. Arts & Sc.* i. xiii. 87 This is all so plain, that I can't but apprehend it. ¶1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* I. 463 The nature of the long contest between the Stuarts and their parliaments, was indeed very imperfectly apprehended by foreign statesmen. ¶1871 C. DAVIES *Metric Syst.* ii. 24 To apprehend distinctly the signification of a number, two things are necessary.

c. absol. or with subord. clause.

¶1599 SHAKES. *Much Ado* ii. i. 84 Cousin, you apprehend passing shrewdly.

¶1660 STANLEY *Hist. Philos.* 46/1 Periander..immediately apprehended that he advised him to put the most eminent in the City to death. ¶1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 532 ¶2, I cannot apprehend where lyes the trifling in all this. ¶1785 REID *Intell. Powers* i. i, No one can explain by a Logical Definition what it is to think, to apprehend.

9. To understand (a thing to be so and so); to conceive, consider, view, take (it) as.

¶1639 FULLER *Holy War* iv. ix. (1840) 193 They apprehended it a great courtesy done unto them. ¶1736 WESLEY *Wks.* 1830 I. 100, I apprehended myself to be near death. ¶1858 GLADSTONE *Homer* III. 393 The eternal laws, such as the heroic age apprehended them.

b. absol. or with subord. clause.

¶1614 B. JONSON *Barth. Fair* i. iv. 8 If hee apprehend you flout him once, he will flie at you. ¶1775 J. LYON in *Sparks Corr. Amer. Rev.* (1853) I. 101, I apprehend that secrecy is as necessary now as ever it was. ¶1839 HALLAM *Hist. Lit.* iv. vi. §17 In general, I apprehend, the later French critics have given the preference to Racine.

10. To anticipate, look forward to, expect (mostly things adverse).

¶1603 SHAKES. *Meas. for M.* iv. ii. 149 A man that apprehends death no more dreadfully, but as a drunken sleepe. ¶1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* (1836) I. iii. iii. 100 A triumphant question, to which he had apprehended no answer. ¶1879 TOURGEE *Fool's Errand* ii. 11 Love had taught her with unerring accuracy to apprehend the evil which impended.

11. To anticipate with fear or dread; to be fearful concerning; to fear. a.II.11.a with obj.

¶1606 SHAKES. *Tr. & Cr.* iii. ii. 80 Oh let my Lady apprehend no feare. ¶1643 SIR T. BROWNE *Relig. Med.* i. §54 Which makes me much apprehend the ends of those honest Worthies. ¶1702 *Eng. Theophr.* 53 He apprehends every breath of air as much as if it were a Hurricane. ¶1832 H. MARTINEAU *Hill & Valley* xiii. 125 No one..could think..that any further violence was to be apprehended.

b. with subord. clause. To be apprehensive, to fear.

¶1868 HAWTHORNE *Our Old Home* (1879) 186, I sometimes apprehend that our institutions may perish.

appropriate ppl. a. and n.

(ə'prəʊpriət)

[ad. L. appropriāt-us pa. pple. of appropriā-re: see appropre.]

A. pple. or adj.

1. Annexed or attached (to), as a possession or piece of property; appropriated. spec. in Eccl. Annexed as a benefice to a religious corporation.

¶1599 SANDYS *Europ. Spec.* (1637) 145 The Parish Priests in Italy..have..certeine Farmes as Gleabland appropriate. ¶1652 NEEDHAM tr. *Selden's Mare Cl. Pref.*, The Sea's now made appropriate, And yields to all the Laws of state.

¶1751 CHAMBERS *Cycl. s.v.*, There are computed to be in England 3845 churches appropriate and impropriate.

2. Belonging to oneself; private; selfish. Obs.

¶1627 FELTHAM *Resolves* i. lxxxiii. Wks. 1677, 127 Policy..works ever for appropriate ends; Love euer takes a partner into the Benefit.

3. Assigned to a particular person; special, individual. Obs. rare.

¶1796 F. BURNEY *Camilla* viii. x, The end, therefore, of her deliberation was to show general gaiety, without appropriate favour.

4. Attached or belonging as an attribute, quality or right; peculiar to, own. a.A.4.a absol.

¶1538 STARKEY *England* ii. i. §25. 162 We notyd..in..the hede, an appropryat dysease, wych we callyd then a frencey. ¶1794 SULLIVAN *View Nat.* I. 174 That the sun darts out light and heat to the limits of its appropriate system. ¶1809 COLERIDGE *Friend* (1837) I. i. 9 To charm away..Ennui, is the chief and appropriate business of the poet.

b. with *to*.

¶1525 TINDALE *Par. Wicked Mamm.* Wks. I. 50 The forgiveness of sins and justifying is appropriate unto faith only. ¶1651 HOBBS *Leviath.* ii. xxx. 177 Honour, appropriate to the Sovereign onely. ¶1812 SOUTHEY *Lett.* (1856) II. 307 Coronet..is [a word] appropriate to rank and heraldry.

5. Specially fitted or suitable, proper. Const. *to*, *for*.

¶1546 PHAËR *Regim. Lyfe* B j, Remedies..appropriat to every membre throughout the body. ¶1594 PLAT *Sorts of Soyle* 56 Salts..most appropriate for the nature of mortar. ¶1661 BOYLE *Style H. Script.* Wks. 1744 II. 101/2 The Bible's being appropriate..to make wise the simple. ¶1809 COLERIDGE *Friend* (1865) 29 Two mottos equally appropriate. ¶1869 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* III. xi. 47 Prayers and collects appropriate for the great solemnity.

B. n. [the adj. used absol.] A thing appropriated or appropriate; a property, attribute. Obs.

¶1618 CHAPMAN *Hesiod* ii. 551 To prophane The Gods' Appropriates.

¶1642 JER. TAYLOR *Episc.* (1647) 102 The appropriates of their office so ordain'd by the Apostles.

apt a.

(æpt)

[ad. L. apt-us fitted, suited, appropriate, pa. pple. of *ap-ěre to fasten, attach.]

Const. to, for, or inf.

1. Fitted (materially), fitting. rare.

¶1791 COWPER *Iliad* iii. 393 His brother's corslet..apt to his own shape and size.

2. Suited, fitted, adapted (to (obs.) or for a purpose); having the requisite qualifications; fit. a.2.a of things. arch.

¶1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P.R.* xvii. clvii. (1495) 707 Stoble is apt to many dyuerse vses. ¶1432–50 tr. *Higden Rolls Ser.* I. 163 Thei toke places apte to make cites. ¶1526 TINDALE *N.T. Addr.*, To make it more apte for the weake stomakes. ¶1625 BACON *Ess. (Arb.)* 471 States..apt to be the Foundations of Great Monarchies. ¶1677 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* (1703) 181 The Workman chuses such sizes as are aptest for his Work. ¶1858 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* I. ii. ii. 54 Tracts of Preussen are..frugiferous, apt for the plough.

b. of persons: Fit, prepared, ready. arch.

¶1474 CAXTON *Chesse* 27 Whiche of hem..was most apte for to sende to gouerne and juge the contre of spayn. ¶1526 TINDALE *Luke* ix. 62 No man that..lokethe backe is apte to the kyngdom of God. ¶1601 SHAKES. *Jul. C.* iii. i. 160 Liue a thousand yeeres, I shall not finde my selfe so apt to dye. ¶a1700 MRS. HUTCHINSON *Mem. Hutchinson* 22 He was apt for any bodily exercise. ¶1870 MORRIS *Earthly Par.* I. i. 20 Tall was he, slim, made apt for feats of war.

3.a. ellipt. Suited to its purpose; suitable, becoming, appropriate.

¶1563 *Myrr. Mag., Blacksmith* xix, The Plowman fyrst his land doth dresse and torne And makes it apte. ¶1597 MORLEY *Introd. Mus. Annot.*, [Musicke is] a disposition of proportionable soundes deuided by apt distances. ¶1630 DEKKER *Honest Wh.* ii. Wks. 1873 II. 99 Pray the good woman take some apter time. ¶1710 STEELE *Tatler* No. 8 ¶1 Recommending the apt Use of a Theatre as the most agreeable..Method of making a..moral Gentry.

¶1807 WORDSW. *Resol. & Indep.* xvi, To give me human strength, by apt admonishment.

b. esp. of language: Suitable or appropriate to express ideas; apposite, expressive.

¶1590 SHAKES. *Mids. N. v. i.* 65 In all the play There is not one word apt.

¶1688 LD. DELAMERE *Wks.* 20 Apt words and quaint Phrases are very good adornments of Speech. ¶1865 MILL *Liberty v.* 57/1 What in the apt language of Bentham is called pre-appointed evidence.

c. of thoughts, remarks, etc. Appropriate to the occasion, apposite.

¶1844 DISRAELI *Coningsby v.* vii. 216 The prompt reply or the apt retort.

¶1849 W. IRVING *Mahom. & Succ.* xiv. (1853) 63 The smoke was an apt thought, and saved his camp from being sacked. ¶1877 SPARROW *Serm.* xxi. 284 The apt reply of the little Sunday-school scholar, who, when asked what eternity was, replied, 'The life-time of God.'

4. Having a habitual tendency or predisposition (to do something).

¶1570 LEVINS *Manip.* (1867) 28 Apte, aptus, idoneus..is also the signe of verballes in -bilis, and participials in -dus: Apt to be taught, docilis; Apt to be red, legibilis.

a. of things: Calculated, likely; habitually liable, ready.

¶1528 MORE *Heresyes iv.* *Wks.* 248/2 Yet be such workes..apte to corrupt and infect the rede. ¶1678 BUTLER *Hud.* iii. i. 1048 For fat is wondrous apt to burn. ¶1784 COWPER *Lett.* Feb. 29 *Wks.* 1876, 161 Nothing is so apt to betray us into absurdity as too great a dread of it. ¶1868 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* II. vii. 12 Any kind of taxation is apt to be looked on as a grievance.

b. of persons: Customarily disposed, given, inclined, prone.

¶c1550 LUSTY *Juv.* in Hazl. *Dodsley* II. 53 That I may be apt thy holy precepts to fulfil. ¶1592 SHAKES. *Rom. & Jul.* iii. i. 34 So apt to quarell.

¶1718 POPE *Iliad* xxiv. 530 For apt is youth to err. ¶1771 FRANKLIN *Autobiog.* *Wks.* 1840 I. 85, I perceive I am apt to speak in the singular number.

¶1857 RUSKIN *Pol. Econ. Art* 26 We are apt to act too immediately on our impulses.

c. Inclined, disposed (in a single instance).

¶1677 R. CARY *Palæol. Chron.* ii. ii. i. iv. 195, I am apt to think, that..Vashti is meant. ¶1706 HEARNE *Rem. & Collect.* (1885) I. 297, I am apt to think he has not consulted Books enough upon this occasion.

¶1899 E. E. HALE *Lowell* 126, I am apt to think that this modest man was the first person..to recognize [etc.].

5. Susceptible to impressions; ready to learn; intelligent, quick-witted, prompt. Mod. const. at.

¶1535 COVERDALE *Ecclus.* xxxvii. 22 Some man is apte and well instructe in many thinges. ¶1601 SHAKES. *Jul. C. v.* iii. 68 O hatefull

error..Why do'st thou shew to the apt thoughts of men The things that are not. ¶1660 PEPYS *Diary* 28 Aug., Beginning to teach my wife some scale in musique, and found her apt beyond imagination. ¶1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* (1858) 220 He was the aptest scholar that ever was. ¶1832 H. MARTINEAU *Life in Wilds* vi. 77 Men..are..apt at devising ways of easing their toils.

Quasi-adv., as in apt-deceiving, apt-divided.

¶1597 DANIEL *Civ. Wars* i. lxx, Intestine strife..The apt-divided state entangle would. Ibid. (1717) 213 Such apt-deceiving Clemency And seeming Order.

arbiter n.

(ˈɑːbɪtə(r))

[a. L. arbiter (? f. ar- = ad- to + bētere, bītēre, to go, 'one who goes to see,' hence, who looks into or examines) a judge in equity, a supreme ruler. Cf. arbitrator, arbitrer. Arbiter was the orig. L. word, still extant in F. as arbitre; arbitrātor was a later L. n. of agent from arbitrāri to act as arbiter; of this the OF. descendant was arbitreor, -our, by the side of which arbitrateur, -our, was also adopted as a technical term by the jurists. In Eng., arbitroure seems to have been the earliest, then arbitratour, and in 16th c. arbiter from L., though arbitre may well have existed in ME. (The 16th c. spelling arbitour, -or, was, as in ancestor, merely imitative of words properly in -our.)]

1. gen. One whose opinion or decision is authoritative in a matter of debate; a judge.

¶1502 ARNOLD *Chron.* (1811) 160 Abdalazys..most iust arbiter and juge of trouth. ¶1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 151 As a deputed judge or arbiter delegat to determin of mans health, and the preservation thereof. ¶1790 COWPER *Odyss.* viii. 314 Nine arbiters appointed to intend The whole arrangement of the public games. ¶1824 DIBDIN *Libr. Comp.* 520 The late Mr. Fox (no mean arbiter in literary taste).

2.a. spec. One who is chosen by the two parties in a dispute to arrange or decide the difference between them; an arbitrator, an umpire. (See note to ARBITRATOR 1.)

¶1549 HOOPER *Ten Commandm.* x. Wks. 1843–52, 348 To solicitate the same by honest arbiters and godly friends. ¶1609 SKENE *Reg. Maj.* 20 Ane Judge haueand ane ordinar jurisdiction, may nocht be ane Arbitour. ¶1754 ERSKINE *Princ. Sc. Law* (1809) 492 The power of arbiters is wholly derived

from the consent of parties. ¶1852 GLADSTONE *Gleanings* IV. xiv. 150 Beyond the Atlantic..things civil and things spiritual move in their separate spheres, without any need for an arbiter between them. ¶1873 DIXON *Two Queens* I. iv. i. 179 Appointed arbiter of the dispute.

b. transf. or fig.

¶a1568 COVERDALE *Hope of Faith* f. xii. (1574) 83 Christ..the arbiter and mediator betwene God and men. ¶1580 SIDNEY *Arcadia*, The sun [at the equinox]..indifferent arbiter between the night and the day. ¶1667 MILTON *P.L.* ix. 50 Twilight..short Arbiter 'Twixt Day and Night.

3. One who has power to decide or ordain according to his own absolute pleasure; one who has a matter under his sole control. Also fig.

¶1628 SIR R. LE GRYS tr. *Barclay's Argenis* 286 Thou sittest as it were the arbiter of the fortune of thy neighbour Kings. ¶1652 NEEDHAM *Selden's Mare Cl.* 19 Absolute Lord or Arbiter of the whole world. ¶1785 REID *Int. Powers* i. i. §11 Use..which is the arbiter of language. ¶1814 BYRON *To Napoleon*, The arbiter of others' fate, A suppliant for his own. ¶1874 MOTLEY *Barneveld* I. i. 61 The proud..position of arbiter of Europe.

4. arbiter elegantiarum, arbiter elegantiae [L., lit. 'judge of elegance': Petronius Arbiter was the elegantiae arbiter of Nero's court (Tacitus Ann. xvi. 18)], a judge of matters of taste, an authority on etiquette.

¶1818 LADY MORGAN *Fl. Macarthy* II. iii. 175 He looked up to Lord Frederick Eversham, as the arbiter elegantiarum of that system. ¶1841 CRAIK & MACFARLANE *Pict. Hist. Eng. Geo.* III I. 651/1 Derrick..succeeded Nash as arbiter elegantiarum at Bath. ¶1933 BALMER & WULIE *When Worlds Collide* v. 49 A connoisseur of life and living—an arbiter elegantiae. ¶1957 R. N. C. HUNT *Guide Communist Jargon* xxi. 76 Zhdanov was appointed Stalin's arbiter elegantiarum in the late 'forties.

arcane a.

(ɑ:'keɪn)

[ad. L. arcānus, f. arcē-re to shut up, arca chest; cf. F. arcane.]

Hidden, concealed, secret.

¶1547 BOORDE *Brev. Health* Pref. 2 The eximious and Archane science of physicke. ¶1595 *Locrine* v. iv. 187 Have I bewrayed thy arcane secrecy? ¶1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* Pref., To Reveal the Arcane Mysteries of

Atheism. ¶1876 E. GOSSE in *Academy* 9 Dec. 557 Walking in the arcane world of wonder.

arch a.

(ɑ:tʃ)

[ARCH- prefix used as a separate word: see next.]

A. adj.

1. Chief, principal, prime, pre-eminent. (Now rarely used without the hyphen.)

¶1547 *Life Abp. Canterb.* Pref. D viij b, The fauour off any thoughe neuer so arch a Prelate. ¶1594 SHAKES. *Rich. III*, iv. iii. 2 The most arch deed of pittious massacre. ¶1613 *Hen. VIII*, iii. ii. 102 An Heretique, an Arch-one.

¶1647 WARD *Simp. Cobler* 88 We cannot helpe it though we can, which is the Arch infirmity in all morality. ¶1649 PRYNNE *Vind. Lib. Eng.* 45 And proclaim them the Archest Impostors under Heaven. ¶1678 [SEE 2].

¶1834 LYTTON *Pompeii* (1877) 231 Thou mayest have need of thy archest magic to protect thyself.

2. [Arising from prec. sense, in connexion with wag, knave, rogue, hence with fellow, face, look, reply, etc.] Clever, cunning, crafty, roguish, waggish. Now usually of women and children, and esp. of their facial expression: Slily saucy, pleasantly mischievous.

¶1662 MORE *Antid. Ath.* i. viii. (1712) 151 That arch wag..ridiculed that solid argument. ¶1678 BUNYAN *Pilgr.* ii. 147 Greath. Above all that Christian met..By-ends was the arch one. Hon. By-ends; What was he? Greath. A very arch Fellow, a downright Hypocrite. ¶1710 *Tatler* No. 193 ¶1 So arch a leer. ¶1775 WESLEY *Wks.* (1872) IV. 41 Some arch boys gave him such a mouthful of dirt. ¶1810 CRABBE *Borough* xv, Arch was her look and she had pleasant ways. ¶1872 BLACK *Adv. Phaeton* xxiii. 324 Her arch ways, and her frank bearing. ¶1877 M. ARNOLD *Poems* I. 27 The archest chin Mockery ever ambush'd in.

b. Const. at, upon. Obs.

¶1670 EACHARD *Contempt Clergy*, Lads that are arch knaves at the nominative case. ¶1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 432 ¶5 A Templar, who was very arch upon Parsons. ¶1741 RICHARDSON *Pamela* (1824) I. 135 'Sir Simon..you are very arch upon us.'

B. absol. quasi-n. A chief (one). Obs.

¶1605 HEYWOOD *If you know not* Wks. (1874) 239 Poole that Arch, for truth and honesty. ¶1605 SHAKES. *Lear* ii. i. 61 The Noble Duke my Master, My worthy Arch and Patron.

arduous a.

(ˈɑːdʒuəs)

[f. L. ardu-us high, steep, difficult + -ous.]

1. Lofty, high, steep, difficult to climb; also fig.

¶1709 POPE *Ess. Crit.* 95 Those arduous paths they trod. ¶1713 STEELE *Guard.* No. 20 ¶1 To forgive is the most arduous pitch human nature can arrive at. ¶1831 MACAULAY *Boswell, Ess.* (1854) I. 174/2 Knowledge at which Sir I. Newton arrived through arduous and circuitous paths.

2. Hard to accomplish or achieve; requiring strong effort; difficult, laborious, severe.

¶1538 STARKEY *England* 27 A mater..of grete dyffyculty and harduos. ¶1718 POPE *Iliad* xiv. 523 An arduous battle rose around the dead. ¶1775 HARRIS *Philos. Arrangem.* (1841) 259 A task too arduous for unassisted philosophy. ¶1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* I. 206 Such an enterprise would be in the highest degree arduous and hazardous.

3. By transference to the activity required for the task: Strenuous, energetic, laborious.

¶1753 [SEE ARDUOUSLY]. ¶1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* i. §22. 160 Less than two good ones [guides]..an arduous climber ought not to have. ¶1873 BURTON *Hist. Scot.* VI. lxxiii. 376 Montrose made arduous efforts to reconstruct his army.

argot n.

(ˈɑːɡo)

[Fr. Of unknown origin.]

The jargon, slang, or peculiar phraseology of a class, orig. that of thieves and rogues.

¶1860 FARRAR *Orig. Lang.* vi. 134 Leaves an uninviting argot in the place of warm and glowing speech. ¶1869 *Fam. Speech* ii. (1873) 78 The argots of nearly every nation.

arid a.

('ærid)

[ad. L. *ārid-us*, f. *ārē-re* to be dry, parched with heat. Perh. directly from F. *aride*, 15th c. refashioning of OF. *are*, *arre*.]

1. Dry, without moisture, parched, withered. †a.1.a of substances: Dry; anhydrous. Obs.

¶1652 L. S. *People's Lbty.* ix. 17 Aride and liquide fruicts. ¶1742 SHENSTONE *Schoolmistr.* 106 Lavender..in arid bundles bound. ¶1803 *Phil. Trans.* XCIII. 14 Arid white salt..Arid, may be appropriated to express the state of being devoid of combined water.

b. Med. of the skin. Obs.

¶1704 SWIFT *Batt. Bks.* (1711) 248 Her Body grew white and arid. ¶1727 ARBUTHNOT & POPE (J.) My complexion is become adust, and my body arid.

c. of the ground or climate. Hence, barren, bare.

¶1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, Arid, dry, barren, withered, unfruitful. ¶1730 THOMSON *Autumn* 147 Without him summer were an arid waste. ¶1849 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* (1866) I. lviii. 265 The dry, arid look of the dusty square. ¶1872 BAKER *Nile Tribut.* Pref. 7 Arid sands and burning deserts.

2. fig. Dry, uninteresting, barren, jejune.

¶1827–39 DE QUINCEY *Murder Wks.* IV. 26 An old arid and adust metaphysician. ¶1846 LYTTON *Lucretia* (185 ¶1863 GEO. ELIOT *Romola* lxxi, Arid of all good.

Armageddon n.

(ɑːmə'ɡɛdən)

[See Rev. xvi. 16 (A.V.)]

The place of the last decisive battle at the Day of Judgement; hence used allusively for any 'final' conflict on a great scale. Also attrib.

¶1811 SHELLEY *Let.* 12 Jan. (1964) I. 45 Do we not now see Superstition decaying..except where Faber..and several others of the Armageddon-Heroes maintain their posts. ¶1886 SUFFOLK & CRAVEN *Racing* 247 As long as we have racing we shall have betting—that ceaseless war between layers and backers will still be waged... At present we see no sign of a final Armageddon.

¶1896 KIPLING *England's Answer* in *Poems* (1919) I. 237 In the day of Armageddon, or the last great fight of all. ¶1910 *Encycl. Brit.* II. 561/1 From the application of the word Armageddon to the great battle of the End of Time comes the use of the phrase 'an Armageddon' to express any great slaughter or final conflict. ¶1917 F. M. FORD *Let.* 5 Jan. (1965) 83, I am sure you could not have done a better 'bit' during Armageddon. ¶1928 W. DEEPING *Old Pybus* ii. §2 Mr. Pybus had been able to speak of the war as Armageddon without cribbing an obvious bleat from the popular press.

arrant a.

('ærənt)

[A variant of errant, 'wandering, vagrant, vagabond,' which from its frequent use in such expressions as arrant thief, became an intensive, 'thorough, notorious, downright,' especially, from its original associations, with opprobrious names. For the vowel-change cf. arrand= errand, Harry=Herry, Henry, far=earlier fer, etc.]

1. Wandering, itinerant, vagrant; esp. in knight arrant, bailiff arrant; in which the etymological errant is now alone used.

[¶c1400 *Circumcis.* (Turnb. 1843) 97 To bryng the lost schepe ageyn..That was errawnt, ydyl, and in vayne.] ¶1550 CROWLEY *Epigr.* (1872) 12 Title, Of Baylife Arrantes. ¶1557 *K. Arthur* (Copland) vii. x, With that knyght wyll I juste, for I see that he is a knyght arraunt. ¶1602 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* ix. xlv. 217 Arrant Preachers, humming out a common-place or two. ¶1647 HOWARD *Crown Rev.* 18 Bayliffe arrant. Fee.—4l. 11s. 3d. [¶1691 BLOUNT *Law Dict.*, Bailiffs Errant are those whom the Sheriff appoints to go up and down the County to serve Writs, etc.]

2. In thief errant, arrant thief [= robber]: orig. an outlawed robber roving about the country, a freebooter, bandit, highwayman; hence, a public, notorious, professed robber, a 'common thief,' an undisguised, manifest, out-and-out thief.

¶1386 CHAUCER *Manciple's T.* 120 An outlawe or a thef erraunt. [See the whole passage.] ¶1553 BALE *Vocacyon* in *Harl. Misc.* (Malh.) I. 362 The most errande thefe and mercilesse murtherer. ¶1563 GRAFTON *Chron. Hen.* IV, an. 1 (R.) There is not so ranke a traytor, nor so arrant a thefe. ¶1637 J. POCKLINGTON *Sund. no Sabb.* 13 The arrantest Pharisee theefe in Jerusalem. ¶a1744 SWIFT *Wks.* 1841 II. 79 Every servant an arrant thief as

to victuals and drink. ¶1822 W. IRVING *Braceb. Hall* xxvii. 247 Who, like errant thieves, could not hold up their heads in an honest house.

3. Hence: Notorious, manifest, downright, thorough-paced, unmitigated. Extended from thief to traitor, knave, rebel, coward, usurer; after 1575 widely used as an opprobrious intensive, with fool, dunce, ass, idiot, hypocrite, Pharisee, Papist, Puritan, infidel, atheist, blasphemer, and so on through the whole vocabulary of abuse.

¶1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. vii. 307 An erraunt vsurer. ¶1494 FABYAN v. lxxx. 58 Beyng a errant Traytoure. ¶1538 TUNSTALL in Strype *Eccl. Mem.* I. i. xlv. 338 Reginald Pole, comen of a noble blood, and thereby the more errant traitor. ¶1553 *Puocl.* *ibid.* III. App. vi. 10 The most arrande traytour Syr John Dudley. ¶c1588 GREENE *Fr. Bacon* v. 26 Why, thou arrant dunce, shall I never make thee a good scholar? ¶1596 DRAYTON *Legends* i. 112 Which she to Sots and arrant Ideots threw. ¶1602 SHAKES. *Ham.* i. v. 124 Hee's an arrant knaue. ¶1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* ii. iii. ii. (1651) 316 A nobleman therefore in some likelihood..is..a proud fool, an arrant asse. ¶1660 H. MORE *Myst. Godl.* v. xiii. 168 Either an arrant Infidel or horrid Blasphemer. ¶1679 MANSELL *Narr. Popish Plot Addr.*, Who may prove good tools, though errant Fools. ¶1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* 482 They are errant cowards. ¶1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* xiv. iii. (1840) 205 The arrantest villain that ever walked upon two legs. ¶1824 W. IRVING *T. Trav.* II. 34 As arrant a crew of scapegraces as ever were collected together. ¶1837 HOWITT *Rur. Life* ii. v. (1862) 141 The inhabitants of solitary houses are often most arrant cowards.

b. transf. of things, i.e. opprobrious deeds and qualities, theft, presumption, lie, device, etc.

¶1639 FULLER *Holy War* v. xxx (1840) 301 It were arrant presumption for flesh to prescribe God his way. ¶1692 BENTLEY *Boyle Lect.* i. 9 They cover the most arrant Atheism under the mask and shadow of a Deity. ¶1753 RICHARDSON *Grandison* (1781) IV. xxxiv. 241, I am afraid I have written arrant nonsense. ¶1776 PENNANT *Tour Scot.* ii. 327 This hill, till about the year 995, was an errant desert..and uninhabitable. ¶1858 BUCKLE *Civilis.* (1869) III. v. 480 Little better than arrant trifling.

4. Without opprobrious force: Thorough, downright, genuine, complete, 'regular.'

¶1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 25 Arrant, grandis, magnus. ¶1575 TURBERV. *Venerie* 193 Good and arrant Terriers..to make the foxe or Badgerd start the soner. ¶1664 EVELYN *Sylva* 95 He that shall behold its grain..will never

scruple to pronounce it arrant wood. ¶1704 ROWE *Ulysses* Epil. 15 They Like arrant Huswives, rise by Break of Day. ¶1820 W. IRVING *Sketch Bk.* II. 59 A tight brisk little man, with the air of an arrant old bachelor.

5. With the opprobrious force transferred to the adj.: Thoroughly bad, good for nothing, rascally.

¶1581 B. RICH *Farewell* (1846) 25 Her beautie had so entangled her arrant hoste. ¶1592 G. HARVEY *Pierce's Superer.* 6 So forward to accuse, debase, revile..as the arrantest fellow in a Country? ¶1676 WYCHERLEY *Plain-Dealer* iii. i, Mine's as arrant a Widow-Mother, to her poor Child, as any's in England. ¶1708 POPE *Lett. Wks.* 1736 V. 61 You are not so arrant a critic of the modern Poets as..to damn them without a hearing. ¶1761 SMOLLETT *Gil Blas* vii. iii, It was easy to see through all his piety that he was an arrant author at the bottom.

b. as pred.

¶1641 MILTON *Animadv. Def. Smectymn.* ii, The authority of some synodal canons which are now arrant to us.

6. as n. A person of no reputation, a good-for-nothing.

¶1605 BRETON *Be not angry* 8 Her good-man who should be sent of errands, while she were with her arrants.

arrogate v.

(ˈærəʊgeɪt)

[f. L. arrogāt- ppl. stem of adr-, arrogā-re to ask or claim for oneself, to adopt one whose consent may legally be asked, f. ad- to + rogāre to ask. Modern writers on Roman Law have appropriated the form adrogate to the specific legal sense.]

1. Rom. Law. To adopt as a child. (See adrogate.)

¶1649 JER. TAYLOR *Gt. Exemp.* iii. §15. 89 He did arrogate John..into Maries kindred.

b. transf. To adopt (that which is proper to another). Obs.

¶1530 *Epit. Barnes Wks.* 371 (R.) The Byshops..doe arrogate vnto themselves some thyng of the Phariseis pride.

2. To claim and assume as a right that to which one is not entitled; to lay claim to and appropriate (a privilege, advantage, etc.) without just reason or through self-conceit, insolence, or haughtiness. a.2.a with to and refl. pron.

¶1537 LATIMER *Serm.* (1844) 43 How much soever we arrogate these holy titles unto us. ¶1671 MILTON *P.R.* iv. 315 To themselves all glory arrogate, to God give none. ¶1777 WATSON *Philip II* (1793) II. xiii. ii. 154 The Spaniards..had arrogated to themselves every important branch of the administration. ¶1844 BROUGHAM *Brit. Const.* ix. §2 (1862) 120 They arrogated to themselves the right of approving or rejecting all that was done.

b. with simple obj. only.

¶1593 BILSON *Govt. Christ's Ch.* 18 Yet may they not arrogate any parte of Christes honour. ¶1667 MILTON *P.L.* xii. 26 Will arrogate Dominion undeserv'd Over his brethren. ¶1702 ROWE *Tamerlane* i. ii. 575 And arrogate a Praise that is not ours. ¶1858 DORAN *Crt. Fools* 92 The liberty arrogated by the professor of wit.

3. To lay claim, without reason or through self-conceit, to the possession of (some excellence); to assert without foundation that one has; to assume. a.3.a with to and refl. pron.

¶1563 *Homilies* ii. xvi. ii. (1859) 461 Whether all men doe justly arrogate to themselves the Holy Ghost, or no? ¶1638 MEDE *Wks.* iv. xii. 757 Nor do I arrogate so much ability to myself. ¶1789 BELSHAM *Ess.* II. xl. 501 They arrogate..all wisdom, knowledge, and even honesty, to themselves. ¶1872 BLACK *Adv. Phaeton* xxix. 384 She arrogated to herself a certain importance.

b. with simple obj. only.

¶1598 R. BARCKLEY *Felic. Man* Ded., One that arrogateth superioritie over all. ¶1660 STANLEY *Hist. Philos.* (1701) 428/2 Thus Pythagoras might arrogate the soul of Euphorbus. ¶1768 *Phil. Trans.* LVIII. 149, I can arrogate no merit in the discovery. ¶1848 H. ROGERS *Ess.* I. vi. 321 Arrogating the exclusive possession of wisdom.

c. with inf. or absol. Obs.

¶1628 WITHER *Brit. Rememb.* v. 203 Doe falsly arrogate to be inspired. ¶1648 C. WALKER *Relat. & Obs.* i. 29 They arrogate to be the peculiar people of God. ¶1648 MILTON *Tenure Kings* 13 Surely no Christian Prince would arrogate so unreasonably above human condition.

4. To lay similar claim to (something) on behalf of another; to ascribe or attribute to, or demand for, without just reason.

¶1605 TIMME *Quersit.* i. vi. 24 We deny that those inset and naturall qualities..are to be arrogated to hotte, moist, and drie. ¶1810 COLERIDGE *Friend* i. iv. (1867) 12 To antiquity we arrogate many things, to ourselves

nothing. ¶1863 COX *Inst. Eng. Govt.* i. viii. 111 An attempt was made..to arrogate to the Crown the privilege of issuing writs.

arsenal *n.*

(ˈɑːsɪnəl)

[a. It. arze- arsenale, Sp. Pg. F. arsenal, earlier forms of which are It. arzenà (Dante), arzanà (still in use), 16–17th c. F. arsena, arsenac (see Littré), all in the current sense; cf. It. and Sp. darsena, Sicilian tirzanà (Diez), Pg. taracena, tercena, F. darse, darsine, ‘a dock’; also Sp. atarazána, atarazanál, ‘arsenal, factory, wine-cellar, etc.’ The original is the Arab. dar as-sina’ah “workshop,” literally “house of manufacture,” from dar “house” + sina’ah “art, craft, skill,” from sana’a “he made,” which is directly represented by the Romance darsena, taracena; atarazana is prob. a Sp. Arab. form with article al-, ad- prefixed; arsena is either (as Diez thinks) from darsena, with d dropped (perh. by assoc. with de, d’, preposition, cf. dante, ante n.1), or (as Defréméry and others hold) from as-sina’ah alone. See Dozy, and Devic in Littré’s Supp. The final -ale, -al was added in It. or Sp. The wider sense of the Arabic is retained in Sp.; the other languages have narrowed it to dock and armoury. The earliest forms in Eng. were from It., but the existing one is that common to Fr., Sp. and Pg.]

1. A dock possessing naval stores, materials, and all appliances for the reception, construction, and repair of ships; a dockyard. Obs. exc. Hist.

¶1506 SIR R. GUYLFORDE *Pilgr.* (1851) 7 At the Archynale there be closed within..an .C. galyes. ¶1549 THOMAS *Hist. Italy* (1561) 74 b, The Arsenale [at Venice] in myne eye excedeth all the rest: For there they haue well neere two hundred galeys. ¶1580 NORTH *Plutarch* (1676) 372 Set up an arsenal or store-house to build gallies in. ¶1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 175 Making the Arsenall at Athens, able to receiue 1000 SHIPS. ¶1611 CORYAT *Crudities* 216, I was at the Arsenall which is so called quasi ars naualis, because there is exercised the Art of making tackling and all other necessary things for shipping. ¶1693 URQUHART *Rabelais* iii. lii, Carricks, Ships..and other vessels of his Thalassian arsenal. ¶1838 ARNOLD *Hist. Rome* (1846) I. xxi. 461 Building ships, and arsenals to receive and fit them out properly.

2. A public establishment for the manufacture and storage, or for the storage alone, of weapons and ammunition of all kinds, for the military and naval forces of the country.

¶1579 FENTON *Guicciard.* viii. (1599) 317 A fire kindled..in their storre house called the Arzenale..where was their saltpeter. ¶1625 BACON *Ess.*

(Arb.) 473 Stored Arcenalls and Armouries. ¶1660 HOWELL *Let. Ital. Prov. in Dict.*, The whole Arsenal of Venice is not able to arm a Coward. ¶1676 BULLOKAR, *Arcenel*, an Armoury, Storehouse of Armour or Artillery. ¶1727 CHAMBERS *Cycl. s.v.*, The Arsenal at Paris is that where the cannon or great guns are cast. ¶1781 GIBBON *Decl. & F. II. 53* Offensive weapons of all sorts, and military engines, which were deposited in the arsenals. ¶1811 D. LYSONS *Environs Lond. I. 594* The gun-wharf at Woolwich..is now called the Arsenal, or Royal Arsenal. This Arsenal is the grand dépôt of the ordnance belonging to the navy. ¶1876 J. THORNE *Environs Lond. II. 742/1* The Royal Arsenal [Woolwich] stretches for a mile along the Thames E. of the Dockyard. It is the only arsenal in the kingdom; the smaller establishments at the other dockyards are called gun-wharfs, and receive their supplies from Woolwich.

b. fig.

¶1598 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas i. (1633) 24* Of changefull chances common Arcenal. ¶1604 T. WRIGHT *Passions Mind v. §4. 185* Their arcinall or storehouse of persuasiue prouission. ¶1643 FEATLY *Pref. Newman's Concord. 1* Scripture is..the spirituall arsenall of munition. ¶1857 H. REED *Lect. Brit. Poets ix. 300* Weapons from the arsenal of poetic satire.

artful a.

(ˈɑːtʃfəl)

[f. art n. + -ful.]

I. Of persons or agents.

1. Versed in the (liberal) arts; learned, wise.

¶1613 HEYWOOD *Braz. Age ii. ii. Wks. III. 213* A beauteous Lady, artfull wise. ¶1681 JORDAN *Lond. Joy in Heath Grocers' Comp. (1869) 544* A piece worthy of an artful man's Examination.

2. Having practical, operative, or constructive skill; dexterous, clever. arch.

¶1697 DRYDEN *Life Virgil (R.)* Too artful a writer to set down events in exact historical order. ¶1710 SHAFTESBURY *Charac. iii. i. (1737) II. 385* Subtile Threds spun from their artful Mouths! ¶1718 POPE *Iliad xiv. 204* Her artful hands the radiant tresses tied.

3. Skilful in adapting means to ends, so as to secure the accomplishment of a purpose, adroit; passing gradually into: Skilful in taking an unfair advantage; using stratagem, wily; cunning, crafty, deceitful.

¶1739 T. SHERIDAN *Persius* i. 23 Horace was more artful, and in a merry Way touched upon his Friends' Faults without putting them out of Humour.

¶1760 MITCHELL in ellis *Orig. Lett.* ii. 480 IV. 419 Make use of the artful pen of Voltaire to draw secrets from the King of Prussia. ¶1797 T. BEWICK *Brit. Birds* I. 73 Made use of by artful and designing men. ¶1857 BOHN *Handbk. Prov.* 67 An artful fellow is the devil in a doublet.

II. Of things, actions, etc.

4. Displaying or characterized by technical skill; performed or executed in accordance with the rules of art; artistic. arch.

¶1615 *Latham's Falconry* Pref. Verses, To..force her to your voice and luring fall, Is strangely artfull. ¶1637 MILTON *Comus* 494 Thyrsis! whose artful strains have oft delayed The huddling brook. ¶1718 J. CHAMBERLAYNE *Relig. Philos.* I. vi. §8 So artful a Machine as every Man is. ¶1799 G. SMITH *Laboratory* I. 41 It would not be deemed an artful performance to fire one cartouch after another.

5. Produced by art, as opposed to what is natural; artificial, imitative, unreal.

¶1706 ADDISON *Rosamond* ii. i, In yon cool grotto's artful night. ¶1779 J. MOORE *View Soc. Fr.* viii. (1789) I. 55 The artful distresses of a romance.

¶1857 EMERSON *Poems* 114 Smite the chords..That they may render back Artful thunder.

6. Skilfully adapted for the accomplishment of a purpose; ingenious, clever; passing gradually into: Cunning, crafty, deceitful.

¶1705 STANHOPE *Paraphr.* I. 217 Artful Reasonings, and most moving Eloquence. ¶1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 400 ¶2 Artful Conformity to the Modesty of a Woman's Manners. ¶1843 MILL *Logic* ii. iv. §4 The marks, by an artful combination of which men have been able to discover and prove all that is proved in geometry. ¶1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* xv, This is a very artful dodge.

artless a.

(ˈɑːtlɪs)

[f. art n. + -less.]

1. Devoid of art or skill: **a.** Unpractised, inexperienced, unskilful; unskilled, ignorant.

¶1589 NASHE *Anat. Absurd.* 40 The artlesse tongue of a tedious dolt. ¶1628 WITHER *Brit. Rememb.* vii. 1184 Such artlesse riders, that they cannot

sit them. ¶1747 JOHNSON *Plan Eng. Dict.* Wks. IX. 165 The work in which I engaged is generally considered..as the proper toil of artless industry.

¶1847 LD. LINDSAY *Chr. Art* I. 124 The artless artists seem to have worked on, from arch to arch..without a thought.. of economising their space.

b. Devoid of the fine or liberal arts; having no desire for or endeavour after artistic effect; uncultured.

¶1599 MARSTON *Sco. Villanie* ii. Proem 192 Seeking conceits to sute these Artlesse times. ¶1636 BALLARD in *Ann. Dubrensia* (1877) 35 The rugged Poem of an Art-lesse Muse. ¶1774 J. BRYANT *Mythol.* I. 46 The most dry and artless historians are in general the most authentic. ¶1860 RUSKIN *Mod. Paint.* V. ix. ii. 216 A shadowy life—artless, joyless, loveless. No devices in that darkness of the grave.

2. a. Constructed without art or skill, rude, clumsy. **b.** Designed without art, inartistic, crude.

¶1695 WOODWARD *Nat. Hist. Earth* iii. i. (1723) 166 That there is any thing incommodious and Artless..in the Globe. ¶1774 JOHNSON *West. Isl.* Wks. X. 373 Brogues, a kind of artless shoes. ¶1782 WARTON *Hist. Kiddington* (T.) Assemblages of artless and massy pillars. ¶1878 LUBBOCK *Preh. Times* v. 141 They enclose an artless stone vault.

3. Free from art (as opposed to nature); unartificial, natural, simple.

¶1672 DRYDEN in *Shaks. C. Praise* 348 Such Artless beauty lies in Shakespears wit. ¶1752 C. LENNOX *Fem. Quix.* I. i. ii. 8 Curls, which had so much the appearance of being artless, that all but her maid..imagined they were so. ¶1754 SHERLOCK *Disc.* (1759) I. iv. 169 The Doctrines of the Gospel were artless and plain. ¶1852 A. JAMESON *Leg. Madonna* 152 The same artless grace, the same dramatic grouping.

4. Simple-minded, sincere, guileless, ingenuous.

¶1714 BUDGELL *Spect.* No. 605 ¶9 Imitation is a kind of artless Flattery. ¶1766 WESLEY *Wks.* (1872) III. 247 The artless people drank in every word. ¶1822 W. IRVING *Braceb. Hall* v. 43 The delightful blushing consciousness of an artless girl. ¶1868 STANLEY *Westm. Ab.* i. 34 His artless piety and simple goodness.

ascetic a. and n.

(ə'setɪk)

[ad. Gr. ἀσκητικός adj., f. ἀσκητής a monk or hermit, f. ἀσκέ-ειν to exercise: see -ic.]

A. adj.

1. Of or pertaining to the Ascetics, or to the exercise of extremely rigorous self-discipline; severely abstinent, austere.

¶1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* viii. 126 This ascetic rule, which held that a saint was disgraced by the very society which his mild Master sought and loved. ¶1682 *Chr. Morals* (1756) 97 The old Ascetick christians found a paradise in a desert. ¶1757 BURKE *Abridgm. Eng. Hist.* Wks. X. 276 A monastery which had acquired great renown for..the severity of its ascetick discipline. ¶1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* cix, High nature amorous of the good, But touch'd with no ascetic gloom.

2. = ascetical 1.

¶1822 BURROWES *Cycl., Ascetic*, the title of certain books on devout exercises. ¶1868 PATTISON *Academ. Org.* §5. 122 The knowledge to be cultivated is not ascetic divinity.

B. n.

1. Eccl. Hist. (Freq. with cap. initial.) One of those who in the early church retired into solitude, to exercise themselves in meditation and prayer, and in the practice of rigorous self-discipline by celibacy, fasting, and toil.

¶1673 CAVE *Prim. Chr.* iii. ii. 253 One of the primitive Asceticks. ¶1776 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xxxvii. (R.) The Ascetics, who obeyed and abused the rigid precepts of the gospel. ¶1861 A. BERESFORD-HOPE *Eng. Cathedr.* 19th C. v. 165 The deserts of the Thebaïd had been peopled by troops of sturdy and gaunt but God-fearing ascetics.

2. gen. One who is extremely rigorous in the practice of self-denial, whether by seclusion or by abstinence from creature comforts.

¶1660 JER. TAYLOR *Ductor Dubit.* ii. iii. 8. §4 The primitive Christians were generally such ascetics in this instance of fasting. ¶1862 STANLEY *Jewish Ch.* (1877) I. i. 17 He is not an ascetic..but full of the affections and interests of family and household.

3. pl. An ascetical treatise.

¶1751 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v., Books of spiritual exercises. As the ascetics, or devout treatises of St. Basil.

asperity n.

(ə'spɛrɪtɪ)

[a. OF. asprete (mod. âpreté):—L. asperitātem, f. asper rough: see -ty. Subseq. assimilated to the L. word.]

1. Unevenness of surface, roughness, ruggedness; concr. in pl. sharp, rough, or rugged excrescences.

¶1491 CAXTON *Vitas Patr.* (W. de W.) i. xxxvii. 50 a/1, Fewe people wente for to see him, for the grete asprete or sharpnesse of the place. ¶1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 246 Iuyce of Mynte..taketh away the asperitie, and roughnesse of the tongue. ¶1662 H. MORE *Antid. Ath.* ii. xii. (1712) 84 To view the Asperities of the Moon through a Dioptrick-glass. ¶1743 tr. *Heister's Surg.* 396 If any splinters or Asperities of Bones present themselves. ¶1830 LINDLEY *Nat. Syst. Bot.* 25 Almost all Delimaceæ have the leaves covered with asperities.

2. Roughness of savour, tartness, acridity, acrimony. arch.

¶1620 VANNER *Via Recta* v. 87 Very good for the asperity and siccity of the stomacke. ¶1667 *Phil. Trans.* II. 512 Esteeming the Mass of bloud by reason of its asperity..unfit for nutrition. ¶1747 BERKELEY *Siris* §86 (T.) The asperity of tartarous salts.

3. Harshness of sound, grating quality. arch.

¶1664 H. MORE *Myst. Iniq.* 239 The shrilness and asperity of the noise they make. ¶1750 JOHNSON *Rambl.* No. 88 ¶12 Our language, of which the chief defect is ruggedness and asperity. ¶1774 J. BRYANT *Mythol.* I. 167 A place in Egypt, which he could not specify on account of its asperity.

4. Of literary style: Ruggedness, lack of polish, inelegance. arch.

¶1779 JOHNSON *Cowley Wks.* II. 66 Avoids with very little care either meanness or asperity. *Philips* *ibid.* II. 293 Those asperities that are venerable in the *Paradise Lost* are contemptible in the *Blenheim*.

5. fig. Harshness to the feelings, rigour, severity; hence, hardship, difficulty. (The earliest sense; arch. exc. in

b. Bitter coldness, rigour, bleakness.)

¶c1230 *Ancr. R.* 354 Vilte and asprete..scheome and pine..beoð þe two leddre stalen þet beoð upriht to þe heouene. ¶a1535 MORE *Wks.* 1218 (R.) To..minysh the vygour and asperite of the paynes. ¶1659 HARDY *Serm.* 1 John xlix. (1865) 318/1 This oil [of gladness]..mitigateth the asperity of affliction. ¶1750 JOHNSON *Rambl.* No. 80 ¶4 The nakedness and asperity

of the wintry world. ¶1866 *Daily Tel.* 16 Jan. 7/5 The great asperity of the climate in winter.

6. Harshness or sharpness of temper, esp. when displayed in tone or manner; crabbedness, bitterness, acrimony; in pl. harsh, embittered feelings.

¶1664 H. MORE *Myst. Iniq. Apol.* 554 Animosities, and asperities of mind about toys and trifles. ¶1757 JOHNSON *Rambl.* No. 176 ¶8 Quickness of resentment and asperity of reply. ¶1838 DICKENS *Nich. Nick.* iii. (C.D. ed.) 13 Demanded with much asperity what she meant.

aspersion n.

(əˈspɜːʃən)

[ad. L. *aspersiōn-em*, n. of action f. *aspers-*: see *asperse* and *-ion*1.]

1. The action of besprinkling (a person or thing), or of sprinkling or scattering (liquid, dust, etc.).

¶1553-87 FOXE *A. & M.* I. 497/1 By the aspersion of the bloud of Jesus Christ. ¶1699 BURNET 39 *Articles* xx. (1700) 193 Aspersion may answer the true end of Baptism. ¶1782 PRIESTLEY *Corrupt. Chr.* II. viii. 109 They make many aspersions of holy water. ¶1846 W. MASKELL *Mon. Rit.* I. 209 St. Peter..baptized five thousand on one day; but this must have been by aspersion.

2. That which is sprinkled; a shower or spray.

¶1610 SHAKES. *Temp.* iv. i. 18 No sweet aspersion shall the heauens let fall To make this contract grow. ¶1845 *Blackw. Mag.* LVII. 584 An aspersion of cold water was dashed..in the impassioned faces of the pair.

3. The sprinkling in of an ingredient. Obs.

¶1605 BACON *Adv. Learn.* i. 29 There is to bee found besides the Theologicall sence, much aspersion of Philosophie. Ibid. ii. 79 Divinity Morality and Policy, with great aspersion of all other artes. a ¶1656 HALES *Golden Rem.* (1688) 34 Without any Aspersion of Severity.

4. Bespatterment with what soils; soil, stain. Obs.

¶1614 T. ADAMS in Spurgeon *Treas. Dav.* Ps. vi. 6 (1870) I. 70 Whatsoever aspersion the sin of the day has brought upon us.

5. The action of casting damaging imputations, false and injurious charges, or unjust insinuations; calumny, defamation.

¶1633 G. HERBERT *Charms & Knots* in Temple 89 Who by aspersions throw a stone At th' head of others, hit their own. ¶1781 COWPER *Friendship* xvii, Aspersion is the babblers' trade, To listen is to lend him aid. ¶1873 GOULBURN *Pers. Relig.* iv. xi. 347 Imperious aspersion of God.

6. A damaging report; a charge that tarnishes the reputation; a calumny, slander, false insinuation. Esp. in the phr. to cast aspersions upon.

¶1596 SPENSER *State Irel.* Pref. 2 Which may seeme to lay..any particular aspersion upon some families. ¶1662 FULLER *Worthies* (1840) III. 120 As false is the aspersion of his being a great usurer. ¶1692 JAMES II *Royal Tracts* * * G iv, Malicious Aspertions. ¶1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* (1775) II. 209, I defy all the world to cast a just aspersion on my character. ¶1859 GEO. ELIOT A. *Bede* 53 Vindicating myself from the aspersions.

assiduous a.

(ə'sɪdʒu:əs)

[f. L. assidu-us (f. assidē-re to sit by: see assess v.; lit. 'sitting down to,' hence 'closely applying to') + -ous.]

1. Of persons or agents: Constant in application to the business in hand, persevering, sedulous, unwearingly diligent.

¶1660 JER. TAYLOR *Duct. Dubit.* ii. ii. vii. §3 Christ..commands us to be perfect, that is..to be assiduous in our prayers. ¶1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 311 ¶5 Those assiduous Gentlemen who employ their whole Lives in the Chace. ¶1876 GREEN *Short Hist.* iii. §7 (1882) 148 He was assiduous in his attendance on religious services.

2. Constantly endeavouring to please, obsequiously attentive. arch.

¶1725 POPE *Odyss.* vi. 89 The queen, assiduous, to her train assigns The sumptuous viands. ¶1750 JOHNSON *Rambl.* No. 104 ¶13 Few can be assiduous without servility.

3. Of actions: Unremitting, persistent, constant.

¶1538 LELAND *Itin.* I. Introd. 20 By infinite Variete of Bookes and assiduous reading of them. ¶1667 MILTON *P.L.* xi. 310 To wearie him with my assiduous cries. ¶1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 10 ¶1 Follies that are only to be killed by a constant and assiduous Culture. ¶1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* I. 491 Baxter's life was chiefly passed..in the assiduous discharge of parochial duties.

4. Of things: Constant, regular. Obs.

¶1661 EVELYN *Fumifug. Misc. Writ.* (1805) 1 217 The Election of this constant and assiduous food, should something concerne us.

assuage *v.*

(ə'sweɪdʒ)

[a. OF. a(s)souage-r, -agier, Pr. a(s)suaviar, f. L. type *assuāviāre, f. ad to + suāvis sweet, agreeable. Cf. abridge, aggrege, allege (L. abbreviāre, aggraviāre, alleviāre).]

I. trans.

1. To soften, mitigate, calm, appease, allay (angry or excited feelings).

¶1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* 300 His wrath forto asuage. ¶c1420 *Pallad on Husb.* iv. 883 But yf he bite hir in his rage, Let labouryng his melancoly swage.

¶1513 MORE *Rich. III*, Wks. 35/2 The displeasure of those that bare him grudge..was well asswaged. ¶1642 ROGERS *Naaman* 32 God hath asswaged his pride, and tamed him. ¶1777 WATSON *Philip II* (1793) II. xiv. 229 They omitted nothing in their power to assuage his resentment. ¶1857 BUCKLE *Civilis.* viii. 500 That secular spirit which, in every country, has assuaged religious animosities.

2. To pacify, appease, calm (the excited person).

¶1325 *E.E. Allit. P. C.* 3 When heuy herttes ben hurt wyth hepyng..Suffraunce may aswagen hem. ¶1596 SPENSER *F.Q.* v. ii. 47 But Artegall him fairely gan asswage. ¶1598 FLORIO, *Propitiare*..to asswage God with sacrifice. ¶1706 ADDISON *Rosamond* ii. vi, Kindling pity, kindling rage At once provoke me, and asswage. ¶1763 SIR W. JONES *Caissa Poems* (1777) 33 So may thy prayers assuage the scornful dame. ¶1858 HAWTHORNE *Fr. & It. Jrnls.* I. 295, I shall..assuage and mollify myself a little after that uncongenial life of the consulate.

3. To relax, modify, moderate (a harsh law, etc.).

¶c1300 BEKET 1454 That the King wolde..aswagi the lithere lawes. ¶1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 287/1, I pray the..that thou asuage uppon hym the sentence of dampnacion.

4. To mitigate, alleviate, soothe, relieve (physical or mental pain); to lessen the violence of (disease).

¶1393 GOWER *Conf.* I. 267 That shulde assuage The leper. ¶c1400 *Rom. Rose* 2815 Thus Swete-Thenkyng shalle aswage The peyne of lovers. ¶1561

T. N[ORTON] *Calvin's Inst.* iii. 206 Then were there ministred other plaisters to asswage such peines. ¶1605 BACON *Adv. Learn* ii. xxii. §1 They need medicine..to assuage the disease. ¶1725 POPE *Odyss.* ii. 29 The rest with duteous love his griefs asswage. ¶1868 MILMAN *St. Paul's* xix. 481 Perhaps no man has assuaged so much human misery as John Howard.

5. To appease, satisfy (appetites, desires).

¶1430 LYDG. *Venus-Mass* in *Lay Folk's Mass-Bk.* 394 Water or wyne..asswage the grete dryhnesse of ther gredy thruste. ¶1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* ii. 791 The good old God his Hunger did asswage With Roots and Herbs. ¶1812 COMBE (Dr. Syntax) *Picturesque* x. 57 His thirst asswage With tea that's made of balm or sage. ¶1856 MRS. STOWE *Dred* II. xxvii. 278 So the fearful craving of his soul for justice was assuaged.

6. gen. To abate, lessen, diminish (esp. anything swollen). arch. or Obs.

¶c1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* 64 His olde gyltis bothe to asoft and swage. ¶1494 FABYAN VII. ccxxxvi. 273 Short of body, and therwith fatte; the whiche to aswage he toke ye lesse of metis. ¶1525 SKELTON *El. Rummyng* 10 For her visage It would aswage A mannes courage. ¶1667 PEPYS *Diary* 20, 21 Dec., My poor wife is in mighty pain, and her face miserably swelled..My wife is a little better, and her cheek asswaged. ¶1774 J. BRYANT *Mythol.* II. 284 The Dove..brought the first tidings that the waters of the deep were asswaged.

II. intr.

7. Of passion, pain, appetite, etc. (from senses 1, 2, 4, 5): To become less violent, to abate. Obs.

¶1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* 78 Of his crueltes he gynnes forto assuage. c ¶1386 CHAUCER *Merch. T.* 838 His sorwe gan aswage. ¶1509 HAWES *Past. Pleas.* xviii. xvi, The great payne of love May not aswage tyl death it remove. ¶1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 57 Their lust asswageth till another time. ¶1722 DE FOE *Plague* 191 The plague being come to a crisis, its fury began to assuage.

8. gen. To grow less, diminish, decrease, fall off, die away; to abate, subside. arch. or Obs.

¶1430 *Hymns to Virg.* (1867) 79 Take hede..How fast zoure zoupe doop asswage. ¶1523 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* I. xxviii. 42 Kyng Phylippes enterpryse of ye sayd Croysey beganne to asswage and waxe cold. ¶1611 BIBLE *Gen.* viii. 1 And the waters asswaged. ¶1677 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* 242

The Fire in Lime burnt, Asswages not, but lies hid. ¶1858 MOTLEY *Dutch Rep.* Introd. v. 17 As the deluge assuaged.

atavistic a.

(ætəˈvɪstɪk)

[f. prec.: see -istic.]

Of or pertaining to atavism; atavic; of or pertaining to a remote ancestor.

¶1875 *N. Amer. Rev.* CXX. 275 The social and the atavistic influence.
 ¶1915 W. S. MAUGHAM *Of Human Bondage* xxvi. 108 Some atavistic inheritance of the cave-dweller. ¶1922 JOYCE *Ulysses* 676 The sporadic reappearance of atavistic delinquency. ¶1932 E. WAUGH *Black Mischief* v. 168 Was it some atavistic sense of a caste, an instinct of superiority, that held him aloof?

Hence **atavistically** adv.

¶1884 *N. Amer. Rev.* Sept. 253 The ancient types crop out atavistically.
 ¶1897 E. P. EVANS *Evol. Ethics* i. 33 The lower classes..reflect atavistically the ideas and passions of primitive man. ¶1926 *Blackw. Mag.* Apr. 446/2 Some of them bolted atavistically up the nearest tree.

atrophy n.

(ˈætrəfi)

[a. F. *atrophie*, ad. L. *atrophia*, Gr. ἀτροφία, n. of state f. ἄτροφος ill-fed, not nourished, f. ἀ priv. + τροφή nourishment.]

1. A wasting away of the body, or any part of it, through imperfect nourishment: emaciation.

¶1620 VENNOR *Via Recta* viii. 189 Which..bringeth the body into a deformed Atrophie or consumption. ¶1667 MILTON *P.L.* xi. 486 Moon-struck madness, pining atrophy. ¶1862 TRENCH *Mirac.* xix. 323 A partial atrophy, showing itself in a gradual wasting of the size of the limb.

2. fig.

¶1653 JER. TAYLOR *Serm. Year Ded.*, We..fear the people will fall to an Atrophy, then to a loathing of holy food. ¶1782 J. TRUMBULL *M'Fingal* iv. (1795) 102 By fatal atrophy of purse. ¶1840 CARLYLE *Heroes* (1858) 315 For the Scepticism..is..a chronic atrophy and disease of the whole soul.

attenuate v.

(ə'tenju:et)

[f. L. *attenuāt-* ppl. stem of *attenuāre*, f. *at-* = *ad-* to + *tenuāre* to make thin, f. *tenuis* thin. Cf. F. *atténuer*, 12th c.]

1. To make thin or slender in girth or diameter (e.g. by natural or artificial shaping, drawing out, wearing down, starving, physical decay).

¶1530 PALSGR. 440/1, I attenuate, I make thynne, Jattenuē. ¶1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* i. ii. iii. x. (1651) 111 They crucifie the soul of man, attenuate our bodies. ¶1668 CULPEPPER & COLE tr. *Barthol. Anat.* i. xvii. 47 The Ureters in their progress are not attenuated within, as other Vessels are.

¶1794 SULLIVAN *View Nat.* I. 47 This shell also being attenuated..the surface of the earth will tumble in. ¶1848 A. JAMESON *Sacr. & Leg. Art* (1850) 203 The wasted unclad form is seen attenuated by vigils. ¶1876 BANCROFT *Hist. U.S.* III. iii. 344 To attenuate them by gently drawing them out.

2. a. To make thin in consistency, to separate the particles of a substance, to diminish density, rarefy.

¶1594 PLAT *Jewell-ho.* i. 40 Earth beeing attenuated becommeth water. ¶1691 E. TAYLOR *Behmen's Theos. Phil.* 187 The Suns lustre attenuateth the gross air. ¶1756 C. LUCAS *Ess. Waters* I. 48 Burning spirits..are oils attenuated and subtilised by the action of fermentation. ¶1762 tr. *Duhamel's Husb.* i. iii. 5 Salt, for example, may attenuate earth. ¶1874 [SEE ATTENUATED 2.]

b. spec. in Med. To render thinner (the humours or concretions of the body).

¶1533 ELYOT *Cast. Helth* ii. xiv. (R.) Dry figges..havige power to attenuate or make humours currant. ¶1605 TIMME *Quersit.* i. xiii. 64 O[y]le of pepper doth attenuat..tartarus matters in the body. ¶1797 DOWNING *Disord. Horn. Cattle* 13 These medicines..powerfully attenuate the cloggy disposition of the blood.

3. fig. To weaken or reduce in force, effect, amount; in value, estimation; (obs.) to extenuate.

¶1530 PALSGR. 440/1 He hath attenuat my power. ¶1579 LYLly *Euphues* (Arb.) 49 The delightfulness of the one will attenuate the tediousnesse of the other. c ¶1645 HOWELL *Lett.* (1650) I. 335 The Mahometans..attenuated their numbers in Asia. ¶1660 A. SIDNEY in *Four C. Eng. Lett.* 119 To aggravate that, which he doth intend to attenuate. ¶1850 Q. REV. June 15 Some Notes..intended to attenuate the authority of the Christian philosopher.

¶1869 LECKY *Europ. Mor.* I. i. 117 To attenuate..his own appetites and emotions.

4. intr. To become slender, thinner, or weaker.

¶a1834 COLERIDGE (in Webster), The attention attenuates as its sphere contracts.

5. Electr. To introduce attenuation; in pass., to be subjected to attenuation. Cf. attenuation 4.

¶1886 LORD RAYLEIGH in *Phil. Mag.* 5th Ser. XXII. 490 If we had the means of observing the passage of signals at various points of a long cable, we should find them not merely retarded..as we recede from the sending end, but also attenuated. ¶1892 HEAVISIDE *Electr. Papers* II. 133 The act of reflection attenuates. Ibid. 346 During transmission along the circuit, the vibrations are attenuated. ¶1959 *Chambers's Encycl.* VII. 696/2 The lower part of the Heaviside layer is of particular importance..because it is in this region that radio waves used for long-distance communication are attenuated.

augment v.

(ɔːg'ment)

[a. F. *augmenter*-r (14th c.), earlier *aumenter*, cogn. with It. *aumentare*, Sp. *aumentar*:—L. *augmentā-re* to increase, f. *augment-um*: see *prec.*]

1. trans. To make greater in size, number, amount, degree, etc.; to increase, enlarge, extend.

¶1460 FORTESCUE *Abs. & Lim. Mon.* (1714) 116 Hou our Navye may be mayntenyd, and augmentyd. ¶1561 T. N[ORTON] *Calvin's Inst.* iv. xiv. (1634) 634 marg., The power which Sacraments have in augmenting Faith. ¶1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 58 [The Tiber] is augmented with two and forty riuers. ¶1763 J. BROWN *Poetry & Mus.* §5. 66 The Chords of the Lyre were augmented gradually from four to forty. ¶1816 SCOTT *Old. Mort.* 217 The insurgents were intent upon augmenting and strengthening their forces.

2. intr. To become greater in size, amount, degree, intensity, etc.; to increase, grow, swell.

¶c1400 *Rom. Rose* 5600 For to encrease, and not to lesse, For to aument and multiplie. ¶1475 CAXTON *Jason* 51 The bruit of preu Jason augmentid and encresid from day to day. ¶1589 GREENE *Menaph.* (Arb.) 39 The grasse hath his increase, yet never anie sees it augment. ¶1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* i. 466 The Winds redouble, and the Rains augment. ¶1869

TYNDALL *Light* §436 The polarizing angle augments with the refractive index of the medium.

3. trans. To increase or add to the resources of; to enhance in circumstances. Obs.

¶c1460 FORTESCUE *Abs. & Lim. Mon.* (1714) 93 To augment his Realme in Rycesse, Welth, and Prosperyte. ¶1529 WOLSEY in *Four C. Eng. Lett.* 11 Aggumentyng my lyvyng, and appoyntyng such thyngs as shuld be convenient for my furniture. ¶1601 CORNWALLYES *Essayes* ii. xxxvi. (1631) 117 Thou augmentest their state purchasing a blessing upon their house and life.

4. trans. and refl. To raise (a person) in estimation or dignity; to exalt. Obs.

¶1567 *Trial Treas.* in Hazl. *Dodsley* III. 273 Labour yourself to advance and augment. ¶1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* iii. ii. §43 II. 84 Theobald..was augmented with the title of Legatus natus.

b. intr. To rise in estimation or dignity. Obs.

¶1534 LD. BERNERS *Gold. Bk. M. Aurel.* I v b, With a littell fauour ye wyll exalt, augement, and grow into gret prid.

5. Her. (trans.) To make an honourable addition to (a coat of arms).

¶1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* iv. II. 357 The Armes of London were augmented with the addition of a Dagger. ¶1864 BOUTELL *Heraldry Hist. & Pop.* xiii. 95 The Scottish Baronets..were authorized to augment their own arms.

6. To multiply (mathematically). Obs.

¶1571 DIGGES *Pantom.* iii. iii. Q ij, The Solide content of a Cylinder is gotten by augmenting the base in his altitude. ¶1593 T. FALE *Dialling* 31 Augment the Sine of the Complement repeated, by the Sine of the doubtfull Arke: an the product arising thereof..shall be the distance, etc.

augment n.

(ˈɔːgmənt)

[a. F. augment (14th c.), ad. L. augmentum increase, f. augēre to increase: see -ment.]

1. Increase, extension, augmentation. Obs.

¶1430 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* i. v, In augment of thy wo. ¶1501 DOUGLAS *Pal. Hon. Prol.* i. x, In the is rute and agment of curage. ¶1599 THYNNE *Animadv.* 71 To seeke the augmente and correctione of Chawcers Woorkes. ¶1677 PLOT *Oxfordsh.* 132 That though indeed there be an augment in some

petrifications, yet that it is not so in all. ¶1696 PHILLIPS, *Augment..an* encreasing.

2. Gram. The prefixed vowel (in Sanskrit *ā*, in Greek *ε*) which characterizes the past tenses of the verb in the older Aryan languages. (Sometimes applied to any prefix supposed to be of analogous use, e.g. the *ge-* of past participles in German.) (In Greek, when the *ε* remains separate, it is called the syllabic augment; when it forms, with a following vowel, a long vowel or diphthong, the temporal augment.) Hence augmentless *a.*, wanting the verbal augment.

¶1771 GRAY in *Corr.* (1843) 226 The *y* which we often see prefixed to participles passive, *ycleped*, *yhewe*, etc...is the old Anglo-Saxon augment.

¶1861 JELF *Grk. Gram.* I. §171 The augment is employed in the indicative mood only of all the historic tenses. ¶1879 WHITNEY *Skr. Gram.* §585 The augment is a short *a*, prefixed to a tense stem..The augment is a sign of past time. Ibid. §587 The accentuation of the augmentless forms.

augur *v.*

(ˈɔːgə(r))

[f. prec. *n.*; or *a.* F. *augure-r* (14th c.), *ad.* L. *augurāri*, *f.* *augur*; see *prec.*]

1. trans. To prognosticate from signs or omens; to divine, forebode, anticipate.

¶1601 B. JONSON *Poetaster* i. i, I did augur all this to him beforehand.

¶1775 BURKE *Sp. Conc. Amer. Wks.* III. 56 They augur misgovernment at a distance and snuff the approach of tyranny. ¶1827 SCOTT *Surg. Dau.* i. 25 The Docter..hastened down stairs, auguring some new occasion for his services. ¶1852 D. MITCHELL *Bat. Summer* 70 Who augured from the very fact, a state of quietude.

b. Of things: to betoken, portend, give promise of.

¶1826 SCOTT *Mal. Malagr.* i. 54 It seems to augur genius. ¶1843 LYTTON *Last Bar.* i. i. 32 Whose open, handsome, hardy face augured a frank and fearless nature.

2. intr. (or with subord. clause). To take auguries; to conjecture from signs or omens; to have foreknowledge or foreboding.

¶1808 SCOTT *Marm.* iii. xv, Not that he augur'd of the doom, Which on the living closed the tomb. ¶1840 GEN. P. THOMPSON *Exerc.* (1842) V. 119 What have the cock-sparrows to do with it; do we augur from them, as

the Romans did from chickens? ¶1877 SPARROW *Serm.* xxiii. 308 He may augur the gust is coming, but cannot prevent it.

3. esp. (with well or ill)

a. Of persons: to have good or bad anticipations or expectations of, for.

¶1803 WELLINGTON in *Gurwood Disp.* II. 275, I augur well from this circumstance. ¶1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* I. 544 Fletcher, from the beginning, had augured ill of the enterprise. ¶1859 JEPHSON *Brittany* vi. 69 As I looked at his good-natured face I augured well for my reception.

b. Of things: to give good or bad promise. [Perh. ill was orig. a n. = evil.]

¶1788 T. JEFFERSON *Writ.* (1859) II. 506 One vote, which augurs ill to the rights of the people. ¶1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* iii. vii, All augured ill for Alpine's line. ¶1855 PRESCOTT *Philip II* (1857) 68 A reverential deference, which augured well for the success of his mission.

4. trans. (also with in) To induct into office or usher in with auguries; to inaugurate.

¶1549 LATIMER *Serm. bef. Edw. VI* (Arb.) 46 Numa Pompilus, who was augured and created king [of] the Romaynes next after Romulus. ¶1865 *Reader* 11 Feb. 157 Profuse promises have augured in its birth.

augur n.

(ˈɔːgə(r))

[a. L. augur, earlier auger; perh. f. av-is bird + -gar, connected with garrire to talk, garrulus talkative, and Skr. gar to shout, call, show, make known; but Fick would derive it from augēre to increase, promote, etc.; cf. auctor author n.]

1. A religious official among the Romans, whose duty it was to predict future events and advise upon the course of public business, in accordance with omens derived from the flight, singing, and feeding of birds, the appearance of the entrails of sacrificial victims, celestial phenomena, and other portents.

¶1549 HOOPER *Commandm.* vi. Wks. (1852) 327 There were some called augures, that by observation of the birds of the air..made men believe they knew things to come. ¶1719 D'URFEY *Pills* (1872) III. 78 Having like an Augur watched, Which way he took his flight. ¶1879 FROUDE *Cæsar* iii. 21 The College of Augurs could declare the auspices unfavourable, and so close all public business.

2. Hence extended to: A soothsayer, diviner, or prophet, generally; one that foretells the future.

¶1593 DRAYTON *Eclogues* i. 7 Philomel, the augure of the Spring.
 ¶1647 R. STAPYLTON *Juvenal* 115 The Phrygians, Cilicians, and Arabians were very skilfull augurs, or diviners by the flight of birds. ¶1718 POPE *Iliad* i. 131 Augur accursed! denouncing mischief still, Prophet of plagues, for ever boding ill!

auspicious a.

[f. as prec. + -ous.]

1. Ominous, esp. of good omen, betokening success, giving promise of a favourable issue.

¶1614 SELDEN *Titles Hon.* 155 An auspicious flight of an Eagle towards him. ¶1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th. viii.* 202 Beneath auspicious planets born. ¶1823 J. THACHER *Mil. Jrnl. Amer. Rev.* 155 The splendid achievement of General Gates is auspicious to his preferment.

b. Of persons: Predicting or prognosticating good.

1702 Rowe *Ambit. Step-Moth. ii. ii.* 662 Auspicious Sage, I trust thee with my Fortune. ¶1879 C. ROSSETTI *Seek & Find* 239 The aspect of jubilant auspicious angels.

2. Favourable, favouring, conducive to success.

1610 SHAKES. *Temp. v. i.* 314 I'le..promise you calme Seas, auspicious gales. ¶1858 SEARS *Athan. ii. xii.* 248 The results..have a direct and auspicious bearing on the great subject.

b. Of persons: Showing favour, propitious, kind.

1601 SHAKES. *All's Well iii. iii.* 8 And fortune play vpon thy prosperous helme As thy auspicious mistris. ¶1756 C. LUCAS *Ess. Waters I. Ded.*, Auspicious Heaven saw our distresses and dangers. ¶1871 ROSSETTI *Poems* 10 Fair with honorable eyes, Lamps of an auspicious soul.

3. Favoured by fortune, prosperous, fortunate.

1616 BULLOKAR, Auspicious, lucky, fortunate. ¶1664 H. MORE *Myst. Iniq.* 241 But Harvest sometimes has a more auspicious sense. ¶1804 in Gurwood *Disp. III.* 419 We.. have reposed for five auspicious years under the shadow of your protection.

autonomous a.

(ɔːtənəməs)

[f. Gr. αὐτόνομος making or having one's own laws, independent (f. αὐτο- self, own + νόμος law) + -ous.]

1. Of or pertaining to an autonomy.

¶1800 W. TAYLOR in *Month. Mag.* VIII. 600 With an autocratic, not an autonomous, constitution. ¶1861 C. KING *Antique Gems* (1866) 237 The autonomous coins of Sybaris.

2. Possessed of autonomy, self-governing, independent. In Metaph.: see autonomy 1 c.

¶1804 W. TAYLOR in *Ann. Rev.* II. 244 If the [Irish] nation was to become autonomous. ¶1851 D. WILSON *Preh. Ann.* (1863) I. ii. i. 313 The autonomous Greek cities in Asia Minor. ¶1868 BAIN *Ment. & Mor. Sc.* 736 The absolutely good Will must be autonomous—i.e., without any kind of motive or interest.

3. Biol.**a.** Conforming to its own laws only, and not subject to higher ones.**b.** Independent, i.e. not a mere form or state of some other organism.

¶1861 H. MACMILLAN *Footn. Page Nat.* 158 Some of these productions may not be autonomous, some may seem to pass into each other by intermediate forms. ¶1881 *Syd. Soc. Lex.* s.v. Autonomy, Anatomy and physiology are autonomous, since the phenomena presented by animals and plants are not at present referable to chemical, physical, or other laws. ¶1882 T. DYER in *Nature* 23 Feb. 391 The view that they [lichens] are autonomous organisms.

avuncular a.

(əˈvʌŋkjʊlə(r))

[f. L. avuncul-us maternal uncle, dim. of avus grandfather + -ar.]

a. Of, belonging to, or resembling, an uncle.

¶1831 LANDOR *Rupert Wks.* 1846 II. 571 Love..Paternal or avuncular. ¶1854 THACKERAY *Newcomes* I. v. 50 Clive in the avuncular gig is driven over the downs.

b. (humorously) Of a pawnbroker: see uncle. Also absol.

¶1832 *Fraser's Mag.* V. 85 My only good suit is at present under the avuncular protection. ¶1859 SALA *Gaslight & D.* iii. 37 If you enter one of these pawnshops..you will observe these peculiarities in the internal economy of the avuncular life. ¶1922 JOYCE *Ulysses* 417 Avuncular's got my timepiece.

Hence **avuncularism** (joc.), recourse to a pawnbroker; **avuncularity**, the state of being an uncle; **avuncularly** adv., in the manner of an uncle.

¶1859 D. G. ROSSETTI *Let.* 15 Feb. (1965) I. 348, I have only been saved from further 'avuncularism' by a visit of old Plint, who has bought two..drawings. ¶1937 A. L. ROWSE *R. Grenville* ii. 28 The pleasures of avuncularity. ¶1957 *Economist* 7 Sept. 824/1 The classical picture here is of Lord Woolton avuncularly presiding over the rapidly growing Young Conservatives.

awry adv. and a.

(ə'rai)

[f. a prep.1 + wry; cf. aright, awrong.]

A. adv.

1. Away from the straight (position or direction); to one side, obliquely; unevenly, crookedly, askew.

¶1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* iv. 705 As thair bemys strekit air Owthir all evin, or on wry. ¶1490 CAXTON *Eneydos* xiv. 50 The stones of the walles appyren alle awry sette. ¶1590 *Pasquil's Apol.* i. D b, The case standing as it dooth I cannot but draw my mouth awrie. ¶1607 DEKKER *Westw. Hoe* Wks. 1873 II. 294 They say Charing-crosse is falne downe..but thats no such wonder, twas old, and stood awry. ¶1650 BULWER *Anthropomet.* xi. 115 Lest..some crum (as we use to say) should go awry. ¶1714 POPE *Rape Lock* iv. 8 Not Cynthia when her manteau's pinned awry, E'er felt such rage. ¶1838 MARRYAT *Jac. Faithf.* ii. 9, I held my spoon awry, and soiled my clothes.

b. to look awry: to look askance or asquint. (Cf. the senses under these words.)

¶1400 *Rom. Rose* 291 Envy..ne looked but awrie. ¶1573 G. HARVEY *Letter-bk.* (1884) 5, I passing bi him..he hath lookd awri an other wai. ¶1609 ROWLANDS *Crew of Gossips* 6 When he speakes..I'll hold my peace, and

(frowning) looke awry. ¶1709 CHANDLER *Effort agst. Bigotry* 28 When a Church-man therefore shall in scornful Pride look awry upon..a Dissenter.
 ¶1845 DARWIN *Voy. Nat.* x. (1852) 206 Some of our party began to squint and look awry.

2. fig. Out of the right course or place; in a wrong manner; improperly, erroneously, amiss.

¶1494 FABYAN 2 To me it semyth so ferre sette a wrye In tyme of yeres.
 ¶1671 MILTON *P.R.* iv. 313 Much of the Soul they talk, but all awrie. ¶1850 MRS. BROWNING *Aur. Leigh* iii. 543 Those who think Awry, will scarce act straightly.

b. esp. in phr. to go awry, run awry, step awry, tread awry, walk awry: (of persons) to fall into error, do wrong; (of things) to turn out badly or untowardly, 'go wrong.'

¶1524 *State Papers Hen. VIII*, I. 152 To wryng and wreste the maters in to better trayne, if they walke a wrye. ¶1570 B. GOOGE *Pop. Kingd.* iv. (1880) 56 b, The very Spouse and Church of Christ, that cannot runne awry. ¶1625 BOYS in Spurgeon *Treas. Dav.* Ps. xv. 2 Aristides was so just..that he would not tread awry. ¶1745 DE FOE *Eng. Tradesm.* I. ix. 65 If a tradesman but once ventures to step awry. ¶1858 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* (1865) I. ii. xi. 116 Far worse, the marriage itself went awry.

c. to tread the shoe awry: to fall from virtue, break the law of chastity. Cf. F. faux pas.

¶1520-41 WYATT *Poet. Wks.* (1861) 96 Farewell all my welfare! My shoe is trod awry. ¶1600 HEYWOOD *2nd Edw. IV*, Wks. 1874 I. 143 King Edward's children not legitimate..Their mother hapt to tread the shoe awry.
 ¶1662 FULLER *Worthies* (1840) III. 130 He would not stick to tell where he trod his holy sandals awry.

B. adj. (usually pred., rarely attrib. Cf. wry.)

1. Out of the right course or position; displaced, disordered, disarranged; crooked, distorted.

¶1658 W. BURTON *Itin. Anton.* 178 The journey will prove enormously awry. ¶1728 YOUNG *Love Fame* vi. (1757) 149 What pity 'tis her shoulder is awry! ¶1847 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg.* (1877) 172 His features and phiz awry Show'd so much misery. ¶1883 *Daily News* 9 Nov. 2/1 Blinds..very different from the awry, dingy, imitation Venetians of his neighbour.

2. fig. Turned from the right course, wide of the mark, perverted, wrong. awry from: opposed to.

¶1581 SIDNEY *Astr. & Stella* xxvii, With dearth of words, or answers quite awrie. ¶1670 MILTON *Hist. Eng.* i. Wks. (1851) 23 Nothing more awry from the Law of God..then that a Woman should give Laws to Men. ¶1872 BROWNING *Fifine* 1, If so succeed hand-practice on awry Preposterous art-mistake.

C. ellipt. quasi-v. To turn awry or aside.

¶1613 R. C. *Table Alph., Swarue*, awry, erre. ¶1653 BROME *Mad Couple* iii. i, High heeld shooes, that will awry sometimes with any Women.

axiom n.

(ˈæksɪəm)

[a. F. *axiome*, ad. L. *axiōma*, a. Gr. ἀξίωμα that which is thought worthy or fit, that which commends itself as self-evident, f. ἀξιόειν to hold worthy, f. ἄξιος worthy.]

1. A proposition that commends itself to general acceptance; a well-established or universally-conceded principle; a maxim, rule, law.

¶1485 CAXTON *Paris & V. Prol.*, An axiom which in Latin expressed, hoc crede quod tibi verum esse videtur. ¶1579 LYLLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 100 The Axiomaes of Aristotle. ¶1604 DEKKER *Honest Wh.* Wks. 1873 II. 63 That's an Axiome, a Principle. ¶1651 HOBBS *Govt. & Soc.* i. §2. 3 Which Axiom, though received by most, is yet certainly false. ¶1757 JOHNSON *Rambl.* No. 175 ¶1 The axioms of wisdom which recommend the ancient sages to veneration. ¶1837 J. HARRIS *Gt. Teacher* 389 The axiom known by the name of the golden rule. ¶1875 H. E. MANNING *Mission H. Ghost* ii. 33 It is an axiom of the human reason that God is everywhere.

b. Specially restricted by Bacon to: An empirical law, a generalization from experience. Obs.

¶1626 BACON *Sylva* §2 Led by great Judgement, and some good Light of Axioms. ¶1627 RAWLEY in *Bacon's Ess.* (Arb.) Intro. 26 True Axiomes must be drawne from plaine Experience, and not from doubtful. ¶1838 SIR W. HAMILTON *Logic* xxvi. II. 47 Empirical rules (Bacon would call them axioms.)

2. Logic. A proposition (whether true or false).

¶1588 FRAUNCE *Lawiers Log.* ii. i. 86 b, An axiom or proposition..hath two partes, the bande, and the partes bound. ¶1656 STANLEY *Hist. Philos.* viii. Zeno xx. 43 Universally negative axioms are those, which consist of an

universall negative particle, and a Categorem; as, no man walketh. ¶1664 H. MORE *Myst. Iniq. Apol.* 533 Otherwise no man might dispute or pronounce a false Axiome. ¶1742 IN BAILEY.

3. Logic and Math. 'A self-evident proposition, requiring no formal demonstration to prove its truth, but received and assented to as soon as mentioned' (Hutton).

¶1600 HOOKER (J.) Axioms, or principles more general, are such as this, that the greater good is to be chosen before the lesser. ¶1660 R. COKE *Justice Vind.* 16. ¶1785 REID *Int. Powers* i. ii, Nor are they necessary truths, as mathematical axioms are. ¶1807 BYRON *Hours Idlen., College Exam.*, Happy the youth in Euclid's axioms tried. ¶1851 H. SPENCER *Soc. Stat.* ii. ix. §6 The axiom that the whole is greater than its part.

B

badinage n.

(badi'nəʒ, 'bædɪnɪdʒ)

[a. F. badinage, f. badiner (see below) and -age.]

Light trifling raillery or humorous banter.

¶1658 in PHILLIPS. ¶1740 CIBBER *Apol.* (1756) II. 74 The frivolous charms or playful badinage of a king's mistress. ¶1880 DISRAELI *Endym.* xxxvii, Men destined to the highest places should beware of badinage.

bailiwick n.

('beɪlɪwɪk)

[f. bailie + -wick: see also bailiffwick.]

1. a. A district or place under the jurisdiction of a bailie or bailiff. Used in Eng. Hist. as a general term including sheriffdom; and applied to foreign towns or districts under a vogt or bailli.

¶1460 FORTESCUE *Abs. & Lim. Mon.* (1714) 123 A mean Bayliff may do more in his Bayly-Weke. ¶1574 tr. *Littleton's Tenures* 51 a, By the othe of xii true men of hys bayliwike. ¶1596 SPENSER *State Irel.* Wks. (1862) 553/2 The sheriffe of the shire, whose peculiar office it is to walke up and downe his bayli-wicke. ¶1678 T. JONES *Heart & Right Sov.* 88 Our British Isles, which never were within the diocess or bayliwick of Rome. ¶1759 B. MARTIN *Nat. Hist. Eng.* II. 355 A fair Bailiwick and Town corporate. ¶1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* II. 305 Berne. This Canton contains 72 bailiwicks. ¶1862 ANSTED *Channel Isl.* iv. xxiii. 519 Guernsey, Alderney, and Sark, together with Herm..composing the Bailiwick of Guernsey. ¶1884 *Law Rep. Chanc. Div.* XXV. 341 The sheriff..made a return..that Mr. S. had no lay fee within his bailiwick.

b. transf. 'One's natural or proper place or sphere' (D.A.). Chiefly U.S.

¶1843 *Knickerbocker* XXI. 589 A friend..inside the southern division of Mason and Dixon's 'bailiwick'. ¶1892 *Outing* (U.S.) Apr. 16/1 The baggage-man stared a little when we piled our 'truck' into his bailiwick. ¶1911 R. D. SAUNDERS *Col. Todhunter* ix. 119 I'm skeered to the marrow,..because I'm out o' my bailiwick. ¶1940 *S.P.E. Tract* lvi. 216 Bailiwick..has given rise to

the common phrase 'out of one's bailiwick', i.e. outside of one's natural sphere or function.

2. The office or jurisdiction of a bailie or a bailiff. (Now only Hist.)

¶1494 FABYAN vii. 528 The offyce of ballywyke. ¶a1649 DRUMMOND of HAWTHORNDEN *Jas. V Wks.* (1711) 88 A suit..about the ballywick of Jedburgh-forrest. ¶1687 N. JOHNSTON *Assur. Abbey Lands* 69 Other Ecclesiastical Benefices, Provost-ships, Baly-wicks, Commendams, Canon-ships, etc. ¶1875 STUBBS *Const. Hist.* II. xvii. 557 No gift of land, franchise..or bailiwick should be made.

3. Stewardship. (Cf. bailieship.) Obs.

¶1550 CROWLEY *Epigr.* 1257 Christe shall saie at the laste daye, Geve accounts of your baliwickes. ¶1601 DENT *Pathw. Heaven* (1603) 171 To give an account of our bailywicke.

4. Comb. bailiwick-town, a town under the jurisdiction of a bailiff; the chief town of a hundred.

¶1675 OGILBY *Brit.* 172 Hexham..is at present a well-built Bailiwick Town. ¶1724 DE FOE, etc. *Tour Gt. Brit.* (1769) III. 241 The Bailiwick-town of Hexham.

baleful a.

('beilful)

[OE. bealu-full, f. bealu bale n.1 + full. Until recent times almost exclusively poetic; still chiefly literary.]

1. Full of malign, deadly, or noxious influence; pernicious, destructive, noxious, injurious, mischievous, malignant: **a.** physically or generally.

¶a1000 *Crist* (Grein) 259 Se bealofulla [= the devil] hynep heardlice. ¶c1220 *St. Marher.* 10 To beoren me into his balefule hole. ¶1230 *Ancr. R.* 114 So baluhful & so bitter! ¶c1400 *Destr. Troy* i. 167 These balfull bestes were..ffull flaumond of fyre. ¶1592 SHAKES. *Rom. & Jul.* ii. iii. 8 Balefull weedes, and precious luiced flowers. ¶1676 *Black Prince in Harl. Misc.* (1793) 51 Great flocks of ravens, and other baleful birds of prey. ¶1712 SWIFT *Wond. Proph.* Wks. 1755 III. I. 173 This baleful dog-star. ¶1800-24 CAMPBELL *To Sir F. Burdett* v, His hate is baleful, but his love is worse. ¶1862 RAWLINSON *Anc. Mon.* I. i. 32 The baleful simoon sweeps across the entire tract.

b. morally.

¶c1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 215 Tend mine heorte and uorbern al þat is baluful þer inne. ¶c1300 *Lay-Folks Mass-Bk.* B. 404 Þat may lese alle baleful bandes. ¶1589 GREENE *Menaph.* (Arb.) 22 The baleful laborinth of despaire. ¶1597 LOK in Farr *S.P.* (1845) I. 138 Through baleful lust of gold. ¶1751 SMOLLETT *Per. Pic.* (1779) III. lxxxii. 109 O baleful Envy! thou self-tormenting fiend. ¶1863 W. PHILLIPS *Speeches* xvi. 362 The potent and baleful prejudice of color.

2. subjectively: **a.** Full of pain or suffering, painful. Obs.

¶c1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 181 On þisse liue we beð on balfulle swinche for adames gulte. ¶1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* Jan., Such stormie stoures do breede my balefull smart.

b. Unhappy, wretched, miserable; distressed, sorrowful, mournful. arch.

¶1325 *E.E. Allit. P. C.* 979 Þe balleful burde [Lot's wife], þat neuer bode keped. ¶c1420 *Anturs of Arth.* xlii, The balefulle birde blenked on his blode. ¶1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* I. 124 The 3outting, 3ouling, and the bailfull beir Tha maid. ¶1596 DRAYTON *Legends* iii. 14 That Baleful sounds immovably do'st breathe. ¶1812 J. WILSON *Isle of Palms* i. 533 Baleful spirits barr'd from realms of bliss.

banal **a.**

(bə'na:l, older 'beinəl)

[**a.** F. banal, in Cotgr. bannal, f. ban:—med.L. bannum: see BAN n., and -AL.]

1. Of or belonging to compulsory feudal service.

¶1753 CHAMBERS *Cycl. Supp.*, Bannal-Mill, a kind of feudal service, whereby the tenants of a certain district are obliged to carry their corn to be ground at a certain mill, and to be baked at a certain oven for the benefit of the lord. ¶1864 SIR F. PALGRAVE *Norm. & Eng.* IV. 281 A bannal-oven of which the lord enjoyed the monopoly.

2. (From the intermediate sense of, Open to the use of all the community): Commonplace, common, trite; trivial, petty.

¶[1837 *Athenæum* No. 504. 453 These bannaes personages are 'much of a muchness.'] ¶1840 *New Monthly Mag.* LIX. 458 All that her late companions can draw from her is the banal declaration, that she 'never knew what happiness was before'. ¶1864 *N. & Q. Ser.* iii. VI. 480 Facetious fools..set up the banal laugh. ¶1868 BROWNING *Ring & Bk.* x. 820 You must show the

warrant, just The banal scrap, clerk's scribble. ¶1883 R. BURTON & CAM. *Gold Coast* I. iii. 54 Prizes were banal as medals after a modern war.

bastion n.

(ˈbæstɪən)

[a. F. bastion, 16th c., ad. It. bastione, f. bastire to build, construct, late L. or common Romanic, of uncertain origin; generally referred to the same root as baston, baton.]

1. A projecting part of a fortification, consisting of an earthwork, faced with brick or stone, or of a mass of masonry, in the form of an irregular pentagon, having its base in the main line, or at an angle, of the fortification; its 'flanks' are the two sides which spring from the base, and are shorter than the 'faces' or two sides which meet in the acute 'salient angle.'

cut bastion: one with its salient angle cut off and replaced by an inward angle. **detached bastion:** one constructed apart from the fortification, also called a lunette. **double bastion:** two bastions, one placed inside the other. **empty bastion:** one in which the interior surface is lower than the rampart. **flat bastion:** one placed in front of a 'curtain.' **Full or solid bastion:** one in which the interior surface is level with the rampart. **tower bastion:** a tower built like a bastion and provided with casemates.

¶1598 BARRET *Theor. Warres* v. iii. 135 Baskets to cary earth to the bastion. ¶1693 *Mem. Ct. Teckely* i. 14 This small City, flanked with five good Bastions. ¶1703 MAUNDRELL *Journ. Jerus.* (1732) 54 Bastions faced with hewn stone. ¶1812 WELLINGTON in *Gurwood Disp.* IX. 27 To breach the face of Bastion at the south east angle of the fort. ¶1851 RUSKIN *Stones Ven.* I. v. 58 Sharp as the frontal angle of a bastion.

2. transf. and fig. Rampart, fortification, defence.

¶1679 *Est. Test.* 27 The frontier and Bastion of the Protestant Religion. ¶1781 COWPER *Convers.* 688 They build each other up..As bastions set point-blank against God's will. ¶1858 LONGFELLOW *Ladder St. Aug.* ix, The distant mountains, that uprear Their solid bastions to the skies.

bathos n.

(ˈbeɪθɒs)

[a. Gr. βάθος depth. First made Eng. in sense 2 by Pope's treatise, the title being a parody on Longinus's περὶ ὕψους; subseq. in the more etymological sense 1.]

1. Depth; lowest phase, bottom.

¶[1638 SANDERSON *Serm.* II. 101 There is such a height, and depth, and length, and breadth in that love; such a βάθος in every dimension of it.]

¶1758 JOHNSON *Idler* No. 79 ¶7 Declining..to the very bathos of insipidity.

¶1840 MARRYAT *Olla Podr.* (Rtldg.) 276, I am at the very bathos of stupidity.

2. Rhet. Ludicrous descent from the elevated to the commonplace in writing or speech; anticlimax.

¶1727 POPE *Bathos* 71 While a plain and direct road is paved to their ὕψος, or sublime; no track has been yet chalked out to arrive at our βάθος, or profound. ¶1787 J. ANDREWS *Anecdotes* s.v. Bathos, Had Ovid introduced this supper of Niobé between the death of her children and her own metamorphosis into stone, he would have furnished us, with a compleat instance of the Bathos. ¶1875 MCLAREN *Serm.* Ser. ii. xii. 211 It is as absurd bathos as to say, the essentials of a judge are integrity, learning, and an ermine robe!

3. Hence gen. A 'come-down' in one's career.

¶1814 T. JEFFERSON *Writ.* (1830) IV. 240 How meanly has he closed his inflated career! What a sample of the bathos will his history present! ¶1841 MARRYAT *Poacher* xxviii, It was rather a bathos..to sink from a gentleman's son to an under usher.

behemoth *n.*

(bɪˈhi:məθ, -ɔːθ)

[Heb. b'hēmōth, used in Job xl. 15. In form the word is the plural of b'hēmāh 'beast,' and might be interpreted 'great or monstrous beast' (plural of dignity). But most moderns take it as really an Egyptian word p-ehe-mau, which would mean 'water-ox,' assimilated in Hebrew mouths to a Hebrew form.]

An animal mentioned in the book of Job; probably the hippopotamus; but also used in modern literature as a general expression for one of the largest and strongest animals. Cf. LEVIATHAN.

¶1382 WYCLIF *Job* xl. 10 Lo! bemoth [1388 behemot, 1611 behemoth] that I made with thee. ¶1430 LYDG. *Chron.* *Troy* ii. xvii, Whom the Hebrues..call Bemoth that doth in latin playne expresse A beast rude full of cursednesse. ¶1667 MILTON *P.L.* vii. 471 Behemoth biggest born of earth.

¶1727 THOMSON *Summer* 710 The flood disparts: behold! in plaited mail,
Behemoth rears his head. ¶1818 KEATS *Endym.* iii. 134 Skeletons of man,
Of beast, behemoth, and leviathan. ¶1820 SHELLEY *Prometh. Unb.* iv. i.
310 The might Of earth-convulsing behemoth. ¶1857 EMERSON *Poems*
306 Be swift their feet as antelopes, And as behemoth strong.

fig. ¶1592 G. HARVEY *Pierces Super.*, Will soone finde the huge Behemoth of
conceit to be the sprat of a pickle herring. ¶1850 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's*
C. xv. 140 He's a perfect behemoth.

beleaguer v.

(bi'li:gə(r))

[a. Du. belegeren, f. be- + leger camp; cf. mod.G. belagern: see LEAGUER.]

1. To surround (a town, etc.) with troops so as to prevent ingress and egress, to invest, besiege.

¶1590 SIR J. SMYTHE *Weapons* 4 These..haue so affected the Wallons, Flemings, and base Almanes discipline, that..they will not..affoord to say that such a towne is besieged, but that it is belegard. ¶1598 BARRET *Theor. Warres* v. iii. 134 Antwerpe,..then by him beleaguered. ¶1648 EVELYN *Mem.* (1857) III. 26 The castle of Dover, which some say is beleagured. ¶1846 PRESCOTT *Ferd. & Is.* I. ix. 392 He reflected that the Castilians would soon be beleaguered. ¶1856 LONGFELLOW *Beleag. City* vii, That an army of phantoms vast and wan, Beleaguer the human soul.

2. transf. To surround, beset (generally with some idea of hostility or annoyance). Cf. besiege.

¶1589 NASHE *Almond for P.* 5 a, A whole hoast of Pasquils..will so beleaguer your paper walles. ¶1614 LODGE *Seneca* 4 Beleager him on euery side by thy bountie. ¶1741 RICHARDSON *Pamela* (1824) I. iv. 239 The girl is..beleaguering, as you significantly express it, a worthy gentleman. ¶1822 W. IRVING *Braceb. Hall* xxvii. 253 It [the house] has been beleaguered by gipsy women.

bellicose a.

(bi'li:kəs)

[ad. L. bellicōs-us: see -ose.]

Inclined to war or fighting; warlike.

¶1432-50 tr. *Higden* (1865) I. 321 Germanye, the peple of whom was..bellicose.
 ¶1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* (1858) I. 134 Our godis aboue..In Albione hes
 plantit..The perfite pepill, bald and bellicois. ¶1706 MAULE *Hist. Picts* in
Misc. Scot. I. 32 The bellicose Romans. ¶1880 KINGLAKE *Crimea* VI. iii.
 13 Their bellicose names were deceptive.

belligerent a. and n.

(bɛˈlɪdʒərənt)

[The earlier *belligerant* (cf. F. *belligérant*) was ad. L. *belligerānt-em*, pr. pple. of *belligerāre* to wage war: see *belligerate*, -ous. The current spelling, if due to imitation of L. *gerentem*, is etymologically erroneous, since the word is not derived from *gerere*; but cf. *magnific-ent*.]

A. adj.

1. Waging or carrying on regular recognized war; actually engaged in hostilities; formerly also said of warlike engines, and the like.

¶1577 DEE *Relat. Spir.* i. (1659) 171 Four..belligerant Castles, out of the which sounded Trumpets thrice. ¶1765 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* II. 408 Religion and reason are so far from being belligerent powers..that they join in alliance. ¶a1773 CHESTERFIELD (T.) The belligerent and contracting parties. ¶1775 JOHNSON, *Belligerant*, waging war. Dict. [i.e. from some dictionary.] ¶1846 PRESCOTT *Ferd. & Is.* I. iv. 213 A truce of six months between the belligerent parties.

2. fig. or transf. to other hostilities.

¶1809 W. IRVING *Knickerb.* (1861) 117 He assumed a most belligerent look. ¶1812 *Examiner* 11 May 290/2 The belligerent journalists..are unanimously for the military. ¶1850 THACKERAY *Pendennis* xlvi (1884) 458 Costigan called for a 'waither' with such a belligerent voice.

3. attrib. from the n.: Of or pertaining to belligerents.

¶1865 BRIGHT *Canada*, Sp. 13 Mar. (1876) 68 The acknowledgment of the belligerent rights of the South. ¶1881 J. WESTLAKE in *Academy* 15 Jan. 41/2 Controversies..concerning the capture of private belligerent property at sea.

B. n.

1. A nation, party, or person waging regular war (recognized by the law of nations).

¶1811 *Hist. Eur.* in Ann. Reg. 75/2 The common rules between civilized belligerents. ¶1839 HALLAM *Hist. Lit.* II. ii. iv. §86 War itself..even for the advantage of the belligerents, had its rules. ¶1864 *Times* 22 Dec., Deprived the blockaded Power of its rights as a maritime belligerent.

2. fig. or transf. to other hostile agents.

¶1839 DICKENS *Nich. Nick.* ii, A loud shout attracted the attention of even the belligerents [i.e. policemen]. ¶1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xviii, Out of Parliament..the belligerents were by no means scrupulous about the means which they employed.

bemuse v.

(bi'mju:z)

[f. BE- 2 + MUSE v.: cf. amuse.]

trans. To make utterly confused or muddled, as with intoxicating liquor; to put into a stupid stare, to stupefy. Hence **bemused**, **bemusing** ppl. a.

¶1735 POPE *Prol. Sat.* 15 A parson much be-mus'd in beer. ¶1771 J. FOOT *Penseroso* iv. 196 [With] fairy tales bemused the shepherd lies. ¶1847 H. MILLER *First Impr.* xix. (1861) 265 The bad metaphysics with which they bemuse themselves. ¶1880 MCCARTHY *Own Times* xxx. III. 2 A Prussian was regarded in England as a dull beer-bemused creature.

humorously, To devote entirely to the Muses.

¶1705 POPE *Let. H. Cromwell* Wks. 1735 I. 15 When those incorrigible things, Poets, are once irrecoverably Be-mus'd.

bestow v.

(bi'stəʊ)

[ME. bistowen, f. bi-, be- 2 + stowen to place, stow.]

1. trans. To place, locate; to put in a position or situation, dispose of (in some place). arch.

¶c1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* i. 967 The god of love hath the bystowid In place digne unto thy worthines. ¶1528 MORE *Conf. agst. Trib.* iii. Wks. 228/1 As rowmes and liuinges fal voyde to bestowe them in. ¶1567 DRURY *Let. in Tytler Hist. Scot.* (1864) III. 412 Bills bestowed upon the church doors.

¶1598 SHAKES. *Merry W.* iv. ii. 48 How should I bestow him? Shall I put

him into the basket again? ¶1610 J. GUILLIM *Heraldry* iii. i. (1660) 96 Under what heads each peculiar thing must be bestowed. ¶1713 POPE *Iliad* ix. 284 Glittering canisters..Which round the board Menœtius' son bestow'd.

¶1873 BROWNING *Red Cotton Night-Cap Country* 116 The white domestic pigeon..does mere duty by bestowing egg In authorized compartment.

2. To stow away; to place or deposit (anywhere) for storage, to store up. arch.

¶1393 GOWER *Conf.* II. 84 The leed after Satorne groweth, And Jupiter the brass bestoweth. ¶1494 FABYAN vii. 466 Lancastre..bestowed suche

ordenaunce as the Frenshemen for haste lafte behynde. ¶1526 TINDALE *Luke* xii. 17, I have noo rouse where to bestowe my frutes. ¶1590 SHAKES.

Com. Err. i. ii. 78 In what safe place you have bestowed my money, ¶1630 J. TAYLOR *Gt. Eater Kent* 13 His store-house, into which he would stow and bestow any thing that the house would afford. ¶1853 KANE *Grinnell Exp.*

xxix. (1856) 247 Bestowing away my boots in a snugly-lashed bundle.

3. To lodge, quarter, put up; to provide with a resting- or sleeping-place. Also refl. arch.

¶1577 HOLINSHED *Chron.* III. 813 They were all bestowed aboard in Spanish ships. ¶1605 SHAKES. *Macb.* iii. vi. 23 Sir, can you tell, Where he bestowes himselfe?

¶1665 MANLEY *Grotius' Low-C. Wars* 295 To bestow the wearied men into Garrisons. ¶1821 BYRON *Sardan.* iii. i. 121 See that the women are bestow'd in safety In the remote apartments.

¶1851 LONGFELLOW *Gold. Leg.* iv. iv, Shall the Refectorarius bestow Your horses and attendants for the night.

b. To bring to bed, confine. Obs. rare.

¶1320 *Sir Beves* (Halliw.) 132 And Iosiane, Christ here be milde! In a wode was bestoude of childe.

4. To settle or give in marriage. Also refl. Obs.

¶c1386 CHAUCER *Reeve's T.* 61 To bystow hir hye Into som worthy blood of ancetrye. ¶1530 PALSGR. 452/1 He hath bestowed his doughter well.

¶c1550 CHEKE *Matt.* xxiv. 38 Eating and drinking, marijng, and bestowing yeer childern. ¶1600 SHAKES. *A.Y.L.* v. iv. 7 You will bestow her on Orlando heere.

¶c1670 MRS. HUTCHINSON *Mem. Col. Hutchinson* (1806) 9 Only three daughters who bestowed themselves meanly. ¶1714 T. ELL-

WOOD *Autobiog.* (1765) 100 He bestowed both his Daughters there in Marriage.

5. To apply, to employ (in an occupation); to devote (to, of obs.) for a specific purpose.

¶c1315 SHOREHAM 95 Thenche thou most wel bysyly, And thy wyȝt thran by-stowe. ¶c1386 CHAUCER *Wife's Prol.* 113, I wol bystowe the flour of myn age In the actes and in the fruytes of mariage. ¶1530 PALSGR. *Intro.* 2 Many..shall also hereafter bestowe theyr tyme in such lyke exercise. ¶1541 R. COPLAND *Guydon's Quest. Cyrurg.*, Howe to bestowe his remedies to the body of man. ¶1580 BARET *Alv.* B 580 Thou haste well bestowed thy paynes. ¶1653 WALTON *Angler* i. 39 Bestow one day with me and my friends in hunting the Otter. ¶1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* vi. 279 These..onely bestowed themselves in prayer. ¶1851 DIXON *W. Penn* xv. (1872) 125 How he intended to bestow his day.

b. esp. To apply money to a particular purpose; to lay out, expend, spend. Obs.

¶1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. ii. 75 In þe stories he techeth To bistowe þyn almes. ¶1526 TINDALE 2 *Cor.* xii. 15, I will very gladly bestowe, and wilbe bestowed for youre soules. ¶1583 STUBBES *Anat. Abus.* 56 But nowe it is a small matter to bestowe..a hundred ponde of one payre of Breeches. (God be mercifull unto us!) ¶1590 SHAKES. 2 *Hen.* IV v. v. 11, I would haue bestowed the thousand pound I borrowed of you. ¶1611 BIBLE *Deut.* xiv. 26 Thou shalt bestow that money for whatsoever thy soule lusteth after. ¶1631 WEEVER *Anc. Fun. Mon.* 225 He bestowed much in building.

c. refl. To acquit oneself. Obs.

¶1591 SHAKES. *Two Gent.* iii. i. 87. How and which way I may bestow myself to be regarded in her sun-bright eye. ¶1600 A.Y.L. iv. iii. 87 The boy is faire, Of femall fauour, and bestowes himselfe Like a ripe sister. ¶1606 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* (1633) 320 He all assayls and him so brave bestowes, in his Fight, etc.

6. trans. (and absol.). To confer as a gift, present, give.

¶1580 BARET *Alv.* B 580 To bestowe and giue his life for his country. ¶1583 STANYHURST *Æneis* ii. (Arb.) 45 Thee Greeks bestowing theyre presents Greekish I feare mee. ¶1613 SHAKES. *Hen.* VIII, iv. ii. 56 In bestowing, madam, He was most princely. ¶1632 BROME *Novella* ii. i, To brag of benefits one hath bestowne Doth make the best seeme lesse. ¶1750 JOHNSON *Rambl.* No. 38 ¶11 You here pray for water, and water I will bestow. ¶1802 M. EDGEWORTH *Moral T.* I. i. 7 The importance that wealth can bestow. ¶1870 BRYANT *Iliad* I. iii. 83 Whatever in their grace the gods bestow.

b. Const. on, upon (of obs.) a person.

¶1535 COVERDALE 2 *Chron.* xxiv. 7 All that was halowed for the house of the Lorde, haue they bestowed on Baalim. ¶1601 SHAKES. *Twel. N.* iii. iv. 2 How shall I feast him? What bestow of him? ¶1628 WITHER *Brit. Rememb.* Pref. 112 What freedoms on the Muses are bestowne. ¶1817 JAS. MILL *Brit. India* II. iv. v. 205 The steadiness..of the English..bestowed upon them a complete and brilliant victory. ¶1876 GREEN *Short Hist.* vi. §4 (1882) 301 He bestowed on him a pension of a hundred crowns a year.

c. (rarely) to or dat. pron. (Cf. 1541 in 5.) ¶1588 SHAKES. *Tit. A.* iv. ii. 163 You must needs bestow her funerall. ¶1605 *Lear* ii. i. 128 Bestow Your needfull counsaile to our businesses.

bibliophile *n.*

(ˈbɪblɪəʊfɪl)

[a. F. bibliophile, f. BIBLIO- + Gr. φίλος friend.]

A lover of books; a book-fancier; also as adj. **bibliophilic** *a.*, of or pertaining to a bibliophile. **bibliophilism** (bɪblɪˈfɪlɪz(ə)m), the principles and practice of a bibliophile. **bibliophilist**, a bibliophile. **bibliophilistic** *a.*, of or befitting a bibliophilist. **bibliophilous** (bɪblɪˈfɪləs), *a.*, addicted to bibliophily. **bibliophily** [F. bibliophilie], love of books, taste for books.

¶1824 DIBDIN *Libr. Comp.* 780 The work..has been reprinted by the Society of *Bibliophiles at Paris.

¶1883 *Pall Mall* G. 12 Oct. 5/1 A *bibliophil, an autograph and print collector.

¶1883 *American* VI. 25 A *bibliophilic rarity and treasure.

¶1824 DIBDIN *Libr. Comp.* 4 Manias which sometimes..bring disgrace upon the good old cause of *bibliophilism.

¶1883 *Daily News* 1 Mar. 5/1 This quaint rule of *bibliophilistic morality, ‘no harm in stealing a book if he does not mean to sell it, but to keep it.’

¶1882 STEVENSON *Men & Bks.* 277 Odd commissions for the *bibliophilous Count.

¶1877 SWINBURNE *Let.* 9 Oct. (1960) IV. 24, I have lately had two noble windfalls in the way of dramatic *bibliophily (if there is such a word).

¶1883 *Athenæum* 2 June 702/2 The old reputation of France as the true home of elegant bibliophily.

bibulous a.

('bibjʊləs)

[f. L. *bibul-us* freely or readily drinking (f. *bibĕre* to drink) + *-ous*.]

1. Absorbent of moisture.

¶1675 EVELYN *Terra* (1729) 18 If the Soil be exceeding bibulous. ¶1790 COWPER *Odyss.* i. 138 With bibulous sponges those Made clean the tables.

¶1827 FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* ii. 43 Remove the excess by bibulous paper.

2. Addicted to drinking or tippling.

¶1861 THORNBURY *Turner* I. 116 The...irregular hours of a careless bibulous age, had undermined Girtin's health.

3. Relating to drink.

¶1825 *Blackw. Mag.* XVII. 322 Unskilled in bibulous lore, if he knows not the value set upon the claret of Ireland.

Hence **bibulously** adv.

¶1858 DE QUINCEY *Goldsm. Wks.* VI. 226 The arid sands that bibulously absorbed all the perennial gushings of German enthusiasm.

blandishment n.

('blændɪʃmənt)

[f. as prec. + *-ment*: cf. OF. *blandissement*.]

1. Gently flattering speech or action; cajolery.

¶1591 SPENSER *M. Hubberd* 1274 He gan enquire..of the Foxe, and his false blandishment. ¶1622 BACON *Henry VII*, *Wks.* (1860) 477 He..would use strange sweetness and blandishments of words. ¶1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 128 ¶4 Nature has given all the Arts of Soothing and Blandishment to the Female. ¶1880 L. STEPHEN *Pope* iv. 96 He was not..inaccessible to aristocratic blandishments.

2. fig. Attraction, allurement. concr. Anything that pleases or allures.

¶1594 GREENE *Look. Glasse* (1861) 142 Bear hence these wretched blandishments of sin (Taking off his crown and robe). ¶1660 STANLEY *Hist. Philos.* (1701) 609/1 If any external blandishments happen, they increase not the chief good. ¶1875 J. BENNET *Winter Medit.* ii. xi. 369 His thoughts..were ever on the blandishments of imperial Rome.

blatant a. (and n.)

('bleitənt)

[Apparently invented by Spenser, and used by him as an epithet of the thousand-tongued monster begotten of Cerberus and Chimæra, the 'blatant' or 'blatant beast', by which he symbolized calumny. It has been suggested that he intended it as an archaic form of bleating (of which the 16th c. Sc. was blaitand), but this seems rather remote from the sense in which he used it. The L. *blatire* to babble, may also be compared. (The a was probably short with Spenser: it is now always made long.)]

1. In the phrase 'blat(t)ant beast', taken from Spenser (cf. *F.Q.* v. xii. 37, 41; vi. i. 7, iii. 24, ix. 2, x. 1, xii. advt., xii. 2): see above.

¶1596 SPENSER *F.Q.* v. xii. 37 Unto themselves they [Envie and Detraction] gotten had A monster which the blatant beast men call, A dreadful feend of gods and men ydrad. Ibid. vi. i. 7 'The blattant beast,' quoth he, 'I doe pursew.' ¶1602 *Return fr. Parnass.* v. iv. (Arb.) 69 The Ile of Dogges, where the blattant beast doth rule and raigne. ¶1636 C. FITZGEFFREY *Bless. Birthd.* (1881) 128 That blatant beast So belched forth from his blaspheming brest. ¶a1658 CLEVELAND *Gen. Poems* (1677) 60 Cub of the Blatant Beast. ¶1768 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* I. 596 The blatant beast..with his unbridled tongue. ¶1812 BYRON *Ch. Har.* i. xxvi. (Orig. MS.), Then burst the blatant beast [note, a figure for the mob], and roar'd, and raged. ¶1856 MISS MULOCH *J. Halifax* (ed. 17) 340 He was one of the most 'blatant-beasts' of the Reign of Terror.

2. fig. a. Of persons or their words: Noisy; offensively or vulgarly clamorous; bellowing.

¶1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, Blatant, babling, twatling. ¶1674 MARVELL *Reh. Transp.* ii. 371 You are a Blatant Writer and a Labrant. ¶1821 SOUTHEY *Vis. Judgem.* x. Wks. X. 223 Maledictions, and blatant tongues, and viperous hisses. ¶1872 BAGEHOT *Physics & Pol.* (1876) 92 Up rose a blatant Radical. ¶1874 H. REYNOLDS *John Bapt.* viii. 515 A blatant, insolent materialism threatens to engulf moral distinctions.

b. Clamorous, making itself heard.

¶1790 COWPER *Odyss.* vii. 267 Not the less Hear I the blatant appetite demand Due sustenance. ¶1863 GEO. ELIOT *Romola* (1880) I. ii. xxix. 359 An orator who tickled the ears of the people blatant for some unknown good. ¶1866 WHIPPLE *Char. & Charac. Men* 166 All agree in a common contempt blatant or latent. ¶1867 J. MACGREGOR *Voy. Alone* 65 A mass of

human being whose want..misery, and filth are..patent to the eye, and blatant to the ear.

c. In recent usage: obtrusive to the eye (rather than to the ear as in orig. senses); glaringly or defiantly conspicuous; palpably prominent or obvious.

¶1889 W. S. GILBERT *Gondoliers* ii, I write letters blatant On medicines patent. ¶1903 G. GISSING *Private Papers H. Ryecroft* 274 The blatant upstart who builds a church, lays out his money in that way not merely to win social consideration. ¶1912 G. B. SHAW *Let.* 19 Aug. in Shaw & Mrs. P. Campbell (1952) 38 You don't loathe the scenery for being prosy and mediocre in spite of its blatant picturesqueness as you do in Switzerland. ¶1930 SAYERS & EUSTACE *Documents in Case* li. 246 The blatant way in which he had marked his trail..[etc.] were actions entirely inconsistent with the carelessness of an innocent man. ¶1937 H. NICOLSON *Helen's Tower* ix. 191 If they were kept in the Museum..their blatant lack of human interest had caused me to pass them by. ¶1942 *New Statesman* 11 July 26/1 Mankind, he said, is led by half-truths or blatant lies. ¶1957 A. E. COPPARD *It's Me, O Lord!* v. 55 The colonel..clad in a suit of blatant check, spats, and a monocle. ¶1957 *Times* 19 Dec. 4/3 A blatant piece of late tackling.

3. a. Bleating, bellowing (or merely, loud-voiced).

¶1791 COWPER *Iliad* xxiii 39 Many a sheep and blatant goat. ¶1866 J. ROSE *Ecl. & Georg. Virg.* 69 Rooks rejoicing, and the blatant herds.

b. Noisily resonant, loud.

¶1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* xiv, A blatant noise which rose behind them. ¶1867 *Cornh. Mag.* Jan. 30 The vibrating and blatant powers of a hundred instruments.

B. as n. One who has a blatant tongue. Obs.

¶1610 W. FOLKINGHAM *Art of Survey* Introd. Poem, Couch rabid Blatants, silence Surquedry.

bovine a.

('bəʊvaɪn)

[ad. L. *bovinus*, f. *bōs*, *bov-* ox; cf. F. *bovine*.]

Belonging to, or characteristic of, the ox tribe. Also ellipt. = bovine animal.

¶1817 G. S. FABER *Eight Dissert.* (1845) I. 405 The worship of the bovine Apis. ¶1865 *Athenæum* No. 1969. 103/3 No wild bovine is now known

in Syria. ¶1877 J. ALLEN *Amer. Bison* 468 Particularly bovine, also, is the satisfaction they take in rubbing themselves against trees.

2. fig. Inert, sluggish; dull, stupid; cf. bucolic.

¶1855 O. W. HOLMES *Poems* 235 Where bovine rustics used to doze and dream. ¶1879 *Contemp. Rev.* 291 Neither in the ranks of bovine Toryism nor of rabid Radicalism.

bravado *n.*

(brə'veɪdəʊ, -'vɑ:dəʊ)

[ad. Sp. *bravada* and F. *bravade*: see *bravade* and *-ado*2.]

1. Boastful or threatening behaviour; ostentatious display of courage or boldness; bold or daring action intended to intimidate or to express defiance; often, an assumption of courage or hardihood to conceal felt timidity, or to carry one out of a doubtful or difficult position. Now usually in the singular, without *a*: less commonly a *bravado* or in pl.

¶1599 HAKLUYT *Voy.* II. i. 287 It was not that Spanish brauado. ¶1626 *Caussin's Holy Crt.* 62 To sound vain ~ glorious Brauado's. ¶1630 R. BRATHWAIT *Eng. Gentl.* (1641) 110 These Gamesters, who in a bravado will set their patrimonies at a throw. ¶1645 MILTON *Colast. Wks.* (1851) 362 Hee retreats with a bravado, that it deservs no answer. ¶1678 BUNYAN *Pilgr.* i. 128 Notwithstanding all his Bravadoes, he [Shame] promoteth the Fool, and none else. ¶a1707 BP. PATRICK *Serm. 1 Sam.* xvii. 8 To have been done out of a bravado. ¶1800 WEEMS *Washington* x. (1877) 119 To hear their bravadoes, one would suppose, etc. ¶1816 JANE AUSTEN *Emma* ii. viii. 181 A sort of bravado—an air of affected unconcern. ¶1824 SCOTT *Redgauntlet* *Introd.*, A series of idle bravadoes. ¶1853 ROBERTSON *Serm. Ser.* iii. xvii. 214 We may do it in bravado or in wantonness.

b. to make or give a bravado: to make a display in the face of the enemy, to offer battle. *Obs.*

¶1600 HOLLAND *Livy* iii. lx. 128 When they made bravadoes, and challenged them to come forth and fight, not one Romane would answer them again. ¶1617 MORYSON *Itin.* ii. ii. 164 That some foote should bee drawne out of the Campe, to give the Spaniards a brauado. ¶1688 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2361/3 A Party of the Moors making a Bravado.

c. attrib.

¶1583 STUBBES *Anat. Abus.* ii. 50 The barbers..haue one maner of cut called the French cut..one of the brauado fashion. ¶1844 DISRAELI *Coningsby* v. iv. 204 It is a day..of hopes and fears..bravado bets and secret hedging.

2. A swaggering fellow, a hector, a bravo. Obs. [app. after Sp. masculines in -ado already used in Eng., as desperado, renegado, etc. Cf. bravo.]

¶1653 A. WILSON *Jas.* I 28 Roaring Boys, Bravadoes, Roysters, &c. commit many insolencies. ¶1668 PEPYS *Diary* 28 Feb., The Hectors & bravadoes of the House. ¶1817 COLERIDGE *Biog. Lit.* II. xxi. 121 But idlers and bravadoes..must beware. ¶1825 KNAPP & BALDW. *Newgate Cal.* III. 397/2 Webb..was the greatest bravado.

Hence **bravadoism**. rare.

¶1833 *Fraser's Mag.* VIII. 527 Was..his apparent strength and defiance, real weakness and bravadoism?

brickbat n.

(ˈbrɪkbæt)

[See BRICK n.1 and BAT n.2]

1. a. A piece or fragment of a brick; properly, according to Gwilt, less than one half of its length. It is the typical ready missile, where stones are scarce. Also attrib.

¶1563-87 FOXE *A. & M.* III. 329 She sent a brickbat after him, and hit him on the back. ¶1597 S. FINCHE in *Hist. Croydon App.* (1783) 153 They have filled up that trenche with..brickbatts, and rubbushe. ¶1726 AMHERST *Terræ Fil.* l. 269 A very numerous mob..assaulted the room..with brickbats and stones. ¶1823 P. NICHOLSON *Pract. Build.* 355 The three-quarter brick, or brick-bat, is called a closer. ¶1871 DIXON *Tower* IV. xxvii. 288 Mud and brick-bats greeted the returning guards. ¶1890 W. JAMES *Princ. Psychol.* I. vii. 196 The continuous flow of the mental stream is sacrificed, and in its place an atomism, a brickbat plan of construction, is preached.

b. comb. **brickbat-cheese**.

¶1784 J. TWAMLEY *Dairying* 59 To make brick bat Cheese..put it into a wooden mould in the shape of a brick, press it a little, then dry it. ¶1861 MRS. BEETON *Bk. Househ. Management* 809 Brickbat cheese has nothing remarkable except its form.

c. fig. An uncomplimentary remark; adverse criticism.

¶1642 MILTON *Apol. Smect.* (1851) 275, I beseech ye friends, ere the brick-bats flye, resolve me and yourselves, is it blasphemy..for me to answer a slovenly wincer. ¶1929 *Daily Express* 7 Nov. 17/5 And now for the brickbats.

¶1955 [SEE **BOUQUET** 1 b]. ¶1966 *Listener* 30 June 960/3 There were some much-needed brickbats thrown at our hero's wife.

2. Astr. (See quotes.) colloq.

¶1892 RANYARD *Proctor's Old & New Astr.* 640 Clerk Maxwell used to describe the matter of the rings [of Saturn] as a shower of brickbats, amongst which there would inevitably be continual collisions taking place. ¶1898 A. M. CLERKE et. al. *Astr.* 340 It may be that collisions are infrequent in this conglomeration of 'brickbats'. ¶1926 H. C. MACPHERSON *Mod. Astr.* 78.

bromide Chem.

(ˈbrəʊmaɪd)

[f. BROM-INE + -IDE.]

1. a. A primary compound of bromine with an element or organic radical. Several bromides (esp. those of ammonium, iron, and potassium) are in common medicinal use.

¶1836 PENNY *Cycl.* V. 461/1 Carbon and Bromine form a liquid bromide of carbon. ¶1871 B. STEWART *Heat* §58 The same law holds good for the Bromides..of ethyle and methyle. ¶1876 HARLEY *Mat. Med.* 204 Bromide of Iron acts as an energetic tonic. ¶1881 G. M. BEARD *Sea-Sickness* 36 The great value of the bromides in very large doses, as harmless and powerful sedatives.

b. familiarly for **bromide of potassium** (KBr).

¶1883 *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 241/1 A little bromide completed the relief that put her asleep.

c. attrib.

¶1886 FAGGE *Princ. Med.* II. 806 Bromide Rash.

2. A dose of potassium bromide taken as a sedative.

¶1903 *Smart Set* IX. 14/1 I'll give you a bromide when you're ready for bed.

3. fig. A person whose thoughts and conversation are conventional and commonplace. Also, a commonplace saying, trite remark, conventionalism; a soothing statement. slang (orig. U.S.).

¶1903 [*Daily Chron.* 9 May 4/5 Literature is resentful at being mistaken for bromide.] ¶1906 G. BURGESS (*title*) Are you a Bromide? ¶1909 W. RALEIGH *Lett.* (1926) II. 340 Bromides are dull partly because everyone pretends to understand them. ¶1924 R. HICHENS *After the Verdict* ii. xvii, For once Mrs. Baratrie gave way to a bromide. She said: 'How good little Clive was!' ¶1925 *Contemp. Rev.* Oct. 469 There is the rise of slums which 'ought not to be in a new country', but which, in spite of this oft-quoted bromide, certainly existed in still earlier days. ¶1926 *Publishers' Weekly* 20 Feb. 563 The old bromide that poetry never sells is once again proved to be wrong.

¶1950 *Manch. Guardian Weekly* 29 June 2/3 The Republicans would have to fall back on the old bromide about the incurable quarrelsomeness of 'old, sick Europe'. ¶1961 B. FERGUSSON *Watery Maze* i. 15 These two bromides..were quoted by the faithful..until they were worn as thin as a Queen Victoria bun penny.

4. Photogr.

a. bromide developer, a developer suitable for bromide paper; **bromide emulsion**, a gelatine emulsion impregnated with a bromide, esp. silver bromide; **bromide paper**, a paper coated with gelatino-bromide emulsion, used for contact printing and enlargements; also **bromide print**, **printer**, **printing** (of or with reference to bromide paper).

¶1885 *Amateur Photographer* 27 Mar. 409 Britannia Bromide Paper, specially for enlargements. ¶1892 A. BROTHERS *Photogr.* 78 Opal glass and paper are coated with silver bromide emulsion. Ibid., Bromide-Printing Process. ¶1902 *Bromide Monthly* Jan. 10 One well-known Bromide printer we know of makes his exposures in contact printing to the light of an ordinary candle from preference. ¶1904 GOODCHILD & TWENEY *Technol. & Sci. Dict.* 71/1 Bromide Prints..are developed and fixed like dry plates. ¶1923 S. E. SHEPPARD in *Photography* 165 Characteristic Curves for Bromide Papers. ¶1971 *Ann. Rep. Curators Bodl. Libr.* 1969-70 46 Photography from Library material..consisted of..3,544 bromide prints.

b. A reproduction or proof on bromide paper; a bromide print.

¶1967 F. J. M. WIJNEKUS *Elsevier's Dict. Printing* 45/2 Bromide, brief for bromide print. ¶1977 *Economist* 5 Mar. 116 Work combining original artwork, illustrations, line or screen bromides..and type matter. ¶1979 *Times* 20 Nov. 4/4 Bromides, or photographic proofs, of individual reports have to be cut and pasted up in the standard way. ¶1983 H. EVANS *Good Times, Bad Times* ix. 182 The computer system..was designed to translate keystrokes..so that they emerged in the form of a photographic bromide ready for insertion.

brook *v.*

(brók)

[OE. brúcan (pa. tense bréac, brucon, pple. æebrocen), a Com. Teut. verb, but found in the other langs. with weak conjugation: OFris. brûka, OS. brúcan (MDu. brûken, Du. bruiken), LG. brûken, OHG. brûhhan (MHG. brûchen, Ger. brauchen), Goth. brukjan:—OTeut. stem *bruk- ‘to make use of, have the enjoyment of, enjoy’:—Aryan *bhrug-, whence also L. fru-i (:—frugv-i), fruct-us in same sense. The strong pa. tense and pple. occur in OE., but no certain instance of either is known in ME.; 16th c. Scotch has the weak brooked, brooket, bruikit.]

The phonetic history is unusual; the OE. brúcan, ME. bruken, brouke, would normally have given mod. browk; while the mod. brook, and Sc. bruik normally answer to a ME. brōken, found already, as a by-form, in Layamon.]

1. trans. To enjoy the use of, make use of, profit by; to use, enjoy, possess, hold. Obs. except Sc. in some legal phrases, and arch. in literature.

¶ *Beowulf* 894 Pæt he beah-hordes brucan moste. ¶ a1000 *Wanderer* 44 (in Sweet Ags. Reader) Swa he..giefstoles breac. ¶ 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 111 Þu ane ne brukest naut þinra welena. ¶ c1205 LAY. 30308 Ne scal he nauere..kinhelme broken [c 1275 BROUKE]. ¶ a1225 *St. Marher*, 19 Thu schalt aa buten ende bruken blisse. ¶ a1300 *Cursor M.* 2589 To bruke þair heritage in pais. Ibid. 2427 (Fairf.) Take here þi wife and brok [v.r. brouk, -e] hir wele. ¶ c1440 BONE Flor. 1183 Syr Emere comawndyd every man To brooke wele the tresur that they wan. ¶ 1548 *Compl. Scot.* 86 Ihone kyng of ingland..bruikit the realme twenty 3eirs. ¶ 1603 JAS. I in *Calderwood Hist.* Kirk 256 I, as long as I brook my life, shall maintain the same. ¶ 1637 RUTHERFORD *Lett.* cxl. (1862) I. 334 Long may He brook it! ¶ 1707 DUKE OF ATHOL in *Vulpone* 21 To retain, enjoy or bruik and exerce all their Rights. ¶ 1828 SCOTT *F.M. Perth* xi, No man shall brook life after he has passed an affront on Douglas.

Mod. Sc. The langest leiver bruiks a’ (= the survivor has possession of everything).

b. Formerly in asseverations: so (or as) brouke I my chyn, eyes, heid, etc.: so may I (or as I wish to) have the use of my eyes, etc.

¶ c1175 *Cott. Hom.* 233 Swa ibruce ic mine rice ne scule 3ie mine mete ibite. ¶ a1300 *Havelok* 311 He shal [ben] king..So brouke I euere mi blake swire! ¶ 1384 CHAUCER *H. Fame* 273 For al-so browke I wel myn hede Ther may be vnder godelyhede Keuered many a shrewde vice. ¶ c1386 *Nun’s Pr. T.* 480 So mot I brouke wel myn yen tway, Save ye, I herde never man so

synge. ¶c1400 *Gamelyn* 567 Than seyde the porter, 'so brouke I my chyn, 3e schul sey your erand er 3e comen in'. ¶c1460 *Towneley Myst.* 12 As browke I thise two shankys, It is full sore myne unthankys. ¶1591 *Troub. Raigne K. John* (1611) 29 Ill may I thriue, and nothing brooke with me, If shortly I present it not to thee.

c. to brook a name (well): to bear it appropriately, do credit to it, act consistently with it. Obs.

¶1587 HARRISON *England* ii. v. (1877) 127 Would to God they might once brooke their name, Sans reproche. ¶a1600 *Robin Hood* (Ritson) ii. xvi. 30 'Simon,' said the good wife, 'I wish thou mayest well brook thy name'. ¶1622 R. HAWKINS *Voy. S. Sea* (1847) 11 Henceforth shee should be called the Daintie; which name she brooked as well for her proportion and grace, as for the many happie voyages. ¶1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* i. i. §8 And well did he brook his Name.

2. To make use of (food); in later usage, to digest, retain, or bear on the stomach.

¶c950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* John iv. 32 Ic mett hafo to bruccanne ðone Æie ne uutton. ¶a1000 ÆELFRIC *Gen.* iii. 19 On swate ðines andwlitan ðu bricst ðines hlafes. ¶c1175 *Cott. Hom.* 221 Ælra þara þing þe on paradis beoð þu most bruce. ¶c1440 *Promp. Parv.* 53 Brooke mete or drynke..retineo vel digerendo retinere. ¶1540 T. RAYNALDE *Byrth Man* ii. ix. (1634) 142 If she refuse or cannot brooke meat. ¶1561 HOLLYBUSH *Hom. Apoth.* 32 Geue him a good draught of ye same..as hote as he can brouke it. ¶1598 W. PHILLIP *Linschoten's Trav. Ind.* in Arb. *Garner* III. 26 So fat that men can hardly brook them.

b. absol. Obs.

¶1473 MARG. PASTON *Lett.* III. 79 Water of mynte..were good for my cosyn to drynke for to make hym to browke.

c. fig. To digest mentally.

¶1548 HALL *Chron.* (1809) 178 After the letter twice redde & wisely brooked.

3. To put up with, bear with, endure, tolerate [a fig. sense of 'to stomach' in 2]. Now only in negative or preclusive constructions.

¶1530 PALSGR. 471/2 He can nat brooke me of all men. ¶1583 STUBBES *Anat. Abus.* ii. 30 They cannot at any hand brooke or digest them that would counsel them to that. ¶1624 CAPT. SMITH *Virginia* iv. 115, I would deter such from comming here, that cannot well brooke labour. ¶1667 MILTON *P.L.* vi. 274 Heav'n..Brooks not the works of violence and War. ¶1752

YOUNG *Brothers* ii. i, Such insults are not brook'd by royal minds. ¶c1815 JANE AUSTEN *Northang. Abb.* (1833) II. xv. 208 The General could ill brook the opposition of his son. ¶c1854 STANLEY *Sinai & Pal.* v. (1858) 230 That haughty spirit that could brook no equal or superior.

b. intr. To put up with. Obs.

¶1658 A. FOX tr. *Wurtz' Surg.* ii. i. 49 The Wound cannot brook with the Medicine.

c. To find it agreeable to do something. Obs.

¶1604 E. HAKE *No Gold, No G.* in Farr *S.P.* (1848) 256 Few men brooke To helpe a man that is in need.

4. to brook up. [perh. a different word.] Obs.

¶1691 RAY *S. & E.C. Wds.* 91 To brook up, spoken of Clouds; when they draw together and threaten rain. [Also 1721 IN Bailey.]

Here probably an error for busked.

¶1300 *Cursor M.* 25282 Þe bodi has nede of bath to bruked be wid mete and clath.

brouhaha *n.*

(ˈbruːhɑːhɑː)

[a. F. *brouhaha* (15th c. in Littré).]

A commotion, a to-do, a 'sensation'; hubbub, uproar.

¶1890 O. W. HOLMES *Over Teacups* v. 94, I enjoy the brouhaha..of all this quarrelsome menagerie of noise-making machines. ¶1931 C. MORLEY *John Mistletoe* ii. 95 He was immediately captivated by the jargon and brouhaha of the sales department. ¶1937 WYNDHAM Lewis in L. Russell *Press Gang!* 276 The peculiar esoteric brouhaha of the New York underworld.

¶1946 'BRAHMS' & SIMON *Trottie True* vii. 186, I shall never forget the brou-ha-ha..when Cousin Geraldine married into Trade. ¶1964 *Times* 24 July 16/2 Whenever there is a City brouhaha of this kind, all sorts of voices are raised for all kinds of official inquiries.

brusque *a.*

(brʌsk, brʊsk)

[a. F. *brusque*, according to Littré, etc., adapted in 16th c. from Italian *brusco* 'soure, tarte, eagre, briske, vnripe; also soure- or grim-looking' (Florio); cf.

Sp. and Pg. brusco 'rude, peevish, ill-tempered, roughly hasty'. The ulterior history is uncertain: one conjecture refers it to the Celtic words mentioned under brisk, which is hardly likely, if the Romanic word appeared first in Italian. See Diez and Littré. Commonly spelt brusque in the 17th c., but now usually spelt and often pronounced as French. (Cf. also brusquely.)]

1. Tart. (= It. brusco.) Obs.

¶1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 152 The thin and bruske harsh wine nourisheth the body lesse. [¶1752 LADY M. W. MONTAGUE *Lett.* lxxvi. IV. 23 A sort of wine they call brusco.]

2. Somewhat rough or rude in manner; blunt, 'offhand'.

¶1651 *Reliq. Wotton.* (1685) 582 The Scottish Gentlemen..lately sent to that King, found..but a brusque welcome. ¶1757 H. WALPOLE *Corr.* (1837) I. 370 This sounds brusque, but I will explain it. ¶1826 DISRAELI *Viv. Grey* ii. xv. 80 Yes, lively enough, but I wish her manner was less brusque. ¶1870 *Lothair* xlv. 243 He was brusque, ungracious, scowling, and silent. ¶1879 MCCARTHY *Own Times* II. xxii. 123 His blunt, brusque ways of speaking and writing.

bucolic a. and n.

(bju:'kɒlɪk)

[ad. L. būcolic-us, a. Gr. βουκολικ-ός, f. βουκόλος herdsman.]

A. adj.

1. Of or pertaining to herdsmen or shepherds; pastoral.

¶1613 R. C. *Table Alph.* (ed. 3) Bucolike, pertaining to beasts or herdsmen. ¶1750 JOHNSON *Rambl.* No. 37 ¶10 The Pollio of Virgil..is a composition truly bucolick. ¶1803 SYD. SMITH *Wks.* (1867) I. 50 He goes on, mingling bucolic details and sentimental effusions. ¶1863 M. HOWITT tr. *F. Bremer's Greece* II. xvii. 167 The shepherds and shepherdesses..milk the cattle, and compose bucolic poems. ¶1873 SYMONDS *Grk. Poets* x. 308 Bucolic poetry.

2. Pertaining to country life; rural, rustic, countryfied. (Somewhat humorous.)

¶1846 LYTTON *Lucretia* (1853) 247 The second [partner] had a bucolic turn. ¶1859 GEO. ELIOT A. *Bede* 67 The keenest of bucolic minds felt a whispering awe at the sight of the gentry. ¶1875 A. R. HOPE *Schoolboy Fr.*

308 A sturdy-looking bucolic individual. ¶1878 M. E. HERBERT *Hübner's Ramble* ii. xii. 212 In its happy, bucolic isolation.

3. bucolic cæsura, a cæsura after the fourth foot in a dactylic hexameter.

¶1887 G. M. HOPKINS *Let.* 20 Feb. (1938) 130 The 'bucolic caesura' (between fourth and fifth foot, pause or no pause in sense). Ibid., The rarity of spondees before the bucolic caesura. ¶1957 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 56/1 A feature in his [sc. Theocritus'] versification..is the so-called bucolic caesura. The rule is that, if there is a pause at the end of the fourth foot, this foot must be a dactyl.

B. n. [cf. L. *Būcolica*, Gr. *βουκολικά* in same use.]

1. pl. Pastoral poems: rarely sing. a single poem.

¶1531 ELYOT *Gov.* i. x. (1883) I. 62 What thinge can be more familiar than his [Virgil's] bucolikes. ¶a1560 ROLLAND *Crt. Venus* iii. 103 His Georgiks and Bucolikus. ¶1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Bucolicks*, pastoral songs, or songs of Heardsmen. ¶1870 *Daily News* 16 Apr., The manufacture of maple sugar, of which I may sing you a bucolic when the season arrives.

2. = Bucolic poet.

¶1774 T. WARTON *Hist. Eng. Poetry* xxxix. III. 59 Spenser, who is erroneously ranked as our earliest English bucolic.

3. A rustic, peasant. (humorous.)

¶1862 *Sat. Rev.* No. 351. 72/1 It is a satisfaction to make the personal acquaintance of so worthy a bucolic.

4. pl. Agricultural pursuits. rare.

¶1865 *Times* 15 Apr., A fancy farm stading..for any special branch of bucolics that may most delight the proprietor.

burgeon v.

(ˈbɜːdʒən)

[f. prec. n. Cf. F. *bourgeonner*.]

1. intr. To bud or sprout; to begin to grow.

¶c1325 *E.E. Allit. P.* B. 1042 Pay borgounez & beres blomez ful fayre. ¶1382 WYCLIF *Numb.* xvii. 8 The 3erde of Aaron..hadde buriowned. ¶1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 391/3 To burgene and brynge forth fruyte more plentifully. ¶1584 PEELE *Arraignm. Paris* i. iii. (1829) 10 The watery flowers

burgen all in ranks. ¶1650 BP. HALL *Balm. Gil.* 79 When the Sun returns.. it burgens out afresh. ¶1721 BAILEY, *Burgeon*, to grow big about or gross, to bud forth. ¶1775 ASH, *Burkein, Burgeon* (v. intr. obsolete). ¶1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* ii. xix, Earth lend it sap anew, Gaily to bourgeon, and broadly to grow. ¶1814 CARY *Dante* (Chandos) 209 Our plants then burkein. ¶1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* cxv. 2. Now fades the last long streak of snow,/ Now burgeons every maze of quick/ About the flowering squares, and thick/ By ashen roots the violets blow.

b. transf. Of the limbs or appendages of animals. Formerly also of animals and diseases.

¶1382 WYCLIF *Lev.* xiii. 29 Man or womman, in whos heed or beerde boriouneth a lepre. ¶1536 BELLENDEN *Cron. Scot.* (1821) II. 326 Thir eddaris..burgeon with mair plentuous nowmer than evir was sene. ¶1566 W. ADLINGTON *Apuleius* 31, I perceaved a plume feathers did burgen out. ¶1774 GOLDSMITH *Nat. Hist.* (1862) II. i. ii. 380 Two small feet are seen beginning to bourgeon near the tail. ¶1827 SCOTT *Napoleon* (1835) II. 390 A hydra whose heads bourgeoned..as fast as they were cut off.

c. fig. To bud, burst forth; to grow, flourish.

¶1382 WYCLIF *Prov.* xiv. 11 The tabernaclis of riȝtwis men shal burioune. ¶1531 ELYOT *Gov.* i. xiii. (1883) I. 132 Learning..sowen in a childe..springeth and burgeneth. ¶1641 MILTON *Animadv.* (1851) 195 The Prelatism of Episcopacy..began then to burgeon. ¶1848 KINGSLEY *Saint's Trag.* iii. i. 33 Beneath whose fragrant dewes all tender thoughts Might bud and burgeon.

2. trans. To shoot out, put forth as buds. Also with out, forth. Also transf. and fig.

¶1382 WYCLIF *Gen.* iii. 18 It shal buriown to thee thornes and brembles. ¶c1400 *Beryn* 692 The busshis burgyn out blosomis, & flouris. ¶1596 LODGE *Marg. Amer.* 22 Love..had newe burgend his wings. ¶c1820 SURTEES in Taylor *Life* (1852) 288 This goodly graft..bourgeon'd forth its flowers and leaf.

C

cabal n.

(kə'bæl)

[a. F. cabale (16th c. in Littré), used in all the English senses, ad. med.L. cab(b)ala (It., Sp., Pg. cabala), cabbala, q.v. In 17th c. at first pronounced cabal (whence the abridged cab n.5); the current pronunciation was evidently reintroduced from Fr., perh. with sense 5 or 6.]

1. = CABBALA 1: The Jewish tradition as to the interpretation of the Old Testament. Obs.

¶1616 BULLOKAR, *Cabal*, the tradition of the Jewes doctrine of religion.

¶1660 HOWELL *Lex. Tetragl.*, Words do involve the deepest Mysteries, By them the Jew into his Caball pries. ¶1663 BUTLER *Hud.* i. i. 530 For Mystick Learning, wondrous able In Magick, Talisman, and Cabal.

2. = CABBALA 2:

a. Any tradition or special private interpretation.

b. A secret. Obs.

¶a1637 B. JONSON (O.) The measuring of the temple, a cabal found out but lately. ¶1635 D. PERSON *Varieties* I. Introd. 3 An insight in the Cabals and secrets of Nature. ¶1660-3 J. SPENCER *Prodigies* (1665) 344 If the truth..had been still reserved as a Cabbal amongst men. ¶1663 J. HEATH *Flagellum or O. Cromwell* 192 How the whole mystery and cabal of this business was managed by the..Committee. ¶a1763 SHENSTONE *Ess.* 220 To suppose that He will regulate His government according to the cabals of human wisdom.

3. A secret or private intrigue of a sinister character formed by a small body of persons; 'something less than conspiracy' (J.).

¶1663 J. HEATH *Flagellum or O. Cromwell*, He was no sooner rid of the danger of this but he was puzzled with Lambert's cabal. ¶1707 FREIND *Peterboro's Cond. Sp.* 171 The contrivances and cabals of others have too often prevail'd. ¶1824 W. IRVING *T. Trav.* II. 30 There were cabals breaking out in the company. ¶1876 BANCROFT *Hist. U.S.* VI. xlvi. 299 The cabal against Washington found supporters exclusively in the north.

b. as a species of action; = caballing.

¶1734 tr. *Rollin's Anc. Hist.* (1827) III. 22 To advance themselves..by cabal, treachery and violence. ¶1791 BURKE *Th. on Fr. Affairs* VII. 74 Centres of cabal. ¶1876 BANCROFT *Hist. U.S.* III. 261 Restless activity and the arts of cabal.

4. A secret or private meeting, esp. of intriguers or of a faction. arch. or Obs.

¶1649 BP. GUTHRIE *Mem.* (1702) 23 The Supplicants..met again at their several Caballs. 1656-7 Cromwell in Burton Diary (1828) I. 382 He had never been at any cabal about the same. ¶1715 BENTLEY *Serm.* x. 356 A mercenary conclave and nocturnal Cabal of Cardinals. ¶1738 WARBURTON *Div. Legat.* I. 169 Celebrate the Mysteries in a private Cabal. ¶1822 W. IRVING *Braceb. Hall* iii. 23 To tell the anecdote..at those little cabals, that will occasionally take place among the most orderly servants.

b. phrase. in cabal. arch. or Obs.

¶1678 MARVELL *Poems* Wks. I. Pref. 8 Is he in caball in his cabinet sett. ¶1725 DE FOE *Voy. round World* (1840) 28 The gunner and second mate were in a close cabal together. ¶1807 CRABBE *Par. Reg.* i. (1810) 55 Here, in cabal, a disputatious crew Each evening meet.

5. A small body of persons engaged in secret or private machination or intrigue; a junto, clique, coterie, party, faction.

¶1660 *Trial Regic.* 175 You were..of the cabal. ¶1670 MARVELL *Corr.* cxlvii. Wks. 1872-5 II. 326 The governing cabal are Buckingham, Lauderdale, Ashly, Orery, and Trevor. Not but the other cabal [Arlington, Clifford, and their party] too have seemingly sometimes their turn. ¶1732 BERKELEY *Alciph.* v. §21 A gentleman who has been idle at college, and kept idle company, will judge a whole university by his own cabal. ¶1767 G. CANNING *Poet. Wks.* (1827) 56 Should Fat Jack and his Cabal Cry 'Rob us the Exchequer, Hal!' ¶1859 GULLICK & Timbs *Paint.* 183 In Naples, where a cabal of artists was formed.

6. Applied in the reign of Charles II to the small committee or junto of the Privy Council, otherwise called the 'Committee for Foreign Affairs', which had the chief management of the course of government, and was the precursor of the modern cabinet.

¶1665 PEPYS *Diary* 14 Oct., It being read before the King, Duke, and the Caball, with complete applause. ¶1667 *Ibid.* 31 Mar., Walked to my Lord Treasurer's, where the King, Duke of York, and the Cabal, and much company withal. ¶1667 *Ibid.* (1877) V. 128 The Cabal at present, being as he says the

King, and the Duke of Buckingham, and Lord Keeper, the Duke of Albemarle and privy seale.

b. in Hist. applied spec. to the five ministers of Charles II, who signed the Treaty of Alliance with France for war against Holland in 1672: these were Clifford, Arlington, Buckingham, Ashley (Earl of Shaftesbury), and Lauderdale, the initials of whose names thus arranged chanced to spell the word cabal.

This was merely a witticism referring to sense 6; in point of fact these five men did not constitute the whole 'Cabal', or Committee for Foreign Affairs; nor were they so closely united in policy as to constitute a 'cabal' in sense 5, where quot. 1670 shows that three of them belonged to one 'cabal' or clique, and two to another. The name seems to have been first given to the five ministers in the pamphlet of 1673 'England's Appeal from the private Cabal at White-hall to the Great Council of the nation..by a true lover of his country.' Modern historians often write loosely of the Buckingham-Arlington administration from the fall of Clarendon in 1667 to 1673 as the *Cabal Cabinet* or *Cabal Ministry*.

¶1673 *England's Appeal* 18 The safest way not to wrong neither the cabal nor the truth is to take a short survey of the carriage of the chief promoters of this war. ¶1689 *Mem. God's 29 Years Wonders* §25. 72 The great Ahitophel, the chiefest head-piece..of all the Cabal. ¶1715 BURNET *Own Time* (1766) I. 430 This junta..being called the cabal, it was observed that cabal proved a technical word, every letter in it being the first letter of those five, Clifford, Ashley, Buckingham, Arlington and Lauderdale. ¶1734 NORTH *Exam.* iii. vi. ¶41. 453 The..Promoters of Popery, supposed to rise by the Misfortunes of the Earl of Clarendon, were the famous CABAL. ¶1762 HUME *Hist. Eng.* (1806) V. lxix. 163 When the Cabal entered into the mysterious alliance with France. ¶1848 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* (1864) I. 101 It happened by a whimsical coincidence that, in 1671, the Cabinet consisted of five persons the initial letters of whose names made up the word Cabal..These ministers were therefore emphatically called the Cabal; and they soon made that appellation so infamous that it has never since their time been used except as a term of reproach.

7. attrib. or in obvious comb.

¶1673 R. LEIGH *Transp. Reh.* 36 By this time, the Politick Cabal-men were most of 'um set. ¶1674 R. LAW *Mem.* (1818) 61 The parliament was jealous of their caball lords. ¶1678 *Transp. Spain* 189 They maintain themselves only by a Cabal-genius, without any foundation of justice or fidelity. ¶1700

CONGREVE *Way of W.* i. i, Last night was one of their cabal nights. ¶1871 W. CHRISTIE *Life Shaftesbury* II. xii. 81 The heavy indictment of History against the so-called Cabal Ministry.

cachet n.

(kaʃe)

[Fr.; f. *cacher* to conceal: in 18th c. treated as English.]

1. A seal. *letter of cachet* (F. *lettre de cachet*): a letter under the private seal of the French king, containing an order, often of exile or imprisonment.

¶1639 SPOTTISWOOD *Hist. Ch. Scotl.* iv. (1677) 193 She had appointed, in stead of his hand, a Cachet to be used in the signing of Letters. ¶1754 ER-SKINE *Princ. Sc. Law* (1809) 177 On the accession of James VI. to the crown of England, a cachet or seal was made, having the King's name engraved on it, with which all signatures were to be afterwards sealed. ¶1753 *Scots Mag.* XV. 62/2 He obtained a letter of cachet.

2. fig. Stamp, distinguishing mark, 'sign manual'.

¶1840 THACKERAY *Paris Sk.-bk.* (1885) 69 All his works [pictures] have a grand cachet: he never did anything mean. ¶1882 C. PEBODY *Eng. Journalism* xxii. 176 The journal in which the cachet of fashionable life is to be distinguished.

3. attrib. Done under letter of cachet; privy, secret.

¶1837 *Fraser's Mag.* XVI. 293 Abominators of all close, cachet, muffled..proceedings.

4. A covering of paste, gelatine, or other digestible material, enclosing (nauseous) medicine; = capsule 5.

¶1884 *Pharmac. Jrnal.* XV. 42/2 Cachets are..sheets of unleavened bread cut to a round or oval shape with a..concave towards the centre,..intended to receive the powder to be taken. ¶1898 Q. HOGG in Ethel M. Hogg *Biography* (1904) 349 My experience and cachets were of use to him. ¶1901 *Contemp. Rev.* Mar. 405 One cachet..to be taken with the midday meal and one in the evening.

4. Prestige, high status; the quality of being respected or admired.

¶1882 *Daily Advocate* (Newark, Ohio) 27 Apr. 3/1 The Dorsey levite..is very stylish; it is difficult to make and still more difficult to wear, and will consequently retain its cachet and not become common. ¶1900 A. BLUNT *Jrnal.* 8 May (1986) x. 280 Certainly there is a 'cachet' about the Abbas Pasha

descent even though the other 6 [horses] are about as highly bred as possible.

¶1952 H. WOUK *Caine Mutiny* i. ii. 15 Then it became a mere racial quirk of a lower social group, and lost its cachet. ¶1988 J. BURCHILL *Sex & Sensibility* (1992) 55 And there is a certain cachet in not telling. ¶2006 *Direct* Feb. 30/4 Porché's cachet makes its showrooms 'destination dealerships'.

cacophony n.

(kæ'kɒfəni)

[a. F. *cacophonie*, in 16th c. *cacofonie*, ad. (through mod.L.) Gr. *κακοφωνία*, f. *κακόφωνος*; see above. Formerly used in latinized form *cacophonia*.]

1. The quality of having an ill sound; the use of harsh-sounding words or phrases. (The opposite of euphony.)

¶1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Cacophony*, an ill, harsh, or unpleasing sound, (in words) a vitious utterance or pronunciation. ¶1733 SWIFT *Let.* lxvi. Wks. 1761 VIII. 154 Alter rhymes, and grammar, and triplets, and cacophonies of all kinds. ¶a1745 Wks. (1841) II. 419 To allow for the usual accidents of corruption, or the avoiding a cacophonia. ¶1753 *Chesterf. Lett.* cclxvii, Avoid cacophony, and make your periods as harmonious as you can.

1847-8 De Quincey *Protestantism* Wks. VIII. 140 My labours in the evasion of cacophony.

2. Music. A discordant combination of sounds, dissonance. Also fig. Moral discord.

¶1789 BURNEY *Hist Mus.* (ed. 2) I. viii. 133 What a cacophony would a complete chord occasion! ¶1831 MACAULAY *Let.* in Trevelyan *Life & Lett.* (1876) I. iv. 223 The oppressive privileges which had depressed industry would be a horrible cacophony. ¶1880 MADAME A. GODDARD in *Girl's Own Paper* 13 Mar. 166 The continual holding down of the loud pedal produces unutterable cacophony.

3. Med. Old term for a harsh, grating, or discordant state of the voice (Mayne Exp. Lex.).

cadaverous a.

(kə'dævərəs)

[ad. F. *cadavéreux*, -euse, ad. L. *cadāverōs*-us corpse-like, f. *cadāver*: see above.]

a. Of or belonging to a corpse; such as characterizes a corpse, corpse-like.

¶1627 FELTHAM *Resolves* ii. xxxiv, A cadauerous man, composed of Diseases and Complaints. ¶1643 SIR T. BROWNE *Relig. Med.* i. (1656) §38 By continuall sight of Anatomies, Skeletons, or Cadaverous reliques. ¶1651 BIGGS *New Disp.* §26 Cadaverous dissection of bodies. ¶1713 DERHAM *Phys.-Theol.* iv. xi. 205 Some cadaverous smell those Ravens discover in the Air. ¶1776 WITHERING *Bot. Arrangem.* (1796) IV. 374 Cadaverous smell of the Phallus impudicus. ¶1855 BAIN *Senses & Int.* ii. ii. §11 (1864) 172 The cadaverous odour is of the repulsive kind. ¶1848 DICKENS *Dombey* 36 The strange, unusual..smell, and the cadaverous light.

b. esp. Of corpse-like or deadly pallor.

¶1662 FULLER *Worthies* iii. 67 His eye was excellent at the instant discovery of a cadaverous face..this made him at the first sight of sick Prince Henry, to get himself out of sight. ¶a1713 T. ELLWOOD *Life* 246 He found John Milton sitting in an Elbow Chair..pale, but not cadaverous. ¶1820 W. IRVING *Sk. Bk.* II. 145 He has a cadaverous countenance, full of cavities and projections. ¶1835 WILLIS *Pencillings* I. vi. 38.

cadge v.

(kædʒ)

[Derivation and original meaning uncertain: in some early passages it varies with cache, cacche catch, of which in branch I it may be a variant: cf. the pairs botch, bodge; grutch, grudge; smutch, smudge. Branch II may also be connected with catch or ONF. cacher in other senses; but it may be a distinct word: the whole subject is only one of more or less probable conjecture. Connexion of ME. caggen with cage n. is phonetically impossible.]

I. Early senses.

1. trans. ? To fasten, tie: cf. cadgel v. (The early passages are obscure, and for one or other the senses drive, toss, shake, draw, have been proposed.) Obs.

¶c1325 *E.E. Allit.* P. A. 511 For a pene on a day & forth þay [labourers in the vineyard] gotz..Keruen & caggen & man [= maken] hit clos. Ibid. B. 1254 þay wer cagged and kaʒt on capeles al bare. ¶a1400 *Alexander* 1521 And þen he caggis [v.r. cachez] vp on cordis as curteyns it were. ¶1400 *Destr. Troy* 3703 Hit sundrit þere sailes & þere sad ropis; Cut of þere cables were caget to gedur. ¶1627 DRAYTON *Agincourt* 180 Whilst they are cadg'd contending whether can Conquer, the Asse some cry, some cry the man. ¶1875 *Lanc. Gloss.* (E.D.S.) Cadge, to tie or bind a thing.

2. To 'bind' the edge of a garment. Cf. cadging vbl. n. I. Obs.

¶1530 PALSGR. 473/1, I cadge a garment, I set lystes in the lynnyng to kepe the plyghtes in order. Ibid. 596/1, I kadged the plyghtes of a garment. Je dresse des plies dune lisiere. This kote is yll kadged: ce sayon a ses plies mal dressés dune lisiere.

3. (See quotes.) ? To tie or knot. Still dial.

¶1703 THORESBY *Let. to Ray* (E.D.S.) To cadge, a term in making bone-lace.

II. To carry about, beg, etc.

4. trans. To carry about, as a pedlar does his pack, or a **CADGER** his stock-in-trade. Obs. exc. dial.

¶1607 T. WALKINGTON *Opt. Glass* 154 Another Atlas that will cadge a whole world of iniuries without fainting. ¶1691 RAY *N.C. Wds.* (E.D.S.) Cadge, to carry. ¶1718 RAMSAY *Contn. Christ's Kirk* iii. xii, They gart him cadge this pack. ¶1788 MARSHALL *E. Yorksh. Gloss.* (E.D.S.) Cadge, to carry. ¶1858 M. PORTEOUS *Souter Johnny* 11 Weary naigs, that on the road Frae Carrick shore cadged monie a load. ¶1875 F. K. ROBINSON *Whitby Gloss.* (E.D.S.) Cadge, to carry; or rather, as a public carrier collects the orders he has to take home for his customers.

5. To load or stuff the belly. dial.

¶1695 KENNETT *Par. Antiq. Gloss.* s.v. Cade, Hence..cadge-belly, or kedge-belly, is a full fat belly. ¶c1746 COLLIER (T. Bobbin) *View Lanc. Dial. Wks.* (1862) 68 While I'r busy cadging mey Wem. ¶1854 BAMPTON *Lanc. Gloss.*, Cadge, to stuff the belly.

6. intr. To go about as a cadger or pedlar, or on pretence of being one; to go about begging. dial. and slang.

¶1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict.*, Cadge, to beg. ¶1846 LYTTON *Lucretia* ii. xii, 'I be's good for nothin' now, but to cadge about the streets, and steal, and filch'. ¶1855 *Whitby Gloss.*, To Cadge about, to go and seek from place to place, as a dinner-hunter. ¶1859 H. KINGSLEY *G. Hamlyn* xv. (D.) 'I've got my living by casting fortins, and begging, and cadging, and such like'. ¶1875 *Lanc. Gloss.* (E.D.S.) Cadge, to beg; to skulk about a neighbourhood.

¶1879 *Print. Trades Jrnl.* xxix. 32 Cadging for invitations to the Mansion House.

b. trans. To get by begging.

¶1848 E. FARMER *Scrap Book* (ed. 6) 115 Let each 'cadge' a trifle. ¶1878 BLACK *Green Past.* xi. 86 Where they can cadge a bit of food.

cajole v.

(kə'dʒəʊl)

[a. F. cajoler, in same sense, of uncertain origin and history. Paré c 1550 has 'cageoller comme un gay' to chatter like a jay. Littré has 16th c. examples of cajoler, cajoller, cageoller, in the senses 'to chatter like a jay or magpie', and 'to sing', also, in the modern sense 'to cajole'. Cotgr. 1611 has cajoler, cageoler 'to prattle or jangle like a jay (in a cage), to bable or prate much to little purpose'. Most etymologists taking cageoler as the original form, have inferred its derivation from cage cage, through an assumed dim. *cageole. This is doubtful both in regard to sense and form; the early meaning 'to chatter like a jay' does not very obviously arise from cage, and does not clearly give rise to the modern sense. The Fr. dim. of cage is not *cageole but geôle 'gaol', whence F. enjôler (OF. engaioler, engauler, Sp. enjaular) 'to put in gaol, imprison', also 'to inveigle, entice, allure, enthrall by fair words, cajole'. In Namur, cajoler has the sense enjoliver, to make joli, whence Grandgagnage would refer it to the stem jol- of joli, with 'prefix ca- frequent in Walloon with an iterative force'. It is possible that two or even three words are here confused; in the modern sense, F. cajoler is synonymous with enjôler above, and if not cognate with that word, its sense has probably at least been taken over from it by form-association of cageoler or cajoler with enjôler. But the working out of the history must be left to French etymologists.]

1. trans. To prevail upon or get one's way with (a person) by delusive flattery, specious promises, or any false means of persuasion. ('A low word' J.)

¶1645 *King's Cabinet Open*. Pref. 2 How the Court has been Caiolde (thats the new authentick word now amongst our Cabalisticall adversaries) by the Papists. Ibid. 46 He..gives avisoës to Caiole the Scots and Independents.

¶1649 MILTON *Eikon*. xxi, That the people might no longer be abused and cajoled, as they call it, by falsities and court-impudence. ¶1678 BUTLER *Hud*. iii. i. 1526 'Tis no mean part of civil State-Prudence, to cajoul the Devil. ¶1723 SHEFFIELD (Dk. Buckhm.) *Wks*. (1753) II. 137 Cajoling a proud Nation to change their Master. ¶1735 POPE *Donne Sat*. iv. 90 You Courtiers so cajol us. ¶1823 LINGARD *Hist. Eng*. VI. 196 They sometimes cajoled, sometimes threatened the pontiff. ¶1863 W. PHILLIPS *Speeches* iii. 36 Leading statesmen have endeavored to cajole the people.

b. Const. into, from an action or state.

¶1663 PEPYS *Diary* 17 Mar., Sir R. Ford..cajoled him into a consent to it. ¶1853 ROBERTSON *Lect*. ii. 55 Nor to cajole or flatter you into the reception

of my views. ¶1862 TRENCH *Mirac.* xxviii. 310 He could neither be cajoled nor terrified from his..avowal of the truth.

c. Const. out of: (a) to do (a person) out of (a thing) by flattery, etc.; (b) to get (a thing) out of a person by flattery, etc.

¶1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* xi. ix. (1840) 165/1 Everybody would not have cajoled this out of her. ¶1833 MARRYAT *P. Simple* (1863) 33 The stockings which she cajoled him out of. ¶1839 W. IRVING *Wolfert's R.* (1855) 247 The populace..are not to be cajoled out of a ghost story by any of these plausible explanations.

2. intr. or absol. To use cajolery. †*to cajole with*:—sense 1 (cf. persuade with).

¶1665 PEPYS *Diary* 12 Oct., He hath cajolled with Seymour, who will be our friend. ¶1789 BELSHAM *Ess.* I. iii. 40 [Elizabeth] knew how to cajole, how to coax, and to flatter. ¶1870 L'ESTRANGE *Miss Mitford* I. vi. 210 The well-feed lawyers have ceased to browbeat or to cajole.

callow a. and n.

(^hkæləʊ)

[OE. *calu* (def. *calw-e*):—WGer. *kalwo-*, whence also MLG. *kale*, MDu. *cāle* (*calu*, gen. *caluwes*), OHG. *chalo* (def. *chalwe*, *chalawe*), MHG. *kal* (*kalwe*), Ger. *kahl*, by Kluge thought to be cognate with Lith. *gölū* naked, blank; but not improbably an adoption of L. *calv-us bald*. Cf. Ir. and Gael. *calbh bald*.]

A. adj.

1. Bald, without hair. Obs.

¶a1000 *Prov.* (Kemble) 42 (Bosw.) *Moniæ* man weorþ færllice *caluw*. ¶a1000 *Riddles* xli. 99 (Gr.) *Ic eom wide calu*. ¶c1375 CATO *Major* ii. xxix, *Þat forehed is lodly Þat is calouh & bare*. ¶1388 WYCLIF *Lev.* xiii. 40 A man of whos heed heeris fleten awei, is *calu* [1382 ballid].

2. Of birds: Unfledged, without feathers.

¶1603 HOLLAND *Plutarch's Mor.* 63 Yoong callow birds which are not yet fethered and fledgd. ¶1728 THOMSON *Spring* 667 The callow young..Their brittle bondage break. ¶1801 SOUTHEY *Thalaba* v. iii. Poems IV. 180 Her young in the refreshing bath, Dipt down their callow heads. ¶1822 HAZLITT *Table-t.* II. xiv. 329 The callow brood are fledged.

b. Applied to the down of unfledged birds; and so, to the down on a youth's cheek and chin.

¶1604 DRAYTON *Owle* 245 His soft and callow downe. ¶1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Past.* viii. 57 The callow Down began to cloath my Chin. ¶1735 SOMERVILLE *Chase* ii. 457 Prove..their Valour's Growth Mature, e'er yet the callow Down has spread Its curling Shade.

3. fig. Inexperienced, raw, 'unfledged'.

¶1580 HARVEY in *Spenser's Wks.* (Grosart) I. 40 Some, that weene themselves as fledged as the reste, being..as kallowe. ¶1651 CLEVELAND *Poems* 31 Blasphemy unfledg'd, a callow curse. ¶1797 H. WALPOLE *Mem. Geo.* II (1847) I. xii. 410 Teaching young and callow orators to soar. ¶1823 LAMB *Elia Ser.* ii. xvii. (1865) 343 The first callow flights in authorship. ¶1849 C. BRONTË *Shirley* xxxiii. 474 In all the voluptuous ease of a yet callow pacha.

4. Of land: a.A.4.a Bare; b.A.4.b (Ireland.) Low-lying and liable to be submerged.

¶1677 PLOT *Oxfordsh.* 243 When these Lands are not swardy enough to bear clean tillage, nor callow or light enough to lie to get sward. ¶1878 LEVER *J. Hinton* xx. 138 Broad tracts of bog or callow meadow-land. ¶1882 *Science Gossip* Mar. 51 If a callow meadow is flooded all the winter.

5. Comb. †callow-mouse, a bat.

¶1340 *Ayenb.* 27 Þe enuious ne may ysy þet guod of oþren nanmore þanne þe oule oþer þe calouwe mous þe briȝtnesse of þe zonne.

B. n.

1. One who is bald; a bald-pate. Obs.

¶1305 *Life St. Dunstan* 89 in E.E.P. (1862) 37 Out, what haþ þe calewe [St. Dunstan] ido: what haþ þe calewe ido.

2. A callow nestling; fig. a raw youth. Obs.

¶1667 JER. TAYLOR *Serm.* (1678) 310 Such a person..de~plumes himself to feather all the naked Callows that he sees. ¶1670 A. BEHN *Widow Rant.* iv. iii, She..that can prefer such a callow as thou before a man.

3. The stratum of vegetable soil lying above the subsoil; the top or rubble bed of a quarry, which has to be removed to reach the rock. dial.

¶1863 MORTON *Cycl. Agric.* II. Gloss. (E.D.S.) Callow (Norf., Suff.), the soil covering the subsoil. ¶1875 URE *Dict. Arts* I. 673 Callow, the top or rubble bed of a quarry. This is obliged to be removed before the useful material is raised.

4. A low-lying damp meadow by the banks of an Irish river.

¶1862 H. COULTER *West of Ireland* 8 The extensive Callows lying along the banks of the Suck. ¶1865 *Gard. Chron. & Agric. Gaz.* 15 July 663/2 The callows consist of low flat land near a river, and liable to be overflowed, as well as being always in a damp state in the driest seasons. ¶1883 DUNDEE *Advert.* 25 Aug. 6/1 All the callows on the banks [of the Shannon] to Lismagh..are submerged.

Hence **callowness**, **callowy** a.

¶1855 DE QUINCEY in *Page Life* (1877) II. xviii. 90 Such advantage..as belongs to callowness or freshness. ¶1823 *Monthly Mag.* LV. 240 Like to a bird, who bestows on her callowy nestlings the morsel.

calumny n.

(ˈkæləmni)

[ad. L. *calumnia* and F. *calomnie* (15th c. in Littré).]

1. False and malicious misrepresentation of the words or actions of others, calculated to injure their reputation; libellous detraction, slander.

¶1564 QUEEN ELIZABETH in Froude *Hist. Eng.* (1863) VIII. 103 Calumny will not fasten on me for ever. ¶1602 SHAKES. *Ham.* iii. i. 141 Be thou as chaste as Ice, as pure as Snow, thou shalt not escape Calumny. ¶1611 *Wint. T.* ii. i. 72 The Shrug, the Hum, or Ha (these Petty-brands That Calumnies doth vse). ¶1751 JOHNSON *Rambl.* No. 144 ¶6 Calumny is diffused by all arts and methods of propagation. ¶1838 THIRLWALL *Greece* V. xl. 118 His conduct..had given a handle for calumny.

2. A false charge or imputation, intended to damage another's reputation; a slanderous report.

¶1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* xx. (R.) What then need we vie calumnies, like women that will weare Their tongues out. ¶1675 BAXTER *Cath. Theol.* ii. i. 108 The Synod of Dort rejecteth your accusation as a Calumny. ¶1751 JOHNSON *Rambl.* No. 183 ¶7 To spread suspicion, to invent calumnies, to propagate scandal, requires neither labour nor courage. ¶1836 GILBERT *Chr. Atonem.* vi. (1852) 168 A calumny against the revealed character of God.

canard n.

(kanar, kəˈnɑːd)

[Fr.; lit. 'duck'; also used in sense 1: see note there.]

1. An extravagant or absurd story circulated to impose on people's credulity; a hoax, a false report.

Littre says Canard for a silly story comes from the old expression 'vendre un canard à moitié' (to half-sell a duck), in which à moitié was subsequently suppressed. It is clear that to half-sell a duck is not to sell it at all; hence the sense 'to take in, make a fool of'. In proof of this he cites bailleur de canards, deliverer of ducks, utterer of canards, of date 1612: Cotgr., 1611, has the fuller vendeur de canards à moitié 'a cousener, guller, cogger; foister, lyer'. Others have referred the word to an absurd fabricated story purporting to illustrate the voracity of ducks, said to have gone the round of the newspapers, and to have been credited by many. As this account has been widely circulated, it is possible that it has contributed to render the word more familiar, and thus more used, in English. [I saw the word in print before 1850 (J.A.H.M.).]

¶1864 in WEBSTER. ¶1866 *Even. Standard* 13 July 6 A silly canard circulated by the Owl, about England having joined France and Russia in 'offering' their mediation to the belligerents. ¶1880 W. DAY *Racehorse in Train*. xix. 185 The canards so industriously circulated as to the real cause of the deadly opposition he had met with.

2. A smaller surface on an aeroplane or hydrofoil providing stability or a means of control and placed forward of the main lifting surface; also (and orig.) an aeroplane with its wings so placed. Also attrib.

¶1916 H. BARBER *Aeroplane Speaks* 137 Canard, literally 'duck', the name which was given to a type of aeroplane of which the longitudinal stabilizing surface (empennage) was mounted in front of the main lifting surface.

¶1928 C. F. S. GAMBLE *North Sea Air Station* Introd. 11 These monoplanes were of the 'Canard' (or 'tail first') type. ¶1931 *Flight* 2 Jan. 4/1 His brother experimented with canard models. ¶1961 *New Scientist* 16 Nov. 416/3 Most tentative designs for a Mach 3 liner provide for a canard form with the main wing at the rear. ¶1964 *Sci. Amer.* June 27/3 SCAT 17 is a delta-wing design with a canard, or balancing surface, at the nose. ¶1967 *Jane's Surface Skimmer Systems* 1967-68 95/2 The foils have been arranged..in a canard configuration, with one foil forward and two foils aft.

3. A bright, deep blue, like the colour which is found on a duck's wing.

¶[1902 *Daily Chron.* 13 Dec. 8/4 The peculiar bright, yet deep, blue known in Paris as 'canard'.] ¶1908 *Westm. Gaz.* 22 Feb. 13/2 Canard—a new shade of blue inspired by the lovely patch of iridescent greeny blue that occurs on a duck's wing. ¶1923 *Daily Mail* 21 June 1 Over 40 shades including Ivory,...Apricot, Canard.

candour *n.*

('kændə(r))

[17th c. candor, *a.* L. candor (-ōrem) dazzling whiteness, brilliancy, innocence, purity, sincerity, *f.* root cand- of candēre to be white and shining, accendēre to set alight, kindle: cf. candid, candle. *F.* candeur (16th c. in Littré) may have aided; the 14th c. example is properly Latin.]

1. Brilliant whiteness; brilliancy. Obs.

¶[1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P.R.* xix. xi. (1495) 871 Candor is passynge whytnesse.] ¶1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 91 This nights travaile was bettered by Cynthias candor. ¶1692 TRYON *Good House-w.* ii. 25 Milk..the Emblem of Innocence, deriving that aimable and pleasant Candor from a Gleam of the divine Light.

2. Stainlessness of character; purity, integrity, innocence. Obs.

¶a1610 B. JONSON *Alch.* v. v. (1616) 676 Helpe his fortune, though with some small straine Of his owne candor. ¶1675 TRAHERNE *Chr. Ethics* xxv. 388 If afterwards he comes to see the candor of his abused friend. ¶1703 ROWE *Fair Penit.* i. i. 376 Pure native Truth And Candour of the Mind. ¶a1704 T. BROWN *Eng. Sat. Wks.* 1730 I. 29 My lord Dorsets morals and integrity, his candor and his honour.

3. Freedom from mental bias, openness of mind; fairness, impartiality, justice.

¶a1637 B. JONSON *Epigr.* cxxiii. (R.) Writing thyselve, or judging others writ, I know not which th' hast most, candor or wit. ¶1653 Hales' *Dissert. Peace in Phenix* (1708) II. 388 If thou hast but a grain of Candor in thy heart, and wilt pass Sentence according to the Prescript of Truth. ¶1702 *Clarendon's Hist. Reb.* I. Pref. 2 The candor, and impartiality of what he relates. ¶1794 PALEY *Evid.* iii. ii. (1817) 282 A species of candour which is shown towards every other book, is sometimes refused to the Scriptures. ¶1836 WHATELY *Chr. Evid.* v, To exercise candour in judging fairly of the evidences. ¶1857 H. REED *Lect. Brit. Poets* xv. 202 In criticism candour with its comprehensive sympathies, is as rare, as bigotry is frequent.

4. Freedom from malice, favourable disposition, kindliness; 'sweetness of temper, kindness' (J.). Obs.

¶1653 WALTON *Angler* To Rdr., If he [the Reader] bring not candor to the reading of this Discourse, he shall..injure me..by too many Criticisms. ¶1666 DRYDEN *Ann. Mirab.* Ded. (Globe ed.) 42 Your candour in pardon-ing my errors. ¶1751 JOHNSON *Cheynel* Wks. IV. 508 He shews himself

sincere, but without candour. ¶1765 *Pref. Shaks. Wks. IX. 252* That bigotry which sets candour higher than truth. ¶1802 *Med. Jrnl. VIII. 226* A gentleman of unbounded candor, and a most benevolent disposition.

5. Freedom from reserve in one's statements; openness, frankness, ingenuousness, outspokenness.

¶1769 *Lett. Junius ii. 11* This writer, with all his boasted candour, has not told us the real cause of the evils. ¶1836 *HOR. SMITH Tin Trump. (1876) 72* Candour in some people may be compared to barley sugar drops, in which the acid preponderates over the sweetness. ¶1876 *J. H. NEWMAN Hist. Sk. I. ii. iv. 257* Openness and candour are rare qualities in a statesman.

canon n.

(ˈkænən)

[Found in OE. as *canon*, a. L. *canon* rule, a. Gr. *κανών* rule. Early ME. had *canon*, prob. from OE., and *canun*, *canoun*, a. OF. *canun*, *canon*, the Fr. descendant of the L. Senses 12-14 are of obscure origin; some or all may belong to *cannon*, in F. spelt *canon*.]

1. a. A rule, law, or decree of the Church; esp. a rule laid down by an ecclesiastical Council. the canon (collectively) = canon law: see b.

The Canons, in Ch. of Engl. = 'The Constitutions and Canons Ecclesiastical' agreed upon by Convocation, and ratified by King James I under the Great Seal in 1603.

¶ c890 *K. ÆLFRED Bæda iv. xxiv. (Bosw.) Canones boc.* ¶a900 *Laws of Ælfred xxi. in Thorpe II. 376 (Bosw.) Ða canonas openlice beodaþ.* ¶a1300 *Cursor M. 26290* Als þe hali canon [v.r. -oun] vs sais þat scrift on sere-kin sines lais. ¶1451 *Treaty w. Scotl. in Rymer Foedera (1710) XI. 288* Maister Robert Dobbis, Doctor of Canon. ¶1489 *CAXTON Faytes of A. iv. ix. 254* The canon deffendeth expresly al manere of bataille and violent hurt. ¶1597 *HOOKE Eccl. Pol. v. lxi. §2* A sacred canon of the sixth reverend synod.

¶1601 *SHAKES. All's Well i. i. 158* Selfe-loue, which is the most inhibited sinne in the Cannon. ¶1658 *BRAMHALL Consecr. Bps. vii. 171* The Papall Canons were never admitted for binding Lawes in England. ¶1827 *HAL-LAM Const. Hist. (1876) I. vi. 303* A code of new canons had recently been established in convocation with the King's assent. ¶1859 *JEPHSON Britany viii. 131* A priest is expressly forbidden by the canons..to enter a public inn.

b. canon law (formerly law canon: cf. F. *droit canon*): ecclesiastical law, as laid down in decrees of the pope and statutes of councils. (See Gratian, *Dist.* iii. §2.)

¶c1340 *Cursor M.* 26290 (Fairf.) Squa sais lagh Canoun þat is wise, þat shrift on mani synnis lise. ¶1387 *TREVISA Higden* (1865) II. 117 (Mätz.) By dome of lawe canoun. ¶c1400 *Apol. Loll.* 73 Law canoun is callid law ordeynid of prelats of the kirk. ¶1494 *FABYAN* vii. 526 They sent ye estudyauntys of ye lawe, canon & cyuyle. ¶1511 in W. H. TURNER *Select. Records Oxford* 7 John Prynne, bachiller of Canon. ¶1552 *ABP. HAMILTON Catech.* (1884) 1 Doctours of Theologie and Canon law. ¶a1586 *Answ. Cartwright* 3 The common Lawes are against the cannon Lawes in many hundreth poyntes. ¶1765 *BLACKSTONE Comm.* i. Introd. 82 The canon law is a body of Roman ecclesiastical law, relative to such matters as that church either has, or pretends to have, the proper jurisdiction over. This is compiled from the opinions of the antient Latin fathers, the decrees of general councils, the decretal epistles and bulles of the holy see. ¶1850 *A. JAMESON Leg. Monast. Ord.* (1863) 331 Where he made himself master of civil and canon law.

2. gen. **a.** A law, rule, edict (other than ecclesiastical). **b.** A general rule, fundamental principle, aphorism, or axiom governing the systematic or scientific treatment of a subject; e.g. canons of descent or inheritance; a logical, grammatical, or metrical canon; canons of criticism, taste, art, etc.

¶1588 *FRAUNCE Lawiers Log.* i. ii. 7 b, Such rules, maximaes, canons, axioms..or howsoever you tearme them. ¶1602 *SHAKES. Ham.* i. ii. 132 Or that the Euerlasting had not fixt His Cannon 'gainst Selfe-slaughter. ¶1607 *Cor.* i. x. 26 Against the hospitable Canon. ¶1628 *MILTON Vac. Exerc.,* Substance with his Canons; which Ens..explains. ¶1788 *REID Aristotle's Log.* v. ii. 113 They have reduced the doctrine of the topics to certaine axioms or canons. ¶1806 *Med. Jrnl.* XV. 134 The canons of pathology. ¶1869 *ROGERS Pref. Adam Smith's W.N.* I. 17 The indirect taxation of France violated every canon of financial prudence and equity. ¶1874 *SAYCE Compar. Philol.* i. 58 The canons of taste and polite literature. ¶1879 *FARRAR St. Paul* I. 613 We may assume it as a canon of ordinary criticism that a writer intends to be understood.

c. A standard of judgement or authority; a test, criterion, means of discrimination.

¶1601 *HOLLAND Pliny* II. 497 Moreouer, he made that which workmen call Canon, that is to say, one absolute piece of worke, from whence artificers do fetch their draughts, simetries, and proportions. ¶1651 *HOBBS Govt.*

☞ Soc. xvii. §16. 313 The sacred Scripture is..the Canon and Rule of all Evangelicall Doctrine. ¶1869 GOULBURN *Purs. Holiness* vii. 65 This Lord's Prayer, what a canon does it supply for testing and correcting our spiritual state. ¶1874 W. WALLACE *Hegel's Logic* §52. 93 [Reason] is a canon, not an organon of truth, and can furnish only a criticism of knowledge.

3. Math. A general rule, formula, table; esp. a table of sines, tangents, etc. Obs.

¶1391 CHAUCER *Astrol.* ii. §32 Lok how many howres thilke coniuncion is fro the Midday of the day precedent, as shewith by the canoun of thi kalender. ¶1594 BLUNDEVIL *Exerc.* ii. (ed. 7) 130 If you shall not finde in the Canon, the Sine which by your calculation is found. ¶1656 tr. *Hobbes' Elem. Philos.* (1839) 292 The straight line BV..if computed by the canon of signs. ¶1706 PHILLIPS, In *Mathematicks*, Cannon is an infallible Rule to resolve all things of the same Nature with the present Inquiry. ¶1751 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. Canon, Natural Canon of Triangles is a table of sines, tangents, and secants together..Artificial Canon of Triangles is a table wherein the logarithms of sines and tangents are laid down. ¶1798 HUTTON *Course Math.* (1807) II. 3 A Trigonometrical Canon, is a table.

4. The collection or list of books of the Bible accepted by the Christian Church as genuine and inspired. Also transf., any set of sacred books; also, those writings of a secular author accepted as authentic.

¶1382 WYCLIF *Apoc. Prol.*, In the bigynnyng of canon, that is, of the bok of Genesis. ¶1591 T. NORTON *Calvin's Inst.* i. 13 b, What reuerence is due to the Scripture, and what bookes are to be reckened in the canon therof.

¶1641 J. JACKSON *True Evang.* T. ii. 116 S. Andrew the Apostle..added nothing to the Canon of Scripture. ¶1870 MAX MÜLLER *Sc. Relig.* (1873) 29 The process by which a canon of sacred books is called into existence.

¶1882 FARRAR *Early Chr.* I. 98 The Epistle to the Hebrews is not a work of St. Paul, but it is pre-eminently worthy of its honoured place in the Canon.

¶1885 *Encycl. Brit.* XIX. 211/1 The dialogues forming part of the 'Platonic canon'. ¶1953 C. J. Sisson *Shakespeare: Compl. Works* p. xviii (heading) The canon and the text.

5. A canonical epistle. See canonical 3.

¶1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 25/3 Saynt John that saith in his canone, We have, etc. ¶1502 *Ord. Crysten Men* ii. i. (W. de W. 1506) 84 Wherfore sayth well saynt Iames in his canon.

6. The portion of the Mass included between the Preface and the Pater, and

containing the words of consecration.

¶a1300 *Cursor M.* 21190 þE first mess þat sent petre sang, Was þar þan na canon lang Bot pater-noster in þaa dais, Na langer canon was, it sais.
 ¶1395 PURVEY *Remonstr.* (1851) 42 After the sacringe, in the canoun of the masse. ¶a1450 *Knt. de la Tour* (1868) 40. ¶1532 MORE *Confut. Tindale Wks.* 490/2 Luter himself casting away the holy canon of ye masse. ¶1656 BP. HALL *Tracts* (1677) 43 It was the farther solemnizing and beautifying that holy action which brought the Canon in. ¶1781 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* II. xlv. 695 He officiated in the canon of the mass. ¶1868 HOOK *Lives Abps.* II. ii. iii. 284 note, The canon or rule was the part of the service containing the actual consecration.

7. Mus. **a.** A species of musical composition in which the different parts take up the same subject one after another, either at the same or at a different pitch, in strict imitation.

A passage in Burney's *Hist. Music* (1781) 480 suggests as an earlier meaning: 'The rule by which a composition (in canon-form), which is only partially indicted in the score, can be read out by the performers in full.' Cf. quot. 1609.

¶1597 MORLEY *Introd. Mus.* 104 Of how manie parts the Canon is, so manie Cliefes do they set at the beginning of the verse. ¶1609 DOULAND *Ornith. Microl.* 48 A Canon..is an imaginarie rule, drawing that part of the Song which is not set downe out of that part which is set downe. Or it is a Rule, which doth wittily discouer the secret of a Song. ¶1795 MASON *Ch. Mus.* i. 54 Such Organists as were Masters of Canon, Fugue, and Counterpoint. ¶1869 OUSELEY *Counterp.* xxiii. §13 The closest stretto should be reserved for the end..especially if it be introduced in canon.

b. A long hymn, used in the Eastern Church, consisting of eight odes, each of many stanzas.

¶1862 *Q. Rev.* Apr. 338 If we might venture..to name the characteristics of these canons, we should say richness and repose, and a continuous thread of Holy Scripture..woven into them.

8. **a.** 'In old Records, a Prestation, Pension, or Customary payment upon some religious Account' (Phillips 1706). From Roman Law.

¶1633 CAVE *Ecclesiastici* *Introd.* 51 He restor'd the Corn-Canon, (as they call'd it) the yearly Allowance of Corn, which Constantine had settled upon the Church. ¶1726 AYLIFFE *Parerg.* 139 Which Allowance was, by the ancient Lawyers, called a Canon, and not a Prebend, as now it is. ¶1847-

79 HALLIWELL, *Canon*, a portion of a deceased man's goods exacted by the priest.

b. A quit-rent. [cf. Littré, Canon 10.]

¶1643 PRYNNE *Power Parl.* App. 164 Therefore to sustaine the burthens of Peace, the demesne was instituted, (which among the Lawyers is called Canon). ¶1774 S. HALLIFAX *Anal. Rom. Law* (1795) 69 On condition that the Tenant shall improve the Lands, and pay a yearly Canon or Quit-Rent to the Proprietor.

9. a. A chief epoch or era, serving to date from (Gr. κανὼν χρονικός); a basis for chronology. Cf. canon monument in 15.

¶1833 CRUSE *Eusebius* vi. xxii. 242 A certain canon comprising a period of sixteen years. ¶1876 BIRCH *Rede Lect. Egypt* 14 The Turin papyrus, the canon of history, a list of all the kings.

b. paschal canon: the rule for finding Easter, to which was often appended a table of the dates of Easter and the feasts varying with it for a series of years.

¶1727-51 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. Canon, Paschal Canon, a table of the moveable feasts, shewing the day of Easter, and the other feasts depending on it, for a cycle of nineteen years.

10. a. (See quot.)

¶1727-51 CHAMBERS *Cycl.*, Canon, in monastic orders, a book wherein the religious of every convent have a fair transcript of the rules of their order, frequently read among them as their local statutes.

b. 'The list of saints acknowledged and canonized by the Church' (Chambers *Cycl.* 1727-51).

11. Printing. A size of type-body equal to 4-line Pica; the largest size of type-body that has a specific name.

So called perhaps as being that used for printing the canon of the Mass; but Tory is said by Reed (op. cit. 36) to have used the term Canon for letter cut according to rule—lettres de forme—as distinguished from lettres bastardes.

¶1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.*, French Canon 17½ [types] to a foot. ¶1688 R. HOLME *Armoury* iii. iii. 119/2 Canon, the great Canon is the name of the largest Letter for Printing that is used in England. ¶1721 BAILEY, *Canon*, (with Printers) a large sort of Printing Letter. ¶1887 T. B. REED *O. Eng. Lett. Foundries*, 36 The Canon of the Mass was..printed in a large letter, and it is generally supposed that this size of letter being ordinarily employed in the large Missals, the type-body took its name accordingly; a supposition which is strengthened by its German name of Missal.

12. (See quot.)

¶1696 PHILLIPS, *Canon*..a Surgeon's Instrument, made use of for the sewing up of Wounds. ¶1721 IN Bailey; ¶1755 in JOHNSON; and in mod. Dicts. Not in Syd. Soc. Lex.

13. (See quot.)

¶1847-78 HALLIWELL, *Canons*, the first feathers of a hawk after she has mewed. [Perh. the same as cannon: cf. Sp. cañon a quill.]

14. A metal loop or 'ear' at the top of a bell, by which it is hung. Also written cannon (n.1 5).

¶1688 R. HOLME *Armoury* iii. 461/2 This is called a St. Bell, because it hath not Canons on the head to fasten it to the stock. ¶1878 *Grove Dict. Mus.* I. 219 [Bells] are first carefully secured by iron bolts and braces through the ears or 'canons' to the stock. ¶1882 *School Guardian* No. 315. 12 The height of the bell from the lip to the top of the canons is 8 ft.

15. attrib. and Comb., as **canon law** (see 1b), **canon-lawyer**, **canon-making**, **canon monument** (cf. 9), **canon rule**, **canon type** (cf 11): canon-like, canon-wise adjs.

¶1601 BP. BARLOW *Defence* 99 We acknowledge it *Canon-like, but not Canonically.

¶1659 BAXTER *Key Cath.* xxv. 147 This is a cheaper way of *Canon-making in a corner.

¶1631 R. BYFIELD *Doctr. Sabb.* 149 You finde nothing..in any..*cannon monument, and register of Antiquitie.

¶1603 HOLLAND *Plutarch's Mor.* 33 The very *Canon rule, and paterne of all vertue.

¶1641 MILTON *Reform. Wks.* 1738 I. 7 An insulting and only *Canon-wise Prelate.

16. a. Literary Criticism. A body of literary works traditionally regarded as the most important, significant, and worthy of study; those works of esp. Western literature considered to be established as being of the highest quality and most enduring value; the classics (now freq. in the canon). Also (usu. with qualifying word): such a body of literature in a particular language, or from a particular culture, period, genre, etc.

¶1929 *Amer. Lit.* 1 95 Those who read bits of Mather with pleasure will continue to feel that those bits cannot be excluded from the canon of literature until much excellent English 'utilitarian' prose is similarly excluded. ¶1953

W. R. TRASK tr. E. R. Curtius *European Lit. & Lat. Middle Ages* xiv. 264 Of the modern literatures, the Italian was the first to develop a canon. ¶1989 *Times Lit. Suppl.* 7 July 739 My Secret History..alludes to half the modernist canon, from Eliot to Hemingway to Henry Miller. ¶1999 *N.Y. Rev. Bks.* 4 Nov. 29/2 The canon was under attack from feminists and social historians who saw it as the preserve of male and bourgeois dominance.

b. In extended use (esp. with reference to art or music): a body of works, etc., considered to be established as the most important or significant in a particular field. Freq. with qualifying word.

¶1977 R. MACKSEY in *Compar. Lit.* 92 1188 The author concentrates on six major works in the operatic canon, masterpieces by two towering figures in the history of Western music. ¶1985 *Washington Post* 5 July x12/1 What looks like spaghetti Bolognese and keeps fresh on the shelf for 50 years? Japanese plastic food, the real-as-life models that restaurants in Japan use for the prosaic business of window display, and that visitors have gleefully added to the canon of pop art. ¶1995 *Independent* (Nexis) 10 Dec. 2 Mick taught himself to play the guitar and spent 'a great deal of time' studying songwriting; not just the soul and R'n'B legends..but the whole rock canon—the Rolling Stones and Led Zeppelin and the Velvet Underground, but especially The Beatles. ¶1998 *Herald (Glasgow)* 3 Sept. 22 The concept has settled comfortably into the canon of accepted biological theory.

cant n.

(kænt)

[This and its accompanying vb. presumably represent L. cant-us singing, song, chant (Pr. and NFr. cant, Fr. chant), cantā-re NFr. canter) to sing, chant; but the details of the derivation and development of sense are unknown.

Cantare and its Romanic representatives were used contemptuously in reference to the church services as early as 1183, when according to Rigord (c 1200) *Gest Philip. August.* (1818) 11, the Cotarelli of the Bourges country 'sacerdotes et viros religiosos captos secum ducentes, et irrisoriè cantores ipsos vocantes, in ipsis tormentis subsannando dicebant: Cantate nobis, cantores, cantate; et confestim dabant eis alapas, vel cum grossis virgis turpiter cædebant'. So far as the evidence shows, the vb. appears in Eng. first applied to the tones and language of beggars, 'the canting crew': this, which according to Harman was introduced c 1540, may have come down from the religious mendicants; or the word may have been actually made from Lat. or Romanic

in the rogues' jargon of the time. The subsequent development assumed in the arrangement of the verb is quite natural, though not actually established. Some have however conjectured that cant is the Irish and Gaelic cainnt (pronounced kaptj, or nearly kantʃj) 'language'. And as early as 1711 the word was asserted to be derived from the name of Andrew Cant or his son Alexander Cant, Presbyterian ministers of the 17th c. This perhaps means that the surname of the two Cants was occasionally associated derisively with canting. The arrangement of the n. here is tentative, and founded mainly on that of the vb., which appears on the whole earlier.]

I. (Sporadic uses, from L. cantus or its representatives; not directly related to II.)

1. Singing, musical sound. cant organ: app. a technical term in music. Obs.

¶1501 DOUGLAS *Pal. Hon.* i. xlii, Fabourdoun, pricksang, discant, countering, Cant organe, figuratioun, and gemmell. ¶1704 SWIFT *T. Tub Wks.* 1760 I. 100 Cant and vision are to the ear and the eye the same that tickling is to the touch. ¶1708 *Brit. Apollo* No. 79. 2/2 That shrill Cant of the Grasshoppers.

2. Accent, intonation, tone. Obs.

¶1663 Aron-*bimn.* 110 It depends not upon the cant and tone, or the wording of the Minister. ¶1763 *Ann. Reg.* 307/2 If these lines want that sober cant which is necessary to an epitaph.

II. The speech or phraseology of beggars, etc., and senses connected therewith.

3. 'A whining manner of speaking, esp. of beggars'; a whine.

¶1640 CLEVELAND in Wilkins *Polit. Ballads* I. 28 By lies and cants, [they] Would trick us to believe 'em saints. ¶1705 HICKERINGILL *Priest-cr.* iv. (1721) 227 With a Cant like a Gypsie, a Whine like a beaten Spaniel.

4. The peculiar language or jargon of a class: a. The secret language or jargon used by gipsies, thieves, professional beggars, etc.; transf. any jargon used for the purpose of secrecy.

¶1706 in PHILLIPS. ¶1707 J. STEVENS tr. *Quevedo's Com. Wks.* (1709) 226 They talk'd to one another in Cant. ¶1715 KERSEY, *Cant*, Gibberish, Pedler's French. ¶1734 NORTH *Exam.* ii. v. ¶110. 383 To avoid being understood by the Servants, they framed a Cant, and called the Design of a general Rising the Lease and Release. ¶1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* xvi. 127 The ring of the cant.

b. The special phraseology of a particular class of persons, or belonging to a particular subject; professional or technical jargon. (Always depreciative or contemptuous.)

¶1684 T. BURNET *Th. Earth* I. 214 There is heat and moisture in the body, & you may call the one 'radical' and the other 'innate' if you please; this is but a sort of cant. ¶1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 421 ¶3 In the Cant of particular Trades and Employments. ¶1750 JOHNSON *Rambl.* No. 128 ¶4 Every class of society has its cant of lamentation, which is understood by none but themselves. ¶1839 DICKENS *Nich. Nick.* xxxiv, All love—bah! that I should use the cant of boys and girls—is fleeting enough. 1841–4 Emerson *Ess.* xiii. Poet Wks. (Bohn) I. 156 Criticism is infested with a cant of materialism. ¶1861 HOLLAND *Less. Life* viii. 119 Repeating the cant of their sect and the cant of their schools.

c. The peculiar phraseology of a religious sect or class. (Cf. 5 b.) Obs.

¶1681 DRYDEN *Abs. & Achit.* 521 Hot Levites..Resum'd their cant, and with a zealous cry Pursued their old beloved theocracy. ¶1696 C. LESLIE *Snake in Gr.* (1698) Introd. 46 Really to understand the Quaker-Cant is learning a new Language. ¶1709 SACHEVERELL *Serm.* 15 Aug. 15 Diabolical Inspiration, and Non-sensical Cant. ¶1711 *Spect.* No. 147 ¶3 Cant is by some people derived from one Andrew Cant who, they say, was a Presbyterian minister..who by exercise & use had obtained the Faculty, alias Gift, of talking in the Pulpit in such a dialect, that it's said he was understood by none but his own Congregation, and not by all of them.

d. Provincial dialect; vulgar slang.

¶1802 M. EDGEWORTH *Irish Bulls* (1832) 226 The cant of Suffolk, the vulgarisms of Shropshire. ¶1852 GLADSTONE *Glean.* IV. lxxxii. 122 The coarse reproduction of that unmitigated cant or slang.

e. attrib.

¶1727 SWIFT *Let. Eng. Tongue* Wks. 1755 II. I. 185 To introduce and multiply cant words is the most ruinous corruption in any language. ¶1824 W. IRVING *T. Trav.* I. 273 Slang talk and cant jokes. ¶1841 BORROW *Zincali* (1843) II. 150 The first Vocabulary of the 'Cant Language'..appeared in the year 1680 appended to the life of 'The English Rogue'.

5. A form of words, a phrase: †a.II.5.a A set form of words repeated perfunctorily or mechanically. Obs.

¶1681 SEJANUS in *Bagford Ballads* (1878) 758 note, A young Scribe is copying out a Cant, Next morn for to be spoke in Parliament. ¶1704 STEELE

Lying Lover i. i. 7 Sure..you talk by Memory, a Form or Cant which you mistake for something that's gallant. ¶1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 291 §6 With a certain cant of words.

b. A pet phrase, a trick of words; esp. a stock phrase that is much affected at the time, or is repeated as a matter of habit or form. (Formerly with a and pl.) arch.

¶1681 *Country-man's Compl. & Advice to King*, Gods! to be twice cajol'd by cants and looks. ¶1691 WOOD *Ath. Oxon.* II./450 Enamour'd with his obstreporousness and undecent cants. ¶1692 BENTLEY *Boyle Lect.* 200 That ordinary cant of illiterate..atheists, the fortuitous or casual concourse of atoms. ¶1710 HEARNE *Collect.* (1886) II. 365 The late happy Revolution, (so he calls it, according to the common Cant). ¶1769 JUNIUS *Lett.* xxvi. 119 note, Measures, and not men, is the common cant of affected moderation.

c ¶1815 JANE AUSTEN *Northang. Abb.* (1833) I. v. 22 It is really very well for a novel..is the common cant.

c. attrib.

¶1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 530 ¶3 Enlivened with little cant-phrases. ¶1753 *Stewart's Trial App.* 130 It was a cant word through the country, That the tenants might sit, since the worst of it would be paying the violent profits. ¶1774 GOUV. MORRIS in *Sparks Life & Writ.* (1832) I. 23 The belwethers..roared out liberty, and property, and a multitude of cant terms. ¶1790 PALEY *Horæ Paul.* (1849) 396 There is such a thing as a peculiar word or phrase cleaving, as it were, to the memory of a writer or speaker and presenting itself to his utterance at every turn. When we observe this we call it a cant word or a cant phrase. ¶1855 PRESCOTT *Philip II* (1857) I. v. 79 To borrow a cant phrase of the day, like 'a fixed fact'. ¶1868 HELPS *Realmah* xvii. (1876) 465 He..can—to use the cant phrase—afford to support the dignity of the peerage.

6. As a kind of phraseology: a.II.6.a Phraseology taken up and used for fashion's sake, without being a genuine expression of sentiment; canting language.

¶1710 BERKELEY *Princ. Hum. Knowl.* §87 All this sceptical cant follows from our supposing, etc. ¶1783 JOHNSON in *Boswell* 15 May, My dear friend, clear your mind of cant..you may talk in this manner; it is a mode of talking in society; but don't think foolishly. ¶1809 SYD. SMITH *Wks.* (1867) I. 174 The pernicious cant of indiscriminate loyalty. ¶1870 LOWELL *Study Wind.* 157 Enthusiasm, once cold, can never be warmed over into anything better than cant. ¶1875 SMILES *Thrift* ii. 20 In fact there is no

greater cant than can't. ¶1883 J. PARKER *Tyne* Ch. 320 There is a cant of infidelity as certainly as there is a cant of belief.

b. esp. Affected or unreal use of religious or pietistic phraseology; language (or action) implying the pretended assumption of goodness or piety.

¶1709 STRYPE *Ann. Ref.* I. lv. 609, I set down this letter at large, that men may see the cant of these men. ¶1716 ADDISON *Freeholder* No. 37 (J.) That cant and hypocrisy, which had taken possession of the people's minds in the times of the great rebellion. ¶1789 MRS. PIOZZI *Journ. France* I. 256 Hypocritical manners, or what we so emphatically call cant. ¶1849 ROBERTSON *Serm.* Ser. i. x. (1866) 182 Religious phraseology passes into cant. ¶1875 HAMERTON *Intell. Life* vi. iii. 211 He had a horror of cant, which..gave him a repulsion for all outward show of religious observances. ¶1879 FROUDE *Cæsar* i. 6 The whole spiritual atmosphere was saturated with cant.

c. attrib.

¶1747 CARTE *Hist. Eng.* I. 601 To make up what was wanting in the justice of their cause..by a cant and sophistical way of expression.

7. One who uses religious phrases unreally.

¶1725 *New Cant. Dict.*, Cant, an Hypocrite, a Dissembler, a double-tongu'd, whining Person. ¶1824 MRS. CAMERON *Pink Tippet* iii. 16 Lest she should be called a cant. ¶1873 E. BERDOC *Adv. Protestant* 132 He was not a cant, but really felt what he said.

cantankerous a. colloq.

(kæn'tæŋkərəs)

[Said by Grose, who spells it contankerous, to be a Wiltshire word. This spelling gives some support to the conjecture that the word was formed on ME. *con-tak*, *conteke*, *contention*, *quarrelling*, *contekour*, *conteckour* one who raises strife, whence **conteckerous*, **contakerous* would be a possible deriv. like *traitorous*, which might subseq. be corrupted under influence of words like *cankerous*, *rancorous*. Its oddly appropriate sound, and perh. some assoc. with these words, have given it general colloquial currency.]

Showing an ill-natured disposition; ill-conditioned and quarrelsome, perverse, cross-grained.

¶1772 GOLDSM. *Stoops to Conq.* ii, There's not a more bitter cantankerous road in all christendom. ¶1775 SHERIDAN *Rivals* v. iii, I hope, Mr.

Faulkland..you won't be so cantankerous. ¶1842 MISS MITFORD in *L'Estrange Life* (1870) III. ix. 142 As cantankerous and humorous as Cassius himself. ¶1865 LIVINGSTONE *Zambesi* ix. 195 A crusty old bachelor or..a cantankerous husband. ¶1873 *St. Paul's Mag.* i. 533 A cantankerous element in his nature.

Hence **cantankerously** adv., **cantankerousness**.

¶1868 A. K. H. BOYD *Lessons Mid. Age* 217 One impracticable, stupid, wrongheaded, and cantankerously foolish person of the twelve. ¶1876 MRS. H. WOOD *Orville Coll.* 411 You have behaved cantankerously to him. ¶1881 A. R. HOPE in *Boy's Own Paper* 10 Sept. 794 The roller had crushed the cantankerousness right out of him. ¶1886 *Chr. Life* 2 Jan. 2/6 A member..expelled for general cantankerousness.

capitulate v.

(kə'pitjuleit)

[f. prec. or on analogy of vbs. so formed: see -ate³.]

1. trans. To draw up in chapters, or under heads or articles; to specify, enumerate. Obs.

¶1593 LODGE *Wm. Longbeard* E ij b, The lawes..which we capitulate at sea are not.. used on lande. ¶1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* 600 The places of serpents abode being thus generally capitulated. ¶c1645 HOWELL *Lett.* (1678) 116. ¶1678 MARVELL *Def. Howe Wks.* 1875 IV. 182 The Discourse..capitulates that Mr. Howe should by efficacious intend infallibility, etc.

b. intr.

¶1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* 81 For an assay..of his pen, he capitulated on the births of monsters.

2. intr. To draw up articles of agreement; to arrange or propose terms; to treat, bargain, parley.

¶1596 SHAKES. *1 Hen. IV*, iii. ii 120 Percy, Northumberland,..Mortimer, Capitulate against vs. ¶1618 SIR T. LAKE in *Fortescue Papers* 38 He did not intend to capitulate with his Majesty. ¶1669 BAXTER *Call Unconv.* 247 Think not to capitulate with Christ, and divide your heart betwixt him and the world. ¶1697 W. DAMPIER *Voy.* (1729) I. 220 The Spaniards..capitulated day after day to prolong time. ¶1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) VII. 344 It had the appearance of meanly capitulating with you. ¶1815 WELLINGTON in *Gurw. Disp.* XII. 355 We must not capitulate with mutiny in any

shape. ¶1816 SOUTHEY *Ess.* (1832) I. 322 Those magistrates..who capitulated with the..agricultural rioters, and..acceded to the demands of a mob.

b. With various constructions: To make conditions, stipulate, agree. Obs.

¶1580 NORTH *Plutarch* (1676) 965 Plemminius..did capitulate with Lepidus to render up the Town. ¶1580 SIDNEY *Arcadia* iv. (1590) 432 To capitulate what tenements they should have. ¶1602 SEGAR *Hon. Mil. & Civil* iii. xiii. 126 Two gentlemen capitulate to fight on horseback. ¶1715 DE FOE *Hon. & Just.* (1841) 16, I capitulate for so much justice as to explain myself. ¶1818 M. W. SHELLEY *Frankenst.* iv, The man who thus capitulated for his safety.

3. trans. **a.** To make terms about, agree upon the terms of; to formulate, arrange for, conclude. **b.** To make the subject of negotiation. Obs.

¶1593 LODGE *Wm. Longbeard* F ij b, A peace lately capitulated betwixt Dagobert, kinge of France and Grimoald. ¶a1649 CHAS I. *Wks.* 230 He had no Commission..to capitulate anything concerning Religion. ¶1661 WEBSTER *Thracian Wonder* ii. i, How dare you, sir, capitulate the cause?

4. intr. To make terms of surrender; to surrender or yield on stipulated terms, in opposition to surrendering at discretion. The ordinary use; said of a general, force, garrison, fortress, town, etc.

¶1689 LUTTRELL *Brief Rel.* (1857) I. 547 The 12th, the duke of Gourdon beat a parly, and desired to capitulate. ¶1705 *Lond. Gaz.* 4160/3 The Castle of Mittau began to capitulate the 14th instant. ¶1769 ROBERTSON *Chas. V, V. v.* 439 Want of provisions quickly obliged Trevulci to capitulate. ¶1874 BANCROFT *Footpr. Time* iii. 160 Washington..after defending himself one day, capitulates.

¶1714 *Spect.* No. 566 ¶8, I still pursued, and, about two o'clock this afternoon, she thought fit to capitulate. 1841-4 Emerson *Wks.* (Bohn) I. 21, I am ashamed to think how easily we capitulate to badges and names.

b. trans. To surrender upon terms.

¶1847 R. HAMILTON *Rew. & Punishm.* vi. (1853) 264 We cannot capitulate the premises. ¶1870 *Daily Tel.* 22 Sept., The new Minister..seems..disposed to the policy of capitulating France.

Hence **capitulated** ppl. **a. capitulating** vbl. n. and ppl. **a.**

¶1586 J. FERNE *Blaz. Gentry* 331 A Combate capitulated, that is to wit, a Combate, wherin are set downe..diuers Articles or conditions, as to the manner of the battaile. ¶1654 EARL OF ORRERY *Parthenissa* (1676) 281 This

capitulating Traytor. ¶1753 SMOLLETT *Ct. Fathom* (1784) 154/1 He put on his capitulating face.

capricious a.

(kəˈprɪʃəs)

[ad. F. *capricieux*, ad. It. *capriccioso* (= Sp. *caprichoso*): see above. The by-form *caprichious* belongs to the corresp. forms of the n.]

1. Characterized by play of wit or fancy; humorous, fantastic, ‘conceited’. Obs.

¶1594 CAREW *Huarte’s Exam. Wits* 153 (L.) The inventive wits are termed in the Tuscan tongue *capricious* (*capricioso*) for the resemblance they bear to a goat, who takes no pleasure in the open and easy plains, but loves to caper along the hill-tops. ¶1600 SHAKES. *A.Y.L.* iii. iii. 8, I am heere with thee, and thy Goats, as the most capricious Poet honest Ovid was among the Gothes. ¶1710 SHAFTESBURY *Charac.* (1737) III. 142 The capricious Point, and Play of Words.

2. Full of, subject to, or characterized by caprice; guided by whim or fancy rather than by judgement or settled purpose; whimsical, humoursome.

¶1605 CAMDEN *Rem.* 57 A friend of his that knew him to be Caprichious. ¶1644 Eng. *Tears in Harl. Misc.* (Malh.) V. 450 The monstrous exorbitant liberty, that almost every capricious mechanick takes to himself.

¶1753 JOHNSON *Adventurer* No. 111 ¶6 Our estimation of birth is arbitrary and capricious. ¶1833 J. RENNIE *Alph. Angling* 49 We have known the salmon..so capricious as often to prefer a fancy fly. ¶1884 *Law Times Rep.* 10 May 325/1 The defendants’ refusal was not capricious, but a *bonâ fide* exercise of their judgment.

3. transf. Of things: Subject to change or irregularity, so as to appear un-governed by law.

¶1823 LAMB *Elia Ser.* ii. vii. (1865) 283 The capricious hues of the sea, shifting like the colours of a dying mullet. ¶1830 LYELL *Princ. Geol.* (1875) II. ii. xlix. 617 The capricious distribution of coral reefs. ¶1874 HELPS *Soc. Press.* vi. 75 The vicissitudes of a capricious climate. ¶1875 TAIT & STEWART *Unseen Univ.* iv. §118 To give to the atoms a perfectly arbitrary and capricious side movement.

captious a.

(ˈkæpʃəs)

[ad. F. *captieux* or L. *captiōs-us* fallacious, sophistical, f. *captiōn-em* (see *caption* n.).]

1. Apt to catch or take one in; fitted to ensnare or perplex in argument; designed to entrap or entangle by subtlety; fallacious, sophistical.

¶1447 O. BOKENHAM *Seyntys* 7 At Caimbrygge..Where wyttys be manye ryht capcyows And subtyl. ¶1530 PALSGR. 307/1 Capcious, crafty in wordes to take one in a trap, *captieux*. ¶1548 UDALL, etc. *Erasm. Par. Mark* ii. 23 a, Wherefore they went vnto Iesus, & moued vnto hym this capcious question.

¶1677 GALE *Crt. Gentiles* II. iii. 31 Verbal, Captiose, Sophistic Questions.

¶1784 COWPER *Tirocinium* 903 A captious question, sir, and yours is one, Deserves an answer similar, or none. ¶1871 BLACKIE *Four Phases* i. 113 By captious questions to worm answers out of other people.

b. Crafty. Obs.

¶1590 SWINBURN *Testaments* 147 This former kinde of disposition which by reason of the cunning condition appeareth to be made in hope of gaine, and is therefore properlie tearmed captious. ¶1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* 779 Spiders..have given themselves..to captious taking at advantage, watching and espying their prey.

2. Apt to catch at faults or take exception to actions; disposed to find fault, cavil, or raise objections; fault-finding, cavilling, carping.

¶1380 WYCLIF *Serm. Sel. Wks.* II. 13 Pes wordis ben sopeli seid aȝens alle capcious men. ¶1538 COVERDALE *N.T. Prol.*, The world is captious, and many there be that had rather find twenty faults, than to amend one.

¶1561 EDEN tr. *Cortes' Arte de Naviar* Pref. ad fin., Enemies to vertue & captious of other mens doinges. ¶1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* Pref., To cut off all occasions of Cavill from captious persons. ¶1804 *Med. Jrnal.* XII. 359 The objections of the captious. ¶1865 TROLLOPE *Belton Est.* vi. 60 He was captious, making little difficulties, and answering him with petulance.

3. In various nonce-uses. a. Able to take in or contain, capacious. Obs.

¶1601 SHAKES. *All's Well* i. iii. 208 Yet in this captious, and intenible Siue, I still poure in the waters of my loue And lacke not to loose still.

b. Alluring, taking, plausible. Obs.

¶1776 SIR P. FRANCIS in *Mem.* (1867) II. 55 The proposition was captious, and if made at an earlier period, might have been listened to by some of us.

c. humorous. ?

¶1808 W. IRVING *Knickerb.* (1861) 134 Little captious short pipes, two inches in length, which..could be stuck in one corner of the mouth.

carnal a.

(¹ka:nəl)

[ad. L. carnāl-is fleshly (in Tertullian and other Christian writers), and frequent in med.L. as an attribute of relationship, as frater or soror carnalis, brother or sister by blood, in which use it appears in Eng. in 15th c. The theological sense appears equally early, but app. not in Wyclif. The Fr. repr. is charnel: see charnel.]

1. Of or pertaining to the flesh or body; bodily, corporeal. Obs.

¶c1470 HENRY Wallace xi. 1348 Bot Inglissmen him seruit of carnaill fud. ¶1555 in Strype *Eccl. Mem.* III. App. xlv. 125 Look not you for it with carnal eyes. ¶1579 FULKE *Refut. Rastel* 745 The Lutheranes admitte the carnall presence. ¶1658 SIR T. BROWNE *Hydriot.* i. 22 Carnal Interrment or burying. ¶1847 tr. *St. Aug. on Psalm* xlv. III. 240 The Church which coming from the Gentiles did not consent to carnal circumcision.

2. Related 'in blood', 'according to the flesh'.

¶c1450 *Merlin* vii. 117 Noble knyghtes..many of hem carnell frendes. ¶1490 CAXTON *How to Die* 8 His wyf, his chyldren, & his frendes carnall. ¶1509 BARCLAY *Ship of Fooles* (1570) 181 Christ our Sauieur..His carnall mother benignly did honour. ¶1598 HAKLUYT *Voy.* I. 66 Two carnall brothers.

3. Pertaining to the body as the seat of passions or appetites; fleshly, sensual.

¶1400 *Cov. Myst.* (1841) 84 Myghty soferauns of carnal temptacion. ¶1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 148 b, Blynded with sensualite & carnall pleasure. ¶1670 WALTON *Hooker* 33 The visible carnal sins of gluttony and drunkenness, and the like. ¶1829 SOUTHEY *All for Love* iv, To carnal wishes would it [Heaven] turn The mortified intent?

b. Sexual.

¶1450 *Merlin* i. 17 That myght haue childe with-owte carnall knowynge of man. ¶1533 T. WILSON *Rhet.* 25 b, Without wedlocke and carnal copulation. ¶1667 MILTON *P.L.* ix. 1013 That false fruit..Carnal desire inflaming. ¶1686 *Col. Rec. Penn.* I. 176 He was accused of having Carnall Knowledge of his Brother in Law's woman Servant.

4. Not spiritual, in a negative sense; material, temporal, secular. arch.

¶1483 [See CHARNEL]. ¶c1510 BARCLAY *Mirr. Good Mann.* (1570) D ij a, Suche one in carnell troubles can no displeasour finde. ¶1611 BIBLE *Rom.* xv. 27 Their duetie is also to minister vnto them in carnall things. ¶1781 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xxviii. §5 III. 80 Judge whether Martin was supported by the aid of miraculous powers, or of carnal weapons. ¶1839 STONEHOUSE *Axholme* 207 [Wesley] began to doubt the utility, and even the lawfulness of carnal studies.

b. as n. in pl. 'Carnal things', temporal or worldly goods. [Rendering τὰ σαρκικά, or Vulg. carnalia, in *Rom.* xv. 27. 1 *Cor.* ix. 11.] Obs.

¶1607 S. COLLINS *Serm.* (1608) 89 They haue aduanced..the spirtualls of other men, with the loss..of their own carnalls. ¶1625 BURGESS *Pers. Tithes* 10 Euery man..that is made partaker of the Minister's Spirituals, must render Carnals. Ibid. 14 Spirituals doe well deserue carnals.

5. Not spiritual, in a privative sense; unregenerate, unsanctified, worldly.

¶1510 MORE *Picus* Ded., All faithfull people are rather spirituall then carnall. ¶1526 TINDALE *Rom.* vii. 14 The lawe is spirituall, but I am carnall [Wyclif fleischli]. ¶1611 BIBLE *Rom.* viii. 7 The carnall minde is enmitie against God. ¶1667 MILTON *P.L.* xi. 212 Had not doubt And carnal fear that day dimmd Adams eye. ¶1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 494 ¶1 To abstain from all Appearances of Mirth and Pleasantry, which were looked upon as the Marks of a Carnal Mind. ¶1865 MOZLEY *Mirac.* iii. 65 To a carnal imagination an invisible world is a contradiction in terms—another world besides the whole world.

6. Carnivorous; fig. bloody, murderous. Obs.

¶1594 SHAKES. *Rich III*, iv. iv. 56 This carnall curre Preyes on the issue of his mothers body.

7. Comb., as **carnal-minded** adj., **carnal-mindedness**; **carnal securitan** [f. carnal security; sense 5], etc.

¶1664 H. MORE *Antid. Idol.* x. 123 Abusing the credulous and *carnal-minded.

¶1607 HIERON *Wks.* I. 105 This must needes condemne our *carnal mindednesse. ¶1849 HARE *Par. Serm.* (1849) II. 30 Spiritual pride..is apt to settle down into carnalmindedness.

¶1627 BERNARD *Isle of Man* 18 One Mr. Outside, in the inside a *carnall Securitan, a fellow that will come to his Church.

¶1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* ix. 112 A most *carnall-spirituell exposition.

¶1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xii, This *carnal-witted scholar, as he had in his pride termed Butler.

carnivorous a.

(kɑːˈnɪvərəs)

[f. L. *carnivor-us* (f. *carni-* flesh + *-vorus* devouring) + *-ous*.]

1. Eating or feeding on flesh; applied to those animals which naturally prey on other animals, and spec. to the order Carnivora.

¶1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* iv. x, Many there are..which eate no salt at all, as all carnivorous animals. ¶1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* i. 6 In all Flyes, more conspicuously in Carnivorous or Flesh-Flyes. ¶1797 T. BEWICK *Brit. Birds* (1847) I. Introd. 9 Birds may be distinguished, like quadrupeds, into granivorous and carnivorous. ¶1833 MRS. BROWNING *Prometh. Bound, Poems* (1850) I. 187 Zeus's winged hound, The strong carnivorous eagle.

¶1845 DARWIN *Voy. Nat.* i. (1852) 34 The carnivorous beetles or Carabidæ.

¶1879 WALLACE *Australasia* iii. 56 Carnivorous marsupials preying upon the other groups.

2. Bot. Applied to those plants which absorb and digest animal substances as food.

¶1868 *Sci. Opinion* i. 16 The highly interesting carnivorous plants. ¶1878 MCNAB *Bot.* iv. (1883) 95 Some plants..obtain a part of [their nitrogenous food] in a peculiar manner. These are the so-called carnivorous plants.

3. Med. Applied to caustics as destructive of flesh.

¶1881 in *Syd. Soc. Lex.*

Hence **carnivorously** adv., **carnivorousness**.

¶1837 MARRYAT *Dog-Fiend* xxxviii, The sow..was carnivorously inclined.

¶1858 HOGG *Life Shelley* II. 446 He dined carnivorously. ¶1856 *Chamb. Jrnl.* V. 133 Carnivorousness is an aberration of humanity, and a semi-return to the diet of beasts.

carp v.1

(kɑːp)

[Senses 1–3, chiefly in northern poetry (especially in alliterative verse), were probably a. ON. *karpa* to brag; but the later prose senses 4–6 appear to be derived from, or influenced by, L. *carpere* to pluck, fig. to slander, calumniate. The ulterior history of the ON. word is uncertain.]

1. intr. To speak, talk. Obs.

¶a1240 WOHUNGE in *Cott. Hom.* 287 Carpe toward ihesu and seie þise wordes. ¶a1300 *Cursor M.* App. Resurrect. 388 Als þai come narre þe castelle, to-geder car pand. ¶c1400 *Destr. Troy* 829 The Kyng þan full curtesly karpes agayne. ¶1420 *Siege Rouen* 1235 in *Archæol.* XXII. 381 Vnnethe thay myzt brethe or carpe. ¶1470 HARDING *Chron. Proem.* x, Leonell..that wedded..The erles daughter of Vister, as man do Karpe. ¶1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 33/3 To carpe, talke, colloqui, confabulari. ¶1575 TURBERV. *Bk. Falconrie Epil.* Aa iij, To carpe it fine with those that haue no guile.

b. To discourse of, in speech or writing. Obs.

¶1350 *Will. Palerne* 216 þe kowherdes bestes i carped of bi-fore. ¶1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. xxii. 199 Thus conscience of crist and of þe croys carpede. ¶c1425 WYNTOUN *Cron.* iii. Prol. 26 (Jam.) Of thame..Carpe we bot lityl. ¶a1605 MONTGOMERIE *Flyting* 575 Of his conditions to carp for a while.

2. trans. To speak, utter, say, tell. Obs.

¶1350 *Will. Palerne* 503 To karp þe soþe. ¶1393 GOWER *Conf.* III. 325 To carpe Proverbes and demaundes sligh. ¶c1400 *Destr. Troy* 4610 When Calcas his counsell had carpit to the end. ¶1515 *Sc. Field* 73 in *Furniv.* Percy Folio I. 216 Our Knight full [of] courage carpeth these words.

3. intr. To sing or recite (as a minstrel); to sing (as a bird). Obs.

¶c1425 *Thomas of Erceld.* 313 ‘To harpe or carpe, whare~so þou gose, Thomas, þou sall hafe þe chose sothely’: And he saide ‘harpyng kepe I none, For tonge es chefe of mynstralsye’. ¶1515 BARCLAY *Egloges* iv. (1570) C iv/2 In goodly ditie or balade for to carpe. ¶a1528 SKELTON *Agst. comely Coyst.* 13 In his gamut carp he can. ¶c1570 THYNNE *Pride & Lowl.* (1841) 8 Many was the bird did sweetly carpe Among the thornes. ¶1802 LOCHMABEN *Harper* vii. in *Scott Minstr.* Scott. Bord. (1869) 94 Then aye he harped, and aye he carped Till a’ the lordlings footed the floor.

4. Vituperatively: To talk much, to prate, chatter. Cf. *carper*. Obs.

¶1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. x. 69 Clerkes..carpen of god faste, and haue [him] moche in þe mouthe. ¶a1528 SKELTON *Col. Cloute* 549 Some..Clatter & carpe Of that heresy. ¶1530 PALSGR. 476/1, I carpe (Lydgate), Je car-

quette..This is a farre northen verbe. ¶1557 *Praise Maistr. Ryce in Tottel's Misc.* (Arb.) 202 Came Curiousness and carped out of frame.

5. spec. To talk querulously, censoriously, or captiously; to find fault, cavil. (The current sense.) (Certain examples of this before the 16th c. are wanting: the early ones may have merely the sense of 1 with contextual colouring. Cf. carper.)

¶[1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. x. 286 Abasshed To blame yow or to greve, And carpen noght as they carpe now, Ne calle yow dumbe houndes. ¶1401 *Pol. Poems* (1859) II. 77 Thou carapist also of oure coveitise, and sparist the sothe. ¶1515 BARCLAY *Egloges* i. (1570) A j, Some in Satyres against vices dare carpe.] ¶1548 *Soul John-Nobody* in *Strype Cranmer* (1694) App. 139 They will currishly carp. ¶1561 T. NORTON *Calvin's Inst.* i. xiii. (1634) 49 Servetto carpeth, that God did beare the person of an Angell. ¶1655 DIGGES *Compl. Ambass.* 377 The King..carpeth upon the marriage. ¶a1677 BARROW *Serm. Malice of Soc.*, In carping and harshly censuring..their neighbours. ¶1785 BURNS *2nd Ep. Lapraik*, Ne'er grudge an' carp, Tho' fortune use you hard an' sharp. ¶1863 MRS. C. CLARKE *Shaks. Char.* xv. 386 The bulk of society did not assemble to carp and to cavil.

b. Const. at.

¶1586 THYNNE *Contn. Holinshed* Pref., Curiouslie carping at my barrennes in writing. ¶1794 BURKE *Corr.* IV. 235 That faction and malice may not be able to carp at it. ¶1879 M. ARNOLD *Falkland Mixed Ess.* 207 We will not carp at this great writer.

6. trans. To find fault with, reprehend, take exception to. Obs.

¶1550 CRANMER *Sacrament* 100 a, Whiche my saiying diuers ignorant persones..did carpe and reprehende. ¶1582 N. T. (RHEM.) *Luke* vii. marg., The Pharisees did alwaies carpe Christ. ¶1598 R. GRENEWAY *Tacitus Ann.* v. ii. (1622) 117 Couertly carping the Consull Fufius. ¶1605 CAMDEN *Rem.* (1637) 230 Carping whatsoever hath been done or said heretofore. ¶1678 R. BARCLAY *Apol. Quakers* iii. §vii. 87 Our Adversaries shall have nothing from thence to carp.

7. intr. (?) To censure; to judge, discriminate.

¶1591 *Troub. Raigne K. John* (1611) 21 Any one that knoweth how to carpe, Will scarcely iudge us both one countrey borne.

8. (?) To contend, fight. Obs. rare.

¶1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* I. 606 With brandis bricht that scherand wer and scharp So cruellie togidder did tha carp.

Associated with CARK, q.v.

¶1465 *Chevy Chace* ii. 135 Tivydale may carpe off care. ¶1522 *World & Child* in Hazl. *Dodsley* I. 267 Ever he is carping of care. ¶1670 G. H. *Hist. Cardinals* i. ii. 49 Poor drudgeing..Priests that carp and moyl all day long. ¶1702 *Eng. Theophrast.* 312 Carping for the unprofitable goods of this world.

carrion n. (and a.)

(¹kæriən)

[ME. caronye, caroine, a. ONF. ca'ronië, later caroine, caroigne, in central OF. charoigne (mod.F. charogne, and in other sense carogne, Picard carone, carongne) = Pr. caronha, It. carogna, Sp. carroña, pointing to a Romanic type *carōnia, supposed to be a deriv. of caro flesh, but not regularly formed on the stem carn-. The phonetic history of the English β. and δ. forms is obscure.]

A. n.

1. a.A.1.a A dead body; a corpse or carcass. Obs.

¶a1225 *Ancr. R.* 84 Þe bacbitare..bekeð mid his blake bile o cwike charoines as þe þet is þes deofles corbin of helle. ¶1297 R. GLOUC. 265 [They] slowe..ey3te hondred & fourty men, & her caronyes [v.r. caroines] to drowe. ¶a1300 *Cursor M.* 22906 Ded þar gun his [a lion's] caroigne [v.r. carion, caroyne, careyn] li. ¶c1308 POL. *Songs* (1839) 203 A vilir caraing nis ther non. ¶1382 WYCLIF *Hebr.* iii. 17 Whos careyns ben cast down in desert. ¶c1386 CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 1157 The careyne [v.r. careyn, caroyne, karoigne, caroigne] in the busk with throte ycorue. ¶c1440 *Prompt. Parv.* 61 Caranye or careyn, cadaver. ¶1494 FABYAN v. cxxiv. 102 Ye cource of the riuer was let by the multitude of the caryens or dede bodyes. ¶1590 L. LLOYD *Diall Daies* Oct. 51 The raven..returned not, but fed upon the carrens. ¶c1645 HOWELL *Lett.* I. i. xx, Dogs which..eat the Carrens. ¶1718 *Free-thinker* No. 47. 342 The Raven..stay'd to prey upon the Carrions of the Dead. ¶1763 C. JOHNSTON *Reverie* II. 235 They all flocked about him, croaking like so many ravens about a carrion.

b. = Applied to a dead man or corpse that 'walks' or returns to earth. Obs.

¶1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (1840) 143 Blissid Austyn the careyn gan compelle, 'In Jhesu name..What that thu art trewly for to telle'. ¶1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 174/3 Thenne the caryon broughte hym thyder to the graue.

2. a. Dead putrefying flesh of man or beast; flesh unfit for food, from putrefaction or inherently.

¶1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 6544 Po ne vond he atte laste Noȝt of hom bote caroyne. ¶a1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* cxlvi. 10 Pe deuyll..fedis þaim wiþ karyun. ¶c1400 *Destr. Troy* 1972 Caste vnto cures as caren to ete. ¶1430 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* i. vii, Whan a beast is tourned to careine. ¶c1510 MORE *Picus* Wks. 25 Vile carein and wretched wormes meate. ¶1557 NORTH *Gueuara's Diall Pr.* (1619) 698/2 The wormes in carring. ¶1791 WOLCOTT (P. Pindar) *Remonstr.* Wks. 1812 II. 457 Like flies in Carrion. ¶1837 M. DONOVAN *Dom. Econ.* II. 127 The vulture..feeds on putrid carrion.

b. ? = Death. Obs.

¶1387 TREVISA *Higden* iv. xxxiii, Perof cometh tweie manere of careyns, for we beeþ i-slowe wiþ wepoun, oper we beeþ adreent. [Hence 1494 in Fabyan.]

¶1481 CAXTON *Myrr.* i. v. 18 They come the sooner to their ende and to carayne.

3. transf. a. Used (contemptuously) of a living human body; cf. CARCASS (? obs.). **b.** The fleshly nature of man, 'the flesh' in the Pauline sense (obs.).

¶1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. xiv. 331 Ne noyther sherte ne shone..To keure my caroigne. ¶1450 *Knt. de la Tour* xxvii. (1868) 39 To aorne suche a carion as is youre body. ¶1491 CAXTON *Vitas Patr.* (W. de W.) i. xxxv. 31 a, To leue thy careyne and folowe Ihesu Cryste. ¶1549 *Compl. Scotl.* xvii. 154 Our carions ande corporal natur..is baytth vile ande infekkit. ¶1596 SHAKES. *Merch.* V. iii. i. 38 Shy. My owne flesh and blood to rebell. Sol. Out vpon it old carrion, rebels it at these yeeres. ¶1832 H. MARTINEAU *Demerara* ii. 27 Much good may your tender mercies do your carrion.

4. Used (contemptuously) of a living person, as no better than carrion. Obs.

¶1601 SHAKES. *Jul.* C. ii. i. 130 Priests and Cowards, and men Cautelous, Old feeble Carrions. ¶1661 PEPYS *Diary* 15 Sept., Pegg Kite..will be..a troublesome carrion to us executors.

5. Used of animals: sometimes app. in sense 'noxious beast', 'vermin'; sometimes merely 'poor, wretched, or worthless beast'. Obs.

¶1477 EARL RIVERS (Caxton) *Dictes* 142 The euill creatures ben wors than serpentes, lyons or caraynes. ¶1562 J. HEYWOOD *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 119 Daws ar carren. ¶1573 TUSSER *Husb.* xvi. (1878) 35 Let carren & barren be shifted awaie, For best is the best, whatsoever you paie. ¶1634 W. WOOD *New Eng. Prosp.* i. vi, The beasts of offence be Squunckes, Ferrets, Foxes. *Ibid.* i. viii, Having shewed you the most offensive carrions that belong to our Wildernesse. ¶a1639 W. WHATELY *Prototypes* i. xix. (1640) 227 They [dogs and monkeys] be paltry carrions.

6. fig. Anything vile or corrupt; †corrupt mass; ‘garbage’, ‘filth’.

¶1524 S. FISH *Supplic. Begg.* 18 Declaring suche an horrible carayn of eu-
yll against the ministres of iniquite. ¶1597 *1st Pt. Return Parnass.* v. i. 1455,
I woulde prove it upon that carrion of thy witt. ¶1845 CARLYLE *Cromwell*
(1873) I. 21 Flunkyism, falsity and other carrion ought to be buried! ¶1870
EMERSON *Soc. & Sol.*, *Courage Wks.* (Bohn) III. 113 Melancholy sceptics
with a taste for carrion, who batten on the hideous facts in history. ¶1879
FROUDE *Cæsar* xxiii. 402 note, Roman fashionable society hated Cæsar, and
any carrion was welcome to them which would taint his reputation.

B. attrib. passing into adj.

1. a. Consisting of, or pertaining to, corrupting flesh. (Usually with some
notion of contempt.)

¶a1535 MORE *De quat. Noviss.* Wks. 101 No man findeth fault, but car-
rieth his carien corse into ye quere, and..burieth ye body boldly at the hie al-
ter. ¶1583 STANYHURST *Æneis* iii. (Arb.) 77 A stincking Foule carrayne
sauoure. ¶c1613 ROWLANDS *More Knaves* 30 Some carion beast, Whereon
the Rauens and the crowes doe feast. ¶1860 PUSEY *Min. Proph.* 454 The
carrion-remains should be entombed only in the bowels of vultures and dogs.

b. As an epithet of Death personified; also of Charon. Obs.

¶1566 W. ADLINGTON *Apuleius* 62 Deliver to carraine Charon one of
the halfepens, which thou bearest, for thy passage. ¶1587 *Mirr. Mag. Q.*
Cordila xlvii. 4 By hir elbowe carian death for me did watch. ¶1576 *Parad.*
Daynty Dev. (N.) Seeing no man then can death escape..We ought not feare
his carraine shape. ¶1596 SHAKES. *Merch.* V. ii. vii. 63 A carrion death,
Within whose emptie eye there is a written scroule.

2. Applied in contempt to the living human body, as no better than carrion
(cf. 3).

¶1537 *Surr. Northampton Priory in Prance Addit. Narr. Pop. Plot* (1679)
36 In continual ingurgitations and farcyngs of our carayne Bodies. ¶1563
Homilies ii. Excess Appar. (1859) 316 Why pamperest thou that carreyne flesh
so hye? ¶1577 STANYHURST *Desc. Irel.* in *Holinshed* VI. 14 By the im-
balming of their carian soules with the sweet and sacred flowers of holie writ.

¶1606 SHAKES. *Tr. & Cr.* iv. i. 71 For euery scruple Of her contaminated
carrion weight.

3. a. Carrion-lean, skeleton-like. Obs. b. Rotten; vile, loathsome; expressing
disgust.

¶1565 HARDING *Confut. Apol.*, Ye will haue your spiritual Bankets so leane and Carrien. ¶1580 HOLLYBAND *Treas. Fr. Tong.*, Eslance, as chevaux eslancez, carren horses. ¶1645–6 Evelyn *Diary* 28 Jan., My base, unlucky, stiffnecked trotting carrion mule. ¶1653 H. COGAN *Pinto's Trav.* xxii. §3. 79 Mounted on horses, or to say better, on lean carrion Tits that were nothing but skin and bone. ¶1826 in Cobbett *Rur. Rides* (1885) II. 82 The foul, the stinking, the carrion baseness, of the fellows that call themselves 'country gentlemen'. ¶1867 *N. & Q. Ser. iii.* XI. 32/2 Then she called me all sorts o' carrion names.

C. Comb. **a.** attributive with sense 'having to do with, feeding on carrion', as carrion-bird, carrion-chafer, carrion-fly, carrion-hawk, carrion-kite, carrion-raven, carrion-vulture; **b.C.b** objective and instrumental, as carrion-feeder, carrion-nosing ppl. adj., carrion-strewn pa. pple.; **c.C.c** similitive, as carrion-like adj. or adv., carrion-scented ppl. adj. Also carrion-beetle, any beetle of the family Silphidæ, which feed on carrion; carrion-flower, a name for the genus *Stapelia*, also for *Smilax herbacea*, from the scent of their blossoms; †carrion-lean a., lean as a wasting corpse or skeleton; fig. meagre, very deficient; †carrion-row, a place where inferior meat or offal was sold. Also carrion crow.

¶1817 KIRBY & SPENCE *Entomol.* II. xxi. 242 Those unclean feeders, the *carrion beetles (*Silphæ*, L.)..are at the same time very fetid. ¶1959 E. F. LINSEN *Beetles* I. 159 Burying beetles, carrion beetles, rove beetles, etc.

¶1839 THIRLWALL *Greece* III. 137 Neither dogs, nor *carrion-birds, would touch them..so long as the pestilence lasted.

¶1816 KIRBY & Sp. *Entomol.* (1828) II. xxiv. 386 The *carrion-chafers, and others of the lamellicorn beetles.

¶1855 J. F. W. JOHNSTON *Chem. Com. Life* I. 332 The *Stapelias* are called *carrion-flowers because of the disagreeable putrid odours they exhale.

¶1852 THOREAU *Summer* (1884) 1/23 The *Smilax herbacea*, carrion flower, a rank green vine..It smells exactly like a dead rat in the wall, and apparently attracts flies like carrion.

¶1787 BEST *Angling* (ed. 2) 114 The Oak, Ask, Woodcock, *Carion or Down hill fly comes on about the sixteenth of May. ¶1796 WOLCOTT (P. Pindar) *Sat. Wks.* 1812 III. 395 Court-sycophants, the Carrion-flies. ¶1861 HULME tr. *Moquin-Tandon* ii. iv. i. 241 Larvæ of the carrion fly.

¶1581 T. HOWELL *Deuises* (1879) 234 Art thou so fond, with *carren kyte to haunt.

- ¶1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apophth.* 245 b, Because it was so *caren leane.
 ¶1554 J. PROCTER tr. *Vincentius* To Rdr., How owgle and carrion-lean ye are to se. ¶1581 J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Osor.* 135 So carrion leane in the knowledge of Scriptures. ¶1602 W. FULBECKE *1st Pt. Parall.* 74 It is better to haue a declaration too copious then carion-leane. ¶1710 *Brit. Apollo* III. 18. 2/1 He is so Carrion-lean.
 ¶1620 VENNER *Via Recta* viii. 189 It maketh them *carran~like leane.
 ¶1878 TENNYSON *Q. Mary* iv. iii. 171 The *carrion-nosing mongrel.
 ¶1589 COOPER *Admon.* 140 As *carren Rauens flye..to stinking carcasses.
 ¶1728 SWIFT *Answ. Memorial Wks.* 1755 V. II. 173 The district in the several markets, called *carrion-row.
 ¶1829 SCOTT *Anne of G.* ii, The huge *carrion vulture floated past him.

castigate v.

('kæstigent)

[f. L. *castīgāt-* ppl. stem of *castīgā-re* to chastise, correct, reprove (f. *castus* pure, chaste) + *-ate*³. See *chastise*.]

1. trans. To chastise, correct, inflict corrective punishment on; to subdue by punishment or discipline, to chasten; now usually, to punish or rebuke severely.

¶1607 SHAKES. *Timon* iv. iii. 240 If thou didst put this soure cold habit on To castigate thy pride, 'twere well. ¶1665 GLANVILL *Sceps. Sci.* 167 He..that cannot castigate his passions. ¶1865 MOZLEY *Mirac.* vii. 291 It has only..castigated and educated the belief, and not destroyed it. ¶1873 H. SPENCER *Stud. Sociol.* vii. 170 Daily we castigate the political idol with a hundred pens. ¶1878 S. COX *Salv. Mundi* vi. (ed. 3) 142 Discipline by which they should be castigated for their sins.

2. To correct, revise, and emend (a literary work).

¶1666 EVELYN *Mem.* (1857) III. 190 Seneca's tragedies..have..been castigated abroad by several learned hands. ¶1742 BENTLEY *Lett.* 237 He had adjusted and castigated the then Latin Vulgate to the best Greek exemplars.

3. transf. To chasten or subdue (in intensity).

¶1653 H. MORE *Conject. Cabbal.* (1713) 174 Morning is..a parcel of that full Day which was first created, and is castigated and mitigated by its conjunction with the dark Matter into a moderate Matutine Splendour. ¶1662

GLANVILL *Lux Orient.* xiv. (T.) Being so castigated, they are duly attempered to the more easy body of air again. ¶1669 W. SIMPSON *Hydrol. Chym.* 112 If the narcotick Sulphur was castigated.

Hence **castigated** ppl. a., chastened.

¶1728 YOUNG *Love Fame* v. (1757) 136 The modest look, the castigated grace. ¶1784 J. BARRY *Lect. Art* vi. (1848) 228 This happily castigated style of design. ¶1787 BURNS *Unco Guid* iv, When your castigated pulse Gies now and then a wallop.

casuistry *n.*

(ˈkæzjuːɪstri, ˈkæz(j)uː-)

[f. casuist + -ry. App. at first contemptuous = ‘the casuist’s trade’; cf. sophistry, Jesuitry, foolery. A term of more respectful application would prob. have been casuism: Fr. has la casuistique, as if ‘casuistics’.]

1. The science, art, or reasoning of the casuist; that part of Ethics which resolves cases of conscience, applying the general rules of religion and morality to particular instances in which ‘circumstances alter cases’, or in which there appears to be a conflict of duties. Often (and perhaps originally) applied to a quibbling or evasive way of dealing with difficult cases of duty; sophistry.

¶1725 POPE *Rape Lock* v. 122 Cages for gnats..and tomes of casuistry. ¶1736 BOLINGBROKE *Patriot*. (1749) 170 Casuistry..destroys, by distinctions and exceptions, all morality, and effaces the essential difference between right and wrong. ¶1836 PENNY *Cycl.* VI. 359 The science of casuistry..has been termed not inaptly the ‘art of quibbling with God’. ¶1841 EMERSON *Lect. the Times Wks.* (Bohn) II. 254 The Temperance-question..is a gymnastic training to the casuistry and conscience of the time. ¶1862 MILL *Utilit.* 37 Self-deception and dishonest casuistry. ¶1887 FOWLER *Princ. Morals* ii. vi. 247 Granted that duties may clash, or that general rules may be modified by special circumstances, it is surely most important to determine beforehand, as far as we can, what those circumstances are, and, in the case of clashing duties, which should yield to the other. Now this, and this alone, is the task which ‘Casuistry’ or the attempt to ‘resolve cases of conscience’ proposes to itself.

2. A register or record of (medical) cases.

¶1883 J. W. LEGG in *Barthol. Hosp. Rep.* XIX. 202 Nor can I find any similar case in the casuistry of pemphigus as recorded in the year-books.

cataclysm n.

('kætəklɪz(ə)m)

[a. F. cataclysm (16th c. in Littré), ad. Gr. κατακλυσμός deluge (also fig.), f. κατα-κλύζειν to deluge, f. κατά down + κλύζ-ειν to wash, dash as a wave.]

1. A great and general flood of water, a deluge; esp. the Noachian deluge, the Flood. In Geol. resorted to by some as a hypothesis to account for various phenomena; hence used vaguely for a sudden convulsion or alteration of physical conditions.

¶1637 HEYWOOD *Roy. Ship* 3 More soules..then perisht in the first Vniversall Cataclisme. ¶1660 R. COKE *Power & Subj.* 91 Mankind sinned Maliciously, before God brought the general cataclysm upon them. ¶1833 LYELL *Princ. Geol.* III. 101 For the proofs of these general cataclysms we have searched in vain. ¶1878 H. M. STANLEY *Dark Cont.* II. ii. 52 The accumulated waters..will sweep through the ancient gap with the force of a cataclysm. ¶1879 tr. *Haeckel's Evol. Man* I. iv. 77 The hypothesis usually called the Theory of Cataclysms or Catastrophes.

2. fig.; esp. a political or social upheaval which sweeps away the old order of things.

¶1633 *True Trojans* ii. 1 in Hazl. Dodsley XII. 468 Ready to pour down cataclysms of blood. ¶1633 T. ADAMS *Exp.* 2 *Peter* ii. 6 Heaven rained on them great cataclysms of flames. ¶1861 *Sat. Rev.* 20 July 67 That the Indian army surgeons will be swept away in the general cataclysm. ¶1882 J. H. BLUNT *Ref. Ch. Eng.* II. 108 In the general upheaval of doctrine..during the Reformation cataclysm.

catharsis Med.

(kə'taɪsɪs)

[mod.L., a. Gr. κάθαρσις cleansing, purging, f. καθαίρειν to cleanse, purge, f. καθάρος clean.]

a. Purgation of the excrements of the body; esp. evacuation of the bowels.

¶1803 *Med. Jrnal.* IX. 418 Causing vomiting, catharsis, or diabetes. ¶1875 H. WOOD *Therap.* (1879) 449 The production of catharsis is the surest mode of relief in general dropsy.

b. The purification of the emotions by vicarious experience, esp. through the drama (in reference to Aristotle's *Poetics* 6). Also more widely.

[§1867 J. A. SYMONDS *Let.* 22 Aug. (1967) I. 751 The world desiderates now..a trilogy, whereof the whole third part shall exhibit ‘the height, the space, the gloom, the glory’, of ultimate final and perfect κάθαρσις.] §1872 G. S. MORRIS tr. *Ueberweg’s Hist. Phil.* I. i. 179 Aristotle can not have meant..to exclude from among the effect of the Tragedy, its effect as..ethical discipline. With the ‘Catharsis’..are..joined..the other effects of the same,—the latter effects flow from the ‘Catharsis’. §1897 COSTELLOE & MUIR tr. *Zeller’s Philos. Greeks* II. xv. 311/2 According to Aristotle there is a kind of music which produces a catharsis, although it possesses no ethical value..—namely, exciting music. §1904 DOWDEN *Browning* 289 Balaustion, stricken at heart, yet feels that this tragedy of Athens brings the tragic katharsis. §1920 D. H. LAWRENCE *Touch & Go* iii. i. 72 It’s a cleansing process—like Aristotle’s Katharsis. We shall hate ourselves clean at last, I suppose. §1924 L. COOPER *Aristotelian Theory Com.* 180 Aristotle..would recognize some sort of catharsis, and the resultant pleasure, to be the proper end of comedy. §1924 W. B. SELBIE *Psychol. Relig.* 159 There may..be cases where experiences of this kind produce a moral catharsis which has good results. §1959 *Chamber’s Encycl.* I. 592/1 The word catharsis (purgation), in which he [sc. Aristotle] summed up the emotional effect of tragedy, has also received much fanciful interpretation; in reality it is a medical term, with no directly moral or spiritual implications.

c. Psychotherapy. The process of relieving an abnormal excitement by re-establishing the association of the emotion with the memory or idea of the event which was the first cause of it, and of eliminating it by abreaction.

§1909 A. A. BRILL in *Freud’s Sel. Papers Hysteria* 6 The German abreaction..has different shades of meaning, from defense reaction to emotional catharsis. §1951 J. C. FLUGEL *Hundred Years Psychol.* (ed. 2) viii. 280 The mere bringing back and discussing of memories..which Freud and Breuer called subsequently ‘abreaction’ or ‘catharsis’.

catholic a. and n.

(ˈkæθəlɪk)

[a. F. catholique (13th c. in Littré) ad. late L. catholic-us, a. Gr. καθολικός general, universal, f. καθόλου (i.e. καθ’ ὅλου) on the whole, in general, as a whole, generally, universally, f. κατά concerning, in respect of, according to + ὅλος whole. (If immed. derived from L. or Gr., the Eng. word would, according to the regular analogy of words in -ic, have been accented ca’t’holic).]

A. adj. In non-ecclesiastical use.

1. gen. Universal.

¶1551 T. WILSON *Logike* 1 b, Catholike being a greeke word signifieth nothing in English but universall or common. ¶1613 R. C. *Table Alph.* (ed. 3) Catholicke, vniuersall or generall. ¶1660 N. INGELÖ *Bentiv. & Ur.* (1682) 11, The Indisputable Commands of a Catholick Dictator in knowledge. ¶1885 *Times* (weekly ed.) 11 Sept. 7/1 Science is truly catholic, and is bounded only by the universe.

2. In specific uses: a.A.I.2.a Universally prevalent: said e.g. of substances, actions, laws, principles, customs, conditions, etc. Obs.

¶1561 T. NORTON *Calvin's Inst.* iii. 248 This is to be holden for a catholike principle. ¶1615 CROOKE *Body of Man* 418 It is a Catholicke principle, Euery thing is preserued and refreshed with his like. ¶1657 S. PURCHAS *Pol. Flying-Ins.* 95 This is a common, but no catholique custome [among bees] for I have often observed the contrary. ¶1660 SHARROCK *Vegetables* 79 The universal and catholick order of all bulbous plants, is..that about St. James' tyde they be taken out of the ground. ¶1662 STILLINGFL. *Orig. Sacr.* iii. ii. §14 The Catholick Laws of nature which appear in the world. 1665–6 *Phil. Trans.* I. 192 All Bodies are made of one Catholick matter common to them all. ¶1675 EVELYN *Terra* (1729) 10 There is but one Catholic homogeneous, fluid matter. ¶1692 BENTLEY *Boyle Lect.* 112 This Catholick Principle of Gravitation. ¶1696 EDWARDS *Exist. & Provid. God* i. 3 A great proof of the catholick degeneracy of this present age.

b. Universally applicable or efficient; spec. of medicines, remedies. Obs.

¶1612 WOODALL *Surg. Mate Wks.* (1653) 43 It hath the prime place, for a Catholick medicine in exulcerations. ¶1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* ii. v. i. v. (1651) 393 There is no Catholike medicine to be had: that which helps one is pernicious to another. ¶1658 A. FOX *Wurtz' Surg.* iv. ii. 309 A Catholick Plaister, used for all wounds and stabs. ¶1671 SALMON *Syn. Med.* iii. xlix. 559 A noble Extract, and a catholick purge. ¶1691 RAY *Creation* i. (1704) 115 Fire..which is the only Catholick Dissolvent. ¶1693 SLARE in *Phil. Trans.* XVII. 906 Tho' Spirit of Wine be a very Catholic Menstruum. ¶1713 *Lond. & Country Brew.* iv. (1743) 261 [Water] is the only Catholick Nourishment of all Vegetables, Animals, and Minerals. ¶1752 HUME *Ess.* (1777) II. 11 Accurate and just reasoning is the only Catholic remedy.

c. More loosely: Common, prevalent. Obs.

¶1607 DEKKER *Northw. Hoe* v. Wks. 1873 III. 74 What is more catholick i' the city than for husbands daily for to forgive the nightly sins of their bed-fellows? ¶1631 MASSINGER *Emper. of East* iv. iv, The pox, sir..Is the more catholic sickness. ¶1660 SHARROCK *Vegetables* 130 Hot beds are the most general and catholick help.

d. Entire, without exception. Obs.

¶1664 EVELYN *Sylva* 19 Deep interrings of Roots is amongst the Catholick Mistakes. ¶1671 DRYDEN *Even. Love* iv. i, Alon. And, how fares my Son-in-law that lives there? Mel. In Catholick Health, Sir.

3. In current use: **a.** Of universal human interest or use; touching the needs, interests, or sympathies of all men.

¶a1631 DONNE *Serm.* lxvi. (1640) So are there some..Catholique, universal Psalmes, that apply themselves to all necessities. ¶1704 SWIFT *Mech. Operat. Spirit* (1711) 279 All my Writings..for universal Nature, and Mankind in general. And of such Catholick Use I esteem this present Disquisition. ¶1838–9 HALLAM *Hist. Lit.* iii. v. §4 Catholic poetry, by which I mean that which is good in all ages and countries. ¶1844 EMERSON *Lect. New Eng. Ref.* Wks. (Bohn) I. 264 A grand phalanx of the best of the human race, banded for some catholic object. ¶1867 FROUDE *Short Stud.* 363 What was of catholic rather than national interest.

b. Having sympathies with, or embracing, all: said of men, their feelings, tastes, etc.; also fig. of things. (Closely connected with 8.)

¶1586 BRIGHT *Melanch.* iv. 16 The stomach becommeth the most Catholicke part in all the bodie, carying a more indifferent affection to what soever is receiued then anie part beside. ¶1620 J. PARKINSON *Paradisus* xxvi. 215 Such as are Catholicke obseruers of all natures store. ¶1817 COLERIDGE *Biog. Lit.* I. iv. 73 Others more catholic in their taste. ¶1833 LAMB *Elia, Books & Read.*, I bless my stars for a taste so catholic, so unexcluding. ¶1851 CARLYLE *Sterling* i. iv. (1872) 31 Of these two Universities, Cambridge is decidedly the more catholic (not Roman catholic, but Human catholic). ¶1878 STEVENSON *Inland Voy.*, On these different manifestations, the sun poured its clear and catholic looks. ¶1879 TOURGEE *Fool's Err.* xxxviii. 271 A man of unusually broad and catholic feeling.

4. Catholic Epistle: a name originally given to the 'general' epistles of James, Peter, and Jude, and the first of John, as not being addressed to particular churches or persons. The second and third epistles of John are now conventionally included among the number. It is not certain that this was the orig-

inal sense of ἐπιστολὴ καθολικὴ, since some early writers appear to use it in the sense 'genuine and accepted' (see canonical): but the attribute has been understood in the sense 'encyclical' or 'general' since the 10th or 11th c.

¶1582 N. T. (RHEM.) *James* (heading) The Catholic Epistle of St. James the apostle. ¶1725 tr. *Dupin's Eccl. Hist.* I. v. 69 The Encyclick, Circular, or Catholick Letters, were address'd to all Churches, or to all the Faithful.

¶1855 WESTCOTT *Canon N.T.* (1881) 395 It may be inferred that the seven Catholic Epistles were formed into a collection at the close of the third century.

II. In ecclesiastical use.

The earlier history of this lies outside English, and may be found in such works as Smith's Dict. Christian Antiq. or in Lightfoot's Ignatius I. 398–400, 605–607; II. 310–312. Ἡ καθολικὴ ἐκκλησία 'the catholic church' or 'church universal', was first applied to the whole body of believers as distinguished from an individual congregation or 'particular body of Christians'. But to the primary idea of extension 'the ideas of doctrine and unity' were super-added; and so the term came to connote the Church first as orthodox, in opposition to heretics, next as one historically, in opposition to schismatics. Out of this widest qualitative sense arose a variety of subordinate senses; it was applied to the faith the Church held, to particular communities or even individual members belonging to it, and especially in the East, to cathedrals as distinguished from parish churches, then later to parish churches as opposed to oratories or monastic chapels. After the separation of East and West 'Catholic' was assumed as its descriptive epithet by the Western or Latin Church, as 'Orthodox' was by the Eastern or Greek. At the Reformation the term 'Catholic' was claimed as its exclusive right by the body remaining under the Roman obedience, in opposition to the 'Protestant' or 'Reformed' National Churches. These, however, also retained the term, giving it, for the most part, a wider and more ideal or absolute sense, as the attribute of no single community, but only of the whole communion of the saved and saintly in all churches and ages. In England, it was claimed that the Church, even as Reformed, was the national branch of the 'Catholic Church' in its proper historical sense. As a consequence, in order to distinguish the unreformed Latin Church, its chosen epithet of 'Catholic' was further qualified by 'Roman'; but see sense 7. On this analogy Anglo-Catholic has been used by some, since about 1835, of the Anglican Church.

5. Catholic Church, Church Catholic: the Church universal, the whole body of Christians.

¶1559 *Injunctions by Queens Majestie* D iv, Ye shall praye for Christes holy

Chatholique church, that is, for the whole congregation of Christian people, dispersed throughout the whole worlde, and specially for the Church of England and Irelande. ¶1560–61 *Scotch Conf. Faith* xvi, Whiche Kirk is Catholick, that is universall, becaus it conteanes the Elect of all aiges, all realmes, nationis, and tounge, be thai of the Jewis or be thai of the Gentiles, who have communioun and societie with God the Father, and with his Sone Christ Jesus. ¶1630 PRYNNE *Anti-Armin.* 129 There is a holy Catholicke Church, to wit, the whole company of Gods Elect. ¶1645 USSHER *Body Div.* (1647) 187 The Catholick Church, that is, God's whole or universall Assembly. ¶1651 BAXTER *Inf. Bapt.* 304, I hope this learned man doth not take the particular Romane Church, for the Catholick Church. ¶1685 KEN *Ch. Catech.*, 'Holy Cath. Ch.' ¶1839 J. YEOWELL *Anc. Brit. Ch.* xi. (1847) 110 As members of the church catholic. Mod. In this sense many accept the article of the Creed, 'I believe in the holy catholic church.'

b. Of or belonging to the church universal, universal Christian.

¶1579 FULKE *Heskins' Parl.* 94 He can neuer prooue his reseruacion to be catholike or vniversally allowed and practised of the Church. ¶1651 C. CARTWRIGHT *Cert. Relig.* i. 10 That Church whose Doctrine is most Catholick and universall must be the Catholick Church. ¶1657 CROMWELL *Sp.* 3 Apr., Such a Catholic interest of the people of God. ¶1777 FLETCHER *Reconcil.* Wks. 1795 IV. 211 A great friend to a catholic gospel. ¶1807 KNOX & JEBB *Corr.* I. 370 A catholic liturgy must be formed on a catholic plan; that is, from a harmony of those dispersed and vital truths, which in different ages, different countries, and different churches, were popularly, and effectually embodied, in established liturgies. ¶1882 FARRAR *Early Chr.* I. 250 Christianity in all Churches was, and ever must be, in its essence Catholic—one and indivisible.

6. a. As an epithet, applied to the Ancient Church, as it existed undivided, prior to the separation of East and West, and of a church or churches standing in historical continuity therewith, and claiming to be identical with it in doctrine, discipline, orders, and sacraments. (a) After the separation, assumed by the Western or Latin Church, and so commonly applied historically. (b) After the Reformation in the 16th c. claimed as its exclusive title by that part of the Western Church which remained under the Roman obedience (see 7); but (c) held by Anglicans not to be so limited, but to include the Church of England, as the proper continuation in England, alike of the Ancient and the Western Church.

(Whatever the application, the implied sense is 'the Church or Churches

which now truly represent the ancient undivided Church of Christendom.')

¶1532 MORE *Confut. Tindale* Wks. 690/1 The very name he sayth of catholike, yt is to sai vniuersal, gaue to ward ye getting of hys credence ye catholike church gret autoritye. ¶1534 ABP. LEE in *Lingard Hist. Eng.* (1855) V. i. 18/1 note, So that..the unitie of the faiethe and of the Catholique Chyrche [be] saved. ¶1552 ABP. HAMILTON *Catech.* (1884) 47 Quhilk catholike kirk is trewly represented in all general counsellis. ¶1651 HOBBS *Leviath.* Wks. 1839 III. 517 The Christians of that time [before Constantine], except a few, in respect of whose paucity the rest were called the Catholic Church and others heretics. ¶c1670 JER. TAYLOR *Duty of Clergy* ii. 4 The Catholic Church hath been too much and too soon divided..but in things simply necessary, God hath preserved us still unbroken: all nations and all ages recite the Creed..and all Churches have been governed by Bishops. ¶1704 NELSON *Fest. & Fasts* vii. (1739) 538 The ancientest Fathers of the Catholick Church.

¶1834 *Tracts for Times* No. 61, We [English Church] are a branch of the Church Catholic. ¶1854 HOOK *Ch. Dict.* s.v. Creed, There are three creeds recognized by the catholic church. Ibid. s.v. Tradition, The great deference paid by the Church of England as a branch of the Catholic Church to tradition. ¶1866 LD. ROMILLY in *Law Rep.* 3 Eq. 29 The Catholic Church of Christ, of which the Church of England is a branch. ¶1872 FREEMAN *Gen. Sketch* vi. 111 The people of the Oriental provinces..putting forth or adopting doctrines which the Catholic Church, both of the Old and of the New Rome, looked on as heretical.

b. Hence, Of or belonging to this Church; of the true apostolic Church, orthodox: (a) Of belief, doctrine, etc.

¶c1500 *Melusine* (1888) 31 My byleue is as a Catholique byleue oughte for to be. ¶a1556 CRANMER *Wks.* (1844) I. 9 An explication and assertion of the true catholic faith in the matter of the sacrament. ¶1549 *Bk. Com. Prayer*, Athan. Crede, And the Catholike faithe is this: That we worship one God in trinitie, and trinitie in unitie. ¶1634 HABINGTON *Castara* (Arb.) 112 The Catholique faith is the foundation on which he erects Religion. ¶1840 *Tracts for Times* No. 85 vi, The Catholic or Church system of doctrine and worship. ¶1854 HOOK *Ch. Dict.* s.v. Image worship, Protesting against Roman corruptions of the Catholic Faith.

(b) Of persons: Holding the faith of this Church; rightly believing, orthodox. (This and sense a appear to be the earliest uses in English. The n. is in 1425.)

¶1500 *Melusine* (1888) 32 A man very catholique & of good feith. ¶1531 ELYOT *Govt.* iii. xxiii, Wherein no good catholyke man wyll any thyng

doute, though they be meruaylous. ¶1552 HULOET, Catholyke or perfect Christian, orthodoxus. ¶1854 HOOK *Ch. Dict.* s.v., In ecclesiastical history..a catholic Christian denotes an orthodox Christian. ¶1881 FREEMAN *Hist. Geog. Eur.* I. iv. 101 The lands ruled either by the Catholic Frank or by the Arian Goth.

(c) Of the writers, fathers, or antiquity, of the ancient undivided church, or accepted by the orthodox historical church.

¶1548 UDALL, etc. *Erasm. Par.* Pref. 14 Whatsoever in any catholike wryter is conteyned. ¶1593 BILSON *Govt. Christ's Ch.* xi, What Presbytery the primitiue Churches and Catholike fathers did acknowledge.

¶1842 *Tracts for Times* No. 86 v. §3 What is popularity when it is opposed to Catholic Antiquity?

(d) Of a particular body: Forming part of, or in communion with, this church. (Cf. Anglo-Catholic.)

¶1833 CRUSE *Eusebius* vi. xliii. 265 One bishop in a catholic church.

¶1854 HOOK *Ch. Dict.* s.v. Lights, We of the Anglo-Catholic Church. *Ibid.* s.v. Catholic, A Catholic Church means a branch of this one great society, as the Church of England is said to be a Catholic Church: the Catholic Church includes all the Churches in the world under their legitimate Bishops.

7. As applied (since the Reformation) to the Church of Rome (*Ecclesia apostolica catholica Romana*) = Roman Catholic, q.v. (Opposed to Protestant, Reformed, Evangelical, Lutheran, Calvinistic, etc.)

Roman Catholic is the designation known to English law; but 'Catholic' is that in ordinary use on the continent of Europe, especially in the Latin countries; hence historians frequently contrast 'Catholic' and 'Protestant', especially in reference to the continent; and, in familiar non-controversial use, 'Catholic' is often said instead of Roman Catholic.

¶1554 (MARCH) Q. *Mary's Injunct.* in Wilkins *Concilia* (1737) IV. 90

To remove them, and place catholic men in their rooms. ¶1555 J. BRADFORD in Foxe *A. & M.* (1583) 1647 This Latine seruice is a playne marke of anti~christs Catholike Synagoge. ¶1563 *Ibid.* 1844 The Catholike prelates of the Popes band.

¶1588 ALLEN *Admon.* in Lingard *Hist. Eng.* (1855) VI. 358 She [Q. Eliz.] hath abolished the Catholic religion. ¶1602 CAREW *Cornwall* 71 a, A matter practised..as well by the reformed as Catholike Switzers.

¶1620 FR. HUNT (*title*), Appeal to the King, proving that our Saviour was Author of the Catholic Roman Faith. ¶1622 RUSHW. *Hist. Coll.* (1659) I. 287 His Majesties Roman Catholick-Subjects.

¶1660 R. COKE *Power & Subj.* 215 If the Pope would be Head of the Catholique Church, the King

would be Head of the Church of England. ¶1790 BURKE *Fr. Rev. Wks.* V. 60 Whether..the catholick heir [gave way] when the protestant was preferred. ¶1845 S. AUSTIN *Ranke's Hist. Ref.* II. 513 What was begun by the evangelical governments, was carried on in an analogous manner by the catholic. ¶1845 BRIGHT *Sp. Maynooth Grant* 16 Apr., A Protestant soldiery, who, at the beck and command of a Protestant priest, have butchered and killed a Catholic peasant. ¶1872 FREEMAN *Gen. Sketch* xiii. 252 That the government of each German state might set up which religion it pleased, Catholic or Protestant. ¶1873 MORLEY *Rousseau* I. 229 A Catholic country like France.

b. Catholic Seat: = apostolic See. Obs.

In ancient times the καθολικοὶ θρόνοι or catholic sees, were those of Rome, Alexandria, Antioch, and Jerusalem.

¶1563 FOXE A. & M. (1583) 798 The proud, cruell, and bloudy rage of the Catholique Seat.

c. Catholic King, his Catholic Majesty: a title given to the kings of Spain.

(In much earlier times the title belonged to the kings of France, Pipin being so called a.d. 767.)

¶1555 EDEN *Decades W. Ind. To Rdr.* (Arb.) 50 By the moste catholyke & puissaunt kynge Ferdinando. Ibid. 288 Wheruppon I wente into Spayne to the Catholyke kynge. ¶1588 ALLEN (*title*), Admonition to the Nobility and People of England..by the high and mightie kinge Catholike of Spaine. ¶1627 SANDERSON *Serm.* I. 281 He that..hath better title to the stile of most catholick king than any that ever yet bare it..I mean the devil, the prince of this world. ¶1636 MASSINGER *Bashf. Lover* iv. i. ¶1704 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3987/3 To wait upon his Catholick Majesty. ¶1725 DE FOE *Voy. round W.* (1840) 280 Does not his Catholic majesty claim a title to the possession of it?

d. See also B.

8. Recognizing, or having sympathies with, all Christians; broadly charitable in religious matters. (Cf. 3 b. which differs only in not being restricted to things ecclesiastical or religious.)

¶1658 BAXTER in H. Rogers *J. Howe* iii. (1863) 59 The Lord Protector is noted as a man of a catholic spirit, desirous of the unity and peace of all the servants of Christ. ¶1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* (1840) II. vii. 158 If such a temper was universal, we might be all Catholic Christians, whatever church or particular profession we joined to, or joined in. ¶1734 WATTS *Reliq. Juv.* (1789) 155 To see all the disciples of Christ grown up into such a catholic spirit,

as to be ready to worship God their common Father..in the same assembly.

¶1874 BLACKIE *Self-Cult.* 80 A spirit of deep and catholic piety.

9. transf. Orthodox (applied e.g. to orthodox Muslims). Obs.

¶1613 PURCHAS *Pilgr.* vii. vii. 575 They are not all Catholike Mahumetans.

¶1625 *Pilgrimes* vi. i. §3 By some they are accounted Catholique or true Mahumetans, and by others they are holden for heretiks.

10. Catholic (and) Apostolic Church: the religious body otherwise called Irvingites. (See quotes. 1861, 1867.)

[¶1837 *Testimony to Bps.*, etc. 32 That no section of the baptized bears the character of the one Holy Catholic Apostolic Church.] ¶1861 NORTON *Restor. Apostles and Proph. in Cath. Apostolic Ch.* 159 In assuming, as our only title and name, that of 'the Catholic and Apostolic Church'—we arrogate to ourselves nothing, for we do not appropriate it in any exclusive sense. ¶1867 *Address* in Miller *Irvingism* i. 5 Catholic and Apostolic Churches, a name which we have not assumed, and to which we have no exclusive right..But it is the only name by which we can, without protest, suffer ourselves to be called. ¶1888 *Whitaker's Almanac, Relig. Sects*, Places..certified to the Registrar-General on behalf of persons described as..Catholic Apostolic Church.

11. Comb., as Catholic-minded adj.

¶1879 *Dublin Rev.* Jan. 95 The learned, irresolute, yet pious and Catholic-minded men at the head of whom was Fisher's friend, Cuthbert Tunstal.

¶1964 P. F. ANSON *Bishops at Large* xi. 534 An alternative to Roman Catholicism to a catholic-minded people.

B. n.

1. A member of a church recognized or claiming to be 'Catholic' in sense A. 6; e.g. an orthodox member of the Church before the disruption of East and West, as opposed to an Arian or other 'heretic'; of the Latin Church as opposed to the Greek or any separating sect or community (e.g. the Lollards); of a church or churches now taken to represent the primitive Church.

¶c1425 WYNTOUN *Cron.* ix. xxvi. 63 He was a constant Catholike All Lollard he hatyt and Heretike. ¶1594 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* iv. §5 Let the Church of Rome be what it will,..hold them for Catholics, or hold them for Heretics, it is not a thing..in this present question greatly material. ¶1597 J. JONES *Preserv. Bodie & Soule* Ded., It is..of the faithfull, Christian, and Catholike certainly beleueed. ¶1609 BIBLE (*Douay*) *Proemial Annot.*, Some of these bookes..were sometimes doubted of by some Catholiques, and called

Apochryphal. ¶1702 tr. Le Clerc's Prim. Fathers 241 An Edict bearing date the 27th of February (380)..That those who would profess it should be called Catholics, and the others Hereticks. ¶1854 HOOK *Ch. Dict.* s.v., Let the member of the Church of England assert his right to the name of Catholic, since he is the only person in England who has a right to that name. The English Romanist is a Roman Schismatic, and not a Catholic. ¶1860 FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* VI. 39, I must again remind my readers of the distinction between Catholic and Papist. Three quarters of the English people were Catholics; that is, they were attached to the hereditary and traditionary doctrines of the Church. ¶1872 FREEMAN *Gen. Sketch* v. 102 He [Chlodwig] became..not only a Christian but a Catholic..all the other Teutonic Kings were Arians.

2. a. spec. A member of the Roman Church. English Catholic = English Roman Catholic.

¶1570 B. GOOGE *Pop. Kingd.* iv. (1880) 60 Accounting here for Catholickes, themselves & all their traine. ¶1581 (*Title*) A Checke or Reproofe of M. Howlet..with an answer to the Reasons why Catholikes (as they are called) refuse to goe to Church. ¶1584 in Foley *Rec. Eng. Prov. S.J.* (1880) VI. 740 He said..that all English Catholics were bound to pray for the King of Spain. ¶1588 ALLEN *Admon.* in Lingard *Hist. Eng.* (1855) VI. 358/1 Not tolerable to the masters of her [Q. Eliz.] own sect, and to all Catholics in the world most ridiculous. ¶1602 BP. J. RIDER (*title*), A caveat to Irish Catholicks. ¶1602 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* ix. xlix. (1612) 226 Euen Catholiques (that erred name doth please the Papists). ¶1611 BIBLE *Pref.* The Catholicks (meaning Popish Romanists). ¶1636 FEATLY *Clavis Myst.* xxxiv. 483 Other of the Pope his stoutest champions..[say] we are sirnamed catholikes, therefore we are so. ¶1641 J. LOUTH in A. H. Mathew *Convers. Sir T. Matthew* (1904) 176 The innocency and loyalty of English Catholics towards others. ¶1650 SIR E. NICHOLAS in *N. Papers* (1886) I. 180 That which has been proposed concerninge the Catholics. ¶1715 in Estcourt & Payne *Eng. Cath. Non-jurors of 1715* (1885) 8, I, Henry Englefield, do declare that I am, by the grace of God, an English Catholic. ¶1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* (1840) II. vi. 155, I am a Catholic of the Roman Church. ¶1800 C. BUTLER *Life Alban Butler* xvi, A person would deserve well of the English Catholics who should translate it into English. ¶1845 BRIGHT *Sp.* 16 Apr., The Irish Catholics would thank you infinitely more if you were to wipe out that foul blot. ¶1872 FREEMAN *Gen. Sketch* xiii. 254 The religious wars between the Catholics and Protestants within the country [France]. ¶1876 GREEN *Short Hist.* vii. §4 The last hopes of the English Catholics were dispelled by the Queen's refusal to

take part in the Council of Trent. ¶1889 J. O. PAYNE (*title*) *Records of the English Catholics of 1715*.

b. Old Catholic, a term introduced after the secession of John Henry Newman and others to distinguish members of Catholic families in England since the Reformation from Catholic immigrants and converts.

¶1846 J. H. NEWMAN *Let.* 14 July in Gasquet *Ld. Acton* (1906) p. xiii, It will be one of your collisions with old Catholics. ¶1909 *Dublin Rev.* Jan. 56 The friction between converts and old Catholics..was inevitable. ¶1918 L. STRACHEY *Emin. Victorians* i. v. 56 It seemed as if the harvest was to be gathered in by a crowd of converts, who were proclaiming on every side as something new and wonderful the truths which the Old Catholics..had not only known, but for which they had suffered, for generations. ¶1962 V. A. MCCLELLAND *Cardinal Manning* i. 3 If one is to understand the opposition to Cardinal Manning and to the Oxford converts, one has to appreciate the feelings and position of the 'Old Catholics'.

3. Defined or limited by a word prefixed, as †English Catholic, †Popish Catholic, Anglo-Catholic, Roman Catholic, q.v. (See a different use of English Catholics, in sense 2 quot. 1876.)

¶1577 FULKE (*title*), *Two Treatises..Answer of the Christian Protestant to the proud challenge of a Popish Catholicke*. ¶1585 SIR W. HERBERT (*title*), *Letter to a Roman pretended Catholicke*. ¶1598 HAKLUYT *Voy.* I. 597 Many rebels against her maiestie and popish catholiques. ¶1837 J. H. NEWMAN *Par. Serm.* (1840) III. xiv, The Holy Church throughout all the world is broken into many fragments..we are the English Catholics, abroad are the Roman Catholics..elsewhere are the Greek Catholics, and so on. ¶1854 HOOK *Ch. Dict.* s.v. Protestant, We tell the Papist that with respect to him we are Protestant; we tell the Protestant Dissenter that in respect to him we are Catholics; and we may be called Protestant or Protesting Catholics, or as some of our writers describe us, Anglo-Catholics.

b. German Catholic, Old Catholic: names taken by religious parties who separated from the Roman Catholic communion in Germany, the former under Ronge in 1845 (reunited 1848), the latter after the Vatican Council in 1870–71. Old Catholic is also applied to members of other churches separated from Rome, and united by acceptance of the Declaration of Utrecht of 1889.

¶1871 *Sunday Mag.* Nov. 84/1 The Old Catholics have great hopes of support from the High Church party in England. ¶1871 *Union Rev.* 273 For German Catholics to succumb to the Vatican decrees, would be an act of moral

suicide. ¶1931 W. TEMPLE *Thoughts on Probl. of Day* iv. 92 The Conference..was concerned with advances towards union in two directions—on the one hand towards union with the Orthodox and the Old Catholic Churches, and on the other hand with the non-episcopal Churches. ¶1948 C. B. MOSS *Old Catholic Movement* i. 1 The Old Catholic Churches are a group of self-governing national churches, united by their acceptance of the Declaration of Utrecht (1889) as their dogmatic basis. Ibid. xxviii. 348 Eight Dutch Old Catholic priests came to England to see the English Church for themselves. ¶1969 D. W. D. SHAW tr. *Heyer's Catholic Church* vi. 149 Political factors had produced an initial wave of interest in the 'German Catholic' movement.

4. = Catholicos. Obs.

¶1612 BREREWOOD *Lang. & Relig.* xxiv. 213 The Catholick of Armenia. Ibid. 210 They acknowledge obedience..to two Patriarchs of their own: whom they term Catholicks. ¶1735 JOHNSON tr. *Lobo's Abyssinia* 307 Catholick like Patriarch is no more than an empty Title without the Power.

C. attrib. Of, relating to, affecting, or on the side of (Roman) Catholics. In Catholic Emancipation, etc. [In construction not distinct from the adj.]

¶1791 J. MILNER (*title*), A short Pamphlet on the Catholic Question. ¶1795 DUGENAN (*title*), Speech on the Catholic Bill in the Irish House of Commons. ¶1805 LD. HAWKESBURY (*title*), Speech in the House of Lords, 10th of May on the Catholic Petition. ¶1809 SOUTHEY *Ess.* (1832) II. 301 For these people Catholic Emancipation can do nothing. ¶1878 SPENCER *Walpole Hist. Eng.* II. vii. 145 The anti-Catholic members of the Cabinet [in 1826] were as much opposed to their Catholic colleagues as to their regular opponents. Ibid. note, Persons in favour of emancipation were classed as Catholic statesmen.

caveat n.

('kervizæt)

[L. caveat let him beware, 3rd sing. pres. subj. of cavēre to beware.]

1. Law. a. A process in court (originally in ecclesiastical courts) to suspend proceedings; a notice given by some party to the proper officer not to take a certain step until the party giving the notice has been heard in opposition. Phrase, to enter or put in a caveat: also fig. see 2 b.

¶1654 GATAKER *Disc. Apol.* 45 A Caveat they found entred in the Bishops Office, by a Gentleman, one of the Petti-Bag, who pretended a Title.

¶1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, Caveat, used among the Proctors, when a person is dead, and a competition ariseth for the Executorship, or Administratorship, the party concerned enters a Caveat, to prevent or admonish others from intermedling. ¶1667 MARVELL *Corr.* cxiv. Wks. 1872–5 II. 273, I entered caveats both at Mr. Attorney's and Mr. Solicitor's. ¶1726 AYLIFFE *Parerg.* 145 A Caveat in Law..is an Intimation given to some Ordinary or Ecclesiastical Judge..notifying to him that he ought to beware how he acts in such or such an Affair. ¶1818 CRUISE *Digest* V. 95 ¶1884 *LAW Rep.* 9 Probate Div. 23 The..defendant, one of the next of kin, entered a caveat.

b. caveat emptor [lit., let the purchaser beware], let the purchaser examine the article he is buying before the bargain is completed, so that in case of disappointment after purchase he may not blame the seller.

¶1523 FITZHERBERT *Husb. f.* xxxvi, He [sc. the horse] is no chapmans ware yf he be wylde: but and he be tame and haue ben rydden vpon than caueat emptor be ware thou byer. ¶1629 T. ADAMS *Pol. Hunting* in Wks. 118 We compell none to buy our Ware; Caueat emptor. ¶1809 H. MORE *Let.* 14 Aug. (1925) 139 Mr. C. in his last Review..feels it is his duty to say, 'Caveat Emptor'. ¶1902 *Economic Jrnl.* XII. 12 Caveat emptor. It is the employer on whom the responsibility rests of testing the quality of the article he buys. ¶1950 T. H. MARSHALL *Citizenship & Social Class* iv. 133 The principle of caveat emptor is at least plausible when you are buying a horse.

2. transf. **a.** A warning, admonition, caution.

¶1557 RECORDE *Whetst.* Y iij b, A caueat, to be ware of to moche confidence. ¶1583 STANYHURST *Æneis* iii. (Arb.) 85 Such od caueats, as I to the frendlye can vtter. ¶1646 S. BOLTON *Arraignm, Err.* 50 A Caveat to you how you live. ¶1651 WITTIE tr. *Primrose's Pop. Err.* iv. 248 Those Caveats, whereof Astrologers do every year warn the people. ¶1712 BUDGELL *Spect.* No. 365 ¶1, I design this Paper as a Caveat to the Fair Sex. ¶1791 BOSWELL *Johnson* (1816) IV. 448 A caveat against ostentatious bounty and favour to negroes. ¶1855 H. SPENCER *Princ. Psychol.* (1872) I. v. iii. 531 With this caveat let us now pass..to more complex cases.

b. to put in or enter a caveat (in senses 2 & 3).

¶1577 tr. *Bullinger's Decades* (1592) 405 It pleased the goodnesse of God by giuing the law to put in a caueat..for the tranquillitie of mankinde. ¶1600 HOLLAND *Livy* xxvi. xxiv. 602 They should put in a caveat, that he might have no libertie to warre upon the Ætolians. ¶1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* i. xii. 37 She enters a silent caveat by a blush. ¶1755 YOUNG *Centaur* i. Wks. 1757 IV. 116 Putting in a caveat against the ridicule of infidels.

¶1875 E. WHITE *Life in Christ* ii. x. (1878) 108 To enter a caveat against a misconception.

3. A condition previously laid down; a proviso, reservation; = caution n. 2. Obs.

¶1579 FULKE *Heskins' Parl.* 370 M. Heskins fombleth out the matter with a foolish caueat, that..he suffreth not violence. ¶1648 GAGE *West Ind.* xxi. (1655) 196 Some were offered me for nothing, with this caveat, that..I must, etc.

4. A precaution; = caution n. 5. Obs.

¶1596 SPENSER *State Irel.* Wks. (1862) 539/1 The chieftest caveat and provision in the reformation of the North must be to keep out those Scottes.

¶1612 BRINSLEY *Lud. Lit.* 54 Let them vse this caueat especially; that they take but little at a time. ¶1643 J. BURROUGHES *Exp. Hosea* ix. (1652) 310 God laid in a caveat and provision for the encouragement of them.

5. U.S. Patent Laws. 'A description of some invention, designed to be patented, lodged in the office before the patent right is taken out, operating as a bar to applications respecting the same invention, from any other quarter' (Webster).

¶1879 G. B. PRESCOTT *Sp. Telephone* 256 A caveat, describing this invention, was filed by Gray.

cavil v.

(ˈkævɪl)

[a. OF. cavill-er (14th c. in Godef.) to mock, jest, rail, 'to cauill, wrangle, reason crossely, speake ouer thwartly' (Cotgr.), ad. L. cavillāri (whence also It. cavillare, Sp. cavilar, Pg. cavillar), to practise jeering or mocking, satirize, jest, reason captiously, f. cavilla a jeering, scoffing, raillery.]

1. intr. 'To raise captious and frivolous objections' (J.); to object, dispute, or find fault unfairly or without good reason. Const. at, about (formerly also against, with, on).

¶1548 UDALL, etc. *Erasm. Par. Mark* ii. 19 b, Wheras ye can not thwarte and cauyll in the thynges you see doen before your iyes. ¶1564 *Brief Exam.* ***** iij b, Men dyd not cauill agaynst theyr whyte vestures. ¶1596 SHAKES. *1 Hen.* IV, iii. i. 140 But in the way of Bargaine..Ile cauill on the ninth part of a hayre. ¶1597 MORLEY *Introd. Mus.* 28 Let no man cauil at my doing in that I have chaunged my opinion. ¶1635 SWAN *Spec. M.* i. §3 (1643)

14 After this manner, such mockers reasoned and cavilled with S. Peter.
 ¶1642 ROGERS *Naaman* 8 He..who cavelled against the Prophet. ¶1750
 WARBURTON *Lett. late Prelate* (1809) 61 Without finding anything consid-
 erable to cavil with you upon. ¶1798 MALTHUS *Popul.* (1878) 88 When
 the harvest is over they cavil about losses. ¶a1852 WEBSTER *Wks.* (1877)
 VI. 163 Those who do not value Christianity..cavil about sects and schisms.
 ¶1871 ROSSETTI *Dante at Ver.* liii, To cavil in the weight of bread And to see
 purse-thieves gibbeted. ¶1884 SIR W. BRETT in *Law Times Rep.* LI. 530/1
 The rule exists, and I have not the smallest intention of cavilling at it.

b. with object-clause. Obs.

¶1570 BILLINGSLEY *Euclid* i. ix. 19 He may cauill that the hed of the
 equilater triangle shall not fall betwene the two right lines. ¶1714 GAY
What d' ye call it Pref., They cavil at it as a Comedy, that I had partly a View
 to Pastoral.

2. trans. To object to or find fault with captiously.

¶1581 J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Osor.* 232/2 This were perhappes not al-
 together from the purpose, that is cavilled. ¶1621 BP. R. MONTAGU *Dia-*
tribæ 422 Nor can you cauill him for leauing out the word. ¶1667 MILTON
P.L. x. 759 Wilt thou enjoy the good, Then cavil the conditions? ¶1750
 WARBURTON *Wks.* (1811) VIII. 96 The testimony of Amm. Marcellinus,
 decisive as it is, hath been cavilled. ¶1875 H. E. MANNING *Mission H.*
Ghost ix. 256 There are men whose intellectual pride cavils and perverts..every
 truth of the revelation of God.

b. with away, out: To do away with, bring out, by cavilling.

¶1642 MILTON *Apol. Smect.* (1851) 294 His seventh section labours to
 cavill out the flawes which were found in the Remonstrants logick. ¶1645
 W. JENKYN *Serm.* 28 'Tis this which doth cavill away our peace and holi-
 nesse. ¶1863 LYTTON *Caxtoniana* I. 91 Nurse, cherish, never cavil away,
 the wholesome horror of Debt.

3. in sense of L. cavillāri. Obs.—0

¶1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 126 Cauil, calumniari, cauillari. ¶1613 R. C.
 TABLE *Alph.* (ed. 3), Cauill, to iest, scoffe, or reason subtilly. ¶1616 in
 BULLOKAR.

celibacy *n.*

(ˈselɪbəsi)

[f. L. *cælibātus* in same sense, f. *cælebs*, *cælib-em* unmarried, single: see -acy 3. (*Cælebs*, and its noun of state *cælibātus*, are the only cognate words found in Latin).]

The state of living unmarried.

¶1663 ARON-BIMN. 54 St. Paul's advice for *cœlebac*y, or single life.
 ¶1754 HUME *Hist. Eng.* ii, The celibacy of priests was introduced into the English System by Dunstan. ¶1791 BOSWELL *Johnson* (1831) I. xxiv. 387 Even ill assorted marriages were preferable to cheerless celibacy. ¶1796 H. HUNTER tr. *St. Pierre's Stud. Nat.* (1799) III. 681 Celibacy may suit an individual, but never a corps. ¶1855 MILMAN *Lat. Chr.* (1864) II. iii. vii. 149 With Gregory celibacy was the perfection of human nature.

champion v.

(*ˈtʃæmpɪən*)

[f. prec. n.]

1. To challenge to a contest; to bid defiance to. rare. Obs.

¶1605 SHAKES. *Macb.* iii. i. 72 The Seedes of Banquo Kings. Rather then so, come Fate into the Lyst, And champion me to th'vterance. ¶1821 BYRON *Juan* iv. xliii, She stood as one who champion'd human fears.

2. To fight for; to defend or protect as champion.

¶1820 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* xxxix, Championed or unchampioned, thou diest by the stake and fagot. ¶1839-40 W. IRVING *Wolfert's R.* (1855) 279 Who ever..championed them [dames] more gallantly in the chivalrous tilts of the Vivarambla?

3. fig. To maintain the cause of, stand up for, uphold, support, back, defend, advocate.

¶1844 H. ROGERS *Ess.* I. ii. 77 His nature..prompted him to champion any cause in which justice had been outraged or innocence wronged. ¶1861 DICKENS *Lett.* (1880) II. 140 The idea must be championed, however much against hope. ¶1863 MRS. C. CLARKE *Shaks. Char.* xvi. 402 If a friend be in adversity, Gratiano will champion him with good words and deeds.

4. To make a champion of. rare.

¶1886 SPURGEON *Treas. Dav. Ps.* cxlii. 7 They..crowned him, and championed him.

Hence **championing** ppl. a.

¶1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* iv. xi, The championing little wife.

charlatan n. and a.

('ʃɑrlətən, -tæn)

[a. F. *charlatan* 'a mountebanke, a cousening drug-seller, a pratling quack-salver, a tatler, babler' (Cotgr.), ad. It. *ciarlatano* = *ciarlatore* babler, patterer, mountebank, f. *ciarlare* to babble, patter, act the mountebank, f. *ciarla*, chat, prattle; cf. Sp., Pg. *charlar*, Wallachian *charrar*, ONF. *charer* (Diez) to prattle, babble. Cf. quack to gabble like a duck, talk like a Cheap Jack, puff patent medicines, act as a charlatan.]

A. n.

1. A mountebank or Cheap Jack who descants volubly to a crowd in the street; esp. an itinerant vendor of medicines who thus puffs his 'science' and drugs. (Now included under 2.)

[¶1605 B. JONSON *Volpone* ii. ii, The Rabble of these ground Ciarlitani, that spred their Clokes on the Pavement. ¶1611 CORYAT *Crudities* Panegy. Verses, Sometimes to hear the Ciarlatans.] ¶1618 D. BELCHIER *Hans Beerpot* D j b, I think the Serieant is grown Mountebanke To cling by shifts, hey, passe, passe, Italian grown; a sharking Charlatan. ¶1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* i. iii. 11 Saltimbancoes, Quacksalvers, and Charlatans, deceive them in lower degrees. ¶1678 BUTLER *Hud.* iii. ii. 971 For Chiarlatans can do no good, Vntil th' are mounted in a Crowd. ¶1771 MRS. HARRIS in *Priv. Lett. 1st Ld. Malmesbury* I. 214 At the masquerade..Mr. Banbury was a most excellent friseur, Lord Berkeley a charlatan. [[¶1864 BURTON *Scot Abr.* I. iii. 145 He is called a charlatan, quack, and mountebank.]

b. One who puffs his wares; a puffer.

¶1670 COTTON *Esperson* Pref., Though in the foregoing Paragraph, I have discover'd something of the Charlatan in the behalf of my Bookseller.

2. An empiric who pretends to possess wonderful secrets, esp. in the healing art; an empiric or impostor in medicine, a quack.

¶1680 BUTLER *Rem.* (1759) II. 197 Charlatans make Diseases fit their Medicines, and not their Medicines Diseases. ¶1710 ADDISON *Tatler* No. 240 ¶3 Ordinary Quacks and Charlatans. [¶1762 J. BROWN *Poetry & Mus.* iii. 34 note, Charlatans, a Word with which we have none precisely correspondent in our Language: It signifies here, one who is a Pretender to Medecine by the Arts of Magic.] ¶1791 BURKE *Let. Memb. Nat. Assembly* Wks. 1842 I. 478 The nation is sick, very sick, by their medicines. But the charlatan tells them that what is passed cannot be helped. ¶1841 BREWSTER *Mart. Sc.*

ii. iv. (1856) 153 The charlatans, whether they deal in moral or in physical wonders, form a race which is never extinct. ¶1860 TANNER *Pregnancy* i. 3.

3. An assuming empty pretender to knowledge or skill; a pretentious impostor.

¶1809 *Edin. Rev.* Apr. 193 The Alexandrian sages [Proclus, etc.]..were in fact the charlatans of antient philosophy. ¶1840 CARLYLE *Heroes* (1858) 268 A questionable step for me..to say..that Mahomet was a true Speaker at all, and not rather an ambitious charlatan. ¶1858 FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* III. xvi. 363 His [Cromwell's] true creed was a hatred of charlatans. ¶1872 GEO. ELIOT *Middlem.* v. xlv. 335 A charlatan in religion is sure to like other sorts of charlatans.

B. adj. Of or pertaining to a charlatan; empirical, quack.

¶1671 *True Non-Conf.* 376 But the schareleton tricks of a pitiful impostor. ¶1852 GLADSTONE *Glean.* IV. ii. 141 Theatrical, not to say charlatan and mountebank, politics. ¶1862 SHIRLEY *Nugæ Crit.* xi. 472 Because I love freedom..I hesitate to apply the charlatan quackeries which may fatally hurt all that is best and most living in English liberty.

chary a.

(ˈtʃɛəri)

[OE. *ceariæ* = OS. *carag* (in *môdcarag*), OHG. *charag*: —OTeut. type **karag-*oz, f. *karâ-* sorrow, trouble, care. With the sense-development cf. *careful*.

The palatalization of initial *ca-* in this word, while it remains guttural in *care*, is thus accounted for: in the n. the original OE. type was nom. *caru*, gen. **cære*, whence *ceare* (cf. *cæster*, *ceaster* etc.); so app. the derivative **cæriæ*, whence *ceariæ*, with palatal *ce-* becoming *ch-*. But the n. retained guttural *c* in the nom. (even when by *u-* umlaut it was occasionally written *cearu*), so that no such form as *chare* is found in ME. As to sense 3 cf. *chare* a.]

1. Causing sorrow, grievous. Obs.

¶a1000 *Doomsday* 67 (Gr.) Wæs Meotud on beam bunden fæste cearian clomme.

2. Feeling or showing sorrow; sorrowful, mournful. Obs.

¶a1000 *Crist* 148 (Gr.) Hie bidon hwonne bearn Godes cwome to ceariæum. ¶a1000 *Soul's Address* 162 (Gr.) Ne þurfon wyt beon cearie. ¶c1200 ORMIN 1274 For turrle ledeþþ chariz lif..fra þatt hire make iss dæd.

3. Dear; precious, cherished. Obs.

¶a1400 *Morte Arth.* 2965 Ffore the charry childe so his chere chawngide, That the chillande watire one his chekes rynnyde! ¶1593 PEELE *Edw. I.* 200 And henceforth see you call it Charing-cross; For why, the chariest and the choicest queen, That ever did delight my royal eyes There dwells. ¶a1600 W. ELDERTON in Farr *S.P. Eliz. II.* 514 O God, what grieve is this thye charie church should want A bishoppe of so good a grace. ¶1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* i. 253 Things of charie price. ¶1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xxix, Fill the stirrup cup..from a butt yet charier than that which he had pierced for the former stoup.

4. Careful, cautious, circumspect, wary.

¶1542 UDALL tr. *Erasm. Apoph.* 221 b, I am much more charie, that it may not be lost. ¶1566 *Answ. Examination pretending to mayntayne Apparell, etc.* 148 Those prudent and chairie ouerseers which tythe mint and anice. 1625–8 tr. *Camden's Hist. Eliz., I.* have not touched them but with a light and chary hand. ¶1857 SIR F. PALGRAVE *Norm. & Eng.* II. 343 Yet in this concession, he was very chary. ¶1878 G. MACDONALD *Phantastes* II. xiii. 15 Enough to madden a chary lover.

b. Fastidious, shy, particular.

¶1567 DRANT *Horace's Epist.* ii. ii. H iv, Whilste theye indite, and reade theire toyes, Moste chearie and most coy. ¶1592 GREENE *Ciceronis Amor.*, Man having swilled in this nectar of Love is so chary that he..admitteth no partaker of her favours. ¶1602 SHAKES. *Ham.* i. iii. 36 The chariest Maid is Prodigall enough, If she vnmaske her beauty to the Moone. ¶1834 MUDIE *Brit. Birds* (1841) I. 114 Another [eagle]..not quite so chary in its food as the former.

c. Const. in, of. Shy of, disinclined to.

¶1579 G. HARVEY *Letter-bk.* (1884) 66 To be very chary and circumspect in opening himselfe. ¶1673 MARVELL *Reh. Transp.* ii. Wks. (1875) II. 253 Men ought to be chary of aspersing them [the clergy]. ¶1828 SCOTT *F.M. Perth* vi, Chary of mixing in causeless strife. ¶1883 *19th Cent.* May 882 Crown authorities were very chary in putting it in force. ¶1884 *Law Times* 16 Feb. 278/1 Tradesmen chary of allowing vessels to leave port prior to payment.

5. Careful (in preservation of). Const. of, †over.

¶1579 GOSSON *Sch. Abuse* (Arb.) 58 If you bee chary of your good name. ¶1598 GREENE *James IV* (1861) 219 With chary care I have recur'd the one.

¶1598 YONG *Diana* 390 Her father was so tender and charie ouer her, that few times he suffered her to be out of his sight. ¶1638 COWLEY *Love's Riddle* i. i, 'Faith, I am very Chary of my Health. ¶c1645 HOWELL *Lett.* (1650) I. 221 The curious sea-chest of glasses..which I shall be very chary to keep as a monument of your love. ¶1754 RICHARDSON *Grandison* III. viii. 56 Be chary of them, and return them when perused. ¶1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xxiv, In reference to your safety and comfort, of which he desires us to be chary.

6. Careful not to waste or part with, frugal, sparing (of).

¶1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 106 Cheyrye, parcus. ¶1592 GREENE *Disput.* 4 Hee that is most charie of his crownes abroad. ¶1756 C. LUCAS *Ess. Waters* I. 154 They drank nothing but water, of which they were very chary. ¶1826 SCOTT *Woodst.* iii. They were more chary of their royal presence. ¶1868 M. E. BRADDON *Dead Sea Fr.* I. ii. 20 He had much need to be careful of shillings, and chary even of pence. ¶1872 W. MINTO *Eng. Lit.* ii. vii. 478 He is rather chary than enthusiastic. ¶1874 SAYCE *Compar. Philol.* vii. 281 The primitive barbarian..would have been extremely chary in his use of words.

7. Requiring care or careful handling. Obs.

¶1581 MULCASTER *Positions* v. (1887) 28 The cheife and chariest point is, so to plie them all, as they may proceede voluntarily.

8. quasi-adv. Charily; carefully.

¶1590 MARLOWE *Faust.* vi. 175 Thanks, Mephistophilis, for this sweet book, This will I keep as chary as my life. ¶a1600 W. ELDERTON in Farr *S.P. Eliz.* II. 513 And charie went to churche himself. ¶c1600 SHAKES. *Sonn.* xxii, Which I will keepe so chary, As tender nurse her babe. ¶1633 HEYWOOD *Eng. Trav.* iii. Wks. 1874 IV. 44 Let men live as charie as they can. ¶a1845 HOOD *Mary's Ghost* v, You thought that I was buried deep, Quite decent like, and chary.

chasm n.

(ˈkæz(ə)m)

[ad. L. chasma, a. Gr. χάσμα yawning hollow. The Gr.-L. form chasma was used for some time unchanged.]

1. A yawning or gaping, as of the sea, or of the earth in an earthquake. Obs.

¶1596 C. FITZGEFFREY *Sir F. Drake* (1881) 31 Earth-gaping Chasma's, that mishap aboades. ¶a1619 M. FOTHERBY *Atheom.* ii. ii. §1 That gaping Chasma, and insatiable gulfe of the Soules appetite. ¶1652 FRENCH *Yorksh. Spa* ii. 31 Chasmes, and gapings of the Sea. ¶1656 S. H. *Gold. Law* 91 Earthquakes, Chasmaes, and Voragoes were at his command. ¶1655–60 STANLEY *Hist. Philos.* (1701) 331/1 Earthquakes, Chasma's, and the like.

2. An alleged meteoric phenomenon, supposed to be a rending of the firmament or vault of heaven. [So in Latin.] Obs.

¶1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 17 The firmament also is seene to chinke and open, and this they name Chasma. ¶1686 GOAD *Celest. Bodies* i. i. 1 Halo's, Rainbows, Parelia, Paraselenæ, Chasms. ¶1741 SHORT in *Phil. Trans.* XLI. 630 A list of all the Chasms or Burnings in the Heavens, recorded in our Annals.

3. A large and deep rent, cleft, or fissure in the surface of the earth or other cosmical body. In later times extended to a fissure or gap, not referred to the earth as a whole, e.g. in a mountain, rock, glacier, between two precipices, etc.

¶1636 C. FITZGEFFREY *Bless. Birthd.* (1881) 147 Thus is th' Abyssus fild, the Chasma clos'd. 1622–62 Heylin *Cosmogr. Introd.* (1682) 23 The open chinks or Chasmaes of the Earth. ¶1695 WOODWARD *Nat. Hist. Earth* iii. §1. 134 This Effort..in some Earthquakes..tears the Earth, making Cracks or Chasmes in it some Miles in length. ¶1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* s.v., The Water of this vast Abyss..doth communicate with that of the Ocean by means of certain Holes, Hiatus's or Chasms, passing betwixt it and the Bottom of the Ocean. ¶1840 CARLYLE *Heroes* i. (1858) 196 Iceland..with its..horrid volcanic chasms. ¶1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* i. §7. 49 An arch of snow..may span a chasm one hundred feet in depth. ¶1878 HUXLEY *Physiogr.* 135 The Colorado River..flows..at the bottom of a profound chasm.

4. A deep gap or breach in any structure; a wide crack, cleft, or fissure. Also fig.

¶1626 W. SCLATER *Expos.* 2 Thess. (1629) 26 Heauen it selfe, and the great Chasma betwixt it and vs. ¶1672 WILKINS *Nat. Relig.* 107 So many chasmes or breaches must there be in the Divine Nature. 1756–7 tr. Keysler's *Trav.* (1760) III. 356 The amphitheatre of Verona..has no holes or chasms in the wall. ¶1759 tr. Duhamel's *Husb.* i. v. (1762) 11 An infinite number of small chasms between them, into which the roots may glide. ¶1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* iv, This part of the castle..exhibited a great chasm, through which Mannering could observe the sea.

5. fig. A break marking a divergence, or a wide and profound difference of character or position, a breach of relations, feelings, interests, etc.

¶1641 R. BROOKE *Eng. Episc.* 99 Where then is that Chasma, that great Gulf of difference? ¶1660 H. MORE *Myst. Godl.* i. iv. 9 That great Chasma betwixt God and Matter will be as wide as before. ¶1845 S. AUSTIN tr. *Ranke's Hist. Ref.* II. 203 The two hierarchies, the spiritual and the temporal..were now separated by a deep and wide chasm. ¶1866 LIDDON *Bampt. Lect.* i. (1875) 25 If Christ be not truly man, the chasm which parted earth and heaven has not been bridged over. ¶1875 HAMERTON *Intell. Life* x. v. 390 A gulf..almost like the chasm of death.

6. fig. A break or void affecting the continuity of anything, as of a chain of facts, a narrative, period of time, etc.; an intervening blank, hiatus, break, interval.

¶1654 R. WHITLOCK *Zootomia* 216 Authors with many Plurima Desunts, many Chasmes and vacancys. ¶1677 HALE *Prim. Orig. Man.* 137 It is carried down from the beginning of Time..without any chasma or interval. ¶1704 SWIFT *T. Tub* Author's Apol., In the author's original Copy there were not so many Chasms as appear in the book. ¶1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 519 ¶7 The whole chasm of nature, from a plant to a man, is filled up with divers kinds of creatures. 1762–71 H. Walpole *Vertue's Anecd. Paint.* (1786) I. 189 The fables with which our own writers have replenished the chasms in our history. ¶1843 CARLYLE *Past & Pr.* (1858) 109 The chasm of Seven Centuries. ¶1869 J. MARTINEAU *Ess.* II. 52 There is an historical chasm manifest in their modes of thinking.

7. A vacant place affecting the completeness of anything; a void, blank, gap.

¶1759 tr. *Duhamel's Husb.* ii. (1762) 125 Some chasms occasioned by our not having kept the drill in a parallel direction. ¶1838 MACAULAY *Let. in Trevelyan Life* (1876) II. 2 The chasm Tom's departure has made. ¶1855 *Hist. Eng.* III. 580 Recruits were sent to fill the chasms which pestilence had made in the English ranks.

chicanery n.

(ʃɪˈkeɪnəri)

[a. F. *chicanerie*, in Littré the earliest exemplified member of the group, implying however the existence of the vb. *chicaner* and n. *chicaneur* as its source: see -ery. Formerly more completely anglicized as *chicanry*.]

1. Legal trickery, pettifogging, abuse of legal forms; the use of subterfuge and trickery in debate or action; quibbling, sophistry, trickery.

¶a1613 OVERBURY *Observ. State France* (1856) 241 All this chiquanerey, as they call it, is brought into France from Rome. ¶1665 EVELYN *Lett. Sir P. Wyche* 20 June, We have hardly any words that do so fully expresse the French clinquant, naiveté..chicaneries. ¶a1670 HACKET *Abp. Williams* ii. (1692) 151, I shall not advise this honourable House to use any chiquanery or pettifoggery with this great representation of the kingdom. ¶1682 BURNET *Rights Princes* Pref. 57 To do it with all the Tricks and Chicanery possible. ¶1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.*, Chicanry, is a trickish and guileful Practice of the Law. ¶1708 OZELL *Boileau's Lutrin* v. (1730) 53 That foul Monster, void of Ears and Eyes, Call'd Chicanry. ¶1754 RICHARDSON *Grandison* (1781) IV. ii. 14 It was..by the chicanery of the lawyers..carried against him. ¶1827 HALLAM *Const. Hist.* II. xii. The period of lord Danby's administration..was full of chicanery and dissimulation on the King's side. ¶1876 GREEN *Short Hist.* viii. §8. Forty days wasted in useless chicanery.

b. as a personal quality.

¶1771 SMOLLETT *Humph. Cl. let.* 26 June, He carried home with him all the knavish chicanery of the lowest pettifogger. ¶1832 LANDER *Adv. Niger* III. xvi. 256 The artifice, chicanery and low cunning of a crafty and corrupt mind.

2. (with pl.) A dishonest artifice of law; a sophistry, quibble, subterfuge, trick.

¶1688 *Answ. Talon's Plea* 23 Pitifull Chicanneries and tricks of the Law. ¶1758 JORTIN *Erasm.* I. 103 These letters..full of chicaneries about trifles. ¶1878 R. B. SMITH *Carthage* 227 Impatient of such chicaneries.

chide ^{v.}

(tʃaɪd)

[OE. *cíd-an* wk. vb.: not known in the other Teutonic langs. The original inflexions were: pa. tense OE. *cídde*, ME. *chidd(e)*, *chid*, mod. *chid*; pa. pple. OE. *cíded*, *cidd*, *cid*, ME. *chidd(e)*, *chid*, mod. *chid*; but in 5–6 *chode*, *chidden* formed on the analogy of the strong verbs (e.g. *ride*), came into partial use, and *chidden* at least is still common; *chided* is occasional in modern writers. (OE. and ME. contracted the 3rd pers. pres. indic. as *cít*, *chit*.)]

1. intr. To give loud or impassioned utterance to anger, displeasure, disapprobation, reproof. a. To contend with loud and angry altercation; to brawl, wrangle. Obs.

¶c1000 ÆLFRIC *Exod.* xxi. 18 Gif men cidaþ. ¶c1050 *Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker 347 Altercetur, cidde. ¶c1205 LAY. 8149 Heo bigunnen to chiden. ¶c1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 2722 He saȝ chiden in ðe wey two egyptienis, modi & strong. ¶c1340 *Cursor M.* 6681 (Trin.) If two chide [earlier texts, flite] & þat oon þe toper smyte. ¶c1460 *Towneley Myst.* 115 We wille nawther..Fyght nor chyte. ¶1483 *Cath. Angl.* 63/1 To chyde, litigare..ubi, to flyte. ¶1552 *Act 5 & 6 Edw. VI*, c. 4 §1 Yf anye person..shall..by wordes onelye quarrell, chyde or brawle in any Church or Churcheyarde. ¶1693 W. ROBERTSON *Phraseol. Gen.* 329 They did chide and brawl so long till they fell together by the ears.

b. To give loud and angry expression to dissatisfaction and displeasure; to scold. Obs.

¶1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 113 Crist nalde flitan ne chidan. ¶1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 8024 He chydde & made hym wroþ. ¶1340 *Ayenb.* 67 Þe ilke þet ne dar ansuerye ne chide..he beginþ to grochi betuene his teþ. ¶1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. i. 191 Chewen heore charite and chiden after more. ¶c1386 CHAUCER *Can. Yeom. Prol. & T.* 368 Whan that oure pot is broke..Every man chyt. ¶c1440 *York Myst.* xxvi. 180 Þou chaterist like a churle þat can chyde. ¶1529 MORE *Comf. agst. Trib.* ii. Wks. 1187/2 Other folk..had a good sporte to heare her chide. 17.. Swift Lett. (1766) II. 293, I am confident you came chiding into the world, and will continue so while you are in it.

c. To scold by way of rebuke or reproof; in later usage, often merely, to utter rebuke.

¶1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. iv. 224 Ich cam noȝt to chiden. ¶1535 COVERDALE *Ps.* cii[i]. 9 He wil not allwaye be chydunge. ¶1660 MILTON *Sonn.* xiv, To serve therewith my Maker, and present My true account, lest he, returning, chide. ¶1764 GOLDSM. *Hermit* xxxvii, The wondering fair one turned to chide. ¶a1839 PRAED *Poems* (1864) I. 301 To smile on me, to speak to me, to flatter or to chide.

d. fig. Applied to sounds which suggest angry vehemence: as the yelping of hounds in 'cry', the querulous notes of quails, 'brawling' of a torrent, angry blast of the wind, etc.

¶1594 *2nd Rep. Faustus* xxii. in Thoms Prose Rom. (1858) III. 397 His javelin..being denied entrance, for very anger, rent itself in forty pieces, and chid in the air. ¶1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* 27 Partridges..flie chiding about the vine~yards. ¶1620 MELTON *Astrolog.* 3 The lowest storme that could ever chide. ¶1820 KEATS *Eve St. Agnes* iv, The silver snarling trumpets 'gan to chide.

2. Const. **a.** In OE. construed with dative of personal object, in sense 'to rebuke'; later, with various preps., esp. *at*; hence by levelling of *dat.* and *acc.* the *trans.* sense 3. Obs.

¶c1000 *Ags. Gosp. Mark* i. 25 Ða cydde se hælend him. ¶c1160 *Hatton G.* *ibid.*, Ða kydde se hælend hym. ¶1393 GOWER *Conf.* I. 295 If..thou at any time hast chid Toward thy love. ¶1588 SHAKES. *L.L.L.* iv. iii. 132 You chide at him, offending twice as much. ¶1591 *Two Gent.* ii. i. 78 You chidde at Sir Protheus, for going vngarter'd.

b. with *with*: To complain aloud against (so later, to chide against); to quarrel or dispute angrily with; to have altercation with. Obs.

¶a1000 THORPE *Hom.* I. 96 (Bosw.) Cide he wið God. ¶c1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 103 Þe mon sorþeð..and chit þenne wið gode. ¶a1250 *Owl & Night.* 287 Ne lust me wit the screwen chide. ¶a1300 *Cursor M.* 12972 (Cott.) Yeitt can þat chinche wit godd to chide. ¶1382 WYCLIF *Judg.* xxi. 22 Whanne the faders of hem comen and azens þou bigynnen to pleyne and chiden. ¶a1450 *Knt. de la Tour* (1868) 21 She..chidde with hym afore alle the peple. ¶1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* viii. Prol. 126 Churle, ga chat the and chyd with ane vther. ¶1535 COVERDALE *Gen.* xxxi. 36 And Iacob was wroth, and chode with Laban [so 1611]. ¶1611 BIBLE *Ex.* xvii. 2 Why chide you with mee? ¶1693 W. ROBERTSON *Phraseol. Gen.* 329 To chide or quarrel with one. ¶1869 SPURGEON *J. Ploughm. Talk* 6 We have a stiff bit of soil to plough when we chide with sluggards.

3. **a.** *trans.* To address (a person) in terms of reproof or blame: in earlier use implying loud vehemence, to 'scold'; in later use often little more than 'reprove, rebuke'. (The main modern use, but now chiefly literary, and somewhat archaic).

This comes down directly from the OE. *const.* with the dative, which may still be valid for early ME. examples. The later examples show modern instances of inflected forms.

¶c1230 *Hali Meid.* 31 Chit te & cheopeð þe & schent te schomeliche. ¶a1250 *Owl & Night.* 1329 AH ȝet thu, fule thing, me chist. ¶c1340 *Cursor M.* 13867 (Trin.) For iewes so had him chid. ¶1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VII. 35 Þere Dunston was strongliche despised and i-ched. ¶1430 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* ii. xii, Ye shall heare anone how that he chit The quene Heleyne. ¶1557 *K. Arthur* (W. Copland) vii. vi, Euer she chode him and wolde not rest. ¶1596 SHAKES. *1 Hen. IV.* ii. iv. 410 Thou wilt be horrible chidde to morrow. ¶1629 J. COLE *Of Death* 32 Peevish children, who..are but chidden in their first schoole. ¶1646 SIR R. MURRAY in *Hamilton Pa-*

pers (Camden 1880) 108 You encourage me..when I should rather be chid for it. ¶1720 GAY *Poems* (1745) II. 64 The Priest..First chid her, then her sins remitted. ¶1751 JOHNSON *Rambl.* No. 182 ¶5 Having chidden her for undutifulness. ¶1791 COWPER *Iliad* xvii. 520 He stroked them gently and as oft he chode. ¶1847 TENNYSON *Princ.* vi. 271 Kiss and be friends, like children being chid! ¶1848 A. JAMESON *Leg. Monast. Ord.* Introd. (1863) 40 The monks have been sorely chidden for [this]. ¶1861 P. YOUNG *Daily Readings* II. 298 Our Lord..chode them for their want of faith. ¶1865 MEREDITH *Rhoda Fleming* I. x. 164 The farmer chid her. ¶1870 BRYANT *Iliad* I. iv. 121 Atrides..spake and chid them. ¶1879 BEERBOHM *Patagonia* vi. 97, I have never seen a child chided or remonstrated with. ¶1885 MRS. CAMPBELL *Praed Head Station* xxiii, Mrs. Clephane..chided Jinks. ¶1897 *Daily News* 15 Apr. 6/3 We..notice with interest that Mr. Meredith, after vacillating in former editions between 'chid' and 'chided', has now resolved that the past tense of 'to chide' is 'chided'. ¶1925 C. S. DURRANT *Flem. Mystics & Eng. Martyrs* i. x. 146 Margaret..quietly chode her elder.

b. fig. and transf. To scold, rebuke, or find fault with (a thing, an action, etc.).

¶1386 CHAUCER *Nun's Pr.* T. 531 The Friday for to chiden..(For on a Fryday sothly slayn was he). ¶1590 SHAKES. *Mids. N.* iii. ii. 200 Wee haue chid the hasty footed time, For parting vs. ¶1606 *Tr. & Cr.* ii. iii. 221 The Rauen chides blacknesse. ¶1770 GOLDSM. *Des. Vill.* 150 He chid their wanderings, but relieved their pain. ¶1776 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* I. xi. 303 The emperor..chided the tardiness of the senate. ¶1860 CARD. *Wiseman Past. Lett.* 25 Mar. 20 Could that power have been reproved, chided, and even corrected..by so dependent an authority? ¶1865 SWINBURNE *Poems & Ball.*, *Ilicet* 137 Before their eyes all life stands chidden.

c. Said of hounds, brawling streams, etc.

¶1590 SPENSER *F.Q.* i. i. 1 His angry steede did chide his foming bitt. ¶1596 SHAKES. *1 Hen.* IV, iii. i. 45 The Sea That chides the Bankes of England. ¶1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Eclog.* v. 132 Streams that..the scarce cover'd Pebbles gently chide. ¶1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* i. viii, The baffled dogs..Chiding the rocks that yell'd again.

4. With adv. or advb. compl.: To drive, impel, or compel by chiding.

¶1590 SHAKES. *Mids. N.* iii. ii. 312 He hath chid me hence. ¶1633 G. HERBERT *Temple*, Church Militant 105 He chid the Church away. ¶1634 MILTON *Comus* 258 Scylla..chid her barking waves into attention. ¶1643 J. ANGIER *Lanc. Vall. Achor* 29 This seasonable check chode us to duty. ¶1738 WESLEY *Hymns*, 'Triumphal Notes' ii, Thy Word bids Winds and

Waves be still, And chides them into Rest. ¶1836 EMERSON *Nature, Lit. Ethics* Wks. (Bohn) II. 219 Be neither chided nor flattered out of your position.

chimera chimæra, n.

(kɪ'mɪərə, kaɪ-)

[ME. chimere, a. F. chimère, ad. L. chimæra, a. Gr. χίμαιρα she-goat or monster, f. χίμαρ-ος he-goat. Since the 16th c. the earlier form from Fr. has been supplanted by its Latin original. As chimere was certainly ('tʃɪmər), the two spoken forms are practically distinct words.]

1. a. A fabled fire-breathing monster of Greek mythology, with a lion's head, a goat's body, and a serpent's tail (or according to others with the heads of a lion, a goat, and a serpent), killed by Bellerophon.

¶1382 WYCLIF *Bible Prol.* 31 Beestis clepid chymeres, that han a part of ech beest, and suche ben not, no but oonly in opynyoun. ¶c1430 LYDG. *Bochas* i. lv, The Chimere of Licy. ¶a1528 SKELTON *P. Sparowe* 1334 BY Chemeras flames. ¶1600 FAIRFAX *Tasso* viii. xviii, New Chimeres, Sphinges, or like monsters bred. ¶1613 HEYWOOD *Silver Age* i. i. Wks. 1874 III. 89 That monstrous beast of Cicily Cal'd the Chimera. ¶1667 MILTON *P.L.* ii. 628 All monstrous, all prodigious things..worse Then fables yet have feign'd, or fear conceiv'd, Gorgons and Hydra's, and Chimera's dire. ¶1751 SMOLLETT *Per. Pic.* lxiv, A convocation of chimeras breathing fire and smoke. ¶1831 LANDOR *Siege Ancona* Wks. 1846 II. 584 The flames and coilings of the fell Chimæra.

b. Any fish of the family Chimæridæ; = rabbit-fish. (Cf. chimæroid a.)

¶1804 HOLLOWAY & BRANCH *Brit. Museum* III. 56 The Chimæra, or Chimæra Monstrosa, belongs to that class of fish which have close gills and cartilages instead of bones. ¶1808 E. DONOVAN *Nat. Hist. Brit. Fishes* V. Plate CXI, There are two species of the Chimæra genus, Monstrosa, and Callorhynchus; the latter of which is distinguished by the name of Southern Chimera and Elephant Fish. ¶1836 W. YARRELL *Hist. Brit. Fishes* II. 365 The Northern Chimæra is represented as a fish of singular appearance and beauty, a native of the northern seas only, where it seldom exceeds three feet in length. ¶1848 [See RABBIT n.1 4]. ¶1969 A. WHEELER *Fishes Brit. Isles* 111 The chimaeras are deep-water fishes, living on or below the edge of the continental shelf.

2. In Painting, Arch., etc. A grotesque monster, formed of the parts of various animals.

¶1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P.R.* xix. xxxvii. (1495) 879 Somtyme they..bryngyth to lesynges as he dooth that paynteth Chymera with thre heedes.] ¶1634 JACKSON *Creed* vii. xi, Chimeras, or painted devices which represent no visible creature. ¶1636 B. JONSON *Discov.*, He complains of their painting Chimaeras, by the vulgar unaptly called grotesque. ¶1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 83 ¶7 The third Artist..had an excellent Hand at a Chimera. ¶1876 H. N. HUMPHREYS *Coin-Coll. Man.* vi. 66 The Chimæra enriching the helmet is the monster Scylla.

3. fig. with reference to the terrible character, the unreality, or the incongruous composition of the fabled monster: a. A horrible and fear-inspiring phantasm, a boggy.

¶1514 BARCLAY *Cyt. & Uplondyshm.* (1847) 72 Against the Chimera here stoutly must he fight. ¶1601 CORNWALLYES *Ess.* xvii, Chimæræs, begotten betweene Feare, and Darknesse, which vanish with the Light. ¶1730 THOMSON *Autumn* 1145 Full of pale fancies and chimeras huge. ¶1856 FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* (1858) I. v. 429 The nation..exorcised the chimæra with a few resolute words for ever.

b. An unreal creature of the imagination, a mere wild fancy; an unfounded conception. (The ordinary modern use.) See also bombinate.

¶1587 GOLDING *De Mornay* xxv. 379 How could that Chymera haue come in any mans minde? ¶1645 HOWELL *Lett.* I. i. iv, That golden myne is proved a meer Chymera, an imaginary airy myne. ¶1712 ARBUTHNOT *John Bull* ii. iii, Exploded chimera's, the perpetuum mobile..philosopher's stone, etc.. ¶1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* II. 18 The sea-snake, or serpent of the ocean, is no longer counted a chimera. ¶1835 SIR J. ROSS *N.W. Pass.* xv. 237 The 'chimera of a north-west passage', as it has been termed.

c. An incongruous union or medley.

¶1832 G. DOWNES *Lett. Cont. Countries* I. 27 The exterior of the Church..is a chimera in architecture, being Doric below, Corinthian above, and Ionic in the middle.

d. Biol. [ad. G. chimäre (H. Winkler 1907, in Ber. d. Deut. Bot. Ges. XXV. 574).] An organism (commonly a plant) in which tissues of genetically different constitution co-exist as a result of grafting, mutation, or some other process.

¶1911 D. H. CAMPBELL in *Amer. Naturalist* XLV. 44 Such monstrous forms, for which Winkler proposes the name 'chimæra', are not hybrids in any true sense of the word, but have arisen from buds in which there was a mere mechanical coalescence of tissue from the two parent forms at the junction of the stock and graft. ¶1926 J. S. HUXLEY *Ess. in Pop. Sci.* xviii. 259 If the front half of one species be grafted on to the back half of another species, both continue to differentiate, and a chimaera or mosaic organism is produced. ¶1968 *Nature* 9 Nov. 596 (heading) Mouse chimaeras obtained by the injection of cells into the blastocyst. ¶1969 *New Scientist* 16 Jan. 133/1 Cytogeneticists have found human mosaic individuals, trisomics and chimeras.

4. attrib. and Comb.

¶1619 BP. J. WILLIAMS *Serm. Apparell* (1620) 20 For a woman..to come vnto a Church Chimæra-like..halfe male and halfe female. ¶1761 F. SHERIDAN S. *Bidulph* III. 138 Our sex, said he, have not such chimæra notions.

Hence **chimeraship** nonce-wd.

¶1843 CARLYLE *Past & Pr.* (1858) 170 His serene Chimeraship.

churlish a.

(ˈtʃɜːlɪʃ)

[OE. *cierlisc*, or (without umlaut) *ceorlisc*, f. *ceorl* *churl* + *-isc*, *-ish*. Cf. *carlish*.]

1. Of or relating to a churl; of the rank or position of a churl; pertaining to churls, rustic, common, vulgar, mean. Obs. (or arch.)

¶1000 *Laws Ine* 18 in Thorpe I. 114 (Bosw.) Gif *cierlisc* [*ciorlisc* MS. H, *cyrilisc* B] *mon betyæen wære*. ¶c1000 ÆLFRIC *Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker 153/33 *Cibarius*, *ceorlisc hlaf*. ¶1154 *O.E. Chron.* an. 893 *Sæton feawa cirlice men*. ¶1382 WYCLIF *1 Chron.* xxvii. 26 To the *churlische werk*..and to the *erthe tilieris*, that *wrouzten the erth*. ¶c1386 CHAUCER *Miller's Prol.* 61 But *tolde his cherlich tale in his manere*. ¶c1440 *Prompt. Parv.* 72 *Cherlyche or charlysche, rusticalis*. ¶1867 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* I. App. 727 Tradition asserts Godwine to have been a man of *churlish birth*.

b. Applied to churl's mustard: see *churl* 7 b.

¶1597 GERARD *Herbal* i. xx. §7. 210 The seeds of these *churlish kindes* of *treacle mustarde*.

2. Intentionally boorish or rude in behaviour; hard, harsh, 'brutal', surly, ungracious.

¶1386 CHAUCER *Frankl. T.* 787 Fro his lust yet were hym leuere abyde Than doon so heigh a cherlyssh [v.r. cherlyssh, cherliche, cherles, cheerlissch] wrecchednesse. ¶a1450 LE Morte Arth. 1078 So Churlysshe of maners in feld ne hale Ne know I none. ¶c1530 LD. BERNERS *Arth. Lyt. Bryt.* (1814) 488 The dolphyn stepte forthe..and said to the kynge: Thou foule olde churlysshe vilaine! ¶1600 SHAKES. *A.Y.L.* v. iv. 98 The Retort courteous..the Quip-modest..the reply Churlish. ¶1611 BIBLE *1 Sam.* xxv. 3 The man was churlish and euill in his doings. [Coverd., harde, and wicked in his doynges.] ¶1684 BUNYAN *Pilgr.* ii. 13 That which troubleth me most is my churlish carriages to him when he was under his distress. ¶1701 DE FOE *Trueborn Eng.* Pref., It cannot be denied but we are in many Cases, and particularly to Strangers, the churlishest People alive. ¶1865 LIVINGSTONE *Zambesi* xxv. 520 We found the people more churlish than usual.

b. transf. Of beasts, natural forces and agents: Violent, rough, etc. (Now only fig.)

¶1477 PASTON *Lett.* 794. III. 186 So that he be not chorlissch at a spore, as plungyng. ¶1600 SHAKES. *A.Y.L.* ii. i. 7 The Icie phange And churlish chiding of the winters winde. ¶1633 P. FLETCHER *Pisc. Ecl.* ii. xiii, From thence he furrow'd many a churlish sea. ¶1671 J. WEBSTER *Metallogr.* xxvi. 318 It is a strong and chirlish vomit. ¶1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* i. v. 689 Rude and churlish Blasts of wind. ¶1754 HUXHAM in *Phil. Trans.* XLVIII. 857 It always proved a very churlish medicine. [Cf. churlous.]

3. Sordid, niggardly, stingy, grudging. [See note to churl n. 6.]

¶1566 PAINTER *Pal. Pleas.* I. 99 As he liued a beastly and chorlish life euen so he required to haue his funerall done after that manner. ¶1600 SHAKES. *A.Y.L.* ii. iv. 80 My master is of churlish disposition, And little wreakes to finde the way to heauen By doing deeds of hospitalitie. ¶1682 BUNYAN *Holy War* 191 Nor was I ever so churlish as to keep the commendations of them from others. ¶1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* ii. xxxv, Thy churlish courtesy..Reserve. ¶1866 MRS. H. WOOD *St. Martin's Eve* ii. (1874) 12 He could not offer a churlish roof to his visitors.

4. Of soil: Unkindly, stiff, hard, and difficult to work, ill repaying the husbandman's toil. Formerly also of metal: Difficult to work, intractable. Also transf. of difficulties, obstacles, etc. (Now fig.)

¶1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* i. (1586) 22 In Sommer the ground

is to hard and churlishe. ¶1596 SHAKES. *1 Hen. IV*, v. i. 16 Will you againe unknit This churlish knot of all-abhorred Warre. ¶1626 BACON *Sylva* §326 If there be Emission of spirit, the body of the Metal will be hard and Churlish. ¶1650 FULLER *Pisgah* ii. xii. 250 In assigning the west border of this Tribe, we meet with a churlish difficulty in the text. ¶1662 *Worthies* (1840) I. 365 It is not churlish but good-natured metal. ¶a1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1752) 3 Harsh, churlish, obstinate clay. ¶1764 GOLDSM. *Trav.* 168 Where the black Swiss..force a churlish soil for scanty bread. ¶1840 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* xli, A churlish strong-box or a prison-door.

5. Comb., as churlish-throated.

¶1631 DRAYTON *Wks.* III. 918 (Jodd.) The churlish-throated hounds then holding him at bay.

cipher cypher n.

(ˈsaɪfə(r))

[a. OF. *cyfre*, *cyffre* (mod.F. *chiffre*) = Sp. *Pg.* It. *cifra*, med.L. *cifra*, *cifera*, *ciphra*, f. Arab. *ṣifr* the arithmetical symbol ‘zero’ or ‘nought’ (written in Indian and Arabic numeration ۰), a subst. use of the adj. *ṣifr* ‘empty, void’, f. *ṣafara* to be empty. The Arabic was simply a translation of the Sanscrit name *śūnya*, literally ‘empty’.]

1. a. An arithmetical symbol or character (o) of no value by itself, but which increases or decreases the value of other figures according to its position. When placed after any figure or series of figures in a whole number it increases the value of that figure or series tenfold, and when placed before a figure in decimal fractions, it decreases its value in the same proportion.

¶1399 LANGL. *Rich. Redeles* iv. 53 Than satte summe, as siphre doth in awgrym, That noteth a place, and no thing availith. ¶c1400 *Test. Love* ii. (1560) 286 b/1 Although a sipher in augrim have no might in signification of it selve, yet he yeveth power in signification to other. ¶1547 J. HARRISON *Exhort. Scottes* 229 Our presidentes..doo serue but as Cyphers in Algorisme, to fill the place. ¶a1593 H. SMITH *Serm.* (1622) 310 You are..like cyphers, which supply a place, but signifie nothing. ¶1611 SHAKES. *Wint. T.* i. ii. 6 Like a Cypher (Yet standing in rich place) I multiply With one we thanke you, many thousands moe, That goe before it. ¶1660 MILTON *Free Commw.* 429 Only like a great Cypher set to no purpose before a long row of other significant Figures. ¶1718 J. CHAMBERLAYNE *Relig. Philos.* (1730) I. xvi. §22 With 39 Noughts or Cyphers following. ¶1801-15 M. EDGEWORTH *Frank*

(ed. 2) III. 143 It was said..that all Cambridge scholars call the cipher aught and all Oxford scholars call it nought. ¶1827 HUTTON *Course Math.* I. 4 The first nine are called Significant Figures, as distinguished from the cipher, which is of itself quite insignificant.

b. The zero-point, or zero, of a thermometer. U.S.

¶1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* I. 475 The range of the quick~silver..is between the 24th degree below, and the 105th degree above cypher. ¶1815 D. DRAKE *Cincinnati* ii. 94 From nine years observations, at Cincinnati, it appears that the thermometer falls below cypher twice every winter.

2. fig.

a. A person who fills a place, but is of no importance or worth, a nonentity, a 'mere nothing'

¶1579 LYLly *Euphues* (Arb.) 46 If one be hard in conceiuing they pronounce him a dowlte..if without speach, a Cipher. ¶1639 FULLER *Holy War* ii. v. (1840) 54 At this day the Roman emperor is a very cipher, without power or profit in Rome. ¶1770 LANGHORNE *Plutarch* (1879) I. 252/1 The tribunes' office, which has made ciphers of the consuls. ¶1844 H. H. WILSON *Brit. India* I. 259 The Raja was a cypher: the Dewan usurped the whole power. ¶1852 THACKERAY *Esmond* i. iii. (1876) 24 To the lady and lord rather—his lordship being little more than a cypher in the house.

b. of things.

¶1603 SHAKES. *Meas. for M.* ii. ii. 39 Mine were the verie Cipher of a Function To fine the faults..And let goe by the Actor. ¶1844 LD. BROUGHAM *Brit. Const.* viii. (1862) 105 The impotent estate being reduced to a cipher, is as if it had no existence.

3. In an extended sense, applied to all the Arabian numerals; a numeral figure; a number.

¶1530 PALSGR. 684/2, I reken, I counte by cyfers of agrym. ¶1640 RECORDE, etc. *Gr. Artes*, Of those ten [figures] one doth signifie nothing..and is privately called a Cypher, though all the other sometime be likewise named. ¶1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, Cipher, a figure or number. ¶1756 J. WARTON *Ess. Pope* (1782) I. §31. 185 It was Gerbert, who..is said to have introduced into France, the Arabian and Indian cypher. ¶1858 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* (1865) VII. xviii. i. 92, I remember to have seen '150 millions' loosely given as the exaggerated cipher. ¶1875 RENOUF'S *Egypt. Gram.* 13 Numbers are almost always expressed by means of ciphers.

4. **a.** gen. A symbolic character, a hieroglyph.

¶1533 ELYOT *Cast. Helthe* (1541) A iv, They wolde have deuysed a strange syphre or fourme of letters, wherin they wold have writen their science.

¶1555 FARDLE *Facions* i. iv. 40 Yeat ware not their Letters facioned to ioyned together in sillables like ours, but Ziphres, and shapes of men and of beastes.

¶1614 RALEIGH *Hist. World* (J.) In succeeding times this wisdom began to be written in ciphers and characters, and letters bearing the form of creatures.

b. An astrological sign or figure. Obs.

¶1590 SPENSER *F.Q.* iii. ii. 45 May learned be by cyphers, or by Magicke might. ¶1664 BUTLER *Hud.* ii. iii. 988 He circles draws, and squares, With ciphers, astral characters.

¶1841-44 EMERSON *Ess. Circles Wks.* (Bohn) I. 125 The eye..is the highest emblem in the cipher of the world.

5. **a.** A secret or disguised manner of writing, whether by characters arbitrarily invented (app. the earlier method), or by an arbitrary use of letters or characters in other than their ordinary sense, by making single words stand for sentences or phrases, or by other conventional methods intelligible only to those possessing the key; a cryptograph. Also anything written in cipher, and the key to such a system.

¶1528 GARDINER in *Pocock Rec. Ref.* I. No. 48. 92 We think not convenient to write them, but only in cipher. ¶1587 FLEMING *Cont. Holinshed* III. 1371/1 Letters betweene them were alwaies written in cipher. ¶1605 BACON *Adv. Learn.* ii. xvi. §6 The kinds of ciphers..are many, according to the nature or rule of the infolding, wheel-ciphers, key-ciphers, doubles, etc.

¶1652 EVELYN *Mem.* (1857) I. 289, I had also addresses and cyphers, to correspond with his Majesty and Ministers abroad. ¶1748 HARTLEY *Observ.*

Man i. i. 15 We admit the Key of a Cypher to be a true one, when it explains the Cypher completely. ¶1812 WELLINGTON in *Gurw. Disp.* IX. 235 We have deciphered the letter you sent and it goes back to you with the key of the cipher.

¶1839-57 ALISON *Hist. Europe* VIII. lii. §5. 293 Intercepting some of the correspondence in cipher. ¶1885 GORDON in *Standard* 24 Feb., Cypher letter..which I cannot decypher, for Colonel Stewart took the cypher with him.

b. ciphers: Shorthand; = character 3 b.

¶1541 ELYOT *Image Gou.* 28 Secretaries or clerkes..in briefe notes or syphers made for that purpose, wrate euery woorde that by those counsail-

lours was spoken. ¶a1670 HACKET *Abp. Williams* i. 82 (D.) His speeches were much heeded, and taken by divers in ciphers.

c. fig.

¶1674 CLARENDON *Surv. Leviath.* (1676) 12 To open the cipher of other mens thoughts. ¶1854 B. TAYLOR *Poems Orient*, L'Envoi, I found among the children of the Sun The cipher of my nature.

6. An intertexture of letters, esp. the initials of a name, engraved or stamped on plate, linen, etc.; a literal device, monogram; now esp. used of Turkish or Arabic names so expressed.

¶1631 MASSINGER *Beleeve as You List* v. ii, Pull out the stone, and under it you shall finde My name, and cipher I then usde, ingraven. ¶a1672 WOOD *Life* (1848) 87 note, Above [the portrait] is his cypher. ¶1764 HARMER *Observ.* xix. x. 425 The Emir's flourish or cypher at the bottom, signifying, 'The poor, the abject Mehemet, son of Turabeye'. ¶1824 J. JOHNSON *Typogr.* I. 348 At the end is Caxton's cypher on a white ground. Mod. Turkish coins bearing no device except the Sultan's cipher.

7. The continuous sounding of any note upon an organ, owing to the imperfect closing of the pallet or valve without any pressure upon the corresponding key.

¶1779 BURNEY *Infant Music.* in *Phil. Trans.* LXIX. 198 He weakened the springs of two keys at once, which, by preventing the valves of the wind-chest from closing, occasioned a double cipher. ¶1884 W. S. ROCKSTRO *Mendelssohn* xii. 82 During the course of the Fantasia..a long treble A began to sound on the swell..We well remember whispering to Mr. Vincent Novello.. 'It must be a cypher'.

8. attrib. and in Comb., as cipher bishop (sense 2); cipher-letter, cipher-telegram, cipher-writing, etc. (sense 5); cipher-key, the key to writings in cipher; cipher officer, an officer in the military or diplomatic services responsible for the coding and decoding of ciphers; †cipher-tunnel, a false or mock chimney.

¶1649 MILTON *Eikon.* Wks. (1738) I. 377 That foolish and self-undoing Declaration of twelve *Cypher Bishops.

¶1872 TENNYSON *Gareth & Lynette* 64 A red And *cipher face of rounded foolishness.

¶1915 O. WILLIAMS *Let.* 23 Mar. in C. Mackenzie Gallipoli Mem. (1929) ii. 7 I'm *cipher officer on his Staff with the rank of Captain. ¶1948 *Hansard* CDXLVIII. 1539 The smooth running of an embassy abroad depends just as

much on a happy, contented, well-paid staff of cipher officers..as..on the..head of the Mission.

¶1831 CARLYLE *Sart. Res.* (1858) 20 Laughter: the *cipher key, where-with we decipher the whole man!

¶1880 *Brit. Post. Guide* 242 *Cypher telegrams are those containing series or groups of figures or letters having a secret meaning; or words not to be found in a standard dictionary.

¶1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* v. iii. §46 The device of *Cypher Tunnels or mock-Chimneys meerly for uniformity of building.

circuitous a.

(sə'kjʊɪtəs)

[ad. late L. circuitōs-us abounding in roundabout courses, f. circuitus circuit n.: see -ous.]

Of the nature of a circuit, roundabout, indirect.

¶1664 H. MOORE *Myst. Iniq.* 109 Any medium direct or circuitous.

¶1790 PALEY *Horæ Paul.* i. 4 Coincidences..minute, circuitous, or oblique.

¶1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* I. 439 By this kind of circuitous commerce they subsisted and grew rich.

¶1800 COLQUHOUN *Comm. Thames* xi. 303 This ancient Court of Record is too circuitous in its procedure.

¶1845 WHATELY *Logic in Encycl. Metr.* 219/1 An artificial and circuitous way of speaking.

¶1868 QUEEN VICTORIA *Life Highl.* 169 We had..to take a somewhat circuitous route in order to avoid some bogs.

2. ? Circus-like. Obs. rare.

¶1807 G. CHALMERS *Caledonia* I. i. ii. 92 There are other circuitous erections of stone.

circumlocution n.

(sɜ:kəmləʊ'kjʊ:fən)

[a. F. circonlocution, or ad. L. circumlocūtiōn-em, f. circum- + loqui to speak.]

1. Speaking in a roundabout or indirect way; the use of several words instead of one, or many instead of few. Formerly used of grammatical periphrasis; but now only of rhetorical.

Circumlocution Office: a satirical name applied, by Dickens, to Government Offices, on account of the circuitous formality by which they delay the giving of information, etc.

¶1510 BARCLAY *Mirr. Good Mann.* (1570) F vj, When thou must in speche touche..Such maners vnclenly, vse circumlocution. ¶1530 PALSGR. 112 Where we use circumlocution, the frenchemen have one onely worde. ¶1553 T. WILSON *Rhet.* 93 b, Circumlocution is a large description either to sette forth a thyng more gorgeously, or else to hyde it. ¶1595 A. DAY *Eng. Secretary* ii. (1625) 84 When by circumloquution anything is expressed, as when we say: The Prince of Peripateticks, for Aristotle. ¶1626 COCKERAM, *Circumlocution*, A speaking of many words when few may suffice: a long circumstance. ¶1713 ADDISON *Ct. Tariff*, He affirms everything roundly without any art or circumlocution. ¶1823 SCOTT *Peveril* xii, After much circumlocution, and many efforts to give an air of importance to what he had to communicate. ¶1855 DICKENS *Dorrit* i. x, The Circumlocution Office was (as everybody knows without being told) the most important Department under Government. *ibid.*, Whatever was required to be done, the Circumlocution Office was beforehand with all the public departments in the art of perceiving—How not to do it.

b. A phrase or sentence in which circumlocution is used; a roundabout expression.

¶1533 TINDALE *Supper of Lord* 42 Going about the bush with this exposition and circumlocution. ¶1662 FULLER *Worthies* (1840) II. 452 In his pleadings..he declined all circumlocutions. ¶1791 MACKINTOSH *Vind. Gall.* Wks. 1846 III. 83 The courtly circumlocution by which Mr. Burke designates the Bastille—‘the King’s castle at Paris!’ ¶1854 KINGSLEY *Lett.* (1878) I. 417 Courtesies and Circumlocutions are out of place, where the morals, health, lives of thousands are at stake.

So **circumlocutional**, **circumlocutionary**, adjs., pertaining to, or given to, circumlocution. **circumlocutionist**, one who employs circumlocution. **circumlocutious** a., given to circumlocution; whence circumlocutiousness.

¶1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* II. 308, I have found circumlocutional champions disposed to be warm with me. ¶1863 *Scotsman* 16 Apr., An immense exercise of circumlocutionary skill. ¶1877 WALLACE *Russia* xxx. 500 The flowery circumlocutionary style of an Oriental scribe. ¶1846 WORCESTER *Circumlocutionist*, citing *Gent. Mag.* ¶1855 DICKENS *Dorrit* i. xxxiv, This able circumlocutionist. ¶1827 R. HILL in *Sidney Life* (1834) 213 O the dulness, the circumlocutiousness, the conceit, the tautology.

circumspect a.

('sɜ:kəmspekt)

[a. F. circonspect, or ad. L. circumspect-us considerate, wary, cautious, circumspect, properly pa. pple. of circumspicere to look around, take heed, consider; hence of things, 'well-considered', transf. to persons 'considerate, cautious', etc.]

1. Of things or actions: Marked by circumspection, showing caution, well-considered, cautious.

¶1422 LYDG. *Coronation Hen.* VI, in Ritson *Anc. Songs* 70 By circumspect advise. ¶1562 *Act 5 Eliz.* c. 21 §1 If circumspect Remedy be not hereunto provided. ¶1709 STRYPE *Ann. Ref.* Ep. Ded. 1 Circumspect and holy labours. ¶1847 EMERSON *Poems*, *Monadnoc Wks.* (Bohn) I. 441 By circumspect ambition.

2. Of persons: Watchful on all sides, attentive to everything, cautious, heedful of all circumstances that may affect action or decision.

¶1430 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* ii. xvi, Circumspect in all his gouernance. ¶1494 FABYAN vii. ccxvi. 290 Which in all his faytes is so circumspecte. ¶1542 BOORDE *Dyetary* xxiii. (1870) 287 Sanguyne men..must be cyrcumspect in eatynge of theyr meate. ¶1594 SHAKES. *Rich. III*, iv. ii. 31 High-reaching Buckingham growes circumspect. ¶1624 CAPT. SMITH *Virginia* iv. 147 This will make us more circumspect. ¶1728 NEWTON *Chronol. Amended* ii. 260 Herodotus was circumspect and faithful in his narrations. ¶1850 PRESCOTT *Peru* II. 31 The wild passes..practicable..for the sure and circumspect mule. ¶1881 BESANT & RICE *Chapl. of Fleet* i. 38, I was to be circumspect in my behaviour.

b. with dependent sentence or clause. Obs.

¶1573 G. HARVEY *Letter-bk.* (1884) 2 As circumspect to se to mi self. ¶1658 W. BURTON *Itin. Anton.* 172, I have..been very scrupulous and circumspect what authorities I made use of.

3. Considered, respected. [late L. circumspectus.] Obs. rare.

¶1579 TWYNE *Phisicke agst. Fortune* ii. xxxii. 209 a, Then wylt thou be the more circumspect, and the better knowne.

clamorous a.

('klæmərəs)

[Corresponds to med.L. *clāmōrōs-us*, and obs. F. *clamoreux*, f. L. *clāmōrem* clamour: see -ous.]

Characterized by clamour.

1. Of the nature of clamour; uttered with, or accompanied by, clamour or shouting; noisy.

¶1526 PILGR. *Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 92 b, Defendeth with hygh and clamorous wordes or speche his opinyon. ¶1596 SHAKES. *Tam. Shr.* iii. ii. 180 Hee..kist her lips with such a clamorous smacke, that at the parting all the Church did eccho. ¶1667 MILTON *P.L.* x. 479 Chaos wilde..fiercely oppos'd My journey strange, with clamorous uproare. ¶1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 440 ¶6 He still reasoned in a more clamorous and confused manner. ¶1828 D'ISRAELI *Chas.* I, II. i. 23 Loud and clamorous was the babble against the new soap. ¶1842 EMERSON *Transcendentalist* Wks. (Bohn) II. 291 They..reject the clamorous nonsense of the hour.

2. Uttering loud and persistent cries or shouts; noisy, vociferous; loudly urgent. Said of persons and other agents, or instruments; and transf. of places where these are.

¶1540-54 CROKE *Ps.* (1844) 19 Mercifull Lorde..let ascende vp to thyne eare My wofull voyce, and clamorous. ¶1600 SHAKES. *A.Y.L.* iv. i. 152, I will bee..more clamorous then a Parrat against raine. ¶1728 POPE *Dunc.* ii. 353 The clam'rous crowd is hush'd with mugs of Mum. ¶1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* iii. i, Clamorous War-pipes yelled the gathering sound. ¶1858 W. JOHNSON *Ionica* 27 The zeal of those that miss the prize On clamorous river-banks. ¶1870 BRYANT *Iliad* I. ii. 45 Thersites only, clamorous of tongue, Kept brawling.

3. fig. That urgently claims attention, 'crying'; importunate. (Often including actual noise.)

¶1621-31 LAUD *Sev. Serm.* (1847) 98, I doubt our sins have been as clamorous upon God to heat His fire. ¶1691 T. H[ALE] *Acc. New Invent.* 44 Put an end to this clamorous Evil. ¶1712 ARBUTHNOT *John Bull* (1755) 13 Clamorous debts. ¶1836 J. GILBERT *Chr. Atonem.* i. (1852) 5 The age..we may almost say, is clamorous for new works.

clandestine a. (n.)

(klæn'destɪn)

[ad. L. *clandestīnus* secret, hidden, clandestine, f. *clam* secretly, in private; cf. *matutīnus*. In French *clandestin*, -ine occurs in 16th c.]

A. adj. Secret, private, concealed; usually in bad sense, implying craft or deception; underhand, surreptitious.

¶1566 LETHINGTON *To Cecil* in Burnet Records iii. No. 30 (R.) The vitiated and clandestine contract..having no witness nor solemnization of Christian matrimony. ¶1658 MILTON *Lett. State* (1851) 400 A certain clandestine Hostility cover'd over with the name of Peace. ¶1698 W. CHILCOT *Evil Thoughts* ii. (1851) 18 The clandestine impurities of the hearts and souls of the whole world shall be revealed. ¶1754 ERSKINE *Princ. Sc. Law* (1809) 69 When the order of the church is observed, the marriage is called regular; when otherwise, clandestine. Clandestine marriage, though it be valid, has statutory penalties annexed to it. ¶1845 MCCULLOCH *Taxation* ii. x. (1852) 359 A powerful stimulus to clandestine distillation. ¶1860 W. COLLINS *Wom. White* iii. 472, I obtained access by clandestine means.

B. n. A clandestine or underhand proceeding.

¶1656 S. H. GOLDEN *Law* 15 Such clandestines and ambushments attend continually for your surprisal. *Ibid.* 87 Your Clandestines and Trecheries.

claptrap n.

(ˈklæptræp)

[f. *clap* n.1 4 + *trap* n.]

1. (with pl.) A trick or device to catch applause; an expression designed to elicit applause.

¶1727-31 BAILEY II, A Clap Trap..a trap to catch a clap by way of applause from the spectators at a play. ¶1788 DIBDIN *Musical Tour* lxiii. 161 Sentiments which, by the theatrical people, are known by the name of clap traps. ¶1799 SOUTHEY *Lett.* (1856) I. 67 There will be no clap-traps, nothing about 'Britannia rule the Waves'. ¶1848 THACKERAY *Bk. Snobs* xx, Don't..vent claptraps about your own virtue.

2. (without a or pl.) Language designed to catch applause; cheap showy sentiment. In modern use passing into sense 'nonsense, rubbish'.

¶1819 BYRON *Juan* ii. cxxiv, I hate..that air Of clap-trap, which your recent poets prize. ¶1845 *Punch* Nov. 215/1 Dan..fancies he covers his own astounding selfishness and indifference by this brutal clap~trap. ¶1880 DISRAELI *Endym.* lvii. 253 He disdained all cant and clap-trap. ¶1895 *Daily*

News 30 May 2/3 That is very eloquent but it is what I call vicious and wicked clap trap. ¶1915 A. HUXLEY *Lett.* Nov. (1969) 86 How much better this book wd. have been had she made it a study of don-life in the 80's..instead of the usual politico-Debrett clap-trap. ¶1955 *Times* 26 Aug. 7/5 Cannot our educationists turn away from the pretentious claptrap put about during the past 20 years..? ¶1966 *Illustr. London News* 30 July 28/2 The piece at one point turns to deplorable dramatic claptrap.

3. A mechanical contrivance for making a clapping noise to express applause, etc. Obs.

¶1847 CRAIG, Clap-trap..a kind of clapper for making a noise in theatres.

¶1864 WEBSTER, *Clap-trap*, a contrivance for clapping in theaters. ¶1866 *Cincinnati Gaz.* in *Public Opinion* 24 Feb., A street juggler..sings some ditty to the sound of clap-traps which he swings or works in his hand.

4. attrib. (in senses 1, 2), passing into true adjectival use; = claptrappy.

¶1815 *Scribbleomania* 124 note, The Clap-Trap system which he has uniformly adopted during..his theatrical career. ¶1842 G. S. FABER *Provinc. Lett.* (1844) II. 187 They triumphantly draw the clap-trap conclusion, that, etc.

¶1855 G. BRIMLEY *Ess. Tennyson* 74 Claptrap appeals to the war-feeling of the day. ¶1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) II. 371 A regular clap-trap speaker.

¶1887 *Spectator* 7 May 622/1 The subject is more or less clap-trap.

Hence claptrappery, claptrappish a., claptrappy a., -ily adv.; all nonce-wds.

¶1820 COLERIDGE *Lett.* I. xi. 118 Her plebicular Clap-Trapperies.

¶1880 *Punch* 27 Dec. 306/2 Till 'Goodwill' sound verily, Cheerily, not clap-trappily. ¶1809 SOUTHEY in C. Southey *Life* III. 205 Did I not tell you it

[a passage in Kehama] was clap-trappish? ¶1865 *Reader* 2 Dec. 636/2 The language being either claptrappish or vapid. ¶1873 *Spectator* 4 Oct., Mr.

Chamberlain's clap-trappy programme of a Free Church, a Free School, Free Labour, and Free Land.

cleave v.1

(kli:v)

[Common Teut.: OE. clíofan, cléofan, pa. tense cléaf, pl. clufon, pa. pple. clofen, corresp. to OS. clioban (MDu. clieven, clûven, Du. klieven), OHG. chlioban (MHG., mod.G. klieben), ON. kljúfa (Sw. klyfva, Da. klöve), not recorded in Gothic:—OTeut. type *kleub-, klaub—klubum, klubano-, corresp. to pre-Teutonic *gleubh-, in Gr. γλυφ- 'to cut with a knife, carve', and perh. L. glüb- 'to peel, flay'.

The early ME. inflexion was cleoven (clēven), clêf (pl. cluven), cloven. Assimilation to the pa. pple. soon changed the plural of the pa. tense to cloven, clove, and by 14th c. clove was extended to the singular, where clêf, clêve, became obs. about 1500, making the later inflexion clêve, clōve, clōven. The pa. pple. had also the shortened form clove, which survives as a variant in poetry. A pa. tense clave occurs in northern writers in 14th c., passed into general use, and was very common down to c 1600; it survives as a Bible archaism. A weak inflexion cleaved came into use in 14th c.; and subsequently a form cleft; both are still used, cleft esp. in pa. pple., where it interchanges with cloven, with some differentiation in particular connexions, as 'cleft stick', 'cloven foot': see these words.

From the 14th c. the inflexional forms of this verb have tended to run together with those of cleave v.2 'to stick'. Though the latter was originally clive, it had also the variants cleove, clêve, the latter of which at length prevailed; the two verbs having thus become indentical in the present stem were naturally confused in their other inflexions. The (originally northern) pa. tense clave, which appeared in both in 14th. c., is not normal in either; it was apparently analogical, taken over from one of the other classes of strong vbs. having a in the past, as from breke, brak(e, broken, speke, spak(e, spoken. (It would of course be possible to explain the pa. tense singular clove in the same way.) The weak pa. tense and pa. pple. cleaved were probably mainly taken over from cleave v.2, where they were original; but they might also arise independently in this verb. For the subsequent shortening of cleaved to cleft, there was the obvious precedent of leave, left, bereave, bereft, etc.]

1. trans. To part or divide by a cutting blow; to hew asunder; to split. Properly used of parting wood, or the like, 'along the grain', i.e. between its parallel fibres; hence, of dividing anything in the direction of its length, height, or depth; also, of dividing slate or crystals along their cleavage planes, and other things at their joints.

¶1100 *Gerefa* in *Anglia* IX. 261 In miclum Æefyrstum timber cleofan. ¶c1300 *Havelok* 917 Ful wel kan ich cleuen shides. ¶1481 CAXTON *Reynard* viii. (Arb.) 14 A grete oke whiche he had begonne to cleue. ¶1599 SHAKES. *Much Ado* ii. i. 261 She would haue made Hercules..haue cleft his club to make the fire. ¶1611 BIBLE *Gen.* xxii. 3 Abraham..clauē the wood for the burnt offering. ¶1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* ii. 484 The Dog-star cleaves the thirsty Ground. ¶1705 OTWAY *Orphan* ii. iii. 516, I..clove the Rebel to the Chine. ¶1722 SEWEL *Hist. Quakers* (1795) I. iii. 205 A butcher swore he would cleave her head. ¶1823 H. J. BROOKE *Introd. Crystallogr.* 44

If a cube of blende..be cleaved in directions parallel to its diagonal planes.

¶1872 E. PEACOCK *Mabel Heron* iv. 55 The sections into which our society is cleft.

b. Often with asunder, in two, etc. to cleave down: to cut down.

¶c1205, etc. [See A 2 α]. ¶1300 *K. Alis*. 2231 A-two [he] cleued his scheld. ¶c1320 *Sir Beues* 4514 Man and hors he cleuede down. ¶1490 *Adam Bel & Clym* C. 601 Cloudesly..Claue the wand in to. ¶1590 SPENSER *F.Q.* i. xi. 39 The knotty sting Of his huge taile he quite in sunder cleft. ¶1603 SHAKES. *Meas. for M.* iii. i. 63 To cleaue a heart in twaine. ¶1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* I. 610 The mountain being cloven asunder. ¶1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* III. 361 He was cloven down while struggling in the press.

c. To pierce and penetrate (air, water, etc.). Also to cleave one's way through.

¶1558 and 1651 [See A 1 γ]. ¶1671 MILTON *P.R.* iii. 433 At their passing cleave the Assyrian flood. ¶1704 POPE *Windsor For.* 188 The fierce eagle cleaves the liquid sky. ¶1791 COWPER *Iliad* ix. 447 Cleaving with my prows The waves of Hellespont. ¶1827 CARLYLE *Richter* Misc., Whose wailings have cleft the general ear. ¶1852 CONYBEARE & H. *St. Paul* (1862) I. ix. 263 The vessel..would soon cleave her way through the strait. ¶1877 L. MORRIS *Epic Hades* ii. 175 No sunbeam cleaves the twilight.

d. To intersect, penetrate, or fissure, in position.

¶1808 J. BARLOW *Columb.* i. 247 Thine is the stream; it cleaves the well known coast. ¶1874 H. REYNOLDS *John Bapt.* iv. 232 Caverns which still cleave the limestone rocks.

e. Phrases. to cleave a hair: cf. 'to split hairs'. to cleave the pin: (in archery) to hit the pin in the centre of the white of the butts (see pin); hence fig.

¶1586 MARLOWE *1st Pt. Tamburl.* ii. iv, For kings are clouts that every man shoots at, Our crown the pin that thousands seek to cleave. ¶1592 SHAKES., *Rom. & Jul.* ii. iv. 15 The very pinne of his heart cleft with the blind Bowe-boyes but-shaft. ¶a1626 MIDDLETON *No Wit like Woman's* (N.), I'll cleave the black pin i' the midst of the white. ¶1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* iii. vi. §31 To cleave an hair betwixt the spiritual and temporal jurisdiction.

Ibid. ix. iii. §14 Mr. Fox came not up in all particulars to cleave the pin of Conformity (as refusing to subscribe) yet, etc.

2. To separate or sever by dividing or splitting.

¶1300 *Cursor M.* 27743 (Cott.) Man[s] aun wiit it fra him cleuisse. ¶c1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 320 Fro þe body his heued..did he cleue. ¶1420 [See A 3 β]. ¶1575 [See A 1 γ]. ¶1755 [See A 3 δ]. ¶1857-8 SEARS

Athan. ix. 74 To cleave away our effete coverings. ¶1873 MRS. CHARLES in *Sunday Mag.* June 625 The dreadful chasm cleaving us into separate existence was gone.

3. intr. (for refl.). To split or fall asunder.

¶1225 *Leg. Kath.* 2027 Hit bigon to claterin al & to cleouen. ¶a1300 *Cursor M.* 6251 Pou sal see it cleue in tua. Ibid. 24419 Þe stanes claf. ¶1377 *LANGL. P. Pl. B.* xviii. 61 Þe wal wagged and clef. ¶c1440 *Prompt. Parv.* 82 Clyue, or ryue by the selfe, rimo, risco. ¶1575 *TURBERV. Falconrie* 302 The beake beginneth to ryve and clive from hir head. ¶1611 *BIBLE Numb.* xvi. 31 The ground claue asunder. ¶a1641 *BP. R. MONTAGU Acts & Mon.* 220 The vaile of the Temple shall cleave in twaine. ¶1704 *NEWTON Opticks* (J.), It cleaves with a glossy polite substance. ¶1841 *LANE Arab. Nts.* I. 99 He struck the earth with his feet, and it clove asunder, and swallowed him.

4. intr. To cleave one's way, penetrate, pass.

¶1655 *Francion* x. 18 Cleaving through the Presse, he did approach unto him, etc. ¶1805 *WORDSW. Prelude* iii. (1850) 68 Through the inferior throng I clove Of the plain Burghers. ¶1833 *MARRYAT P. Simple* xxix, As our swift frigate cleaved through the water. ¶1865 *SWINBURNE Poems & Ball., Lament.* 74, I have cleft through the sea-straits narrow.

cleave v.2

(kli:v)

[OE. had two verbs; *clífan* str. (**cláf*, pl. *clifon*, *clifen*), and *clifian*, *cleofian* weak (*clifode*, -*od*). (1) The former was a Com. Teut. strong vb., in OS. *biklíban* to adhere (MDu. *clíban* to cling, climb, Du. *beklijven* to adhere, stick), OHG. *chlíban* (MHG. rare, *klíban*) to adhere, stick, ON. *klífa* to clamber, climb by clinging:—OTeut. **klīb-an*, perhaps ultimately f. simpler root *kli-* to stick: cf. climb, clay, clam. Of this strong vb. OE. shows only a few examples of the present, its place being generally taken by (2) the derivative *clifian*, corresp. to OS. *clībon* (MDu. *clēven*, Du. *kleven*), OHG. *chlebēn* (MHG. and G. *kleben*):—OTeut. **kliþôjan*, f. weak stem *kliþ-* of the strong vb. This had in OE. the variants *cliofian*, *cleofian* (with o or u fracture of i; cf. *lifian*, *leofian*, to live, Sc. *leeve*), whence in ME. *clive*, and *clēve*, *cleeve*; the latter finally prevailed, and is now written *cleave*. Instead of the normal pa. tense and pple. *clived*, *cleved*, we find also from 14th c. *clave*, occas. *clef*, *cluf*, *clove*, and in 17th c. *cleft*; in the pple. *clave*, *clove*, and *cleft*. At present *cleave*, *cleaved*, is

the ordinary inflexion, but the influence of the Bible of 1611, in which *clave* is frequent (beside, and in the same sense as, *cleaved*), has made that an admissible form: *clove*, *cleft* are now left to *cleave* v.1

The final predominance of *cleve* rather than *clive* as the ME. form made the present stem identical in form with that of *cleave* v.1 to split. Hence their inflexional forms were naturally also confused, and to some extent blended or used indiscriminately. The pa. tense *clave* attached itself in the 14th c. to both; in this verb it corresponds to the original strong pa. tense *cláf, but does not appear to be continuous with it; it was prob. a new form due to analogy: see note to *cleave* v.1 The occasional pa. tense *clef* belongs properly to *cleave* v.1; as perhaps also *cluf*, *clove*. (The occas. pa. pples. *clave*, *clove*, are from the pa. tense) The weak inflexion *cleaved* is of course proper to this verb, and prob. was transferred hence to *cleave* v.1 The shortened *cleft* found in both, appears to be due to the analogy of *leave*, *left*, *bereave*, *-reft*. To the same analogy is probably due the mod. spelling *cleave* in both verbs: this is not etymological, for both words had close *e* in ME., and would properly now be *cleeve* or *clieve*.]

1. To stick fast or adhere, as by a glutinous surface, to (†on, upon, in). (The perfect tenses were formerly formed with *be*.)

¶ c897 K. ÆLFRED *Gregory's Past.* xlvii. 361 His flæscas lima clifað ælc on oðrum. ¶ 1000 ÆLFRIC *Lev.* i. 8 Ealle þa þinæ þe to þære lifre clifaþ. ¶ c1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 73 Cleued bi mi tunge to mine cheken gif ich forgete þe ierusalem. ¶ 1300 *Fragm. Pop. Sc.* (Wright) 229 Ren-forst..cleueth in hegges al aboute. ¶ c1430 *Cookery Bk.* 21 3if it cleuey, let it boyle. ¶ 1480 CAXTON *Chron. Eng.* cci. 182 A drope of drye blode..cleued on his hond. ¶ 1535 COVERDALE *Job* xxix. 10 Their tonges cleued [1611 cleaued] to the rofe of their mouthes. ¶ 1561 HOLLYBUSH *Hom. Apoth.* 30 b, A pece of papir, the bignes of a groate, festened or clyued vpon the belly. ¶ 1592 GREENE in *Shaks. C. Praise* 2 Unto none of you..sought those burres to cleauē. ¶ 1626 BACON *Sylva* §293 Water in small quantity cleaveth to any thing that is solid.

¶ 1867 M. E. HERBERT *Cradle L.* vi. 155 Huge masses of masonry, which seem to cleave to the bare rock.

2. fig. (Formerly said of attributes or adjuncts).

¶ c888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xvi. §3 Nu hi [wealth & power] willaþ clifian [v.r. cliofian] on þæm wyrstan monnum. ¶ 1325 *E.E. Allit.* P. A. 1195 Bot ay wolde man of happe more hente þen moʒten by ryʒt vpon hem clyuen. ¶ 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. xvii. 329 For kynde cleueth [v.r. clyueþ] on hym euere to contrarie þe soule. ¶ 1488 CAXTON *Chast. Goddes Chyld.* xxv.

73 The rote of his olde sinne cleuyth alway upon hym. ¶1581 R. GOADE in *Confer.* ii. (1584) L iij, It is no righteousnes cleauing in vs but in Christ.

¶1597 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* v. lxix. §2 The very opportunities which we ascribe to time cleave to the things themselves wherewith time is joined.

¶1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 68 ¶2 The Pains and Anguish which naturally cleave to our Existence in this World. ¶1790 PALEY *Horæ Paul.* (1849)

396 A peculiar word or phrase cleaving, as it were, to the memory. ¶1859 TENNYSON *Lancelot & Elaine* 37 A horror lived about the tarn, and clave Like its own mists to all the mountain side.

3. In wider sense: To cling or hold fast to; to attach oneself (by grasping, etc.) to (†on, upon, in).

¶1300 [See A. 2 α]. ¶1382 WYCLIF *Song of Sol.* viii. 5 What is she this..faste cleuende vpon [v.r. to] hir leef? [Vulg. innixa super dilectum suum.] ¶1481 CAXTON *Myrr.* ii. vi. 76 Yf the culeuure clyue & be on tholyfaunt. ¶1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* iv. (1586) 185 The little Worme..cleaving so to the Coame, as hee seemeth to be tied.

4. To adhere or cling to (a person, party, principle, practice, etc.); to remain attached, devoted, or faithful to. (= adhere v. 2, 3.)

¶1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 211, I trow on him gan cleue many riche present. ¶1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. xi. 219, I conseilie alle crystene cleue [v.r. clyue] nouzte þer-on to sore. ¶1382 WYCLIF *Ephes.* v. 31 He schal clyue to his wyf. ¶1480 CAXTON *Chron. Eng.* ccxxvi. 233 In this tyme Englysshmen moche haunted and cleued to the wodenes and folye of the straungers. ¶1534 TINDALE *Rom.* xii. 9 Cleave [other 16th c. vv. cleaue] vnto that which is good. ¶1556 ABP. PARKER *Psalter* cix. 26 O helpe me Lorde..to thee alone I clive. ¶1635 SWAN *Spec. M.* iii. §2. (1643) 48 To leave the literall sense..and to cleave unto Allegories. ¶1763 WESLEY *Wks.* (1872) III. 140 My natural will ever cleaved to evil. ¶1777 BURKE *Addr. King Wks.* 1842 II. 403 We exhort you..to cleave for ever to those principles.

¶1876 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* V. xxiii. 171 The mercenary soldiers..clave to King Henry.

5. To remain steadfast, stand fast, abide, continue. Obs.

¶1205 LAY. 9389 For nis nauere nan oðer gomen þat cleuouēð alswa ueste. ¶c1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 2384 Al egipte in his wil cliueð. ¶1340 [See CLEAVING ppl. a.2] ¶1594 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* iv. xi. (T.) The apostles did conform the Christians..and made them cleave the better.

6. trans. To attach to. arch. rare.

¶1958 T. H. WHITE *Once & Future King* iii. xxviii. 460 He didna cleave importance tae it, but told the people for its worth. ¶1979 A. FRASER *King Charles II* ii. vii. 98 The real theme of the coronation—to cleave the Scottish people to their young King.

clemency n.

(ˈklɛmənsɪ)

[ad. L. clēmēntia, n. of state f. clēmēt-em clement: see -ency.]

1. Mildness or gentleness of temper, as shown in the exercise of authority or power; mercy, leniency.

¶1553 Q. *Mary's Proclam.* in Strype *Eccl. Mem.* III. App. v. 8 Her [the Queen's] great and aboundaunte clemencie. ¶1555 EDEN *Decades W. Ind.* iii. i. (Arb.) 141 To persuade hym of the clemencie of owre men. ¶1639 FULLER *Holy War* i. xvi. (1840) 27 A prince no less famous for his clemency than his conquests. ¶1716 ADDISON *Freeholder* No. 31, I have stated the true notion of clemency, mercy, compassion, good-nature, humanity, or whatever else it may be called, so far as is consistent with wisdom. ¶1827 HALLAM *Const. Hist.* (1876) III. xvi. 232 Clemency..is the standing policy of constitutional governments, as severity is of despotism. ¶1869 LECKY *Europ. Mor.* I. xi. 199 Clemency is an act of judgment, but pity disturbs the judgment.

b. as a title. Obs. rare.

¶1600 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* viii. vii. §4 May it please your clemencies to grant unto him the church of Tusculum.

2. Mildness of weather or climate; opposed to inclemency, severity.

¶1667 E. CHAMBERLAYNE *St. Gt. Brit.* i. i. iv. (1743) 31 By reason of the clemency of the climate. ¶1750 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 5 ¶8 The clemency of the weather. ¶1853 C. BRONTË *Villette* xv. (1876) 153 It rained still and blew; but with more clemency.

cloy v.1

(kloɪ)

[Aphetic form of acloy, accloy; but it is possible that sense 1 directly represents OE. cloye-r, mod. clou-er to nail. Senses 5-8 appear to run together with those of clog v.]

1. trans. To nail, to fasten with a nail. Obs.

¶c1400 *Beryn* 3464 Hym list to dryv in bet the nayll, til they wer fully Cloyid.

2. To prick (a horse) with a nail in shoeing; = accloy 1. Obs.

¶1530 PALSGR. 487/2, I cloye a horse, I drive a nayle in to the quycke of his foote. Jencloue... A smyth hath cloyed my horse. ¶1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* (1673) 267 When a horse is shouldered..or his hoof cloid with a nail.

¶1625 BACON *Apophth.* (R.), He would have made the worst farrier in the world; for he never shod horse but he cloyed him. ¶1726 *Dict. Rust.* (ed. 3) s.v., Cloyed or Accloyed, us'd by Farriers, when a Horse is pricked with a Nail in Shoeing.

3. To pierce as with a nail, to gore. rare.

¶1590 SPENSER *F.Q.* iii. vi. 48 That foe..of his [a wild boar], Which with his cruell tuske him deadly cloyd.

4. To spike (a gun), i.e. to render it useless by driving a spike or plug into the touch-hole. Obs.

¶1577 HOLINSHED *Chron.* IV. 192 [They] stopped and cloied the touch holes of three peeces of the artillerie. ¶1603 KNOLLES *Hist. Turks* (1621) 801 They should..cloy the great ordinance, that it might not afterwards stand the Turks in stead. ¶1617 MORYSON *Itin.* ii. ii. ii. 165 Hauing brought with them..spykes, to cloy the Ordinance. ¶1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* 19 Be sure that none of our Guns be cloy'd. ¶1711 *Military & Sea Dict.* s.v. Nail, To Nail Cannon, or, as some call it, To Cloy..but this is an antiquated Word. ¶1768 E. BUYS *Dict. Terms of Art* s.v. Cloyed, a Piece of Ordnance is said to be cloyed, when any Thing is got into the Touch-hole.

5. To stop up, block, obstruct, choke up (a passage, channel, etc.); to crowd or fill up. Obs.

¶1548 W. PATTEN *Expedition Scotl.* in *Arb. Garner* III. 86 These keepers had rammed up their outer doors, cloyed and stopped up their stairs within, etc. ¶1570 LAMBARDE *Peramb. Kent* (1826) 89 The fresh is not able to checke the salt water that cloyeth the chanell. ¶1581 MULCASTER *Positions* xxxvii. (1887) 165 Those professions and occupations, which be most cloyed vp with number. ¶1611 SPEED *Hist. Gt. Brit.* ix. xvi. (1632) 841 The Dukes purpose was to haue cloyed the harbour by sinking ships laden with stones, and such like choaking materials. ¶1636 BOLTON *Florus* 204 The Alps themselves heapt high with winter snowes, and so the wayes cloyed up.

¶1636 G. SANDYS *Paraphr. Div. Poems*, Lam. ii. (1648) 5 Thy Anger cloyes the Grave.

6. fig. To clog, obstruct, or impede (movement, activity, etc.); to weigh down, encumber. Obs.

¶1564 BECON *Flower Godly Prayers* (1844) 18 That heavy bondage of the flesh, wherewith I am most grievously cloyed. ¶1567 TURBERV. *Poems, To Yng. Gentleman taking Wyfe* (R.), A bearing wyfe with brats will cloy thee sore.

¶1581 J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Osor.* 137 Beyng clogged and fastened to this state of bondage (as it were cloyed in claye). ¶1665 GLANVILL *Sceps. Sci.* i. 3 The soul being not cloy'd by an unactive mass, as now.

7. To overload with food, so as to cause loathing; to surfeit or satiate (with over-feeding, or with richness, sweetness, or sameness of food).

¶1530 PALSGR. 487/2, I cloye, I charge ones stomacke with to moche meate..You have cloyed hym so moche that he is sicke now. ¶1586 COGAN *Haven Health* cliii. (1636) 148 The fat of flesh alone without leane is unwholesome, and cloyeth the stomach. ¶1593 SHAKES. *Rich. II*, i. iii. 296 Who can..cloy the hungry edge of appetite by bare imagination of a Feast?

¶1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* ii. iii. iii. (1651) 323 They being alwayes accustomed to the same dishes..are therefore cloyed. ¶1748 *Anson's Voy.* ii. xii. 266 Though this was a food that we had now been so long..confined to..yet we were far from being cloyed with it. ¶1857 DE QUINCEY *Goldsmith Wks.* VI. 197 To be cloyed perpetually is a worse fate than sometimes to stand within the vestibule of starvation.

8. fig. To satiate, surfeit, gratify beyond desire; to disgust, weary (with excess of anything).

¶1576 GASCOIGNE *Compl. Philomene* (Arb.) 92 Both satisfied with deepe delight, And cloyde with al content. ¶1588 J. UDALL *Diotrephes* (Arb.) 17 Often preaching cloyeth the people. ¶1606 SHAKES. *Ant. & Cl.* ii. ii. 241. ¶1624 CAPT. SMITH *Virginia* i. 17 But not to cloy you with particulars..I refer you to the Authors owne writing. ¶1752 FIELDING *Amelia* iv. ii, Amelia's superiority to her whole sex, who could not cloy a gay young fellow by many years possession. ¶1819 BYRON *Juan* i. i, After cloying the gazettes with cant.

absol. ¶1639 FULLER *Holy War* v. xxvi. (1840) 288 These are enough to satisfy, more would cloy. ¶1748 HARTLEY *Observ. Man* i. ii. 227 The two frequent Recurrency of Concords cloyes. ¶1829 H. NEELE *Lit. Rem.* 32 His [Pope's] sweetness cloyes at last.

b. intr. (for refl.) To become satiated. rare.

¶1721 RAMSAY *Tartana* 160 If Sol himself should shine thro' all the day,
We cloy, and lose the pleasure of his ray.

To starve. (Some error.)

¶1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 214/12 To cloy, fame consumere.

cogent a.

(¹kəʊdʒənt)

[a. F. cogent (14th c. in Littré), ad. L. cōgent-em, pr. pple. of cōgĕre to drive together, compel, constrain, f. co- together + agĕre to drive.]

1. Constraining, impelling; powerful, forcible.

¶1718 HICKES *J. Kettlewell* i. §17. 41 He was wont to do it in such an Obliging (and yet cogent) Way as..to give no Offence. ¶1761 HUME *Hist. Eng.* II. xxix. 161 To these views of interest were added the motives, no less cogent, of passion and resentment. ¶1863 KINGLAKE *Crimea* (1877) II. i. 7 The French Emperor..determined to insist in cogent terms. ¶1866 FERRIER *Grk. Philos.* I. ix. 199 Society's commands must be obeyed only in the second instance, because society is less real, less cogent than Nature.

b. esp. Having power to compel assent or belief; argumentatively forcible, convincing.

¶1659 PEARSON *Creed* (1839) 135 Though the witness of John were thus cogent, yet the testimony of miracles was far more irrefragable. ¶1667 BOYLE *Orig. Formes & Qual.*, To imploy such Arguments as I thought the clearest, and cogentest. ¶1690 LOCKE *Human Und.* i. iv, Undeniable cogent demonstrations. ¶1763 JOHNSON in *Boswell* an. 1781 (1847) 690/1 Sir, I have two very cogent reasons for not printing any list of subscribers. ¶1876 J. H. NEWMAN *Hist. Sk.* I. iv. ii. 382 The testimony of a number is more cogent than the testimony of two or three.

c. with dependent phr.

¶1669 GALE *Crt. Gentiles* i. i. ii. 15 Conjectures, such as seem cogent to persuade us. ¶1836 PRICHARD *Phys. Hist. Mankind* (ed. 3) I. 374 Not so cogent of conviction as a positive argument would be.

2. Of persons: Employing force or compulsion, peremptory. Obs. rare.

¶1672 MARVELL *Reh. Transp.* i. 89 All men are prone to be cogent and supercilious when they are in office.

cognizant, -isant a.

('kɒgnɪzənt, 'kɒni-)

[app. of modern introduction: not in Dictionaries of 18th c.; not in Todd's Johnson 1818, nor in Webster 1828; in Craig 1847. Thus, prob. formed anew, directly from cognizance, cognize; but it corresponds in form to OF. conisant, conusant pr. pple. Cf. cognoscent.]

1. Having cognizance or knowledge (see cognizance 2); aware (of).

¶1820 SOUTHEY *Ode on Portrait of Bp. Heber*, If the Saints in bliss Be cognizant of aught that passeth here. ¶1832 AUSTIN *Jurispr.* (1879) I. xxv. 499 The party shall be presumed conusant of the law..his ignorance shall not exempt him. ¶1879 CARPENTER *Ment. Phys.* i. ii. §82 The following circumstance, of which the writer is personally cognizant.

b. Philos. That knows or cognizes.

¶1862 F. HALL *Hindu Philos. Syst.* 54 If this cognition were that which apprehends objects, the soul would be cognizant.

2. Law. Having cognizance or jurisdiction (see cognizance 3); competent to deal judicially with a cause, crime, etc.

¶1847 in CRAIG.

collation n.

(kə'leɪʃən)

[a. OF. collation, -cion action of conferring, etc., ad. L. collātiōn-em, n. of action f. collāt- ppl. stem of confer-re to bring together: see confer, and -ation. This word has had many developments of meaning in med. Latin, French, and English; with us, it appears first as an ecclesiastical term, in sense 6.

(In mod.F. collation is used in senses 3, 4; 8, 9; 10, 11. According to Littré in senses 8, 9, it is pronounced with one l only, whereas in the other senses both l's are heard; consequently he treats collation the repast as a distinct word (so far as modern use is concerned) from the other senses. In English, 8 and 9 are closely articulated to other senses.)]

I. Bringing together, comparison.

1. A bringing together or collection, esp. of money; a contribution. Obs.

¶1382 WYCLIF *Rom.* xv. 26 To make sum collacioun [Vulg. collationem], or gedrynge of moneye. ¶1565 COOPER *Thesaurus, Symbolum*, a shotte: a

collation. ¶1600 HOLLAND *Livy* v. xxv. 196 The collation and gathering of a small donative. ¶1725 tr. *Dupin's Eccl. Hist. 17th c.* I. v. 67 They publish'd also in Sermons the Collations, that is, the Alms which they commonly collected every Sunday for the Poor.

b. Roman and Scotch Law. The throwing together of the possessions of several persons, in order to an equal division of the whole stock; hotch-pot; L. *collatio bonorum*.

¶1828 WEBSTER, *Collation* 5 In Scots law, the right which an heir has of throwing the whole heritable and movable estates of the deceased into one mass, and sharing it equally with others who are of the same degree of kindred.

¶1886 J. MUIRHEAD *Encycl. Brit.* XX. 714 The application of the principle of collation to descendants generally, so that they were bound to throw into the mass of the succession before its partition every advance they had received from their parent in anticipation of their shares.

c. collation of seals (see quot.).

¶1708-15 KERSEY *Collation of Seals* (in ancient Deeds), when one Seal was set on the Back of another, upon the same Ribbon, or Label. So 1721 in Bailey. 1848 in Wharton.

2. The action of bringing together and comparing; comparison.

¶1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* iv. iv. 125 Ellys he mot shewe þat þe colasioun of proposiciouns nis nat spedful to a necessarie conclusioun. ¶1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P.R.* ii. xviii. (1495) 43 An angel..vnderstondyth and knowyth so-daynly wythout collacion of one thyng to a nother. 1570-6 Lambarde *Peramb. Kent* (1826) 98 That the truth may appeere, by collation of the divers reports. ¶1646 T. PHILIPOT *Poems* 43 A Collation between Death and Sleep. ¶1669 GALE *Crt. Gentiles* i. i. xi. 65 The Hebrew and Egyptian Language had some things commun; from the collation whereof, some light may arise. ¶1790 PALEY *Horæ Paul.* ii. §1 A close and attentive collation of the three writings. 1836-7 Sir W. Hamilton *Metaph.* xxxiv. (1859) II. 278 This..necessarily supposes a comparison, a collation, between existence and non-existence. ¶1848 MILL *Pol. Econ.* I. 430.

3. esp. Textual comparison of different copies of a document; critical comparison of manuscripts or editions with a view to ascertain the correct text, or the perfect condition of a particular copy.

¶1532 W. THYNNE *Chaucer's Wks.* Ded., The contrarieties and alteracions founde by collacion of the one [edition] with the other. ¶1568 in H. Campbell *Love-lett. Mary Q. Scots App.* 52 The originals..were duly conferred and

compared..with sundry other lettres..in collation whereof no difference was found. ¶1717 ATTERBURY *Let. to Pope* 8 Nov., I return you your Milton, which, upon collation, I find to be revised and augmented in several places.

¶1768 JOHNSON *Pref. to Shaks. Wks.* IX. 292 By collation of copies, or sagacity of conjecture. ¶1868 FURNIVALL *Temp. Pref. Canterb. T.* (Chaucer Soc.) 5, The MS. was old and good enough to deserve collation for the next edition of Chaucer.

b. The recorded result of such comparison; a set of corrections or various readings obtained by comparing different copies.

¶1699 BENTLEY *Phal. Pref. Wks.* 1836 I. 2 The collation, it seems, was sent defective to Oxon. ¶1758 JORTIN *Erasm.* I. 392 Erasmus desires Aldrige to get him a Collation of Seneca..from a Manuscript of King's College. ¶1875 SCRIVENER *Lect. Grk. Test.* 54 Bentley's collation [of Codex A]..is yet in manuscript at Trinity College, Cambridge.

c. Law. (See quot.)

¶1727-51 CHAMBERS *Cycl.*, Collation, in common law, is the comparison, or presentation of a copy to its original, to see whether or no it be conformable: or the report, or act of the officer who made the comparison. A collated act is equivalent to an original; provided all the parties concerned were present at the collation.

4. Printing and Bookbinding. **a.** The action of collating the sheets or quires of a book or MS.

b. A description of a book or manuscript by its signatures or the number of its quires, and a statement of the sheets or leaves in each quire; also, a list of the various contents of a book and of the pages or parts of pages occupied by them.

¶1834 LOWNDES *Bibliogr. Manual* Pref., He gives neither the collation nor prices of books. ¶1882 BLADES *Caxton* 131 In Caxton's books the collation of the sheets preceded the folding. Ibid. 133 These indications..enable us to decide, even where printed signatures are wanting, the true collation of a book. Ibid. 173 The Game and Play of the Chess moralised..Collation.—Eight 4ns and one 5n = 74 leaves.

II. Conference, discourse, refection, light repast.

5. A personal conferring together; consultation, conference, esp. of a private or informal sort.

¶1382 WYCLIF 2 *Macc.* xii. 43 Collacioun [Vulg. collatione], or spekinge to gidre. ¶c1386 CHAUCER *Clerk's T.* 269 Yit wol I..That in my chambre, I

and thou and sche Have a collacioun. ¶1474 CAXTON *Chesse* iii. v. G vj b, They ought not there to argue and dispute one agaynst another; but they ought to make good and symple colacion to geder. ¶1538 *Songs Costume* (Percy Soc.) 77 Quhen thay wald mak collatioun, With any lustie companyeoun. ¶1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* ii. ii. §90 Baronius and Binnius will in no case allow this for a council, only they call it a collation. ¶1666 EVELYN *Mem.* (1857) III. 176 Collation with our officers.

b. A discourse, sermon, or homily; a treatise, exposition. Obs.

¶1417 J. FORESTER in *Rymer Fædera* (1710) IX. 434 Cardenal Comera-cence..had purposit..to have y maad the ferste Collation to for the Kynge. ¶1494 FABYAN vii. 306 He made vnto them colacions or exortacions, & toke for his anteteme, Haurietis aquas. ¶1525 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* II. ci. [xcvii.] 295 The archebysshope of Canterbury sang the masse; and after masse ye bis-soppe made a collacyon. ¶1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 43 We shall fyrst declare by ordre thre thynges, and so procede in this poore collacyon or treatyse. ¶1555 *Fardle Facions* ii. xii. 273 The collacion..made in the pul-pite on Sondaies and haly daies. ¶1631 WEEVER *Anc. Fun.* Mon. 65 If any Priest came..into the village, the inhabitants thereof would gather about him, and desire to haue some good lesson or collation made vnto them. ¶1655 FULLER *Hist. Camb.* 101 Bilney..for the present gave them a Collation.

6. The title of the celebrated work of John Cassian, a.d. 410-420 *Collationes Patrum in Scetica Eremo Commorantium*, i.e. Conferences of (and with) the Egyptian Hermits.

[¶c540 *Regula S. Benedicti* lxxiii, Nec non et Collationes Patrum et Insti-tuta et Uita eorum, sed et Regula sancti patris nostri Basilii.] ¶1200 *Winteneý Rule St. Benet* *ibid.*, Oððe þa collatiuns, þæt Iohannes Cassianus awrat, & þere halizere manna lif þe on Uitas Patrum is 3eredd, & þe regol ures halizes fader Basilies. ¶1340 *Ayenb.* 155 Ase zayþ þe boc of collacions of holy uaderes.

¶1460-70 *Bk. Quintessence* 18 As it is preued in vitas patrum, þat is to seye, in lyues & colaciouns of fadris. ¶a1500 *Orol. Sap.* in *Anglia* X. 357 Þe boke of lyfe of fadres & her collacyons. ¶1532 MORE *Confut. Tindale* Wks. 516/2 Cassianus in the .xi. collacion the .xii. chapter. ¶1699 BURNET 39 *Art.* xvii. (T.), No book was more read in the following ages than Cassian's Colla-tions. ¶1885 *Catholic Dict.* s.v. Fast 341 St. Benedict..requires his religious to assemble after supper and before compline and listen to 'collations'—i.e. conferences (of Cassian), the lives of the fathers or other edifying books.

b. In OE., collationes, as above, was rendered þurhtoæenes raca, þa þurhtoæe-nessa, also simply race, recednesse, c1200 þA raca, i.e. relations, narratives,

discourses, and in ME. collation had the sense: Relation, account. Obs.

[c540 *Regula S. Benedicti* xlii, Mox ut surrexerint a cena, sedeant omnes in unum, et legat unus collationes, vel vitas patrum, aut certe aliquid quod edificet audientes..Accedant ad lectionem Collationum. ¶a1000 *O.E. Rule St. Benet* (Schröer) xlii, Ræde him mon þa raca oðþe lif þæra heahfædera. Ibid. (Logemann) And ræde an þurhtoænes race oððe on ealdfædera lifa..Hi gan to rædinge race oððe recednesse. ¶c1200 *Winteneý Rule St. Benet*, ibid., And ræde an þa raca oððe lif þære heahfædera.]

¶1430 *PILGR. Lyf Manhode* iii. xxxii. (1869) 153 It is wel..myn entencioun þat þou make me þer of collacioun.

7. 'The reading from the Collationes or lives of the Fathers, which St. Benedict (*Regula* xlii, see 6 b.) instituted in his monasteries before compline' (*Dict. Chr. Antiq.*).

Whether the name actually originated in the *Collationes Patrum* read on these occasions does not appear certain. Already in Isidore, a 640, the name is simply *collatio* (*Regula S. Isidori* c. viii, 'ad audiendum in Collatione Patrem..ad collectam convenient..Sedentes autem omnes in Collatione tacebunt nisi,' etc. Du Cange). By Smaragdus a 850, and Honorius of Autun (c 1300), the *collatio* is explained as being itself a conference of the monks upon the passage read, 'aliis conferentibus interrogationes, conferunt alii congruas responsiones.' (See Du Cange.)

¶1387 *TREvisa Higden* (Rolls) VI. 121 After þe nyȝt collacioun sche wook anon to þe day. Ibid. VII. 373 He wolde be at þe colacioun of monkes, and made þe general confessioun wiþ opere. 1450- ¶1530 *Myrr. our Ladye* 165 Before Complyn ye haue a collacion, where ys redde some spyrytuall matter of gostly edyfycacion. ¶1482 *Monk of Evesham* vi. (Arb.) 26 The mene while..hit range to the collacyon and the bretheren..went thense. ¶1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 65 Redynge in ye refectory, or in the chapyter hous at collacyon. ¶1536 R. BEERLEY in *Four C. Eng. Lett.* 35 Monckes drynk an bowll after collacyon tell ten or xii. of the clock.

8. Extended to the light repast or refection taken by the members of a monastery at close of day, after the reading or conference mentioned in 7. (Many quotations combine senses 7 and 8.) Hence, in modern R.C. usage, A light repast made in lieu of supper on fasting days.

¶1305 *Land Cokayne* 145 [The monks] Wendith meklich hom to drinke And geth to har collacione. ¶1582 *MUNDAY Eng. Rom. Life in Harl. Misc.* II. 179 The time of studye expired, the bell calleth them from theyr chambers, downe into the Refectory: Where euery one taketh a glasse of wine, and a

quarter of a manchet, and so he maketh his collatione. ¶1725 tr. *Dupin's Eccl. Hist.* 17th c. I. v. 84 This is that which is call'd Collation..after the Conference they took Water or Wine, and a mouthful of Bread to support their Necessities.

¶1797 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Italian* xi, The lady-abbess, gave a collation to the padre abbate and such of the priests as had assisted at Vesper-service. ¶1885 *Catholic Dict.* s.v. Fast 342 The quantity permissible at collation has been gradually enlarged. St. Charles..only allows a glass of wine with an ounce and a half of bread to be taken as a collation on the evening of fasting days.

9. Hence, in gen. use, A light meal or repast: one consisting of light viands or delicacies (e.g. fruit, sweets, and wine), or that has needed little preparation (often 'a cold collation'). 'A repast; a treat less than a feast' (J.).

Originally applied to a repast between ordinary meals, and still retaining much of that character.

¶1525 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* II. xci. [lxxxvii.] 272 Than wyne and spyces were brought in, and so made collasyon. ¶1533 UDALL *Flowers* 75 (R.) Such bankettes are called collacions, a collatum, tu, that is of laiying together every one his porcion. ¶1611 COTGR., *Collation*..also, a collation, rere~supper, or repast after supper. ¶1630 R. JOHNSON *Kingd. & Commw.* 183 Very few which (besides their ordinary of dinner and supper) doe not Gouster, as they call it, and make collations, three or foure times the day. ¶1664 PEPYS *Diary* (1879) III. 4 Come to the Hope about one and there..had a collacion of anchovies, gammon, etc. ¶1759 ROBERTSON *Hist. Scot.* I. vii. 536 A collation of wine and sweetmeats was prepared. ¶1771 SMOLLETT *Humph. Cl.* (1815) 111 Supping in different lodges on cold collations. ¶1775 JOHNSON *Western Isl.*, Buller of Buchan, Ladies come hither sometimes in the summer with collations [i.e. to picnic]. ¶1882 SHORTHOUSE *J. Inglesant* II. 205 A plentiful and delicate collation was spread..with abundance of fruit and wine.

fig. ¶1652 A. ROSS *Hist. World* Pref. 13 Here they may have a short Collation after a long Feast. ¶a1661 FULLER *Worthies* iii. 96 May he be pleased to behold this my brief Description of Surrey, as a Running Collation to stay his Stomack, no set meal to satisfie his hunger. ¶1791 D'ISRAELI *Cur. Lit.*, Lit. Journ., The public..now murmured at the want of that salt and acidity by which they had relished the fugitive collation.

III. Conferring, preferment to office, etc.

10. Conferring or bestowal (esp. of a dignity, prize, benefit, honorary degree). Obs. exc. as in 11.

¶1579 FENTON *Guicciard.* ii. (1599) 90 Honoring in him by the collation

of that dignitie, the vertue he shewed in the battell. ¶1642 JER. TAYLOR *Episc.* (1647) 47 In the collation of holy Orders. ¶1647 LILLY *Chr. Astrol.* xxxvii. 217 Mutuall reception or translation, or collation of light and nature betwixt them. ¶1660 BOND *Scut. Reg.* 88 The donation or collation of the power is from the Community. ¶1677 BARROW *Serm.* I. viii. 95 In the collation, 'tis not in the gold or the silver..in which the benefit consists, but the will and benevolent intention of him who bestows them. ¶1691 RAY *Creation* ii. (1704) 436 Neither are we to give Thanks alone for the first Collation of these Benefits. ¶1761 CHRON. in *Ann. Reg.* 128/1 The collation of the prize has been deferred. ¶1775 JOHNSON *Western Isl. Wks.* X. 332 The indiscriminate collation of degrees has justly taken away that respect which they originally claimed.

11. Eccl. a. The bestowal of a benefice or other preferment upon a clergyman. b.III.11.b (more usually) The appointment of a clergyman to a benefice; now, techn. Institution by the ordinary to a living which is in his own gift.

¶1380 WYCLIF *Serm. Sel. Wks.* I. 305 It hap fallen ofte tymes..þat two men have grace at oo tyme of oo collacioun. ¶1421 HEN. V in *Ellis Orig. Lett.* iii. 30 I. 71 Hit is wel oure entent whanne any sucche benefice voydeth of oure yifte yat ye make collacion to him yr of. ¶1611 SPEED *Hist. Gt. Brit.* ix. xiii. §88 They had enacted against all Collations of Bishopricks and dignities by the Pope. ¶1625 BACON *Ess. Empire* (Arb.) 307 Where the Churchmen come in, and are elected, not by the Collation of the King, or particular Patrons, but by the People. ¶1641 *Termes de la Ley* 64 Collation is properly the bestowing of a Benefice by the Bishop, that hath it in his owne gift or patronage. ¶1765 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* I. 391 When the ordinary is also the patron, and confers the living, the presentation and institution are one and the same act, and are called a collation to a benefice. ¶1876 GRANT *Burgh Sch. Scotl.* i. i. 22 The earliest record of an actual collation by the chancellor of a master to a grammar school.

c. Right of institution.

¶1480 *Bury Wills* (1850) 58 That..the priour of the Monasterie of Bury..shuld have the gyfte and collacion of the same. ¶1536 *Act* 27 Hen. VIII, c. 42 §6 in Oxf. & Camb. Enactm. 18 Any Parsonnage, Vicarage, Chauntrie or any other promocion spirituall..being..of the collacion or patronage of the said College.

¶1661 BRAMHALL *Just Vind.* iv. 79 And the Statute of provisors..the King and his heirs shall have and enjoy for the time the collations to the Archbishopricks and other dignities elective. ¶1725 tr. *Dupin's Eccl. Hist.* 17th c. I. ii. iii. 46 Pope Clement IV reserv'd to himself the Collation of all the vacant

Benefices.

d. ? A certificate of recommendation to a benefice. Obs. [F. la provision du collateur.]

¶1646 BP. MAXWELL *Burd. Issach.* in *Phenix* (1708) II. 293 Before their Right could be compleated or perfected, they were to return to the King from the Superintendent a Collation or Certificate, That he was of that Ability to do good Service to the King and Church.

colloquy *n.*

(ˈkɒləkwɪ)

[ad. L. colloqui-um speaking together, conversation, conference, f. col- together + -loquium speaking, f. loqui to speak.]

1. A talking together; a conversation, dialogue. Also, a written dialogue, as Erasmus's Colloquies.

¶1581 MULCASTER *Positions* xli. (1887) 238 All conferences, all both priuate and publike colloquies. ¶1660 R. BLOME *Fanat. Hist.* ii. 16 Frantick men that boasted of visions, and colloquies with God. ¶1755 JORTIN *Erasm.* I. 296 The Colloquies of Erasmus..well deserve to be read. ¶1829 SOUTHEY (*title*), Sir Thomas More: or Colloquies on the Progress and Prospects of Society. ¶1850 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* xxii. 222 The colloquy between Tom and Eva was interrupted by a hasty call from Miss Ophelia. ¶1885 *Life Sir R. Christison* I. 168 Our host in the course of our colloquy, said, etc.

b. (without pl.) Converse, dialogue.

¶1817 BYRON *Manfred* iii. i, Shunning..All further colloquy. ¶a1839 PRAED *Poems* (1864) II. 36 When they chance to make In colloquy some small mistake. ¶1850 GROTE *Greece* ii. lxx. VI. 267 To invite the natives to amicable colloquy.

2. A meeting for conference.

¶1563-87 FOXE *A. & M.* (1596) 263/2 Cluniake, where was..appointed a secret meeting or colloquie betweene the Pope and Lewis the French King. ¶1661 BRAMHALL *Just Vind.* ii. 22 Debated between the Catholick Bishops, and the schismatical Donatists at the Colloquie of Carthage. ¶1679 *Trial of White & Other Jesuits* 12 They adjourned into several Clubs or Colloquies, or what you please to call them.

3. Eccl. In the Reformed Genevan or Presbyterian Churches, a church court composed of the pastors and representative elders of the churches of a district, with judicial and legislative functions over these churches; = classis, presbytery.

¶1672 P. NYE *Oath Suprem.* (1683) 54 There are Synods, Consistories, Colloquies, and other Ecclesiastical Courts. ¶1692 J. QUICK *Synodicon* xxxvii, In every Province the Churches shall be divided according to their numbers and conveniency of neighbour places into Colloquies or Classes.

¶1846 J. S. BURN *For. Prot. Refugees* 45 Charges against the moral character of this minister..were entertained by the colloquy, which pronounced sentence in 1647. ¶1862 LATHAM in *Ansted Channel Isl.* iii. xv. (ed. 2) 367 The Curate of St. John's parish died, and the colloquy appointed to the vacant benefice. ¶1889 A. H. DRYSDALE *Hist. Presbyt. Eng.* i. 173 The Church Courts were the 'Consistory' and the 'Colloquy' or Presbytery meeting quarterly, and the Synod every two years in Jersey and Guernsey alternately. The Colloquies and Consistories were, as at Geneva, strict courts of morals, fitted in to the general civil jurisdiction.

Hence colloquy v. intr., to hold colloquy.

¶1868 HAWTHORNE *Amer. Note-bks.* (1879) II. 142 They colloquied at much length.

compendium n.

(kəm'pendiəm)

[a. L. compendium that which is weighed together, a sparing, saving, abbreviation, f. compend-ēre to weigh together, f. com- + pendēre to weigh.]

1. A short cut; 'the near way' (J.).

¶1581 MULCASTER *Positions* xlii. (1887) 258 [He] may perhaps wish for some way without Grammer, and couet a Compendium.

2. a. An abridgement or condensation of a larger work or treatise, giving the sense and substance, within smaller compass.

¶1589 NASHE *Pref. to Greene's Arcadia* (1616) 7 These men..doe pound their capacitie in barren Compendiums. ¶1668 HALE *Pref. Rolle's Abridgm.* 5 There were an incredible number of..Volumes of their Laws; whereupon that..Prince..reduced them into a better Compendium. ¶1793 T. BEDDOES *Math. Evid.* 79 The writers of compendiums of mathematics and natural philosophy. ¶1878 HUXLEY *Physiogr.* Pref. 6 Many highly valuable compendia of Physical Geography are extant.

fig. ¶1607 T. WALKINGTON *Opt. Glass* xv. (1664) 158 Others, having but the compendium of excellency, he alone had it in the greatest volumns.

b. An epitome, a summary, a brief.

¶1608 MIDDLETON *Fam. Love* v. iii, You understand my case now? I do..here's the compendium. ¶1619 DRAYTON *Legends* Pref., By way of Briefe or Compendium. ¶1713 *Guardian* No. 78 Indexes and dictionaries..are the compendium of all knowledge. ¶1853 HERSCHEL *Pop. Lect. Sc.* iv. §30 (1873) 167 Admiral Fitzroy's interesting compendium of the state of the barometer, etc.

c. transf. and fig. A condensed representation, an embodiment in miniature; an abstract.

¶1602 *Return fr. Parnass.* iii. iv. (Arb.) 44 Old Sir Raderick, that new printed compendium of all iniquity. ¶1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 231 Great Brittain, a Compendium of the World for varietie of Excellencies. ¶1766 STERNE *Serm.* v. 112 A case..which may be looked upon as the compendium of all charity. ¶1863 GEO. ELIOT *Romola* i. vi, A compendium of extravagances and incongruities.

d. An abbreviation whereby two or more letters are expressed by a single character.

¶1833 G. S. FABER *Recapit. Apost.* 88 In the construction of these compendia or..contractions, the compendium ς was framed out of the two distinct cursive letters ς and τ .

3. Sparing or saving; economy of labour, space, etc. Obs.

¶1638 WILKINS *New World* i. (1684) 29 Shewing a Compendium of Providence, that could make the same Body a World, and a Moon. ¶1651 CHARLETON *Ephes. & Cimm. Matrons* ii. (1668) 71 Nor do we think that subtraction a loss, but a Compendium. ¶1668 WILKINS *Real Char.* 372 Double Consonants..for the Compendium of writing, are..expressed by single Characters.

a ¶1734 NORTH *Lives* I. 248 The judges, for compendium of travel, took the first town..capable of receiving them. ☒ *Exam.* iii. x. (1740) 660 These Methods are used for Compendium. ¶1793 SMEATON *Edystone L.* §32 The manner..is herein copied, on account of the compendium thereby suggested. ¶1812 WOODHOUSE *Astron.* xviii. 199 The sole object of this..is compendium of calculation.

4. a. A box, etc., containing or comprising several different games.

¶1899 (*title*) Guide to the compendium of games. Comprising rules for playing—backgammon, besique, chess, [etc.]. ¶1960 R. C. BELL *Board & Table Games* vii. 172 The antique compendium of games from western India.

b. A package of the stationery required for letter-writing.

¶1923 H. A. MADDUX *Dict. Stationery* 20 Compendium, a line of stationery goods which was in considerable demand during the war for soldiers' use, comprising a pad of note, envelopes, and blotting. ¶1938 E. BOWEN *Death of Heart* ii. iii. 215 Portia bought a compendium—lightly ruled violet paper, purple lined envelopes. ¶1960 K. AMIS *Take a Girl like You* xiii. 158 He shut the compendium.

complacent a.

(kəm'pleisənt)

[ad. L. complacēt-em pleasing, pr. pple. of complacēre: see above.]

1. Pleasing, pleasant, delightful. Obs. rare.

¶1660 BURNEY Κέρδ. Δῶρον (1661) 106 In the complacent moneth of May. ¶1772 MACKENZIE *Man of World* i. i, Her look was of that complacent sort which gains on the beholder.

2. spec. Feeling or showing pleasure or satisfaction, esp. in one's own condition or doings; self-satisfied.

¶1767 JAGO *Edge Hill, Evening* iv. (R.), With complacent smile Thy social aspect courts the distant eye. ¶1791 COWPER *Iliad* iv. 423 The monarch smiled Complacent. ¶1825 SOUTHEY *Paraguay* i. 25 The glorious savage..vain of his array Look'd with complacent frown from side to side. ¶1841 L. HUNT *Seer* (1864) 52 Whenever Gibbon was going to say a good thing..he announced it by a complacent tap on his snuff-box. ¶1875 GLADSTONE *Glean.* VI. xxxviii. 129 Multitudes..will accede..to this proposition..but with a complacent conviction..that it does not touch their case.

3. Disposed, or showing a disposition, to please; obliging in manner, complaisant. ? Obs.

¶1790 BURKE *Fr. Rev. Wks.* V. 160 They look up with a sort of complacent awe and admiration to kings, who know how to keep firm in their seat. ¶1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xxii, The..complacent flattery of Leicester. ¶1849 C. BRONTË *Shirley* vi. 62 Mr. Moore..was..a complacent listener to her talk.

complaisant a.

(ˈkɒmpleɪzɑːnt, -æ-, ˌkɒmpleɪˈzɑːnt, -æ-, now kəmˈpleɪzənt)

[17th c. a. F. *complaisant* (16th c. in Littré), pr. pple. of *complaire* to acquiesce in order to please:—L. *complacēre* to be very pleasing to: cf. *complacent*, *complease*. In 17th c. it was sometimes assimilated in form to *complease*, *pleasant*, with stress on 2nd syllable; but a general recognition of its French nativity has preserved the Fr. spelling, with the main stress (c1891) varying between the 3rd and the 1st syllable. Walker c1800 has (kɒmpliːˈzænt).]

1. Characterized by complaisance; disposed to please; obliging, politely agreeable, courteous. (Of persons, their actions, manners, etc.)

¶1647 COWLEY *Mistr., Echo* (1669) 40 Complaisant Nymph [Echo], who doest thus kindly share In griefs, whose cause thou do'st not know! ¶1651 CHARLETON *Ephes. & Cimm. Matrons* (1668) 22 The most affable, complaisant, and chearfull creature in the world. ¶1664 SIR C. LYTTTELTON in *Hatton Corr.* (1878) 38 Feare not you will find mee as complizant. ¶1671 VILLIERS (Dk. Buckhm.) *Rehearsal* (1714) 55 That's very complaisant..Mr. Bayes, to be of another Man's Opinion, before he knows what it is. ¶a1720 SHEFFIELD (Dk. Buckhm.) *Wks.* (1753) I. 14 Cautious the young, and complaisant the old. ¶1727 SWIFT *Gulliver* ii. iv. 131 The girl was complaisant enough to make the bearers stop. ¶1871 SMILES *Charac.* ix. (1876) 242 The French..of even the humblest classes, are..complaisant, cordial, and well-bred.

b. Disposed to comply with another's wishes; yielding, accommodating; compliant, facile.

¶1676 G. ETHEREGE *Man of Mode* iv. i, I am sorry my face does not please you as it is, But I shall not be complaisant and change it. ¶1678 RYMER *Trag. Last Age* 69 Had [she] been formerly complaisant with him beyond discretion. ¶1839 JAMES *Louis XIV*, I. 246 Richelieu, not finding the clergy quite so complaisant as he could have desired.

2. Of things: Pleasant, agreeable. Obs. rare.

¶1710 T. FULLER *Pharm. Extemp.* 293 An honest benign Medicine, yet its not very complaisant to the Palate.

complement v.

(kɒmpliˈment)

[f. prec.]

I. Extant sense.

1. trans. To make complete or perfect, to supply what is wanting; to form the complement to.

¶1641 BAKER *Chron.* (1679) 38/1 He never stayed to complement the disaster. ¶1865 *Reader* No. 143. 337/2 Information..from other documents to complement these. ¶1875 STUBBS *Const. Hist.* I. ii. 36 The three principles..complement and complicate each other's action. ¶1879 FARRAR *St. Paul II. App.* 614 Truths which complement but do not contradict each other.

II. Obsolete senses, afterwards expressed by compliment v.

2. intr. To employ ceremonies of formal courtesy, to exchange formal courtesies; to bow. Obs. (= compliment, sense 1.)

¶1612 BEAUM. & FL. *Coxcomb* i. ii. (1647) 24 Serv. Mistris there are 2 Gentlemen. Mar. Where? Serv. Complementing who should enter first. ¶1642 BP. REYNOLDS *Israel's Petit.* 3 Complementing with God, and then forsaking him. ¶1644 MILTON *Areop.* (Arb.) 40 Sometimes 5 Impri-maturs..in the Piatza of one Title-page, complementing and ducking each to other with their shav'n reverences. ¶1658 SIR ASTON COCKAIN *Trap-polin* iii. i, Complement with me no more than I complement with you. ¶1697 MOUNTFORT *Faustus* i. end, Here they Complement who shall go first.

b. So to complement it. Obs.

¶1617 BP. ANDREWES 96 *Sermons* (1661) 651 As if we could complement it with God, with face and phrases, as with men we do. ¶1624 D. CAWDREY *Humilitie Saints Liverie* 9 Thus shall you have a man..complement it to the ground, lay his hands under your feet, etc.

3. trans. 'To sooth with acts or expressions of respect; to flatter; to praise': see compliment, sense 2. Obs.

¶1649 FULLER *Just Man's Fun.* 11 Rabshakeh pretended a Commission from God..and complements blasphemie. ¶1654 JER. TAYLOR *Real Pres.* 26 He cannot escape the Inquisition unlesse he complement the Church, and with a civility tell her that she knows better. ¶1661 A. MARVELL *Corresp. Lett.* 21 II. 55 Monsieur Du Plessis.. is come ouer from them to complement his Majesty. ¶1700 SIR W. CALVERLEY *Note-bk.* (Surtees) 92 Sir John sent..to complement them for their kindness. ¶1710 *Life Bp. Stillingfleet* 84 Ready..to strike with the Deists, to complement and cajole them. ¶1711 HEARNE *Collect.* III. 205 He complements me for my Ed. (most accurate Edition he calls it) of Leland's Itin.

b. to complement away, out of: see compliment v. 2 b.

¶1640 NABBES *Bride* iii. ii, As if the enterteinment..were not chargeable enough, but you must complement away wine and sweet meats. ¶1645 FULLER *Good Th. in Bad T. Hist. Appl.* vi. 101 Cæsar complemented his life away. ¶1665 *Ch. Hist.* vi. iii. 308 King Henry his smiles complemented the former out of their Houses. ¶1697 COLLIER *Ess. Mor. Subj.* i. (1709) 231 Lest Church-Men should Complement away the Usefulness and Authority of their Calling; they would do well to decline superlative Observance. ¶1715 M. DAVIES *Athen. Brit.* i. 129 To shorten disputes..and so complement them out of their Heresies.

4. to complement (a person) with (something): to present him with it as a mark of courtesy. Obs. (Now compliment, sense 4.)

¶1697 W. DAMPIER *Voy.* (1698) I. xii. 328 He may be..complemented..with Tobacco and Betel-nut. ¶1732 in *L'pool Munic. Rec.* (1886) II. 92 That the Right Honole Hugh Lord Willoughby..be complemented with his freedom. Hence COMPLEMENTING vbl. n. and ppl. a. = complimenting.

¶1626 W. SCLATER *Expos.* 2 Thess. (1629) 74 All Complementings with Idolaters. ¶1649 MILTON *Eikon.* xx. (1851) 481 God, who stood neerer then hee for complementing minded, writ down those words. ¶1658 *Whole Duty Man* v. §22. 47 It's but a kind of formal complementing. ¶1704 J. BLAIR in *W. Perry Hist. Coll. Amer. Col.* Ch. I. 94 They had refused to sign a complementing address.

compliant a. and n.

(kəm'plaɪənt)

[f. comply v. + -ant; after defiant, etc.]

A. adj.

1. Complying, disposed to comply; 'civil, complaisant' (J.); ready to yield to the wishes or desires of others.

¶1642 LD. DIGBY in Clarendon *Hist. Reb.* iv. (1843) 173/2 If after all..he shall betake himself to the easiest and compliantest ways of accommodation.

¶1679 BURNET *Hist. Ref.* 71 The King did not doubt but the Pope would be compliant to his desires. ¶1828 SCOTT *F.M. Perth* vii, The rest will be compliant to the same resolution. ¶1870 DISRAELI *Lothair* xlii. 217, I do not like to be churlish when all are so amiable and compliant. ¶1874 GREEN

Short Hist. iv. §2 (1882) 172 Their representatives..proved far more compliant with the royal will than the barons.

2. Yielding to physical pressure, plaint. Obs.

¶1667 MILTON *P.L.* iv. 3 Nectarine Fruits, which the compliant boughes Yeilded them. ¶1788 SMEATON *Quadrant* in *Phil. Trans.* LXXIX. 6 The whole being slender and compliant, except in point of length. ¶1793 *Edystone L.* §302 Wood wedges..being more supple, elastic, and compliant than wedges of metal.

B. n. One who complies; a complier. Obs.

¶1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* xi. VI. 314 It being a compliant with the papists, in a great part of their service, doth not a little confirm them in their superstition and idolatry. ¶1661 *Worthies* i. 331 His sturdy nature would not bow to Court-compliants. ¶1660 Z. CROFTON *Fast. St. Peter's Fetters* 37 Our Soft Covenanters, Speedy Compliants, and Temporizing Turn-Coats.

concomitant a. and n.

(kən'kɒmɪtənt)

[ad. L. *concomitānt-em*, pr. pple. of *concomitāri* to accompany, go with: see *concomitate*.]

A. adj. Going together, accompanying, concurrent, attendant. Const. with (†of, †to).

¶1607 TOPSELL *Serpents* (1653) 611 From the natural concomitant quality of heat, with exspiration, respiration, and inspiration. ¶1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* i. ii. iv, Either concomitant, assisting, or sole causes..of melancholy. ¶1651 CARTWRIGHT *Cert. Relig.* i. 166 That which was secret, yet was concomitant of that which was publike. ¶1711 STEELE *Spect.* No. 104 ¶1 So certainly is Decency concomitant to Virtue. ¶1799 KIRWAN *Geol. Ess.* 373 The concomitant lime~~stone~~ also contains marine petrifications. ¶1856 MILL *Logic* I. 449 The law..admits of corroboration by the Method of Concomitant Variations. ¶1864 BOWEN *Logic* x. (1870) 333 Every event has..a crowd of concomitant circumstances.

B. n.

1. An attendant state, quality, circumstance, or thing; an accompaniment.

¶1605 BACON *Adv. Learn.* i. viii. 42 Virgill did excellently..couple the knowledge of causes, and the conquest of all fears, together as Concomitantia.]

¶1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* ii. iii. v, Death is not so terrible in it selfe, as the concomitants of it. ¶1682 NORRIS *Hierocles* 14 This reverence of an Oath is..the constant attendant and concomitant of Piety. ¶1709 PRIOR *Paulo Purganti*, And for Tobacco (who could bear it?) Filthy Concomitant of Claret. ¶1750 JOHNSON *Rambl.* No. 79 ¶7 Suspicion is justly appointed the concomitant of guilt. ¶1846 PRESCOTT *Ferd. & Is.* I. i. 96 Wealth with its usual concomitants, elegance and comfort.

2. A person that accompanies; a companion.

¶1645 HOWELL *Lett.* I. i. xx, You are thus my concomitant through new places. ¶1651 *Reliq. Wotton.* 81 [He] made him the chief concomitant of his heir apparant. ¶1698 *Phil. Trans.* XX. 242 His Concomitants and Assistants in the Operations. ¶1794 SULLIVAN *View Nat.* II, I find this person often introduced as a concomitant of Psuche.

3. Math. (See quot.)

¶1853 SYLVESTER in *Phil. Trans.* CXLIII. i. 543 Concomitant. Nomen generalissimum for a form invariantively connected with a given form or system of forms. ¶1859 SALMON *Higher Algebra* (1866) 104 Dr. Sylvester uses the name concomitant as a general word to include all functions whose relations to the quantic are unaltered by linear transformation, and he calls the functions now under consideration mixed concomitants.

concrete a. and n.

(¹kɒŋkri:t)

[ad. L. *concrēt-us*, pa. pple. of *concrēscere* to grow together: see *concrecence*. Cf. F. *concret*, -*ète*, 16th c. -*ette*. The stress has long been variable; *con'crete*, the original mode, was given by Walker, and is used in verse by Lowell; *'concrete* was used by Chapman in 1611, and recognized by Johnson: the latter appears to be now the more frequent in the adj., and is universal in the n. B. 3.

The frequent antithesis of concrete and discrete, appears to be influenced by a notion that the word represents L. *concrētus*, pa. pple. of *concernere*, in the same way as discrete is derived from L. *discernere*, *discrētus*.]

A. adj. (The earliest instances appear to be participial.)

1. a. United or connected by growth; grown together. Obs.

¶1471 RIPLEY *Comp. Alch. in Ashm.* (1652) 112 For all the parts..be Coessentiall and concrete. ¶1650 BULWER *Anthropomet.* x. (1653) 170 Men, that have monstrous Mouths, and some with concrete lips.

b. Continuous. In Acoustics applied to a sound or movement of the voice sliding continuously up or down; distinguished from discrete movement.

¶1651 W. G. tr. *Cowel's Inst.* 60 The second manner of gaining, which..is a discreet or distinct increase, or secretly a Concrete or continued. Whatsoever is born or comes from any sort of animalls under our Subiection or power are absolutely gained unto us.

2. Made up or compounded of various elements or ingredients; composite, compound. ? Obs.

¶1536 LATIMER *2nd Serm. bef. Convoc.* i. 40 A thing concrete, heaped up and made of all kinds of mischief. ¶1850 W. IRVING *Goldsmith* v. 81 This concrete young gentleman, compounded of the pawn-broker, the pettifogger, and the West Indian heir.

3. Formed by union or cohesion of particles into a mass; congealed, coagulated, solidified; solid (as opposed to fluid). **a.** as pple.; **b.** as adj.

¶1533 ELYOT *Cast. Helthe* iv. (R.), Those same vapours..be concrete or gathered into humour superfluous. ¶1567 J. MAPLET *Gr. Forest* Pref., Of the seconde sort is the Pumelse, concrete of froth. ¶1691 RAY *Creation* (1714) 323 Before it was concrete into a stone.

¶1605 TIMME *Quersit.* i. xiii. 58 In all metalls and concrete bodies. c ¶1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* xi. (R.), Even to the concrete blood That makes the liver. ¶1712 tr. *Pomet's Hist. Drugs* I. 216 Scammony is a concrete resinous Juice. ¶1800 tr. *Lagrange's Chem.* I. 74 One portion appears fluid and the other concrete. ¶1836 TODD *Cycl. Anat.* I. 51/2 Formed of blood scarcely concrete. ¶1854 HOOKER *Himal. Jrnls.* I. i. 16 The seeds too, yield a concrete oil.

4. a. Applied by the early logicians and grammarians to a quality viewed (as it is actually found) concreted or adherent to a substance, and so to the word expressing a quality so considered, viz. the adjective, in contradistinction to the quality as mentally abstracted or withdrawn from substance and expressed by an abstract noun: thus white (paper, hat, horse) is the concrete quality or quality in the concrete, whiteness, the abstract quality or quality in the abstract; seven (men, days, etc.) is a concrete number, as opposed to the number 7 in the abstract. concrete science (science 4 b).

Afterwards concrete was extended also to substantives involving attributes, as fool, sage, hero, and has finally been applied by some grammarians to all substantives not abstract, i.e. all those denoting 'things' as distinguished from qualities, states, and actions. The logical and grammatical uses have thus tended to fall asunder and even to become contradictory; some writers on Logic therefore disuse the term concrete entirely: see quot. 1887. In this Dictionary, *concr.* is prefixed to those senses in which substantives originally abstract come to be used as names of 'things'; e.g. *crossing* *vbl. n.*, i.e. *abstract n. of action*, *concr. a crossing in a street, on a railway, etc.* From an early period used as a quasi-*n.*, a concrete (*sc. term*).

[¶1581 J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Osor.* 118 b, Turnyng awry, that is to say: From the Concreto to the Abstractum (to use here the termes of Sophistry).]

¶1528 SKELTON *Bouge of Courte* (R.), A false abstracte cometh from a false concrete. ¶1594 BLUNDEVIL *Exerc.* i. xvi. (ed. 7) 41 Understand, that of numbers some are said to be abstract, and some concrete. ¶1614 SELDEN *Titles Hon.* 117 To expresse them by Abstracts from the Concret of their qualitie..As Maiestie, Highnes, Grace. ¶1657 J. SMITH *Myst. Rhet.* A viij b, The concrete signifies the same form with those qualities which adhere to the subject: The concrete is the Adjective. ¶1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* iii. viii. §1 Our Simple ideas have all Abstract, as well as Concrete Names: the one whereof is (to speak the language of grammarians) a 'substantive', the other an 'adjective'; as whiteness, white. ¶1725 WATTS *Logic* i. iv. §5 Concrete terms, while they express the quality, do also either express, or imply, or refer to some subject to which it belongs..But these are not always noun adjectives..a fool, a knave, a philosopher, and many other concretes are substantives. ¶1846 MILL *Logic* i. ii. §4 A concrete name is a name which stands for a thing; an abstract name is a name which stands for an attribute of a thing.

¶1851 MANSEL *Proleg. Log.* v. (1860) 144. ¶1854 H. SPENCER in *Brit. Q. Rev.* July 148 Let us observe how the relatively concrete science of geometrical astronomy, having been thus far helped forward by the development of geometry in general, reacted upon geometry, caused it also to advance, and was again assisted by it. ¶1864 BOWEN *Logic* iv. (1870) 88 The peculiar or proper appellation of a lower Concept or individual is called its concrete name. ¶1865 J. S. MILL *Comte* 33 The concrete sciences..concern themselves only with the particular combinations of phaenomena which are found in existence. ¶1876 MASON *Eng. Gram.* §35 Abstract nouns are sometimes used in the concrete sense..Thus nobility frequently means the whole body of persons of noble birth. ¶1876 JEVONS *Elem. Logic* (1880) 21 The reader

should carefully observe that adjectives are concrete, not abstract. ¶1887 FOWLER *Deduct. Logic* i. i. (ed. 9) 15 Nothing has been said above of the common distinction between abstract and concrete terms..I have availed myself of the expression 'abstract term', but avoided, as too wide to be of practical service, the contrasted expression 'concrete term'. Concrete terms include what I have called attributives, as well as singular, collective, and common terms.

b. Philos. concrete universal [universal n. 1], the individual, when regarded as something maintaining its identity through qualitative change or diversity, or as a unity or system or class of separate but identical particulars. Also transf.

¶1865 J. H. STIRLING *Secret of Hegel* p. xi, As Aristotle, with considerable assistance from Plato, made explicit the abstract Universal that was implicit in Socrates,—so Hegel..made explicit the concrete Universal that was implicit in Kant. ¶1874 W. WALLACE tr. *Hegel's Logic* ix. 267 The Judgment of Necessity..contains..in the predicate, partly the substance or nature of the subject, the concrete universal, the genus. ¶1876 F. H. BRADLEY *Eth. Stud.* v. 147 The good will..is a concrete universal, because it not only is above but is within and throughout its details, and is so far only as they are. ¶1883 *Princ. Logic* i. vi. 175 The concrete particular and the concrete universal both have reality, and they are different names for the individual. ¶1912 B. BOSANQUET *Princ. Individuality* ii. 38 A macrocosm constituted by microcosms, is the type of the concrete universal. ¶1920 M. T. COLLINS *Mod. Concept. Nat. Law* 95 A thing, a person, an act—anything—is only seen in its true nature when it is grasped as an organized unity, as a synthesis of the manifold. So far as it is a whole, it is a concrete universal. ¶1948 *Poetry* LXXIII. 159 Concrete universal, a concept, continuous in literary criticism, which implies the paradoxical union in a poem of the concrete, specific, and individual, together with the universal and general. The concrete universal persists among the New Critics.

5. Hence, generally, Combined with, or embodied in matter, actual practice, or a particular example; existing in a material form or as an actual reality, or pertaining to that which so exists. Opposed to abstract. (The ordinary current sense.)

Absolutely, the concrete, that which is concrete; in the concrete, in the sphere of concrete reality, concretely.

¶1648 MILTON *Tenure Kings Wks.* 1738 I. 314 These Apostles, whenever they give this Precept, express it in terms not concrete, but abstract, as Logicians are wont to speak.] ¶1656 HOBBS *Liberty, Necess., & Ch.* (1841) 135

This..is a metaphysical entity abstracted from the matter, which is better than non-entity..But in the concrete it is far otherwise. ¶1710 BERKELEY *Princ. Hum. Knowl.* §97 Time, place, and motion, taken in particular or concrete.

¶1789 BURKE *Corr.* (1844) III. 114 It is with man in the concrete;—it is with common..human actions, you are to be concerned. ¶1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. iii. i, But, quitting these somewhat abstract considerations, let History note the concrete reality which the streets of Paris exhibit. ¶1848 LOWELL *Fable for Critics*, 'At slavery in the abstract my whole soul rebels, I am as strongly opposed to 't as any one else.' 'Ay, no doubt, but whenever I've happened to meet With a wrong or a crime, it is always concrete.' ¶1876 M. ARNOLD *Lit. & Dogma* 234 note, The most concrete and unmetaphysical of languages. ¶1880 W. WALLACE *Epicureanism* 172 Their idea of this original matter was concrete and sensuous.

6. Made of concrete. [attrib. of B. 3.]

7. **a.** concrete music [tr. F. musique concrète]: a form of music constructed by the arrangement of various recorded sounds into a sequence. (Also with first word in French form concrète.)

¶1953 *Musical Amer.* 15 Jan. 6/3 This method of basing a musical composition on fragmentary sounds, existing concretely, characterizes what Schaeffer has labeled concrete music. ¶1954 *Gramophone Record Rev.* Apr. 297 Concrete music is assembled rather than composed. ¶1954 *Times Lit. Suppl.* 3 Dec. 778/4 The very latest thing..Concrete Music, the term adopted for the French musique concrète, which is really synthetic electrophonics. ¶1958 *Observer* 22 June 15/3 The music, an airborne plunking that deserves a less earthbound epithet than concrète, is by John Addison.

b. concrete poetry: a form of poetry in which the significance and the effect required depend to a larger degree than usual upon the physical shape or pattern of the printed material. Also ellipt. concrete. Hence concretist, concrete poem, concrete poet, etc.

The term was coined independently and almost simultaneously in Brazil and Germany: in Brazil (poesia concreta) by the Noigandres group of poets; in Germany (die konkrete Dichtung) by Eugen Gomringer. The usage was formally adopted at a meeting in 1955 between the two originators.

¶1958 *Pilot Plan for Concrete Poetry* in M. E. Solt *Concrete Poetry* (1970) 72 Concrete poem communicates its own structure: structure-content... Concrete Poetry aims at the least common multiple of language. ¶1966 *Isis* 16 Feb. 2/1 The Concrete poet tries to investigate language and the materials of which it is composed in a depth which he cannot achieve using conventional

syntax. Ibid. 9/1 The early 'concretists' were interested in setting words in isolation on the page. Ibid. 9/2 His sensitivity led him to 'concrete' as a means of overcoming the deterioration language suffers through overexposure. ¶1966 *Camb. Rev.* 28 May 448/1 'Concrete' poets ignore the traditional boundaries between word and image. ¶1967 S. BANN *Concrete Poetry* 17 He has recently contributed the pure Concrete 'cube-poem' to the Brighton Festival. Ibid., The links between the early socially committed concrete poems and the 'popcrete' poems of Augusto de Campos. Ibid. 24 His first contact with the Concrete movement, however, was with the Brazilians.

¶1968 *Artes Hispanicas* I. iii. 7/2 There is a fundamental requirement which the various kinds of concrete poetry meet: concentration upon the physical material from which the poem or text is made.

B. n.

1. quasi-n. a concrete, the concrete: see A. 4, 5.

¶1528-1725 [See A. 4]. ¶1697 J. SERJEANT *Solid Philos.* 91 Entity is often us'd as a Concrete for the Thing it self. ¶1830 MACAULAY *Ess.*, Bunyan, Bunyan is almost the only writer who ever gave to the abstract the interest of the concrete.

2. gen. A concrete or concreted mass, a concretion, compound; a concrete substance. Also fig. (Obs. in lit. sense, exc. as in next.)

¶1656 J. SERJEANT tr. *T. White's Peripatet. Inst.* 361 The sun is a concrete of combustible matter. ¶1657 G. STARKEY *Helmont's Vind. Ep. to Rdr.*, The specifick excellency that is in any concrete of the whole vegetable family. ¶1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey) s.v., Antimony is a Natural Concrete, or a Mix'd Body compounded in the Bowels of the Earth; and Soap is a Factitious Concrete, or a Body mix'd together by Art. ¶1804 ABERNETHY *Surg. Observ.* 9 Thus an unorganized concrete becomes a living tumour. a ¶1831 A. KNOX *Rem.* (1844) I. 63 That..concrete of truth and error, of greatness and meanness..the Roman Catholic Church.

3. spec. a.B.3.a A composition of stone chippings, sand, gravel, pebbles, etc., formed into a mass with cement; used for building under water, for foundations, pavements, walls, etc. armoured concrete = reinforced concrete. Often attrib. Also in comb. as concrete mixer (so -mixing); concrete paver; concrete-press, a machine for compressing concrete into blocks.

¶1834 *Lond. Archit. Mag.* I. 35 Making an artificial foundation of concrete (which has lately been done in many places). ¶1836 G. GODWIN in *Trans. Inst. Brit. Archit.* 12 The generic term concrete..perhaps, can only

date from that period when its use became general and frequent, probably not longer than 15 or 20 years ago. ¶1858 GLENNY *Gard. Every-day Bk.* 25/1 Paving with brick, tile, stone, or concrete. ¶1906 *Concrete* Mar. p. ii, Armoured Concrete Constructions. ¶1906 *Westm. Gaz.* 20 Sept. 9/3 An extensive installation of stone-breaking and concrete-mixing machinery is in full work. ¶1907 *Daily Mail* 22 Oct., Armoured concrete, reinforced concrete, concrete-steel, or ferro-concrete. ¶1909 *Cent. Dict. Suppl.*, Concrete-mixer, a machine for mixing cement, sand, crushed or broken stone, and water in varying proportions for making concrete. ¶1929 W. HEYLIGER *Builder of Dam* 33 A one-bag power concrete mixer. ¶1930 *Engineering* 7 Mar. 324/1 The concrete-mixing plant is said to be the largest in Canada. ¶1954 *Gloss. Highway Engin. Terms (B.S.I.)* 49 Concrete paver, a concrete mixer capable of moving on crawler tracks or rails and provided with a boom and bucket for depositing the concrete in the required position in a pavement.

attrib. ¶1881 DARWIN *Form. Veg. Mould* 181 The junction of the concrete floor with the walls.

b. Paving made of concrete.

¶1911 E. FERBER *Dawn O'Hara* ii. 13 No tramping of restless feet on the concrete all through the long, noisy hours.

conduit n.

(^hkʌndɪt, ^hkɒndɪt)

[A particular application of the word conduct (OF. conduit, med.L. conductus in same sense), formerly having all the three type-forms conduit, condit (cundit), conduct; but, while in the other senses the Latin form conduct has prevailed, in this the French form conduit is retained, and the pronunciation descends from the ME. form condit or cundit.]

1. a. An artificial channel or pipe for the conveyance of water or other liquids; an aqueduct, a canal. (In Sc. in the form cundie commonly applied to a covered drain, not a tile drain.)

α ¶1340 *Ayenb.* 91 Þise uif wytes byeþ ase uif condwys. ¶1382 WYCLIF *Ecclus.* xxiv. 41 As water kundute [1388 cundit]. ¶1385 CHAUCER *L.G.W.* 852 Tisbe, As water, whanne the conduyte broken ys. ¶1570 B. GOOGE *Pop. Kingd.* ii. 21 b, The Conduites runne, within continually. ¶1611 CORYAT *Crudities* 27 Conduits of lead, wherein the water shal be conueighed. ¶1704 ADDISON *Italy* (1733) 215 Conduits Pipes and Canals that were made to distribute the Waters. ¶1812 *Act 52 Geo. III*, c. 141 §43 in Oxf. & Camb. En-

actm. 125 A certain Conduit called Hobsen's Conduit. ¶1833 *Act 3-4 Will. IV*, c. 46 §116 The pipes or other conduits..used for the conveyance of gas. ¶1864 A. MCKAY *Hist. Kilmarnock* (ed. 3) 274 Roads having side-drains and cross conduits. ¶1883 PARKES *Pract. Hygiene* (ed. 6) 25 Open conduits are liable to be contaminated by surface washings.

β ¶1382 WYCLIF 2 *Sam.* ii. 24 Thei camen to the hil of the water kundit. ¶1382 1 *Kings* xviii. 32 He beeldide vp an auter..and he made a water cundid. ¶1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 221 A greet condyt [aquæductum]. ¶c1400 MANDEVILLE v. (1839) 47 Þere is no water to drynke, but 3if it come be condyt from Nyle [Roxb. vii. 24 in cundites fra the riuer]. ¶c1400 *Rom. Rose* 1414 Stremis smale, that by devise Myrthe had done come through condise. ¶1432-50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) I. 181 Floode Danubius flowethe..in condettes vnder the erthe. ¶c1450 *Nominale* in Wr.-Wülcker 733/40 Hic aque-ductus, a cundyth undyr the erthe. ¶1541 *Act 33 Hen. VIII*, c. 35 (heading) An acte concerning the condites at Gloucester. ¶1587 *Bristol Wills* (1886) 249 To the yerely Repayringe of the Cundyte of the said parishe.

γ ¶1491 WRIOTHESLEY *Chron.* (1875) I. 2 A conduit begun at Christ Church. ¶1607 NORDEN *Surveyors Dial.* 85, I see the Conduits are made of earthen pipes, which I like farre better then them of Leade. ¶1642 PERKINS *Prof. Bk.* i. 49 A Pipe in the land to convey the water to my manour in a Conduit.

b. Electr. A tube or trough for receiving and protecting electric wires; a length or stretch of this. Also attrib., esp. in connection with the conduit system (see quot. 1940).

¶1882 *U.S. Pat.* 266,916 My invention consists, first, in making an electric conduit, comprising an external casing, internal conductor pipes, and supporting diaphragms, of conducting material, so that any electric currents induced in the said pipes will be conducted..directly to the ground. ¶1884 *Cassell's Fam. Mag.* Jan. 127/1 Conduits for holding electric wires laid along the streets. ¶1894 *Daily News* 2 June 5/4 At Buda-Pesth, where the conduit electrical system is in such successful operation. ¶1894 *Cassier's Mag.* Sept. 385/1 A trial of the conduit on a commercial basis at Washington. *Ibid.* 385/2 The open slot conduit with a continuous, bare trolley wire. *Ibid.* 386/2 The contact or working conductors could readily be placed in a slotted conduit, or trough. *Ibid.*, The road at Blackpool, England,—an open conduit road. *Ibid.* 387/1 The Love conduit system. ¶1896 *Daily News* 17 Dec. 5/2 The electric power is conveyed from the conduit rail to the car by means of a small peculiarly-shaped conductor. ¶1899 *Ibid.* 9 Jan. 3/6 New York will soon have 150 miles of conduit. ¶1903 *Daily Chron.* 18 Nov. 3/5 A conduit

line from Vauxhall Bridge to the Clapham-road. ¶1908 *Installation News* II. 47/2 Three parallel lengths of $\frac{3}{4}$ in. Simplex conduit hung a few inches below the ceiling and seven feet apart. ¶1940 *Chambers's Techn. Dict.* 189/1 Conduit box, a box adapted for connexion to the metal conduit used in electric wiring schemes. Ibid., Conduit system, (1) a system of wiring..in which the conductors are contained in a steel conduit; (2) a system of current collection used on some electric tramway systems. ¶1941 S. R. ROGET *Dict. Electr. Terms* (ed. 4) 69/1 Conduit Fittings, accessories such as conduit boxes, bends, tees, couplers, etc., for joining lengths of conduit tube for wiring. ¶1955 *Oxf. Jun. Encycl.* XI. 131/2 With one method of wiring, separate stranded copper wires with VIR insulation are used, the wires being placed inside black enamelled steel pipes, called 'conduits'. The conduits are screwed together and joined to cast iron boxes containing the switches and connexions between the wires; the whole conduit system is then joined to earth.

2. a. A structure from which water is distributed or made to issue; a fountain. Obs. or arch.

α ¶1430 LYDG. *Bochas* i. xiv. (1554) 30 a, Like a conduit gushed out the bloude. ¶1480 CAXTON *Chron. Eng.* clxi. 144 Oute of the conduyt of chepe ran whyte wyn and rede. ¶1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 426 They newe buylded in the same place a fayre Conduyt, which at this day is called the Conduyt in Cornehyll. ¶1611 CORYAT *Crudities* 334 In the middle of the Court there is an exceeding pleasant Conduite that spowteth out water in three degrees one aboue another. ¶1774 WARTON *Hist. Eng. Poetry* III. xxvi. 154 On the conduit without Ludgate, where the arms and angels had been refreshed. ¶1871 ROSSETTI *Poems, Dante at Verona* xxviii, The conduits round the garden sing.

fig. ¶1645 HEYWOOD *Fort. by Land & Sea* i. i, See you not these purple conduits run, Know you these wounds?

β ¶1400 *Morte Arth.* 201 Clarett and Creette, clergially rennene, With con-dethes fulle curious alle of clene siluyre. ¶c1400 MANDEVILLE xx. (1839) 217 þei that ben of houshold, drynken at the condyt. ¶c1530 LD. BERNERS *Arth. Lyt. Bryt.* (1814) 139 At the foure corners of this bedde there were foure condytes..out of the whiche there yssued so sweet an odour and so delectable. ¶1556 *Chron. Gr. Friars* (Camden) 27 At the condyd in Graschestret, the condet in Cornelle..at the lyttyll condyd..ronnyng wyne, rede claret and wythe.

γ ¶1533 *Anne Boleyn's Coronation* in Furniv. *Ballads fr. MSS.* I. 393 At the conducte in Cornehill was exhibited a Pageaunte of the three Graces. ¶1538

LELAND *Itin.* II. 70 There is a Conduct in the Market Place.

b. ? A laver or large basin. Obs.

¶1500 *Will of J. Ward* (Somerset Ho.), My grete lavatory of laton called a Condyte. ¶1592 R. D. tr. *Hypnerotomachia* 6 Great lauers, condites, and other infinite fragments of notable woorkmanship.

3. transf. Any natural channel, canal, or passage; †

a. in the animal body (obs.);

b. (19th c.) in geological or geographical formations; = canal 2, channel 6.

α ¶1340 *Ayenb.* 202 Zuo þet o stream of tyeares yerne be þe conduit of þe eȝen.

¶1483 CAXTON *De la Tour* L iij b, Wyn taken ouer mesure..stoppeth the conduytes of the nose. ¶1561 HOLLYBUSH *Hom. Apoth.* 38 a, For thys drincke mollifieth it [the bladder] openeth the condute. ¶1578 LYTE *Dodoens* iv. lxxx. 544 It doth also stoppe the pores and conduites of the skinne.

¶1607 T. WALKINGTON *Opt. Glass* viii. (1664) 100 The Conduits of the Spirits, and the Arteries and Veins. ¶1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1862) I. i. i. 269 The conduit that goes to the third stomach. ¶1830 R. KNOX *Béclard's Anat.* 88 The secretion of the fat..is not performed in glands or in particular conduits. ¶1839 MURCHISON *Silur. Syst.* i. ix. 126 A subterranean conduit or eruptive channel by which the volcanic matter was protruded to the surface. ¶1862 DANA *Man. Geol.* 693.

β ¶1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* xii. ix. 17 The stif swerd..Persit his cost and breistis cundyt in hy. ¶1587 L. MASCALL *Govt. Cattle, Sheep* (1627) 249 In the condite of the teat.

γ ¶1536 BELLENDEN *Cron. Scot.* (1821) I. p. xlv, [The Sea-] hurcheon..havand bot ane conduct to purge thair wambe and ressave thair meit. ¶1578 LYTE *Dodoens* i. xxxvii. 56 The juyce..openeth the conductes of the nose. ¶1649 LOVELACE *Poems* 56 The sacred conduits of her Wombe.

4. fig. The channel or medium by which anything (e.g. knowledge, influence, wealth, etc.) is conveyed; = canal 7, channel 8.

α ¶1540 COVERDALE *Fruitf. Lesson* i, Here are opened the conduits and well-pipes of life, the way of our health. ¶1600 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* vi. iv. §15 Conduits of irremediable death to impenitent receivers. ¶1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* iii. xi. (1695) 290 Language being the great Conduit, whereby Men convey..Knowledge, from one to another. ¶1737 WATERLAND *Eucharist* 290 Sacraments are..his appointed Means or Conduits, in and by which He confers his Graces. ¶1818 HALLAM *Mid. Ages* (1841) I. iii. 303 These republics..became the conduits through which the produce of the East flowed

in. ¶1878 MORLEY *J. De Maistre Crit. Misc.* 99 Reaching people through those usual conduits of press and pulpits.

β ¶1651 JER. TAYLOR *Clerus Dom.* 53 The spirit..running still in the first channels by ordinary conducts. ¶1670 *Moral State Eng.* 18 The addresses of the people to their Sovereign..being convey'd through him as a conduct.

5. Arch. **a.** gen. A passage (obs.). **b.** spec. see quot. 1875.

¶1624 WOTTON *Archit.* in *Reliq. Wotton* (1672) 33 Doors, Windows, Stair-cases, Chimnies, or other Conducts. ¶1703 T. N. *City & C. Purch.* 7.

¶1875 GWILT *Archit. Gloss.*, Conduit (Fr.), a long narrow walled passage underground, for secret communication between different apartments.

6. The leading (of water) by a channel. Obs.

¶1555 *Fardle Facions* Pref. 10 Thei deriued into cities..the pure freshe waters..by conduicte of pipes and troughes.

7. Mus. A short connecting passage, a codetta.

¶1872 H. C. BANISTER *Music* §404 By a short passage — Conduit..it [the Motivo] is again returned to. ¶1880 OUSELEY in *Grove Dict. Mus.* I. 568/1. (See copula.)

8. Comb., as conduit-cock, conduit-like, conduit-water, adj. or adv.; conduit-head, a reservoir; = conduit 2; also fig.; †conduit-water, spring water; conduit-wise adv. Also conduit-pipe.

¶1600 HEYWOOD *1st Pt. Edw. IV*, Wks. 1874 I. 10 We'le take the tankards from the *conduit-cocks To fill with ipocras.

¶1509 HAWES *Past. Pleas.* iv. iii, A fountayne..A noble sprynge, a ryall *conduyte hede. ¶1607 DEKKER *Wh. Babylon* Wks. 1873 II. 244 Conduit-heads of treason.

¶1580 SIDNEY *Arcadia* (1622) 141 Those saphir-coloured brookes Which *conduit-like with curious crookes, Sweet Ilands make.

¶1545 T. RAYNALDE *Byrth Mankynde* (1564) 68 Holyoke sodden in *cun-duite water. ¶1594 PLAT *Jewell-ho.* ii. 28 A glasse of conduit water.

¶1611 CORYAT *Crudities* 9 A little chappell made *conduitwise.

congenital **a.**

(kən'dʒenɪtəl)

[mod. f. L. *congenit-us* (see *congenite*) + *-al*. So F. *congénital*, admitted into the 6th ed. of the Academy's Dictionary in 1835. The sense was formerly expressed by *congenial*, Fr. *congénial*.]

a. Existing or dating from one's birth, belonging to one from birth, born with one. **a.** techn. in Pathol. (as a congenital disease or congenital defect).

¶1796 A. DUNCAN *Annals Med.* I. 20 Bronchocele..is not often congenital. ¶1807 S. COOPER *First Lines Surg.* 387 Congenital hernia. ¶1856 SIR B. BRODIE *Psychol. Inq.* I. v. 181 The mind of an individual who labours under congenital blindness..cannot fail to be imperfect. ¶1878 T. BRYANT *Pract. Surg.* I. 365 Ordinary congenital cataract.

b. in Bot.

¶1862 DARWIN *Fertil. Orchids* vii. 315 The so-called congenital attachment of the pollinia by their caudicles.

c. in general use. Const. with.

¶1848 KINGSLEY *Saint's Trag.* iv. i, The mind of God, revealed In laws, congenital with every kind And character of man. ¶1852 H. ROGERS *Ess.* I. vii. 374 Notions, coeval with the mind in date, congenital with its very faculties. ¶1852 BLACKIE *Stud. Lang.* 2 The living process of nature acting by congenital, divinely-implemented instinct. ¶1866 KINGSLEY *Lett.* (1878) II. 242 The congenital differences of character in individuals. ¶1879 M. ARNOLD *Mixed Ess.* 69 The French people, with its congenital sense for the power of social intercourse and manners.

consensus n.

(kən'sensəs)

[a. L. consensus agreement, accord, sympathy, common feeling, f. consens-ppl. stem of consentire: see consent. Used in the physiological sense by Bausner, *De consensu partium humani corporis*, 1556, whence sense 1 in mod.F. and English.]

1. Phys. General agreement or concord of different parts or organs of the body in effecting a given purpose; sympathy. Hence transf. of the members or parts of any system of things.

¶1854 G. BRIMLEY *Ess.*, Comte 320 In the universe..he resolves to see only a vast consensus of forces. ¶1861 GOLDW. SMITH *Lect. Mod. Hist.* 24 There is a general connexion between the different parts of a nation's civilization; call it, if you will, a consensus, provided that the notion of a set of physical organs does not slip in with that term. ¶1870 H. SPENCER *Princ. Psychol.* I. ii. ix. 278 A mutually-dependent set of organs having a consensus of functions.

2. **a.** Agreement in opinion; the collective unanimous opinion of a number of persons.

¶1861 *Sat. Rev.* 21 Dec. 637 Bishop Colenso is..decidedly against what seems to be the consensus of the Protestant missionaries. ¶1880 *Athenæum* 10 Apr. 474/3 A consensus had actually been arrived at on the main features involved.

transf. ¶1884 H. A. HOLDEN *Plutarch's Themist.* 190 The consensus of [the MSS.] ABC leaves no room for doubt about a reading.

b. Also consensus of opinion, authority, testimony, etc.

¶1858 *Sat. Rev.* V. 287/1 Supported by a great consensus of very weighty evidence. ¶1874 H. R. REYNOLDS *John Bapt.* v. i. 289 Sustained by a great consensus of opinion.

3. attrib. and Comb.

¶1966 *New Statesman* 21 Oct. 583/3 The essence of consensus politics is directly related to consensus communications. ¶1967 *Listener* 3 Aug. 136/2 Consensus journalism—with its millionaire proprietors and its multitudinous advertising departments—has been praised for being politically permissive. ¶1968 *Peace News* 10 May 10/2 Cicero..is a more dubious case—an unsuccessful consensus-politician, if ever there was one.

consortium *n.*

(kən'sɔːʃɪəm, kən'sɔːtɪəm)

[L. *consortium* partnership, f. *consors* consort. Thence It. *consorzio* and OF. *consorce*.]

1. Partnership, association. Now more specifically, an association of business, banking, or manufacturing organizations.

¶1829 *Edin. Rev.* L. 89 If the consortium give pleasure to the shades of these good people, we must acquiesce in it. ¶1881 H. A. WEBSTER in *Encycl. Brit.* XIII. 466/2 (Italy) The law [of 1874] united the six banks into a *consorzio* or union, bound, if required, to furnish to the national exchequer bank-notes to the value of 1,000,000,000 lire manufactured and renewed at their common expense; but by the law of 7th April 1881..the consortium of the banks came to a close on the 30th June 1881, and the consortial notes actually current are formed into a direct national debt. ¶1930 *Time & Tide* 30 Aug. 1086 The bankers have formed a consortium to help rationalize industry. ¶1936 *Nature* 4 July 5/1 Preference was given for the execution of

the work by consortia of landowners or public bodies. ¶1957 *New Scientist* 12 Sept. 31/1 Spokesmen for two of the consortia that tendered for the first CEA nuclear power stations. ¶1961 *Listener* 28 Dec. 1110/2 An interesting development..is the formation of a Yorkshire consortium of local authorities. The chairmen of the housing committees of Sheffield, Hull, and Leeds have announced that they are going to co-ordinate their housing programmes. ¶1962 H. E. BEECHENO *Business Stud.* xii. 107 Recently there have been several cases of manufacturers with connected interests forming a consortium in order to get large overseas contracts for capital developments. ¶1963 *Ann. Reg.* 1962 282 The formation of aid consortia for Turkey and Greece. The Turkish consortium was formed on 31 July.

2. Law. (The right of) association and fellowship between husband and wife.

The action for loss of consortium was abolished by the Administration of Justice Act, 1982 (c. 53) § 2.

¶1658 H. GRIMSTON tr. *Second Pt. Rep. Sir G. Croke* 501 Trespass of Assault and Battery: for that the Defendant..assaulted and beat the wife of the Plaintiff, per quod consortium uxoris suæ for three days amisit. ¶1768 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* III. viii. 140 The third injury is that of beating a man's wife... If the..husband is deprived for any time of the company and assistance of his wife, the law then gives him a..remedy by an action upon the case for this ill-usage, per quod consortium amisit.] ¶1836 in W. C. Curteis *Rep. Cases in Doctors' Commons* (1840) I. 198 Mr. Sherwood would have a right to claim the consortium of his wife. ¶1861 *Law Times Rep.* V. 293/1 Consortium..necessarily includes the idea of a union of two persons, each of whom is the consort of the other. ¶1932 *Law Rep. King's Bench Div.* II. 512 It seems..clear that at the present day a husband has a right to the consortium of his wife, and the wife to the consortium of her husband. ¶1957 M. TURNER-SAMUELS *Law of Married Women* i. 11 It was held by the House of Lords..that the right of a husband to damages for loss of consortium against a person who negligently injures his wife is an anomaly at the present day. ¶1971 R. A. PERCY *Charlesworth on Negligence* (ed. 5) iii. 72 The same principle would apply to an action by a husband suing for the loss of consortium of his wife, since he has been deprived of her services.

3. transf. and fig. Any association or collection.

¶1964 E. HUXLEY *Back Street New Worlds* xii. 122 As you enter, you are engulfed in a consortium of odours in which dried and pickled fish predominate. ¶1975 *New Yorker* 24 Nov. 58/2 The ice was cracked, if not broken, by the publication of such books as 'The American Soldier'..by a consortium

of academics led by Samuel A. Stouffer, of Harvard. ¶1979 J. GRIMOND *Memoirs* viii. 128 The consortium of Majors present, of whom I was one, decided we had better ring up our superiors.

consummate a.

(kən'sʌmət, 'kɒnsəmət)

[ad. L. consummāt-us brought to the highest degree, perfect, complete, consummate, pa. pple. of consummāre (see next). As to pronunciation, see the vb.]

A. as pa. pple.

1. Completed, perfected, fully accomplished. Obsolescent.

¶1471 RIPLEY *Comp. Alch.* i. in Ashm. (1652) 133 And alsoe thy Bace perfytyly consummate. ¶1530 PALSG. 495/2 This worke that hath ben so longe in hande is nowe at the laste consomme. ¶1615 CHAPMAN *Odyss.* xiii. 284 Till righteous fate Upon the Wooers' wrongs were consummate. ¶a1626 BP. ANDREWES *Serm.* (1661) 9 a, Consummate it shall be, but not yet. ¶1752 YOUNG *Brothers* iii. i, Guilt, begun, must fly To guilt consummate, to be safe. ¶1767 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* II. 128 The husband by the birth of the child becomes tenant by the curtesy initiate..but his estate is not consummate till the death of the wife. ¶1832 AUSTIN *Jurispr.* (1879) I. vi. 330 A fraction of a community already consummate or complete.

2. Of marriage: = consummated. Obs.

¶1530 in Fiddes *Life Wolsey* (1726) ii. 171 The Matrymonie was consummate by that Act. ¶1599 SHAKES. *Much Ado* iii. ii. 2, I doe but stay till your marriage be consummate. ¶1649 BP. HALL *Cases Consc.* iv. v. 434 Not ratified onely, but consummate by carnal knowledge. ¶1765 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* I. 435 Marriages contracted..in the face of the church, and consummate with bodily knowledge.

B. adj.

1. Summed up, finished; having in it finality.

¶1430 tr. *T. à Kempis* 107 Holde a short and a consummate worde: Leve all & þou shalt finde all; forsake couetyng and þou shalt finde rest.

2. Complete, perfect: **a.** of things. arch.

¶1527 R. THORNE in Hakluyt *Voy.* (1589) 257 There lacke many thinges that a consummate Carde [= map] should haue. ¶1667 MILTON *P.L.* v. 481

Last the bright consummate floure Spirits odorous breathes. ¶1743 FIELD-ING *J. Wild* i. i, A perfect or consummate pattern of human excellence.

¶1868 M. PATTISON *Academ. Org.* v. 191 In Oxford..degrees in arts were not final or consummate degrees, but steps on the road.. to the doctor's degree.

b. of persons: Complete; accomplished, supremely qualified.

¶1643 MILTON *Divorce* ii. iii. (1851) 69 What a consummat and most adorned Pandora was bestow'd upon Adam. ¶1725 POPE *Odyss.* iv. 283 Form'd by the care of that consummate sage. ¶1758 CHESTERFIELD *Lett.* IV. 126 The dignity and importance of a consummate Minister. ¶1789 BELSHAM *Ess.* I. xvi. 304 Those consummate generals, Condé, Turenne, and Luxemburg. ¶1848 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* II. 50 The consummate hypocrite. ¶1878 BROWNING *Poets Croisic* 67 Step thou forth Second consummate songster!

3. Perfect, of the highest degree or quality; supreme; utmost. Usually of qualities, or states, as consummate bliss, skill, wisdom, etc.

¶1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 231 b, To knowe the god omnipotent is the consummate iustyce. ¶1644 MILTON *Areop.* 56 The most consummat act of his fidelity. ¶1695 WOODWARD *Nat. Hist. Earth* ii. (1723) 94 The most consummate and absolute Order and Beauty. ¶1704 HEARNE *Duct. Hist.* (1714) I. 406 A consummate skill in Arithmetic. ¶1725 WATTS *Logic* ii. v. §4 Consummate folly. ¶1805 WORDSW. *Prelude* iv. (1889) 259/1 That day consummate happiness was mine. ¶1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* IV. 271 Conducted with consummate ability. ¶1876 M. DAVIES *Unorth. Lond.* 371 It was a consummate sermon. ¶1880 BEACONSFIELD *Endym.* lxxiii. 340 Little dinners, consummate and select.

4. ? = consumed 2, consumpt. Obs.

¶1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* viii. 298 Lixivia [in dropsy]..are proper..but not..for such as are consummate, and make a red deep coloured urine.

consummate v.

(¹kɒnsəmeɪt, ¹kɒnsjʊ-, kən'sʌmeɪt)

[f. prec., or L. consummāt-, ppl. stem of consummāre to sum up, make up, complete, finish, f. con- altogether + summa sum, summus highest, utmost, supreme, extreme, etc. The ppl. adj. consummate was in earlier use than the vb., and after the latter came into use, continued for some time to be used as its pa. pple., until succeeded in this capacity by consummated. The pronunciation con'summate is given in all the dictionaries until within the last few

years, but 'consummate is now prevalent: see contemplate. With this stress-pattern the second syll. is freq. (sjʊ). In the adj. con'summate is still usual, though 'consummate is often said.]

1. trans. To bring to completion or full accomplishment; to accomplish, fulfil, complete, finish.

¶1530 PALSG. 495/2, I consomme, I make a full ende of a thyng, je consumme. ¶1580 LYL *Euphues* (Arb.) 450 [This] brought greater desire to them, to consummate them. ¶1595 SHAKES. *John* v. vii. 95 To consummate this businesse happily. ¶1610 *Histrion-m.* i. 214 The Sunne heere riseth in the East with us..And so hee consummates his circled course In the Ecliptick line. ¶1632 tr. *Brueel's Praxis Med.* 399 This disease is consummated and brought to its full ripenes in 24 houres. ¶1692 RAY *Dissol. World* 25 God also consummated the Universe in six days. ¶1725 POPE *Odyss.* xx. 18 And let the Peers consummate the disgrace. ¶1798 SOUTHEY *Wife of Fergus* Poems II. 108 As if I knew not what must consummate My glory! ¶1835 BROWNING *Paracelsus* ii. 48 This done..to perfect and consummate all..I would supply all chasms with music. ¶1837 THIRLWALL *Greece* IV. xxx. 158 Lysander was eager to consummate his victory.

b. To make an end of, or put an end to, by doing away with. Obs.

¶1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 135 Arbela, where he [Darius] consummated life and monarchie. ¶1649 CHAS. I *Wks.* 292 What more speedy way was there to consummate those distractions then by a personal treaty. ¶1649 FULLER *Just Man's Fun.* 24 God would..consummate this miserable world, put a period to the dark night.

2. To complete marriage by sexual intercourse.

¶1540 *Act 32 Hen. VIII*, c. 25 Your maieste..maie..contract and consummat matrimonie wyth any woman. ¶1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 11 ¶5 Prince Nassau..consummated on the 26th of the last Month his Marriage with the beauteous Princess of Hesse-Cassel. ¶1766 GOLDSM. *Vic. W.* xxxi, Her aunt..had insisted that her nuptials with Mr. Thornhill should be consummated at her house. ¶1823 LINGARD *Hist. Eng.* VI. 202 That the marriage between Arthur and Catharine had been consummated.

b. absol.

¶1748 H. WALPOLE *Corr.* (1837) I. 128 They consummated at her house. ¶1762 SCRAFTON *Indostan* (1770) 17 They are married in their infancy; and consummate at fourteen on the male side, and ten or eleven on the female.

¶1771 *Contemplative Man* I. 27 Her Highness was obliged to consummate at a lonely..Cottage, to avoid being discovered.

3. To make perfect; to perfect. Obs.

¶1535 GOODLY *Prymer* (1834) 165 After they are consummate in all kind of virtue.] ¶1582 N. T. (RHEM.) *Heb.* v. 9 Being consummated, he became, to all that obey him, the cause of eternal salvation. ¶1678 A. LOVELL tr. *La Fontaine's Mil. Duties Cavalry* 79 Consummated in the experience of War.

4. intr. (for refl.) To fulfil or perfect itself.

¶1839 BAILEY *Festus* (1848) p. xvi, From the first These things were fixed, and are and aye shall be Consummating. ¶1844 MRS. BROWNING *Vis. Poets*, Room..for new hearts to come Consummating while they consume.

contentious a.

(kən'tenʃəs)

[ad. F. contentieux:—L. contentiōsus given to contention, quarrelsome: see contention and -ous.]

1. Of persons or their dispositions: Given to contention; prone to strife or dispute; quarrelsome.

¶1533 FRITH *Answ. More* (1829) 445 That you accept this worke with..no contentious hart. ¶1611 BIBLE *Prov.* xxi. 19 It is better to dwell in the wilderness, then with a contentious and an angry woman. ¶1682 BURNET *Rights Princes* i. 13 If two or three out of a contentious humour opposed it.

¶1732 BERKELEY *Alciph.* v. §19 The most contentious, quarrelsome, disagreeing crew. ¶1853 MACAULAY *Biog. Atterbury* (1867) 14 His despotic and contentious temper.

b. transf.

¶1605 SHAKES. *Lear* iii. iv. 6 Thou think'st 'tis much that this contentious storme Inuades vs to the skin. ¶1610 *Temp.* ii. i. 118. ¶1695 BLACKMORE *Pr. Arth.* i. 455 She makes contentious Winds forget their Strife.

c. Bellicose, warlike. Obs.

¶1535 COVERDALE 2 *Sam.* xxi. 20 And there arose yet warre at Gath, where there was a contencious man which had sixe fynghers on his handes. ☒ 2 *Kings* xix. 25 That contencious stronge cities mighte fall in to a waist heap of stones.

2. Characterized by or involving contention.

¶1430 tr. *T. à Kempis* 119 To stryue wiþ contenciose wordes. ¶1535 JOYE *Apol. Tindale* 49 To wryte any maliciouse and contenciose pistle agenst him. ¶1647 *Proposals of Army in Neal Hist. Purit.* III. 412 The present unequal, and troublesome, and contentious way of ministers' maintenance by Tithes. ¶1751 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 142 ¶8 A contentious and spiteful vindication. ¶1875 GLADSTONE *Glean.* VI. liii. 170 Forbearing to raise contentious issues.

3. Law. Of or pertaining to differences between contending parties. contentious jurisdiction: right of jurisdiction in causes between contending parties.

¶1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 427/1 Wel letterd, as it apperyd sythe, as wel in contempciuous jugemente as gyuyng counceyll to the sowles upon the fayte of theyr conscyence. ¶1727-51 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v., The Lords Chief Justices, judges, etc. have a contentious jurisdiction. ¶1768 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* III. 65 Such ecclesiastical courts, as have only what is called a voluntary and not a contentious jurisdiction. ¶1875 STUBBS *Const. Hist.* I. 233 In contentious suits it is difficult to draw the line between judicial decision and arbitration.

context n.

(ˈkɒntɛkst)

[ad. L. *contextus* (u-stem) connexion, f. ppl. stem of *contexĕre* to weave together, connect (see above). Cf. mod.F. *contexte* (in *Cotgr.*).]

1. The weaving together of words and sentences; construction of speech, literary composition. Obs.

¶1432-50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) I. 5 In the contexte historicale [contextu historico] the rewle off lyvenge and forme of vertues moralle..3iffe grete resplendence thro the diligence of croniclers. ¶c1645 HOWELL *Lett.* (1650) I. 459 Since these kings there is little difference in the context of [the French] speech, but only in the choice of words, and softness of pronounciation.

2. concr. The connected structure of a writing or composition; a continuous text or composition with parts duly connected. Obs.

¶1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 181 Though the aungell in the contexte of his salutacyon, expressed not this name Maria. ¶1531 ELYOT *Gov.* iii. xxv, The bokes of the Euangelistes, vulgarely called the gospels, which be

one contexte of an historie. ¶1633 H. GARTHWAITE (*title*), The Evangelical Harmonie, reducing the Four Evangelists into one Continued Context.

¶1641 MILTON *Ch. Govt.* Pref. (1851) 95 That book within whose sacred context all wisdome is infolded.

fig. ¶1635 QUARLES *Embl.* ii. vi, The skillful gloss of her reflection But paints the context of thy coarse complexion.

3. The connexion or coherence between the parts of a discourse. Obs.

¶1613 R. C. TABLE *Alph.* (ed. 3), Context, the agreeing of the matter going before, with that which followeth. ¶1622 M. FOTHERBY *Atheom.* Pref. 20, I haue..hindered not the context, and roundnesse of the speech.

¶1641 J. JACKSON *True Evang. T.* ii. 141 The context, or alliance that the text hath with the protext, or verse immediately foregoing.

4. a. concr. The whole structure of a connected passage regarded in its bearing upon any of the parts which constitute it; the parts which immediately precede or follow any particular passage or 'text' and determine its meaning. (Formerly circumstance q.v. 1 c, quotes. 1549, 1579.)

¶1568 FULKE *Answ. Chr. Protestant* (1577) 84 When the articles following are spoken in one context and phrase. ¶1583 *Defence* (Parker Soc.) 561 The whole context is this: 'Let no man say,' etc. ¶1631 R. BYFIELD *Doctr. Sabb.* 24 If it bee meant of..thou, that were absonant from the..context. ¶c1680 BEVERIDGE *Serm.* (1729) II. 1 That we may understand these words aright, it will be necessary to take a short view of the context. ¶1709 BERKELEY *Th. Vision* §73 A word pronounced with certain circumstances, or in a certain context with other words. ¶a1714 SHARP *Wks.* VII. xv. (R.), To this I answer plainly according to all the light that the contexts afford in this matter.

¶1849 COBDEN *Speeches* 46, I wish honourable gentlemen would have the fairness to give the entire context of what I did say, and not pick out detached words. ¶1883 FROUDE *Short Stud.* IV. iii. 294 A paragraph..unintelligible from want of context.

b. transf. and fig.

¶1842 H. E. MANNING *Serm.* (1848) I. i. 9 We carry on with us from day to day the whole moral context of the day gone by. ¶1853 RUSKIN *Stones Ven.* II. vi, It is literally impossible, without consulting the context of the building, to say whether the cusps have been added for the sake of beauty or of strength. ¶1877 E. CAIRD *Philos. Kant* ii. v. 281 The position of facts in the context of experience.

c. in this context: in this connexion.

¶1873 R. CONGREVE *Ess.*, etc. (1874) 480, I should avail myself of the words of one of our number—not used in this context, but suiting my present purpose.

5. = contexture. Obs.

¶1707 E. WARD *Hud. Rediv.* (1715) I. xvii, Sooner penetrate a Board, Than by a Cut or Thrust divide The Context of the stubborn Hide. ¶1766 R. GRIFFITH *Lett. Henry & Frances* III. 274 The Union of Soul and Body..that mistic Context.

6. attrib. and Comb., as context-theory; context-bound, context-free, context-sensitive adjs.

¶1965 *Language* XLI. 506 Further, synonymy must be *context-bound.

¶1957 J. PASSMORE 100 Yrs. Philos. i. 16 All nouns and all adjectives..are *context-free names. ¶1959 I. DE SOLA Pool *Trends in Content Analysis* vii. 219 Context-free measurement of symbolic forms which are instrumentally manipulated is apt to be misleading.

¶1964 *Language* XL. 317 A prosodic feature is one involved in a *context-sensitive phonological rule. ¶1965 N. CHOMSKY *Aspects of Theory of Syntax* i. 61 The theory of context-sensitive phrase-structure grammar..probably does not fail in weak generative capacity.

¶1936 J. R. KANTOR *Objective Psychol. of Gram.* ix. 116 The *context theory. According to this theory, what a word means depends upon its connection in past experience with some other thing.

contiguous a.

(kən'tɪɡjuəs)

[f. L. *contigu-us* (see *contigue*) + *-ous*.]

1. Touching, in actual contact, next in space; meeting at a common boundary, bordering, adjoining. Const to, formerly also with.

¶1611 CORYAT *Crudities* 81 Two seuerall Castles built on a rocke which are so neare together that they are euen contiguous. ¶1626 BACON *Sylva* §865 Water, being contiguous with aire, cooleth it, but moisteneth it not.

¶1644 EVELYN *Diary* 21 Apr., This [island] is contiguous to ye towne by a stately stone bridge. ¶1722 J. MACKY *Journ. thro' Eng.* I. 177 London and Westminster..are now by their Buildings become contiguous, and in a manner united. ¶1750 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 34 ¶3 An heiress whose land lies

contiguous to mine. ¶1842 W. GROVE *Corr. Phys. Forces* 49 The hydrogen..unites with the oxygen of the contiguous molecule of water. ¶1874 S. COX *Pilgr. Ps.* iii. 51 Long rows of contiguous houses.

b. Math. contiguous angles: = adjacent angles.

¶1727-51 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v., Contiguous angles..are such as have one leg common to each angle; otherwise called adjoining angles.

2. Next in time or order, immediately successive.

¶1612-15 BP. HALL *Contempl.*, N.T. iii. i, The favours of our benificent Saviour were at the least contiguous. No sooner hath hee raised the centurion's servant from his bed, then hee raises the widowe's son from his beere.

¶1748 HARTLEY *Observ. Man* ii. iv. 402 Two great Events will fall upon two contiguous Moments of Time.

3. Coadjacent in experience or thought.

¶1770 BEATTIE *Ess. Truth* ii. ii. §3 (R.) The fancy is determined by habit to pass from the idea of fire to that of melted lead, on account of our having always perceived them contiguous and successive.

4. Continuous, with its parts in uninterrupted contact. Obs.

¶1715 LEONI tr. *Palladio's Archit.* (1742) I. 51 Instead of Pilasters, there is a contiguous Wall. ¶1725 DE FOE *Voy. round World* ii. 47 The notion of the Hills being contiguous, like a wall that had no gates.

5. loosely. Neighbouring, situated in close proximity (though not in contact). †Of persons: Dwelling near.

¶1710 PRIDEAUX *Orig. Tithes App.* 25 Those Parishes, within five miles distance, may be served by a Contiguous Minister. ¶1779 FORREST *Voy. N. Guinea* 149 The island of Goram is said to have thirteen mosques..Contiguous is a small island called Salwak. ¶1853 ROBERTSON *Serm.* Ser. iii. ii. (1872) I. 22 It [the spirit of the world] is found in a different form in contiguous towns.

contretemps n.

(kɑ:n.trə.tã)

[F. contre-temps, -tems, bad or false time, motion out of time, inopportune-ness, unexpected and untoward accident.]

1. Fencing. A pass or thrust which is made at a wrong or inopportune moment. Obs.

¶1684 R. H. *Sch. Recreat.* 60 Counter Temps..is when you Thrust without a good Opportunity, or when you Thrust, at the same time your Adversary does the like. Ibid. 67 This preserves your Face from your Adversaries scattering or Counter-Temps Thrusts. ¶1694 SIR W. HOPE *Swordsman's Vade M.* 43 It is a fair Thrust, and cannot be called a Contre temps. ¶1725 in *New Cant. Dict.*

2. a. An inopportune occurrence; an untoward accident; an unexpected mishap or hitch.

¶1802 M. EDGEWORTH *Manœuvring* i, I am more grieved than I can express..by a cruel contre-temps. ¶1842 T. MARTIN *My Namesake* in *Fraser's Mag.* Dec., I am used to these little contretemps. ¶1872 J. L. SANFORD *Estimates Eng. Kings* 397 He [Charles II] regarded such contretemps as inevitable.

b. A disagreement or argument; a dispute.

¶1961 *Providence* (Rhode Island) *Jrnl.* 4 July 24/3 There also came a brief contretemps with the sound mixers who made the mistake of being overheard during a quiet moment. ¶1977 *Washington Post* 27 Dec. b7/3 There is his ongoing relationship with Beverly Switzler..and a contretemps with another duck named Donald. ¶1983 M. EDWARDES *Back from Brink* ii. 26 The Zambian President had had a particularly unpleasant contretemps with the Rhodesians, and was about to put up tariff barriers across the Zambesi. ¶1984 *New Yorker* 30 Jan. 69/2 Mondale and Glenn got into a new contretemps, this one over acid rain and environmental policy in general.

3. Dancing. A step danced on the unaccented portion of the beat; spec. in Ballet (see quotes. 1952 and 1957).

¶1706 J. WEAVER tr. *Feuillet's Orchesography* 45 Of Contre-temps, or compos'd Hops. ¶1728 J. ESSEX tr. *Rameau's Dancing-Master* xxxvii. 97 The Contretemps are those springing Steps which give a Life to Dancing by the different Manners of their Performance;..To make one with the right Foot..sink upon the Left, and rise upon it with a Spring; but at the same Time the right Leg..moves forwards..on the Toes, both Legs well extended; afterwards make another Step forwards..which makes the Contretemps compleat. ¶1830 R. BARTON tr. *Blasis's Code of Terpsichore* vi. 488 Any dancer may be capable of executing a chassé, a pas de bourrée, a contre-tems, &c. ¶1877 *Encycl. Brit.* VI. 801/1 As may be seen from the technical language of dancing (assemblée, jetée..contre-temps..) it has undoubtedly been brought to greatest perfection in France. ¶1952 KERSLEY & SINCLAIR *Dict. Ballet Terms* 38 Occasionally one sees the full and more difficult contretemps in which the

dancer closes the left leg behind the right as both knees bend before springing out. ¶1957 G. B. L. WILSON *Dict. Ballet* 79 Contretemps, a step in which the dancer, with the left foot behind and pointed, jumps off the right foot bringing the left foot round in a small sweep to the front, replacing the right foot. The right foot moves out to the side and the dancer moves forward, repeating the step.

Hence CONTRETEMPS (-temp) v. nonce-wd. Fencing. (a) trans. To make a contretemps at; (b) intr. to make contretemps.

¶1684 R. H. Sch. *Recreat.* 72 If for all this your Adversary give a home-thrust, then you must Counter-temps him in the Face, and parry..with your left Hand. ¶1694 SIR W. HOPE *Swordsman's Vade M.* 42 He can infallibly Contre-temps with the Ignorant as often as he pleaseth. An Ignorant Contre-tempering an Artist..The Artist that contre-tempeth the Ignorant. Ibid. 61 An Artist may..be Contre-tempsd or Resposted.

contrite a. (and n.)

(^lkontrait)

[a. F. contrit (12th c.), ad. L. contrīt-us bruised, crushed, pa. pple. of conterēre, f. con- together + terēre to rub, triturate, bray, grind.

The pronunciation long varied between the original con'trite and 'con-trite; the former was still recognized by Johnson and used by some 18th c. hymn-writers. J. has also con'triteness; Browning has con'tritely; on the other hand 'contrite is found in *Piers Ploughman*. Depending on this is the prosodic choice between hearts con'trite and 'contrite hearts.]

1. lit. Bruised, crushed; worn or broken by rubbing. Obs. rare.

¶1651 JER. TAYLOR *Serm. for Year i.* xxvii. 345 Though their strengths are no greater than a contrite reed or a strained arme. ¶1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, Contrite, worn or bruised; but is most commonly used for penitent or sorrowful for misdeeds, remorseful. ¶1755 JOHNSON, *Contrite*, bruised; much worn.

2. fig. Crushed or broken in spirit by a sense of sin, and so brought to complete penitence.

¶1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* cxlvi. 3 þat helis þe contryte of hert. ¶1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. xiv. 89 If man be inliche contrit. ¶c1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* II. 400 To assoile men þat ben contrit. ¶1447 O. BOKENHAM *Seyntys* (Roxb.) 102 Ful contryht and cleen shrevyn also. ¶c1450 *Castle Hd. Life St.*

Cuthb. 3783 He helyd þaim wer contrite in hert. ¶1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 140 b, Be contryte and sory for your fall. ¶1549 (Mar.) *Bk. Com. Prayer* 30 b, Create and make in vs newe and contrite heartes. ¶1667 MILTON *P.L.* x. 1091 With our sighs..sent from hearts contrite, in sign Of sorrow unfeign'd, and humiliation meek. ¶a1745 SWIFT *Beasts' Conf. to Priest*, The swine with contrite heart allow'd His shape and beauty made him proud. ¶1819 MONTGOMERY *Hymn*, 'Prayer' v, Prayer is the contrite sinner's voice Returning from his ways. ¶1856 R. A. VAUGHAN *Mystics* (1860) I. 194 No ecclesiastical absolution can help us unless we are contrite for our sin before God.

b. Of actions, etc.: Displaying, or arising from, contrition.

¶1593 SHAKES. *Lucr.* 1727 Her contrite sighs unto the clouds bequeathed Her winged sprite. ¶1599 *Hen. V*, iv. i. 313, I Richards body haue interred new, And on it haue bestowed..contrite teares. ¶1829 SOUTHEY *All for Love* vii, He raised this contrite cry. ¶1868 E. EDWARDS *Raleigh* I. xiii. 257 In very contrite and earnest words.

3. Comb., as contrite-hearted.

¶1611 CORYAT *Crudities* 422 A penitent and contrite-hearted Christian. ¶1871 FREEMAN *Hist. Ess. Ser.* i. iv. 106 Turned from notorious sinners into contrite-hearted penitents.

B. quasi-n. A contrite person, a penitent.

¶1600 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* vi. vi. §13 Such contrites intend and desire absolution, though they have it not.

contumacious a.

(kɒntjuː'meɪʃəs)

[f. L. *contumāci-* (*contumāx*); see *contumax* and *-acious*.]

1. Contemning and obstinately resisting authority; stubbornly perverse, insubordinate, rebellious. (Of persons and their actions.)

¶1603 KNOLLES *Hist. Turks* (1621) 997 Their Turcoman nation..were grown verie contumacious. ¶1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* ii. ii. §81 His contumacious Company-keeping (contrary to his Confessours command) with an Excommunicated Count. ¶1772 *Hist. Rochester* 127 To reduce the contumacious monks to obedience. ¶1829 I. TAYLOR *Enthus.* x. 291 That spirit of contumacious scrupulosity which is the parent of schism.

b. Of diseases: Not readily yielding to treatment, stubborn. Obs.

¶1605 TIMME *Quersit.* iii. 152 Contumacious sicknesses. ¶1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* viii. 263 In contumacious Diseases.

2. Law. Wilfully disobedient to the summons or order of a court.

¶1600 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* vi. iv. §1 Contumacious persons which refuse to obey their sentence. ¶1726 AYLIFFE *Parerg.* 190 He is in Law said to be a contumacious Person, who, on his Appearance afterwards, departs the Court without leave. ¶1823 LINGARD *Hist. Eng.* VI. 202 On her refusal to appear in person or by her attorney, she was pronounced contumacious. ¶1859 HAWTHORNE *Fr. & It. Jrnls.* II. 282 Contumacious prisoners were put to a dreadful torture.

Hence contu'maciously adv., contu'maciousness.

¶1626 J. PORY in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* i. 333 III. 243 They contumaciously refused to go. ¶1654 CODRINGTON tr. *Hist. Ivstine* 219 Having their contumaciousness punish'd with a Pestilence. ¶1675 tr. *Machiavelli's Prince* (Rtldg. 1883) 286 The clients are contumaciously litigious. ¶1676 WISEMAN *Surgery* i. xxv. (R.), The difficulty and contumaciousness of cure [of elephantiasis]. ¶1841 MACAULAY *W. Hastings Ess.* (1854) II. 645 Imposing a fine when that assistance was contumaciously withheld. ¶1887 *Spectator* 28 May 723 Various delays in deciding upon his contumaciousness.

conundrum n.

(kə'nʌndrəm)

[Origin lost: in 1645 (sense 3) referred to as an Oxford term; possibly originating in some university joke, or as a parody of some Latin term of the schools, which would agree with its unfixed form in 17-18th c. It is doubtful whether Nash's use (sense 1) is the original.]

1. Applied abusively to a person. (? Pedant, crotchet-monger, or ninny.) Obs.

¶1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* 158 So will I..driue him [Gabriel Harvey] to confesse himselfe a Conundrum, who now thinks he hath learning inough to proue the saluation of Lucifer.

2. A whim, crotchet, maggot, conceit. Obs.

¶1605 B. JONSON *Volpone* v. ii, I must ha' my crotchets! And my conundrums! ¶1623 MASSINGER *Bondman* ii. iii, (Tipsy man says) I begin To have strange conundrums in my head. ¶1651 BEDELL *Life Erasm.* in *Fuller's Abel Rediv.* 61 These conimbrums, whether Reall or Nominall, went

downe with Erasmus like chopt hay. ¶1687 A. BEHN *Lucky Chance* ii. ii, I hope he'll chain her up, the Gad Bee's in his Quonundrum. a ¶1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew*, Conundrums, Whimms, Maggots, and such like. ¶1706 ESTCOURT *Fair Examp.* iv. i, You don't know her; she has more Conundrums in her Head than a Fencer. ¶1719 D'URFEY *Pills* IV. 140 My Blood she advances, With Twenty Quadundrums, and Fifty Five Fancies.

3. A pun or word-play depending on similarity of sound in words of different meaning. Obs.

¶1645 *Kingdom's Weekly Post* 16 Dec. 76 This is the man who would have his device alwayes in his sermons, which in Oxford they then called conundrums. For an instance..Now all House is turned into an Alehouse, and a pair of dice is made a Paradice, was it thus in the days of Noah? Ah no! ¶a1704 T. BROWN *Praise Poverty* Wks. (1730) I. 94 Pun and conundrum pass with them for wit. ¶1707 E. WARD *Hud. Rediv.* (1715) I. x, Such frothy Quibbles and Cunnunders. ¶1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 61 ¶2 A Clinch, or a Conundrum. ¶1726 AMHERST *Terræ Fil.* xxxix. (1741) 204 Plain sense was esteem'd nonsense from the pulpit, which rung with ambiguities and double meanings; the poor sinner was mightily awaken'd to his duty by a pretty pun, and oftentimes owed his salvation to a quibble or a conundrum. ¶1731 BAILLEY (ed. 5), *Conundrum*, a quaint humourous Expression, Word, or Sentence.

¶1755-73 JOHNSON, *Conundrum*, a low jest; a quibble; a mean conceit: a cant word. ¶1794 GODWIN *Cal. Williams* 47 Zounds! sir, do not think to put any of your conundrums upon me.

4. A riddle in the form of a question the answer to which involves a pun or play on words: called in 1769 conundrumical question. **b.** Any puzzling question or problem; an enigmatical statement.

¶1790 WOLCOTT (P. Pindar) *Elegy to Apollo* Wks. (1812) II. 278 The Riddle and Conundrum-mongers cry Pshaw! 1806-7 J. Beresford *Miseries Hum. Life* (1826) iii. xxxviii, Exhausting your faculties..in vain endeavours to guess at a..conundrum. ¶1824 BYRON *Juan* xv. xxi. ¶1845 DISRAELI *Sybil* (1863) 191 'You speak in conundrums,' said Morley; 'I wish I could guess them.' ¶1886 FROUDE *Oceana* ii. 32 The stars..will be after Adam's race has ceased to perplex itself with metaphysical conundrums.

5. A thing that one is puzzled to name, a 'what-d'ye-call-it'. rare.

¶1817 SCOTT *Let.* 8 June in Lockhart, We are attempting no castellated conundrums to rival those Lord Napier used to have executed in sugar. ¶1858 HOGG *Life Shelley* II. xii. 396 In her plain cap, plain kerchief, and plaited conundrums, by which the female Friends are distinguished.

6. Comb., as conundrum-game, conundrum-making, conundrum-monger (see prec. 4), conundrum-party.

¶1716 M. DAVIES *Athen. Brit.* III. Dissert. 32 Mr. Wood..makes a Conundrum-Game with poor Cornaro's Daughter Su. ¶1792 W. ROBERTS *Looker-on* (1794) I. No. 20. 271 Conundrum parties. Ibid. No. 20. 281 Leger-de-main, conundrum-making, and punning.

Hence, co'nundrumed, grown crotchety, slightly crazed; conun'drumical a., whimsical, fantastic, crotchety; also, of the nature of a conundrum (sense 4); co'nundrumize v. intr., to make conundrums.

¶1628 FORD *Lover's Mel.* ii. ii, Mel. Am I stark mad? Trol. No, no, you are but a little staring. There's difference between staring and stark mad. You are but whimsied yet; crotcheted, conundrumed, or so. ¶1743 *London Mag.* 36 Of all the conundrumical Inconsistencies, and incoherent Images that ever arose from a sick Stomach and a weak Head. ¶1769 *Town & Country Mag.* 1 Sept. 462/2 Answers to Mr. Wags connundrumical questions. ¶1836 *New Monthly Mag.* XLVIII. 420 The conundrumizing of the said Billy..set everybody making conundrums. ¶1839 L. BLANCHARD *Ibid.* LVI. 519 It was from you that he had the joke first, while you were conundrumizing for want of thought.

co-opt v.

(kəʊ'ɒpt)

[ad. L. *cooptāre*, f. *co(m)* together + *optāre* to choose. In L. strictly 'to choose as a colleague, friend, or member of one's tribe or family'; sometimes also 'to elect into a body', otherwise than by its members. Cf. the earlier uses of *co-optate*, *co-optation*.]

1. trans. To elect into a body by the votes of its existing members.

¶1651 HOWELL *Venice* 158 The favour they did him to co-opt him into the body of their Nobility. Ibid. 183 He suffered himself to be coopted into the Colledg of Cardinalls. ¶1724 *Reg. Trin. Coll., Dublin* in Fraser *Life Berkeley* iv. (1871) 101 Dr. Clayton was admitted and co-opted Senior Fellow.

¶1860 W. G. CLARK *Vac. Tour* 17 A body of bravoës..who co-opt into their body those who, by strength of arm and skill in the use of the stiletto, may have shown themselves worthy of the distinction. ¶1862 *Sat. Rev.* XIV. 217/1 The claim of the existing Residentiaries to coopt to a vacancy. ¶1875 STUBBS *Const. Hist.* III. xx. 418 These eight co-opted two more, and these ten two

more. ¶1881 *Nature* XXIII. 292 He was co-opted a Senior Fellow..[and] made Vice-Provost.

2. To absorb into a larger (esp. political) group; to take over or adopt (an idea, etc.). U.S.

¶1969 *Atlantic Monthly* Oct. 18/1 A Republican Party based in the 'Heartland' (Midwest), West, and South can and should co-opt the Wallace vote.

¶1970 *New Yorker* 16 May 34/3 All too often, mere approval of their social and political concern has, in the jargon, co-opted their causes and deadened them. ¶1982 *N.Y. Times* 22 Apr. a6/3 The argument has been, co-opt the left before it's too late.

¶1986 B. FUSSELL *I hear Amer. Cooking* iv. xvii. 315 As English as apple pie, colonists must have said before America co-opted the dish for its own.

Hence co-'opted, co-'opting ppl. adjs.

¶1875 SYMONDS *Renaiss. Italy* I. iii. 149 The Grand Council..as a co-opting body, tended to become a close aristocracy. ¶1881 *Times* 17 May 4/1 The Convocation of Canterbury..by means of members of their own body and co-opted scholars and divines..have completed one portion of the work.

¶1887 *Q. Rev.* Jan. 176 Coopted trustees.

copious a.

(ˈkəʊpiəs)

[ad. L. *cōpiōs*-us plentiful, f. *cōpia* plenty: cf. F. *copieux* (16th c. in Littré).]

1. Furnished plentifully with anything; having or yielding an abundant supply of; abounding in; Obs. exc. as in copious sources, where it passes into 3.

¶1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) II. 17 (Mätz.) Þe erþe of that lond is copious of metal ore. ¶1398 Barth. *De P.R.* xiii. vii. (1495) 444 Eufates..is moost copyous in gemmes and precyous stones. ¶1432-50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) I. 287 A copious londe, and habundant in marchaundise. ¶a1533 FRITH *Bk. agst. Rastell* (1829) 218 He is more copious in labours, in stripes above measure. ¶1594 SHAKES. *Rich. III*, iv. iv. 135. ¶1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* (1885) 14 A certane toun copious in citizenis. ¶1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* iii. (1682) 106 It is indifferent copious of all things necessary for humane life. ¶1720 GAY *Poems* (1745) I. 172 Newgate's copious market. ¶1784 COWPER *Task* vi. 162 Copious of flow'rs the woodbine, pale and wan. ¶1838 PRESCOTT *Ferd. & Is.* (1846) I. Introd. 53 More copious sources of knowledge.

2. In pregnant sense:

a. Abounding in information; full of matter.

¶1500 *Orol. Sap.* in *Anglia* X. 327 *Pei* þat bene copiose and habundant in þe letterere science. ¶1561 T. HOBY tr. *Castiglione's Courtyer* i. H iv, Those studyes shall make him copyous. ¶1630 PRYNNE *Anti-Armin.* 102 Our learned Diuinity Professors are full and copious in this point. ¶1652 NEEDHAM tr. *Selden's Mare Cl.* 41 Touching which particular both the Canonists and Civilians are very copious. 1716-8 Lady M. W. Montague Lett. I. xxxviii. 149 This copious subject has drawn me from my description of the exchange.

¶1775 JOHNSON *Let. Mrs. Thrale* 20 July, You have two or three of my letters to answer, and I hope you will be copious and distinct, and tell me a great deal of your mind. ¶1868 GLADSTONE *Juv. Mundi* i. (1869) 13 The Iliad and Odyssey give a picture of the age to which they refer, alike copious and animated, comprehensive and minute.

b. Having a plentiful command of language for the expression of ideas. Obs.

¶1430 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* ii. xvi, And of wordes wonder copyous. ¶1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* ii. (Arb.) 94 It is a signe that such a maker is not copious in his owne language. ¶1672 MARVELL *Reh. Transp.* i. 50 Our author seems copious, but is indeed very poor of expression.

c. Profuse in speech; diffuse or exuberant in style or treatment.

¶1430 LYDG. *Stans Puer* 74 in *Babees Bk.* (1868) 28 Be not to copiose [v.r. copious] of langage. ¶1528 MORE *Dialogue* i. xxiii. Wks. 153 She will waxe copious and chop logicke. ¶1710 STEELE *Tatler* No. 244 ¶2 When you see a Fellow watch for Opportunities for being Copious. ¶1732 BERKELEY *Alciph.* iii. §15 Declaimers of a copious vein. ¶1851 THACKERAY *Eng. Hum.* iii. (1858) 112 A copious Archdeacon, who has the command of immense papers, of sonorous language.

d. Of a language: Having a large vocabulary.

¶1549 *Compl. Scot.* Prol. 17 Oure scottis tong is nocht sa copeus as is the lateen tong. ¶1651 HOBBS *Leviath.* iv. xlvi. 379 French, English, or any other copious language. 1772-7 Sir W. Jones *Poems, Ess.* i. 172 Their language is..the most copious, perhaps, in the world.

3. Existing in rich abundance; plentiful; abundant. Now chiefly used with ns. expressing production or supply, or in reference to quantity produced; with names of material substances, it is obs. or arch., but is used of literary materials.

¶1382 WYCLIF *Acts* xxii. 6 In the mydday..a copious lizt schon aboute me. ¶1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 399 There lyme is copious and slattes for house. ¶1414 BRAMPTON *Penit. Ps.* cix. 41 Oure raumsoun is ful copyous, For thou art redy thi grace to sende. ¶1486 *Bk. St. Albans, Her. C j b*, If the coloure of the poynt be more copiose or gretter in thos armys. ¶1609 BIBLE (Douay) *1 Macc.* ix. 35 To desire..that they would lend him their provision which was copious. ¶1667 MILTON *P.L.* vii. 325 Rose as in Dance the stately Trees, and spred Their branches hung with copious Fruit. ¶1691 RAY *Creation* i. (1704) 67 Sea-water, containing a copious Salt. ¶1732 ARBUTHNOT *Rules of Diet* 287 The copious Use of Vinegar. ¶1762 FALCONER *Shipwr.* i. 158 The copious produce of her fertile plains. ¶1794 SULLIVAN *View Nat.* I. 212 The moisture..is quickly condensed..and falls down in copious dews. ¶1838 T. THOMSON *Chem. Org. Bodies* 714 Diacetate of lead throws down a copious white precipitate. ¶1845 *Florist's Jrnl.* 94 Which..induces a more copious display of flowers. ¶1854 H. MILLER *Sch. & Schm.* vi. (1857) 98 A clear and copious spring comes bubbling out at its base. ¶1860 TROLLOPE *Framley P.* i. 3 Her hair which was copious. ¶1866 ROGERS *Agric. & Prices* I. xix. 455 The evidence collected is exceedingly copious.

b. Multitudinous, numerous. Obs.

¶1382 WYCLIF *1 Macc.* x. 1 Kyng Demetrie..gadride an oost ful copiose. ¶1432-50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) I. 321 The peple of hit is copious, of semely stature. ¶1609 BIBLE (Douay) *1 Macc.* v. 6 A strong band, and a copious people. ¶1715-20 POPE *Iliad* i. 534 To heap the shores with copious death. ¶1741 BETTERTON *Eng. Stage* vi. 82 We shall..conclude with the Actions of the Hands, more copious and various than all the other Parts of the Body.

4. as adv. = copiously.

¶1791 COWPER *Iliad* xvii. 104 And from his wide wound bleeding copious still. ¶1808 J. BARLOW *Columb.* ii. 397 Buried gold drawn copious from the mine.

corollary *n.*

(kə'rɒləɹɪ, 'kɒrələɹɪ)

[ad. L. *corollārium* money paid for a chaplet or garland, gratuity, corollary, properly neut. of adj. *corollārius* belonging to a chaplet, f. *corolla* a little crown or chaplet. With senses 3 and 4 cf. Cotgr. 'Corolaire, a Corollarie; a surplusage, ouerplus, addition to, vantage aboue measure']

1. In Geom., etc. A proposition appended to another which has been demonstrated, and following immediately from it without new proof; hence gen. an immediate inference, deduction, consequence.

¶1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* iii. x. 91 As þise geometriens whan þei han shewed her proposiciouns ben wont to bryngen in þinges þat þei clepen porismes..ry3t so wil I 3eue þe here as a corolarie or a mede of coroune. ¶c1449 PECOCK *Repr.* i. v. 25 Of whiche..folewith ferther this corelarie. ¶1551 RECORDE *Pathw. Knowl.* ii. liii, Of this Theoreme dothe there folowe an other..whiche you maye calle..a Corollary vnto this laste theoreme. ¶1563-87 FOXE *A. & M.* (1596) 467/2 The corollary or effect of this conclusion is, that, etc. ¶1661 BRAMHALL *Just Vind.* vi. 110 Where that Author infers as a corollary from the former proposition, That no edict of a Sovereign Prince can justifie Schisme. ¶1722 WOLLASTON *Relig. Nat.* ix. 214 This is but a corollary from what goes before. ¶1832 LYTTON *Eugene A.* i. v, That is scarcely a fair corollary from my remark. ¶1870 JEVONS *Elem. Logic* xv. 135 [They] are in fact corollaries of the first six rules. ¶1874 HELPS *Soc. Press.* xvii. 239 There are corollaries to all axioms.

transf. ¶1828 HAWTHORNE *Fanshawe* vi, The lady of the house (and, as a corollary, her servant girl).

b. A thesis, theorem; = conclusion 6. Obs.

¶1636 HEYLIN *Sabbath* 47 It is a Corollary or conclusion in Geographie, that, etc. ¶1800 *Med. Jrnl.* III. 243 Dr. Pearson's Corollaries on the Cowpox. ¶1821 BYRON *Sardan.* ii. i. 380 You have codes, And mysteries, and corollaries of Right and wrong.

2. transf. Something that follows in natural course; a practical consequence, result.

¶1674 *Govt. Tongue* (J.), Since we have considered the malignity of this sin..it is but a natural corollary, that we enforce our vigilance against it. ¶1840 CARLYLE *Heroes* (1858) 305 The art of Writing, of which Printing is a simple, an inevitable..corollary. ¶1884 S. E. DAWSON *Handbk. Canada* 29 This gigantic enterprise [the Canadian Pacific Railway] was a necessary corollary of the confederation of British America.

3. Something added to a speech or writing over and above what is usual or what was originally intended; an appendix; a finishing or crowning part, the conclusion. Obs.

¶1603 HOLLAND *Plutarch's Mor.* 1262 With these verses as with Corollarie..I will conclude this my discourse. ¶1644 BULWER *Chinol.* 11 A

Corollarie of the Speaking motions..of the Hand. ¶1649 EVELYN *Mem.* (1857) III. 36 There is published a declaration..which, being now the corollary and ἐπιφορά of what they have to say. ¶1676 WORLIDGE *Cyder* (1691) 200 A Corollary of the Names and Natures of most Fruits growing in England. ¶1717 PRIOR *Alma* ii. 122 Howe'r swift Alma's flight may vary (Take this by way of Corollary).

4. Something additional or beyond the ordinary measure; a surplus; a super-numerary. Obs.

[¶1602 CAREW *Cornwall* 123 b, The other side is also ouer~looked by a great hill..and for a Corollarium their Conduit water runneth thorow the Church-yard.] ¶1610 SHAKES. *Temp.* iv. i. 57 Now come my Ariell, bring a Corolary, Rather then want a Spirit. ¶1613 R. C. TABLE *Alph.* (ed. 3), Correllarie, ouerplus, that is more then measure. ¶1681 tr. *Willis' Rem. Med. Wks. Voc.*, Corollary, addition, vantage, or overplus.

corporeal a. (n.)

(kɔː'pɔəriəl)

[f. L. corpore-us of the nature of body, bodily, physical (f. corpus, corpor-body) + -all: cf. corporeous.]

A. adj.

1. Of the nature of the animal body as opposed to the spirit; physical; bodily; mortal.

¶1610 HEALEY *St. Aug. Citie of God* 706 Corporeall shall hee [Christ] sit; and thence extend His doome on soules. ¶a1661 FULLER *Worthies* (1840) III. 6 How inconsistent..to couple a spiritual grace with matters of corporeal repast. ¶1709 STRYPE *Ann. Ref.* I. xxv. 281 Nor allowed of any manner of corporeal presence in the Sacrament. ¶1754 SHERLOCK *Disc.* (1759) I. vi. 202 It was universally agreed that all that was Corporeal of Man died. ¶1870 H. MACMILLAN *Bible Teach.* viii. 153 The corporeal frame of every human being..is composed of the same mineral substances.

2. Of the nature of matter; material.

¶1619 M. FOTHERBY *Atheom.* ii. xii. §1 (1622) 332 Of things corporeal, and incorporeall; of things liuing, and without life. ¶1660 BOYLE *New Exp. Phys.-Mech.* xvii. 119 Whether..the exsuction of the Air do prove the place..to be truly empty, that is, devoid of all Corporeal Substance. ¶1725 tr. *Dupin's Eccl. Hist.* 17th C. I. v. 164 He holds..that..the Devils and the Damn'd are

punish'd by a Corporeal Fire. ¶1788 REID *Aristotle's Log.* i. §2. 7 Are genera and species corporeal or incorporeal? ¶1864 BOWEN *Logic* x. 334 Our conception of any corporeal thing must include..those obvious qualities, such as shape, color, specific gravity, etc. ¶1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) III. 533 That which is created is of necessity corporeal and visible and tangible.

3. Law. Tangible; consisting of material objects; esp. in corporeal hereditament: see quot. 1767.

¶1670 HOBBS *Dial. Com. Laws* 45 Some Goods are Corporeal..which may be handled, or seen; and some Incorporeal, as Priviledges, Liberties, Dignities, Offices. ¶1767 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* II. 17 Corporeal hereditaments consist wholly of substantial and permanent objects. ¶1844 WILLIAMS *Real Prop.* 11 A manor, which is corporeal property. ¶1880 MUIRHEAD tr. *Instit. Gaius* ii. §12 Corporeal [things] are those that are tangible, such as land, a slave, a garment, gold, silver, and other things innumerable.

b. Bodily; wherein the body is affected.

¶1765 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* I. 271 Degrees of nobility..by immediate grant from the crown: either expressed in writing, by writs or letters patent, as in the creations of peers and baronets; or by corporeal investiture, as in the creation of a simple knight.

4. Formerly used where corporal is now employed. Obs.

¶1722 SEWEL *Hist. Quakers* (1795) I. Pref. 13 Death or any corporeal punishment. ¶1808 *Med. Jrnal.* XIX. 1 Can a man really suffer corporeal pain, and have at the same time all the criteria, etc.? ¶1831 SIR W. HAMILTON *Discuss.* (1852) 408 He could enforce discipline by the infliction of corporeal punishment.

B. n. pl. [= corporeal things.] Things material.

¶1647 H. MORE *Song of Soul* ii. ii. vi, They [the senses] never knew ought but corporealls. ¶1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* 779 We should think of Incorporeals, so as not to Confound their Natures with Corporeals.

b. Things pertaining to the human body. rare.

¶1826 *Blackw. Mag.* XX. 129/1 Of their mental powers, men..form in general a pretty fair estimate, but they are often sadly out respecting corporeals.

c. Law. Corporeal possessions.

¶1880 MUIRHEAD *Gaius* ii. §14 Nor does it affect our definition that there are corporeals included in an inheritance.

correlate *v.*

(kɒrɪˈleɪt)

[f. *cor-* + *relate*: see *correlate n.*]

1. a. *intr.* To have a mutual relation; to stand in correlation, be correlative (with or to another).

¶1742 FIELDING *J. Andrews* Pref., What Caricature is in painting, Burlesque is in writing; and, in the same manner the comic writer and painter correlate to each other. ¶1865 GROTE *Plato* I. xii. 421 The real alone is knowable, correlating with knowledge. ¶a1871 *Eth. Fragm.* iv. (1876) 91 Ethical obligation correlates and is indissolubly conjoined with ethical right.

b. *trans.* To be correlative to. rare.

¶1879 W. E. HEARN *Aryan Househ.* v. §3. 122 The right to the property correlated the duty to the Sacra.

2. To place in or bring into correlation; to establish or indicate the proper relation between.

¶1849 MURCHISON *Siluria* vii. 134 Mr. Symonds was..enabled to correlate these beds with their equivalents near Ludlow. ¶1881 J. GEIKIE in *Nature* 337 He correlates the interglacial beds of Mont Perrier with those of Dürnten. ¶1925 N. BOHR *Theory of Spectra* (ed. 2) 135 It has been possible to correlate each term with the occurrence of electron orbits of a given type.

¶1930 *Economist* 18 Oct. 715/2 To prove by an historical statistical analysis that..it is impossible to correlate from available evidence either high rates and low stock prices or low rates and high stock prices with any certainty. ¶1952 G. H. BOURNE *Cytol. & Cell Physiol.* (ed. 2) vi. 273 Bennett was not able to correlate changes in the Golgi material with secretion in the cat adrenal.

¶1971 *Nature* 15 Jan. 182/1 So the observed luminosity of the primary [star] can be correlated reliably with its original main-sequence mass. ¶1971 *Daily Tel.* 12 Feb. 8/2 Are you wondering how many people spend their time..in devising such idiot statistical measures, applying them, collating and correlating them?

3. *pass.* To have correlation, to be intimately or regularly connected or related (with, rarely to); *spec.* in Biol. of structures or characteristics in animals and plants (cf. *correlation* 3).

¶1862 F. HALL *Hindu Philos. Syst.* 95 Transmuting relations into entities, and interposing these entities between things correlated. ¶1870 ROLLESTON *Anim. Life* Introd. 20 Parasitism..is often found to be correlated with

.. disappearance of structures. ¶1875 POSTE *Gaius* ii. Comm. (ed. 2) 160
Other rights..have no determinate subject..to which they are correlated.

coruscate v.

(ˈkɒrəskeɪt)

[f. ppl. stem of L. *coruscāre* to vibrate, glitter, sparkle, gleam.]

a. intr. To give forth intermittent or vibratory flashes of light; to shine with a quivering light; to sparkle, glitter, flash.

¶1705 [See CORUSCATING]. ¶1808 J. BARLOW *Columb.* iii. 162
A sudden glare Coruscates wide. ¶1846 HAWTHORNE *Mosses, Mother Rigby's Pipe* ii, The star kept coruscating. ¶1883 *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 186/2
The light was a brilliant green, coruscating from the centre..in..flashes of flame.

fig. ¶1851 CARLYLE *Sterling* ii. iii. (1872) 104 Like a swift dashing meteor he came into our circle; coruscated among us, for a day or two. ¶1880 *Sat. Rev.* No. 1296. 262 The President will be chosen mainly for his power of coruscating.

b. with cognate object.

¶1852 HAWTHORNE *Blithedale Rom.* xxii, Coruscating continually an unnatural light.

cosset n.

(ˈkɒsɪt)

[Not found before the 16th c.: derivation uncertain.]

Prof. Skeat (Trans. Philol. Soc. 1889) has suggested that it is the same word as OE. *cot-sæta* cot-sitter, dweller in a cot, cottar; cf. the Domesday forms, pl. *coscez*, *cozets*, *cozez* (z = ts). This is phonetically satisfactory, and the sense of 'lamb dwelling in a cot' or 'kept by a cot-sæta or cottar' finds support in It. *casiccio* a tame lamb bred by hand, f. *casa* house; Ger. *hauslamm* house-lamb and 'pet', is analogous. Cf. also 'Cotts, lambs brought up by hand, cades', Marshall Rural Econ. E. Norfolk, 1787 (whence in Grose 1790). There is however a long gap between the *coscez* of Domesday and the *cosset* of 1579, during which no trace of the word in either sense has been found.]

1. A lamb (colt, etc.) brought up by hand; a pet-lamb, cade-lamb. Also attrib. as *cosset* lamb.

¶1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* Nov. 42, I shall thee give yond Cosset for thy payne. ¶1613 W. BROWNE *Sheph. Pipe Wks.* 1772 III. 39 The best cosset in my fold. ¶1626 BRETON *Fantastickes* Apr. (D.), The cosset lamb is learned to butt. ¶1674 RAY *S. & E. C. Words* 62 A Cosset lambe or colt, &c. i.e. a cade lamb, a lamb or colt brought up by the hand, Norf. Suff. ¶1749 W. ELLIS *Sheph. Guide* 77 A cossart-lamb in Hertfordshire is one left by its dam's dying by disease or hurt before it is capable of getting its own living; or is one that is taken from a ewe that brings two or three or four lambs at a yeanning, and is incapable of suckling and bringing them all up. ¶1883 *Sat. Rev.* LVI. 109 The character of cosset lambs is notoriously bad; and..the pet horse is, as a rule, a somewhat uncertain animal in stable.

2. Applied to persons, etc.: A pet of any kind; a petted, spoilt child.

¶1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* 143 Who but an ingrain cosset would keepe such a courting of a Curtezan. ¶1614 B. JONSON *Barth. Fair* i. i, I am for the cosset his charge. ¶1659 GAUDEN *Tears of Ch.* 595 Some are such Cossets and Tantanies that they congratulate their Oppressors and flatter their Destroyers. ¶a1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew*, Cosset, a Fondling Child. ¶a1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia*, Cosset, a pet, something fondly caressed.

cosset *v.*

(ˈkɒsɪt)

[f. prec. *n.* In literary use, chiefly of 19th c.]

a. trans. To treat as a cosset; to fondle, caress, pet, indulge, pamper.

¶1659 GAUDEN *Tears of Ch.* 375 Episcopacy..was even pampered and cosetted by so excessive a favour. ¶a1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia*, Cosset, to fondle. ¶1857 SIR F. PALGRAVE *Norm. & Eng.* II. 800 Henry, so cosseted during babyhood and boyhood by his grandmother. ¶1859 H. KINGSLEY *G. Hamlyn* xxvi. (D.), I have been cosseting this little beast up. ¶1860 EMERSON *Cond. Life* i. (1861) 7 Nature is no sentimentalist—does not cosset or pamper us.

b. intr. or absol.

¶1871 B. TAYLOR *Faust* (1875) II. iii. 201 Probe and dally, cosset featly, Test your wanton sport completely. ¶1889 H. WEIR *Our Cats* 11 Another [cat] would cosset up close to a sitting hen.

coterie n.

('kəʊtəri)

[a. F. coterie 'a company of people who live in familiarity, or who cabal in a common interest' (Littré), orig. 'a certain number of peasants united together to hold land from a lord'; 'compagnie, societie, association of countrey people' (Cotgr.), f. cotier = med.L. cotārius, coterius cottar, tenant of a cota or cot. Cf. F. cotterie 'a base, ignoble, and servile tenure, or tenement, not held in fee, and yeelding only rent, or if more, but cens or surcens at most' (Cotgr.).

By Walker and Smart stressed on the last syllable as French: the latter has the o short; whence the 18th c. cotterie, and its riming in Byron with lottery.]

1. An organized association of persons for political, social, or other purposes; a club. Obs.

¶1764 *Univ. Museum* Jan. 6 A numerous and formidable society of persons of distinction, property, abilities, and influence in the nation, is now forming, and a large house of a deceased nobleman is hired for their assemblies, which society is to be called The cotery of revolutionists, or of anti-ministerialists, from the French word coterie, vulgarly called a club in English. ¶1766 D. BARRINGTON *Observ. Stat.* 249 note, The word cotterie, of which so much has been said of late. ¶1774 FOOTE *Cozeners* i. Wks. 1799 II. 146 My expences in..subscription-money to most of the clubs and coteries.

2. A circle of persons associated together and distinguished from 'outsiders,' a 'set':

a. A select or exclusive circle in Society; the select 'set' who have the entrée to some house, as 'the Holland House coterie.' 'A friendly or fashionable association. It has of late years been considered as meaning a select party, or club, and sometimes of ladies only' (Todd 1818).

¶1738 *Common Sense* I. 345 Beware of Select Cotteries, where, without an Engagement, a Lady passes but for an odd Body. ¶1768 STERNE *Sent. Journ.* (1778) II. 164, I was lifted directly into Madame de V***'s Coterie. ¶1779 F. BURNEY *Diary* Oct., You recollect what Mrs. Thrale said of him, among the rest of the Tunbridge coterie, last season. ¶1821 BYRON *Juan* iv. cix, Fame is but a lottery Drawn by the blue-coat misses of a coterie. ¶1828 J. W. CROKER in *C. Papers* (1884) I. xiii. 400 Lady Holland was saying yesterday to her assembled coterie. ¶1880 V. LEE *Stud. Italy* iii. i. 68 A man..belonging to the most brilliant coteries of the day.

b. A 'set' associated by certain exclusive interests, pursuits, or aims; a clique.

¶1827 DE QUINCEY *Murder Wks.* III. 12 Catiline, Clodius and some of that coterie. ¶1830 CUNNINGHAM *Brit. Paint.* I. v. 207 A certain coterie, of men, skilful in the mystery of good painting. ¶1838-9 HALLAM *Hist. Lit.* IV. vii. iv. §54. 329 Written for an exclusive coterie, not for the world.

¶1862 MERIVALE *Rom. Emp.* (1865) V. xlv. 359 In vain had Tiberius chafed under the jeers of this licensed coterie. ¶1888 W. D. HAMILTON *Cal. State Papers, Domestic Ser.* 1644 Pref. 10 This religious element..revived the bitter animosities of the old political parties, and caused the members [of Parliament] to group themselves into coteries.

c. A meeting or gathering of such a circle.

¶1805 MOORE *To Lady H-* iv, Each night they held a coterie. ¶1849 E. E. NAPIER *Excurs. S. Africa* II. 347 We are so accustomed now to this style of fusillade, that all we do is to lie close, and continue our little coteries.

d. transf. and fig. Of animals, plants, etc.

¶1869 GILLMORE *Reptiles & Birds* 219 With the permission of the masters of the coterie they build their nests in the vacancies that occur in the squares. ¶1885 H. O. FORBES *Naturalist's Wand.* 85 The genus *Pajus* is an exceedingly handsome and attractive coterie of orchids.

3. attrib. and Comb., as coterie-speech. Also quasi-adj.

¶1833 MILL *Lett.* (1910) I. 77 A paper which..keeps aloof from all coterie influence. ¶1891 *Pall Mall G.* 12 May 3/1 A coterie-speech—not to say a jargon—current only on the highest heights of culture. ¶1900 G. B. SHAW *Let.* 9 Feb. (1931) 375 This Stage Society..is catching on in its little coterie-theatre way. ¶1933 P. GODFREY *Back-Stage* xiii. 165 Circulars designed to appeal to those who incline to coterie art and limited editions. ¶1962 *Listener* 30 Aug. 327/2 The very exercise will remove accretions of coterie language and provincialism from serious writers who attempt it.

Hence (chiefly nonce-wds.) 'coterie v., to associate in a coterie. cote'rieian a., of or pertaining to a coterie; n. a member of a coterie. 'coterieish a., savouring of a coterie. 'coterieism, the spirit or practice of coteries.

¶1806 T. S. SURR *Winter in Lond.* (ed. 3) II. 156 If..I can do otherwise than coterie with Neville and the Beauchamps. ¶1778 *Learning at a Loss* I. 67 Drest by Coteriean Laws. ¶1772 *Poetry in Ann. Reg.* 225 Ye Coterieans! who profess No business, but to dance and dress. ¶1841 *Tait's Mag.* VIII. 590 [She] received an immense quantity of praise from the English press, courteous, cordial, and coterieish. ¶1825 *New Monthly Mag.* XIII. 584 This spirit

of coterieism is so prevalent. ¶1862 R. H. PATTERSON *Ess. Hist. & Art* 517 The polished coterieism of Moore.

craven a. and n.

(ˈkreɪv(ə)n)

[In early ME. *crauant* (rare), etymology obscure.

Mr. Henry Nicol (Proc. Phil. Soc., Dec. 1879) suggested its identification with OF. *cravanté*, *crevanté*, crushed, overcome: see *cravent* v. But the total absence of the final *é* from the word, at a date when English still retained final *e*, makes a difficulty. Others have considered it a variant, in some way of *creant* (OF. *creant*, *craant*), which is a much more frequent word in the same sense in ME. The difficulty here is to account for the *v* (*u*), for which popular association with *crave* v. and its northern *pa.* *ppl.* *craved* has been conjectured.]

A. adj.

1. Vanquished, defeated; or, perh., confessing himself vanquished. Obs.

¶1225 *St. Marher.* 11 Ich am kempe ant he is *crauant* þet me wende to ouercumen. ¶a1225 *Leg. Kath.* 133 Al ha icneowen ham *crauant* & ourcumen, & cweðen hire þe meistrie & te menske al up.

b. to cry *craven*: to acknowledge oneself vanquished, to give up the contest, surrender. Also fig.

¶1634 COKE *Inst.* iii. (1648) 221 If he become recreant, that is, a crying Coward or Craven he shall for his perjury lose liberam legem. ¶1639 FULLER *Holy War* iv. xi. (1840) 196 He had been visited with a desperate sickness, insomuch that all art cried *craven*, as unable to help him. ¶1768 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* III. 340 Or victory is obtained, if either champion proves recreant, that is, yields, and pronounces the horrible word of *craven*.

¶1805 SOUTHEY *Madoc* in *W.* xv, I..will make That slanderous wretch cry *craven* in the dust. ¶1869 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (ed. 2) III. xv. 451 Neither King nor Duke was a man likely to cry *craven*.

2. That owns himself beaten or afraid of his opponent; cowardly, weak-hearted, abjectly pusillanimous.

¶1400 *Morte Arth.* 133 Haa! *crauaunde* knyghte! a cowarde þe semez!

¶1598 DRAYTON *Heroic. Epist.* v. 77 Those Beggers-Brats..Ally the Kingdome to their *cravand* Brood. ¶1602 SHAKES. *Ham.* iv. iv. 40 Some *craven*

scruple Of thinking too precisely on the event. ¶1656 TRAPP *Comm. 1 Cor.* xv. 55 Death is here out-braved, called craven to his face. ¶1808 SCOTT *Marm.* v. xii, The poor craven bridegroom said never a word. ¶1848 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* II 592 All other feelings had given place to a craven fear for his life.

b. Applied to a cock: see B 2. Obs.

¶1579 LYLIE *Euphues* (Arb.) 106 Though hee bee a cocke of the game, yet Euphues is content to be crauen and crye creak. ¶1609 BP. W. BARLOW *Answ. Nameless Cath.* 164 This Crauen Cocke, after a bout or two..crowing a Conquest, being ready presently to Cry Creak. ¶c1622 FLETCHER *Love's Cure* ii. ii. Wks. (Rtldg.) II. 161/1 Oh, craven-chicken of a cock o' th' game! ¶1649 G. DANIEL *Trinarch., Hen.* V, xlix, Red Craven Cocks come in.

B. n.

1. A confessed or acknowledged coward.

¶1581 J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Osor.* 349 Monckes and Friers, and that whole generation of Cowled Cravines. ¶1599 SHAKES. *Hen.* V, iv. vii. 139 Hee is a Crauen and a Villaine else. ¶1610 ROWLANDS *Martin Mark-all* 53 In regard of manhood a meere crauant. ¶1795 SOUTHEY *Joan of Arc* x. 458 Fly, cravens! leave your aged chief. ¶1860 FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* VI. 73 He climbed to the highest round of the political ladder, to fall and perish like a craven.

2. A cock that 'is not game'.

¶1596 SHAKES. *Tam. Shr.* ii. i. 228 No Cocke of mine, you crow too like a crauen. ¶1611 SPEED *Hist. Gt. Brit.* ix. iv. 14 Whereto the Pope, (no Crauant to be dared on his owne dung-hill) as stoutly answered. ¶1826 *Gentl. Mag.* Feb. 157/1 It is certainly a hard case that a fighting-cock should kill an unoffending craven.

C. Comb., as craven-hearted, craven-like adj. & adv.

¶1615 CROOKE *Body of Man* 245 All creatures whose Testicles are hidde within should be faynt and crauen-hearted. ¶1705 HICKERINGILL *Priest-Craft* Wks. (1716) III. 56 Not as Gentlemen and Scholars, but (Craven like) calling upon the Jailors, the Sumners, etc. ¶1836 WHITTIER *Song of the Free* i, Shrink we all craven-like, When the storm gathers?

craw n.

(krɔː)

[ME. *crawe*, repr. an unrecorded OE. **craæa*, cogn. with OHG. *chrage*, MHG. *krage*, Du. *kraag* neck, throat; or else a later Norse *krage*, Da. *krave* in same sense. The limitation of sense in English is special to this language.]

1. The crop of birds or insects.

¶1388 WYCLIF 2 *Kings* vi. 25 The *crawe* of culueris. Margin, In Latyn it is seid of the drit of culuers; but drit is..takun here..for the throte, where cornes, etun of culueris, ben gaderid. ¶c1440 *Prompt. Parv.* 101 *Craw*, or crowpe of a byrde, or oþer fowlys, gabus, vesicula. ¶1552 HULOET, *Craye* or gorge of a byrde, ingluuies. ¶1565-78 COOPER *Thesaurus*, *Chelidonii*..Little stones in the *crawe* of a swallow. ¶1604 DRAYTON *Owle* 75 The Crane..With Sand and Gravell burthening his *Craw*. ¶1774 HUNTER in *Phil. Trans.* LXIV. 313 Some birds, with gizzards, have a *craw* or crop also, which serves as a reservoir, and for softening the grain. ¶1855 LONGFELLOW *Hiaw.* viii. 209 Till their *craws* are full with feasting. ¶1855 THACKERAY *Newcomes* II. 35 Such an agitation of plumage, redness of *craw*, and anger of manner as a maternal hen shows.

2. transf. a. The stomach (of man or animals). humorous or derisive.

¶1573 A. ANDERSON *Exp. Benedictus* 43 (T.) To gorge their *craws* with bibbing cheer. ¶1581 J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Osor.* 320 b, Stuffing their *crawes* with most exquisite vyandes. ¶1791 WOLCOTT (P. Pindar) *Remonstrance* Wks. 1812. II. 449 They smite their hungry *craws*. ¶1822 BYRON *Juan* viii. xlix, As tigers combat with an empty *craw*.

b. to cast the *craw*: to vomit. Obs.

¶1529 SKELTON *El. Rummyng* 489 Such a bedfellow Would make one cast his *craw*.

3. transf. The breast of a hill. Obs. rare.

¶1658 CLEVELAND *May Day* ii, Phoebus tugging up Olympus *craw*.

b. Humorously applied to a cravat, falling over the chest in a broad fold of lace or muslin. See Fairholt s.v. Neckcloth.

¶1787 'G. GAMBADO' *Acad. Horsemen* (1809) 14 The creatures with monstrous *craws*. ¶1790 *Poetry in Ann. Reg.* 135 Now, at his word, th' obedient muslin swells, And beaux, with 'Monstrous *Craws*,' peep out at pouting belles.

4. Comb. †*craw-bone*, the 'merry-thought' of a bird, which lies over the *craw*; *craw-thumper* (slang), one who beats his breast (at confession); applied derisively to Roman Catholic devotees; so *craw-thump* v.

¶1611 COTGR, *Bruchet*, the craw-bone, or merrie thought of a bird.
 ¶1785 WOLCOTT (P. Pindar) *Ode to R. A.'s Wks.* 1812 I. 93 We are no Craw-thumpers, no Devotees. 1797- ¶1802 G. COLMAN *Br. Grins, Knt. & Friar* i. xxxv, Sir Thomas and the dame were in their pew Craw-thumping upon hassocks. ¶1873 *Slang. Dict.*, Craw thumper, a Roman Catholic. Compare Brisket-beater.

credible a.

(ˈkrɛdɪb(ə)l)

[ad. L. *crēdibilis* worthy to be believed, f. *crēd-ēre* to believe: see -ble. Also in 15-16th c. F. *croidible*, *crédible*.]

1. Capable of being believed; believable: **a.** of assertions.

¶1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* iv. iv. 124 Al be it so þat þis ne seme nat credible þing perauenture to somme folk. ¶1430 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* i. vi, The mortall harme..That is well more then it is credible. ¶1594 [See CREDIBILITY]. ¶1651 HOBBS *Leviath.* i. ii. 7 Than right reason makes that which they say, appear credible. ¶1798 FERRIAR *Varieties of Man in Illustr. Sterne* 211 Who had the fate to be disbelieved in every credible assertion. ¶1883 FROUDE *Short Stud.* IV. i. xi. 142 When the falsehood ceased to be credible the system which was based upon it collapsed.

b. of matters of fact: with impersonal const.

¶1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 165 b, And it is to suppose, & credyble to byleue that, etc. ¶1563 FULKE *Meteors* (1640) 52 Some would make it seeme credible, that of vapours and Exhalations..a calfe might be made in the clouds. ¶1653 H. COGAN tr. *Pinto's Trav.* xlix. 195 No news could be heard of her, which made it credible that she also suffered shipwrack. ¶1699 BURNETT 39 *Art.* vi. (1700) 81 It is not all credible that an Imposture of this kind could have passed upon all the Christian Churches.

c. (See quot. 1963.) Cf. *credibility* b.

¶1960 *Times* 11 Feb. 11/6 As a guarantee of European nuclear retaliation against a nuclear attack a N.A.T.O. deterrent would be highly credible. ¶1963 *Daily Tel.* 12 Jan. 13/8 'Credible', in the language of nuclear strategy, does not mean 'adequately frightful'. It means 'such as an enemy will think likely to be used'. ¶1966 SCHWARZ & HADIK *Strategic Terminology* 42 Credible first strike capability. *Ibid.*, The deterrent effect must also be credible to the allies who are to be protected by the threat.

2. Worthy of belief or confidence; trustworthy, reliable: †

a. of information, evidence, etc. Obs.

¶1393 GOWER *Conf.* III. 170 Among the kinges in the bible I finde a tale and is credible Of him. ¶1426 PASTON *Lett.* No. 7 I. 25, I herde..no maner lykly ne credible evidence. ¶1513 MORE *Rich.* III Wks. 37/2 This haue I by credible informacion learned. ¶1601 SHAKES. *All's Well* i. ii. 4 So tis reported sir..Nay tis most credible. ¶1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* iv. (1682) 139 It is holden to be so credible as if an Oracle had spoken it.

b. of persons. (Now somewhat arch., exc. in 'credible witness' or the like.)

¶1478 SIR J. PASTON *Lett.* No. 814 III. 222 Any suche credyble man maye, iff he wyll, wytnesse ther-in with me. ¶1502 ARNOLDE *Chron.* (1811) 125 Promysing feithfully in the presence of credyble persones. ¶1550 CROWLEY *Last Trump.* 1370 Though the evidence be plaine, and the accusars credible. ¶1671 J. WEBSTER *Metallogr.* iii. 40 Observations from credible Authors. ¶1722 SEWEL *Hist. Quakers* (1795) I. Pref. 11 Which I noted down from the mouth of credible persons. ¶1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) II. 473, I have been informed by a credible person that [etc.].

3. Ready, willing, or inclined to believe. Obs.

¶1420 *Chron. Vilod.* 1087 Þuse men weren credeable of Seynt Edus godenasse. ¶c1440 LYDG. *Secrees* 1060 Nat lyghtly to be Credyble To Talys that make discencion. ¶1623 COCKERAM ii. A iiij b, One too much Beleeuing, Credulous, Credible. ¶1675 TRAHERNE *Chr. Ethics* xv. 217 There is a fair way laid open to the credible of such objects attested and revealed with such circumstances.

4. Having or deserving credit or repute; of good repute, creditable, reputable. Obs.

¶1631 MILTON *Let.* in *Wks.* (ed. Birch 1738) I. 4 To which nothing is more helpful than the early entring into some credible Employment. ¶1647 LILLY *Chr. Astrol.* xxix. 191 He is in good estimation and lives in a credible way. ¶1712 ARBUTHNOT *John Bull* ii. iii, A good credible way of living.

credible a.

(ˈkrɛdɪtəb(ə)l)

[f. credit v. and n. + -able. (No corresp. Fr. word.)]

1. a. Worthy to be believed; credible. Obs.

¶1526 FRITH *Disput. Purgat.* 192 'Neither it is creditable,' (saith he) 'that all which are cast into hell should straight~way go to heaven, therefore must we put a purgatory.' ¶1638 CHILLINGW. *Relig. Prot.* i. Pref. §43 Records farre more creditable then these. ¶1669 WOODHEAD *St. Teresa* i. Pref. (1671) a, Persons, sufficiently creditable, and perfectly informed. ¶1760 WINTHROP in *Phil. Trans.* LII. 8 The most distinct account I have had of it, was from a creditable person at Roxbury. 1807-8 W. Irving *Salmag.* xi. (1860) 252 A church-yard, which at least a hundred creditable persons would swear was haunted.

b. Comm. Worthy of receiving credit (commercially); having good credit. Obs.

¶1776 ADAM SMITH *W.N. I.* ii. ii. 307 The creditable traders of any country. ¶1818 JAS. MILL *Brit. India* II. v. viii. 670 On receiving the security of creditable bankers for the balance which the Nabob owed to the Company. ¶1822 J. FLINT *Lett. fr. Amer.* 108 Banks that were creditable a few days ago, have refused to redeem their paper in specie.

2. a. That brings credit or honour; that does one credit; reputable. Often implying a slighter degree of praise or excellence: Respectable (see c).

¶1659 *Gentl. Calling* (1696) 31 It is become a creditable thing, the badge and signature of a modern Wit, thus to be one of David's Fools, in saying, There is no God. ¶1691 HARTCLIFFE *Virtues* 89 Whatsoever is just, honest, and Creditable. ¶1828 SCOTT *F.M. Perth* xix, Did he not maintain an honest house..and keep a creditable board? ¶1840 MACAULAY *Clive* 62 Clive made a creditable use of his riches. ¶1884 *Law Rep.* 13 Q. Bench Div. 615 The father..was not..leading a creditable life.

b. That does credit to.

¶1797 T. BEWICK *Brit. Birds* (1847) I. 231 Mr. Selby's splendid work on ornithology, so creditable to his zeal in the cause of Science. ¶1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* IV. 43 The places..were filled in a manner creditable to the government.

c. Respectable, decent (a) in appearance or quality; (b) in social position or character. Obs.

¶1688 MIEGE *Fr. Dict.* s.v., This suit of yours is a creditable Suit, Cet Habit est honnête. ¶1741 RICHARDSON *Pamela* II. 352 A creditable Silk for my dear Mother. ¶1765 GOLDSM. *Ess.* xxv. 224 This gentleman was born of creditable parents, who gave him a very good education. ¶1779 J. MOORE *View Soc. Fr.* II. xcv. 426 A Frenchman in a creditable way of life. ¶1825

MRS. CAMERON *Proper Spirit in Houlston Tracts* I. ix. 7 To set a poor lad, like you, to teach creditable children. ¶1860 GEN. P. THOMPSON *Audi Alt.* III. cv. 14 It was once my fortune to serve with two Russian midshipmen; very creditable lads they were.

3. Capable of being ascribed to.

¶1904 *Rep. Librarian Congress* 32 Many documents creditable to that period can be judged to be so and assigned to their proper group only by internal evidence.

credulous a.

(ˈkrɛdjʊləs)

[f. L. *crēdul-us* (F. *crédule*) + *-ous*.]

1. Ready or disposed to believe. (Now rare exc. as in 2.)

¶1579 G. HARVEY *Letter-bk.* (Camden) 86 Beinge over credulous to beleeeve whatsoever is unadvisedly committid to writinge. ¶1596 SHAKES. *Tam. Shr.* iv. ii. 69 If he be credulous, and trust my tale. ¶1605 BP. HALL *Medit. & Vows* ii. 15 Not a curious head, but a credulous and plaine heart is accepted with God. ¶1697 W. DAMPIER *Voy.* (1698) I. xiii. 364, I..advised him not to be too credulous of the Generals promises. [¶1839 LONGFELLOW *Flowers* xv, With childlike credulous affection. ¶1859 TENNYSON *Idylls, Geraint & Enid* 1723 Like simple noble natures, credulous Of what they long for, good in friend or foe.]

2. Over-ready to believe; apt to believe on weak or insufficient grounds.

¶1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 216 Bee not credulous..and light of beleefe. ¶1604 SHAKES. *Oth.* iv. i. 46 Thus credulous Fooles are caught. ¶1687 T. BROWN *Saints in Uproar* Wks. 1730 I. 81 Seven as arrant imposters as ever deluded the credulous world. ¶1791 COWPER *Iliad* xvi. 1030 And with vain words the credulous beguiled. ¶a1862 BUCKLE *Civiliz.* (1869) III. ii. 111 An ignorant and therefore a credulous age. ¶1876 J. H. NEWMAN *Hist. Sk.* I. iii. iv. 322 Well known to be of a credulous turn of mind.

b. transf. Of things, etc.: Characterized by or arising from credulity.

¶1648 MILTON *Tenure Kings* Wks. 1738 I. 323 That credulous Peace which the French Protestants made with Charles the Ninth. ¶1769 ROBERTSON *Chas.* V, III. x. 190 The credulous superstition of the people. ¶1871 FARRAR *Witn. Hist.* ii. 57 Credulous exaggerations.

c. Believed too readily. Obs. rare.

¶1625 BEAUMONT & FL. *Faithf. Friends* iv. i, 'Twas he possessed me with your credulous death.

crest-fallen ppl. a.

(ˈkrest.fɔːlən)

1. With drooping crest; hence, cast down in confidence, spirits, or courage; humbled, abashed, disheartened, dispirited, dejected.

¶1589 *Pappe w. Hatchet* D iv b, O how meager and leane hee lookt, so creast falne, that his combe hung downe to his bill. ¶1593 SHAKES. *2 Hen. VI*, iv. i. 59 Let it make thee Crest~falne, I, and alay this thy abortiue Pride.

¶1668 MARVELL *Corr.* cv. Wks. 1872-5 II. 264 He is here a kind of decrepit young gentleman and terribly crest-falln. ¶1860 THACKERAY *Four Georges* iii. (1876) 69 Slinking back into the club somewhat crestfallen after his beating.

2. Of a horse: see quot. 1725.

¶1696 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3217/4 A grey Gelding..black mane and tail, and a little Crest-fallen. ¶1725 BRADLEY *Fam. Dict.*, Crestfallen, a Distemper in Horses, when the Part on which the Main grows, which is the upper Part thereof, and call'd the Crest, hangs either to one Side or the other, and does not stand upright as it ought to do.

Hence 'crest.fallenly adv., 'crest.fallenness.

¶1854 LYTTON *What will he* iv. i, That ineffable aspect of crestfallenness!

¶1880 R. BROUGHTON *Sec. Th.* I. i. ii. 28 The Squire is crestfallenly eying the shipwreck of his hopes. ¶1890 *Alas!* II. xxiv. 125 A look of mortification and crestfallenness.

culpable a. (and n.)

(ˈkʌlpəb(ə)l)

[ME. coupable, a. OF. coupable (cop-, coulparable, culpable, etc.) guilty:—L. culpābil-is blameworthy, f. culpa fault, blame. The OF. was regularly reduced to coupable in 13th c., but was frequently written culpable after L. in 14th c., coulparable in 16th c.; the latinized form has in Eng. been established both in spelling and pronunciation.]

1. Guilty, criminal; deserving punishment or condemnation. Obs. (or blended with sense 2.)

¶1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 1331 Ȝyf þou..Fordost pore mannys sustynaunce þat aftyrwarde he may nat lyve þou art coupable. ¶1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. xvii. 300 Any creature þat is coupable afor a kynges iustice. ¶1483 CAXTON *Cato* E j b, How be it that they ben gylyt and culpable. ¶1573 BP. OF PETERBOROUGH in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* ii. 196 III. 35 If thei be able justelie..to finde him culpable. ¶1661 BRAMHALL *Just Vind.* ii. 22 Meer Schisme..a culpable rupture or breach of the Catholick communion. ¶1778 R. LOWTH *Isaiah Notes* (ed. 12) 343 The inflictor of the punishment may perhaps be as culpable as the sufferer. ¶1844 THIRLWALL *Greece* VIII. lxii. 151 He was considered at Thebes as culpable.

b. Const. of, †in (an offence, sin, wrong, etc.).

¶1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* xxxiv. 13 þai wild haf made me culpabil of syn. ¶c1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 312 We ben coupable in þis synne. ¶1428 SURTEES *Misc.* (1890) 8 He was gylyt and coulpabyll of all ye trespasse. ¶1545 BRINKLOW *Compl.* iii. (1874) 14 What can the pore wyfe..do witthall, being not culpable in the cryme? ¶1653 H. COGAN tr. *Pinto's Trav.* lvi. 220 They had found themselves culpable of gluttony. ¶1839 JAMES *Louis XIV*, I. 222 The greatest crime of which a man could render himself culpable.

c. culpable of (punishment, death, judgement, etc.): deserving, liable to. Also, culpable to be judged, etc. (see first quot.).

¶1380 WYCLIF *Serm. Sel. Wks.* I. 16 Sich is coupable azens God to be jugid to helle. Ibid., þat man, as Crist seiþ, is coupable of þe fier of helle. ¶c1450 MIROUR *Saluacioun* 4570 He is of the deth coupable. ¶1557 N. T. (Genev.) *Matt.* v. 21 Whosoeuer killeth, shal be culpable of iudgement. ¶1612 T. TAYLOR *Comm. Titus* i. 7 Culpable of iudgement. ¶1612 W. SCLATER *Minister's Portion* 45 [Which] makes the offender culpable of death.

2. Deserving blame or censure, blameworthy.

[¶1386 CHAUCER *Melib.* ¶575 þe lawe saith þat he is coupable þat entremettith him or mellith him with such þing as aperteyneþ not vnto him.] ¶1613 R. C. TABLE *Alph.* (ed. 3), Culpable, blame-worthy, guiltie. ¶1651 HOBBS *Leviath.* i. viii. 33 What circumstances make an action laudable, or culpable. ¶1789 BELSHAM *Ess.* I. i. 7 Those inclinations..they know to be highly culpable and unworthy. ¶1875 J. CURTIS *Hist. Eng.* 146 With great and culpable disregard to the public weal.

b. Artistically faulty or censurable. rare.

¶1768 W. GILPIN *Ess. Prints* 2 It [a print] may have an agreeable effect as a whole, and yet be very culpable in its parts. ¶1851 [SEE culpableness].

B. n. A guilty person, a culprit. Obs. [So F. coupable.]

¶1480 ROBT. *Devyll* 720 in Hazl. E.P.P. I. 247 Euery vnthryfye culpable.

¶1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 411/3 He punysshed the culpables. ¶1651 tr. *De las-Coveras' Hist. Don Fenise* 209 If he could discover the infamous culpable. ¶1734 NORTH *Lives* (1808) II. 246 (D.) Those only who were the culpables.

curmudgeon *n.*

(kɜː'mʌdʒən)

[Derivation unknown: see below.]

‘An avaricious churlish fellow; a miser, a niggard’ (J.).

¶1577 STANYHURST *Descr. Irel.* 102/2 in Holinshed, Such a clownish Curmudgen. ¶1593 NASHE *Christ's T.* 85 b, Our English Cormogeons, they haue breasts, but giue no suck. ¶1604 T. WRIGHT *Passions* v. 289 Why do covetous cormogions distill the best substance of their braines to get riches. ¶1626 W. SCLATER *Exp. 2 Thess.* (1629) 270 Curre-megients, who scarcely know any other sentence of Scripture, yet..haue this of Paul in their mouthes; worke for your liuing. ¶1656 EARL OF MONMOUTH *Advt. fr. Parnass.* 387 Certain greedy curmuggions, who value not the leaving of a good name behind them to posterity. ¶1705 HICKERINGILL *Priest-cr.* i. (1721) 8 If..the rich Curmudgeon..do not open his Purse wide. ¶1824 W. IRVING *T. Trav.* I. 254, I had a rich uncle..a penurious accumulating curmudgeon. ¶1860 G. J. WHYTE-MELVILLE *Holmby House* 377 A thankless old curmudgeon.

The occurrence in Holland's *Livy*, 1600, of *cornmudgin* (q.v.) has led to a suggestion that this was the original form, with the meaning ‘concealer or hoarder of corn’, *mudgin* being associated with ME. *much-en*, *mich-en* to pilfer, steal, or *muchier*, Norman form of OF. *mucier*, *musser* to conceal, hide away. But examination of the evidence shows that *curmudgeon* was in use a quarter of a century before Holland's date, and that *cornmudgin* is apparently merely a nonce-word of Holland's, a play upon *corn* and *curmudgeon*. The suggestion that the first syllable is *cur*, the dog, is perhaps worthy of note; but that of Dr. Johnson's ‘unknown correspondent’, *cœur méchant* for F. *méchant cœur*, ‘evil or malicious heart’, is noticeable only as an ingenious specimen

of pre-scientific 'etymology', and as having been retailed by Ash in the form, 'from the French cœur unknown, and mechant a correspondent'!

cursory a.

(¹'kɜːsəri)

[ad. L. cursōri-us of or pertaining to a runner or a race, f. cursōr-em runner: in OF. corsoire, cursoire.]

1. Running or passing rapidly over a thing or subject, so as to take no note of details; hasty, hurried, passing.

¶1601 DENT *Pathw. Heauen* 277 Cursory saying of a few praiers a little before death, auaileth not. ¶1661 J. STEPHENS *Procurations* 128, I had only a cursory view of it, and that by chance. ¶1766 GOLDSM. *Vic. W.* xviii, A traveller who stopped to take a cursory refreshment. ¶1857 KEBLE *Eucharist. Adorat.* 37 Obvious to the most cursory reader of the Gospel. ¶1866 ROGERS *Agric. & Prices* I. iii. 60 A cursory inspection shews that these statements are untrustworthy.

2. Moving about, travelling. Obs. rare.

¶1606 *Proc. agst. Garnet* F (T.), Father Cresswell, legier jesuit in Spain; father Baldwin, legier in Flaunders..besides their cursorie men, as Gerrard, etc. ¶1610 ROWLANDS *Martin Mark-all* 24 Their houses are made cursary like our Coaches with foure wheelles that may be drawne from place to place.

¶1650 FULLER *Pisgah* ii. iv. ii. 21 Those Tribes dwelt in their Tents..in a cursory condition, only grazing their Cattel during the season.

3. Entom. Adapted for running; = cursorious.

4. In mediæval universities: a. cursory lectures: lectures of a less formal and exhaustive character delivered, especially by bachelors, as additional to the 'ordinary' lectures of the authorized teachers in a faculty, and at hours not reserved for these prescribed lectures.

[The name would appear to have been first given to the lectures delivered by bachelors as part of the cursus prescribed for the licence, but to have been afterwards extended to all 'extraordinary' lectures.]

¶1841 G. PEACOCK *Stat. Univ. Camb.* p. xlv. note 1. ¶1894 RASH-DALL *Med. Universities* vi. §4. 426 The 'cursory' lectures of Paris are the 'extraordinary' lectures of Bologna. Ibid. 427 Vacation cursory lectures might be given at any hour. Ibid. It is probable that the term 'cursory' came to suggest also the more rapid and less formal manner of going over a book usually adopted at these times.

b. cursory bachelor: (in modern writers) a bachelor who gave cursory lectures.

curt a.

(kɜ:t)

[ad. L. *curt-us* cut or broken short, mutilated, abridged, which became in late L. and Romanic the ordinary word for 'short': It., Sp. *corto*, Pr. *cort*, F. *court*.

The Latin adj. was app. adopted at an early date in Ger., giving OS. and OFris. *curt* (MDu. *cort*, Du., MLG., and LG. *kort*, whence also mod. Icel. *korta*, Sw. and Da. *kort*), OHG. *kurt*, *kurz* (MHG. and mod. Ger. *kurz*), where the word has taken the place of an original Teut. **skurt-*, in OHG. *scurz*, in OE. *scort*, *sceort*, *short*. But the latter was retained in English.]

1. Short in linear dimension; shortened.

¶1665 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (1677) 295 In more temperate climes hair is curt. ¶1840 LYTTON *Pilgr. of Rhine* xix, Thy limbs are crooked and curt.

¶1862 MERIVALE *Rom. Emp.* (1865) III. xxviii. 297 Plancus..enacted the part of the sea-god Glaucus in curt cerulean vestments.

b. of things immaterial, modes of action, etc.

¶1664 H. MORE *Myst. Iniq.* 351 For which curt reckoning Grotius has no excuse. ¶1675 TRAHERNE *Chr. Ethics* xx. 318 That vertue so curt and narrow, which we thought to be infinite. ¶a1677 BARROW *Serm.* (1687) I. xviii. 258 The most curt and compendious way of bringing about dishonest or dishonourable designs. ¶1874 REYNOLDS *John Bapt.* ii. 89 An angelic Spirit makes a more curt and much easier use than we can do of the functions of matter in its most ethereal form.

2. Of words, sentences, style, etc.: Concise, brief, condensed, terse; short to a fault.

¶1630 B. JONSON *New Inn* iii. i, What's his name? Fly. Old Peck. Tip. Maestro de campo, Peck! his name is curt, A monosyllable, but commands the horse well. ¶1645 MILTON *Tetrach.* (1851) 177 The obscure and curt Ebraisms that follow. ¶1791 BOSWELL *Johnson* (1887) III. 274 He could put together only curt frittered fragments of his own. ¶1814 D'ISRAELI *Amen. Lit.* (1867) 132 Their Saxon-English is nearly monosyllabic, and their phraseology curt. ¶1866 ROGERS *Agric. & Prices* I. iii. 61 The dry and curt language of a petition in parliament.

b. So brief as to be wanting in courtesy or suavity.

¶1831 DISRAELI *Yng. Duke* v. vii. (L.), 'Ah! I know what you are going to say', observed the gentleman in a curt, gruffish voice, 'It is all nonsense.'

¶1863 GEO. ELIOT *Romola* (1880) I. Introd. 9 He might have been a little less defiant and curt, though, to Lorenzo de' Medici.

cynosure n.

('sɪnəʊ-, 'saɪnəʊsjə(r), -zjʊə(r))

[a. F. *cynosure* (16th c.), ad. L. *cynosūra*, a. Gr. κυνόσουρα dog's tail, Ursa Minor.]

1. The northern constellation Ursa Minor, which contains in its tail the Pole-star; also applied to the Pole-star itself.

¶1596 C. FITZGEFFREY *Sir F. Drake* (1881) 14 Cynosure, whose praise the sea-man sings. ¶1612 DAVIES *Why Ireland, etc.* (1787) 199 The circuit of the Cynosura about the pole. ¶1627 MAY *Lucan* iii. (1631) 239 These Ships..the Cynosure Guides straight along the sea. ¶1792 D. LLOYD *Voy. Life* iv. 72 The stedfast Cynosure renown'd at sea.

2. fig. **a.** Something that serves for guidance or direction; a 'guiding star'.

¶1596 C. FITZGEFFREY *Sir F. Drake* (1881) 33 The Cynosura of the purest thought, Faire Helicé, by whom the heart is taught. ¶1649 BP. HALL *Cases Consc.* (1650) 9 For the guidance of our either caution or liberty..the onely Cynosure is our Charity. ¶1691 WOOD *Ath. Oxon.* I. 18 He hath written, The Rudiments of Grammar..the Cynosura for many of our best Grammar-ians. ¶1809 MRS. WEST *Mother* (1810) 225 Thy victor-flag Flames like a steady cynosure.

b. Something that attracts attention by its brilliancy or beauty; a centre of attraction, interest, or admiration.

[¶1599 BROUGHTON'S *Lett.* viii. 26 You Cynosura and Lucifer of nations, the stupor and admiration of the world.] ¶1601 BP. W. BARLOW *Serm. Paules Crosse* 64 Himselfe..the Cynosure of their affections. ¶1632 MILTON *L'Allegro* 77 Some beauty..The Cynosure of neighbouring eyes. ¶1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. ii. i, The fair young Queen..the cynosure of all eyes. ¶1870 DISRAELI *Lothair* lxxxiii. 445 Before another year elapses Rome will be the cynosure of the world.

D

The list of words is from Schur, *1000 Most Important Words*.

dalliance n.

(ˈdæliəns)

[f. dally v. + -ance: prob. formed in OFr. or AngloFr., though not yet recorded.]

1. Talk, confabulation, converse, chat; usually of a light or familiar kind, but also used of serious conversation or discussion. Obs.

¶c1340 *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 1012 þurȝ her dere dalyaunce of her derne wordez. ¶c1440 *Prompt. Parv.* 112 Dalyaunce, confabulacio, collocucio, colloquium. ¶1447 O. BOKENHAM *Seyntys* (Roxb.) 162 Marthe fyrst met hym [Christ]..And hadde wyth hym a long dalyaunce. ¶1496 *Dives & Paup.* (W. de W.) vi. xv. 259/1 Redynge & dalyaunce of holy wryt & of holy mennes lyues.

2. Sport, play (with a companion or companions); esp. amorous toying or caressing, flirtation; often, in bad sense, wanton toying.

¶c1385 CHAUCER *L.G.W. Prol.* 332 (Cambr. MS) For to han with ȝou sum dalyaunce. ¶c1386 *Doctor's T.* 66 At festes, reueles, and at daunces, That ben occasiouns of daliaunces. ¶c1400 MANDEVILLE (Roxb.) xxvi. 124 þai schall..ete and drinke and hafe dalyaunce with wymmen. ¶a1553 UDALL *Royster D.* iv. vi. (Arb.) 70 Dyd not I for the nonce..Read his letter in a wrong sense for daliance? ¶1602 SHAKES. *Ham.* i. iii. 50 Whilst like a puft and recklesse Libertine Himselfe the Primrose path of dalliance treads.

¶1725 POPE *Odyss.* viii. 348 The lewd dalliance of the queen of love. ¶1742 FIELDING *J. Andrews* iii. vi, He, taking her by the hand, began a daliance. ¶1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xxiv, Julian..went on with his dalliance with his feathered favourite. ¶1860 MOTLEY *Netherl.* (1868) I. vi. 346 The Earl's courtship of Elizabeth was anything..but a gentle dalliance.

3. Idle or frivolous action, trifling; playing or trifling with a matter.

¶1548 BECON *Solace of Soul Catechism* (1844) 571 In health and prosperity Satan's assaults seem to be but trifles and things of dalliance. ¶1561 T. NORTON *Calvin's Inst.* iii. xii. §1 When they come into the sight of God, such dalliances must auoide, bicause there is..no trifling strife aboute wordes.

¶1627 F. E. HIST. *Edw. II* (1680) 16 Divine Justice, who admits no dalliance with Oaths. ¶1641 *Lett.* in Sir J. Temple *Irish Rebell.* ii. 47 Now there is no dalliance with them; who..declare themselves against the State. ¶1814 WORDSW. *Excursion* i. Wks. (1888) 423/2 Men whose hearts Could hold vain dalliance with the misery Even of the dead. ¶1843 PRESCOTT *Mexico* (1850) I. 63 He continued to live in idle dalliance.

4. Waste of time in trifling, idle delay. Obs.

The first quot. prob. does not belong here: see *delayance*.

[¶c1340 *Cursor M.* 26134 (Fairf.), & for-þink his lange daliaunce [Cott. de-laiaunce] þat he for-drawn has his penance.] 1547–64 Bauldwin Mor. Philos. (Palfr.) v. vi, Death deadly woundeth without dread or daliance. ¶1590 SHAKES. *Com. Err.* iv. i. 59 My businesse cannot brooke this dalliance.

daub v.

(dɔːb)

[a. OF. *daube-r*:—L. *dealbāre* to whiten over, whitewash, plaster, f. *de-* down, etc. + *albāre* to whiten, f. *albus* white. The word had in OF. the senses ‘clothe in white, clothe, furnish, white-wash, plaster’; in later F. ‘to beat, swinge, lamme’ (Cotgr.); cf. *curry*, *anoint*, etc. All the English uses appear to come through that of ‘plaster’.]

1. trans. In building, etc.: To coat or cover (a wall or building) with a layer of plaster, mortar, clay, or the like; to cover (laths or wattle) with a composition of clay or mud, and straw or hay, so as to form walls. (Cf. *dab* v. 8.)

¶1325 *E.E. Allit. P. B.* 313 Cleme hit [the ark] with clay comly with-inne, & alle þe endentur dryuen daube withouten. ¶1382 WYCLIF *Lev.* xiv. 42 With other cley the hows to be dawbid. ¶1483 *Cath. Angl.* 102 Dobe, linere, illinere. ¶1489 CAXTON *Faytes of A.* ii. xxxiv. 145 Thys bastylle muste be aduironned with hirdels aboute and dawbed thykke with erthe and clay there-upon. ¶1515 BARCLAY *Egloges* iv. (1570) Civ/1 Of his shepecote dawbe the walles round about. ¶1530 PALSGR. 507/2 Daube up this wall a pace with plaster..I daube with lome that is tempered with heare or strawe. ¶1605 SHAKES. *Lear* ii. ii. 71, I will tread this vnbound villaine into mortar, and daube the wall of a larks with him. ¶c1710 C. FIENNES *Diary* (1888) 169 Little hutts and hovels the poor Live in Like Barnes..daub'd with mud-wall. ¶1877 *N.W. Linc. Gloss.* 243 Stud and mud walling, building without bricks or stones, with posts and wattles, or laths daubed over with road-mud.

absol. ¶1523 FITZHERB. *Surv.* 37 He shall bothe thacke & daube at his owne cost and charge. ¶1642 ROGERS *Naaman* 534 He falls to dawbing with untempered mortar.

fig. 1612–5 Bp. Hall *Contempl.*, O.T. xii. vi, He..is faine to dawbe up a rotten peace with the basest conditions.

2. To plaster, close up, cover over, coat with some sticky or greasy substance, smear.

¶1597–8 Bp. Hall *Sat.* vi. i. (R.), Whose wrinkled furrows..Are daubed full of Venice chalk. ¶1614 *Recoll. Treat.* 174 Take away this clay from mine eyes, wherewith alas they are so dawbed up. ¶1658 A. FOX tr. *Wurtz' Surg.* ii. xxviii. 190 She had been plaistered and dawbed with Salves a long time. ¶1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* (1840) II. xv. 309 We daubed him all over..with tar. ¶1832 LANDER *Adv. Niger* II. viii. 26 The women daub their hair with red clay.

fig. ¶1784 COWPER *Task* v. 360, I would not be a king to be..daubed with undiscerning praise.

b. To smear or lay on (a moist or sticky substance). Also fig.

¶1646 FULLER *Wounded Consc.* (1841) 289 For comfort daubed on will not stick long upon it. ¶1750 E. SMITH *Compl. Housewife* 309 With a fine rag daub it often on the face and hands.

c. To bribe, 'grease', slang (Cf. quot. 1876 in DAUB n. 2.)

¶1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew*, Dawbing, bribing. ¶1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulg. Tongue*, The cull was scragged [hanged] because he could not dawb.

3. To coat or cover with adhering dirt; to soil, bedaub. Also fig.

¶1450 *Knt. de la Tour* (1868) 31 Her heles, the whiche is doubd with filthe. ¶1535 JOYE *Apol. Tindale* 50 Dawbing eche other with dirte and myer. ¶1651 C. CARTWRIGHT *Cert. Relig.* i. 5 Such..verities, as would have adorned, and not dawb'd the Gospel. ¶1661 PEPYS *Diary* 30 Sept., Having been very much daubed with dirt, I got a coach and home. ¶1721 DE FOE *Mem. Cavalier* (1840) 197 The fall plunged me in a puddle..and daubed me. 1768–74 Tucker Lt. Nat. (1852) II. 596 Filthy metal that one could not touch without daubing one's fingers. ¶1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* iii, To daub himself with ink up to the roots of his hair. ¶1881 BESANT & RICE *Chapl. of Fleet* i. xi. (1883) 89 My name is too deeply daubed with the Fleet mud; it cannot be cleansed.

4. To soil (paper) with ink, or with bad or worthless writing. Obs.

¶1589 *Marprel. Epit.* (1843) 6 When men have a gift in writing, howe easie it is for them to daube paper. ¶a1618 BRADSHAW *Unreas. Separation* (1640) 81 In the prooffe of the Assumption he daubs sixe pages. ¶1792 SOUTHEY *Lett.* (1856) I. 7 The latter loss, to one who daubs so much, is nothing.

5. In painting: To lay on (colours) in a crude or clumsy fashion; to paint coarsely and inartistically. Also absol.

¶1630 [SEE DAUBED]. ¶1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* v. x. 394 A trovell will serve as well as a pencill to daub on such thick course colours.

¶1695 DRYDEN tr. *Du Fresnoy's Art of Painting* (L.), A lame, imperfect piece, rudely daubed over with too little reflection, and too much haste.

¶1796 BURKE *Regic. Peace* i. Wks. VIII. 147 The falsehood of the colours which [Walpole] suffered to be daubed over that measure. ¶1840 HOOD *Up the Rhine* Introd. 4 It had been so often painted, not to say daubed, already.

¶1867 TROLLOPE *Chron. Barset* II. li. 77 He leaned upon his stick, and daubed away briskly at the background.

6. To cover (the person or dress) with finery or ornaments in a coarse, tasteless manner; to bedizen. Obs. or dial.

¶1592 GREENE & LODGE *Looking Glass* Wks. (Rtldg.) 124/2 My wife's best gown..how handsomely it was daubed with statute-lace. ¶1639 tr. *Du Bosq's Compl. Woman* ii. 32 They dawb their habits with gold lace. ¶1760 WESLEY Wks. (1872) III. 13 A person hugely daubed with gold. ¶1876 *Whitby Gloss.* s.v., Daub'd out, fantastically dressed.

7. fig. To cover with a specious exterior; to whitewash, cloak, gloss. Obs.

¶1543 BECON *Agst. Swearing* Early Wks. (1843) 375 Perjury cannot escape unpunished, be it never so secretly handled and craftily daubed. ¶1594 SHAKES. *Rich. III*, iii. v. 29 So smooth he dawb'd his Vice with shew of Vertue. ¶1678 YOUNG *Serm. at Whitehall* 29 Dec. 31 To dawb and palliate our faults, is but like keeping our selves in the dark. ¶1683 tr. *Erasmus' Moriae Enc.* 114 They dawb over their oppression with a submissive flattering carriage. ¶1785 [SEE DAUBED].

b. absol. or intr. To put on a false show; to dissemble so as to give a favourable impression.

c. To pay court with flattery. Obs. or dial.

¶1605 SHAKES. *Lear* iv. i. 53 Poore Tom's a cold. I cannot daub it further.

¶1619 W. WHATELY *God's Husb.* ii. (1622) 52 What auailed it Ananias and Saphira, to dawbe and counterfeit? ¶1619 W. SCLATER *Exp. 1 Thess.* (1630) 288 With such idle distinctions doe they dawbe with conscience.

¶1650 BAXTER *Saints' R.* iii. xiii. (1662) 508 Do not daub with men, and hide from them their misery or danger. ¶a1716 SOUTH (J.), Let every one, therefore, attend the sentence of his conscience; for, he may be sure, it will not daub, nor flatter. ¶1876 *Whitby Gloss.*, Daubing..paying court for the sake of advantage. ¶1877 *Holderness Gloss.*, Daub, to flatter, or besmear with false compliment, with the object of gaining some advantage.

dauntless a.

(ˈdaʊntlɪs)

[f. daunt v. (hardly from the n.) + -less.]

Not to be daunted; fearless, intrepid, bold, undaunted.

¶1593 SHAKES. 3 *Hen.* VI, iii. iii. 17 Let thy dauntlesse minde still ride in triumph, Ouer all mischance. ¶1667 MILTON *P.L.* i. 603 Browes Of dauntless courage. ¶1761 GRAY *Fatal Sisters* 41 Low the dauntless Earl is laid. ¶1817 SCOTT (*title*), Harold the Dauntless. ¶1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* viii. §5. 514 Laud was as dauntless as ever.

Hence **dauntlessly** adv., **dauntlessness**.

¶1813 SHELLEY Q. *Mab* vii. 196 Therefore I rose, and dauntlessly began My lonely..pilgrimage. ¶1730–6 Bailey (folio), *Dauntlesness*, a being without Fear or Discouragement. ¶1876 BANCROFT *Hist. U.S.* VI. xlviii. 292 Shelby..among the dauntless singled out for dauntlessness.

dearth n.

(dɜːθ)

[ME. *derþe*, not recorded in OE. (where the expected form would be *dierðu*, *dierð*, *dýrð*: cf. 14th c. *dierþe* in Ayenb.); but corresp. formally to ON. *dýrð* with sense ‘glory’, OS. *diurida*, OHG. *tiurida*, MHG. *tiurde*, MG. *turde* glory, honour, value, costliness; abstr. n. f. WGer. *diuri*, OE. *diere*, *déore*, dear a.1: see -th1.

The form *derke* in Gen. & Exod. (bis) and Promp. Parv. seems to be a scribal error for *derþe*, *derðe*; but its repeated occurrence is remarkable.]

1. Glory, splendour. Obs. rare. [= ON. *dýrð*.]

¶1325 *E.E. Allit.* P. A. 99 Þe *derþe* þerof for to deuyse Nis no wyȝ worþe that tonge berez.

2. Dearness, costliness, high price. Obs.

(This sense, though etymologically the source of those that follow, is not exemplified very early, and not frequent. In some of the following instances it is doubtful.)

¶1480 CAXTON *Chron. Eng.* cii. 82 Ther felle grete derth and scarsyte of corne and other vytailles in that land. ¶1596 BP. BARLOW *Three Serm.* i. 5 Dearth is that, when all those things which belong to the life of man..are rated at a high price.] ¶1632 in Cramond *Ann. Banff* (1891) I. 67 Com-pleining of..the dearthe of the pryce thairof. ¶1644 R. BAILLIE *Lett. & Jrnls.* (1841) II. 175, I cannot help the extraordinarie dearth: they say the great soume the author putts on his copie, is the cause of it. ¶1793 BENTHAM *Emanc. Colonies Wks.* 1843 IV. 413 When an article is dear, it is..made so by freedom or by force. Dearth which is natural is a misfortune: dearth which is created is a grievance.

fig. ¶1602 SHAKES. *Ham.* v. ii. 123 His infusion of such dearth and rareness.

3. A condition in which food is scarce and dear; often, in earlier use, a time of scarcity with its accompanying privations, a famine; now mostly restricted to the condition, as in time of dearth.

¶c1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 2237 Wex derk [? derpe], ðis coren is gon. Ibid. 2345. ¶a1300 *Cursor M.* 4700 (Cott.) Sua bigan þe derth to grete. ¶c1400 MANDEVILLE (Roxb.) vi. 20 If any derth com in þe cuntree [*quant il fait chier temps*]. ¶c1440 *Prompt. Parv.* 119 Derthe (P. or derke), cariscia. ¶1526 TINDALE *Luke* xv. 14 There rose a greate derth thorow out all that same londe. ¶1552 *Bk. Com. Prayer, Litany*, In the tyme of dearth and famine. ¶1590 SPENSER *F.Q.* i. ii. 27 Dainty they say maketh derth. ¶1606 SHAKES. *Ant. & Cl.* ii. vii 22 They know..If dearth Or Foizon follow. ¶1625 BACON *Ess. Seditions* (Arb.) 403 The Causes and Motiues of Sediti-ions are..Dearth: Disbanded Souldiers. ¶a1687 PETTY *Pol. Arith.* (1690) 80 The same causes which make Dearth in one place do often cause plenty in another. ¶1781 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* III. li. 217 The fertility of Egypt supplied the dearth of Arabia. ¶1841 W. SPALDING *Italy & It. Isl.* I. 361 Augustus in a dearth, gave freedom to twenty thousand slaves. ¶1848 MILL *Pol. Econ.* (1857) II. iv. ii. 270 In modern times, therefore, there is only dearth, where there formerly would have been famine.

b. of (for) corn, victuals, etc.

¶c1400 MANDEVILLE (Roxb.) vi. 23 Þer falles oft sithes grete derth of corne [*chier temps*]. ¶1538 STARKEY *England* ii. i. 174 The dardh of al

such thyngys as for fode ys necessary. ¶1556 *Chron. Gr. Friars* (Camden) 33 This yere [1527] was a gret derth in London for brede. Ibid. 45 This yere was a gret derth for wode and colles. ¶1720 GAY *Poems* (1745) I. 139 At the dearth of coals the poor repine. ¶1721 SWIFT *Let. fr. Lady conc. Bank Wks.* (1841) II. 67 The South-Sea had occasioned such a dearth of money in the kingdom.

4. fig. and transf. Scarcity of anything, material or immaterial; scanty supply; practical deficiency, want or lack of a quality, etc.

¶1340 *Ayenb.* 256 Þe meste dierþe þet is aboute ham is of zopnesse an of trewþe. ¶c1386 CHAUCER *Pars. T.* 340 Precious clothyng is cowpable for the derthe of it. ¶c1477 CAXTON *Jason* 42 b, Ther is no grete derthe ne scarcete of women. ¶1596 DRAYTON *Legends* iv. 45 A time when never lesse the Dearth Of happie Wits. ¶1667 DRYDEN *Ess. Dram. Poesie* Wks. 1725 I. 55 That dearth of plot and narrowness of Imagination, which may be observed in all their Plays. ¶1671 C. HATTON in *Hatton Corr.* (1878) 60 The absence of ye Court occasions a great dirth of news here. ¶1754 RICHARDSON *Grandison* IV. xvii. 130 We live in an age in which there is a great dearth of good men. ¶1815 WORDSW. *White Doe* ii. 8 Her last companion in a dearth Of love. ¶1875 J. CURTIS *Hist. Eng.* 151 The great pestilence of 1349 led to such a dearth of labourers.

debacle n.

(dɪˈbɑːk(ə)l)

[a. F. débâcle, vbl. n. from débâcler to unbar, remove a bar, f. dé- = des- (see de- I. 6) + bâcler to bar.]

1. A breaking up of ice in a river; in Geol. a sudden deluge or violent rush of water, which breaks down opposing barriers, and carries before it blocks of stone and other debris.

¶1802 PLAYFAIR *Illustr. Hutton. Th.* 402 Valleys are so particularly constructed as to carry with them a still stronger refutation of the existence of a debacle. ¶1823 W. BUCKLAND *Reliq. Diluv.* 158 They could have been transported by no other force than that of a tremendous deluge or debacle of water. ¶1893 *Daily Tel.* 1 Feb., The debacle in the United States..Telegrams state that the breaking up of the ice is being attended with great damage.

2. transf. and fig. A sudden breaking up or downfall; a confused rush or rout, a stampede.

¶1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xxxii, The Brunswickers were routed and had fled..It was a general débâcle. ¶1887 *Graphic* 15 Jan. 59/2 In the nightly débâcle [he] is often content to stand aside.

debase v.

(di'beis)

[Formed in 16th c. from de- I. 1, 3 + base v.1: cf. ABASE.]

1. trans. To lower in position, rank, or dignity; to abase. Obs.

¶1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 69 The king hath debased himselfe ynough to the Bishop. Ibid. II. 75 Debasyng himselfe with great humilitie and submission before the sayde two Cardinales. ¶1593 SHAKES. *Rich. II.* iii. iii. 190 Faire Cousin, you debase your Princely Knee, To make the base Earth proud with kissing it. ¶1610 HEALEY *St. Aug. Citie of God* iii. xvi. (1620) 121 Brutus debased Collatine and banished him the city. ¶1648 WILKINS *Math. Magick* i. i. 4 The ancient Philosophers..refusing to debase the principles of that noble profession unto Mechanical experiments. ¶1671 MILTON *Samson* 999 God sent her to debase me. ¶1751 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 187 ¶4 A man [in Greenland] will not debase himself by work, which requires neither skill nor courage. ¶1827 POLLOK *Course T.* v, Debased in sackcloth, and forlorn in tears.

2. To lower in estimation; to decry, depreciate, vilify. Obs.

¶1565 T. STAPLETON *Fortr. Faith* 62 The Manichee..would so extol grace, and debace the nature of man. ¶1600 HOLLAND *Livy* ix. xxxvii. 341 Praising highly..the Samnites warres, debasing the Tuscanes. ¶1704 J. BLAIR in W. S. Perry *Hist. Coll. Amer. Col.* Ch. I. 98, I have heard him often debase and vilify the Gentlemen of the Council, using to them the opprob[r]ious names of Rogue, Rascal [etc.]. ¶1746 HERVEY *Medit.* (1818) 15 Why should we exalt ourselves or debase others?

3. To lower in quality, value, or character; to make base, degrade; to adulterate.

b. spec. To lower the value of (coin) by the mixture of alloy or otherwise; to depreciate.

¶1591 SPENSER *Tears of Muses, Urania* iii, Ignorance..That mindes of men borne heavenlie doth debace. ¶1602 W. FULBECKE *1st Pt. Parall.* 54 Or els it may be changed in the value, as if a Floren, which was worth 4 li to be debased to 3 li. ¶1606 *State Trials, Gt. case of Impositions* (R.), That these

staple commodities might not be debased. ¶1751 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 168 ¶4 Words which convey ideas of dignity..are in time debased. ¶1789 *Trans. Soc. Encourag. Arts* I. 16 Much of the Zaffre brought to England is mixed with matters that debase its quality. ¶1879 FROUDE *Cæsar* xiii. 177 Laws against debasing the coin.

debilitate *v.*

(dɪˈbɪlɪteɪt)

[f. L. *dēbilitāt-*, ppl. stem of *dēbilitāre* to weaken, f. *dēbilis* weak.]

a. trans. To render weak; to weaken, enfeeble.

¶1533 ELYOT *Cast. Helthe* (1541) 46 a, Immoderate watch..doth debilitate the powers animall. ¶1541 PAYNEL *Catiline* xlv. 71 To debylitate and cutte asunder theyr endeuoir and hope. ¶a1625 BEAUM. & FL. *Faithful Friends* v. ii, If you think His youth or judgment..Debilitate his person..call him home.

¶1717 BULLOCK *Woman a Riddle* i. i. 8, I am totally debilitated of all power of elocution. ¶1715 LEONI *Palladio's Archit.* (1742) I. 57 The Sun shining..would be apt to heat, debilitate, and spoil the Wine or other Liquors.

¶1829 I. TAYLOR *Enthus.* ix. 233 Whose moral sense had been debilitated.

¶1871 G. H. NAPHEYS *Prev. & Cure Dis.* i. i. 45 A feeble constitution, which he further debilitated by a dissipated life.

b. Astrol. Cf. DEBILITY 4 b. Obs.

¶1625 BEAUM. & FL. *Bloody Bro.* iv. ii, Venus..is..clear debilitated five degrees Beneath her ordinary power.

debunk *v.* orig. U.S.

(dɪˈbʌŋk)

[f. *de-* II. 2 + *bunk* n.4]

trans. To remove the ‘nonsense’ or false sentiment from; to expose (false claims or pretensions); hence, to remove (a person) from his ‘pedestal’ or ‘pin-nacle’. Also absol. Hence **debunker**, one who debunks; **debunking** vbl. n. and ppl. a.

¶1923 W. E. WOODWARD *Bunk* i. 2 De-bunking means simply taking the bunk out of things. Ibid., I’m a professional de-bunker. Ibid. 4 To keep the United States thoroughly de-bunked would require the continual services of..half a million persons. Ibid., Just how do you go about your de-bunking

operations? Ibid. 6 Recently we de-bunked the head of a large financial institution. ¶1927 *Daily Express* 21 Nov. 2/3 The Thucydidean school of what are known as 'debunking' historians. ¶1927 *Brit. Weekly* 29 Dec. 327/2 The somewhat ruthless process which in America is called 'debunking'—that is, pricking pretentious bubbles [etc.]. ¶1930 *Times Lit. Suppl.* 6 Mar. 174 The present fashion for 'debunking' great men. Ibid. 13 Mar. 217 He is not indeed a 'debunker', but he is as far from being a blind hero-worshipper.

Ibid. 8 May 378 The aim of 'debunking' a reputation that has been swollen by the uncritical eulogies of contemporaries. ¶1934 *Municipal Engineering* 12 July 31/1 The London C.C. has decided to 'debunk' Waterloo Bridge, or, in other words, to take away the bunkum that has been attached to it. ¶1940 *Illustr. Lond. News* CXCVI. 758/2 In fact, he is a reverent man, who enjoys 'debunking' the 'debunkers', if that word may be taken now as acceptable and established English. ¶1948 *Sat. Rev.* 26 June 13/1 In dealing with military reputations, the author neither glorifies nor debunks. ¶1958 *Spectator* 13 June 777/1 It is his duty..to debunk the claims of the Fabians. ¶1960 *Guardian* 10 Dec. 5/3 No cynic, but a debunker.

decimate v.

('desiment)

[f. L. *decimā-re* to take the tenth, f. *decim-us* tenth: see -ate³. Cf. F. *décimer* (16th c.).]

1. To exact a tenth or a tithe from; to tax to the amount of one-tenth. Obs. In Eng. Hist., see decimation 1.

¶1656 in BLOUNT *Glossogr.* ¶1657 MAJOR-GEN. DESBROWE *Sp. in Parl.* 7 Jan., Not one man was decimated but who had acted or spoken against the present government. ¶1667 DRYDEN *Wild Gallant* ii. i, I have heard you are as poor as a decimated Cavalier. ¶1670 PENN *Lib. Consc. Debated Wks.* 1726 I. 447 The insatiable Appetites of a decimating Clergy. ¶1738 NEAL *Hist. Purit.* IV. 96 That all who had been in arms for the king..should be decimated; that is pay a tenth part of their estates. ¶a1845 [see DECIMATED].

2. To divide into tenths, divide decimally. Obs.

¶1749 SMETHURST in *Phil. Trans.* XLVI. 22 The Chinese..are so happy as to have their Parts of an Integer in their Coins, &c. decimated.

3. Milit. To select by lot and put to death one in every ten of (a body of soldiers guilty of mutiny or other crime): a practice in the ancient Roman army, sometimes followed in later times.

¶1600 J. DYMMOK *Treat. Ireland* (1843) 42 All..were by a martiall courte condemned to dye, which sentence was yet mittigated by the Lord Lieutenants mercy, by which they were onely decimated by lott. ¶1651 *Reliq. Wotton*. 30 In Ireland..he [Earl of Essex] decimated certain troops that ran away, renewing a peece of the Roman Discipline. ¶1720 OZELL *Vertot's Rom. Rep.* I. iii. 185 Appius decimated, that is, put every Tenth Man to death among the Soldiers.

¶1840 NAPIER *Penins. War* VI. xxii. v. 293 The soldiers could not be decimated until captured. ¶1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* IV. 577 Who is to determine whether it be or be not necessary..to decimate a large body of mutineers?

4. transf. **a.** To kill, destroy, or remove one in every ten of. **b.** rhetorically or loosely. To destroy or remove a large proportion of; to subject to severe loss, slaughter, or mortality.

¶1663 J. SPENCER *Prodigies* (1665) 385 The..Lord..sometimes decimates a multitude of offenders, and discovers in the personal sufferings of a few what all deserve. ¶1812 W. TAYLOR in *Monthly Rev.* LXXIX. 181 An expurgatory index, pointing out the papers which it would be fatiguing to peruse, and thus decimating the contents into legibility. ¶1848 C. BRONTË *Let.* in Mrs. Gaskell *Life* 276 Typhus fever decimated the school periodically. ¶1875 LYELL *Princ. Geol.* II. iii. xlii. 466 The whole animal Creation has been decimated again and again. ¶1877 FIELD *Killarney to Golden Horn* 340 This conscription weighs very heavily on the Mussulmen..who are thus decimated from year to year. ¶1883 L. OLIPHANT *Haifa* (1887) 76 Cholera..was then decimating the country.

Hence **decimated**, **decimating** ppl. adjs.

¶1661 MIDDLETON *Mayor of Q. Pref.*, Now whether this magistrate fear'd the decimating times. ¶1667,1670 [SEE 1]. ¶a1845 SYD. SMITH *Wks.* (1850) 688 The decimated person.

déclassé a. and n.

(deklase)

[Fr., pa. pple. of déclasser declass v.]

A. adj. Reduced or degraded from one's social class; having come down in the world. **B.** n. One who has been so reduced or degraded.

¶1887 *Fortn. Rev.* Aug. 227 It is only the déclassé, the nèer-do-well, or the really unfortunate, who has nothing to call his own. ¶1905 *Spectator* 28 Jan. 144/2 Pamela..quits the company of artists and actresses, declassés

and divorcées. ¶1921 *Glasgow Herald* 3 Aug., The attempt by a body of declassés to form the policy of the entire working-class of this country.

¶1921 *Times Lit. Suppl.* 29 Sept. 626/2 A girl of any family may, by force of circumstances, become déclassée. ¶1961 A. WILSON *Old Men at Zoo* ii. 97

Déclassé nations are very touchy.

decorous a.

(də'kɔərəs, 'dekərəs)

[In form ad. late L. decorōs-us elegant, beautiful (It. decoroso decorous, decent), f. decus, decor-: see decorate; but in sense corresp. to L. decōr-us becoming, seemly, fitting, proper, f. decor, decōr-em becomingness, f. decēre to become, befit. In harmony with this Johnson, Walker, and Smart 1849 pronounce də'cōrous. Bailey 1730 and Perry 1805 have 'decōrous; Craig 1847 and later dictionaries record both. The word is not very frequent colloquially.]

1. Seemly, suitable, appropriate. Obs.

¶1664 H. MORE *Myst. Iniq.* 225 That decorous embellishment in the external Cortex of the Prophecy [is] punctually observed. ¶1680 *Apocal. Apoc.* 75 So decorous is the representation. ¶1691 RAY *Creation* i. (1704) 57 It is not so decorous with respect to God, that he should immediately do all the meanest and triflingest things himself, without any inferiour or subordinate minister.

2. Characterized by decorum or outward conformity to the recognized standard of propriety and good taste in manners, behaviour, etc.

¶[1673 *Rules of Civility* 144 It is not decorous to look in the Glass, to comb, brush, or do any thing of that nature to ourselves, whilst the said person be in the Room.] ¶1792 V. KNOX *Serm.* ix. (R.), Individuals, who support a decorous character. ¶1795 BURKE *Corr.* (1844) IV. 291 Their language..is cool, decorous, and conciliatory. ¶1821 BYRON *Vis. Judgm.* xcv, Some grumbling voice, Which now and then will make a slight inroad Upon decorous silence. ¶1858 HAWTHORNE *Fr. & It. Jrnls.* I. 293 Washington, the most decorous and respectable personage that ever went ceremoniously through the realities of life. ¶1874 HELPS *Soc. Press.* iii. 40 In a great city everything has to be made outwardly decorous.

b. Of language: Exemplifying propriety of diction.

¶1873 LOWELL *Among my Bks.* Ser. ii. 224 A treatise of permanent value for philosophic statement and decorous English.

Explained in the sense of L. *decorōsus*.

¶1727 BAILEY vol. II, Decorous, Decorose, fair and lovely, beautiful, graceful, comely.

decorum *n.*

(dɪ'kɔərəm)

[a. L. *decōrum* that which is seemly, propriety; subst. use of neuter sing. of *decōr-us* adj. seemly, fitting, proper. So mod.F. *décorum* (since 16th c.).]

1. That which is proper, suitable, seemly, befitting, becoming; fitness, propriety, congruity. **a.** esp. in dramatic, literary, or artistic composition: That which is proper to a personage, place, time, or subject in question, or to the nature, unity, or harmony of the composition; fitness, congruity, keeping. Obs.

¶1568 R. ASCHAM *Scholem*. (Arb.) 139 Who soeuer hath bene diligent to read aduisedlie ouer, Terence, Seneca, Virgil, Horace..he shall easelie perceiue, what is fitte and decorum in euerie one. ¶1576 FOXE A. & M. 990/1, I..lay all the wyte in maister More, the authour and contriuer of this Poeticall booke, for not kepyng Decorum personæ, as a perfect Poet should haue done. Ibid., Some wyll thinke..maister More to haue missed some part of his Decorum in makying the euill spirite..to be messenger betwene middle earth and Purgatory. ¶1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* ii. ii. vi. iv, If that Decorum of time and place..be observed. ¶1644 MILTON *Educ.* Wks. 1738 I. 140 What the Laws are of a true Epic Poem, what of a Dramatic, what of a Lyric, what Decorum is, which is the grand master-piece to observe. ¶1686 W. AGLIONBY *Painting Illust.* ii. 67 Simon Sanese began to understand the Decorum of Composition. Ibid. iii. 119 The second part of Invention is Decorum; that is, that there be nothing Absurd nor Discordant in the Piece.

¶1704 HEARNE *Duct. Hist.* (1714) I. 132 Neither is a just Decorum always observ'd, for he sometimes makes Blockheads and Barbarians talk like Philosophers. ¶1756 J. WARTON *Ess. Pope* I. i. 5 Complaints..[which] when uttered by the inhabitants of Greece, have a decorum and consistency, which they totally lose in the character of a British shepherd.

b. That which is proper to the character, position, rank, or dignity of a real person. arch.

¶1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* iii. xxiv. (Arb.) 303 Our soueraign Lady (keeping alwaies the decorum of a Princely person) at her first comming to the crowne, etc. ¶1594 J. DICKENSON *Arisbas* (1878) 87 The minde

of man degenerating from the decorum of humanitie becomes monstrous.

¶1606 SHAKES. *Ant. & Cl.* v. ii. 17 Maiesty to keepe decorum, must No lesse begge then a Kingdome. ¶1683 CAVE *Ecclesiastici, Athanasius* 171 He was a Prince of a lofty Mind, careful to preserve the Decorum of State and Empire. ¶a1715 BURNET *Own Time* (1766) I. 130 He..did not always observe the decorum of his post. ¶1848 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* I. 180 It was necessary to the decorum of her character that she should admonish her erring children.

c. That which is proper to the circumstances or requirements of the case: seemliness, propriety, fitness; = decency 1. arch.

¶1586 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* i. 171 A waie how to frame all things according to that which is decent or seemely, which the Latines call decorum.

¶1598 J. DICKENSON *Greene in Conc.* (1878) 147 She deemd it no decorum to blemish her yet-during pleasures with not auailing sorrow. ¶1677 GALE *Crt. Gentiles* II. iv. 19 Temperance formally consistes in giving al persons and things their just decorum and measure. ¶1809 MATHIAS in *Gray's Corr.* (1843) 16 There was a peculiar propriety and decorum in his manner of reading. ¶1858 TRENCH *Parables* (1860) 126 They argue that it is against the decorum of the Divine teaching, that, etc.

2. Qualities which result from sense 1: a. Beauty arising from fitness, or from absence of the incongruous; comeliness; grace; gracefulness.

¶1613 R. C. *Table Alph.* (ed. 3), Decorum, comelinesse. ¶1618 DEKKER *Owles Almanacke*, A coloured cloute will set the stampe of decorum on a rotten partition. ¶1635 SWAN *Spec. M.* vii. §3 (1643) 320 To shew the due decorum and comely beauty of the worlds brave structure. ¶1729 G. SHELVOCKE *Artillery* v. 334 The Decorum and Gracefulness of any Pile, the making the whole Aspect of a Fabric so correct.

b. Orderly condition, orderliness. Obs.

¶1610 HEALEY *St. Aug. Citie of God* xii. xxv. 442 Whose wisdom reacheth from end to end, ordering all in a delicate decorum. *Ibid.* xxii. xxiv. 847 And brings the potentiall formes into such actuall decorum. ¶1684 T. BURNET *Th. Earth* i. 132 The first orders of things are more perfect and regular, and this decorum seems to be observ'd afterwards.

c. Orderly and grave array. Obs.

¶1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (1638) 238 In this Decorum they march slowly, and with great silence [at a funeral].

3. Propriety of behaviour; what is fitting or proper in behaviour or demeanour, what is in accordance with the standard of good breeding; the avoidance of anything unseemly or offensive in manner.

¶1572 tr. *Buchanan's Detect. Mary M iij a*, To obserue decorum and comely conuenience in hir pairt..sche counterfeiteth a mourning. ¶a1628 F. GREVILLE *Sidney* (1652) 93 She resolved to keep within the Decorum of her sex.

¶1668 DRYDEN *Evening's Love Epil.* 19 Where nothing must decorum shock.

¶1704 F. FULLER *Med. Gymn.* (1711) 143, I can't see any breach of Decorum, if a Lady..should ride on Horse-back. ¶1791 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Rom. Forest* iii, The lady-abbess was a woman of rigid decorum and severe devotion. ¶1803 *Med. Jrnl.* IX. 442 A spirit of levity and wrangling, wholly inconsistent with the grave decorum due to the investigation and decision of a philosophical subject.

¶1814 JANE AUSTEN *Mansf. Park* (1851) 81 My father..would never wish his grown-up daughters to be acting plays. His sense of decorum is strict. ¶1866 G. MACDONALD *Ann. Q. Neighb.* xxvii. (1878) 475 If the mothers..are shocked at the want of decorum in my friend Judy.

4. (with a and pl.) **a.** A fitting or appropriate act. Obs.

¶1601 A. C. *Answ. to Let. Jesuited Gent.* 114 (Stanf.) It had bin a decorum in them, to have shewd themselves thankful unto such kind office. ¶1692 DRYDEN *St. Evremont's Ess.* 372 The Laugh, the Speech, the Action, accompanied with Agreements and Decorums. ¶1717 BERKELEY *Tour Italy* 21 Jan. Wks. 1871 IV. 532 The tragedy of Caligula, where, amongst other decorums, Harlequin..was very familiar with the Emperor himself.

b. An act or requirement of polite behaviour; a decorous observance; chiefly in pl., proprieties.

¶1601 R. JOHNSON *Kingd. & Commw.* (1603) 245 The Spanish nation..using a certaine decorum (which they call an obeysance or..a compliment or cerimonious curtesie). ¶1676 WYCHERLEY *Pl. Dealer* i. i, Tell not me..of your Decorums, supercilious Forms, and slavish Ceremonies.

¶1706 ESTCOURT *Fair Examp.* i. i, My Lady Stately longs to see you, had paid you a Visit but for the Decorums: She expects the first from you.

¶1766 GOLDSM. *Vic. W.* xxx, No decorums could restrain the impatience of his blushing mistress to be forgiven. ¶1865 MERIVALE *Rom. Emp.* VIII. lxvi. 202 The dignity of his military character was hedged round by formalities and decorums.

decry v.

(di'krai)

[a. F. *décrier*, in 14th c. *descrier*, f. *des-*, *de-* (see *de-* I. 6) + *crier* to cry. In Eng. the prefix appears always to have been taken in sense 'down': see *de-* I. 4.]

1. trans. To denounce, condemn, suppress, or depreciate by proclamation; = cry down (*cry* v. 17 a); chiefly said of foreign or obsolete coins; also to bring down the value (of any article) by the utterance or circulation of statements.

¶1617 MORYSON *Itin.* i. iii. vi. 289 Having a singular Art to draw all forraine coynes when they want them, by raising the value, and in like sort to put them away, when they haue got abundance thereof, by decrying the value. ¶1633 T. STAFFORD *Pac. Hib.* iv. (1821) 267 The calling downe, and decrying of all other Moneys whatsoever. ¶1697 EVELYN *Numism.* vi. 204 Many others [medals of Elagabalus] decried and called in for his infamous life.

¶1710 WHITWORTH *Acc. Russia* (1758) 80 Next year..the..gold..was left without refining, which utterly decried those Ducats. ¶1765 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* I. 278 The king may..decry, or cry down, any coin of the kingdom, and make it no longer current. ¶1844 *Act* 7–8 Vict. c. 24 §4 Spreading..any false rumour, with intent to enhance or decry the price of any goods.

2. To cry out against; to disparage or condemn openly; to attack the credit or reputation of; = cry down (*CRY* 17 b).

¶1641 J. JACKSON *True Evang.* T. i. 75 We goe..to law one with another (which S. Paul so decryed). ¶1660 R. COKE *Justice Vind.* Pref. 1 All men..have with one voice commended Virtue, and decried Vice. ¶1665 PEPYS *Diary* 27 Nov., The goldsmiths do decry the new Act. ¶1756 C. LUCAS *Ess. Waters* I. Pref., 'Who is this,' says one, 'that is come to decry our waters?' ¶1867 LEWES *Hist. Philos.* II. 105 He does not so much decry Aristotle, as the idolatry of Aristotle. ¶1872 YEATS *Growth Comm.* 371 The zeal with which the Church decried the taking of interest or usury.

Hence **decrying** vbl. n.

¶1633 [SEE 1 above]. ¶1637 *State Trials, John Hampden* (R.), There hath been a decrying by the people and they have petitioned in parliament against it. ¶1863 KINGLAKE *Crimea* (1876) I. vi. 84 A general decrying of arms.

deduce v.

(di'dju:s)

[ad. L. *dēdūc-ĕre* to lead down, derive, in med.L. to infer logically, f. *de-* I. 1, 2 + *dūcĕre* to lead. Cf. *deduct*. In 16–17th c. there was frequent confusion of the forms of deduce and diduce, q.v.]

(The sense-development had already taken place in Latin, and does not agree with the chronological data in English.)]

1. lit. trans.

a. To bring, convey; spec. (after Lat.), to lead forth or conduct (a colony). arch.

¶1578 BANISTER *Hist. Man* v. 71 If any of the wayes deducyng choler, come vnto the bottome of the ventricle. ¶1612 SELDEN *Illustr. of Drayton* §17 (R.) Advising him he should hither deduce a colony. ¶1685 STILLINGFL. *Orig. Brit.* i. 5 The Romans began to deduce Colonies, to settle Magistrates and Jurisdictions here. ¶1822 T. TAYLOR *Apuleius* 340 Sagacious nature may from thence deduce it [the blood] through all the members. ¶1866 J. B. ROSE *Virgil's Georg.* 88 Still Ausonian colonists rehearse, Deduced from Troy, the incoherent verse.

b. To bring or draw (water, etc.) from. Obs.

¶1602 W. FULBECKE *2nd Pt. Parall.* 54 By that meane he deduced water out of the earth. ¶c1630 RISDON *Surv. Devon* §107 (1810) 104 Conduits..nourished with waters deduced from out of the fields.

c. To bring or draw down. Obs.

¶1621 G. SANDYS *Ovid's Met.* xii. (1626) 244 Orions mother Mycale, eft-soone Could with her charmes deduce the strugling Moone.

2. fig.

a. To lead, bring. Obs.

¶1545 JOYE *Exp. Dan.* Ded. A. iv, Christ himself doth..deduce us unto the readinge of thys boke. ¶1585 J. HILTON in *Fuller Ch. Hist.* ix. vi. §27 That..we be..made partakers of his Testament, and so deduced to the knowledge of his godly will. ¶1706 COLLIER *Refl. Ridic.* 25 He continually deduces the conversation to this topick.

b. Law. To bring before a tribunal.

¶1612 BACON *Ess. Judicature* (Arb.) 458 Many times, the thing deduced to Iudgement, may bee meum et tuum [etc.].

c. To lead away, turn aside, divert.

¶1541 *Act 33 Hen. VIII*, c. 32 The vicar..wolde deduce them from their said most accustomed parishe church of Whitegate, vnto his said church of Ouer. ¶1647 LILLY *Chr. Astrol.* clxvii. 720 The force of a Direction may continue many yeers, untill the Significator is deduced to another Promittor.

d. To bring down, convey by inheritance.

¶1633 BP. HALL *Hard Texts* 483 If Abraham..had this land given to him for his inheritance, how much more may wee, his seed, (to whom it is deduced)..challenge a due interest in it. ¶1641 'SMECTYMNUUS' *Answ.* §6 (1653) 32 How this should have beene deduced to us in an uninterrupted Line, wee know not.

3. To draw or obtain from some source; to derive. Now somewhat rare.

¶1596 H. CLAPHAM *Briefe Bible* i. 15 He, of Nothing, created Something..whereout, Al other Creatures were to be diduced. ¶1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (1638) 232 A ceremony diduced from the Romans. ¶1665 *Ibid.* (1677) 181 Rivers that deduce their Springs near each other. ¶1790 COWPER *My Mother's Picture* 108 My boast is not, that I deduce my birth From loins enthron'd, and rulers of the earth. ¶1869 FARRAR *Fam. Speech* i. (1873) 20 The attempt to prove that all languages were deduced from the Hebrew.

b. intr. To be derived. rare. (Cf. to derive.)

¶1866 J. B. ROSE tr. *Ovid's Fasti* Notes 240 The former notion of a bird..may deduce from the eastern word Gaph. ¶1889 COURTNEY *Mill* 20 The very first principles from which it deduces, are so little axiomatic that, etc.

4. trans. To trace the course of, trace out, go through in order (as in narrative or description); to bring down (a record) from or to a particular period. †Formerly, also, To conduct (a process), handle, treat, deal with (a matter).

¶1528 GARDINER in Pocock *Rec. Ref.* I. l. 115 Considering how the process might be after the best sort deduced and handled. c ¶1645 HOWELL *Lett.* vi. 61, I will deduce the business from the beginning. ¶1659 BP. WALTON *Consid. Considered* 259 These things are largely deduced and handled in the same Prolegomena. ¶1685 STILLINGFL. *Orig. Brit.* iii. 88 Having deduced the Succession of the British Churches down to..the first Councel of Arles. 1728–46 Thomson *Spring* 577 Lend me your song, ye nightingales..while I deduce, From the first note the hollow cuckoo sings, The symphony of Spring. ¶1776 GIBBON *Decl. & Fall* I. 296 The general design of this work will not permit us..to deduce the various fortunes of his private life. ¶1818 JAS. MILL *Brit. India* i. (1840) I. 2 To deduce to the present

times a history of..the British transactions, which have had an immediate relation to India. ¶1866 J. MARTINEAU *Ess.* I. 149 All the optical history..is elaborately deduced.

5. To trace the derivation or descent of, to show or hold (a thing) to be derived from.

¶1536 TINDALE *Wks.* 21 (R.) Deducyng the loue to God out of fayth, and the loue of a man's neighbour out of the loue of God. ¶1579 W. FULKE *Ref. Rastel* 715 They could not deduce the beginning from ye Apostles. ¶1658 USSHER *Annals* 593 They deduced themselves from the Athenians. ¶1676 HODGSON in *Phil. Trans.* XI. 766 Those..who deduce the Scurvy from the use of Sugar. ¶1767 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* II. 114 He cannot deduce his descent wholly by heirs male.

6. To derive or draw as a conclusion from something already known or assumed; to derive by a process of reasoning or inference; to infer. (The chief current sense.)

¶1529 MORE *Dyaloge* iii. *Wks.* 215/2 Ye case once graunted, ye deduce your conclusion very surely. ¶1651 BAXTER *Inf. Bapt.* 87 It must be [known] rationally by deducing it from some premises. ¶1696 WHISTON *Th. Earth* ii. (1722) 184 The knowledge of Causes is deduc'd from their Effects.

¶1788 REID *Aristotle's Log.* iv. §4. 83 Rules..deduced from the particular cases before determined. ¶1812 SIR H. DAVY *Chem. Philos.* p. viii, It was deduced from an indirect experiment. ¶1849 MURCHISON *Siluria* i. (1867) 2 This inference has been deduced from positive observation. ¶1885 C. LEUDESORF *Cremona's Proj. Geom.* 277 From this we deduce a method for the construction.

b. Less commonly with obj. clause.

¶1532 MORE *Confut. Tindale* *Wks.* 461/2 We deduce therūpon that he wil not suffer his church fal into ye erronious belief of anie damnable vntrouthe. ¶1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* v. vi. 243 That the custome of feasting upon beds was in use among the Hebrewes, many diduce from the 23. of Ezekiel.

7. To deduct, subtract. Obs.

¶1614 BP. HALL *Recoll. Treat.* 514 The more we deduce, the fewer we leave. ¶1632 B. JONSON *Magn. Lady* ii. i, A matter of four hundred To be deduced upon the payment. ¶1662 STILLINGFL. *Orig. Sacr.* i. v. §3, 1117. which being deduced from 3940. the remainder is 2823.

8. To reduce (to a different form). Obs.

¶1586 J. HOOKER *Girald. Irel. in Holinshed* II. 10/1 By these meanes the whole land, which is now diuided into fiue prouinces or portions, maie be deduced and brought into one. ¶1654 GATAKER *Disc. Apol.* 36 After that my Morning Lecture was reduced, or deduced rather, to the ordinarie hour in most places. ¶1749 J. MILLAN (*title*), *Coins, Weights, and Measures, Ancient and Modern, of all Nations, deduced into English on above 100 Tables.* Hence **deducing** vbl. n., deduction.

¶1530 PALSGR. 212/2 Deducyng, discours. ¶1532 MORE *Confut. Tindale* Wks. 461/2 Termes..of drawyng oute & deducinges and depending vpon scripture. ¶1651 HOBBS *Leviath.* ii. xxv. 133 Consisting in a deducing of the benefit, or hurt that may arise, etc. ¶1827 WHATELY *Logic* (1837) 258 The deducing of an inference from those facts.

deem v.

(di:m)

[A Common Teut. derivative vb.; OE. d^ooacu^oman, déman + OFris. déma, OS. a-dôman (Du. doemen), OHG. tuomian, tuomen (MHG. tüemen), ON. d^ooacu^oma (dæma), (Sw. döma, Da. dömmen), Goth. dômjān:—OTeut. *dômjān. f. dômo-z, Goth. dôm-s, judgement, doom. Cf. deme n., doom v.]

1. intr. To give or pronounce judgement; to act as judge, sit in judgement; to give one's decision, sentence, or opinion; to arbitrate. Obs.

In OE. construed with a dative of the person, 'to pronounce judgement to, act as judge to', equivalent to the trans. sense in 2.

¶c825 *Vesp. Psalter* ii. 10 Alle ða ðe doemað eorðan. ¶971 *Blickl. Hom.* 11 He cymeþ to demenne cwicum & deadum. ¶c1000 *Ag. Gosp. Matt.* vii. 2 Witodlice ðam ylcan dome þe ðe demað, eow byð ðedemed. Ibid. John viii. 15 Ge demað æfter flæsce, ic ne deme nanum men [¶c1160 *Hatton G.*, Ich ne deme nane men]. ¶a1300 *Cursor M.* 17415 (Cott.), If yee þan rightwisli wil deme, Yeild vs ioseph þat yee suld yeme. ¶1393 GOWER *Conf.* I. 304 They..toke a juge therupon..And bede him demen in this cas. ¶c1440 J. CAPGRAVE *St. Kath.* iii. 1464 She..spak and commaunded, bothe dempte and wrot. ¶1556 in W. H. Turner *Select. Rec. Oxford* 262 To arbytrate, deme, and judge betwixt the said Citie and..John Wayte. ¶1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* Aug. 137 Neuer dempt more right of beautye I weene The shepheard of Ida that iudged beauties Queene.

2. trans. To judge, sit in judgement on (a person or cause). Obs.

The construction with a personal object takes, in Northumbrian and ME., the place of the OE. const. with dative in 1.

¶c950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. vii. 2 In ðæm dome ðe doemes ðe biðon ðe-doemed [Rushw. Gl. ðe beoþ doemde]. ¶Ibid. John viii. 15 Ic ne doemo æniðne monno. ¶c1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 171 Ure drihten cumeð al midde-neard to demen. Ibid. 225 Þat sal deme þe quica and þe deade. ¶a1300 *Cursor M.* 2 1965 (COTT.), In þe first he com dempt to be. ¶1382 WYCLIF *John* xvi. 11 The prince of this world is now demyd. ¶1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 59/2 Moyses satte & juged & demed the peple fro moryng vnto euenyng. ¶1596 SPENSER *F.Q.* iv. iii. 4 At th' one side sixe iudges were dispo'sd, To view and deeme the deedes of armes that day. ¶1605 HEYWOOD *1st Pt. If you know not me* Wks. 1874 I. 203 Deeme her offences, if she haue offended, With all the lenity a sister can. ¶1609 SKENE *Reg. Maj.* 111 Thou Judge be ware, for as ye deme, ze sall be demed.

b. To rule (a people) as a judge. Obs.

¶a1300 *Cursor M.* 7283 (Cott.), Fourti yeir dempt he israel. ¶c1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 280 Edward now he wille, þat Scotlond be wele 3emed, And streitly in skille þorgh wise men demed.

c. To administer (law). arch.

¶1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. v. 175 By leel men and lyf-holy my lawe shal be demyd. ¶1718 BP. WILSON in *Keble Life* xii. (1863) 397 That..the 24 Keys may be called, according to the statute and constant practice to deem the law truly. ¶1887 HALL *Caine Deemster* viii. 54 The Deemster was a hard judge, and deemed the laws in rigour.

d. To decide (a quarrel). Obs.

¶1494 FABYAN *Chron.* v. cxxv. 105 To suffre his quarell to be demyd by dynt of swerde atwene them two.

3. To sentence, doom, condemn (to some penalty, to do or suffer something). Obs.

¶a1000 *Elene* 500 (Gr.) Swa he..to cwale moniðe Cristes folces demde, to deape. ¶c1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 73 He wurð idemed to þolien wawe mid dovelen in helle. ¶c1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 223 Þe sulle ben to deaðe idemd. ¶a1300 *Cursor M.* 15343 To-morn dai sal i be dempt On rode tre to hang. ¶c1386 CHAUCER *Sompn. T.* 316 For which I deme the to deth certayn. ¶1426 AUDELAY *Poems* 12 Leve he is a lyere, his dedis thai done hym deme. ¶1529 RASTELL *Pastyme* (1811) 243 For whiche rebellyon they were there

demyd to dethe. ¶1602 in *J. Mill Diary* (1889) 180 John Sinclair..is dempt to quyt his guddis.

b. fig. To pass (adverse) judgement upon; to condemn, censure. Obs.

¶a1300 *Cursor M.* 28148 (Cott.) Oþer men dedis oft i demyd. ¶1488 CAXTON *Chast. Goddes Chyld.* 21 Many thynges they deme and blame. ¶1500-20 DUNBAR *Poems* xviii. 36 Wist thir folkis that vthir demis, How that thair sawis to vthir semis. ¶1555-86 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xxxvii. 33 Do quhat 3e dow, detractouris ay will deme 3ou. ¶1598 D. FERGUSON *Scot. Prov.*, Dame, deem warily; ye watna wha wytes yersell.

4. To decree, ordain, appoint; to decide, determine; to adjudicate or award (a thing to a person).

¶c900 tr. *Bæda's Hist.* iv. xxix [xxviii.] (1891) 368 Ne wæs ða hweðre sona his halȝunge ȝedemed. ¶a1000 *Exeter Bk.* vii. 16 Næfre God demeð þæt æniȝ eft þæs earm ȝeweorðe. ¶c1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 95 He demað stiðne dom þam forsunenȝede. ¶c1205 LAY. 460 He habbeð idemed þat ich am duc ofer heom. Ibid. 22116 He hæhte alle cnihtes demen rihte domes. ¶a1300 *Cursor M.* 2 1445 (COTT.) Þe quen has biden us to deme To þe al þat to right es queme. ¶c1386 CHAUCER *Doctor's T.* 199, I deme anoon this clerk his seruaunt haue. ¶1399 *Rolls of Parlt.* III. 452/1 The Lordes..deme and ajuggen and decreen, that [etc.]. ¶c1400 *Destr. Troy* 606 Whateuer ye deme me to do. ¶1464 *Paston Lett.* No. 493 II. 166 Fynes therefore dempt or to be dempt. ¶1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 72/2 In demyng of rightful domes. ¶1503-4 *Act 19 Hen. VII*, c. 38 Preamb., It was enacted stablissed ordeyned demed & declared..that [etc.]. ¶1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 13 The Epistle, in the which Gregory..demed that the Church of Yorke and of London should be even Peres. ¶a1605 MONTGOMERIE *Flyting* 373 Syne duelie they deemde, what death it sould die.

b. To decide (to do something). Obs.

¶c1340 *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 1089 3e han demed to do þe dede þat I bidde.

5. To form or express a judgement or estimate on; to judge, judge of, estimate. Obs.

¶a1225 *Ancr. R.* 290 Euer bihold hire wurð þet he paide uor hire, and dem þerefter pris. ¶c1325 *E.E. Allit. P.* (A.) 312 To leue no tale be true to try3e, Bot þat hys one skyl may dem. ¶1388 WYCLIF *Matt.* xvi. 4 Thanne 3e kunne deme the face of heuene, but 3e moun not wite the tokenes of tymes. ¶c1400 *Rom. Rose* 2200 A cherle is demed by his dede. ¶1533 ELYOT *Cast.*

Helthe Proem (1541) A iv b, I desyre men to deme well myne intende. ¶1596 SPENSER *Hymne Love* 168 Things hard gotten men more dearely deeme.

b. To judge between (things), to distinguish, discern. Obs.

¶1530 PALSGR. 511/1 A blynde man can nat deme no coulours. ¶1581 RICH *Farewell* (1846) 67 He is not able to deeme white from blacke, good from badde, vertue from vice. ¶1596 SPENSER *F.Q.* v. i. 8 Thus she him taught In all the skill of deeming wrong and right.

c. intr. To judge of, to distinguish between.

¶1340 *Ayenb.* 82 Þet hi ne conne yknaue þane day uram þe nyȝt, ne deme betuene grat and smal. ¶a1542 WYAT *Of Courtiers Life* 94 Nor Flaunders chere lettes not my syght to deme Of blacke and white. ¶1586 A. DAY *Eng. Secretary* i. (1625) 27 Here, by judging of our estate, thou maist accordingly deeme of our pleasures. Ibid. ii. 111 Conversing among such as have discretion to deeme of a Gentleman.

6. To form the opinion, to be of opinion; to judge, conclude, think, consider, hold. (The ordinary current sense.)

a. intr. or absol. (Now chiefly parenthetical.)

¶a800 *Corpus Gloss.* 440 Censeo, doema. ¶c900 tr. *Bæda's Hist.* i. xvi. [xxvii.] (1890) 86 Pæs þe ic demo [ut arbitror]. ¶c1000 ÆLFRIC *Gram.* xxvi. (Z.) 155 Censeo ic deme oððe ic asmeaþe. ¶c1385 CHAUCER *L.G.W.* 1244 (*Dido*) And demede as hem liste. ¶c1386 *Clerk's T.* 932 For sche is fairer, as thay demen alle, Than is Grisild. ¶a1400 *Relig. Pieces fr. Thornton MS.* (1867) 20 To fele and with resone to deme. ¶1586 A. DAY *Eng. Secretary* ii. (1625) 15 He is not..here in the countrey, but as I deeme and you have enformed, about London. ¶1725 POPE *Odyss.* iii. 61 He too, I deem, implores the power divine.

b. with obj. and compl. (n., adj. or pple., or inf. phr.; formerly often with for, as).

¶a800 *Corpus Gloss.* 440 Censeo, doema. ¶c900 tr. *Bæda's Hist.* i. xvi. [xxvii.] (1890) 86 Pæs þe ic demo [ut arbitror]. c 1000 Ælfric *Gram.* xxvi. (Z.) 155 Censeo ic deme oððe ic asmeaþe. ¶c1205 LAY. 22140 Þene þe king demde for-lore. ¶a1225 *Ancr. R.* 120 Þet tu schalt demen þi suluen wod. ¶a1300 *Cursor M.* 26814 (Cott.) It mai nan him for buxum deme. ¶1340-70 *Alex. & Dind.* 218 Oure doctourus dere, demed for wise. ¶c1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 102, I demede him for deed. ¶c1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 5163 Pai demed it better all' to dye. ¶1548 HALL *Chron.* 191 b, What so ever jeoperdy or perill might bee construed or demed, to have insued. ¶1581 G. PETTIE

Guazzo's Civ. Conv. i. (1586) 35 A vertue which you deeme yourselfe to have.

¶1628 DIGBY *Voy. Medit.* 51, I deemed it much my best and shortest way.

¶1681 P. RYCAUT *Critick* 201 He went to the House of the World, which was always deemed for a Deceiver. ¶1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Past.* i. 9 For never can I deem him less than God. ¶1754 J. SHEBBEARE *Matrimony* (1766) I. 45 Deemed as very unjust in Gaming. ¶1827 JARMAN *Powell's Devises* II. 293 A general permission..appears to have been deemed sufficient.

¶1852 C. M. YONGE *Cameos* I. xxxii. 277 Harold..deemed it time to repress these inroads. ¶1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) V. 398 Works..which have been deemed to fulfil their design fairly.

c. with that and clause.

¶c1205 LAY. 24250 Men gunnen demen þat nes i nane londe burh nan swa hende. ¶c1386 CHAUCER *Man of Law's T.* 940, I ought to deme..That in the salte see my wyf is deed. ¶c1430 LYDG. *Bochas* i. ii. (1544) 5 a, Nembroth..Dempt..He transcended al other of noblesse. ¶c1450 *Merlin* 10 She demed that it was the enmy that so hadde hir begiled. ¶1597 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* v. i. (1611) 184 Wee may boldly deeme there is neither, where both are not. ¶1739 W. MELMOTH *Fitzosb. Lett.* (1763) 291 Nor dempt he, simple wight, no mortal may The blinded god..when he list, foresay. ¶1887 BOWEN *Virgil Æneid* ii. 371 (1889) 126 Deeming we come with forces allied.

7. intr. To judge or think (in a specified way) of a person or thing.

¶c1384 CHAUCER *H. Fame* ii. 88 Thow demest of thy selfe amys. ¶c1400 *Rom. Rose* 2198 Of hem noon other deme I can. ¶c1440 *Generydes* 4710 Wele I wote in hym ye demyd amys. ¶1581 SIDNEY *Apol. Poetrie* (Arb.) 24 Let vs see how the Greekes named it [Poetry], and howe they deemed of it. ¶1586 A. DAY *Eng. Secretary* i. (1625) 146, I shall..give you so good occasion to deeme well of me. ¶1667 MILTON *P.L.* viii. 599 Though higher of the genial Bed by far, And with mysterious reverence I deem. ¶1762 BLACKSTONE in *Gutch Coll. Cur.* II. 362 These capital mistakes..occasion'd the Editor..to deem with less reverence of this Roll. ¶1814 SCOTT *Wav.* lxi, Where the ties of affection were highly deemed of. ¶1860 J. P. KENNEDY *Horse Shoe* R. ix. 105, I cannot deem otherwise of them.

8. To think to do something, to expect, hope.

¶c1400 *Apol. Loll.* 51 Symon Magus..was reprouid of Petre, for he demid to possede þe zeft of God bi money. ¶1819 BYRON *Juan* ii. clxxii, A creature meant To be her happiness, and whom she deem'd To render happy.

9. trans. To think of (something) as existent; to guess, suspect, surmise, imag-

ine. Obs.

¶c1400 *Destr. Troy* 528 Ne deme no dishonesty in your derfe hert, þof I put me þus pertly my purpos to shewe. ¶1470-85 MALORY *Arthur* x. xxvi, As Kynge mark redde these letters, he demed treson by syr Tristram. ¶1586 A. DAY *Eng. Secretary* i. (1625) 114 Your imaginations doe already deeme the matter I must utter. ¶1598-9 *Parismus* i. (1661) 15 All the companie began to deeme that which afterward proued true.

b. intr. To think of, have a thought or idea of.

¶1814 CARY *Dante* (Chandos) 302 The shining of a flambeau at his back Lit sudden ere he deem of its approach. ¶1818 BYRON *Ch. Har.* iv. cxxxvii, Something unearthly which they deem not of.

10. trans. To pronounce, proclaim, celebrate, announce, declare; to tell, say, utter. Also intr. with of. [An exclusively poetic sense, found already in OE., probably derived from sense 4. Cf. also ON. *dœacuṃma* in poetry, to talk.]

¶a1000 *Fat. Apost.* (Gr.) 10 Þær hie dryhtnes æ deman sceoldon, rec-can fore rincum. ¶a1000 *Guthlac* (Gr.) 498 Þæt we æfæstra dæde demen, secðen dryhtne lof ealra þara bisena. ¶c1205 LAY. 23059 Ælles ne cunne we demen. ¶[c1275 *telle*] of Arðures deden. ¶c1325 *E.E. Allit. P. C.* 119 Dyngne Dauid..þat demed þis speche, In a psalme. ¶c1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 154 Alle þer lymmes, how þai besemed, In his buke has Dares demed, Both of Troie & of Grece. ¶c1350 *Will. Palerne* 151 Hire deth was neiȝ diȝt, to deme þe soþe. ¶a1400-50 *Alexander* 1231 Þan he dryfes to þe duke, as demys [Dubl. MS. *tellys*] þe textis. ¶a1547 SURREY *Aeneid* ii. 156 Then some gan deme to me The cruell wreck of him that framde the craft [crudele canebant artificis scelus].

b. with double obj. To celebrate as, style, call, name. poetic. Obs.

¶c1325 *E.E. Allit. P. B.* 1020 Forþy þe derk dede see hit is demed euer more. ¶*Ibid.* 1611 Baltazar..Pat now is demed Danyel of derne coninges.

Webster

The list of words is selected from *Webster Dictionary of Synonyms*.

hoard ^{v.}

(hɔəd)

[OE. hordian, f. hord hoard n.1 (Cf. Goth. huzdjan, OHG. gihurten, MHG. gehürten, MG. gehorden, which belong to a different conjugation.)]

1. trans. To amass and put away (anything valuable) for preservation, security, or future use; to treasure up: esp. money or wealth.

¶1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* II. 104 Hordiað eowerne goldhord on heofenum.

¶1200 ORMIN 12281 Gredizliȝ to sammnenn all & hordenn þatt tu winnesst.

¶1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 98 b, To helpe other with them, and not inordynately to hoorde & kepe them. ¶1530 PALSGR. 588/2, I hourde, je amasse. Declared in 'I hoorde'.

¶1535 COVERDALE *Prov.* xi. 26 Who so hoordeth vp his corne, shalbe cursed amonge the people. ¶1548 UDALL, etc. *Erasm. Par. Matt.* v. 36 Whorded and heaped up. ? a ¶1550 in *Dun-*

bar's Poems (1893) 306 Gif thow hes a benefice, Preiss nevir to hurde the kirkis gude.

¶1573 G. HARVEY *Letter-bk.* (Camden) 8 He did not wel to hord it up.

¶1583 STANYHURST *Æneis* ii. (Arb.) 68 Theere Troian treasur is hurded.

¶1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* 136 The Granaries of Joseph: wherein he hoorded corne.

¶1635 A. STAFFORD *Fem. Glory* (1869) 124 Whereof the Rich hide and hoard up their wealth.

¶1702 ADDISON *Dial. Medals* (1727) 25 Hoarding up such pieces of money. ¶1840 HOOD *Kilmansegg, Moral*, Gold! Gold! Gold! Gold!..Hoarded, barter'd, bought and sold.

¶1878 JEVONS *Prim. Pol. Econ.* 22 If the rich man actually hoards up his money in the form of gold or silver, he gets no advantage from it.

b. absol.

¶1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* I. 66 Seðe hordað, and nat hwam he hit æe-gadarað. ¶1300 E.E. *Psalter* xxxviii. 7 [xxxix. 6] He hordes, and he wate nocht To wham þat he samenes oght.

¶1590 SPENSER *F.Q.* i. x. 38 He..Ne car'd to hoord for those whom he did breede. ¶1842 TENNYSON *Ulysses* 5 A savage race, That hoard, and sleep, and feed, and know not me. ¶1860 EMERSON *Cond. Life, Wealth* Wks. (Bohn) II. 349 They should own who can administer; not they who hoard and conceal.

2. fig. and transf. To keep in store, cherish, treasure up, conceal (e.g. in the heart).

¶1340 *Ayenb.* 182 þet greate lost þet god hordeþ and wyteþ to ham þet ouercomeþ þe aduersetes of þise wordle. c ¶1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 321 Crist..lokyng on þe citee..wepte þer upon for greet synne þat it hoordede. ¶1596 SPENSER *F.Q.* iv. xi. 43 The goodly Barow which doth hoord Great heapes of salmons in his deepe bosome. ¶1699 DRYDEN *Ep. to J. Driden* 117 You hoard not health for your own private use; But on the public spend the rich produce. ¶1789 BURKE *Corr.* (1844) III. 119 Revenge will be smothered and hoarded. ¶1821 B. CORNWALL *Mirandola* iv. i, Half of the ills we hoard within our hearts Are ills because we hoard them. ¶1870 MORRIS *Earthly Par.* I. i. 370.

3. intr. in reflexive or passive sense: To lie treasured up, lie hid. Obs. rare.

¶1567 TURBERV. *Epit. & Sonn.* *Wks.* (1837) 300 In common weales what beares a greater sway Than hidden hate that hoordes in haughtie brest?

inculcate v.

(ˈɪnkʌlpeɪt, ɪnˈkʌlpeɪt)

[f. med. L. *inculpāt-*, ppl. stem of *inculpāre*, f. *in-* (in-2) + *culpāre* to blame; cf. *exculpate*. As to the pronunciation, see *contemplate*.]

1. trans. To bring a charge against; to accuse; to blame, find fault with.

¶1799 S. TURNER *Anglo-Sax.* I. iii. iii. 173 Gildas inculcates him for having destroyed his uncle. ¶1833 I. TAYLOR *Fanat.* vi. 185 We should be slow to inculcate motives. ¶1846 DE QUINCEY *Glance Wks. Mackintosh Wks.* XIII. 65 The poor lady could have had no rational motive for inculcating herself.

2. To involve in a charge; to incriminate.

¶1897 M. KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 427 Attempting to exculpate himself and inculcate Dr. Nassau for not having told him one was necessary.

Hence **inculcated**, **inculpating** ppl. adjs.

¶1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. iii. ix, Will not perhaps the inculcated Deputies consent to withdraw voluntarily? ¶1864 *Daily Tel.* 8 June, Major-General Dix..was..ordered forthwith to stop the further publication of the inculcated newspapers. ¶1892 *Pall Mall G.* 15 Mar. 2/3, I think it is generally felt that the inculcating lie is more serious than the exculpating falsehood.

incriminate v.

(in'krimineit)

[f. ppl. stem of med.L. *incrīmīnāre* to accuse, f. *in-* (in-2) + *crīmīnāre* to criminate; perh. partly due to F. *incriminer* (1791 in Hatz.-Darm.).]

trans. To charge with a crime; to involve in an accusation or charge.

¶1730-6 BAILEY (folio), To incriminate, to recriminate. ¶1828 WEBSTER, *Incriminate*, to accuse; to charge with a crime or fault. ¶1862 WRAX-ALL *Hugo's 'Misérables'* v. xi, Their theory is incriminated. ¶1874 SYMONDS *Sk. Italy & Greece* (1898) I. xi. 220 It would be wrong to incriminate the Order of S. Francis by any suspicion. ¶1885 *Manch. Exam.* 6 June 5/3 Evidence which will incriminate others while it clears themselves.

Hence **incriminated**, **incriminating** ppl. adjs.

¶1858 *Times* 27 Nov. 8/2 Any incriminated phrase of Montalembert's pamphlet. ¶1863 KINGLAKE *Crimea* I. xiv. 231 This Maupas, or de Maupas..deliberately offered to arrange that incriminating papers..should be secretly placed in the houses of the men whom he wanted to have accused. ¶1875 STUBBS *Const. Hist.* III. xix. 343 If the ordinary claimed the incriminated clerk. ¶1882 TRAILL *Sterne* iv. 40 An excuse for the incriminated passage.

arraign v.

(ə'rein)

[a. AF. *araine-r*, *areine-r*, *arene-r*, OF. *arais-*, *areis-*, *aresnier*:—L. *adratiōnāre*, f. *ad* to + *rationāre* to reason, talk reasonably, talk, f. *ration-em* reason, reasoning, discourse. The later F. *raisonner* was adopted in Eng. as *areason*.]

1. trans. To call (a person) to account, or to answer for himself; to interrogate, examine. Obs.

¶1325 *E.E. Allit.* P. C. 191 Arayned hym [Jonah] ful runyschly what raysoun he hade..to slepe so faste. c ¶1360 MERCY 85 in *E.E.P.* (1862) 121 Peose are þe werkes of Merci, Of whuche crist wol vs areyne. ¶1387 TREVISA *Higden* Rolls Ser. IV. 303 Augustus areyned [interrogavit] hym and seide. ¶1447 O. BOKENHAM *Lyvys of Seyntys* 15 He hyr thus areynynd wyth a pale faas.

2. esp. To call upon one to answer for himself on a criminal charge; to indict before a tribunal. Hence gen. To accuse, charge with fault.

¶1400 *Leg. Rood* 147 To a-rene Wrecches þat wrappe þi chylde. ¶1450 SOMNER in 4 *C. Eng. Lett.* 4 He was arreynd upon the appechements and fonde gylty. c ¶1450 HENRYSON *Mor. Fa.* 42 The Sheepe againe before the Wolfe arenzied. ¶1528 MORE *Heresyes* iii. Wks. 212/2 Yt were arreynd for a felonye. ¶1542 BRINKLOW *Complaynt* v. (1874) 18 The day whan ye shal be reygnd at the iudgement seate of God. ¶1611 SHAKES. *Wint. T.* iii. ii. 14 Thou art here accused and arraigned of High Treason. ¶1722 DE FOE *Moll Fl.* (1840) 310, I was carried down to the Sessions house, where I was arraigned. ¶1754 RICHARDSON *Grandison* IV. xxiv. 177 Lady Olivia is grieved..and arraigns herself and her wicked passion. ¶1876 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* IV. xviii. 129 For that crime he was arraigned..before the King and his Witan.

3. To accuse of some fault or imperfection, impeach, call in question, find fault with (actions, measures, statements, opinions).

¶1672 DRYDEN *Conq. Granada* i. i, Judge-like thou sit'st, to praise or to arraign The flying Skirmish of the darted Cane. ¶1772 JUNIUS *Lett.* Pref. 10 They arraign the goodness of Providence. ¶1776 GIBBON *Decl. & F. I.* xxiv. 681 He boldly arraigned the abuses of public and private life. ¶1820 BYRON *Mar. Fal.* v. i. 269 You do not then..arraign our equity?

b. absol.

¶1746 SMOLLETT *Reproof* 202 And let me still the sentiment disdain Of him, who never speaks but to arraign.

4. To try, judge. Obs. rare.

¶1623 HEMING & COND. in *Shaks. C. Praise* 145 Though you be a Magistrate of wit, and sit on the Stage..to arraigne Playes dailie.

5. To sentence, condemn. Obs. rare.

¶1658 J. ROWLAND *Mouffet's Theat. Ins.* 1102 When they finde they are arraigned to die.

piquant a. (n.)

(ˈpɪkənt)

[a. F. piquant (picquant), pr. pple. of piquer to prick, sting: see pick v.1, pique v.1 The form piccant was ad. It. piccante. In 19th c. authors, piquante (pɪˈkɑːnt) usually represents the Fr. fem. piquante (pikɑ̃t).]

A. adj.

1. That pierces or stings; esp. sharp or stinging to the feelings; keen, trenchant; severe, bitter. Chiefly fig. Obs. or arch.

¶1521 WOLSEY in *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, I. 43 Notwith~standing the pickande wordes conteigned in thEmperours letters. ¶1549 CHALONER *Erasm. on Folly* M iij, Who is he so blunt and restiue, that could not with theyr pickant spurres be quickened? ¶1591 CONINGSBY *Siege Rouen* in *Camden Misc.* (1847) I. 29 This daie the marshall wrote a letter..a lytle pickante.

¶1651 *Life Father Sarpi* (1676) 32 By some picquant words or arguteness to put them into choler. ¶1654 tr. *Scudery's Curia Pol.* 6 The pangs of the Gout are so sharpe and picquant. ¶1789 E. DARWIN *Let.* in *Life* (1879) 37 Never to make any piquant or angry answer. ¶1868 LANIER *Jacquerie* i. 131 Urged him on With piquant spur.

b. Sharp-pointed, peaked. Obs. rare.

¶1650 BULWER *Anthropomet.* 261 When sharp piquant Toes were altogether in request.

2. Agreeably pungent or sharp of taste; sharp, stinging, biting; stimulating or whetting to the appetite; appetizing.

¶1645 HOWELL *Lett.* I. v. xxxviii, [A cook] excellent for a pickant sawce and the haugou. ¶1656 STANLEY *Hist. Philos.* v. II. 78 The differences of Sapours are seven; sweet, sharp, sowre, picqueant, salt, acid, bitter. ¶1704 ADDISON *Italy* (1733) 301 As piquant to the Tongue as Salt it self. ¶1827 DISRAELI *Viv. Grey* v. xiii, As piquant as an anchovy toast. ¶1840 THACKERAY *Paris Sk.-bk.* (1872) 227 A piquant sauce for supper.

3. fig. That acts upon the mind as a piquant sauce, or the like, upon the palate; that stimulates or excites keen interest or curiosity; pleasantly stimulating or disquieting.

¶1695 *Whether Parlt. be not in Law dissolved*, etc. 47 It falls below being piquant, and keeps within the Limits and Precincts of Modesty. ¶1706 *Art of Painting* 319 He [Rembrandt] design'd an infinite Number of Thoughts, that were as sensible and as Picquant as the Productions of the best Masters. ¶1792 M. WOLLSTONECRAFT *Rights Wom.* iv. 144 Their husbands..leave home to seek for a more agreeable—may I be allowed to use a significant French word?—piquant society. ¶1819 J. W. CROKER in *C. Papers* 24 Aug., Your notices of literary works should be short, light, and piquant. ¶1849 C. BRONTË *Shirley* vi, She disapproved entirely of the piquant neatness of Caroline's costume. ¶1879 TOURGEE *Fool's Err.* xxxv. 235 These charms combined to render her an exceedingly piquant and charming maiden. ¶1885

MABEL *Collins Prettiest Woman* xv, This lovely girl had not Wanda's piquant, pretty face.

b. After F. *piquante* fem.

¶1823 SCOTT *Peveril* xxxix, The monkey has a turn for satire, too, by all that is piquante. ¶1850 SMEDLEY *F. Fairlegh* (1894) 52 Lucy's..what you call piquante. ¶1873 SMILES *Huguenots Fr.* i. i. (1881) 3 That picquante letter-writer, Madame de Sévigné. ¶1898 RIDER *Haggard Dr. Thorne* i. 15 The face of a rather piquante and pretty girl.

B. n. rare. That which is piquant. **a.** A hedgehog's prickle; **b.** A piquant dish; a whet.

¶1835 KIRBY *Hab. Anim.* II. xvii. 213 The two most remarkable animals in the insectivorous tribe..are the mole, and the hedgehog,..the latter for its piquants, and the former for its hand turned outwards. ¶1843 P. Parley's *Ann.* IV. 239 He pined for the piquants—he had dreams of the savouries.

Hence **piquantly** adv., in a piquant manner; **piquantness** (rare), piquancy.

¶1697 POTTER *Antiq. Greece* i. xxvi. (1715) 158 If an Orator..hath been piquantly Censorious. ¶1703 *Art & Myst. Vintners* 17 Claret loseth much of its Briskness and Picquantness. ¶1727 BAILEY vol. II, *Piquantness*, ..sharpness, bitingness. ¶1882 W. H. BISHOP in *Harper's Mag.* Dec. 54/2 The village is piquantly foreign. ¶1922 JOYCE *Ulysses* 399 Blushing piquantly and whispering in my ear. ¶1955 *Times* 10 May 3/7 M. Claude Barma's production was most piquantly revealing. ¶1971 *Daily Tel.* 16 July 11/8 With a cast of two, it presents a piquantly rounded theme.

suave a. (adv.)

(swa:v, formerly also sweiv)

[a. F. suave (16th cent.), a 'learned' formation which took the place of the 'popular' OF. soef, suef (suaif):—L. suāvis sweet, agreeable:—*swādwis, f. swād- (see sweet a.).]

1. Pleasing or agreeable to the senses or the mind; sweet.

¶1560 A. SCOTT *Poems* (S.T.S.) vii. 29 Adew þe fragrant balme suaif, And lamp of ladeis lustiest! ¶1598 QUEEN ELIZABETH *Plutarch* ix. 3 The suafes thing that Silence dothe Expres. ¶1694 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* v. Epist. 251 These Times..alterate the suavest Pulchritude. ¶1849 C. BRONTË *Shirley* xxvi, To whom the husky oat-cake was from custom suave as manna.

¶1859 MISS MULOCK *Life for a Life* xvii, To break the suave harmony of

things. ¶1878 H. S. WILSON *Alpine Ascents* iii. 99 The suaver white hoods of snow summits.

2. Gracious, kindly. Also advb. Sc. Obs.

¶1501 DOUGLAS *Pal. Hon.* iii. ii, Thir musis gudelië and suaue. c ¶1550 ROLLAND *Crt. Venus* ii. 76 The nine Musis sweit and swaue. c ¶1560 A. SCOTT *Poems* (S.T.S.) i. 214 Resaif swaif, and haif ingraif it heir. *Ibid.* xxxvi. 73 Sweit Lord, to Syon be suave.

3. Of persons, their manner: Blandly polite or urbane; soothingly agreeable. (Cf. *suavity* 4.)

¶1831 F. REYNOLDS *Playwright's Adventures* iv. 63 St Alm was anything but suave. ¶1847 C. BRONTË *J. Eyre* xiv, He..showed a solid enough mass of intellectual organs, but an abrupt deficiency where the suave sign of benevolence should have risen. ¶1853 *Villette* xxi, The rare passion of the constitutionally suave, and serene, is not a pleasant spectacle. ¶1853 LYTTON *My Novel* iii. xxvi, A slight disturbance of his ordinary suave and well-bred equanimity. ¶1863 GEO. ELIOT *Romola* xxxi, Doubtless the suave secretary had his own ends to serve. ¶1898 J. A. OWEN *Hawaii* iii. 55 Oahumi was quite captivated by the plausible, suave manners of the ingratiating southern chief.

Comb. ¶1894 MAX O'RELL *J. Bull & Co.* 30 These suave-looking people, far away in the Pacific Ocean.

bland a.

(blænd)

[ad. L. bland-us soft, smooth, caressing.]

1. Of persons, their actions, etc.: Smooth and suave in manner; mildly soothing or coaxing: gentle.

¶1661 PEPYS *Diary* 12 Sept., With some bland counsel of his. ¶1667 MILTON *P.L.* ix. 855 With bland words at will. ¶1774 GOLDSM. *Retal.* 140 His manners were gentle, complying, & bland. ¶1801 SOUTHEY *Garci Ferrand.* ii. iii, Winning eye and action bland. ¶1828 CARLYLE *Misc.* (1857) I. 93 Bland satire on his friends. ¶1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* III. 439 A bland temper and winning manners. ¶1878 BLACK *Green Past.* xv. 120 A bland and benevolent face.

2. Of things: Soft, mild, pleasing to the senses; gentle, genial, balmy, soothing.

¶1667 MILTON *P.L.* v. 5 Temperat vapours bland. ¶1820 KEATS *St. Agnes* xi, The sound of merriment and chorus bland. ¶1872 C. KING *Sierra Nev.* vi. 122 The air was bland, the heavens cloudless.

b. Of medicines: Mild, unirritating. Of food: Not stimulating. (Cf. quot. 1667 in 2.)

¶1836 TODD *Cycl. Anat. & Phys.* I. 671/2 A very small force only is requisite to cause bland fluids to follow the course of blood. ¶1876 DUHRING *Dis. Skin* 92 Bland oils are serviceable in softening scales and crusts. ¶1878 HOLBROOK *Hyg. Brain* 111 The food should be bland.
quasi-advb. (in poetry).

¶1596 SPENSER *Hymn to Beauty* 171 That base affection, which your eares would bland Commend to you by Loves abused name. ¶1850 MRS. BROWNING *Poet's Vow* ii, They clasping bland his gift.

divulge v.

(di'vʌldʒ, daɪ-)

[ad. L. *dīvulgā-re* to spread abroad among the people, make common, f. *dī-*, *dis-* 1 + *vulgāre* to make common, publish; cf. F. *divulguer* (14th c.), but the palatalized g in English is abnormal.]

1. trans. To make publicly known, to publish abroad (a statement, etc.). Obs.

¶1460 J. CAPGRAVE *Chron.* 1 It is somewhat divulgid in this lond, that I have aftir my possibilitie be occupied in wryting. ¶1490 CAXTON *Eneydos* vi. 25 Fame of his ourages hath ben dyuulged. ¶1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. IV* (an. 3) 20 Whiche fraude the Kyng caused openly to be published and divulged. ¶1669 GALE *Crt. Gentiles* i. ii. i. 4 Their fables they divulge, first by Hymns and Songs. ¶1768 H. WALPOLE *Hist. Doubts* 14 It is impossible to believe the account as fabricated and divulged by Henry the Seventh. ¶1791 COWPER *Iliad* i. 133 Among the Danai thy dreams Divulging.

b. To proclaim (a person, etc.) publicly. Obs.

¶1598 SHAKES. *Merry W.* iii. ii. 42, I will divulge Page himselfe for a secure and wilfull Acteon. ¶1671 MILTON *P.R.* iii. 60 When God..with approbation marks The just man, and divulges him through Heaven To all his angels.

c. To publish (a book or treatise). Obs.

¶1566 in *Strype Ann. Ref.* I. xlvi. 517 That treatise..so publickly by print divulged and dispersed. ¶1644 MILTON *Areop.* (Arb) 53 Ye must repeal

and proscribe all scandalous and unlicenc't books already printed and divulg'd. ¶1709 STRYPE *Ann. Ref.* I. lvii. 629 Divers other articles..propounded and divulged abroad by the said Cartwright.

2. To declare or tell openly (something private or secret); to disclose, reveal.

¶1602 MARSTON *Ant. & Mel. Induct.* Wks. 1856 I. 4, I will ding his spirit to the verge of hell, that dares divulge a ladies prejudice. ¶1671 MILTON *Samson* 201 Who..have divulg'd the secret gift of God To a deceitful woman.

¶1797 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Italian* xxvi, Command him to divulge the crimes confessed to him. ¶1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* I. ii. 268 Cowardly traitors hastened to save themselves, by divulging all..that had passed in the deliberations of the party.

3. transf. To make common, impart generally. [A Latinism.] Obs. rare.

¶1667 MILTON *P.L.* viii. 583 The sense of touch..would not be To them made common & divulg'd.

4. intr. (for refl.) To become publicly known. rare.

¶1602 SHAKES. *Ham.* iv. i. 22 To keepe it [a disease] from divulging, let's it feede Euen on the pith of life. ¶1890 CHILD *Ballads* vii. cxciv. 29 Nothing seems to have been done to keep the murder from divulging.

Hence **divulged** ppl. a.; **divulging** vbl. n. and ppl. a.

¶1601 SHAKES. *All's Well* ii. i. 174 A divulged shame Traduc'd by odious ballads. ¶1604 *St. Trials, Hampton Crt. Confer.* (R.), There is no such licentious divulging of these books. ¶1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 555 That which divulged fame doth perswade the believers. ¶1614 T. ADAMS *Devil's Banquet* 338 Cease your obstreperous clamours, and divulging slanders. ¶1883 *Daily News* 20 July 6/2 An action brought for alleged divulging of telegrams.

gainsay v.

(ˈgeɪnseɪ, ˈgeɪn'seɪ)

[f. gain- prefix 1 + say v. Now a purely literary word, and slightly arch. The stress is even or variable; the vbl. n. is commonly 'gainsaying. In gainsaid the last syllable is usually (-sed).]

1. trans. To deny.

¶1300 *Cursor M.* 883 (Gött.) All þis may scho noght gain say. c ¶1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 154 If he it geynsay, I wille proue it on him. ¶1489

CAXTON *Faytes of A.* i. i. 8 Yf it happene that ye said aduersarye delyuer deffences & wyll gaynsaye it. ¶1530 PALSGR. 560/1 If I have sayd it I wyll nat gayne saye it. c ¶1570 *Pride & Lowl.* (1841) 22 That this is true and may not be denyed, I wyll averre, and yf he it gayne say, I am content by verdict it be tryed. a ¶1619 M. FOTHERBY *Atheom.* i. viii. § 1. (1622) 55 He, which dare gain-say a thing so generally received. ¶1682 BUNYAN *Holy War* 113 He that gainsays the truth of this must lie against his Soul. ¶1728 T. SHERIDAN *Persius* vi. (1739) 91 Gainsay it if you dare. ¶1826 E. IRVING *Babylon* II. vii. 168 Whether he will in person appear..we dare neither say nor gainsay.

¶1867 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1876) I. vi. 498 Facts which cannot be gainsayed. ¶1874 G. W. DASENT *Tales fr. Fjeld* 350 So when the Sheriff asked him Matt did not gainsay that he had slain the parson.

2. To speak against, contradict.

¶1340 *Cursor M.* 14817 (Fairf.) Nane man may him gaine-sagh. [The other texts have n.] c ¶1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 2086, Bot oft tymes schortely him gainsayed. ¶1581 J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Osor.* 506 Not we onelye do gaynesay you, but the whole authority of Gods Testament doth determine agaynst you. ¶1689–92 LOCKE *Toleration* iii. x. Wks. 1727 II. 463 And that certainly you may think safely, and without fear of being gain-said. ¶1742 R. BLAIR *Grave* 230 The Grave gainsays the smooth-complexion'd Flattery, And with blunt Truth acquaints us what we are. ¶1874 CARPENTER *Ment. Phys.* i. viii. (1879) 374 We have evidence that can scarcely be gainsaid.

3. To speak or act against, oppose, hinder.

¶1340 *Cursor M.* 5769 (Trin.) Þat þei not 3ein seye [earlier texts say again] my sonde wiþ my tokenes þou shalt hem fonde. c ¶1440 *York Myst.* x. 198 My lord god will I noght gayne-saye. c ¶1489 CAXTON *Blanchardyn* xxxviii. 143 That wold hem lete or gaynsey thentre therof. ¶1550 CROWLEY *Way to Wealth* B iv, No man durste gaine saye your doinges for feare of displeasure.

¶1601 R. JOHNSON *Kingd. & Commw.* (1603) 34 The waters..gainsaid and put a period to their further progresses. ¶1667 MILTON *P.L.* ix. 1158 Too facil then thou didst not much gainsay, Nay didst permit, approve, and fair dismiss. ¶1768 BEATTIE *Minstr.* i. xlix, Or shall frail man heaven's dread decree gainsay. ¶1826 SCOTT *Woodst.* ii, 'Yet be ruled, dearest father, and submit to that which we cannot gainsay.' ¶1852 M. ARNOLD *Empedocles on Etna* i. ii, Why is it, that still Man..believes Nature outraged if his will's gainsaid?

4. To refuse. rare.

¶1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 9 Kynewolf..toke þe feaute of þe kynges alle..Bot of Kent and Lyndesay and Northumberland. Þise þre kynges geysaid it hym. c ¶1532 G. DU WES *Introd. Fr. in Palsgr.* 923 To be gainsayeng and refusyng good counsayle. ¶1575 R. B. *Appius & Virg.* in Hazl. *Dodsley* IV. 126 Would I gainsay her tender skin to bathe, where I do wash? ¶1667 PEPYS *Diary* (1879) IV. 310 It is not in his nature to gainsay anything that relates to his pleasures.

impugn v.

(im'pju:n)

[a. F. *impugner* (1363 in Godefroy) = Pr. *im-*, *enpugnar*, Sp. *impugnar*, It. *impugnare*, ad. L. *impugnāre* to attack, assail, f. *im-* (*im-*1) + *pugnāre* to fight.]

1. trans. To fight against: to attack, assail, assault (a person, city, etc.). Obs.

¶1382 WYCLIF *1 Macc.* xi. 41 Thei inpungned Yrael. ¶1388 *Judg.* ix. 44 He roos..and enpugnyde [1382 *azenfi3tynge*] and bisegide the citee. c ¶1450 tr. *De Imitatione* iii. xl. 110 Þou dwellist amonge enemyes, þou art impugned on þe ri3t honde & on þe lifte honde. ¶1553 BECON *Reliques of Rome* (1563) 264 We are set in a slipperye place, and are impugned of deuills. ¶1603 KNOLLES *Hist. Turks* (1621) 35 He..laid siege unto Damascus..which he so notably impugned, that [etc.].

fig. ¶1651 HOBBS *Leviath.* Ded., The Outworks of the Enemy, from whence they impugne the Civill Power.

b. To fight in resistance against; to withstand, resist, oppose. Obs.

¶1577 HANMER *Anc. Eccl. Hist.* (1619) 43 Josephus..which himselfe also at the first impugned the Romaines. ¶1591 *Troub. Raigne K. John* ii. (1611) 107 Only the heart impugnes with faint resist The fierce inuade of him that conquers Kings. ¶1611 SPEED *Hist. Gt. Brit.* ix. v. §25 God..will not leaue vs succourlesse, whiles in a just cause, we impugne a most vnjust Intruder. ¶1660 F. BROOKE tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 223 To impugn with all his power the Moores, Jews, and Idolaters.

transf. ¶1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* vi. v. 291 The defect of alteration would utterly impugne the generation of all things.

2. To assail (an opinion, statement, document, action, etc.) by word or argument; to call in question; to dispute the truth, validity, or correctness of; to oppose as false or erroneous.

¶1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. viii. 155 Al þis makeþ me..to þenken..On Pers þe plouhmon and which a pardoun he hedde, And hou þe preost inpugnede hit. c ¶1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 350 Þes sectis inpungnen þe gospel, and also þe olde lawe. ¶1415 HOCCEVE *To Sir J. Oldcastle* 172 No man wolde Impugne hir right. ¶1494 FABYAN *Chron.* ii. xliii. 29 This sayinge contraryeth and enpugnyth myne Auctor Gaufride. ¶1549 *Compl. Scot. To Rdr.* 12 Detractione..reddy to suppedit & tyl impung ane verteous verk. a ¶1614 DONNE *Βιθανατος* (1644) 124 No man hath as yet, to my knowledge, impugned this custome of ours. ¶1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* i. v. 642 It cannot be accounted less than extreme sottishness and stupidity of mind..thus to impugn a Deity. ¶1777 WATSON *Philip II* (1793) I. v. 181 An opinion which in France had always been impugned and rejected. ¶1847 DISRAELI *Tancred* i. v, The saint was scarcely canonised, before his claims to beatitude were impugned.

b. To assail the actions, question the statements, etc. of (a person); to find fault with, accuse. Now rare.

¶1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. xiii. 123 One Pieres þe ploughman hath inpugned vs alle, And sette alle sciences at a soppe, saue loue one. ¶1491 CAXTON *Vitas Patr.* (W. de W. 1495) iii. iii. 318 b/1 Many hated hym & specyally theretykes; for he cessed not to enpugne & repreef theym. ¶1530 LYNDE-SAY *Test. Papyngo* 13 Quho dar presume thir Poetis tyll Impung, Quhose sweit sentence throuch Albione bene sung? ¶1596 SHAKES. *Merch.* V. iv. i. 179 Yet in such rule, that the Venetian Law Cannot impugne you as you do proceed. ¶1879 FARRAR *St. Paul* xl. II. 323 note, The Law, for the supposed apostasy from which he was impugned.

Hence **impugned** ppl. a.; **impugning** vbl. n. and ppl. a.

¶1400 *Apol. Loll.* 73 Inpungning of þe law of God. c ¶1440 *Jacob's Well* (E.E.T.S.) 276 It techyth þe..to defende þi feyth wyth resouns fro inpugnyng of heretykes. ¶1599 SANDYS *Europæ Spec.* (1632) 94 For defence of impugned truth. ¶1802–12 BENTHAM *Rat. Judic. Evid.* (1827) III. 204 It should be allowable..to call upon the impugning witness..to declare [etc.]. ¶1860 *Sat. Rev.* IX. 145/2 The impugned department will send down..a cohort of witnesses.

repudiate v.

(rɪ'pjʊdiət)

[f. L. repudiāt-, ppl. stem of repudiāre to divorce, reject, etc., f. repudium repudy n.]

1. trans.

a. Of a husband: To put away or cast off (his wife); to divorce, dismiss.

¶1545 JOYE *Exp. Dan.* xi. 185 This Antiochus repudiated his own wyfe called Laodice. ¶1597 BEARD *Theatre God's Judgem.* (1612) 414 Hugh Spencer..was he that first persuaded the king to forsake and repudiate the queene his wife. ¶1663 H. COGAN tr. *Pinto's Trav.* lx. 245 He had repudiated a daughter of his, which he had married three years before. ¶1716 BOLINGBROKE *Refl. upon Exile Wks.* 1754 I. 112 His separation from Terentia, whom he repudiated not long afterward, was perhaps an affliction to him at this time. ¶1850 W. IRVING *Mahomet* vii. (1853) 37 Abu Labab and his wife..compelled their son, Otha, to repudiate his wife. ¶1870 EDGAR *Runnymede* xxxv. 202 The pope forced her husband to repudiate her.

b. To cast off, disown (a person or thing).

¶1699 BENTLEY *Phal.* 316 Other Writers; who being Dorians born, repudiated their vernacular Idiom for that of the Athenians. ¶1844 DICKENS *Mart. Chuz.* xvi, He felt it necessary..to repudiate and denounce his father. ¶1855 PRESCOTT *Philip II*, I. i. iii. 31 England, after repudiating her heresies, was received into the fold of the Roman Catholic Church. ¶1873 *Daily News* 12 Sept. 4/4 M. de Mahy..called upon the Ministers to repudiate the document.

2. To reject; to refuse to accept or entertain (a thing) or to have dealings with (a person).

¶1548 HALL *Chron., Hen.* VII 1 b, The damosell dyd not alonly disagree and repudiate that matrimony, but abhorred..his..desyre. ¶1674 *Govt. Tongue* 100 O let not those that have repudiated the more inviting sins, show themselves philtr'd and bewitch'd by this. ¶1837 LOFFT *Self-form.* II. 63 Gladly would we have repudiated the property..so heavily bestowed upon us.

¶1862 BEVERIDGE *Hist. India* II. vi. viii. 802 If they repudiated the empire placed within their reach, some other power would certainly seize it. ¶1879 M. ARNOLD *Mixed Ess.* 32 Not only did the whole repudiate the physician, but also those who were sick.

b. To reject (opinions, conduct, etc.) with condemnation or abhorrence.

¶1824–9 LANDOR *Imag. Conv., Lucian & Timotheus*, You have acknowledged his eloquence, while you..repudiated his morals. ¶1840 HERSCHEL

Ess. (1857) 109 A doctrine which..we must repudiate. ¶1865 R. W. DALE *Jew. Temp.* viii. (1877) 85, I repudiate the dreams of Pantheism.

c. To reject (a charge, etc.) with denial, as being quite unfounded or inapplicable.

¶1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* iii. i, The old man shook his head, gently repudiating the imputation. ¶1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* viii. §6. 525 Politically it repudiated the taunt of revolutionary aims.

3. To reject as unauthorized or as having no authority or binding force on one.

¶1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 42 He hath obtained with some to repudiate the books of Moses. ¶1692 BENTLEY *Boyle Lect.* ix. 304 Repudiating at once the whole Authority of Revelation. ¶1837 LOFFT *Self-form.* II. 174, I had repudiated the second hand faculty as vain..and delusive. ¶1852 H. ROGERS *Ecl. Faith* (1853) 74 You would repudiate at once his claims..to be your infallible guide. ¶1879 FROUDE *Short Stud.* (1883) IV. v. 350 They were ready..to repudiate the authority of the Pope.

b. To refuse to discharge or acknowledge (a debt or other obligation). Chiefly of (American) states disowning a public debt, and freq. absol.

¶1837 LOFFT *Self-form.* I. 249 If a man..repudiate the care of his wife or children, villain is a word not villanous enough for him. ¶1847 WEBSTER s.v., The state has repudiated its debts. ¶1863 H. SPENCER *Ess.* II. 228 Sir Robert Inglis..hinted that the national debt would not improbably be repudiated if the proposed measure became law.

absol. ¶1843 SYD. SMITH *Wks.* (1859) II. 331/2, I am accused of applying the epithet repudiation to States which have not repudiated. ¶1862 J. SPENCE *Amer.* 74 In each of the States that has repudiated there was a large majority of men thoroughly honourable in their private affairs.

Hence **repudiated** ppl. a., **repudiating** vbl. n. and ppl. a.

¶1635 J. HAYWARD tr. *Biondi's Banish'd Virg.* 143 My first businesse was to hasten the repudiating of the Queene. ¶1788 H. WALPOLE *Remin.* ii. 24 Eldest daughter..of the repudiated wife of the earl of Macclesfield. ¶1843 SYD. SMITH *Wks.* (1859) II. 328/1 Persons who..are inclined to consider the abominable conduct of the repudiating States to proceed from exhaustion.

Ibid. 329/1 This swamp we gained..by the repudiated loan of 1828. ¶1880 DIXON *Windsor* III. xiii. 124 Henry allowed her to live with his repudiated daughter.

spurn v.1

(spɜːn)

[OE. *spurnan*, *spornan* strong v. (pa. tense *spear*n, pa. pple. *-spornen*), = OS. *spurnan*, ON. **sporna* (pa. tense *sparn*), related to the weak vbs. OHG. *spornôn*, ON. *sporna*, OHG. *spurnan*, -en, ON. *spyrna*, and OHG. (fir)*spirnen*, ON. *sperna*, MSw. and Sw. *spjärna*. The stem is prob. that of *spur* n.1 In OE. the simple verb is less frequent than the compound *ætspurnan*.]

I. intr.

1. To strike against something with the foot; to trip or stumble. Also fig. Obs.

¶1000 *Ags. Psalter* (Thorpe) xc. 12 Þe læs þu fræcne on stan fote spurne.
 a ¶1225 *Ancr. R.* 186 A child, 3if hit spurneð o summe þing, oðer hurteð him, me bet þet þing þet hit hurteð on. ¶1297 *R. GLOUC.* (Rolls) 7710 As he rod an honteþ & par auntre is hors spurnde. a ¶1300 *Cursor M.* 3575 Quen þat [a man] sua bicums ald,..þan es eth þe fote to spurn. ¶1388 *WYCLIF Jer.* xxxi. 9 Y schal brynge them..in a riȝtful, weie, thei shulen not spurne therynne. c ¶1400 *Beryn* 2862, I shall make hem spurn, & have a sore falle. c ¶1449 *PECOCK Repr.* v. viii. 525 Lest if..the hors where left to his fredom..he schulde be in perel forto the oftir spurne. ¶1549–62 *STERNHOLD & H. Ps.* xci. 12 So that thy foote shall never chaunce to spurne at any stone. ¶1603 *Proph. of T. Rymour* (Bann. Cl.) 12 Where the water runnes bright and sheene Thair shal many steides spurne. ¶1639 *FULLER Holy War* iv. xxi. (1840) 218 And their legs so stand in men's way that few can go by them without spurning at them. ¶1714 *GAY Trivia* ii. 211 How can ye Laugh, to see the Damsel spurn, Sink in your Frauds and her green Stocking mourn? ¶1734 *ARBUTHNOT, etc. Mart. Scriblerus* viii. (1756) 39 The maid..ran up stairs, but spurning at the dead body, fell upon it in a swoon.

b. In proverbial contrast with speed. Chiefly Sc.

¶1423 *JAS. I Kingis Q.* clxxxi, Quhen thai wald faynest speid, that thai may spurn. c ¶1440 *York Myst.* xxxix. 15, I sporne þer I was wonte to spede. a ¶1500 *Ratis Raving* ii. 362 That garris thaim spwrn quhen thai suld speid. ¶1535 *STEWART Cron. Scot.* III. 226 Quha spurnis airlie cumis liddy speid.

2. To strike or thrust with the foot; to kick (at something). Obs.

¶1400 *LYDG. Æsop's Fab.* i. 52 [The cock] On a smal dunghill..Gan to scrape and sporn. 15.. Smith & his Dame 301 in Hazl. E.P.P. III. 212 Than she spvrned at hym so, That hys shynnes bothe two In sonder she there brake.

¶15.. *Smith & his Dame* 301 in Hazl. E.P.P. III. 212 Than she spvrned at hym

so, That hys shynnes bothe two In sonder she there brake. 1592 Nashe *P. Penillesse* (ed. 2) 3 b, Who spurneth not at a dead dogge? ¶1592 NASHE *P. Penillesse* (ed. 2) 3 b, Who spurneth not at a dead dogge? ¶1598 MUCE-DORUS *Induct.* 32 Where I may see them wallow in there blood, To spurne at armes and legges quite shiuered off [etc.]. ¶1690 [See SPRUNT v.]. ¶1740 SOMERVILLE *Hobbinolia* ii. 295 His Iron Fist descending crush'd his Skull, And left him spurning on the bloody Floor.

fig. ¶a1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. V*, 81 This prince was a capitaine against whome fortune never frowned nor mischance once spurned.

b. In allusive phrases. Obs. (Cf. KICK v. 1 c.)

¶1390 CHAUCER *Truth* 11 Bywar þerfore to spurne azeyns an al. c
 ¶1480 HENRYSON *Test. Cres.* 475 Quhy spurnis thow aganis the Wall?
 ¶1483 *Vulgaria* 26 It is a foly to sporn ageyns the pryk. ¶1513 MORE *Rich. III*, Wks. 70/2, I purpose not to spurne againste a prick. ¶1562 HEYWOOD *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 116 Folly to spurne or kycke against the harde wall.
 ¶1573 TUSSER *Hush.* (1878) 205 What profit then..Against the prick to seeme to spurne? ¶1605 CAMDEN *Rem.* (1623) 268 Folly it is to spurne against a pricke. [¶1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* Introd., Waste not your strength by spurning against a castle wall.]

c. To strike at with a weapon. Obs.

¶1400 *Destr. Troy* 4744 The grekes..With speris full dispitiously spurnit at the yates.

d. To dash; to drive quickly. Obs.

¶ a1400–50 *Alexander* 786 Now aithire stoure on þar stedis strikis to-gedire, Spurnes out spakly with speris in hand. ¶1400 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 4706 Thre grete wawes in spurned. Ibid. 6796 Þe shipp agayn to land spurned.

3. fig. To kick against or at something disliked or despised; to manifest opposition or antipathy, esp. in a scornful or disdainful manner.

(a) ¶1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 17 b, Than they wyll sporne agaynst god,..and vtterly refuse and forsake the batayle of vertue. ¶1559 *Mirr. Mag.*, Owen Glendour xiii, Was none so bold durst once agaynst me spurne. ¶1605 STOW *Ann.* (ed. 2) 683 Wel knowing that the Queene would spurne against the conclusions. ¶1633 BP. HALL *Hard Texts*, N.T. 145 It is no boot for thee to struggle and spurne against my almighty power.

(b) ¶1549 LATIMER *3rd Serm. bef. Edw. VI*, G vi, They that be good wyl beare, and not spourne at the preachers; they that be faultye..must amende, and neyther spourne, nor wynse, nor whyne. ¶1594 SHAKES. *Rich. III*,

i. iv. 203 Will you then Spurne at his Edict, and fulfill a Mans? ¶1603 KNOLLES *Hist. Turks* (1621) 1321 Spurning at their bread and rice which was given them for their daily entertainment. ¶1660 *Extr. State Papers rel. Friends Ser. ii.* (1911) 120 Anabaptists..will make advantage of the first opportunity to fly out, and spurne att his Maiesties Gouverment. ¶1753 H. WALPOLE in *World No. 10*, One must be an infidel indeed to spurn at such authority. a ¶1781 R. WATSON *Philip III* (1839) 119 They spurned at danger, and made several vigorous sallies on the enemy. ¶1839 T. MITCHELL *Frogs of Aristoph.* Introd. p. cxi, That parent required sacrifices of him, at which his genius evidently spurned.

II. trans.

4. To strike (the foot) against something. Obs.

¶1300 E.E. *Ps. xc.* 12 þat thurgh hap þou ne spurn þi fote til stane. c
 ¶1430 *Hymns Virgin* (1867) 43 Lest þou spurne þi foot at a stoon.

5. To strike or tread (something) with the foot; to trample or kick.

In later use freq. with implication of contempt.

¶1390 GOWER *Conf. II.* 72 The ground he sporneth and he tranceth. a
 ¶1500 LYTTTEL *Geste of Robyn Hode iii.* clxi, He sporned the dore with his fote. ¶1560 J. DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 295 The people came running to it, jobbed it in with their daggers, and spurned it with their fete. ¶1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* xiv. vii. 15 The foresaid governour..they layed at and spurned with their heeles. ¶1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 20 With their Feet they spurne the yeelding sands. ¶1735 SOMERVILLE *Chase iii.* 335 Wounded, he rears aloft,..then bleeding spurns the Ground. ¶1743 FRANCIS tr. *Hor., Odes iii.* v. 36 When..the hind shall turn Fierce on her hunters, he the prostrate foe may spurn In second fight. ¶1810 SCOTT *Lady of L. i.* v, With flying foot the heath he spurned. ¶1848 A. JAMESON *Sacr. & Leg. Art* 219 Mary is spurning with her feet a casket of jewels. ¶1875 LONGFELLOW *Masque of Pandora iv*, With one touch of my..feet, I spurn the solid Earth.

b. With advs. or advb. phrases, as away, down, off, up, etc. Also fig.

¶1386 CHAUCER *Sqr.'s T.* 608 He with his feet wol spurne adoun his cuppe.
 c ¶1450 *Merlin xiii.* 199 Galashin with his fote spurned his body to ground.
 ¶1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 264 Auaunce thy spirituall courage, and sporne away all dulnesse & slouth. ¶1590 SHAKES. *Com. Err.* ii. i. 83 You spurne me hence, and he will spurne me hither. ¶1609 ROWLANDS *Knaue of Clubbes* (Hunterian Cl.) 6 Then with her feete she spurn'd them out of bed. ¶1642 D. ROGERS *Naaman* 30 The Pope treading on his necke,

and spurning off his Crowne with his foot. ¶1700 DRYDEN *Cock & Fox* 85 If, spurning up the Ground, he sprung a Corn. ¶1727 SWIFT *Country Post Wks.* 1751 III. i. 178 The grave-stones of John Fry, Peter How, and Mary d'Urfey were spurned down. ¶1793 T. BEDDOES *Demonstr. Evid.* 110 It is said, that the statesman..is apt to spurn away the ladder by which he has mounted to power. ¶1836 H. ROGERS *J. Howe* ii. 30 There is no barrier to such inter-communion,..which the genuine spirit of charity will not spurn down. ¶1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xiii. III. 360 The few who were so luxurious as to wear rude socks of untanned hide spurned them away. ¶1878 BROWNING *Poets Croisic* lii, To learn..how fate could puff Heaven-high.., then spurn To suds so big a bubble in some huff.

6. To reject with contempt or disdain; to treat contemptuously; to scorn or despise.

¶1000 ÆLFRIC *Saints' Lives* vii. 64 Æfter þæs mædenes spræce þe hine spearn mid wordum. a 1400–50 Alexander 3533 We sall neuer spise 3ow ne sporne in speche ne in dede. ¶1435 MISYN *Fire of Love* 44 Þat, vanite spisyd & spurnyd, to trewth vnpartyngly we draw. ¶1501 PLUMPTON *Corr. (Camden)* 155 He..wyll abyde by yt for his dede,..& so will shew to all men that spurns him any wher. a ¶1548 HALL *Chron., Hen.* VI, 98 b, Well knowyng, that the Quene would spurne and impugne the conclusions.

¶1591 SHAKES. *Two Gent.* iv. ii. 14 The more she spurnes my loue, The more it growes. ¶1635 QUARLES *Embl.* v. 13 O how my soul would spurn this ball of clay, And loathe the dainties of earth's painful pleasure. ¶1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* iv. 339 The pleasing Pleiades appear, And springing upward spurn the briny Seas. ¶1791 BOSWELL *Johnson* II. 117 When he suspected that he was invited to be exhibited, he constantly spurned the invitation. ¶1848 DICKENS *Dombey* liii, I came back, weary and lame, to spurn your gift. ¶1868 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1877) II. 144 Every offer tending to conciliation had been spurned.

Hence **spurned** ppl. a.

¶1805 WORDSW. *Prelude* v. 278 He..draws..sweet honey out of spurned or dreaded weeds.

conspicuous a.

(kən'spɪkjʊəs)

[f. L. *conspicu-us* visible, striking + *-ous*.]

1. Clearly visible, easy to be seen, obvious or striking to the eye.

¶1545 T. RAYNALDE *Byrthe Mankynde* Hh vij, These vaynes doo appeare more conspicuous and notable to the eyes. ¶1592 R. D. tr. *Hypnerotomachia* 97 Hills couered ouer with green trees of a conspicuous thicknes. ¶1667 PEPYS *Diary* (1879) IV. 415 These Rogues.. to be hung in some conspicuous place in the town, for an example. ¶1667 MILTON *P.L.* iv. 545 A Rock Of Alablaster, pil'd up to the Clouds, Conspicuous farr. ¶1808 SCOTT *Marm.* ii. xi, Conspicuous by her veil and hood. ¶1840 MACAULAY *Clive* 47 Conspicuous in the ranks of the little army.

2. a. Obvious to the mental eye, plainly evident; attracting notice or attention, striking; hence, eminent, remarkable, noteworthy.

¶1613 R. C. TABLE *Alph.* (ed. 3), Conspicuous, easie to be seene, excellent. ¶1651 HOBBS *Leviath.* i. x. 44 To be Conspicuous, that is to say, to be known for Wealth..or any eminent Good, is Honourable. ¶1845 S. AUSTIN *Ranke's Hist. Ref.* III. 209 Frankfurt—a city so conspicuous for its loyalty to the imperial house. ¶1876 J. H. NEWMAN *Hist. Sk.* I. i. iii. 131 Sultan Soliman, who plays so conspicuous a part in Tasso's celebrated Poem.

b. Phr. conspicuous by its absence.

¶1859 LD. J. RUSSELL *Addr. Electors of Lond.*, Among the defects of the Bill, which were numerous, one provision was conspicuous by its presence, and one by its absence. ¶1859 *Sp. at Lond. Tavern* 15 Apr., I alluded to it as 'a provision conspicuous by its absence,' a turn of phraseology which is not an original expression of mine, but is taken from one of the greatest historians of antiquity. [Tacitus Ann. iii. 76.] ¶1875 BRYCE *Holy Rom. Emp.* xv. (ed. 5) 287 Those monuments which do exist are just sufficient to make the absence of all others more conspicuous. ¶1878 W. A. WRIGHT *Note on Shaks.* Jul. C. ii. i. 70 Cassius had married Junia, Brutus' sister..At her funeral in a.d. 22 the images of Brutus and Cassius were conspicuous by their absence, or as Tacitus (Ann. iii. 76) puts it, 'sed praeifulgebant..eo ipso quod effigies eorum non visebantur'.

3. Designating expenditure on or consumption of luxuries on a lavish scale in an attempt to enhance one's prestige.

¶1899 T. VEBLEN *Theory of Leisure Class* iv. 75 Conspicuous consumption of valuable goods is a means of reputability to the gentleman of leisure.

Ibid. iv. 96 Throughout the entire evolution of conspicuous expenditure, whether of goods or of services or human life, runs the obvious implication that in order to effectually mend the consumer's good fame it must be an expenditure of superfluities. ¶1926 B. WEBB *My Apprent.* i. 53 Competition in conspicuous expenditure on clothes, food, wine and flowers. ¶1962 E.

GODFREY *Retail Selling* xxi. 214 In the past 'conspicuous' consumption, of the swimming-pool, cabin cruiser, high-powered sports car variety, was confined to..the idle rich.

sundry a.

(¹sʌndri)

[OE. *syndriæ* separate, special, private, exceptional, corresp. to MLG. *sunder(i)ch* single, special, LG. *sunderig*, OHG. *sunt(a)rîc*, *sund(i)rîc*, -*erîg* special (MHG. *sunderig*, -*ic*); f. *sunder* *sunder* a.: see -y1.]

1. Having an existence, position, or status apart; separate, distinct. Obs. exc. dial.

¶1000 ÆLFRIC *Judg. Epil.* (Gr.) 263 *Pa senatores..dæÆ~hwanlice smeadon on anum sindrian huse embe ealles folces þearfe.* ¶c1000 Ags. *Ps.* cxl. 12 (Gr.) *Ic me syndriæ eom.* c ¶1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 1985 *Ðor was in helle a sundri stede, wor ðe seli folc reste dede.* a ¶1300 *Cursor M.* 332 *þis wright [sc. God]..Fra al oþer, sundri [Fairf. ys sundre] and sere.* Ibid. 16094 *þe pretori, þat was a sundri stede.* ¶1393 LANGL. *P. Pl. C.* xix. 192 *þre per-sones in o pensel..departable from oþer..And sondry to seo vpon.* ¶1533 N. UDALL *Coronat. Anne Boleyn in Arb. Garner* II. 58 *The fourth Lady..peerless in riches, wit, and beauty; Which are but sundry qualities in yon three [sc. Juno, Pallas, and Venus].* ¶1549 COVERDALE, etc. *Erasm. Par. 1 Pet.* 9 *Let not age, estate, condicion or sondry being in diuerse countres disseuer you a sondre.* ¶1790 MRS. WHEELER *Westmld. Dial.* (1802) 114 *She ligs in a sendry kaw boose.*

2. Belonging or assigned distributively to certain individuals; distinct or different for each respectively. Obs.

¶ a900 tr. *Bæda's Hist.* iv. xxiii. [xxii.] (1890) 328 *þurh syndriæ þine ondsware [orig. per singula tua responsa] ic onæt & oncneow, þæt [etc.].* ¶*Ibid.* v. xxiii. (1899) 697/1 *On septem Epistolas Canonicas [ic sette] syndrie bec.* ¶1000 ÆLFRIC *Deut.* xxxiii. 5 *Moyses þa æbletsode~þa twelf mææða ælce mid sindriære bletsunge.* ¶c1205 LAY. 2688 *He hefde on liue tuenti sunen and alc hefde sindri moder.* a ¶1300 *Cursor M.* 9533 *Ilkan sum-dri gift he gaue.* ¶1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* x. 731 *His men, in-to syndry plas, Clam our the wall.* ¶1430-40 LYDG. *Bochas* i. ii. (MS. Bodl. 263) 17/1 *The contre off Sennar thei forsook And ech off hem a sondri contre took.* a ¶1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII* 70, iiiii. *hed peces called Armites, euery pece beyng of a sundery deuice.* ¶1549 *Compl. Scot.* vi. 65 *Ilk ane of them hed*

ane syndry instrament to play to the laif, the fyrst hed ane drone bag pipe, the nyxt hed ane pipe maid of ane bleddir and of ane reid, the thrid playit on ane trump [etc.]. ¶1592 GREENE *Conny Catching* Wks. (Grosart) XI. 84 Those Amarosos here in England..that..wil haue in euery shire in England a sundry wife. a ¶1700 DRYDEN *Ovid's Art Love* i. 863 Experience finds That sundry Women are of sundry Minds. ¶1715 PENNECUICK *Truth's Trav.* 114 Ilk an ran a sindrie gait. ¶1738 WESLEY *Ps.* civ. iv, His Ministers Heav'n's Palace fill, To have their sundry Tasks assign'd.

3. Individually separate; that is one of a number of individuals of a class or group. Usually with pl. n. or sing. n. in pl. sense: Various, (many) different. Obs. (or merged in 5).

¶1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 665 Al was on speche ðor bi-foren, ðor woren sundri speches boren. ¶1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* v. 7 For to mak in thair synging Syndry notis, and soundis sere. ¶14.. *Sir Beues* (MS. E.) 4313 + 46 He hadde wunnen in to hys hond Many a batayle in sundry lond. c ¶1470 HENRY *Wallace* i. 29 Elrisle..Auchinbothe, and othir syndry place. ¶1551 RECORDE *Pathw. Knowl.* i. xvii, Diligently behold how these sundry figures be turned into triangles. ¶1561 T. HOBY tr. *Castiglione's Courtyer* i. (1577) D vij b, In learning to handle sundrie kinde of weapons. ¶1596 *Edw. III*, iii. i. 69 Like to a meddow full of sundry flowers. ¶1603 OWEN *Pembrokeshire* (1892) 269 The seuerall sortes of fowle..and..the sondrey kindes of takeinge of them. ¶1677 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) II. 327 There are sundry sorts of Habits becomming Souldiers in particular. ¶1754 SHERLOCK *Disc.* vii. (1759) I. 215 The Prophets of old were..destroyed by sundry Kinds of Death.

b. Preceded (rarely followed) by an adj. of number or plurality (esp. many). See also 6 e. Obs.

¶1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. xiii. 38 Þanne cam scripture And serued hem..of sondry metes manye. ¶1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 359 Thei bede..Tuo sondri beddes to be dyht. ¶1474 CAXTON *Chesse* iv. v. (1883) 176 Whan he is in the myddes of the tabler he may goo in to viii. places sondry. ¶1500-20 DUNBAR *Poems* xxvi. 26 Heilie harlottis..Come in with mony sindrie gyiss.

15.. Adam Bel 470 in Hazl. *E.P.P.* II. 158 We haue slaie your fat falow der In many a sondry place. ¶1570 FOXE *A. & M.* (ed. 2) 1362/2 In those dayes there were ij. sundry Bibles in Englishe. ¶1570 SATIR. *Poems Reform.* xiii. 17 And this he vsis mony sindrie sortis. 1570-6 Lambarde *Peramb.* Kent (1826) 198 The third Brooke..being crossed in the way by seven other sundry bridges. ¶1617 MORYSON *Itin.* i. 231 Nine sundry Sects of Christians haue their Monasteries within this City. ¶1678 R. BARCLAY *Apol. Quakers*

v. §20. 157 This Parable, repeated in three sundry Evangelists.

c. Comb., as sundry-coloured, sundry-shaped adjs.

¶1587 GOLDING *De Mornay* vi. (1592) 62 Afore making this sundr-
ishaped world, God had conceiued an incorruptible paterne thereof. ¶1593
DRAYTON *Ecl.* i. 14 His sundrie coloured Coat. a ¶1700 EVELYN *Diary*
June 1645, The quire, wall'd..with sundry colour'd stone halfe relievo.

4. Different, other. (Const. from.) With pl. n. or sing. n. in pl. sense:
Diverse, manifold. Obs.

¶13.. *Cursor M.* 4246 (Gött.) Putyfar..held ioseph in mensk and lare Al
pou pair treuthes sundri ware. ¶1400 *Rom. Rose* 5184 If I may lere Of sondry
loves the manere. c ¶1470 HENRY *Wallace* x. 708 The king changyt on
syndry hors off Spayn. ¶1509 HAWES *Past. Pleas.* iv. (Percy Soc.) 19
A venemous beast of sundry likenes. ¶1535 COVERDALE *Bible Prol. to*
Rdr. ¶2 Euery church allmost had ye Byble of a sondrye translacion. ¶1548
TURNER *Names Herbes* (E.D.S.) 23 *Carduus*..is a sundry herbe from Cinara.

¶1551 *Herbal* i. E iij, Dioscorides descrybeth thes herbes seuerally, & so
maketh them sondry herbes. ¶1586 DAY *Engl. Secreterie* i. (1625) 132 How
many, and how sundry are the euils wherewith our mortall state is endangered.

¶1614 W. B. *Philos. Banquet* (ed. 2) 113 The sundryest kindes of extremities.

¶1639 FULLER *Holy War* iv. vi. (1647) 176 A sundry dialect maketh not a
severall language. ¶1668 CULPEPPER & COLE *Barthol. Anat.* iii. xi. 152
The external parts about the mouth are sundry.

b. (a) Consisting of different elements, of mixed composition. Obs. rare.

¶1594 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* iv. vi. §3 Forbidding them [sc. the Jews] to put
on garments of sundry stuffe. ¶1600 SHAKES. *A.Y.L.* iv. i. 17 A melancholy
of mine owne, compounded of many simples, extracted from many obiects,
and indeed the sundrie contemplation of my trauells, in which my often ru-
mination, wraps me in a most humorous sadnesse.

(b) Consisting of miscellaneous items: cf. sundries.

¶1790 BEATSON *Nav. & Mil. Mem.* II. 187, 75 tons of sundry wood.
¶1870 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* (1872) 98 The assets of the com-
pany [include] Cash in Bank of California 119, 609...*Sundryopenaccounts* 2,863.
¶1913 *Times* 9 Aug. 19/2 Yield, including sundry revenue, £4,855.

5. As an indefinite numeral: A number of, several. (The prevailing use.)

Occas. with poss. as **sundry his** = several of his.

¶1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* ii. (Paulus) 26 In parelis wes he stad sindry. ¶1390
GOWER *Conf.* I. 209 This Emperour..Withinne a ten mile envirooun..Hath

sondry places forto reste. ¶1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 107 And
 3it is thare sindry othir realmes that obeyis nocht to the Emperoure. ¶1542
 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 321 Whom Cicero veray often tymes citeth in soon-
 drie his werkes. ¶1552 *Bk. Com. Prayer, Morn. Prayer, Exh.*, The scrip-
 ture moueth vs in sondrye places, to acknowledge and confesse our manyfolde
 synnes and wyckednesse. ¶1605 SHAKES. *Mach.* iv. iii. 158 Sundry Bless-
 ings hang about his Throne, That speake him full of Grace. ¶1630 PRYNNE
Anti-Armin. 118 Subiecting it to sundry alterations, periods, and changes at
 our pleasure. ¶1782 F. BURNEY *Cecilia* ii. ii, [She] was then ushered with
 great pomp through sundry apartments. ¶1794 *Bloomfield's Reports* 13 The
 Court having heard..sundry affidavits read. ¶1843 JAMES *Forest Days* i,
 These benches formed the favourite resting-place of sundry old men. ¶1870
 A. R. HOPE *My Schoolboy* *Fr.* xi. 149 Disturbing the placid repast of sundry
 forlorn cows. ¶1913 *Oxf. Univ. Gaz.* 19 Feb. 493/2 Having built some
 proper out-houses to replace sundry untidy wooden hen-roosts.

b. In collocations, as sundry (and) divers, divers (and) sundry, sundry (and)
 several. Obs.

¶1420 ? LYDG. *Assembly of Gods* 321 Chaungeable of sondry dyuerse
 colowres. ¶1483 *Rolls of Parlt.* VI. 245/1 Sundrie and diverse false and
 traiterous proclamacions. ¶1495 *Naval Acc. Hen.* VII (1896) 138 Diverse &
 soundrie shippes. a ¶1548 HALL *Chron., Edw. IV* 222 At sondry and seuer-
 all tymes (and not all at one tyme). ¶1574 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.*
App. v. 424 For dyverse and sondrye good occations. ¶1590 L. LLOYD
Diall Daies 76 At sundrie severall times.

c. ellipt. and (chiefly Sc.) absol. (Cf. several a. 4 c.)

¶1470 HENRY *Wallace* i. 199 Syndry waynty, bot nane wyst be quhat
 way. ¶1575 in *Maitl. Club Misc.* I. 115 Syndry boyith of the citie and
 gentillmen upaland. a ¶1629 HINDE *J. Bruen* xlvi. (1641) 146 Divers and
 sundry of the workes of the Lord. ¶1680 H. MORE *Apocal. Apoc.* 123
 The not understanding of which has made sundry in vain attempt to predict
 events foretold in the Apocalypse. a ¶1796 BURNS *Katherine Jaffray* iii, He's
 tell'd her father and mother baith, As I hear sindry say, O. ¶1825 T. HOOK
Sayings Ser. ii. Doubts & F. i. II. 84 Sundry of those little hemmings and
 coughings. ¶1875 WHITNEY *Life Lang.* vii. 115 Sundry of the modern
 European languages.

6. Phr. **a.** on sundry, in sundry, a sundry: alteration of on-, in-sunder (see
 sunder B), asunder. **b.** by sundries: individually. **c.** in or on sundry wise
 (occas. sundry wises), later sundry wise: in various or different ways; vari-

ously, diversely. **d.** (in) sundry ways (in the same sense). **e.** all and sundry, occas. all sundry: every individual, every single; now only absol. (occas. all and sundries) = everybody of all classes, one and all. (orig. and chiefly Sc. = L. omnes et singuli.)

a. ¶1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 393 On sundri ðhenken he to ben. ¶13.. *Cursor M.* 14665 (Gött.) We er all ane,..Sua þat we thoru nane-kin art Ne man be made in sundri [Cott. in sundre] part. c ¶1330 *Amis & Amil.* 309 Now we asondri schal wende. a ¶1400 *Parlt.* 3 Ages (Roxb.) 90, I..choppede of the nekke And þe hede and the haulse homelyde in sondree. c ¶1420 ?LYDG. *Assembly of Gods* 1765 Whyche iii tymes, a sondry deuydyd, Mayst thow here see.

b. ¶1400-50 *Wars Alex.* 3909 Þai seke out be sundres sexti to-gedire.

c. ¶1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* v. (Johannes) 558 He taucht þam in syndry vyis. ¶1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* ix. 441 The laif..Sesit..Men, armyng, and marchan-diss, And othir gudis on syndri viss. 14.. Chaucer's Friar's T. 172 (Harl. MS. 7334) Why..ryde 3e þan or goon, In sondry wyse [v.r. shape] and nouzt alway in oon? ¶1484 in *Lett. Rich. III & Hen. VII* (Rolls) I. 88 Feithful services to us in sundry wises doon. ¶1549 COVERDALE, etc. *Erasm. Par. Rom.* 33 God doeth in sondry wyse bestow his giftes. ¶1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* i. (1586) 3 b, The fruitfull Earth that tyld in sundry wyse, Vnto the eye her goodly fruites dooth yelde. ¶1591 R. TURNBULL *St. James* 149 b, Men fall and sinne..three waies..and there is no man which doeth not fall through euerie one of these, sundriwise. ¶1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xlvii, Twa precious saints might pu' sundry wise, like twa cows riving at the same hay-band.

d. ¶1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 3 Ingyne of man be Inclinatioun in sindrie wayes is giwin. ¶1592 TIMME *Ten Engl. Lepers* E 4 b, This leprosie of pride dooth sundrie waies lay holde upon men. ¶1605 SHAKES. *Macb.* iv. iii. 48 Yet my poore Country Shall..More suffer, and more sundry wayes then euer. ¶1609 SKENE *Reg. Maj. Table* 61 He quha being lawfullie summoned, is absent,..is sindrie wayes vnlawed according to the diversitie of the courts. ¶1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* iii. 187 To breed him, break him, back him, are requir'd Experienc'd Masters; and in sundry Ways: Their Labours equal, and alike their Praise. ¶1743 BULKELEY & CUMMINS *Voy. S. Seas* 36 There have died sundry ways since the Ship first struck forty-five Men.

e. ¶1389 in *Sir W. Fraser Wemyss of W.* (1888) II. 24 Til there thyngys al and syndry lelily and fermly to be fulfyllt and yhemmyt. ¶1480 in *Exch. Rolls Scot.* IX. 120 note, All and sendri oure liegis and subditis. ¶1552

ABP. HAMILTON *Catech.* (1884) 3 Till all and sindry personis. ¶1562
 A. SCOTT *Poems* (S.T.S.) i. 95 To ceis all sindrye sectis of hereseis. ¶1597
Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot. 303/2 Togidder with all and sindrie the teindscheves.
 ¶1682 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1682/1 To have forfault..all and sundry his Lands,
 Heretages, Liffrents, and Rents.

absol. ¶1428 *Munim. de Melros* (Bann.) 519 Till all & syndry to quham
 þe knowlage of þir presentz lettris sall to cum. ¶1442 in *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.*
 63/2 Till al and sindri that thir presentez lettrez sall here or see. ¶1783 W.
 GORDON tr. *Livy's Rom. Hist.* iv. ii. 310 Sedition never failed to procure
 honour and respect to all and sundries, its authors and abettors. ¶1818
 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* lii, Join wi' Rob Roy..and revenge Donacha's death on all
 and sundry. ¶1837-42 HAWTHORNE *Twice-told T.* (1851) I. x. 171, I cry
 aloud to all and sundry, in my plainest accents. ¶1901 *Scotsman* 13 Mar.
 12/2 The city must advertise for estimates from all and sundry.

7. That sunders or separates; dividing; discriminating. Obs. rare.

¶1564 HARDING *Answ. to Jewel's Challenge* 133 b, They must vse a discre-
 tion, and a sundry iudgement between the thinges they write agonisticōs,..and
 the thinges they vtter dogmaticōs. ¶1593 A. CHUTE *Beautie Dishonoured*
 (1908) 111 Thus life, and death, in unitie agreeing Dated the tenor of their
 sonderie strife.

Hence **sundryfold** a., manifold; **sundryhead**, diversity, variety; **sundrywhere**
 adv., in various places.

¶1430 LYDG. *Minor Poems* (Percy Soc.) 194 Complexionat of *sondryfold
 coloures. ¶1557 T. PHAER *Æneid* v. M iv b, Skant yemen twayn..the same
 coud beare, So sondriefolde it was.

¶1395 HYLTON *Scala Perf.* (W. de W. 1494) ii. xlvi, Þe *soundryhede of
 orders [of angels].

¶1548 PATTEN *Exped. Scot.* M vij b, His valiaunce *sundry whear tried.

¶1568 T. HOWELL *Arb. Amitie Poems* (1879) 35 The fethred foule..sundrie
 where his fostring foode, With chirping bill he peekes.

mundane a. (n.)

(ˈmʌndeɪn, mʌnˈdeɪn)

[a. F. mondain (12-13th c.), ad. L. mundān-us, f. mundus world.]

1. Belonging to this world (i.e. the earth as contrasted with heaven); worldly;
 earthly.

In early use (till 1550) often following its n., and sometimes taking s in the pl.

¶1475 *Bk. Noblesse* (Roxb.) 70 He saide that fortune and felicity mondeyne was joynd and knyghted with his vertue and noblesse roiall. ¶1509 BARCLAY *Shyp of Folys* 67 b, Alas oft goddes goodes..Of suche folys is wastyd..In great folyes mundaynes and outrage. ¶1652 J. SMITH *Sel. Disc.* i. 21 Entangled with the birdlime of fleshly passions and mundane vanity. ¶1720 SEWEL *Hist. Quakers* (1795) I. ii. 146 By a singular and very strange turn of mundane affairs. ¶1869 MOZLEY *Univ. Serm.* ii. (1876) 50 Not like the goodness which feeds upon mundane motives and is weak and sickly.

b. Belonging to the 'world' as distinguished from the church. Of literature: Secular. rare.

¶1848 W. K. KELLY tr. *L. Blanc's Hist. Ten Y.* II. 532 It [Talleyrand's reconciliation to the church] was matter of inexpressible surprise and pain to the more mundane portion of the prince's intimate acquaintances. ¶1865 M. ARNOLD *Ess. Crit.* vi. (1875) 245 The beginnings of the mundane poetry of the Italians are in Sicily.

c. Belonging to the world of fashion. [= F. *mondain*.]

¶1904 *Edin. Rev.* Oct. 298 The Athénée and the Nouveautés..the favourite resorts of 'mundane' pleasure-seekers.

d. In weakened use: everyday, ordinary, commonplace; hence, banal, prosaic, dull; routine, trite.

¶1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 28 July 2/3 To consider..more mundane matters, such as the number and characters of transmigrating households. ¶1938 R. NARAYAN *Dark Room* iii. 29 The whole picture swept her mind clear of mundane debris.

¶1965 A. J. P. TAYLOR *Eng. Hist. 1914-1945* X. 322 There were also more mundane calculations. The Conservatives were confident they could win an election on the National cry. ¶1976 G. GORDON *100 Scenes from Married Life* 118 Inject a spot of excitement into our mundane and self-satisfied lives.

¶1986 P. READING *Essential Reading* 85 At least this would avoid your having to employ your pen on such mundane matters when it could be used to such good effect elsewhere!

2. Pertaining to the cosmos or universe; cosmic.

mundane soul, spirit: the anima mundi of the Platonists (ἡ τοῦ κόσμου ψυχή, ἡ κοσμική ψυχή in Proclus).

¶1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* ii. iii. i. 18 We have the sight Of what the Mundane spirit suffereth By colours, figures, or inherent light. ¶1665

GLANVILL *Scepsis Sci.* xxiv. 147 The Platonickall Hypothesis of a Mundane Soul. ¶1692 BENTLEY *Boyle Lect.* vii. (1693) 7 The Atoms or Particles which now constitute Heaven and Earth, being once separate and diffused in the Mundane Space, like the supposed Chaos, could never [etc.]. ¶1872 MOZLEY *Mirac.* (ed. 3) Pref. 24 The idea of God as the Supreme Mundane Being.

b. *mundane egg*: in Indian and other cosmogonies, a primordial egg from which the world was hatched.

¶1789 [see ORPHIC 1 b]. ¶1841 ELPHINSTONE *Hist. Ind.* I. i. iv. 75 From this seed sprung the mundane egg, in which the Supreme Being was himself born in the form of Brahmá.

c. *mundane era*, an era reckoned from the time of the creation of the world.

¶1892 E. M. THOMPSON *Gr. & Lat. Palæogr.* Add. 323 To reduce the Mundane era of Constantinople to the Christian era.

3. *Astrol.* Pertaining to the horizon and not to the ecliptic or zodiac; chiefly in mundane aspect, mundane parallel.

¶1687 J. BISHOP *Marrow Astrol.* ii. 33 At which time the ☽ was directed to a mundane parallel of ☊. Ibid. 76 Narrowly observe all the Aspects, as well those in the World, as those in the Zodiack, for many times a Zodiacal Aspect may promise good in the Business, when there may be a Mundane Aspect will frustrate the good promised by the other. ¶1819 J. WILSON *Dict. Astrol.* 295 Mundane Aspects, distances in the world measured by the semiarc wholly independent of the zodiac.

4. *Nat. Hist.* Used by Darwin for: Found in all parts of the world, widely distributed.

¶1844 DARWIN in *Life & Lett.* (1887) II. 25 The Owl is mundane, and many of the species have very wide ranges.

5. n. A dweller in this world. Obs. rare—1.

¶1517 H. WATSON *Ship of Fools Prol.* A ij b, By the shyppe we maye vnderstande ye folyes and erroures that the mondaynes are in, by the se this present worlde.

Hence **mundanely** adv., **mundaneness**.

¶1727 BAILEY vol. II, Mundaneness, worldliness. ¶1824 LANDOR *Imag. Conv.* ii. Wks. 1846 I. 46 The greatest of stakes, mundanely speaking, is the stake of reputation. ¶1886 MYERS in Gurney, etc. *Phantasms of Living* II. 294 This very mundaneness of the apparition is precisely what was to be expected.

precocious a.

(pri'kəʊʃəs)

[f. L. *præcox*, -cocem (*precoce*): see -ious.]

1. Of a plant: Flowering or fruiting early; spec. bearing blossom before the leaves; also said of the blossoms or fruit.

¶1650 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* ii. vi. (ed. 2) 79 Many precocious trees, and such as have their spring in the winter, may be found in most parts of Europe. a ¶1682 *Tracts* (1684) 72 That there were precocious and early bearing Trees in Judæa, may be illustrated from some expressions in Scripture concerning precocious Figgs. ¶1872 OLIVER *Elem. Bot.* ii. 234 A..tree, with..precocious hermaphrodite flowers.

2. a. fig. Of persons: Prematurely developed in some faculty or proclivity.

¶1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* i. iv. §21. 388 However it hath been of late so much decried..by..precocious and conceited wits also, as non-sence and impossibility. ¶1819 BYRON *Juan* i. liv, To be precocious Was in her eyes a thing the most atrocious. ¶1829 LYTTON *Devereux*, i. v, We were all three..precocious geniuses. ¶1868 E. EDWARDS *Raleigh* I. xv. 299 She was somewhat precocious in love matters.

b. Of, pertaining to, or indicative of precocity or premature development.

¶1672 SIR T. BROWNE *Let. Friend* §28 'Tis superfluous to live unto gray Hairs, when in a precocious Temper we anticipate the Virtues of them. ¶1827 MACAULAY *Machiavelli Ess.* (1887) 36 Untimely decrepitude was the penalty of precocious maturity. ¶a1863 THACKERAY *Christmas Bks.* (1872) 19 His 'Love Lays'..were pronounced to be wonderfully precocious for a young gentleman then only thirteen.

c. Of things: Of early development.

¶1838 DICKENS *Nich. Nick.* xx, Youthful misery stalks precocious. ¶1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 668 'Specific' phenomena are more commonly observed within a comparatively short time from the date of infection in which case they are not rightly regarded as 'precocious' symptoms.

3. a. Zool. (See quot.) Contrasted with serotinous.

¶1900 QUEKETT *Microsc. Club Jrnl.* Ser. ii. VII. 260 All the social or colonial Radiolarians (Polycyttaria) and most of the Acantharia are precocious, for in them the nucleus divides early in the life history of the cell.

b. = PRÆCOICIAL a.

¶1897 PARKER & HASWELL *Text-bk. Zool.* II. xiii. 382 The newly-hatched young may be..well covered with down and able to run or swim and to obtain their own food, in which case they are said to be precocious. ¶1970 R. A. & B. M. Maier *Compar. Animal Behavior* ix. 193 Domestic chicks are precocious (well developed at hatching).

meridian n.

(mə'riðiən)

[From various elliptical uses of meridian a., chiefly adopted from OF. or med.L.

Cf. L. meridiānum (sc. tempus), noon; meridiānum, the south; med.L. meridiāna (OF. méridiane, earlier meriene; mod.F. méridienne), noon, mid-day rest, siesta; F. méridien = sense 4 below; méridienne (= ligne m.), a meridian line.]

1. Mid-day, noon. Obs. exc. in humorously pedantic use.

¶1380 ST. Augustine 1673 in *Horstm. Altengl. Leg.* (1878) 90 Vppon a day aftur þe meridien Austin apeered to him þen. c ¶1391 CHAUCER *Astrol.* ii. §44 Adde hit [to-geder], and þat is thy mene mote, for the laste meridian of the december, for the same 3ere wyche þat þou [hast] purposid. ¶1637 HEYWOOD *Lond. Mirrour* Wks. 1874 IV. 311 The very day that doth afford him light, Is Morning, the Meridian, Evening, Night. ¶1871 G. MEREDITH *H. Richmond* xlii, If any thing fresh occurred between meridian and six o'clock, he should be glad, he said, to have word of it by messenger.

b. night's meridian: 'the noon of night', midnight. nonce-use.

¶1826 CARRINGTON *Dartmoor* 62 A fearful gloom, deep'ning and deep'ning, till 'Twas dark as night's meridian.

c. Hist. A mid-day rest or siesta. [tr. med.L. meridiana; cf. F. méridienne, OF. merien(n)e.]

¶1801 J. MILNER *Hist. Winchester* II. 101 There was now a vacant space of an hour or an hour and an half, during part of which those [monks] who were fatigued were at liberty to take their repose,..which was called from the time of day when it was taken, The Meridian. ¶1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xix [Abbot loq.], As we have..in the course of this our toilsome journey, lost our meridian, indulgence shall be given [etc.].

d. Sc. A mid-day dram. (See also E.D.D.)

¶1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* iv, Plumdamas joined the other two gentlemen in drinking their meridian (a bumper-dram of brandy). ¶1825 CHAMBERS

Trad. Edinb. II. 243 It was then [18th c.] the custom of all the shop-keepers in Edinburgh to drink what they called their meridian. This was a very moderate debauch,—consisting only in a glass of usquebaugh and a draught of small ale.

2. The point at which the sun or a star attains its highest altitude.

¶1450 LYDG. *Secrees* 347 Phebus..In merydien fervent as the glede.
 ¶1647 CRASHAW *Poems* 130 Sharp-sighted as the eagle's eye, that can Out-stare the broad-beam'd day's meridian. a ¶1667 COWLEY *Ess.*, Greatness, There is in truth no Rising or Meridian of the Sun, but only in respect to several places. ¶1728 POPE *Dunc.* iii. 195 note, The device, A Star rising to the Meridian, with this Motto, Ad Summa. ¶1843 JAMES *Forest Days* viii, The sun had declined about two hours and a half from the meridian.

b. fig. The point or period of highest development or perfection, after which decline sets in; culmination, full splendour.

¶1613 SHAKES. *Hen. VIII*, iii. ii. 224 And from that full Meridian of my Glory, I haste now to my Setting. ¶1638 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (ed. 2) 93 Yet in the meridian of his hopes [he] is dejected by valiant Rustang. c ¶1645 HOWELL *Lett.* (1655) III. ix. 17 Naturall human knowledg is not yet mounted to its Meridian, and highest point of elevation. ¶1673 TEMPLE *United Prov. Wks.* 1731 I. 67, I am of Opinion, That Trade has, for some Years ago, pass'd its Meridian, and begun sensibly to decay among them. ¶1700 DRYDEN *Fables* Pref. *Bb, Ovid liv'd when the Roman Tongue was in its Meridian; Chaucer, in the Dawning of our Language. a ¶1761 CAWTHORN *Poems* (1771) 61 My merit in its full meridian shone. a ¶1859 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xxiii. (1861) V. 67 This was the moment at which the fortunes of Montague reached the meridian. The decline was close at hand. ¶1893 G. HILL *Hist. Eng. Dress* II, 268 Dress was in its meridian of ugliness.

c. The middle period of a man's life, when his powers are at the full.

¶1645 HOWELL *Lett.* i. vi. lx. (1655) 307 You seem to marvell I do not marry all this while, considering that I am past the Meridian of my age. ¶1703 E. WARD *Lond. Spy* xvii. (1706) 406 As for her Age, I believe she was near upon the Meridian. ¶1795 MASON *Ch. Mus.* ii. 133 When Purcel was in the meridian of his short life. ¶1864 H. AINSWORTH *John Law* Prol. iii. (1881) 19 Though long past his meridian, and derided as an antiquated beau by the fops of the day. ¶1873 HAMERTON *Intell. Life* iv. ii. (1875) 143 Any person who has passed the meridian of life.

3. The south. Obs. [So L. *meridianum*.]

¶1430-40 LYDG. *Bochas* vi. i. (1494) t ij b, Nowe in the west, nowe in the oryent, To sech stories north and meredien Of worthy princes that here to fore haue ben. ¶1432-50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) I. 47 Asia..whiche goenge from the meridien or sowthe by the este vn to the northe, is compassede on euery syde with the occean. Ibid. VI. 41 Machomete made an ydole..havyng the face of hit towarde the meridien. ¶1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 34 With vs the stars about the North Pole neuer go downe, and those contrariwise about the Meridian neuer rise. Ibid. 48 From the Meridian or South-point to the North.

4. [Ellipt. for meridian circle or line.] **a.** Astr. (More explicitly celestial m.) The great circle (of the celestial sphere) which passes through the celestial poles and the zenith of any place on the earth's surface.

b. (More explicitly terrestrial m.) The great circle (of the earth) which lies in the plane of the celestial meridian of a place, and which passes through the place and the poles; also often applied to that half of this circle that extends from pole to pole through the place.

So named because the sun crosses it at noon. A terrestrial globe, or a map of the earth or part of it, has usually a number of meridians drawn upon it at convenient distances, marked with figures indicating their respective longitude or angular distance on a parallel from the first meridian, i.e. the meridian (in British maps that of Greenwich) conventionally determined to be of longitude 0°.

¶1391 CHAUCER *Astrol.* ii. §39 And [yf] so be þat two townes haue illike Meridian, or on Meridian, than is the distance of hem bothe ylike fer fro the Est. ¶1549 *Compl. Scot.* vi. 51 Quhen the sune rysis at our est orizon, than it ascendis quhil it cum til our meridian. ¶1555 EDEN *Decades* 243 And commaunded a line or meridian to bee drawen Northe and south. ¶1594 BLUNDEVIL *Exerc.* iv. xviii. (1636) 461 Whereas the Terrestriall Globe is traced with 12 Meridians,..The Celestiall Globe is only traced with 6 Meridians. ¶1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* ii. 93 You must wait..till the Sun is upon the Meridian. ¶1678 HOBBS *Decam.* viii. 101 It will turn it self till it lye in a Meridian, that is to say, with one and the same Line still North and South. ¶1698 J. KEILL *Exam. Th. Earth* (1734) 231 All those who live under the same Meridian have twelve of the Clock at the same time. ¶1715 tr. *Gregory's Astron.* I. 211 Any such Secondary Circle drawn thro' any Place upon the Earth, is called the Meridian of that Place. Ibid. 212 They feigned therefore a first Meridian passing thro' the most Western Place of the Earth, that was then known. ¶1839 PENNY *Cycl.* XV. 110/1 The terrestrial meridian is

the section of the earth made by the plane of the celestial meridian. ¶1841 ELPHINSTONE *Hist. Ind.* II. 177 These two rajas soon reduced the Mussulman frontier to the Kishna on the south, and the meridian of Heiderábád on the east.

c. transf. (a) Geom. Occasionally applied to any great circle of a sphere that passes through the poles, or to a line, on a surface of revolution, that is in a plane with its axis. (b) magnetic meridian: the great circle of the earth that passes through any point on its surface and the magnetic poles.

¶1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I, Meridian Magnetical, is a Great Circle passing through or by the Magnetical Poles. a ¶1721 J. KEILL *Maupertuis' Diss.* (1734) 47 The Meridians of the Spheroids are continually Algebraic Curves. ¶1832 *Nat. Philos.* II. Magnet. iii. 23 (Usef. Knowl. Soc.), The magnetic meridian. ¶1837 BREWSTER *Magnet.* 11 He..made numerous experiments with bars of iron and steel placed in the magnetic meridian.

d. meridian of a globe or brass meridian: a graduated ring (sometimes a semi-circle only) of brass in which an artificial globe is suspended and revolves concentrically.

¶1633 G. HERBERT *Temple, Size* viii, An earthly globe, On whose meridian was engraven, These seas are tears, and heav'n the haven. ¶1727-51 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. Globe, The globe itself thus finished, they hang it in a brass meridian.

e. attrib. in meridian circle (see also meridian a. 3), an astronomical instrument consisting of a telescope carrying a large graduated circle, by which the right ascension and declination of a star may be determined; a transit-circle; meridian-mark, a mark fixed at some distance due north or south of an astronomical instrument, by pointing at which the instrument is set in the meridian.

¶1849 HERSCHEL *Outl. Astron.* §190. 114 Thus also a meridian line may be drawn and a meridian mark erected.

5. transf. and fig. A locality or situation, considered as separate and distinct from others, and as having its own particular character; the special character or circumstances by which one place, person, set of persons, etc. is distinguished from others. Chiefly in figurative uses of astronomical phrases such as calculated to or for the meridian of = 'suited to the tastes, habits, capacities, etc., of'.

¶1589 R. HARVEY *Pl. Perc.* Ded. 4. I will present you at the law day for a ryot, though I be neither side man for this Meridian, nor Warden. ¶1621

BURTON *Anat. Mel.* ii. ii. i. i. (1651) 231 Which howsoever I treat of, as proper to the Meridian of Melancholy. ¶1625 B. JONSON *Staple of N.*, Prol. Court, A Worke..fitted for your Maiesties disport, And writ to the Meridian of your Court. ¶1647 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* vii. §73 He was, at his suit, brought to the House of Commons' bar; where..with such flattery as was most exactly calculated to that meridian [etc.]. a ¶1677 HALE *Prim. Orig. Man.* i. i. 7 All other knowledge meerly or principally serves the concerns of this Life, and is fitted to the meridian thereof. ¶1712 ARBUTHNOT *John Bull* iii. Publisher's Pref., Though they had been calculated by him only for the meridian of Grub-street, yet they were taken notice of by the better sort. a ¶1718 PENN *Tracts Wks.* 1726 I. 471 His words of the Trinity are modest, neither highly Athanasian, nor yet Socinian,..but calculated to both Meridians. ¶1748 SMOLLETT *Rod Rand.* xxviii. (1804) 186 This suggestion..had the desired effect upon the captain, being exactly calculated for the meridian of his intellects. ¶1751 EARL OF ORRERY *Remarks Swift* (1752) 141 As this pamphlet was written for the meridian of Ireland. ¶1816 *Sporting Mag.* XLVIII. 34 This..could not fail in exciting ludicrous ideas, in the minds of the illiterate vulgar, for whose meridian it was calculated. ¶1835 W. IRVING *Newstead Abbey* Crayon Misc. (1863) 306 A course of anecdotes..such as suited the meridian of the..servants' hall.

defer v.1

(dɪ'fɜː(r))

[ME. differre-n, a. OF. différer (il diffère), 14th c. in Littré, ad. L. differ-re to carry apart, put off, postpone, delay, protract; also, intr., to bear in different directions, have diverse bearings, differ. Orig. the same word as differ v. (q.v. for the history of their differentiation), and often spelt differ in 16-17th c.; but forms in de-, def-, are found from the 15th, and have prevailed, against the etymology, mainly from the stress being on the final syllable; but partly, perhaps, by association with delay.]

1. trans. To put on one side; to set aside. Obs.

¶1393 GOWER *Conf.* I. 262 At mannes sighte Envie for to be preferred Hath conscience so differred, That no man loketh to the vice Whiche is the moder of malice. c ¶1430 LYDG. *Hors, Shepe & G.* 96 The Syrcumstaunce me lyst nat to defer. Min. Poems (Percy Soc.) 14 Grace withe her lycour cristallyne and pure Defferrithe vengeaunce off ffuriose woodnes.

b. To set or put 'beside oneself'; to bereave of one's wits. Obs. rare.

¶1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints, Matthæus* 84 Quhame þat þai [two sorcerers] had euir marryte Ine þare wittis or differryte.

c. refl. To withdraw or remove oneself. Obs.

¶1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints, Martha* 171 Hely, defere þe nocht fra me, Bot in myn helpe nov haste þu þe!

2. trans. To put off (action, procedure) to some later time; to delay, postpone.

¶1382 WYCLIF *Num.* xxx. 15 If the man..into another day deferre the sentence. 14.. Prose Legends in Anglia VIII. 132 [She] differred þe questyone.

¶1483 *Cath. Angl.* 99 To Differ, differre, prolongare. ¶1489 CAXTON *Faytes of A.* ii. vii. 104 The Lacedemonyens with drewe them self and differde the bataylle. ¶1526 TINDALE *Matt.* xxiv. 48 My master wyll differ his comynge. ¶1593 SHAKES. 2 *Hen.* VI, iv. vii. 141 Soldiers, Deferre the spoile of the Citie vntill night. ¶1651 HOBBS *Leviath.* ii. xxx. 183 Sometimes a Civill warre, may be differred, by such wayes. ¶1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 92 ¶2, I have deferred furnishing my Closet with Authors, 'till I receive your Advice. ¶1795 SOUTHEY *Joan of Arc* iv. 499 O chosen by Heaven! defer one day thy march. ¶1863 GEO. ELIOT *Romola* ii. iv, She deferred writing the irrevocable words of parting from all her little world.

b. Const. with inf. ? Obs.

¶1426 CARD. BEAUFORT in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. ii. I. 102 He hath long differred to parfourme them. c ¶1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 7118 To wende hame þai noȝt deferde. ¶1535 COVERDALE *Josh.* x. 13 The Sonne..dyfferred to go downe for the space of a whole daye after. ¶1609 BIBLE (Douay) *Ps.* lxxix. Comm., How long wilt thou differre to heare our prayer? a ¶1656 USSHER *Ann.* (1658) 880 Neither did he long defer to put those Jews to death. a ¶1732 ATTERBURY (J.), The longer thou deferrest to be acquainted with them, the less every day thou wilt find thyself disposed to them.

c. absol. or intr. To delay, procrastinate: rarely with off.

¶1382 WYCLIF *Deut.* vii. 10 So that he scater hem, and ferther differre not [1388 Differr [v.r. tarie] no lengere]. c ¶1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 7523 He defard, and walde noȝt trus. ¶1577 J. NORTHBROOKE *Dicing* (1843) 180 Whyles he desired, they deferred. a ¶1592 GREENE & LODGE *Looking Glass Wks.* (Rtldg.) 129/1 Defer not off, to-morrow is too late. ¶1614 BP. HALL *Recoll. Treat.* 935 God differ's on purpose that our trials may be perfect.

¶1635 R. BOLTON *Comf. Affl. Consc.* ix. 252 The longer thou putst off and deferrest the more unfit shalt thou be to repent. ¶1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* i.

390 Be wise to-day; 'tis madness to defer. ¶1771 P. PARSONS *Newmarket* I. 21, I have waited (demurred, my gentle reader, if you be a lawyer, deferred, if you be a divine)..a full year.

3. trans. To put off (a person or matter) to a future occasion:

a. a person. Obs.

¶1382 WYCLIF *Acts* xxiv. 22 Sothli Felix deferride hem [1388 Delayede, MS. K. ether differride; Tindale differde, 1539 Great B. deferede, 1557 Genev. differed, 1582 Rhem. differed, 1611 and 1881 Deferred]. ¶1545 BRINKLOW *Compl.* 20 b, Men be differyd from tyme to tyme, yea from yere to yere. ¶1642 ROGERS *Naaman* 137 If it seem good to thy wisdome to deferre me. ¶1709 STRYPE *Ann. Ref.* I. xxxviii. 440 He was deferred until Monday.

b. a time, matter, question.

¶1509 BARCLAY *Shyp of Folys* (1570) 49 Where they two borrowed, they promise to pay three, Their day of payment longer to defarre. ¶1536 *Exhort. fr. North* 135 in Furniv. Ballads I. 309 Differ not your matteres tyll a new zere.

¶1559 MORWYNG *Evonym.* 95 Which conserveth the good health of man's body, prolongeth a man's youth, differeth age. ¶1559 WILLOCK *Lett. to Crosraguell in Keith Hist. Church Sc. App.* 198 (Jam.), I wold aske quhilk of us differreth the Caus. ¶1611 BIBLE *Prov.* xiii. 12 Hope deferred maketh the heart sicke.

c. To relegate to a later part of a treatise.

¶1538 STARKEY *England* i. iv. 123 Let us not entur into thys dysputatyon now, but..dyffer hyt to hys place. ¶1558 KNOX *First Blast* (Arb.) 37 The admonition I differe to the end. ¶1611 CORYAT *Crudities* 480, I had deferred it till the end of the sermon. ¶1695 WOODWARD *Nat. Hist. Earth* i. (1723) 41 Which I choose, rather than trouble the Reader with a Detail..here, to deferr to their proper Place. ¶1877 J. D. CHAMBERS *Divine Worship* 284 It has been found necessary to defer them to the Appendix.

d. To postpone the military call-up of (a person, esp. one in a protected occupation). Usu. in pass. U.S.

¶1941 *Nation* (N.Y.) 17 May 596/1 The national draft board should promulgate a ruling to the effect that no worker deferred because of his employment in defense shall lose that deferment merely because he joins his fellow-workers in a strike. ¶1951 *Senior Scholastic* 25 Apr. 12/2 (heading) Should superior college students be deferred? ¶1969 M. PUZO *Godfather* i. i. 62

Paulie Gatto had been deferred from the draft himself because [he]..had received electrical shock treatments for a mental condition.

4. To put off (time), waste in delay. Obs.

¶1382 WYCLIF *Ezek.* xii. 22 Dais shulen be differrid, or drawen, in to loong [1388 Differrid in to long tyme]. ¶1548 HALL *Chron.* 184 Not myn- ding to differre the time any farther. ¶1579 LYLly *Euphues* (Arb.) 123 Idle to deferre ye time lyke Saint George, who is euer on horsebacke yet neuer ry- deth. ¶1591 SHAKES. *1 Hen.* VI, iii. ii. 33 Deferre no tyme, delayes haue dangerous ends. ¶1633 G. HERBERT *Temple, Deniall* vi, O cheer and tune my heartlesse breast, Deferre no time.

b. To protract; also intr. to linger. Obs.

¶1546 LANGLEY *Pol. Verg. De Invent.* i. xii. 24 a, The Warres were longe differred. ¶1561 NORTON & SACKV. *Gorboduc* iv. ii, Why to this houre Have kind and fortune thus deferred my breath? ¶1561 HOLLYBUSH *Hom. Apoth.* 42 b, If the disease woulde differre, and the jaundis woulde not voyde.

procure v.

(prəʊ'kjʊə(r))

[a. F. procurer (13th c. in Littré), ad. L. prōcūrāre to take for, take care of, attend to, manage, to act as procurator: see pro-1 and cure v. In ME. usu- ally stressed on the first syllable, 'procure (from F. inf. procu'rer); hence the weakened β-forms 'procur, etc.

I. 1. trans. To care for, take care of, attend to, look after. [So in L., and OF.] Obs. rare.

¶1425 WYNTOUN *Cron.* vi. iv. 357 (Cott. MS.) Bot þe possessoure to procure [Wemyss MS. trete]..wiþe honoure, And habundance of riches.

¶Ibid. viii. xxiv. 3648 Our Kynge Daid was sende in Frawns, Qwhar he..was..procuryt [v.r. tretit] in al esse ilk deil.

2. intr. To put forth or employ care or effort; to do one's best; to endeavour, labour; to use means, take measures. Const. inf. with to (for to); for, to, unto a thing. Obs.

¶1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 7462 þus þey þrete wyþ manace, & ful yuel þey procure & purchase. c ¶1380 *Antecrist* in Todd *Three Treat. Wyclif* (1851) 127 Crist fled from seculer lordschip & office; þei procuren fast to have it. c ¶1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 5825 Thar-for ert þow mys-byþoʒte, To procury hym to slee. c ¶1400 *Brut* 249 þai were his enemys..and procurede

forto make debate and contak bituene him and his sone. c ¶1430 *Syr Gener.* (Roxb.) 9220 Vnto his deliuerance he procured. ¶1509 *Parl. Devylls* ad fin., Who that wyll for heuen procure, Kepe hym fro the deuylles combrement.

¶1548 UDALL *Erasm. Par.* Pref. 3 To procure for the commodities and welth of Englande. ¶1561 T. HOBY tr. *Castiglione's Courtyer* i. (1577) D iv b, Such a countenance as this is,..and not so softe and womanish as many procure to haue. ¶1582 N. LICHEFIELD tr. *Castanheda's Conq. E. Ind.* i. i. 3 Hee gaue them charge..that they shoulde procure to atteine to the sight of Presbiter Ioan. ¶1608 R. JOHNSON *Seven Champions* ii. I iv b, Rosana..did procure to defend her selfe and offend hir enemy.

3. trans. To contrive or devise with care (an action or proceeding); to endeavour to cause or bring about (mostly something evil) to or for a person. Obs.

¶1290 BEKET 1258 in *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 142 A-morewe comen þis bischopes and þe eorles also, To procuri seint thomas al þat vuel þat heo mizten do. ¶13.. *Seuyn Sag.* (W.) 1201 He the procureth, night and dai, Al the sschame that he mai. ¶13.. *Coer de L.* 1730, I pray thee, Sir Tanker king, Procure me none evil thing. ¶1484 CAXTON *Fables of Alfonse* v, Ofte..the euyll whiche is procured to other cometh to hym whiche procureth it. ¶1530 PALSGR. 667/1, I procure, I cause a thyng to be done, or I devyse meanes to bringe a thyng to passe, je procure. ¶1573-80 BARET *Alv.* P 740 To procure hatred, or euill will to men, struere odium in aliquos. ¶1620 J. WILKINSON *Courts Leet* 136 Yee shall reasonably and honestly procure the profit of the corporation of this Towne.

b. ? To care for; ? to endeavour to get or do.

¶1574 HELLOWES *Gueuara's Fam. Ep.* (1577) 308 For women be of such quality, that they procure nothing [que ninguna cosa tanto procuran] so much as that which is most forbidden them.

II. 4. To bring about by care or pains; also (more vaguely) to bring about, cause, effect, produce.

a. with simple object. Now rare.

¶1340 HAMPOLE *Prose Tr.* 11 All maner of wilfull pollusyone procured one any maner agaynes kyndly oys. ¶1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) V. 215 Þe emperesse Eudoxia had i-procured þe out puttyng [procuravit ejectionem] of Iohn. Ibid. VI. 243 He sente Alcuinus..for to procure pees. ¶1554 BRADFORD in *Strype Eccl. Mem.* (1721) III. App. xxx. 84 It is we..that have sinned and procured thy grievous wrath upon us. ¶1615 G. SANDYS

Trav. i. 66 A drinke called Coffa..which helpeth..digestion, and procureth alacrity. ¶1677 W. HARRIS tr. *Lemery's Chym.* (1686) 536 It is good to procure sweat. ¶1748 SMOLLETT *Rod. Rand.* xii, This second sneer procured another laugh against him. ¶1861 E. O'CURRY *Lect. MS. Materials* 252 His uncle Cobhthach soon procured his death by means of a poisoned drink.

b. with subordinate clause. arch.

¶1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* lxviii. 12 Sum procurd þat .i. sould dye. ¶1551 ROBINSON tr. *More's Utop. Ep. P. Giles* (1895) 8 He is mynded to procure that he maye be sent thether. ¶1654 tr. *Martini's Conq. China* 226, I will procure all Europe shall understand the Issue of these prodigious revolutions. ¶1711 *Medley* No. 40 They procur'd that Mony should be lent at 5 per Cent. ¶1894 R. BRIDGES *Feast of B.* i. 301 Could you procure that I should speak with her?

c. with inf. To manage (to do something). Obs.

¶1559 *Mirr. Mag.* (1563) H v b, Eyther I must procure to see them dead, Or for contempt as a traytour lose my head. ¶1587 FLEMING *Contrn. Holinshed* III. 1378/2 Sir Roger Manwood..procured to pas another act of parlement, .. wherein is further prouision made for the said bridge. ¶1678 R. BARCLAY *Apol. Quakers* ii. iii. 25 Men..have procured to be esteemed as Masters of Christianity, by certain Artificial Tricks.

d. with obj. and inf. pass. To cause or get (a person or thing) to be treated in some way; to get something done to (a person). Now rare.

¶1450 MYRC 696 All that vnrightfully defameth eny person or prokereth to be famed. ¶1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* i. (1586) 7 b, Procur-ing him to be sent in embassage. a ¶1626 BACON *Civ. Char. Jul. Cæsar Ess.* (1696) 161 He procured to be enacted no wholsome Laws. ¶1724 A. COLLINS *Gr. Chr. Relig.* 34 They procur'd him to be crucify'd. ¶1794 PALEY *Evid.* ii. ix. (1817) 216 [Nero] procured the Christians to be accused. ¶1866 HOWELLS *Venet. Life* v. 68 An ingenious lover procured his..rival to be arrested for lunacy.

5. To obtain by care or effort; to gain, win, get possession of, acquire. (Now the leading sense.) In early use, to gain the help of, to win over (a person) to one's side.

¶1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 11483 Sir Ion..turnde a3e sir simond & procurede oþer mo. c ¶1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 119 Mald in Bristow lettres fast sendes, Bi messengers trow, forto procore frendes.

¶1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VI. 355 He was þe firste þat ordeyned comyn scole at Oxenforde., and procrede fredom and priveleges in many articles to þat citee. ¶1451 J. CAPGRAVE *Life St. Aug.* 50 The first þat he schuld neuyr procur no wyf to no man. ¶1538 STARKEY *England* i. i. 7 Hyt ys bettur..for a man being in gret pouerty, rather to procure some ryches then hye phylosophy. ¶1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* iv. 256 To him selfe he procuired the fame of all æquitie. ¶1611 BIBLE *Transl. Pref.* 2 This..procured to him great obloquie. ¶1718 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Let. to Abbé Conti* 19 May, Things that 'tis very easy to procure lists of. ¶1776 *Carlisle Mag.* 7 Sept. 143 She endeavoured to procure employment as a needle~woman. ¶1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* iii. §4. 134 Books were difficult and sometimes even impossible to procure. Mod. Could you procure me specimens?

b. To obtain (women) for the gratification of lust. Usually absol. or intr. To act as a procurer (sense 4) or procuress.

¶1603 SHAKES. *Meas. for M.* iii. ii. 68 How doth my deere Morsell, thy Mistris? Procures she still? ¶1706 PHILLIPS, *Procure*..is also taken in an ill Sense, for to act as a Pimp or Bawd. ¶1745 CHESTERFIELD *Lett.* (1792) I. 282 Juno..offers to procure for Aeolus, by way of bribe. ¶1891 *Daily News* 26 Jan. 7/2 Charged..at the Lambeth Police-court, on Saturday, with that he did by false pretences procure E. A. H.

6. To prevail upon, induce, persuade, get (a person) to do something. Obs. or arch.

¶1340-70 *Alex. & Dind.* 347 Ne we agayn hem to do [ed. go] nol no gome procre. c ¶1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 342 Hou þat Clement left his office and procuride opir to helpe him. ¶1401 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 25 Why procurest thou men to yeve the their almes? ¶1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 184 Pope Boniface being informed and procured by the Scottes, sent his letters vnto the king of England. ¶1579 FENTON *Guicciard.* ii. (1599) 75 The newes of the reuolt of Nouaro, procured the King..to make way. ¶1667 EVELYN *Diary* 19 Sept., I procur'd him to bestow them [the Arundelian Marbles] on the University of Oxford. ¶1736 *Hale's Placit. Coron.* I. 615 An accessory before is he, that being absent at the time of the felony committed doth yet procure, counsel, command, or abet another to commit a felony. ¶1756 C. LUCAS *Ess. Waters* II. 144 The writer is influenced or procured to write for the one, against the other. ¶1828 S. TURNER *Anglo-Sax.* (ed. 5) I. iii. x. 245 Charlemagne communicates to him [Offa]..his success in procuring the continental Saxons to adopt Christianity.

b. spec. Law. To induce privately, to suborn, to bribe (a witness, juryman, etc.). Obs.

¶[1292 BRITTON i. ii. §11 Et si defendoms a touz Corouners..qe nul face ses enquestes..par amis procurez.] ¶1433 *Rolls of Parlt.* IV. 476/1 Whether they..be procured to chese eny persone..to eny maner Office..and yf eny persone..be founde procured, that then he or thei be remeved. ¶1573-80 BARET *Alv. P* 741 A witnes procured with monie, or bribes, conflatus pecuniâ testis. ¶1620 J. WILKINSON *Coroners & Sherifes* 44 Ye shall..make your pannels your selfe of such persons, as bee..not suspect, nor procured.

c. With adv. of place: To induce or prevail upon (a person) to come; to bring, lead. Obs.

¶1586 J. HOOKER *Hist. Irel.* in *Holinshed* II. 130/2 [They] agreed to cause Tirlough Lennough to procure in the Scots. ¶1592 SHAKES. *Rom. & Jul.* iii. v. 68 What vnaccustom'd cause procures her hither? a ¶1604 HANMER *Chron. Irel.* (1633) 128 Neither were we procured hither to be idle, or live deliciously. ¶1625 SHIRLEY *Love Tricks* iv. ii, Yonder is a pleasant arbour, procure him thither.

7. To try to induce; to urge, press. Obs.

¶1551 EDW. VI *Let. Sir B. Fitz-Patrick* 20 Dec. in *Lit. Rem.* (Roxb.) I. 69 If yow be vehemently procured yow may goe as waiting on the king. ¶1581 J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Osor.* 219 b, Where did he euer shake of the obedience of due allegeaunce? or procured any Subjectes to rebellion agaynst their Gouvernours? ¶1590 SPENSER *F.Q.* iii. i. 1 The famous Briton Prince and Faery Knight,..Of the faire Alma greatly were procur'd To make there lenger sojourne and abode.

III. 8. intr. To act as a procurator or legal agent; to solicit. (In quot. 1401, To act by a proctor or attorney.) Obs.

¶1380 WYCLIF *Serm. Sel. Wks.* I. 383 Many trewe men, boþe aprentis and avocatis, wolen not procure in a cause bifore þat þei heeren it. ¶1401 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 34 You wend or send or procure to the court of Rome, to be made cardinals or bishops of the popes chaplens. ¶1528 WOLSEY in *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, I. 291 What promysse I demaunded of the said Emperours Ambassadour, who said he wolde procure for restitution. ¶1536 in *Strype Cranmer* ii. (1694) 36 There should be as many..admitted to procure there as shuld be seen convenient to my said Lord of Canterbury. ¶1539 *Sc. Acts Jas. V* (1814) II. 353/2 Ane writing subscriuit be þe kingis grace..chargeing him & certane vþeris his collegis to procure for þe said James.

b. fig. To plead, make supplication. Obs.

¶1563 WIN³ET *Four Scoir Thre Quest.* To Rdr., Wks. I. 57 For in defence of that thing only procurir I, quhilk..the haill Kirk of God..maist clerlie ap-preuis. a ¶1568 R. NORVALL *O most eternall King* 91 in Bannatyne MS. 51 Thairfoir to God for grace procure: He that wold leif most lerne to dy. a ¶1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* ii. xxiii. (S.T.S.) I. 351 The king..procurit for his lyfe at the bischopis handis. a ¶1615 BRIEUE *Cron. Erlis of Ross* (1850) 13 He procurit to him, by nature inclynit to follow such counsel, to mak war in his favour.

IV. 9. intr. ? To proceed, advance. Obs. rare. (Sense and sematology obscure.)

¶1490 CAXTON *Eneydos* xiii. 47 In her thoughte the wounde of amby-cyouse desyre..is so procured that she can not hyde it noo lenger. ¶1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 146 His hatred procureth from naughtie to wurse, His friendship like Iudas that carried the purse.

exonerate v.

(ɛɡˈzɒnəreɪt)

[f. L. *exonerāt-* ppl. stem of *exonerā-re*, f. *ex-* (see *ex-* prefix1) + *oner-*, *onus* burden. Cf. Fr. *exonérer*.]

1. trans. To take off a burden from; to relieve of (a burden, material or im-material); to unload, lighten (a ship); also humorously, to ‘relieve’ (a person) of his money. Now rare.

¶1524 HEN. VIII. in Strype *Eccl. Mem.* I. App. xiii. 30 Discharging or exonerating their galeis. ¶1566 PAINTER *Pal. Pleas.* I. 46 [They] haue prayed to God to be exonerated of loue, aboue all other diseases. ¶1615 T. ADAMS *Spir. Navigator* 34 He strives to exonerate his shoulders. a ¶1634 CHAPMAN *Bacchus* 110 Exonerate Our sinking vessel of his deified lode. ¶1637 BASTWICK *Litany* iii. 13 They would quickly exonerate their families of them. ¶1640 BP. REYNOLDS *Passions* xxi. 218 It exonerateth the mind of all those dulling Indispositions. ¶1785 BURKE *Sp. Nabob Arcot's Debts* Wks. IV. 308 The debt thus exonerated of so great a weight of its odium. ¶1798 WELLINGTON in Owen *Disp.* 29 Success would certainly exonerate our finances. 1807-8 Syd. Smith Plymley's Lett. x, Be exonerated of his ready money and his constitution.

2. To discharge the contents of (the body, an organ), esp. by evacuation. to exonerate nature, exonerate oneself: to relieve the bowels. Obs.

¶1542 BOORDE *Dyetary* viii. (1870) 248 And exonerate your selfe at all tymes that nature wold expell. Ibid. xxx. 293 To exonerat the blader and the bely whan nede shall requyre. ¶1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* 65 They sit all the day long, vnlesse they rise to exonerate nature. ¶1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 149 [They] over-load their mouthes..and by a sudden laughter exonerate their chaps. ¶1710 T. FULLER *Pharm. Extemp.* 322 Cachectic Pills..exonerate the Habit of the Body. ¶1829 *Health & Longevity* 269 The bowels..ought to be exonerated at least once in two days.

b. intr. for refl. Obs.

¶1631 R. H. ARRAIGNM. *Whole Creature* xiii. §1. 178 Over~charged..till they..exonerate as a Wolfe or Dog, too full gorged, with Carion. ¶1704 J. PITTS *Relig. & Mann. Mahometans* iv. 25 These Moors..accounting it a great piece of Rudeness to exonerate in the sight of another. ¶1762 B. STILLINGFL. *Econ. Nat. Misc. Tracts* 123 Care is taken that these animals should exonerate upon stones, etc.

3. refl. Of a lake, river, sea, etc., also of a blood-vessel: To empty itself, its waters, or contents; to disembogue, discharge. Obs.

¶1598 HAKLUYT *Voy.* I. 113 Neither did this riuer exonerate itself into any sea. ¶1635 JACKSON *Creed* viii. xx. Wks. VIII. 43 We all meet in the main or ocean whereinto this psalm and others do exonerate themselves. ¶1659 MACALLO *Can. Physick* 25 The great Veines..do exonerate themselves into the little. ¶1715 HALLEY in *Phil. Trans.* XXIX. 298 That [gulf] of Paria, into which the Lake of Titicaca does in part exonerate it self.

4. trans. a. To discharge, pour off (a fluid product, a body of water). b. To cast off, get rid of (persons, population). Obs. rare.

a. ¶1615 CROOKE *Body of Man* 429 It [the bile] is..exonerated into that which is called the Caua or hollow veine. ¶1635 N. CARPENTER *Geog. Del.* ii. vi. 96 The streitnesse of the channell, wherein a great..sea is to bee exonerated. ¶1672 *Phil. Trans.* VII. 5009 The Lympha does wholly exonerate itself into the sub-clavial and jugular veins.

b. ¶1614 RALEIGH *Hist. World* i. viii. §4 These borderers..might exonerate their swelling multitudes. ¶1657 M. HAWKE *Killing is M.* 23 Whereby such nefarious and facinerosus persons may be exonerated.

5. To relieve from, of (anything burdensome, a duty, obligation, payment, task, etc.).

¶1548 HALL *Chron.* 227 That he might..exonerate them of the great charges, travayles & labors, that they now were in. c ¶1555 HARPSFIELD *Divorce Hen. VIII* (1878) 25 Would God Sir Thomas Moore..had exonerated and discharged me of this my pains & labour. ¶1692 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2786/3 To exonerate and discharge them from all Arrears of Heath-money. ¶1783 BURKE *Rep. Affairs India* Wks. 1842 II. 62 Mr. Hastings..offered to exonerate the company from that 'charge'. ¶1835 I. TAYLOR *Spir. Despot.* ii. 75 A body of clergy exonerated of all solicitude. ¶1851 *Ord. & Regul. R. Engineers* ii. 2 Commanding Royal Engineers will not exonerate any Officers..from the performance of such Duties.

6. To free from blame; to exculpate; also, to relieve from the blame or burden of; to relieve or set free from (blame, reproach).

¶1575 CHURCHYARD *Chippes* (1817) 40 That lord Oxford might be induced..to exonerate Churchyard. ¶1654 H. L'ESTRANGE *Chas. I* (1655) 21 Nothing would prevail, nor would the Duke be exonerated. ¶1678 R. BARCLAY *Apol. Quakers* v. §12. 136 Such a season..sufficiently exonerateth God of every Man's Condemnation. ¶1824 W. IRVING *T. Trav.* I. 334 To exonerate myself of a greater crime. ¶1825 F. BURNEY *Diary* I. 561 To exonerate her from the banal reproach of yielding unresisting to her passions. a ¶1848 R. W. HAMILTON *Rew. & Punishm.* viii. 489 Do we seek to exonerate His justice..by the denial of His faithfulness? ¶1884 PAE *Eustace* 187, I won't exonerate the Government.

exculpate v.

(ˈɛkskʌlpɛɪt, ɛksˈkʌlpɛɪt)

[f. ex- prefix1 + L. culp-a blame + -ate3. Cf. It. scolpare, med.L. *exculpāre implied in exculpātio (Du Cange).]

1. trans. To free from blame; to declare free from guilt; to clear from an accusation or blame.

¶1656-81 [see 1 b]. ¶1721 in BAILEY. ¶1758-9 LOWTH *Life Wykeham* v. 156 Men who had been.. punished in the parliament of 1376, and who had gotten themselves exculpated in the succeeding parliament. ¶1841 JAMES *Brigand* xx, She exculpates me from blame in this matter. ¶1850 GROTE *Greece* ii. lxii, The latter stood exculpated on both charges.

refl. ¶1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (J.), A good child will not seek to exculpate herself at the expence of the most revered characters. ¶1809-10

COLERIDGE *Friend* (1865) 110 From this charge of inconsistency I shall best exculpate myself by the full statement of the third system. ¶1863 MRS. OLIPHANT *Salem* Ch. iv. 63 Poor Vincent made a hasty effort to exculpate himself from the soft impeachment.

b. intr. for refl. Obs. rare.

¶1656-81 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Exculpate*, to cleer ones self of a fault. ¶1780 BURKE *Corr.* (1844) II. 315 To be over earnest in endeavours to exculpate, previous to accusation, would imply [etc.]. ¶1783 *Rep. Affairs India* Wks. XI. 326 Doubts whether the refusal to exculpate by oath can be used..to infer any presumption of guilt.

2. Of things: **a.** To serve as an excuse for; to justify. Obs. rare. **b.** To furnish ground for exculpating. Const. from.

¶1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey) s.v., Good meaning will never exculpate blind and Superstitious Devotion. ¶1783 BURKE *Rep. Affairs India* Wks. XI. 132 Evidence, which may tend to criminate, or exculpate, every person. ¶1875 FARRAR *Seekers* i. vi. 83 The tenor of his life has sufficient weight to exculpate him from an unsupported accusation.

remit v.

(rɪ'mɪt)

[ad. L. remitt-ĕre, f. re- re- + mittĕre to send; cf. admit, commit, etc. In Eng. use the secondary senses appear earlier and are more prominent than the primary: cf. remission.]

I. trans.

1. To forgive or pardon (a sin, offence, etc.).

¶1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* vii. (James less) 209 Lord, remyt þis gilt þam to. Ibid. xxx. (Theodora) 698 He hyr reconsalyt..& remyted hyre al hyr syne. c ¶1440 *GESTA Rom.* lxxviii. 399 (Add. MS.), Afterwarde the kyng made men to seke the queen,..and all that was done was remytte. 1503-4 Act 19 Hen. VII, c. 37 Preamble, It pleased your Highnesse..to pardone remitte & forgyve unto your seid Subject all the seid Mesprisions. ¶1535 COVERDALE *John* xx. 23 Whose synnes soeuer ye remytte they are remytted vnto them. ¶1608 HIERON *Wks.* I. 695 Bee pleased..for His sake to remit my former vngratefulnesse. ¶1708 J. CHAMBERLAYNE *St. Gt. Brit.* i. iii. viii. 254 The English being easily to be reconciled, to pardon and remit Offences. ¶1823 SCOTT

Peveril xl, Your Majesty was pleased to remit his more outrageous and insolent attempt upon your royal crown. ¶1884 A. R. PENNINGTON *Wiclif* ix. 297 It is impossible for the priest to remit the sins of any unless they are first remitted by Christ.

b. To spare, pardon, or forgive (a person).

¶1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 78 He wolde not his prelate to shewe ony mercy on hym, nor to remyt or spare hym in ony thyng. ¶1549 COVERDALE, etc. *Erasm. Par. John* 44 For God remitteth not hym that forgeueth not his brother. ¶1583 STUBBES *Anat. Abus.* ii. (1882) 13 Can man pardon or remit him whom God doth condemne? ¶1633 BP. HALL *Hard Texts, N.T.* 79 Bee comforted in God who hath remitted thee.

2. To give up, resign, surrender (a right or possession). Obs.

¶1450 GODSTOW *Reg.* (E.E.T.S.) 42 Milo Basset remitted and furthermore quyte-claymed..to the abbesse of Godestowe.., all the right and clayme that he had. 1472-3 *Rolls of Parlt.* VI. 6/1 That it may please youre seid Highnes..to remitte and release..to us..all youre right. ¶1588 SHAKES. *L.L.L.* v. ii. 459 Qu. Will you haue me, or your Pearle againe? Ber. Neither of either, I remit both twaine. 1647-8 Sir C. Cotterell Davila's *Hist. Fr.* (1678) 12 He was led..to remit his whole authority into the hands of allies. ¶1654 tr. *Scudery's Curia Pol.* 96 If Queen Elizabeth had not believed..she would not have..remitted her Scepter to my hands. ¶1670 DRYDEN *Tyran. Love* iii. i, Th' Ægyptian Crown I to your hands remit.

3. To abstain from exacting (a payment or service of any kind); to allow to remain unpaid (or unperformed).

¶1463 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 498/2 To pardon and remitte unto the seid Commons the seid vi M li. ¶1560 J. DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 60 It is reason that the lordes remit some part therof [sc. rent]. c ¶1645 HOWELL *Lett.* (1713) 16 All this his Majesty remitted, and only took the Principal. a ¶1661 FULLER *Worthies* (1840) II. 508 The Queen..rigorously demanded the present payment of some arrears which Sir Christopher did not hope to have remitted.

¶1701 W. WOTTON *Hist. Rome* vi. 109 She remitted the Arrears that were owing. ¶1783 BURKE *Rep. Aff. India* Wks. 1842 II. 18/1 They remit, by the like authority, the duties, to which all private trade is subject. ¶1817 JAS. MILL *Brit. India* I. iii. iv. 575 The rents of the husbandman, and other taxes, were remitted. ¶1863 FAWCETT *Pol. Econ.* iii. iii. 323 Let it be assumed that every farmer has the rent of his farm remitted for the next thirty years.

b. To refrain from inflicting (a punishment) or carrying out (a sentence); to

withdraw, cancel; to grant remission of (suffering).

¶1483 *Rolls of Parlt.* VI. 250/2 Oure said soveraigne Lorde..remitteth and woll forbere the greate punysshement of atteynder. ¶1553 T. WILSON *Rhet.* 15 b, The whole citie thought to remitte the necessitie of his punishment for the honour of his father. ¶1616 R. C. *Times' Whistle* iv. 1344 The officer deputed for th' offence Will winck at smale faultes & remit correction. ¶1693 LUTTRELL *Brief Rel.* (1857) III. 118 The queen remitted the quartering of his body. ¶1754 SHERLOCK *Disc.* I. i. 46 God may freely forgive the Sins of the World, and remit the Punishment. ¶1807 CRABBE *Hall of Just.* 3 Remit awhile the harsh command. ¶1841 JAMES *Brigand* xxxiii, We come to beseech you to remit the sentence of this unhappy young gentleman. ¶1857 BUCKLE *Civiliz.* I. xii. 673 The exile which followed the imprisonment seems to have been soon remitted. ¶1868 BROWNING *Ring & Bk.* vi. 127 How does lenity to me Remit one death-bed pang to her?

c. To exempt from confiscation. rare—1.

¶1741 MIDDLETON *Cicero* I. ii. 104 Verres for a valuable consideration sometimes remitted the ship.

d. To allow as a respite. rare—1.

¶1813 BYRON *Corsair* ii. xiv, I will, at least, delay The sentence that remits thee scarce a day.

4. To discharge, set free, release, liberate (a person). Also const. of, to. Obs.

¶1548 HALL *Chron., Hen.* VIII 169 b, Wee clerely remitted, and deliuered hym into his countrey. ¶1575 R. B. *Appius & Virg.* D j b, If treason none by me be done, or any fault committed, Let my accusers beare the blame, and let me be remitted. ¶1634 GARRARD in *Strafford's Lett.* (1739) I. 373 Mr. Seldon is remitted of those Fetters that lay upon him. ¶1647 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* vi. §35 His Lordship was committed to the Tower.; and though he was afterwards remitted to more Air, he continued a Prisoner to his death.

II. 5. To give up, lay aside (anger, displeasure, etc.) entirely or in part.

¶1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* vii. (James less) 635 Pare-for his malancoly to þat man he remyttte þare. ¶1393-4 *Rolls of Parlt.* III. 314/1 Hit forthynketh me, and byseche yowe of your gode Lordship to remyt me your mautalent. ¶1413 PILGR. *Sowle* (Caxton 1483) i. xxvii. 31 This blessid lord Ihesu Crist remitted his rigour, descending downe to the erthe. ¶1560 J. DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 317 b, I besече him to remit all displeasure. ¶1577 HANMER *Anc. Eccl. Hist.* (1619) 180 [He] would not thus much have remitted his tyranny, had he not been compelled. ¶1667 MILTON *P.L.* ii. 210 Our Supream Foe

in time may much remit His anger. ¶1761 HUME *Hist. Eng.* I. App. ii. 258
That he would remit his displeasure. ¶1820 SHELLEY *Ced. Tyr.* ii. ii. 99
Remit, O Queen! thy accustomed rage!

b. To give up or give over, abandon, desist from (a pursuit, occupation, etc.).

¶1587 R. HOVENDEN in *Collect.* (O.H.S.) I. 220 The Ladi Stafford was resolved to remyt hir suite. ¶1608 WILLET *Hexapla Exod.* 60 They..caused them to remit their workes. ¶1687 LADY R. RUSSELL *Lett.* I. li. 123 It seems I must remit seeing you, as you once kindly intended. ¶1726 POPE *Odyss.* xxiv. 286 Who digging round the plant still hangs his head, Nor ought remits the work. ¶1880 KINGLAKE *Crimea* VI. vi. 159 Engaged..in a siege which they could not remit.

6. To allow (one's diligence, attention, etc.) to slacken or abate.

¶1510 MORE *Picus Wks.* 15/1 Ye shall not think, that my trauaile and diligence in study is any thing remitted or slacked. ¶1590 MARLOWE *Edw. II*, ii. v, He that the care of his realm remits [etc.]. 1742-3 Ld. Hervey in Johnson's *Debates* (1787) II. 409 To make the attainment of it more and more difficult, that they may insensibly remit their ardour. ¶1780 JOHNSON *Let. to Mr. Thrale* 30 May, Do not remit your care. ¶1803 M. EDGEWORTH *Manuf.* ii. (1832) 101, I have never remitted my attention to business. ¶1827 HALLAM *Const. Hist.* (1876) I. iii. 143 Nor did the voluntary exiles established in Flanders remit their diligence in filling the kingdom with emissaries.

b. To admit or manifest an abatement of some quality. ? Obs.

¶1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* i. i. i. i, When he..remembred that he was but a man, and remitted of his pride. ¶1628 HOBBS *Thucyd.* (1822) 8 To try if the Athenians..would yet in some degree remit of their obstinacy. ¶1702 Eng. *Theophrast.* 342 The strongest passions sometimes remit of their violence. ¶1775 S. J. PRATT *Liberal Opin.* v. (1783) I. 84 At the end of about two months, the severity of my fate began to remit of its rigour.

c. To mitigate, diminish, or abate. ? Obs.

¶1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* 39 Stiffe winter which no spring remits. ¶1656 RIDGLEY *Pract. Physick* 316 When the heat, pain, Feaver are remitted. ¶1658 ROWLAND tr. *Moufet's Theat. Ins.* 979 The light by little and little is remitted and slackned. ¶1750 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 17 ¶5 Every man has experienced how much of this ardour has been remitted, when a sharp..sickness has set death before his eyes.

7. To relax, relieve from tension. Obs.

¶1510 BARCLAY *Mirr. Gd. Manners* (1570) D j, Ceasse not, perseuer, knock & stande, Remitte not thine armes by knocking fatigate. ¶1668 CULPEPPER & COLE *Barthol. Anat.* ii. iii. 92 When the Breath is drawn in the Midriff is stretched, when it is blowne out, it is remitted or slackned. a ¶1676 HALE *Prim. Orig. Man.* i. i. (1677) 29 'Tis by this..the Lungs are intended or remitted. ¶1711 tr. *Werenfelsius' Logomachys, Disc. Meteors Stile* 192 Let the Judgement..sometimes remit, and sometimes contract the Reins.

III. 8. To refer (a matter) for consideration, decision, performance, etc., to a person or body of persons, now usu. to one specially empowered or appointed to deal with it; also spec. in Law, to send back (a case) to an inferior court.

¶1400 MANDEVILLE (1839) xxxi. 315 Oure holy Fadir..remytted my Boke to ben examyned and preved be the Avys of the seyd Conseille. ¶1455 PASTON *Lett.* I. 321 Wheche mater I remytte..to youre ryght wyse discrecion.

¶1484 CAXTON *Fables of Alfonce* ix, They remytted the cause to be discuted or pleted before the Juge. ¶1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* §7 The spirytual constructyoun of this texte, I remytte to the doctours of dyuynitie. ¶1586 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* i. (1594) 514 Let them remit the judgement and deciding of their controversies to the arbitrement of some good men. ¶1654 tr. *Martini's Conq. China* 14 He remitted the business to the chief Governors and Commanders. ¶1762 FOOTE *Orators* i. Wks. 1799 I. 203 We shall..remit the examination of the ignoble ones to the care of subaltern artists. ¶1863 P. BARRY *Dockyard Econ.* 59 The task and job question was remitted to the Commissioners on the Civil Affairs of the Navy. ¶1884 *Law Times Rep.* L. 174/1 The defendants gave notice of their motion to set aside and remit the report [of the special referee].

absol. ¶1838 W. BELL *Dict. Law Scot.* 52 The circuit judge..may recall the judgment appealed from, and remit to the inferior court with instructions.

b. To send (a person) from one tribunal to another for trial or hearing. rare.

¶1538 STARKEY *England* ii. ii. 190 At London the jugys schold admyt non in sute, but such only as, for some resonabul cause, were remytted to them by the gentylmen of the scyre. ¶1740 HOWE in *Johnson's Debates* (1787) I. 31 If we remit this offender..to any inferior court [etc.].

c. To commit (a person) to the charge or control of another. Also refl. Obs.

¶1741 RICHARDSON *Pamela* (1883) I. 407 As he knew best what befitted his own rank and condition, I would wholly remit myself to his good pleasure.

d. refl. = REFER v. 5. Obs. rare—1.

¶1674 *Govt. Tongue* 18, I dare in this remit me to themselves, and challenge..their natural ingenuity to say [etc.].

9. To refer (one) to a book, person, etc., for information on some point.

¶1417 HEN. V in *Ellis Orig. Lett.* Ser. iii. I. 62 We remitte hem to have ful declaracion and verrai knawelege of you in that matere. c ¶1425 WYN-TOUN *Cron.* ii. 1346 (WEMYSS MS.), Gif 3e of þat thing mare will wit, To Ovidis buke I 3ow remytt. ¶1533 MORE *Debell. Salem* Pref., Wks. 931/1 And some suche places yet as I had happed to finde, I haue remitted the reader vnto in myne apologye. ¶1590 SIR J. SMYTH *Disc. Weapons* 49 To the particularities whereof..I remit those that are disposed to see and consider.

¶1650 FULLER *Pisgah* ii. iv. 113 Well might profane persons be remitted to this river, thereby to be instructed in the Sabbaths due observation. ¶1714 *Ellwoods' Autobiog.* Pref., Much of this being already done in the ensuing Pages, I chuse to remit the Reader thither. ¶1769 ROBERTSON *Chas.* V, vii. III. 16 The Emperor..without deigning to answer a single word, remitted him to his ministers. ¶1835-8 S. R. MAITLAND *Dark Ages* (1844) 156 Let us hear Du Cange, to whom Robertson remits us.

¶1410 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) x, Of þe remenaunt of his nature I remytte to Milbournn þe kynges Otyr hunter. ¶1523 FITZHERB. *Husb. Prol.*, I remytte [? to] that boke as myn auctour therof.

b. To direct (one) to a task. Obs. rare—1.

¶1544 *Supplic. Hen.* VIII (1871) 51 Remyttinge byshops to attende their offyce and vocacyon by God..appoynted.

10. a. To send (a person) back to prison, or to other custody; to recommit. Now rare.

¶1414 *Rolls of Parlt.* IV. 57/2 Whan I was remitted to the Prison of Flete. ¶1474 *Ibid.* VI. 103/1 The seid Chaunceller there remitted the seid Thomas Buyssshop ageyn. ¶1653 LD. VAUX tr. *Godeau's St. Paul* 300 The Captain..remitted him, with the rest of his prisoners, into the hands of the Prefect of the Pretorium. ¶1700 DRYDEN *Sigism. & Guisc.* 287 The prisoner was remitted to the guard. ¶1827 HALLAM *Const. Hist.* (1876) I. vii. 383 Whether such a return was sufficient in law to justify the court in remitting the parties to custody.

b. To send in return; to send back. Obs. rare.

¶1461 PASTON *Lett.* II. 67 Remitte me summe letter, by the bringer her of, of all thes maters. ¶1660 F. BROOKE tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 113 He gave them freedom, and remitted them ransomlesse, sent them all back again.

c. To emit or send out again. Obs. rare—1.

¶1700 DRYDEN *Ovid's Met.* xv. 522 Whether Earth's an Animal, and Air Imbibes; her Lungs with coolness to repair, and what she sucks remits.

11. a. Law. To restore to a former and more valid title: see REMITTER 1. Obs.

¶1544 tr. *Littleton's Tenures* 141 In so much the wyfe is in her remytter, he is remitted to his reuercion. ¶1632 *Womens Rights* xix. 156 The eldest daughter is remitted, that is remaunded and settled in the ancient estate.

¶1768 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* III. ii. 21 If the issue in tail be barred by the fine..of his ancestor, and the freehold is afterwards cast upon him; he shall not be remitted to his estate tail.

b. To put back into, to admit or consign again to a previous position, state, or condition.

¶1591 SPENSER *M. Hubberd* 1254 He bad the Lyon be remitted Into his seate. ¶1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* ii. xxii. 142 Thus his indiscretion remitted him to the nature of an ordinary person. ¶1654 EARL OF MONMOUTH tr. *Bentivoglio's Warrs Flanders* 186 It was a long while ere it [the city] could be remitted into its former condition. ¶1671 MILTON *Samson* 687 Nor only dost [thou] degrade them, or remit To life obscur'd which were a fair dismissal. ¶1761 *New Comp. Fest. & Fasts* xxxvi. §2. 353 When death..is making his near approach to.. remit us to darkness and oblivion. ¶1863 BRIGHT *Sp., Amer.* 30 June (1876) 142 You propose to remit to slavery three millions of negroes.

12. To postpone, to put off or defer.

¶1635 J. HAYWARD tr. *Biondi's Banish'd Virg.* 166 Willingly would hee have knowne then presently the story..but..he remitted it till after supper.

¶1663 GERBIER *Counsel* 62 Remitting setting of walls untill the next Spring after. ¶1769 GOLDSM. *Hist. Rome* (1786) II. 25 The conspirators..remitted the execution of their design to the ides of March.

¶1786 JEFFERSON *Writ.* (1859) I. 511 We remitted all further discussion till he should send me a copy of his letter. ¶1836 J. GILBERT *Chr. Atonem.* iii. (1852) 73 We must for the present remit our reply to that part of our subject.

b. To defer the reception of (a person). Obs.—1

¶1663 H. COGAN tr. *Pinto's Trav.* xlv. 175, I hold it fit to remit him unto some other time, when as he may be better acquainted.

13. To refer, assign, or make over to a thing or person.

¶1641 *Vind. Smectymnuus* vi. 78 That which Hierome speakes in the present tense..he would remit to time past. ¶1720 WATERLAND *Answ. Whitby's Reply* 58 You..object farther..that Christ would not suffer Himself to be called Good, but remitted that Title to the Father only. ¶1788 REID *Aristotle's Log.* iv. §6. 89 He thinks that the doctrine of modals ought to be banished out of logic and remitted to grammar. ¶1837 G. PHILLIPS *Syriac Gram.* 9 The vowel in such places is remitted to the preceding letter, if it has been previously without one.

b. To enter or insert in (or into) a book. Obs.

¶1670 WOOD *Life* (O.H.S.) II. 204 This book he gave A. W. because he had, in his great reading, collected some old words for his use, which were remitted therein. ¶1716 M. DAVIES *Athen. Brit.* II. 219 Which Examinations..were..remitted by John Fox into his Book of Martyrs.

14. To send or transmit (money or articles of value) to a person or place.

¶1640 HOWELL *Dodona's Gr.* 98 [He] makes one of her proudest Cities his Scale, for remitting his Moneyes to Leoncia. ¶1690 in J. Mackenzie *Siege London-Derry* 54/1 You are to receive and dispose of the Thousand pounds which shall be remitted to you, to the best advantage. ¶1758 JOHNSON *Idler* No. 62 ¶4 We parted; and he remitted me a small annuity. ¶1787 JEFFERSON *Writ.* (1859) II. 149 This has prevented the treasury board from remitting any money to this place. ¶1840 MACAULAY *Ess., Clive* (1852) III. 61 He had recently remitted a great part of his fortune to Europe, through the Dutch East India Company. ¶1861 GOSCHEN *For. Exch.* 91 Was it probable..that in a time of great national emergency the New York bankers would remit their capital for employment to Europe..?

absol. ¶1682 [See *remitted*, below]. ¶1705 ADDISON *Italy* 471 They oblig'd themselves to remit, after the rate of Twelve Hundred Thousand Pounds Sterling per Annum. ¶1809 BYRON *Let. to Mrs. Byron* 12 Nov., I expect Hanson to remit regularly.

IV. intr.

15. To abate, diminish, slacken.

¶1629 *Drayner Conf.* (1647) C, The whole masse of waters continue upon the face of the Fenne till those windes remit. ¶1643 MILTON *Divorce* (1645) 39 The vigor of his Law could no more remit, then the hallowed fire on his altar could be let go out. ¶1695 WOODWARD *Nat. Hist. Earth* iv. 198 Till such time as its motion begins to remit and be less rapid. ¶1770 GOLDSM. *Des. Vill.* 16 How often have I blest the coming day, When toil remitting lent its turn

to play. ¶1850 L. HUNT *Autobiog.* I. viii. 309 The fishermen's wives..seemed equally determined not to let the intention remit. ¶1870 BRYANT *Iliad* II. xiii. 23 Meantime the valor of Idomeneus Remitted not.

b. of pain, fever, etc. Also in fig. context.

¶1685 tr. *Willis' Lond. Pract. Physick* 533 If upon sore Lips the Fever does not remit, it will prove of long continuance and severe. ¶1737 WHISTON *Josephus, Antiq.* ii. iii. §4 Neither did his pains remit by length of time. ¶1747 tr. *Astruc's Fevers* 195 The fever thus treated, remits generally towards the sixth or seventh day. ¶1783 JOHNSON *Let. in Boswell* 30 Sept., I have been..much harassed with the gout; but that has now remitted. ¶1887 *Pall Mall G.* 17 Feb. 13/2 The 'Otello' fever at Milan seems at last a little inclined to remit.

16. To relax from labour; to give over.

¶1760-72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) I. 84 They remitted from their toil. ¶1841 EMERSON *Ess., Man the Reformer* Wks. (Bohn) II. 240 Their enemies will not remit; rust, mould, vermin..all seize their own.

Hence **remitted** ppl. a.

¶1682 J. SCARLETT *Exchanges* 65 Every Remitter that remits not directly, but designs to draw in the remitted Sum again [etc.]. a ¶1700 KEN *Hymnotheo Poet.* Wks. 1721 III. 130 The happy symptoms of remitted sin. ¶1896 H. DE WINDT *New Siberia* iv. 59 There is also a graduated scale of what are called remitted sentences. ¶1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 13 Apr. 2/1 But it is not merely in respect of these remitted actions that the County Courts have weighty and important functions.

eschew v.1

(ɛs'tʃuː)

[a. OF. *eschiver*, *eschever* (also in other conjugations, as *eschevoir*, *eschivir*, *eschivre*), corresp. to Pr., Sp., Pg. *esquivar*, It. *schivare* (whence prob. mod.F. *esquiver* to dodge, the retention of the s being otherwise anomalous):—Common Romanic **skivāre*, f. **skivo*: see prec.; cf. OHG. *sciuhēn*, MHG. *schiuhen*, *schiuwen*, mod.Ger. *scheuen* to dread, avoid, shun; also Eng. *shy* v.]

1. trans. To avoid, shun. **a.** To avoid, keep clear of, escape (a danger or inconvenience). Rarely with clause as obj.

¶1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints, Mathias* 205 [A sone] þat scho, til eschewe destiny, Ine a cophyne kest ine þe se. c ¶1460 FORTESCUE *Abs. & Lim. Mon.* (1714)

105 To eschewe thees two Harmes, hyt may than be advised, etc. ¶1514 BARCLAY *Cyt. & Uplondyshm.* (Percy Soc.) 1 Pastoures..drawe to cotes for to eschewe the colde. ¶1526 TINDALE 2 *Cor.* viii. 20 Thus we eschue thatt eny man shulde rebuke us in this aboundance. c ¶1530 LD. BERNERS *Arth. Lyt. Bryt.* (1814) 17 To exchewe therby the displeasure of my lorde. ¶1598 SHAKES. *Merry W.* v. v. 251 What cannot be eschew'd, must be embrac'd. ¶1671 J. WEBSTER *Metallogr.* iv. 61 To eschew tediousness, [I] shall transcribe what Dr. Jorden hath written. ¶1721 *St. German's Doctor & Stud.* 60 To eschew that in~convenience that Statute was made.

b. To 'fight shy of', avoid (a place); to stand aloof from (a person). Obs.

¶1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. vi. 55 Suche men eschue. ¶1413 LYDG. *Pilgr. Sowle* iv. iii. (1483) 59 The quene of Saba..eshewed it [that brydge] and took another wey. c ¶1450 CASTLE *Hd. Life St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 160 Fra þen forthe sho forhewed þe kynges presence, and it eschewed. ¶1553 T. WILSON *Rhet.* 2 Beware..of straunge woordes, as thou wouldest take hede and eschewe greate rockes in the sea. ¶1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* iii. ii. vi. iii. (1651) 564 A woman a man may eschue, but not a wife.

c. To abstain carefully from, avoid, shun (an action, a course of conduct, an indulgence, an article of food or drink, etc.). The current sense: Formerly with obj.-inf. preceded by to.

JOHNSON 1755 Notes the word as 'almost obsolete'; it is now not uncommon in literary use.

¶1340-70 *Alex. & Dind.* 1001 But al þat badde is for a burn here abouen erþe, Huo so haþ chaunce to echue & chese the betture. c ¶1375 *Lay Folks Mass-bk.* (MS. B.) 358 Gyue me grace for to etchewe to do þat þing þat me shuld rewe. ¶1388 WYCLIF 2 *Tim.* ii. 16 Eschewe thou vnhooli and veyn spechis. c ¶1450 MYRC 28 Grete othes thow moste enchewe. ¶1509 HAWES *Joyful Medit.* 20 They may extue For to do wronge. ¶1535 COVERDALE *Ps.* xvii. 23, I..will eschue myne owne wickednes. ¶1637 EARL STIRLING *Doomesday 9th Hour* (R.), These curious doubts which good men doe eschew Make many atheists. ¶1656 RIDGLEY *Pract. Physick* 22 Fat things must be eschewed. a ¶1707 BEVERIDGE *Serm.* II. lxxxiii. (R.), They must not only eschew evil but do good in the world. ¶1801 WORDSW. *Cuckoo & Night.* xxiii, For every wight eschews thy song to hear. ¶1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xlv, He has already eschewed green coats, red neckcloths, and other worldly ornaments. ¶1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* IV. 693 Observers..thought that capitalists would eschew all connection with what must

necessarily be a losing concern. ¶1876 BLACKIE *Songs Relig. & Life* 228
 Eschew the cavilling critic's art, The lust of loud reproving.

absol. ¶1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* i. i. ii. viii. (1651) 25 The power to prosecute or eschue.

2. intr. To get off, escape. Obs.

¶1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* xi. 391 Thai sall nocht weill eschew foroutyn fall.

c ¶1450 CASTLE *Hd. MS. Life St. Cuthb.* (Surtees) 2525 And þat he couet to eschew. ¶1560 ROLLAND *Crt. Venus* iv. 441 Grant him his life..And I promit..That he sall not eschew away, nor fle.

3. trans. To rescue. Obs. rare. [So Fr. *eschiver*.]

¶c1500 *Melusine* 170 Pey recouered there six of their galeyes, & eschiewed þem fro the fyre.

Hence **eschewal**, an eschewing, a keeping clear of (evil). **eschewance**, the action of eschewing; avoidance. **eschewer**, one who eschews, avoids, shuns. **eschewing** vbl. n., the action of the vb. eschew in various senses. **eschewment**, the action of eschewing.

¶1583 BABINGTON *Commandm.* vii. (1590) 278 Things which keepe chastitie vncorrupted..sobrietie, labour..& *eschewall [ed. 1637 eschewing] of oportunitie. ¶1656 JEANES *Mixt. Scho. Div.* 22 The bare eschewall of an evill is sufficient for the denomination of feare. ¶1841 G. S. FABER *Prov. Lett.* (1844) I. 182 The convenient negative process of an eschewal of all cross-questioning.

¶1842 JAMES Morley *Ernstein* xv, With that careful *eschewance of all listening ears..that gentleman remained bowing in silence till the waiter was out of the room.

¶1578 CH. PRAYERS in *Priv. Prayers* (1851) 460 Give them such judges, as are..*eschewers of all partiality. ¶1621 DK. BUCKHM. in *Life Bacon* xxii. (1861) 501 A messenger of good news to you and an eschewer of evil. ¶1825 COLERIDGE *Aids Refl.* (1848) I. 188 These eschewers of mystery.

¶1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* iii. xi. 99 The ferme stablenesse of pedurable dwellynge and ek the *eschuyng of destruccyon. ¶1563 in *Vicary's Anat.* (1888) App. iii. 164 Theschuyng of the greate Daunger & perill of the..plage.

¶1864 WEBSTER, *Eschewment (rare).

comport v.

(kəm'pɔət)

[ad. L. *comportā-re* to carry together, and F. *comport-er* to endure, bear, suffer, conduct (oneself), behave: the L. f. *com-* + *portāre* to carry.]

1. trans. To bear, endure; to tolerate. Obs.

¶1588 A. KING tr. *Canisius' Catech.* 175 We that ar stark (sayes the apostle) man comport the imbecillitie of the waiker. ¶1597 DANIEL *Civ. Wares* i. lxx, The malecontented sort, That..never can the present state comport. a ¶1619 *Coll. Hist. Eng.* (1626) 129 A Queene Dowager of England..could not comport a superior so neare her doore. ¶1667 G. DIGBY *Elvira* ii. in Hazl. Dodsley XV. 25 How does that noble beauty..Comport her servile metamorphosis? ¶1716 M. DAVIES *Athen. Brit.* iii. Pallas Angl. 31 Whose Necessities they are oftentimes as far from..Bearing or Comporting. ¶1818 COLEBROOKE *Oblig. & Contracts* I. 70 Words taken in a sense which they comport.

b. To bear, suffer, allow, permit that. Obs.

¶1616 BRENT tr. *Sarpi's Hist. Council Trent* (1676) 662 The time did not comport that the course of divine matters..should be hindred by humane contentions. ¶1646 F. HAWKINS *Youth's Behav.* iii. §2 (1663) 14 Amongst them the custome doth comport in certain places that they Thou one another more freely.

2. intr. to comport with: to bear with, put up with, tolerate, endure, suffer. Obs.

¶1565 SIR W. CECIL in *Ellis Orig. Lett.* ii. 172 II. 296 She..prayeth hir Maty here to comport with hir untill she will send on of hers hyther. a ¶1661 FULLER *Worthies* ii. 9 Being unable to comport with his Oppression. ¶1679 in *Gutch Coll. Cur.* I. 274 If the University of Oxford..were to comport with the privileges granted before to the King's Printers. ¶1697 R. PIERCE *Bath Mem.* i. xi. 242 She needed both drinking, bathing, and pumping, but had not Strength to comport with either. ¶1851 CARLYLE *Sterling* iii. v. (1872) 214 The family..could at any rate comport with no long absence.

b. refl. in same sense. Obs. rare.

¶1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* iii. i. §2 Many..Bishops..unable to Comport themselves with his harshness..quitted their preferments.

3. refl. To conduct or behave oneself; to act in a particular manner, to behave. Also transf.

¶1616 LANE *Sqr's Tale* xi. 53 How thwhole court of knightes gann them comport in glorious wellcoms. ¶1669 WOODHEAD *St. Teresa* ii. iii. 20 He

comported himself with extraordinary courage. ¶1830 HERSCHEL *Stud. Nat. Phil.* 314 The heat which accompanies the sun's rays comports itself, in all respects, like light. ¶1858 J. MARTINEAU *Stud. Christianity* 221 It would be curious to know how the Christians comported themselves when the priest of the Sun became monarch of the world.

4. intr. (for refl.) To behave. Obs.

¶1616 LANE *Sqr.'s Tale* xi. 233 Wheare they with goodliest complementes comported. ¶1663 R. HAWKINS *Youths Behav.* 100 Comport, to compose the gesture. ¶1673 *Rules of Civility* ix. 86 How we are to Comport in our Congratulations and Condolements with great Persons. a ¶1734 NORTH *Lives* (1826) III. 371, I cannot say how he would have comported under it.

b. to comport with: to deal with, treat. Obs.

¶1675 tr. *Machiavelli's Prince* xv. Wks. 219 In what manner a prince ought to comport with his subjects. ¶1689 *Dial. betw. Timothy & Titus* 11 Now how do you Comport with it in your Practice?

5. intr. to comport with: to agree with, accord with; to suit, befit.

¶1589 R. BRUCE *Exhort. 2 Tim.* ii. (Wodrow) 375 Sik a meaning as the words may bear, and as their signification may comport with. ¶1603 DANIEL *Def. Rhime* (1717) 31 A Tragedy would indeed best comport with a Blank Verse. ¶1685 EVELYN *Mrs. Godolphin*, How her detachment from Royall servitude would comport with her. ¶1734 WATTS *Reliq. Juv.* (1789) 214 They do all that nature and art can do to comport with his will. ¶1884 T. SPEEDY *Sport* xvi. 288 Such wholesale slaughter does not comport with our opinion as to what really constitutes sport.

6. trans. ? To befit, or ? to bear upon. Obs. rare.

¶1604 DRAYTON *Moses* 1, What respects he the negotiating Matters com-
porting emperie and state?

7. lit. To carry or bring together, collect. Obs. rare.

¶1641 BP. R. MONTAGU *Acts & Mon.* 40 The materialls were comported from the Gentiles. a ¶1660 [see *comportation*].

8. to comport the pike: to carry it grasped near the middle and pressed to the right side of the body, with the point raised. Obs.

See description and figure in Pistofilo, *Oplomachia* (1621), where this 'modo' is said to be new, and practised by some French captains, particularly those of the King's Guard; also in Alfieri *La Picca* (1641) 16 'Come porti la picca il capitano.' (In neither of these is any particular name applied to this

‘modo’.) The mode of coming to the ‘comport’ is fully described in *The Perfection of Military Discipline after Newest Methods* (1690) p. 24.

¶1635-43 W. BARRIFFE *Mil. Discip.* cxiii. (1661) 150 Comporting your Half-pikes martching, is to be understood, when you martch under Trees, or some such place where they cannot be ordered or advanced. ¶1634 PEACHAM *Compl. Gent.* (1661) 299 Postures for the Pike. (15) Shoulder. (16) Port your Pikes. (17) Comport your Pikes. (18) Order your Pikes. ¶1650 R. ELTON *Art Milit.* viii. (1668) 6 The comporting of the Pike is only useful to the souldier marching up a hill; for if then he should be shouldered, the butt-end of the Pike would always be touching of the ground. ¶1688 J. S. *Art of War* 7 Captains and Lieutenants are to carry their pikes comported.

proscribe ^{v.}

(prəʊˈskraɪb)

[ad. L. prōscrib-ĕre to write in front of; to write before the world, publish by writing, offer in writing for sale, etc.; to ‘post’ a person as condemned to confiscation or outlawry, f. prō, pro-1 1 f + scrib-ĕre to write.]

I. 1. trans. To write in front; to prefix in writing. Obs. rare. Perhaps a scribal error for prescribe: see pro-1 3.

¶1432-50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) I. 21 When the compiler [Ranulphus] spekethe, the letter shall be proscribede [L. præscribitur] in this forme folowenge [R].

II. 2. To write up or publish the name of (a person) as condemned to death and confiscation of property; to put out of the protection of the law, to outlaw; to banish, exile. Also fig.

¶1560 J. DAUS tr. *Sleidane’s Comm.* 33 b, He..doth condemne, & proscribe him as auctor of Scismes. ¶1596 SPENSER *State Irel.* Wks. (Globe) 637/1 Ro. Vere, Earle of Oxford, was..banished the realme and proscribed.

¶1678 R. L’ESTRANGE *Seneca’s Mor.* (1776) 200 He that proscribes me to-day, shall himself be cast out tomorrow. ¶1840 THIRLWALL *Greece* VII. lvii. 226 He was himself outlawed and proscribed in the name of his sovereign.

¶1842 ALISON *Hist. Europe* X. lxxvii. 840 A declaration was..signed by all the Powers, which..proscribed Napoleon as a public enemy, with whom neither peace nor truce could be concluded.

b. To ostracize, to ‘send to Coventry’.

¶1680 EARL ROSCOM. tr. *Horace’s Art Poet.* 31 Then Poetasters in their raging fits..dreaded and proscrib’d by Men of sense.

3. To reject, condemn, denounce (a thing) as useless or dangerous; to prohibit, interdict; to proclaim (a district or practice); = PROCLAIM v. 2 e, f.

¶1622 MABBE tr. *Aleman's Guzman d'Alf.* ii. 319 This Custome is that vncontroled Lord, that prescribes, and proscribes Lawes at his pleasure.

¶1768 HUME *Ess. & Treat.* (1777) II. Notes 507 They [plays] have been zealously proscribed by the godly in later ages. ¶1772 PRIESTLEY *Inst. Relig.* (1782) I. 219 The Stoics..proscribed..Compassion. ¶1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1862) I. iv. iii. 424 Persons of taste or elegance seem to proscribe it [civet] even from the toilet. ¶1841 D'ISRAELI *Amen. Lit.* (1867) 342 The ecclesiastics in vain proscribed these licentious revelries. ¶1850 A. JAMESON *Leg. Monast. Ord.* (1863) 194 Before their religion was proscribed and their country confiscated.

¶As a literalism of rendering in Rhemish N.T.

¶1582 N.T. (Rhem.) Gal. iii. 1 O sensles Galatians, who hath bewitched you, not to obey the truth, before whose eies Iesus Christ was proscribed [Gr. προεγραφη; Vulg. præsriptus est; 1388 WYCLIF exilid; Tindale, Coverd. described; 1611 Euidently set forth; 1881 R.V. openly set forth], being crucified among you?

Hence **proscribed** ppl. a.

¶1611 B. JONSON *Catiline* i. i, I hid for thee Thy murder of thy brother,..And writ him in the list of my proscrib'd After thy fact, to save thy little shame. ¶1689 SHADWELL *Bury F.* 11, As the proscribed emperor was by his perfumes betrayd. ¶1868 J. H. BLUNT *Ref. Ch. Eng.* I. 66 A well~known faviourer of the proscribed opinions. ¶1869 RAWLINSON *Anc. Hist.* 447 The property of the proscribed was confiscated.

sapid a.

('sæpid)

[ad. L. *sapid-us* savoury, f. *sapĕre* (see *sapient* a.). Cf. F. *sapide*; the direct descendant is *sade* (obs.).]

1. Of food, etc.: Readily perceptible by the organs of taste, having a decided taste or flavour; esp. having a pleasant taste, savoury, palatable.

¶1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* iii. xxii. 165 Thus Camels to make the water sapide do raise the mud with their feet. ¶1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, Sapid, well seasoned, savory, that hath a smack. ¶1761 ARMSTRONG *Day* 140 In salt itself the *sapid* savour fails. ¶1837 M. DONOVAN *Dom. Econ.*

II. 103 It [venison] is certainly more sapid than any butchers' meat, and is even strong. ¶1898 P. MANSON *Trop. Diseases* xxi. 325 If the patient attempts to take any sapid food..the pain and burning in the mouth are intolerable.

2. In neutral sense: Having the power of affecting the organs of taste; having taste or flavour.

¶1634 T. JOHNSON *Parey's Chirurg.* xxvi. vii. 1034 Therefore nature observes this order in the concoction of sapide bodies, that at the first the acerbe taste should take place, then the austere, and lastly, the acide. ¶1686 GOAD *Celest. Bodies* i. ix. 32 They are genericall Natures, common to all Sapid and Odorate Bodies. ¶1756 C. LUCAS *Ess. Waters* II. 95 Epsom water..scentless, and hardly sapid. ¶1831 J. DAVIES *Manual Mat. Med.* 10 Those [salts] which are insoluble in water are insipid; such..as are soluble in it, are more or less sapid. ¶1862 G. WILSON *Relig. Chem.* 5 Neither plants nor animals can exist..in any of the odorous or sapid gases.

3. fig. Grateful to the mind or mental taste.

¶1640 HOWELL *Dodona's Gr.* 217, I must confesse there may some few criticismes or graines of browne salt, and small dashes of vineger be found here and there, to make the discourse more sapid, but this tartnesse is farre from any gall or venome. ¶1649 JER. TAYLOR *Great Exemp.* i. Dis. iv. 125 The life of the spirit, is lessened and impaired according as the gusts of the flesh grow high and sapid. a ¶1677 HALE *Prim. Orig. Man.* iv. viii. 373 These are things..more grateful, sapid, and delightful to the Mind, than the best Apparatus or Provisions of a sensible Good. ¶1690 NORRIS *Refl. Cond. Hum. Life* (1691) 179 Such Books..as are Sapid, Pathetic, and Divinely-relishing. ¶1864 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* IV. 356 Pamphlets..sapid, exhilarative. ¶1868 *Sat. Rev.* 19 Dec. 794/2 Quite as important as the possession..of all these faculties, is the temper, spirit, tone, or manner of their use, the something which makes them sapid.

4. absol. **a.** the sapid, that which is sapid, sapidity. **b.** quasi-n. A sapid substance.

¶1715 *Pancirollus' Rerum Mem.* II. v. 299 Sugar..seems to tame and to triumph over all Sapids. ¶1831 T. L. PEACOCK *Crotchet Castle* iv, I speak of the cruet sauces, where the quintessence of the sapid is condensed in a phial.

luscious a.

(ˈlʌʃəs)

[Of obscure origin. The form *lucius*, occurring in a MS. which elsewhere has *licius* in the same sense (see *licious*) suggests (as Prof. Skeat has remarked) that the word may be an aphetic form of *delicious*, with altered vowel. But phonetically this is unsatisfactory, and no better suggestion has been made.]

1. Of food, perfumes, etc.: Sweet and highly pleasant to the taste or smell.

¶1420 *Anturs of Arth.* 458 (Irel. MS.) With *lucius* drinkes, and metis of the best. ¶1566 DRANT *Horace's Sat.* ii. iv. H, The stronge may eate good looshouse meate. ¶1590 SHAKES. *Mids. N.* ii. i. 251, I know a banke..Quite ouer-cannoped with luscious woodbine. ¶1604 *Oth.* i. iii. 344 The Food that to him now is as lushious as Locusts, shalbe to him shortly, as bitter as Coloquintida. ¶1630 DRAYTON *Muses Elizium* (1892) 29 The lushyous smell of euery flower. ¶1655 FULLER *Waltham Abb.* 5 The grass..is so sweet and lushious to Cattle, that they diet them. a ¶1700 DRYDEN *Daphnis & Chloris* Poems 1743 II. 40 Blown roses hold their Sweetness to the last, And Raisins keep their lushious native taste. ¶1733 CHEYNE *Eng. Malady* ii. v. §5 (1734) 159 The Means us'd commonly in making it [food] more lushious and palatable. ¶1758 JOHNSON *Idler* No. 96 ¶4 The most lushious fruits had been allowed to ripen and decay. ¶1840 BROWNING *Sordello* 634 Like the great palmer~worm that..Eats the life out of every lushious plant. ¶1869 BROWNING *Ring & Bk.* ix. 401 The lushious Lenten creature [sc. the eel]. ¶1870 H. MACMILLAN *Bible Teach.* ix. 187 Its lushious clusters of golden or purple fruit.

quasi-adv. ¶1588 T. HARRIOT *Rep. Virginia* B 2 b, There are two kinds of grapes..: the one is small and sowre..: the other farre greater & of himselfe lushious sweet.

fig. ¶1665 BOYLE *Occas. Refl.* v. iii. (1848) 305 The lushious sweets of sin.
a ¶1716 SOUTH *Serm.* (1823) IV. 309 May there not be..something more glistering than a crown? and more lushious than revenge? ¶1848 KINGSLEY *Saint's Trag.* iii. ii. 250 Sinking down In lushious rest again.

b. transf. of a young person. Obs.

¶1742 FIELDING *J. Andrews* i. vii, He..really is..a strong, healthy, lushious boy enough.

2. In bad sense: Sweet to excess, cloying, sickly.

¶1530 PALSGR. 313/1 Fresshe or lussyouse as meate that is nat well seasoned, or that hath an unplesante swetnesse in it, fade. ¶1616 SURFL. & MARKH. *Country Farm* 239 The smell of them [sc. other Lillies] is lushious, grosse, and vnwholesome. ¶1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), Lushious,

over~sweet, cloying. ¶1816 SCOTT *Old Mort. Conclus.*, The last cup..is by no means improved by the luscious lump of half-dissolved sugar usually found at the bottom of it. ¶1830 M. DONOVAN *Dom. Econ.* I. 275 Without the addition of water..the resulting wine will be luscious and heavy. ¶1877 'RITA' *Vivienne* iii. vi, And the luscious dreary odours of..fading flowers and trodden fruits, were heavy in the air.

3. Of immaterial things, esp. of language or literary style: Sweet and highly pleasing to the eye, ear, or mind. Chiefly in unfavourable use, implying a kind of 'sweetness' not strictly in accordance with good taste.

¶1651 FULLER *Abel Rediv.*, Berengarius (1867) I. 4 He often..addulced his discourse with all luscious expressions unto him. ¶1653 A. WILSON *Jas. I*, Pref. 8 Lushious words, that give no good relish to the sense. ¶1708 BURNET *Lett.* (ed. 3) 304 All those luscious Panegyricks of Mercenary Pens.

¶1738 BIRCH *App. Life Milton* I. 78 A luscious Style stuffed with gawdy Metaphors and Fancy. ¶1822 HAZLITT *Table-t.* Ser. ii. iii. (1869) 66 A stream of luscious panegyrics. ¶1840 KINGSLEY *Lett.* (1878) I. 50, I have shed strange tears at the sight of the most luscious and sunny prospects.

¶1902 *Longm. Mag.* Mar. 479 The Lotus Eaters..is what may be called a luscious expansion of four or five lines of the Odyssey.

b. Of colouring, design, etc.

¶1849 RUSKIN *Sev. Lamps* ii. §15. 42 The groups of children,..luscious in colour and faint in light. ¶*Ibid.* iv. §13. 105 This extraordinary piece of luscious ugliness [a festoon].

4. Of tales, conversation, writing, etc.: Gratifying to lascivious tastes, voluptuous, wanton. Rarely of a person: Lascivious. Obs.

¶1613 OVERBURY *A Wife* (1638) 63 She leaves the neat youth, telling his lushious tales. a ¶1694 TILLOTSON *Serm.* (1744) XI. ccviii. 4717 Those luscious doctrines of the Antinomians. ¶1702 POPE *Jan. & May* 379 Cantharides,..Whose use old Bards describe in luscious rhymes. ¶1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1768) VII. xlv. 123 Calista [in 'The Fair Penitent'] is a desiring luscious wench. ¶1766 FORDYCE *Serm. Yng. Wom.* (1767) I. iv. 149 Their descriptions are often loose and luscious in a high degree.

¶1815 W. H. IRELAND *Scribbleomania* 143 Descriptions so luscious—such pictures of passion That prudes, ta'en with furor, to ruin might dash on.

5. absol. (with the).

¶1708 *Brit. Apollo* No. 78. 3/1 There's a Great deal of Wit, But the Devil a Bit Of the lushious, can I find In't. ¶1790 A. WILSON *Ep. to Mr. T B Poet.*

Wks. (1846) 87 A poet, Whose mem'ry will live while the luscious can charm.

caustic a. and n.

('kɔːstɪk, 'kɒstɪk)

[ad. L. caustic-us a. Gr. καυστικός capable of burning, caustic, f. καυστ-ός burnt, burnable, f. καί- (future καύσ-) to burn. Cf. F. caustique.]

A. adj.

1. a. Burning, corrosive, destructive of organic tissue.

¶1555 EDEN *Decades* W. Ind. (Arb.) 229 Albeit the water of the sea haue a certeyne caustike qualitie ageynst poyson. ¶1563 T. GALE *Antidot.* i. vii. 5 Causticke medicynes which doe remoue, and take away fylthines in vlcers. ¶1605 TIMME *Quersit.* i. vi. 25 Causticke and burning simples. ¶1727 BRADLEY *Fam. Dict.* I. s.v. Gourdy legs, This Stone..from its..caustick or burning Quality, alone destroys Warts. ¶1863-72 WATTS *Chem. Dict.* I. 818 In the old language of surgery, caustics were divided into the actual, such as red-hot iron and moxa, and the potential, such as strong alkalis, acids, nitrate of silver.

b. caustic bougie: a bougie armed with a piece of caustic.

¶1800 *Med. Jrnl.* III. 480 Caustic bougies, applied to the urethra under pretence of removing strictures. ¶1805 *Ibid.* XIV. 474 The superiority of the caustic over the common bougie.

c. Chem. caustic alkali: a name given to the hydrates of potassium and sodium, called caustic potash (KHO) and caustic soda (NaHO) respectively; caustic volatile alkali or caustic ammonia, ammonia as a gas or in solution; caustic lime, quick lime (CaO).

¶1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) VIII. 143 These flies, thus dried..yield a great deal of volatile caustic-salt. ¶1791 HAMILTON *Berthollet's Dyeing* I. i. i. v. 80 Caustic alkali tinges the infusion of galls of a dark red. ¶1811 A. T. THOMSON *Lond. Disp.* (1818) 564 Take..water of caustic kali, nine fluid ounces. ¶1813 SIR H. DAVY *Agric. Chem.* (1814) 21 Lime applied in its Caustic state acquires its hardness and durability, by absorbing the aerial acid. ¶1845 TODD & BOWMAN *Phys. Anat.* I. 102 Add solution of caustic ammonia. ¶1869 ROSCOE *Elem. Chem.* 200 Potassium hydroxide or Caustic potash..is a white substance soluble in half its weight of water, and acts as a powerful cautery, destroying the skin. ¶1876 HARLEY *Mat. Med.* 147 Caustic Soda.

d. gen. Burning. (rare.)

¶1863 *Possibil. Creation* 148 At the tops of mountains..the sun's rays are capable of producing very caustic results.

e. caustic bush, plant, vine, Australian names for *Sarcostemma australe*, a plant poisonous to cattle and sheep; caustic creeper, weed, Australian names for *Euphorbia drummondii*, the milky juice of which is used by the natives as a remedy for various diseases, but which is poisonous to sheep.

¶1887 BAILEY & GORDON *Plants reputed Poisonous* 43 *Sarcostemma Australe*. Known as 'Caustic plant' or 'Caustic vine' in Queensland. ¶Ibid. 79 *Euphorbia Drummondii*, Caustic Creeper... This weed is unquestionably poisonous to sheep. ¶1889 J. H. MAIDEN *Useful Native Plants* 127 *Euphorbia Drummondii*... Called 'Caustic Creeper' in Queensland. Called 'Milk Plant' and 'Pox Plant' about Bourke. This weed is unquestionably poisonous to sheep. ¶1922 *Jrnl. Proc. R. Soc. N.S.W.* LVI. 183 This plant [sc. *Sarcostemma australe*], which occurs in all the Australian States except Victoria and Tasmania, is known as 'Caustic Vine', or 'Caustic Plant'. ¶1926 J. M. BLACK *Flora S. Austral.* iii. 463 *S[arcostemma] australe*, R. Br. Milk Bush; Tableland Caustic Bush. ¶1954 W. E. BLACKALL *W. Austral. Wildflowers* 263 *E[uphorbia] Drummondii*. Caustic-weed.

2. fig. That makes the mind to smart: said of language, wit, humour, and, by extension, of persons; sharp, bitter, cutting, biting, sarcastic.

¶1771 SMOLLETT *Humph. Cl.* (L.) And mirth he has a particular knack in extracting from his guests, let their humour be never so caustic or refractory. ¶1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* iv, His shrewd, caustic, and somewhat satirical remarks. ¶1842 MACAULAY *Fredk. Gt., Ess.* (1877) 677 Those who smarted under his caustic jokes. ¶1876 GEO. ELIOT *Dan. Der.* ii. xviii. 147 Well, ma, I think you are more caustic than Amy.

3. Math. Epithet of a curved surface formed by the ultimate intersection of luminous rays proceeding from a single point and reflected or refracted from a curved surface; also of the curve formed by a plane section of a caustic surface. A caustic by reflexion is called a catacaustic, that by refraction a diacaustic. So caustic line, surface.

[So called because the intensity of the light, and consequently of the heat, is in general greater at a point on this surface than at neighbouring points not on it, and at special points may become sufficiently intense to initiate combustion in a body there placed. The focus of a concave mirror is the cusp of its caustic for incident parallel rays.]

¶1727-51 CHAMBERS *Cycl.*, Caustic curve, in the higher geometry, a curve formed by the concourse or coincidence of the rays of light reflected or refracted from some other curve. ¶1869 TYNDALL *Notes on Light* §101 The interior surface of a common drinking-glass is a curved reflector. Let the glass be nearly filled with milk, and a lighted candle placed beside it, a caustic curve will be drawn on the surface of the milk. Ibid. §166 Spherical lenses have their caustic curves and surfaces formed by the intersection of the refracted rays.

B. n.

1. a. Med. A substance which burns and destroys living tissue when brought in contact with it. common caustic or lunar caustic: nitrate of silver prepared in sticks for surgical use.

¶1582 J. HESTER *Secr. Phiorav.* i. vii. 8 Costicke..beeyng laid on the sore doeth mortefie it. c ¶1600 B. JONSON *Elegy Lady Pawlet* (R.) Put Your hottest causticks to, burne, lance, or cut. ¶1722 DE FOE *Plague* (1884) 111 They burnt them with Causticks. ¶1771 SMOLLETT *Humph. Cl.* (L.) He applied caustic to the wart. ¶1800 *Med. Jرنل.* III. 290 The application of lunar caustic to strictures. ¶1879 G. C. HARLAN *Eyesight* v. 52 Quick-lime acts as a powerful caustic.

b. fig.

¶1635 AUSTIN *Medit.* 197 With his Causticks of Repentance, he charitably burnt out, and purged the corruptions of Mens consciences. ¶1817 SCOTT *Wav.* xx, Pride..applies its caustic as an useful though severe remedy.

¶1832 L. HUNT *Bacchus in Tusc.* 221, I should like to see a snake..fasten with all his teeth and caustic upon that sordid villain.

2. Math. = caustic curve or surface: cf. A. 3.

¶1727-51 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v., Every curve has its twofold caustic. ¶1743 *Phil. Trans.* XLII. 343 In the next place, the Caustics, by Reflexion and Refraction, are determined. ¶1869 TYNDALL *Notes on Light* §100 When a large fraction of the spherical surface is employed as a mirror, the rays are not all collected to a point; their intersections..form a luminous surface..called a caustic (German, Brennfläche).

mordant a.

(ˈmɔːdənt)

[a. F. mordant, pres. pple. of mordre to bite:—popular L. *mordère (= classical L. mordēre); the form mordent is assimilated to the L. pple. mordentem.]

Biting (in various senses).

1. Of satiric utterances (hence also of speakers or writers): Caustic, incisive.

¶1474 CAXTON *Chesse* ii. v. (1481) d viij b, They ben..right mordent and bytyng detractours. ¶1858 ELLICOTT *Destiny Creature* (ed. 3) 22 A petty spirit of detraction, with unkindly words or mordant satire. ¶1881 *Spectator* 19 Nov. 1454/1 Lord Salisbury was, as usual, very mordant in his tone towards Mr. Gladstone. ¶1903 *Blackw. Mag.* July 12/2 He was endowed with a peculiarly mordant wit.

2. Corrosive. Now rare.

¶1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 506 Of those marles which are found to be fat, the white is chiefe; and thereof be many sorts. The most mordant and sharpest of them all, is [etc.]. ¶1666 G. HARVEY *Morb. Angl.* v. 61 The consumption of the kidneys is to be imputed to..mordant armoniack salt.

fig. ¶1870 BALDW. *Brown Eccl. Truth* 225 The mordant acid of what they were pleased to conceive of as pure reason.

3. That causes pain or smart; pungent; biting. Of pain: acute, burning.

¶1845 SYD. SMITH *Recipe for Salad* 7 in Lady Holland Mem. (1855) I. 373 Of mordant mustard add a single spoon. ¶1876 G. MEREDITH *Beauch. Career* III. xii. 218 With a shadow of an elevation of her shoulders as if in apprehension of mordant pain.

4. a. Having the property of fixing colouring matter or gold-leaf (see MORDANT n. 3, 3b).

¶1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 748 Mordant Varnish for Gilding. ¶1836 PENNY *Cycl.* VI. 156/1 [Calico-printing.] Mordant reserves, which form the lapis lazuli style. ¶1847-64 in *Webster*.

b. Of a dye: becoming fixed on the fibre as a result of forming an insoluble compound with a mordant.

¶1902 *Encycl. Brit.* XXVII. 559/2 Employed by themselves, Mordant Colours are usually of little or no value as dyestuffs, because..either they are not attracted by the fibre..or they only yield a more or less fugitive stain. Their importance and value as dyestuffs are due to the fact that they act like weak acids and have the property of combining with metallic oxides to form insoluble compounds termed 'lakes', which vary in colour according to the metallic oxide or salt employed. ¶1917 FORT & LLOYD *Chem. Dyestuffs* xiii. 112

Acid mordant dyes may be first dyed on wool like acid dyes and then after-chromed. ¶1940 *Thorpe's Dict. Appl. Chem.* (ed. 4) IV. 127/2 Mordant dyes rank amongst the oldest dyes used by mankind for colouring purposes.

¶1963 [See AFTER-CHROME a.]. ¶1965 E. GURR *Rational Use of Dyes in Biol.* i. 115 Since sun yellow does not contain a hydroxyl group it cannot be classified as a mordant dye.

5. In literal sense: Given to biting. rare.

¶1891 BAX *Outlooks New Standp.* iii. 174 Those who would take steps to restrain the mordant liberty of the cur, since they do not hold the doctrine of the divine right of dogs to bite. ¶1895 *Pop. Sci. Monthly* Sept. 652 The boy C was for some time vigorously mordant in his angry fits.

morose a.1

(mɒ'rəʊs)

[ad. L. mōrōs-us peevish, fretful, wayward, fastidious, scrupulous (transf. of things, hard to manage), f. mōr-, mōs manner: see moral a. and -ose.]

1. Of persons, their attributes and actions: Sour-tempered, sullen, gloomy, and unsocial.

¶1565 COOPER *Thesaurus, Morosus*, waywarde: frowarde: overthwarte: morose: diuers in condition: harde to please. ¶[1609 B. JONSON *Sil. Wom. Dram. Pers.* (1620), Morose, a Gentleman that loues no noyse.] ¶1620 VENNERS *Via Recta* viii. 166 Neither..am I against sauces so morose as that I doe altogether deny them. ¶1647 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* i. §185 He was a man of very morose manners, and a very sowr aspect. ¶1694 F. BRAGGE *Disc. Parables* xiv. 458 They were..of very morose countenances, as greatly mortified, and strangers to the world. a ¶1770 JORTIN *Serm.* (1771) VI. i. 18 A man should not give way to a morose, captious and cavilling humour and be eager to find fault. ¶1775 MASON *Mem. Gray Poems* 119 He was also morose, unsocial, and obstinate. ¶1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* I. 242 There are very few so obstinately morose, as to be uninfluenced by the opinions of others. ¶1853 C. BRONTË *Villette* xi, She looked stony and stern, almost mortified and morose. ¶1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* i. I. 3 No man who is correctly informed as to the past will be disposed to take a morose or desponding view of the present. ¶1907 *Spectator* 5 Jan. 9/2 That great morose genius [sc. Swift].

absol. ¶1620 T. GRANGER *Div. Logike* 275 This to delight, to moue, and to allure with wiles, euen the refractory, and morose. ¶1762 GOLDSM. *Nash* 40 Let the morose and grave censure an attention to forms and ceremonies.

b. of opinions, principles, etc.

¶1791 MAXWELL in *Boswell Johnson* an. 1770, His philosophy..was by no means morose and cynical. ¶1838 LYTTON *Alice* ii. iv, Morbid and morose philosophy, begot by a proud spirit on a lonely heart. ¶1861 J. A. ALEXANDER *Gospel of Christ* xiv. 194 Pleasures which a more morose religion would proscribe as dangerous.

c. transf.

¶1658 FRANCK *North. Mem.* (1821) 311 The carp is a fish complicated of a moross mixture, and a torpid motion. ¶1902 A. LANG *Hist. Scot.* II. v. 104 Mary's arrival was darkened by the morose climate.

2. Scrupulous, painstaking. Obs.

¶1696 BENTLEY *Serm.* ix. (1724) 354 Unworthy of the most cautious and morose searcher of truth. ¶1695 J. EDWARDS *Perfect. Script.* 482 He was a very morose interpreter.

3. Of a thing: Hard to manage. Obs.

¶1652 L. S. *People's Liberty* xxii. 53 This knot is somewhat morose, and will not easily be untied.

4. Comb., as morose-looking, morose-natured.

¶1845 JAMES *Arrah Neil* ii, The elder of the two was a hard-featured somewhat morose-looking personage. ¶1884 J. PAYN *Lit. Recollect.* 62 A morose-natured man.

fastidious a.

(fæ'stɪdiəs)

[ad. L. fastīdiōs-us, f. fastīdium loathing: see -ous. Cf. Fr. fastidieux.]

1. That creates disgust; disagreeable, distasteful, unpleasant, wearisome. Obs.

¶1531 ELYOT *Gov.* i. ix, That thinge for the whiche children be often tymes beaten is to them..fastidious. ¶1582 J. HESTER *Secr. Phiorav.* ii. xxiii. 102 A fastidious Ulcer. ¶1630 R. *Johnson's Kingd. & Commw.* 193 A fastidious and irksome companion. a ¶1677 BARROW *Serm. Wisdom in Beauties of B.* (1846) 9 Folly is..fastidious to society. a ¶1734 NORTH *Lives* II. 399 His partner, whose usage was..fastidious to him.

2. a. That feels or is full of disgust; disgusted.

¶1534 MORE *On the Passion Wks.* 1312/1 Hee hadde of theym so muche, that he was full thereof, fastidious and wery. ¶1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* 81 All desire of Change and Novelty, argues a Fastidious Satiety.

b. Full of pride; disdainful; scornful. Obs.

¶1440 *Foundation Barts Hosp.* (E.E.T.S.) 15 A lamentable querell, expressynge..whate fastidious owtbrekyngys hadde temptid hym. 1623-6 Cockeram, Fastidious, disdainfull, proud. ¶1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (1638) 189 Regardlessse of the rodomantadoes of the fastidious Pagan. ¶1631 B. JONSON *New Inn, Ode* 7 Their fastidious vaine Commission of the braine. ¶1744 YOUNG *Night Thoughts* vi. 551 Proud youth! fastidious of the lower world. ¶1791 BOSWELL *Johnson* (1816) II. 277 (an. 1773) We see the Rambler with fastidious smile Mark the lone tree. ¶1796 C. MARSHALL *Garden.* xxii. (1813) 447 Those who have much practical skill..slight what is written upon subjects of their profession, which is a fastidious temper.

c. transf. Of things: 'Proud', magnificent.

¶1638 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 62 One of them [Courts] fastidious in foure hundred porphirian pillars. ¶Ibid. 102 Temples of Idolatry..once lofty in fastidious Turrets.

3. Easily disgusted, squeamish, over-nice; difficult to please with regard to matters of taste or propriety.

¶1647 WARD *Simp. Cobler* 77, I hold him prudent, that in these fastidious times, will helpe disedged appetites with convenient condiments. ¶1691 RAY *Creation* Pref. (1704) 7 Fastidious Readers. ¶1784 COWPER *Task* i. 513 The weary sight, Too well acquainted with their smiles, slides off Fastidious. ¶1848 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* II. 266 People whom the habit of seeing magnificent buildings..had made fastidious. ¶1853 TRENCH *Proverbs* 3 A fastidious age..and one of false refinement. ¶1865 LIVINGSTONE *Zambesi* xvii. 342 Though being far from fastidious, refused to eat it. ¶1877 BLACK *Green Past.* xlii. (1878) 338 The society..was not at all fastidious in its language.

peevish a.

(ˈpiːvɪʃ)

[First evidenced in end of 14th c., but rare before 1500. Derivation unknown. The exact sense of the adj. in many of the early quots. is difficult to fix, and the following treatment is in many respects only provisional.]

None of the etymological conjectures hitherto offered are compatible with the sense-history.]

1. Silly, senseless, foolish. Obs.

¶1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. ix. 151 And bad hym 'go pisse with hus plouh, peyuesshe shrewe!' [A. vii. 143 pillede screwe; B. vi. 157 for-pyned schrewe].

¶1519 W. HORMAN *Vulg.* 21 b, Some make serche and dyuynacion by water, some by basyns,..some by coniuryng of a soule, and suche other: and al be acurst or pyuysshe [partim execrabilia, partim mera ludibria]. ¶1529

MORE *Dyaloge* iv. Wks. 271/1 The piuishe pleasure of the vayne prayse puffed oute of poore mortall mens mouthes. ¶1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 94

b, To laugh such a peuishe trifleyng argument to skorne. ¶1565 JEWEL *Def. Apol.* (1567) 669 That whole tale..is nothing els, but a peeuishe fable.

c ¶1586 C'TESS PEMBROKE *Ps.* xlix. v, These, whose race approves their peeuish waie [1611 This their way is their folly]. ¶1633 FORD *'Tis Pity* v. iii,

This is your peevish chattering, weak old man! ¶1676 *Doctrine of Devils* 56 Christ did his Miracles among a peevish, foolish, sottish people, (as the World accounted them).

b. Beside oneself; out of one's senses; mad.

¶1523 SKELTON *Garl. Laurel* 266 Some tremblid, some girnid, some gaspid, some gasid, As people halfe peuysshe, or men that were masyd.

¶1548 UDALL, etc. *Erasm. Par. Acts* xii. 15 [They] aunswered to the mayden, Surely thou arte peuysshe. ¶1578 LYTE *Dodoens* iii. lxxvii. 426 Suche as

by taking of poyson, are become peeuishe or without vnderstanding. ¶1591

LYLY *Endym.* i. i, There was neuer any so peeuish to imagin the Moone eyther capable of affection, or shape of a Mistris.

2. Spiteful, malignant, mischievous, harmful.

¶1468 [IMPLIED in PEEVISHNESS 2]. ¶?a1500 CHESTER *Pl.* viii. 317 Alas! what presumption shold move that peeuish page, or any eluish

gedling to take from me my crowne? ¶1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* xi. xiv. 111 This ilk Aruns..thys pewech man of weir..schuke in hand hys oneschewabill

speir. ¶1567 HARMAN *Caveat Ep.* Ded. 2 b, Their peuish peltinge and pickinge practyses. ¶1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 176 In derision of the

king, they made certaine peeuishe and mocking rymes which I passe ouer.

¶1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 145/42 Peuish, prauus. ¶1601 ? MARSTON *Pasquil*

☞ *Kath.* ii. 245 This crosse, this peeuish hap, Strikes dead my spirits like a thunder-clap.

b. In mod. dial. Of the wind: Piercing, 'shrewd'.

¶1828 CRAVEN *Gloss.* (ed. 2), Peevish, piercing, very cold; a peevish wind. ¶1863 MRS. TOOGOOD *Yorksh. Dial.*, The wind is very peevish to night.

3. An epithet of dislike, hostility, disparagement, contempt, execration, etc., expressing the speaker's feeling rather than any quality of the object referred to. Obs. Cf. mod. plaguy, wretched, etc.

¶1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* xi. viii. 78 For thou sal neuer los..Be my wappin nor this richt hand of myne, Sik ane pevyche and cative saule as thyne [Nunquam animam talem dextra hac..amittes]. ¶1523 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* I. ccclxi. 587 Sirs, howe is it thus..that this peuysshe douehouse holdeth agaynst vs so longe? ¶1534 MORE *Comf. agst. Trib.* Wks. 1185 The wolf..spyed a fayre cowe in a close... as for yonder peeuish cowe semeth vnto me in my conscience worth not half a grot. a ¶1548 HALL *Chron., Hen.* VI 115 Such..craftie imageners, as this peuishe painted Puzel was.

4. Perverse, refractory, froward; headstrong, obstinate; self-willed, skittish, capricious, coy. Obs.

¶1539 CRANMER *Great Bible* Pref., Not onely foolyshe frowarde and obstinate but also peuysshe, peruerse and indurate. a ¶1553 UDALL *Roysteri D.* ad fin., These women be all suche madde pieuish elues, They wyll not be woonne except it please them selues. ¶1589 NASHE *Anat. Absurd.* 39 Nothing is so great an enemie to a sounde iudgment, as the pride of a peeuish conceit. ¶1591 SHAKES. *Two Gent.* v. ii. 49 This it is to be a peeuish girle, That flies her fortune when it followes her. ¶1621 BP. R. MONTAGU *Diatribæ* 515 Diana, evermore a peevish angry goddessse. ¶1623 WEBSTER *Duchess of Malfi* iii. ii, We read how Daphne, for her peevish flight, Became a fruitless bay-tree. a ¶1655 VINES *Lords Supp.* (1677) 269 It would be unnatural and pievish in a child to forsake his mother. ¶1671 H. FOULIS *Hist. Rom. Treas.* (1681) 23 Birds were not so shie and peevish formerly.

5. Morose, querulous, irritable, ill-tempered, childishly fretful. **a.** Of persons.

In early quots. often referred to as the result of religious austerities, fasting, and the like.

¶1530 *Hickscorner* D iij, And I sholde do after youre schole, To lerne to patter to make me peuysshe. ¶1596 SHAKES. *Merch.* V. i. i. 86 Why should a man whose bloud is warme within, Sit like his Grandsire, cut in Al-

abaster?...and creep into the laundies By being peeuish? ¶1653 JER. TAYLOR *Serm. for Year xxxix*, Some men fast to mortifie their lust: and their fasting makes them peevish. ¶1708 SWIFT *Abolit. Chr.*, Excellent materials to keep children quiet when they grow peevish. ¶1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* ii. 175 Body and soul, like peevish man and wife, United jar, and yet are loth to part. ¶1862 SIR B. BRODIE *Psychol. Inq.* II. iii. 77 One whose state of health renders him fretful and peevish in his own family.

b. Of personal qualities, actions, etc.: Characterized by or exhibiting petty vexation.

¶1577 FULKE *Answ. True Christian* 89 Without any contention of peuishe enuie. ¶1650 FULLER *Pisgah* iv. iii. 57 Gods providence on purpose permitted Moses to fall into this peevish passion [at Kadesh]. ¶1711 STEELE *Spect.* No. 107 ¶1 Unapt to vent peevish Expressions. ¶1822 HAZLITT *Table-t.* II. iv. 73 With a peevish whine in his voice like a beaten school-boy.

c. Const. to, with. Obs. rare.

¶1655 in *Nicholas Papers* (Camden) III. 128 He is uery peuish to Mr. Ouer-ton and will tell him uery litle. ¶1697 FLOYER *Cold Baths* i. iii. (1700) 61 The People grew peevish with all Ancient Ceremonies.

6. See quot. (Perhaps some error.)

¶1674 RAY *N.C. Words*, Peevish, witty, subtile.

7. in advb. constr. = peevishly.

¶1529 SKELTON *El. Rummyng* 589 She was not halfe so wyse As she was peuysshe nyse [= foolishly particular]. [¶1594 SHAKES. *Rich. III.* iv. iv. 417 (Qo. 1, 1597) Be not pieuish, fond in great designes. Qo. 2 peeuish, fond; Qos. 3-8 peeuish fond; Folios peeuish found; Malone conjectured peevish-fond, the reading adopted in mod. edd.]

scruple ^{n.2}

(ˈskru:p(ə)l)

[ad. F. scrupule (14th c.), ad. L. scrūpulus, lit. a pebble (recorded only in late L.), fig. a cause of uneasiness, scruple, dim. of scrūpus rough or hard pebble, used fig. by Cicero for a cause of uneasiness or anxiety.

Cf. F. scrupule (14th c.), Sp. escrúpulo, Pg. escrupulo, It. scrupolo, G. skrupel.]

1. A thought or circumstance that troubles the mind or conscience; a doubt, uncertainty or hesitation in regard to right and wrong, duty, propriety, etc.; esp. one which is regarded as over-refined or over-nice, or which causes a person to hesitate where others would be bolder to act. Often, scruple of conscience.

¶1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 63 b, He wyll..lette the..symple persone from the performynge of his dutyes.., by the reason of..feares and scruples. c ¶1534 MORE *Wks.* 1435/1 Though men..say it is no consience but a foolish scruple. a ¶1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII* 179 The kyng of England..was in a great scruple of his conscience and not quiet in his mynde. ¶1602 SHAKES. *Ham.* iv. iv. 40 (2nd Qo.) Some crauen scruple Of thinking too precisely on th'euent. ¶1660 JER. TAYLOR *Duct. Dubit.* i. vi. Rule 1, A Scruple is a great trouble of mind proceeding from a little motive. ¶1692 R. L'ESTRANGE *Fables* xli. 43 Upon the nicest Scruples of Honour. ¶1759 FRANKLIN *Ess.* *Wks.* 1840 III. 389 The assembly did not, however, start any scruple on this head. ¶1788 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xlix. V. 90 The scruples of reason, or piety, were silenced by the strong evidence of visions and miracles. ¶1854 FABER *Growth in Holiness* xvii. (1872) 317 A scruple is..a vain fear of sin where there is no reasonable ground for suspecting sin. ¶1868 E. EDWARDS *Ralegh* I. ii. 34 They had to deal with enemies who were troubled with few scruples.

b. in generalized sense. (Sometimes = scrupulosity.)

¶1660 JER. TAYLOR *Duct. Dubit.* i. vi. Rule 2 §1 This is a right course in the matter of scruple; proceed to action. ¶1689 EVELYN *Diary* 21 Feb., The Abp. of Canterbury and some of the rest, on scruple of conscience..enter'd their Protests and hung off. ¶1788 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xlix. V. 90 At first, the experiment was made with caution and scruple. ¶1848 BARONESS BUNSEN in *Hare Life* (1879) II. iii. 114 He expresses much concern and scruple about the trouble he occasions. ¶1872 BLACKMORE *Maid of Sker* vi, Just as I had made up my mind to lift up the latch, and to walk in freely, as I would have done in most other houses, but stood on scruple with Evan Thomas.

c. Phr. **without scruple.**

¶1526 TINDALE *Acts* x. 29 Therefore cam I unto you with outen scruple [orig. ἀνατιπρήτως]. ¶1598 SHAKES. *Merry W.* v. v. 157. ¶1788 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xlix. V. 98 The Jewish king, who had broken without scruple the brazen serpent. ¶1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* ii. I. 186 Attacked by the civil power, they without scruple repelled force by force.

d. Phr. to have scruples; to have little scruple, no scruple, etc. Const. about (a matter), in (doing something).

¶1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* i. 340, I had some little Scruple in my Mind about Religion, which insensibly drew me back. ¶1736 *Gentl. Mag.* VI. 709/2 That the Quakers can have no Scruple of Conscience in paying Tythes. ¶1828 MACAULAY *Ess., Hallam's Const. Hist.* (1897) 80 A man without truth or humanity may have some strange scruples about a trifle. ¶1850 J. W. CROKER in *C. Papers* 14 June (1884) I. i. 18 If you have the slightest [objection], pray have no scruple in leaving my curiosity ungratified. ¶1865 KINGSLEY *Herew.* viii, [They] had little scruple in applying to a witch.

e. to make scruple (also a, no, etc. scruple): to entertain or raise a scruple or doubt; to hesitate, be reluctant, esp. on conscientious grounds. Const. infin.; also with of (at, in) = to stick at, hesitate to do or allow, etc. ? Obs. (Cf. F. faire scrupule, with similar constructions.)

¶1589 NASHE *Pasquill & Marf.* B j, They presume to make a shrewde scruple of their obedience. ¶1591 SAVILE *Tacitus, Hist.* i. lxxxix. 51 Making a scruple that the holy shields called Ancilia were as yet not layed up againe.

¶1603 B. JONSON *Sejanus* iv. v. (1605) I 4 b, Lac. But is that true, it 'tis prohibited To sacrifice vnto him? Ter. Some such thing Cæsar makes scruple of, but forbids it not. ¶1605 BACON *Adv. Learn.* ii. xxiii. §36 Cæsar..made no scruple to professe that hee had rather bee first in a village, then second at Rome. ¶1639 N. N. TR. *Du Bosq's Compl. Woman* i. 57 The superstitious make more scruple of a little sinne then of a great. ¶1669-70 MARVELL *Corr.* cxxxii. Wks. (Grosart) II. 298 One of those who thinke it the greatest point of wisdome to make the most scruples. ¶1722 DE FOE *Moll Flanders* (1840) 210, I made no scruple at taking these goods. ¶1845 FORD *Handbk. Spain* i. 14 Small scruple is made by the authorities in opening private letters.

2. A doubt or uncertainty as to a matter of fact or allegation; an intellectual difficulty, perplexity, or objection. beyond a scruple, beyond doubt or cavil. Obs.

The phrase 'scruple of suspition' (quot. 1534) perh. contains an etymologizing reference to scruple n.1 6. Cf. 'un seul scrupule de doubte', 16th c. in Littré.

¶1534 MORE in *Ellis Orig. Lett. Ser.* i. II. 49 In eny parte of all which my dealing, whither eny other man may peradventure put eny dowt, or move eny scruple of suspition. ¶1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 644 For auoyding of which scruple and ambiguity: Edmund Erle of Marche..made his tytle and righteous clayme. ¶1597 MORLEY *Introd. Mus.* 16 In the Table there is

no difficultie..yet, to take away all scruple, I will shew you the vse of it.

¶1662 STILLINGFL. *Orig. Sacrae* i. v. §2 The only scruple is whether it was used in their sacred accounts or no. a ¶1718 PENN *Innocency with open Face* Wks. 1726 I. 267, I hope my Innocency will appear beyond a Scruple.

¶1725 DE FOE *Voy. round World* (1840) 22 Our captain..raised several scruples about the latitude which we should keep in such a voyage. ¶1741 HARRIS *Three Treat.* iii. i. (1765) 140 A Subject, where one's own Interest appeared concerned so nearly would well justify every Scruple, and even the severest Inquiry.

b. Disbelief or doubt of. to have or make scruple of: to hesitate to believe or admit. Also rarely with how and clause. Obs.

¶1597 SHAKES. 2 *Hen. IV*, i. ii. 149 But how I should bee your Patient, to follow your prescriptions, the wise may make some dram of a scruple, or indeede, a scruple it selfe. ¶1611 *Cymb.* v. v. 182 Whereat, I wretch Made scruple of his praise. a ¶1628 PRESTON *New Covt.* (1634) 116 When there is no scruple in our hearts of Gods love towards us. ¶1662 EVELYN *Chalcogr.* 12 That Letters, and consequently Sculpture, was long before the Flood, we make no scruple of. 1666-7 Marvell *Corr.* lxix. Wks. (Grosart) II. 210 If you find any thing perplext in it, I shall..resolve any scruple that you may have of its exposition. ¶1672 VILLIERS (Dk. Buckhm.) *Rehearsal* i. (Arb.) 33 If you make the least scruple of the efficacie of these my Rules, do but come to the Play-house, and you shall judge of'em by the effects.

c. without scruple: without doubt or question, doubtless. (Used to qualify an assertion.) Obs.

¶1612 SELDEN *Illustr. Drayton's Poly-olb.* xi. 189 As is, without scruple, apparant in the date of the synod. ¶1690 CHILD *Disc. Trade* (1698) 49 The same house to be sold..would have yielded without scruple ¶1000 OR ¶1200 L.

d. A suspicion of (something). rare—1.

¶1597 SIR R. CECIL in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. i. III. 42 Wherein that you may see the poore unfortunate Secretarie will leave no scrupule in you of lack of industry, to yeald you all satisfaction..I have thought good to [etc.].

e. A quibble, fine distinction. Obs.

¶1709 FELTON *Diss. Classics* (1718) 43 If there is any Thing else Commentators concern themselves about, it is Property of Expression, or rather some Verbal Niceties, and Grammatical Scruples.

3. Comb., as scruple-drawer (applied to a confessor), scruple-monger; scruple-selling ppl. a.

¶1704 T. BROWN *Laconics* Wks. 1711 IV. 19 The late Ordinary of Newgate, Mr. Smith, who was one of the most famous *Scruple-drawers of his Time.

¶1675 WALTON HOOKER in *Wordsw. Eccl. Biog.* (1818) IV. 223 There were also many of these *Scruplemongers that pretended a tenderness of conscience, refusing to take an oath before a lawful magistrate.

¶1704 T. BROWN *Reas. Oaths* Wks. 1711 IV. 91 B, Printed by one of those Godly Wholesale Dealers in Scandal, those *Scruple-selling Vermin of the Poultry.

scrupulous a.

(ˈskruːpjʊləs)

[ad. F. *scrupuleux* (16th c., *scrupuleusement* 14th c.), or ad. L. *scrūpulōs-us*, f. *scrūpul-us*: see *scruple* n.2 and -ous.]

1. Troubled with doubts or scruples of conscience; over-nice or meticulous in matters of right and wrong. Also (of things, actions, etc.), characterized by such scruples.

¶1530 *Myrr. our Ladye* 52 Yt is good in suche case to be gouernyd by the consayle of a dyscrete gostly father leste the dome of hys owne conscyence be other to scrupulous or to recheles. ¶1513 MORE *Rich. III*, Wks. 58/1 Of spiritual men thei toke such as had wit,..& had no scrupilouse consience.

¶1528 HENRY VIII in *R. Hall Life Fisher F's* Wks. (E.E.T.S.) ii. 61 Whiche thinge..ingendred such a scrupilous doubt in me, that my mind was incontinently accombred, vexed, and disquyeted. ¶1593 SHAKES. 3 *Hen. VI*, iv. vii. 61 *Rich.* Why Brother, wherefore stand you on nice points?.. Hast.

Away with scrupulous Wit, now Armes must rule. ¶1594 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* iv. xi. §5 Abusing their libertie and freedom to the offence of their weake brethren which were scrupulous.

¶1667 in *Cath. Rec. Soc. Miscell.* III. 64 And yet, though he spent so much time in examining his consciens, he was not the least scrupulous nor long at Confession.

¶1765 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* i. vi. 226 Whatever doubts might be formerly raised by weak and scrupulous minds about the existence of such an original contract.

¶1835 I. TAYLOR *Spir. Despot.* iii. 108 The common people superstitious, fanatical, scrupulous, licentious.

¶1907 A. C. BENSON *Altar Fire* 134 The religion recommended was a religion of scrupulous saints and self-torturing ascetics.

b. Prone to hesitate or doubt; distrustful; cautious or meticulous in acting, deciding, etc. Also (of actions, etc.), characterized by doubt or distrust; (of objections) cavilling. Obs.

¶1559 W. CUNINGHAM *Cosmogr. Glasse* 46 It is truly said, that knowledge hath no enemy but ignorance. There are..no small number of Lactantius sort, not scrupulous enemies only, but also Physicians, of whom [etc.].

¶1560 J. DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm. Pref.* 2 b, Thucydides was so desirous of the verity, and so doubt full and scrupulous in writing of his story.

¶1611 CORYAT *Crudities* 67 The Italians are so curious and scrupulous in many of their cities..that they will admit no stranger within the walls..except he bringeth a bill of health from the last city he came from.

¶1614 RALEIGH *Hist. World* ii. xxiii. §4. 574 But in filling up the blanks of old Histories, we need not be so scrupulous.

a ¶1681 WHARTON *Apotelesma* Wks. (1683) 44 Nor any one [sc. art or science] that can truly say, it is free from every scrupulous exception.

¶1695 WOODWARD *Nat. Hist. Earth Acc. Observ.* 8, I have been the more scrupulous and wary, in regard the Inferences drawn from these Observations are of some importance.

c. with const.: Loth or reluctant, through scruples, to (do something); doubtful or suspicious of (a person or thing); chary of or in (doing something); anxious or fearful about. Obs.

¶1608 D. T[UVILL] *Ess. Pol. & Mor.* 125 Hee was no way scrupulous to circumvent, and kill, insontes sicuti sontes.

¶1643 SIR T. BROWNE *Relig. Med.* i. §3. 4 And therefore I am not scrupulous to converse and live with them.

¶1645 HOWELL *Lett.* (1650) II. 32 The Father is scrupulous of the Son, the Son of the Sisters, and all three of me, to whose award they referred the business three severall times.

¶1658 SIR T. BROWNE *Hydriot.* i. 5 The Jews..as they raised noble Monuments and Mausolæums for their own Nation, so they were not scrupulous in erecting some for others.

¶1662 STILLINGFL. *Orig. Sacra* ii. ix. §21. 320 The primitive Christians were very scrupulous of calling the Emperours Dominus.

¶1754 RICHARDSON *Grandison* IV. xxi. 161 She often directed herself to me in Italian. I do not talk it well: But..I was not scrupulous to answer in it.

¶1785 PHILLIPS *Treat. Inland Nav.* 33 Those..whom I have consulted on the subject, where I was scrupulous of my knowledge.

¶1845 S. JUDD *Margaret* ii. viii. (1871) 284 Don't you stir out of the house; I am scrupulous about what might happen.

d. absol. (**the scrupulous** = scrupulous persons.)

¶1625 B. JONSON *Staple of N.* iii. ii. 118 'Tis the house of fame, Sir, Where both the curious, and the negligent, The scrupulous, and carelesse;..all doe

meet. ¶1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* iii. vi. §12 There are some Birds..whose Bloud is cold as Fishes, and their Flesh in taste so near akin, that the Scrupulous are allow'd them on Fish-days.

2. Of a thing: Causing or raising scruples; liable to give offence; meriting scruple or cavil, dubious, doubtful. to make it scrupulous: to scruple, hesitate (to do something). Obs.

¶1548 HALL *Chron., Hen.* VII 57 The scrupulous stynges of domesticall sedicion. ¶1574 HELLOWES *Guevara's Fam. Epist.* (1577) 66 If your warre had ben vpon Ierusalem, it were to be holden for iust, but for that it is vpon Marsillius, alway we hold it for scrupulous. ¶1593 *Tell-trothe's New Yeare's Gift* 3 And it being my hap to enquire first from whence hee came, hee made it not scrupulous to certifie his comming from hell. ¶1622 BACON *Holy War Misc. Wks.* (1629) 117 As the Cause of a Warre ought to be Iust; So the Iustice of that Cause ought to be Euident; Not Obscure, not Scrupulous. ¶1685 BUNYAN *Quest. Seventh-day Sabbath* ii. 16 This yet seems to me more scrupulous, because that the punishment due to the breach of the Seventh-day Sabbath was hid from men to the time of Moses.

b. Of the nature of a mere scruple. Obs.

¶1605 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. v. 372 Let not any man mer-vaylle of the manyfould downefalles into synne, or think it a thing scrupulous.

3. Careful to follow the dictates of conscience; giving heed to the scruples of conscience so as to avoid doing what is wrong; strict in matters of right and wrong.

A use of sense 1 developed chiefly in contexts with a negative expressed or implied.

¶1545 ELYOT *Dict.* s.v. Religiosus, In testimonio religiosi, scrupulouse in bearynge wytnesse. ¶1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* ii. I. 210 His more scrupulous brother ceased to appear in the royal chapel. ¶1863 MRS. GASKELL *Sylvia's L.* iii, Yet, though scrupulous in most things, it did not go against the consciences of these good brothers to purchase smuggled articles.

b. With inf.: Careful (to do something) in obedience to one's conscience.

¶1729 BUTLER *Serm. Wks.* 1874 II. 50 We should be religiously scrupulous and exact to say nothing..but what is true.

4. Of actions, etc.: Rigidly directed by the dictates of conscience; characterized by a strict and minute regard for what is right.

¶1756 BURKE *Tracts Popery Laws Wks.* IX. 338 This point is carried to so scrupulous a severity, that chamber practice, and even private conveyanc-

ing..are prohibited to them under the severest penalties. ¶1779 *Mirror* No. 37 While he gave to business the most scrupulous attention. ¶1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xiii. III. 248 William saw that he must not think of paying to the laws of Scotland that scrupulous respect which he had wisely and righteously paid to the laws of England. ¶1876 M. E. BRADDON *J. Haggard's Dau.* I. 9 A scrupulous honesty recommended him even to careful housekeepers.

5. Minutely exact or careful (in non-moral matters); strictly attentive even to the smallest details; characterized by punctilious exactness.

¶1638 JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* 77 Examining..every little moment of Art with such infatigable though scrupulous care. ¶1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 160 ¶4 Where we would make some Amends for our want of Force and Spirit, by a scrupulous Nicety and Exactness in our Compositions. ¶1779 JOHNSON *L.P., Cowley* (1805) I. 44 Thus all the power of description is destroyed by a scrupulous enumeration. ¶1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* ii, Great men are seldom over scrupulous in the arrangement of their attire. ¶1862 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* (ed. 2) 11 Scrupulous attention to the purity of the matter submitted to analysis is of course of primary importance. ¶1881 WESTCOTT & HORT *Grk. N.T.* Introd. §11 A scrupulous jealousy as to their text.

¶1863 GEO. ELIOT *Romola* v, Shelves, on which books..were arranged in scrupulous order. ¶1886 *Manch. Exam.* 14 Jan. 5/4 The various performances were gone through with scrupulous exactitude.

6. Wrought or produced with minute care and exactness. Obs.

¶1634 RAINBOW *Labour* (1635) 34 If seelings be an ornament, what are scrupulous carvings?

wayward a. Not now in colloquial use.

(ˈweɪwəd)

[Aphetic f. AWAYWARD. Cf. *froward*.

The word has prob. often been apprehended as a derivative of WAY n.1, with the literal sense ‘bent on going one’s own way’; this notion seems to have influenced the development of meaning.]

1. Disposed to go counter to the wishes or advice of others, or to what is reasonable; wrongheaded, intractable, self-willed; froward, perverse. Of children: Disobedient, refractory.

In recent use the sense is somewhat milder, and perhaps always with some mixture of 2. If applied to conduct deserving severe moral reprobation it would now be apprehended as euphemistic.

¶1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 376 As waiwerd clerkis wolden in seynt Austyns time haue done owte..þis worde of þe gospelle. ¶1382 *Matt.* xvii. 16 A! thou generacioun vnbyleeful and weiward [Vulg. perversa]. c ¶1425 *Eng. Conq. Irel.* 142 Folk so weyward & so vnredy. c ¶1475 *Lament. Mary Magd.* 237 Wherefore ye lyke tyrantes wode & waywarde Now haue him thus slayne for his rewarde. ¶1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 20 Than he waxeth testy and weywarde, and for every tryfell is impacient and angry. ¶1557 NORTH *Gueuara's Diall* Pr. Gen. Prol. A ij, Many sorowes endureth the woman in nouryshyng a waywerde chylde. ¶1583 STUBBES *Anat. Abus.* ii. 102 [They] shewe them selues either wilfull, waiwarde, or maliciouslye blinde. ¶1583 WHITGIFT *Serm.* (1589) C 6 b, The third kinde is of those that are conceited and wayward, who onely obey when they list, wherein they list, and so long as they list. ¶1590 SHAKES. *Com. Err.* iv. iv. 4 My wife is in a wayward moode to day. ¶1651 FEATLY *Abel Rediv.*, Reinolds 486 A waward Patient maketh a froward Physitian. ¶1830 D'ISRAELI *Chas. I.* III. 97 Charles..used the wayward genius with all a brother's tenderness. ¶1833 TENNYSON *New-Year's Eve* 25, I have been wild and wayward, but you'll forgive me now. ¶1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* lxix, The wayward boy soon spurned the shelter of his roof, and sought associates more congenial to his tastes. ¶1894 LADY M. VERNEY *Verney Mem.* III. 326 Sir Ralph treated the wayward girl with a courtesy to which her mother never condescended.

absol. ¶1581 J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Osor.* 63 b, Here our old peevish wayward, piketh a new quarell agaynst me. ¶1582 N. T. (RHEM.) *1 Pet.* ii. 18 Not only the good and modest, but also the waiward [Vulg. dyscolis].

¶1912 *Spectator* 27 July 135/2 The two together supply the unwise and the wayward with the necessary instructions.

b. Of things personified. Also of conditions, natural agencies, etc.: Untoward. Obs.

¶1567 TURBERV. *Epit., etc.* 80 b, When waywarde Winter spits his gall. a ¶1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* iii. xxix. §1 What spiteful God..hath brought me to such a waywarde case, that neither thy death can be a reuenge, nor thy ouerthrow a victorie. ¶1608 SHAKES. *Per.* iv. iv. 10 Pericles Is now againe thwarting thy wayward seas. ¶1718 PRIOR *Solomon* ii. 803 My Coward Soul shall bear it's wayward Fate. ¶1792 F. BURNEY *Diary Apr.*, This wayward month opened upon me with none of its smiles. ¶1821 J. BAILLIE *Metr.*

Leg., Ghost of Fadon vii, We war with wayward fate.

c. Of judgement: Perverse, wrong, unjust. Also of the eye: Perverted. Obs.

¶1382 WYCLIF *Matt.* vi. 23 3if thyn eize be weyward [Vulg. nequam].

Hab. i. 4 Weywerd dom [Vulg. iudicium perversum]. ¶1551 ROBINSON tr. *More's Utopia* (1895) 40 Suche prowde, lewde, ouerthwarte, and waywarde iudgementes [L. superba, absurda ac morosa iudicia]. ¶1668 DRYDEN *Dram. Poesy* 51 The wayward authority of an old man in his own house.

d. Of words, actions, countenance: Indicating or manifesting obstinate self-will. Obs.

¶1530 Myrr. *Our Ladye* 44 An other he [the Evil One] sturreth to make som weywarde token. ¶1599 SANDYS *Europæ Spec.* (1632) 94 If a man should heap together all the cholerike speeches, all the way-ward actions, that ever scaped from him in his life. ¶1630 *Pathomachia* i. iv. 8 From wayward words they passed on to bloody blowes. ¶1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* xii, I shall never forget the diabolical sneer which writhed Rashleigh's wayward features.

e. Of a disease, etc.: Not yielding readily to treatment, obstinate. Obs.

¶1541 R. COPLAND *Galyen's Terap.* 2 F iv, By the occasyon of them the vlcere is waywarde and rebel to be healed.

2. Capriciously wilful; conforming to no fixed rule or principle of conduct; erratic.

¶1533 LD. BERNERS *Golden Bk. M. Aurel. Let.* iv. (1537) 118 b, Our lyfe is so doubtfull, and fortune so waywarde, that she dothe not alway threate in strykyng, nor striketh in thretnyng. ¶1604 DEKKER *Honest Wh.* i. B 1, My longings are not wanton, but wayward. ¶1750 GRAY *Elegy* 106 Hard by yon wood..Mutt'ring his wayward fancies he would rove. ¶1832 WORDSW. *Loving & Liking* 44 Instinct is neither wayward nor blind. ¶1881 JOWETT *Thucyd.* I. 88 The movement of events is often as wayward and incomprehensible as the course of human thought.

b. transf. and fig. (of things).

¶1786 BURNS *Brigs of Ayr* 51 He left his bed and took his wayward rout, And down by Simpsons wheel'd the left about. ¶1799 WORDSW. *Poems Imag.* x. 28 In many a secret place Where rivulets dance their wayward round.

¶1817 SCOTT *Harold* ii. xv, Thus muttering, to the door she bent Her wayward steps. 18.. Smithson *Usef. Bk. Farmers* 32 (Cassell) Send its rough wayward roots in all directions. ¶1905 *C.T.C. Gaz.* June 254/1 The wayward hoop is a fruitful cause of those accidents for which no one except the victim gets punished.

fretful a.

('fretful)

[f. fret v.1 + -ful.]

1. **a.** Corrosive, irritating, lit. and fig. **b.** Irritated, inflamed. Obs.

¶1593 SHAKES. *2 Hen.* VI, iii. ii. 403 Though parting be a fretfull corrosive, It is applyed to a deathfull wound. ¶1594 PLAT *Jewell-ho.* i. 56 More sharpe, and fretfull to their fingers than their vsuall mortar. ¶1804 ABERNETHY *Surg. Observ.* 126 The ulcer..was of the size of a shilling, with fretful edges.

2. Disposed to fret, irritable, peevish, ill-tempered; impatient, restless.

¶1602 SHAKES. *Ham.* i. v. 20 A Tale..whose lightest word would..make..each particular haire to stand on end, Like Quilles vpon the fretfull Porpentine. ¶1632 J. HAYWARD tr. *Biondi's Eromena* 96 In so much as he became fretfull, and pettish. ¶1739 CIBBER *Apol.* (1756) II. 34 The fretful temper of a friend. ¶1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) IV. 209 Impelled by a fretful impetuosity. ¶1802 *Med. Jrnl.* VIII. 528 The child had become more silly and fretful. ¶1833 *Regul. Instr. Cavalry* i. 83 A horse continues uneasy and fretful with the bit. ¶1837 LYTTON *E. Maltrav.* iii. ii, Men of second-rate faculties..are fretful and nervous. a ¶1848 ROSSETTI *Blessed Damozel* vi, Where this earth Spins like a fretful midge.

3. **a.** Of water, etc.: Agitated, troubled, broken into waves.

b. Of the wind: Blowing in frets or gusts; gusty.

¶1613-16 W. BROWNE *Brit. Past.* ii. iv. 691 Two goodly streames..Whose fretfull waues beating against the hill, Did all the bottome with soft muttrings fill. ¶1793 SMEATON *Edystone L.* §322 The horizon..was so extremely black, fretful, and hazy, that nothing could be seen. a ¶1849 J. C. MANGAN *Poems* (1859) 122 Bitter blows the fretful morning wind. ¶1887 *Pall Mall G.* 25 July 2/2 A pretty picture framed by the fretful sea and the cloudless sky.

4. Characterized by or apt to produce fretting.

¶1737 THOMSON *Mem. Ld. Talbot* 340 The kindred Souls of every Land, (Howe'er divided in the fretful Days Of Prejudice and Error) mingled now. ¶1798 WORDSW. *Tintern Abbey*, The fretful stir Unprofitable and the fever of the world. ¶1852 BLACKIE *Study Lang.* 33 To pick words out of a dictionary is fretful. ¶1890 *Murray's Mag.* June 737 The fearsome, fretful, forest, dank and deep.

Hence **fretfully** adv., in a fretful manner; **fretfulness**, the quality or condition of being fretful.

¶1615 CROOKE *Body of Man* 274 And this we tearme fretfulnesse or pettishnes. ¶1789 F. BURNEY *Diary Apr.*, Really frightened at she knew not what, she fretfully exclaimed, [etc.]. ¶1843 J. MARTINEAU *Chr. Life* (1867) 239 Drives away every trace of fretfulness. ¶1860 FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* V. 174 The Carews rode fretfully up and down the river banks, probing the mud with their lances to find footing for their horses. ¶1880 OUIDA *Moths* I. ix. 228 'What is the use of putting off?' said her mother fretfully, 'you will be ill'.

sullen a. adv. and n.

(ˈsʌlən)

[Later form of solein.]

A. adj.

1. a. Of persons, their attributes, aspect, actions: Characterized by, or indicative of, gloomy ill-humour or moody silence.

In early use there is often implication of obstinacy or stubbornness.

¶1573-80 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 180 Be lowly not sullen, if ought go amisse. ¶1592 *Arden of Feversham* i. i. 510 Who would haue thought the ciuill sir so sullen? ¶1641 'SMECTYMNUUS' *Vind. Answ. To Rdr.*, Wee are called..sullen and crabbed peices. ¶1668 *Extr. St. Papers rel. Friends* Ser. iii. (1912) 279 Their Saint Penn..is diuclishly cryed vp amongst that peruers sullen Faction. ¶1680 C. NESSE *Church Hist.* 55 Because they might not have what they would, grew sullain, and would have nothing. ¶1713 STEELE *Guard.* No. 18 ¶2 These contemplations have made me serious but not sullen. ¶1718 *Free-thinker* No. 149. 323 In the Middle sits Cato, with a sullen Brow. ¶1795 BURKE *Corr.* (1844) IV. 315 If the better part lies by, in a sullen silence, they still cannot hinder the more factious part both from speaking and from writing. ¶1814 WORDSW. *Excurs.* vi. 459 Here..they met,..flaming Jacobite And sullen Hanoverian! ¶1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* vi. II. 28 The answer of James was a cold and sullen reprimand. ¶1879 FROUDE *Cæsar* xxvi. 438 Some were still sullen, and refused to sue for a forgiveness.

b. transf. Of animals and inanimate things: Obstinate, refractory; stubborn, unyielding.

¶1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* iii. 128 b, Which being well punished with hunger, and thyrst, wyll teache him [sc. a plough-ox] to leaue that sullen tricke. ¶1648 GAGE *West Ind.* 89, I got up again and spurred my sullen jade.

¶1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* i. v. 888 Things are Sullen, and will be as they are, what ever we Think them, or Wish them to be. ¶1691 RAY *Creation* i. (1692) 38 The stupid Matter..would be as sullen as the Mountain was that Mahomet commanded to come down to him. ¶1725 DE FOE *Voy. round World* (1840) 339 The other [bull] proved untractable, sullen, and outrageous.

¶1859 TENNYSON *Geraint & Enid* 862 As sullen as a beast new-caged.

c. Holding aloof. Obs.

¶1628 EARLE *Microcosm., Acquaintance* (Arb.) 86 Friendship is a sullener thing, as a contracter and taker vp of our affections to some few.

d. fig. Baleful, malignant. Obs.

¶1676 DRYDEN *Aurengz.* i. i. 360 Such sullen Planets at my Birth did shine, They threaten every Fortune mixt with mine. ¶1679 DRYDEN & LEE *Cedipus* iii, Ye sullen Pow'rs below. ¶1703 ROWE *Fair Penit.* ii. i, Some sullen Influence, a Foe to both.

2. Solemn, serious. Obs.

¶1583 B. MELBANCKE *Philotimus* M iij b, So was he free from sulleyne sterne seuerity. a ¶1586 SIDNEY *Apol. Poetrie* (Arb.) 30 Morrall Philosophers, whom me thinketh, I see comming towards me with a sullen grauity.

¶1640 BP. REYNOLDS *Passions* iv, Some plausible Fancy doth more prevail with tender Wills than a severe and sullen argument. ¶1719 YOUNG *Busiris* i. i, In sullen Majesty they stalk along, With Eyes of Indignation, and Despair.

3. a. Of immaterial things, actions, conditions: Gloomy, dismal, melancholy; sometimes with the notion of 'passing heavily, moving sluggishly'.

¶1593 SHAKES. *Rich. II*, i. iii. 265 The sullen passage of thy weary steppes.

¶1604 *Oth.* iii. iv. 51 (Q1), A salt and sullen rhume. ¶1605 DANIEL *Philotas Ep.* 59 To sound The deepe reports of sullen Tragedies. ¶1648 MILTON *Sonn.* xvii, Where shall we sometimes meet, and by the fire Help wast a sullen day. ¶1712-14 POPE *Rape Lock* iv. 19 No cheerful breeze this sullen region knows. ¶1775 JOHNSON *Let. to Mrs. Thrale* 1 Aug., The place [sc. Oxford] is now a sullen solitude. ¶1816 BYRON *Prisoner of Chillon* xiv, With spiders I had friendship made, And watch'd them in their sullen trade.

¶1858 KINGSLEY *Lett.* (1878) I. 21 It was an afternoon of sullen Autumn

rain. a ¶1864 HAWTHORNE *Amer. Note-bks.* (1879) II. 52 A bleak, sullen day.

b. Of a sound or an object producing a sound: Of a deep, dull, or mournful tone. Chiefly poet.

¶1592 SHAKES. *Rom. & Jul.* iv. v. 88 Our solemn Hymnes, to sullen Dyrge change. ¶1632 MILTON *Penseroso* 76, I hear the far-off Curfeu sound,..Swinging slow with sullen roar. ¶1742 COLLINS *Ode* ix. 12 Where the beetle winds His small but sullen horn. ¶1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* xlv, The heavy bell..broke short their argument. One by one the sullen sounds fell successively on the ear. ¶1849 KINGSLEY *North Devon in Misc.* (1859) II. 264 The sullen thunder of the unseen surge.

4. a. Of sombre hue; of a dull colour; hence, of gloomy or dismal aspect. (Also qualifying an adj. of colour = dull-.) Cf. sad a. 8.

¶a1586 [implied in SULLENLY 2]. ¶1592 *Arden of Feversham* iii. i. 45 Now will he shake his care oppressed head, Then fix his sad eis on the sullen earth. ¶1596 SHAKES. *1 Hen. IV*, i. ii. 236 Like bright Mettall on a sullen ground. ¶1647 HARVEY *Sch. of Heart* xxi. i, Take sullen lead for silver, sounding brass Instead of solid gold. ¶1665 J. REA *Flora* 130 A dark sullen violet purple colour. ¶1710 STEELE *Tatler* No. 266 ¶3 Two apples that were roasting by a sullen sea coal fire. ¶1713 *Phil. Trans.* XXVIII. 224 A sort of sullen greenish Wood-like rust. ¶1784 COWPER *Task* ii. 212, I would not yet exchange thy sullen skies..for warmer France With all her vines. ¶1811 SCOTT *Don Roderick* ii. i, All sleeps in sullen shade, or silver glow. ¶1818 KEATS *Sonn. Ben Nevis* 6, I look o'erhead, And there is sullen mist. ¶1855 TENNYSON *Maud* i. x. i, The sullen-purple moor. ¶1894 HALL *Caine Manxman* v. iii. 286 The sky to the north-west was dark and sullen.

b. **sullen lady**, ? *Fritillaria nigra*. Obs.

¶1688 HOLME *Armoury* ii. iv. 74/1 The sullen Lady, hangeth her head down..and is of an umberish dark hair colour, without any checker or spots. Some call it the black Fritillary.

5. Of water, etc.: Flowing sluggishly. poet.

¶1622 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* xxviii. 91 Small Cock, a sullen Brook, comes to her succour then. ¶1628 MILTON *Vac. Exerc.* 95 Sullen Mole that runneth underneath. ¶1814 SCOTT *Wav.* xxii, The larger [stream] was placid, and even sullen in its course. ¶1818 SHELLEY *Rosal. & Helen* 398 Each one lay Sucking the sullen milk away About my frozen heart.

6. Comb.: parasynthetic adjs., as sullen-browed, sullen-eyed, sullen-faced, sullen-hearted; complementary, as sullen-blooming, sullen-looking, sullen-seeming, sullen-smiling; with other adjs., as sullen-sour, sullen-wise.

¶1879 O. WILDE in *Time* July 402 No *sullen-blooming poppies stain thy hair.

¶1831 SCOTT *Cast. Dang.* ii, This *sullen-browed Thomas Dickson.

¶1961 R. S. THOMAS *Tares* 47 And given to watching, *sullen-eyed, Love still-born, as it was then.

¶1914 JOYCE *Dubliners* 117 A very *sullen-faced man.

¶1909 R. BRIDGES *Par. Virg. Æn.* VI, 434 The *sullen-hearted, who..Their own life did-away.

¶1855 TENNYSON *Maud* i. xviii. vi, *Sullen-seeming Death.

¶1849 J. A. CARLYLE tr. *Dante's Inf.* p. xlv, The *Sullen-sour or Gloomy-sluggish.

¶1919 J. MASEFIELD *Reynard the Fox* i. 29 Surly, Tall, shifty, *sullen-smiling.

¶1710 STEELE *Tatler* No. 149 ¶5 A *sullen-wise Man is as bad as a good-natured Fool.

B. adv. = SULLENLY. rare.

¶1718 PRIOR *Solomon* ii. 201 Sullen I forsook th' Imperfect Feast.

¶1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* ii. xxxiv, Sullen and slowly they unclasp.

C. n. a. (in pl., usually **the sullens**; rarely sing.) A state of gloomy ill-humour; sullenness, sulks. Phr. **in the sullens**, **sick of the sullens**.

¶1580 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 285 She was solitary walking, with hir frowning cloth, as sick lately of the solens. ¶1631 R. H. ARRAIGNM. *Whole Creature* xvi. 280 So long he is sicke in the suds, and diseas'd in the sullens.

¶1633 MARMION *Fine Comp.* i. iii. B 2, They can doe no more good upon me, then a young pittifull Lover upon a Mistresse, that has the sullens.

¶1662 HIBBERT *Body Divinity* i. 142 Its a dangerous thing to sit sick of the sullens, or be discontented. a ¶1670 HACKET *Abp. Williams* i. (1692) 84 If his Majesty were moody..he would fetch him out of that Sullen with a pleasant Jest.

¶1671 WOOD *Life* (O.H.S.) II. 215 When William Lenthall was troubled with the sullins.

¶1679 DRYDEN *Troil. & Cress.* iv. ii, I'll e'en go home, and shut up my doors, and die o' the sullens, like an old bird in a cage.

¶1747 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) I. xviii. 134 No sullens, my Mamma; no perverseness.

¶1819 SCOTT *Leg. Montrose* xxiii, Annot Lyle could al-ways charm Allan out of the sullens. ¶1864 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* xvi. viii.

IV. 362 Russian Czarina evidently in the sullens against Friedrich. ¶1868 'HOLME Lee' *B. Godfrey* xxxvi, Gerrard was in a fit of sullens.

b. Comb., **sullen-sick** a., 'sick of the sullens', ill from ill-humour.

¶1614 T. ADAMS *Sinners Passing Bell* Wks. (1629) 247 If the state..lie sullen-sicke of Naboths vineyard. ¶1650 FULLER *Pisgah* ii. vii. §7. 158 On the denyall Ahab falls sullen-sick.

crabbed a.

(['kræbɪd, kræbd])

[orig. f. crab n.1 + -ed: cf. dogged. The primary reference was to the crooked or wayward gait of the crustacean, and the contradictory, perverse, and fractious disposition which this expressed. Cf. Ger. *krabbe* crab, whence, according to Grimm, 'because these animals are malicious and do not easily let go what they have seized, LG. *ene lütje krabbe* (a little crab) a little quarrelsome ill-conditioned man (Bremen Wbch.); also in Saxony said of self-willed, refractory children. So E.Fris. *krabbe* crab, transf. a cantankerous, cross-grained man (who is refractory and froward like a crab, sticking fast or going backwards, when he ought to advance); whence *krabbîg* contentious, cantankerous, fractious, cross-grained (Doornkaat Koolman). Literal senses of 'cross-grained, crooked', and 'knotted, gnarled, un-smooth', applied to sticks, trees, and the like, also appear; these re-act upon the sense in which the word is applied to persons and their dispositions. In later use there is association with the fruit, giving the notion of 'sour-tempered, morose, peevish, harsh'.]

1. Of persons (or their dispositions): orig. Of disagreeably froward or wayward disposition, cross-grained, ill-conditioned, perverse, contrarious, fractious. (Now blending with b.)

¶1300 *Cursor M.* 8943 (Gött.) *Þe iuus þat war sua crabbid* [Cott. & Fairf. cant] and *kene*. c ¶1440 *Prompt. Parv.* 99 *Crabbyd, awke, or wrawe* [W. wraywarde], *ceronicus, bilosus, cancerinus*. c ¶1440 *York Myst.* xxix. 130 *For women are crabbed, þat comes þem of kynde*. ¶1547 LATIMER *Serm. & Rem.* (1845) 426 *He that is so obstinate and untractable in wickedness and wrong doing, is commonly called a crabbed and froward piece*. ¶1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 49/9 *Crabbed, froward, prauus, iratus*. ¶1643 MILTON *Divorce* Introd., *The little that our Saviour could prevail..against the crabbed textuists of his time*. ¶1844 ALB. SMITH *Adv. Mr. Ledbury* vii. (1886) 22 *Despite the persevering labours of those crabbed essayists*. a ¶1845 HOOD

Tale of Temper i, Of all cross breeds of human sinners, The crabbedest are those who dress our dinners.

b. In later use: Cross-tempered, ill-conditioned, irritable, acrimonious, churlish; having asperity or acerbity of temper. Since 16th c. a frequent epithet of old age, in which perhaps there was at first the sense 'crooked'; cf. sense 5. Also often influenced by, and passing insensibly into, sense 9.

¶1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* II. 542 That I thairfoir crabit or cruell be.

¶1579 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 43 To you they breed more sorrow and care..because of your crabbed age. ¶1583 STUBBES *Anat. Abus.* ii. 65 He that is borne vnder Cancer, shall be crabbed and angrie, because the crab fish is so inclined.

¶1590 SPENSER *F.Q.* iii. ix. 3 Therein a cancred crabbed carle..That has no skill of court nor courtesie. ¶1601 WEEVER *Mirr. Mart.* C j, Craft, anger, vsury, neuer seene in youth: In crabbed age these vices we behold.

¶1610 SHAKES. *Temp.* iii. i. 8 O She is Ten times more gentle, then her Father's crabbed; And he's compos'd of harshnesse. ¶1635 N. R. tr. *Camden's Hist. Eliz.* ii. xvi. 170 A man of a crabbed disposition and rash to raise commotions.

¶1779 F. BURNEY *Lett. Aug.*, Calling you a crabbed fellow. ¶1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* ii. iii. vii, His Father, the harshest of old crabbed men, he loved with warmth, with veneration.

¶1863 GEO. ELIOT *Romola* iii. xviii, A crabbed fellow with crutches is dangerous. ¶1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) V. 302 [The] ignorant..lays up in store for himself isolation in crabbed age.

c. transf. of things.

¶1400-50 *Alexander* 3794 Colwers..& crabbed snakis And opire warlazes wild. ¶1634 MILTON *Comus* 477 How charming is divine Philosophy! Not harsh and crabbed, as dull fools suppose. ¶1682 DRYDEN *Dk. of Guise* iii. i, But if some crabbed virtue turn and pinch them, Mark me, they'll run..and howl for mercy.

2. Of the temporary mood: Cross, vexed, irate, irritated; out of humour. (In early use only Sc.: now dial.; often pronounced crab'd.)

¶1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints, Laurentius* 786 Sume mene sait he crabyt is.

¶1513-75 *Diurn. Occurrents* (1833) 81 Quhaira he was crabbit and causit discharge the said Johne of his preitching. ¶1530 PALSGR. 773/2, I waxe crabbed, or angrie countenaunced. Je me rechigne.

¶1552 ABP. HAMILTON *Catech.* (1884) 9 It is nocht ane thing to be crabit at our brotheris persone and to be crabit at our brotheris falt. ¶1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict.*, *Crab'd*, affronted; out of humour; sometimes called being in Crab-street.

¶1861 HOLLAND *Less. Life* i. 19 A business man..will enter his house for dinner as crabbed as a hungry bear.

3. Of words, actions, etc.: Proceeding from or showing an ill-tempered or irritable disposition; angry; ill-natured. Obs.

¶1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. xi. 65 For nou is vche Boye Bold..to..Craken a3eyn þe Clergie Crabbede wordes. c ¶1430 LYDG. *Bochas* vii. iv. (1554) 168 b, Her feminine crabbed eloquence. ¶1581 J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Osor.* 277 Your crabbed and snappish accusation agaynst Luther. a ¶1632 T. TAYLOR *God's Judgem.* i. ii. i. (1642) 155 He..chased him away with bitter and crabbed reproaches.

b. Of the countenance: Expressing a harsh or disagreeable disposition: cf. crab-face, crab n.1 13.

¶[c1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints, Vincentius* 202 Dacyane hyme-self nere wod Be-come..And kest his handis to & fra And trawit [editor reads crabbit] contenance cane ma.]

¶1603 H. CROSSE *Vertues Commw.* (1878) 51 When a crabbed visage and a misshapen body, shall stand by an amiable and louely personage. ¶1641 *Hist. Edw. V* 6 Hard favoured of visage, such as..is called..among common persons, a crabbed face.

4. Of things: Harsh or unpleasant to the taste or feelings; unpalatable, bitter. Obs. or arch. (Cf. sense 9.)

¶1340 *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 502 After crysten-masse com þe crabbed lentoun, þat fraystez flesch wyth þe fysche & fode more symple. ¶1593 *Tell-Troth's N.Y. Gift* 40 A kinde dinner and a crabbed supper. ¶1622 R. HAWKINS *Voy. S. Sea* (1847) 128 The crabbed entertainment it gave us.

5. Of trees, sticks: Crooked; having an uneven and rugged stem, gnarled, knotted; having cross-grained and knotted wood. Obs.

¶1510 BARCLAY *Mirr. Gd. Manners* (1570) B vj, To make a streyght Jauelin of a crabbed tree. ¶1539 TAVERNER *Erasm. Prov.* (1552) 5 To a crabbed knotte muste be soughte a crabbed wedge. ¶1594 NASHE *Unfort. Trav.* 53 A crabbed briery hawthorne bush. ¶1675 TRAHERNE *Chr. Ethics* xxxiii. 540 A crabbed and knotty piece of matter.

b. of the human body and (fig.) nature.

¶1601 DENT *Pathw. Heaven* (1831) 18 Troubled..with a crabbed and crooked nature. ¶1623 COCKERAM iii, Thersites, one that was as crabbed in person as he was Cinicall and doggish in condition. ¶1632 J. HAYWARD tr. *Biondi's Eromena* 16 This king..being of a crabbed nature, pimple faced and a creple. ¶1799 SOUTHEY *Sonn.* xv, A wrinkled, crabbed man they picture thee, Old Winter.

c. Of land, weather, etc.: Rough, rugged.

¶1579 FENTON *Guicciard.* v. (1599) 221 A crabbed mountaine, where they lost threescore men at armes and manie footmen. ¶1583 STANYHURST *Aeneis* iii. (Arb.) 71 God Mars the Regent of that soyle crabbed adoring [Virg. iii. 35 *Geticis arvis*]. ¶1622 R. HAWKINS *Voy. S. Sea* (1847) 128 The crabbed mountains which overtopped it. ¶1876 ROBINSON *Whitby Gloss., Crabb'd* or Crabby. Weather terms. 'Bits o' crabb'd showers', the rain or sleet driven by cold winds.

6. Rough, rugged, and inelegant in language.

¶1561 T. NORTON *Calvin's Inst.* i. 41 Though he be rough sometime & crabbed in his maner of speach. ¶1656 COWLEY *Misc., Answ. Copy of Verses* 13 Such base, rough, crabbed, hedge Rhymes..set the hearers Ears on Edge.

7. Of writings, authors, etc.: Ruggedly or perversely intricate; difficult to unravel, construe, deal with, or make sense of.

¶1561 T. NORTON *Calvin's Inst.* iii. 310 To debarre crabbed questions. ¶1612 BRINSLEY *Lud. Lit.* viii. (1627) 122 The best and easiest Commentaries of the hardest and most crabbed Schoole-Authors. ¶1675 BAXTER *Cath. Theol.* ii. i. 2 Writing..in crabbed Scholastick style. 1763-5 Churchill *Poems*, Author, O'er crabbed authors life's gay prime to waste. ¶1788 REID *Aristotle's Log.* iv. §6 Those crabbed geniuses made this doctrine very thorny. ¶1830 MACKINTOSH *Eth. Philos.* Wks. 1846 I. 179 Mr. Hume, who has translated so many of the dark and crabbed passages of Butler into his own transparent and beautiful language. a ¶1839 PRAED *Poems* (1864) II. 76 Since my old crony and myself Laid crabbed Euclid on the shelf. ¶1890 *Times* 20 Jan. 9/2 A hard, dry, and rather crabbed collection of notes and statistics.

b. Of handwriting: Difficult to decipher from the bad formation of the characters.

¶1612 DEKKER If it be not good Wks. 1873 III. 287 Lawes Wrap'd vp in caracters, crabbed and vnknowne. ¶1800 E. HERVEY *Mourtray Fam.* I. 91 It is such a crabbed hand, I can't read half of it. ¶1853 FARADAY in B. Jones *Life* (1870) II. 318 Do you see how crabbed my hand-writing has become? ¶1879 F. HARRISON *Choice Bks.* (1886) 18 A few worn rolls of crabbed manuscript.

8. Of or pertaining to the zodiacal sign Cancer. Obs. rare.

¶1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 43 Muskat is a citie..upon the Persian Gulfe and almost Nadyr to the crabbed Tropique.

9. Of the nature of the crab-tree or its fruit; fig. sour-tempered, peevish, morose; harsh.

¶1565-73 COOPER *Thesaurus* s.v. Acerbus, Vultus acerbus, sower or crabbed.

¶1599 MARSTON *Sco. Villanie* 170 Against the veriuice-face of the Crabbedst Satyrst that euer stuttered. ¶1611 SHAKES. *Wint. T.* i. ii. 102 Three crabbed Moneths had sowr'd themselues to death. ¶1656 DUCHESS OF NEWCASTLE in *Life of Dk.* (1886) 313 As for my disposition, it is..not crabbed or peevishly melancholy. ¶1726 AMHERST *Terræ Fil.* xxxvi. 189 This philosophical apple-tree..never grew kindly, nor produced any thing but sour crabbed stuff. ¶1865 HOLLAND *Plain T.* iii. 107 Only treated respectfully by wives and children because they are crabbed and sour.

10. Comb., as crabbed-looking, crabbed-handed adjs.

¶1837 SIR F. PALGRAVE *Merch. & Friar* i. (1844) 34 A lean-visaged, crabbed-looking personage. ¶1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xliii, That crabbed-handed absent relative.

venomous a.

(ˈvenəməs)

[a. AF. *venimus*, *venimous*, = OF. (also mod.F.) *venimeux*, f. *venim* *venom* n., after L. *venēnōsus*: see *venenous* a.]

1. fig. Morally or spiritually hurtful or injurious; pernicious. Obs.

¶1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 120/484 þat word me þinchez venimous to þe pays of þe londe. a ¶1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* cxlix. 2 To forsake þe venymous delitis of þis warld. c ¶1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 20 Venemouse lustis and likingis of deedly synnes. c ¶1480 HENRYSON *Fables, Cock & Fox* 606 (Harl. MS.), Thir twa sinnis, flatterie and vane gloir, Ar venomous. c ¶1490 CAXTON *Rule St. Benet* (E.E.T.S.) 129 Yf ony be founde gyilty in this venemouse offence of properte. ¶1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 55 The religious seruaunt of god..destroyeth by holy meditacyon ye flyes & spyders of venymous thoughtes. ¶1580 LYLIE *Euphues* (Arb.) 414, I will at large proue that there is nothing in loue more venomous then meeting. ¶1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* 707 Saint German, who happily confuted that venemous Pelagian Heresie.

2. Containing, consisting or full of, infected with, venom; possessing poisonous properties or qualities; destructive of, harmful or injurious to, life on this account.

Common from c1470 to c1650; now rare.

¶1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 16594 By passagers wel herde he seye þe venimouse eyr was al a-weye. c ¶1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 6751 Another manere of drynk þat es ille, þat sal be bitter and venemus. c ¶1366 CHAUCER *A.B.C.* 149 With thornes venymous, O heuene queen,..I am wounded. ¶1474 CAXTON *Chesse* iii. v. (1883) 126 That they put in theyr medicynes no thyng venemous. ¶1490 *Eneydos* xxiv. 88 Herbes..wherof the Iuse is passyng venymouse. ¶1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 45 Of the venemous apples wherwith the Canibales inueneme theyr arrowes. ¶1584 COGAN *Haven Health* ccxliii. (1636) 297 Not that the ayre is venomous of it selfe, but through corruption hath now gotten such a quality. c ¶1614 SIR W. MURE *Dido & Æneas* iii. 108 Collecting als..The milkie poyson of each ven'mowse weed. ¶1651 HOBBS *Leviath.* ii. xxix. 173 The fleshy parts being..by venomous matter obstructed. ¶1672 MARVELL *Reh. Transp.* i. 132 The cultivating of a Garden of venomous Plants. ¶1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* x. xxxviii, On the heap Pour venomous gums. a ¶1839 PRAED *Red Fisherman* Poems 1864 I. 197 The trees and herbs that round it grew Were venomous and foul.

b. Of a wound, etc.: Marked or characterized by the presence of poisonous matter; foul with venom; envenomed. Obs.

¶1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P.R.* xix. lvii, Aȝens þe venemos posteme þat hatte antrax & aȝens oþer venemous postemes. ¶1541 R. COPLAND *Guydon's Form.* U j, It shulde be an oyntment profitable to all sores that be venymous. c ¶1550 H. LLOYD *Treasury Health* T v, Leuen of whete breketh the venemouse humors and apostumes. ¶1656 J. SMITH *Pract. Physic* 363 A wound made by bullets is not venemous, nor alwaies bruised. ¶1702 ECHARD *Eccl. Hist.* i. i. 36 His Distemper daily encreas'd,..and he himself labour'd under..venomous Swellings in his Feet,..accompany'd with intolerable Smells. ¶1707 WATTS *Hymns* ii. cliii. Poet. Wks. IV. 148 Sin like a venomous disease Infects our vital blood. ¶1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* VII. ix. 196 When the serpent is irritated to give a venomous wound.

fig. ¶1597 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* v. lii. (1611) 292 A soueraigne preseruatue..from the venemous infection of heresie.

c. Of a bite or sting.

¶1567 *Gude & Godlie Ball.* (S.T.S.) 81 He ouerthrew The Serpent, and his venemous stang. ¶1653 WALTON *Angler* 146 The biting of a Pike is venemous and hard to be cured. ¶1753 J. BARTLET *Gentl. Farriery* 322 Of Venomous Bites from Vipers and Mad Dogs. ¶1787 BEST *Angling* (ed. 2) 48 Be careful how you take a pike out of the water, for his bite is venomous.

d. Harmful or injurious to something. Obs.

¶1607 SHAKES. *Cor.* iv. i. 23 Thy teares are salter then a yonger mans, And venomous to thine eyes. ¶1691 T. H[ALE] *Acc. New Invent.* 17 A Cancarous and Corroding substance, and venomous to Iron.

3. Of animals, esp. snakes, or their parts: Secreting venom; having the power or property of communicating venom by means of bites or stings; inflicting or capable of inflicting poisonous wounds in this way.

Formerly in general literary use, now chiefly restricted to certain species of poisonous snakes.

α ¶1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxxi. (Eugenia) 396 Na serpent has a hed sa fel, sa venamuse, na sa cruel, as þe hed of þe colubre is. ¶1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 51 Yuel doers, corrupte ayre, wylde bestes and venemous woneþ þerynne. c ¶1400 MANDEVILLE (1839) 199 Thanne have thei no drede of no Cocodrilles, ne of non other venymous Vermyn. c ¶1450 J. METHAM *Wks.* (E.E.T.S.) 46 For off summe off thise serpentys, the eyn so venymmus be That with her loke thei slee yche erthly creature. ¶1480 CAXTON *Myrr.* ii. xiv. 97 Irland is a grett Ilonde in whiche is no serpent ne venemous beeste.

¶1522 MORE *De quat. Noviss. Wks.* 85/1 Like as the venemous spider bringeth forth her cobweb. ¶1596 SPENSER *F.Q.* vi. vi. 9 That beastes teeth, which..Are so exceeding venemous and keene. ¶1600 SHAKES. *A.Y.L.* ii. i. 13 Aduersitie Which like the toad, ougly and venemous, Weares yet a precious Jewell in his head. ¶1653 W. RAMESEY *Astrol. Restored* 229 Those places subject thereunto shall be afflicted with water, and venemous Creatures. ¶1748 *Anson's Voy.* iii. ii. 314 We found..scorpions, which we supposed were venomous. 1791-3 in *Spirit Public Jrnls.* (1799) I. 225 To sleep in a dungeon with venomous reptiles.

β ¶1515 HENRYSON'S *Orpheus & Eurydice* (Asloan MS.) 105 As scho ran, all bairfut, in ane bus Scho trampit on a serpent wennomus. ¶1595 *Locrine* i. i. 76 Triple Cerberus with his venomous throte. ¶1651 WITTIE tr. *Primrose's Pop. Err.* iv. xxxviii. 271 If poyson, or some venomous creature be neare unto it, it sweats. ¶1671 SALMON *Syn. Med.* iii. xxii. 442 It..cures the bitings of venomous beasts. ¶1713 DERHAM *Phys.-Theol.* ii. vi. 56 Many..of our European venomous animals carry their Cure..in their

own Bodies. ¶1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* VII. ix. 194 If it [sc. the serpent] has the fang teeth, it is to be placed among the venomous class. ¶1834 MURTRIE *Cuvier's Anim. King.* 182 Serpents are divided into venomous and non-venomous; and the former are sub-divided into such as are venomous with several maxillary teeth, and those which are venomous with insulated fangs. ¶1876 M. E. BRADDON *J. Haggard's Dau.* III. 23 The serpent had lifted his venomous crest from among the flowers. c ¶1880 Cassell's *Nat. Hist.* IV. 301 The poisonous Snakes are divided into two groups—the Viperiform Snakes and the Venomous Colubrines.

b. fig., chiefly with allusion to the Devil.

¶1340 *Ayenb.* 171 Þe uenimouse eddre of helle. c ¶1450 *Mankind* 40 in *Macro Plays* 2 Yt hath dyssoluyde mankynde from þe bittur bonde Of þe mortall enmye, þat vemynousse serpente. a ¶1548 HALL *Chron., Hen.* IV, 25 The Earle of Northumberland..bare still a venemous scorpion in his cankered heart. ¶*Ibid.*, *Hen.* VI, 169 That venemous worme, that dreadfull dragon, called disdain of superioritie. a ¶1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) II. 239 The Devill,..that wicked and venimus serpent quho gois about to sie quhome he may catch.

4. fig. Having the virulence of venom; rancorous, spiteful, malignant, virulent; embittered, envenomed.

¶1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* x. 2 Þai haf redy in þaire hertis venymouse wordis and sharpe. *Ibid.* xxviii. 8 Þaim..þat..puttis away venomus tongis.

¶1340 *Ayenb.* 27 Þe venimouse herte of þe enuious zenezep generalliche. c ¶1400 *Rom. Rose* 5528 With tonge woundyng, as feloun, Thurgh venemous detraccioun. a ¶1450 *Knt. de la Tour* (1868) 56 It is not good to..take sodeyne acquaintance that hathe the herte of faire speche, for sum tyme her speche is deseyuable and venomous. c ¶1489 CAXTON *Blanchardyn* li. 196 The venymouse malyce of the false traytoure Subyon. ¶1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 52 To speake venemous woordes..ageynst the annoynted of god.

¶1588 SHAKES. *Tit. A.* v. iii. 13 The Venemous Mallice of my swelling heart.

¶1648 HEXHAM II, *Feenijnghlick*, venomously, spitefully, or [with] a venomous envy. a ¶1721 PRIOR *Session of Poets* 36 That with very much Wit he no anger exprest Nor sharpen'd his Verse with a Venemous Jest.

¶1737 *Gentl. Mag.* VII. 623/2 One R. C...sent me venomous Libels against the Great Man. ¶1857 PALGRAVE *Hist. Normandy & Eng.* II. 18 A venomous opposition was festering against him.

¶1879 FROUDE *Cæsar* xii. 153 The most innocent intimacies would not have escaped misrepresentation from the venomous tongues of Roman society. ¶1885 *Manch. Exam.* 20 May 4/7 A

venomous and scurrilous attack.

b. Of persons, their character, etc.

¶1400 *Morte Arth.* 299 Of this grett velany I salle be vengede ones On
3one venemus mene, wyth valiant knyghtes! ¶1567 *Satir. Poems Reform.* iv.
109 O wickit wemen, vennomus of nature! ¶1579 TOMSON *Calvin's Serm.*
Tim. 901/2 What shall men say, when a mortall man dareth thus to become
venemous against God. ¶1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* iii.
ii. 71 [Of these] christian children Mahometised, the venemous nature is so
great, mischieuous and pernitious. ¶1607 HIERON *Wks.* I. 225 [Satan is] a
venimous aduersary to empoysen our soule. ¶1643 SIR T. BROWNE *Relig.*
Med. ii. §10 There are in the most depraved and venemous dispositions, cer-
taine pieces that remaine untoucht. ¶1882 J. H. BLUNT *Ref. Ch. Eng.* II.
244 His most bitter enemy, the venomous and unscrupulous Foxe. ¶1911
Blackw. Mag. Aug. 221 The doctor seemed to me a venomous little creature.

5. Treated with venom or poison; envenomed, poisoned. Obs.

¶1400 *Morte Arth.* 2570 With the venymous swerde a vayne has he towchede.
¶c1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* i. i. (1859) 1 Thenne comme cruel dethe and smote
me with his venemous darte. ¶a1470 HARDING *Chron.* ii. cxxxix, Kyng
Rychard..Was hurt right ther, with dartes venemous. ¶1555 EDEN *Decades*
(Arb.) 107 These people also, vse bowes and venemous arrowes. ¶1578
LYTE *Dodoens* 305 It is good against..venimous shot of dartes and arrowes.
¶1631 GOUGE *God's Arrows* Ded. p. ix, How farre the venime thereof (for it
is a venimous arrow) may infect, who knowes?

6. Of or pertaining to, of the nature of, venom.

¶1425 WYNTOUN *Cron.* viii. clviii. 3135 Pai thought to gere Him with
sum venamus poisoun Be distroyit. ¶1604 JAS. I *Counterbl. to Tobacco*
(Arb.) 103 Tobacco..hath a certaine venemous facultie ioyned with the heate
thereof. ¶1650 BULWER *Anthropomet.* 159 There being a venemous quality
in the paint. ¶1675 J. OWEN *Indwelling Sin* vi. (1732) 50 It is in the Heart
like Poison, that hath nothing to allay its venemous Qualities, and so infects
whatever it touches. ¶1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* VII. ix. 195 The glands
that serve to fabricate this venomous fluid. ¶1826 MISS MITFORD *Village*
Ser. ii. (1863) 417 It has a fine venomous smell,..and will certainly when stilled
be good for something or other. ¶1887 A. M. BROWN *Anim. Alkaloids* 2
Gaspard and Stick..had detected a venomous principle in cadaverous extracts.

fig. ¶1572 PERRY in *Strype Eccl. Mem.* (1721) III. 363 The God of Truth
defend you..from the venomous Poyson of Lyars. ¶1596 DALRYMPLE tr.

Leslie's Hist. Scot. II. 41 Lyk a traytour he steilis in, that..he may saw his venumous poyson. ¶1866 C. J. VAUGHAN *Plain Words* i. 10 The personal sins of each one of us..eating like a venomous poison into his soul.

7. Comb. in venomous-hearted, venomous-looking adjs.

¶1740 RICHARDSON *Pamela* (1824) I. xv. 256 Several innocent creatures, might have been entangled..in the ensnaring web of this venomous-hearted spider. ¶1899 F. T. BULLEN *Way Navy* 65 We sighted the enemy in the shape of one of those venomous-looking four-funnelled destroyers.

wroth a.

(rəʊθ, rɒθ)

[OE. *wrāþ*, = OFris. *wrêth* evil, OS. *wrêð* (MLG. *wrede*, *wrêt*, LG. *wrêd*), MDu. *wrêt*, *wreet* (Du. and Flem. *wreed* cruel), OHG. *reid*, *reidi* (MHG. *reit*, *reide* curled, twisted), ON. **wreiðr*, *reiðr* (Norw. *vreid*, *reid*, Da. and Sw. *vred*) angry, offended, f. the pa. tense of *wriðan* to writhe. Cf. *wrath* a.]

In very freq. use c 1250-c 1450. Rare (exc. in or after Biblical usage), c 1530-c 1850, being regarded as 'out of use' by Johnson, 'nearly obsolete' by Ash, but as 'an excellent word and not obsolete' by Webster (1828-32). Revived in sense 1, esp. in formal or dignified style, c 1800.]

1. Stirred to wrath; moved or exasperated to ire or indignation; very angry or indignant; wrathful, incensed, irate.

Rarely attrib., as in quotes. a 1225, 1375, c 1400.

α ¶c950 *Lindisf. Gosp. Matt.* xxii. 7 Ðe cyniæ uutedlice mið ðy æherde wurað wæs. ¶1000 *Genesis* 2260 Ða wearð unbliðe Abrahames cwen, hire worcpeowe wrað on mode. ¶a1122 *O.E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1066, Ða þe cyng Willelm æherde þæt secgen þa wearð he swiðe wrað. ¶c1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 15 Ne beo þu nefre ene wrað þer fore. ¶c1200 ORMIN 19603 And ta warrþ wrāþ Herode. ¶c1205 LAY. 8268 Ða wes he wræð ful iwis. ¶Ibid. 28723 Þus þe king wordede, wræð on his þonke. ¶a1300 *Cursor M.* 1599 Þof he was wrath it was na wrang. ¶1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* xvi. 245 Micht no man se ane vrathar man. ¶c1400 *Rule St. Benet* (Prose) 1 He, as a wrath fader,..deseret vs os not hys sons. ¶c1450 *Merlin* i. 18 Tho gan the Iuge to be right wrath. ¶c1475 *Rauf Coilzear* 100 The Carll..wox wonder wraith. ¶c1520 M. NISBET *Ephes.* iv. 26 Be ye wrathe, and will ye nocht do synn. ¶c1560 A. SCOTT *Poems* (S.T.S.) vi. 38 For be scho wreth I will not wow it. ¶1590 J. BUREL in *Watson Coll.* ii. (1709) 2 Anna, wondrous wraith, Deplors hir sister

Didos daith. ¶a1776 *Lord Ingram* in *CHILD Ballads* II. 131/2 A' was blyth at Auld Ingram's cuming, But Lady Maisdrey was wraith.

þ ¶c1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 183 Al þat me was leof, hit was þe loð; þu ware a sele 3ief ich was wroð. ¶a1225 *Ancr. R.* 120 Wroð mon is he wod? ¶c1290 *Becket* 413 Þo was þe king wel of i-nou3, wroþere þane he was er. ¶13.. *Cursor M.* 4889 (Gött.), If he it wit he wil be wroght [Trin. wroop]. ¶1398 *TREVISA Barth. De P.R.* v. xli. (BM. Addit. MS.), By þe galle we ben wroop, by þe herte we ben wys. ¶c1450 *Knt. de la Tour* (1906) 22 Thanne she was wrother thanne afore. ¶c1489 *CAXTON Sonnes of Aymon* iii. 113 Sire,..ye be wroth of som other thyng. ¶1526 *TINDAL Matt.* xxii. 7 When the kyng hearde that, he was wroth. ¶1548 *UDALL, etc. Erasm. Par. Mark* x. 65 For he was nether wroth, nor murmured against Christ. ¶a1599 *SPENSER F.Q.* vii. vi. 35 There-at Ioue wexed wroth. ¶1611 *BIBLE 1 Sam.* xx. 7 If he be very wroth,..euill is determined by him. ¶1656 *BLOUNT Glossogr.* ¶1716 *M. DAVIES Athen. Brit.* III. 25 Our modern Dissenters seem wroth, when they are deem'd a vulgar..kind of People. ¶1749 *FIELDING Tom Jones* vi. ix, The parson..saying, 'You behold, Sir, how he waxeth wroth at your abode here.'

¶1820 *WORDSW. 'A Book came forth'* 7 But some..Waxed wroth, and with foul claws..On Bard and Hero clamorously fell. ¶1842 *TENNYSON Dora* 23 Then the old man Was wroth, and doubled up his hands. ¶1852 *DICKENS Bleak Ho.* xl, Sir Leicester is majestically wroth. ¶1880 *BLACKMORE Mary Anerley* xxxiii, 'I know it,' said Carroway, too wroth to swear.

absol. ¶a1250 *Owl & Night.* 944 Selde endeþ wel þe lope & selde playdeþ wel þe wroþe.

transf. ¶c1386 *CHAUCER Cook's T.* 34 Reuel and trouthe..been ful wrothe al day as men may see.

b. Said of the Deity.

¶a1100 in *Earle Land-Charters* (1888) 253 Crist..him wurðe wrað þe hi hæfre æþpywie. ¶a1300 *Cursor M.* 959 Wa es me! lauerd,..þat euer i mad þe wrath. ¶c1340 *HAMPOLE Pr. Consc.* 5479 When he es wrathe þat es maker of alle. ¶c1386 *CHAUCER Pars. T.* ¶96 Ther shal the..wrothe Iuge sitte aboue.

¶1393 *LANGL. P. Pl. C.* i. 117 God was wel þe wroþer. ¶a1450 *Mirk's Festial* i. 4 Aboue hym schall be Crist his domes-man so wroþe, þat [etc.]. ¶1533 *BELLENDEN Livy* (S.T.S.) I. 106 The goddis war sa commovit and wraith, þat [etc.]. ¶1611 *BIBLE Isaiah* lxiv. 9 Be not wroth very sore, O Lord. ¶1697 *DRYDEN Æneis* v. 1110 The God was wroth. ¶1820 *KEATS Hyperion* ii. 351 He saw full many a God Wroth as himself. ¶1877 *TENNYSON Harold* i. i. 28 Why should not Heaven be wroth?

c. With dative, or const. with preps., as against, at, on, to, toward, upon, or esp. with.

(a) ¶a1000 *Genesis* 405 Þonne weorð he him wrað on mode. ¶c1000 *Ags. Ps.* (Thorpe) lxxxiv. 4 Þæt ðu us ne weorðe wrað on mode. ¶c1200 *ORMIN* 4814 Forr whatt iss Drihhtin me þuss wrap? ¶c1230 *Hali Meid.* 31 Beo hit nu, þat..ti were beo þe wrað.

(b) ¶1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 117 Þi les ðe god iwurðe wrað wið eou. ¶c1205 *LAY.* 6369 A-nan se he wes wrað wid eni. ¶1297 *R. GLOUC.* (Rolls) 570 Corineus..wroþ inou was Toward þe king lotrin. ¶1303 *R. BRUNNE Handl. Synne* 12293 Al tymes ys God more wroþer with þys þan [etc.]. ¶a1352 *MINOT Poems* iii. 5 For mani men to him er wroth. ¶1375 *BARBOUR Bruce* i. 201 Gyff ony thar-at war wrath. ¶1388 *WYCLIF Num.* xxiv. 10 Balaach was wrooth azens Balaam. ¶1412 26 *Pol. Poems* 47 First whan god wiþ man was wroþ. ¶1471 *CAXTON Recuyell* (Sommer) 535 Dyane..was wrothe and angry vpon them. ¶c1489 *Sonnes of Aymon* i. 50 Charlemayne..was wrothe to theym. ¶1535 *COVERDALE 2 Chron.* xxviii. 9 The Lorde God..is wroth at Iuda. ¶1590 *SPENSER F.Q.* iii. vi. 19 She..woxe halfe wroth against her damzels slacke. ¶*Ibid.* vii. 8 Be not wroth With silly Virgin. ¶1611 *BIBLE Ps.* lxxxix. 38 Thou hast bene wroth with thine anointed. ¶1794 *MRS. RAD-CLIFFE Myst. Udolpho* xxv, The signor, it seems, had lately been very wroth against her. ¶1859 *TENNYSON Elaine* 160 Then got Sir Lancelot suddenly to horse, Wroth at himself. ¶1873 'OUIDA' *Pascarel* I. 39 She, dear soul, was very wroth against him always. ¶1883 *WHITELAW Sophocles, Antigone* 1177 Wroth with his pitiless sire, he slew himself.

fig. ¶1300 *Cursor M.* 30 Þe wrang to here o right is lath, And pride wyt buxsumnes is wrath.

2. Marked or characterized by anger or wrath; indicative of ire or indignation. Obs.

¶c1000 *Ags. Ps.* (Thorpe) lxiii. 4 Hi..hi mid wraðum wordum trymmað. ¶a1300 *E.E. Psalter* lxxiii. 1 Wrathe es þi breth, ouer schepe of þi fode. ¶a1325 *Prose Psalter* cxxiii. 3 Her wodeship was wroþe ozains us. ¶13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 1706 Þay sued hym [sc. a fox] fast, Wrezande hym ful weterly with a wroth noyse. ¶c1375 *Cursor M.* 828 (Fairf.), Sone bigan veniaunce to kithe, al was wrap þat er was blithe. ¶1582 *STANYHURST Æneis* i. (Arb.) 22 Wroth woords statelye thus [he] vsed. ¶1648 *J. BEAUMONT Psyche* xii. xxxiii, Wroth fiery Knots are marshalled upon Her Forehead.

3. Of a fierce, savage, or violent disposition or character; stern, truculent. Obs.

¶1000 *Ags. Ps.* (Thorpe) lxvii. 5 Þa þe wydewum syn wraðe æt dome.
 ¶c1205 *LAY.* 18583 Þis iherde Gorlois..& he andsware 3af, eorlene wraðest.
 ¶*Ibid.* 28503 Arður þat iherde, wraðest kinge. ¶c1275 *Ibid.* 6402 Þar was mani
 bold Brut, and mani cnihtes wroþe [c1205 bisi kempen].

b. In the phrase as wroth as (the) wind. Obs.

¶1377 *LANGL. P. Pl.* B. iii. 328 Also wroth as þe wynde Wex Mede in a
 while. ¶c1400 *Destr. Troy* 13091 And he [was] wrothe as the wynde to his wale
 eme. ¶14.. *Erthe upon Erthe* 33/48 Erthe is as sone wroth as is the wynde.
 ¶c1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 770 Golograse., Wod wraith as the wynd, his handis can
 wryng.

4. Of animals: Of a violent or fierce nature; irritated, enraged. Obs.

¶a900 *CYNEWULF Crist* 1548 Se deopa seað..æleð hy mid þy ealdan liðe.,
 wraþum wýrmum. ¶a1250 *Owl & Night.* 1043 Þe vle wes wroþ, to cheste rad,
 Mid þisse worde hire eyen abraid. ¶13.. *E.E. Allit. P. B.* 1676 þou..on mor
 most abide..With wroþe wolfes to won. ¶c1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* i. (Peter) 523
 Þan wes þe hound na thing wrath, Na schup to do na man schath. ¶a1400-50
Wars Alex. 738 As wrath as a waspe. ¶1526 *TINDALE Rev.* xii. 17 The
 dragon was wroth with the woman.

b. transf. Of the wind, sea, etc.: Moved to a state of turmoil or commotion;
 violent, stormy.

¶13.. *E.E. Allit. P. C.* 162 Euer was ilyche loud þe lot of þe wyndes, & euer
 wroþer þe water, & wodder þe stremes. ¶13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 525 Wroþe
 wynde of þe welkyn wrastelez with þe sunne. ¶13.., etc. [see 3 b]. ¶1426
AUDELAY Poems 47 Wry not fro Godis word as the wroth wynd. ¶1590
SPENSER F.Q. ii. xi. 19 When the wroth Western wind does reauē their locks.

¶1835 *BROWNING Paracelsus* v. 661 The wroth sea's waves are edged With
 foam. ¶1852 C. B. *MANSFIELD Paraguay, etc.* (1856) 123 It rained heavily...
 So I was wroth, and the weather too. ¶1876 *SWINBURNE Erechtheus* 1649
 The most holy heart of the deep sea, Late wroth, now full of quiet.

5. Bad, evil; grievous, perverse. Obs.

In later use in to wrothe hele, wroth-haile (see wrother-heal).

¶1000 *Ags. Ps.* (Thorpe) cxviii. 101 Ic minum fotum fæcne siðas, þa
 wraþan weæas, werede æeorne. ¶a1023 *WULFSTAN Hom.* l. (1883) 273
 Hu læne and hu lyðre þis lif is,..hu tealt and hu wrað. ¶a1225 *Juliana* 57 Weila
 as þu were iboren wrecche o wraðe [v.r. wraðer] time. ¶a1225 *Leg. Kath.*
 171 Þe wrecches þet ha seh..wraðe werkes wurchen. ¶a1250 *Prov. Alfred* 115
 Þenne beoþ his wene ful wroþe isene. ¶1297 *R. GLOUC.* (Rolls) 3019 To

wrope hele al þis lond was he so milde þo. ¶c1330 *King of Tars* 131 To wrothe hele that he was bore. ¶c1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 7872 That was him to wrothe-haile: For thei of Grece opon him throng.

6. Displeased, grieved; sorrowful, sad. Obs.

¶13.. *K. Alis.* 4528 (Laud MS.), Alisaunder haþ vnderstonde þe lettre þat com from darries sonde. Wroþ he was, & hadde pyte. ¶13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 70 Ladies lazed ful loude, þo3 þay lost haden, And he þat wan was not wrothe.

¶1450 *Ludus Coventriæ* 329 Lombe of love with-owt loth, I ffynde þe not, myn hert is wroth.

b. Fearful, apprehensive, afraid. Obs. rare—1.

¶13.. *K. Alis.* 544 (Laud MS.), Vche of hem so bycom wroop: For a dragon þer com in fleen.

urbane a.

(æ:'beɪn)

[ad. F. *urbain* (14th c.), or L. *urbān-us* urban a. For the difference, in form and stress, between urban and urbane, cf. human and humane.]

1. Of or pertaining to, characteristic of or peculiar to, a town or city. Now arch. or Obs.

¶1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* i. xx. (S.T.S.) I. 114 Siclike vrbane & civil laubouris.

¶Ibid. v. v. II. 161 Thus had al þe romane tentis almaist bene replete of seditioun vrbane. ¶1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 19 Vrbane, vrbanus. ¶1607 R. C[AREW] tr. *Estienne's World Wond.* 233 They see greater cunning and dexterity, and a more ciuill and vrbane kind of life. ¶1681 STAIR *Inst. Law Scot.* xvii. 343 Negative Urbane Servitudes, do chiefly concern the light view or prospect of Tenements. ¶1788 *Trifler* No. 26. 344 In the simple beauty of the country the once wealthy merchant of Bassora lost the recollection of urbane magnificence. ¶1809-14 WORDSW. *Excurs.* viii. 71 A poor brotherhood who walk the earth,..Raising..savage life To rustic, and the rustic to urbane.

b. Exercising jurisdiction over, dwelling or residing in, a town or city. Obs.

¶1651 HOWELL *Venice* 16 Among the Urbane or Cittie Magistrats the Judges are rankd. ¶1652 GAULE *Magastrom.* 373 M. Æmilius, the urbane prætor. ¶1658 J. HARRINGTON *Oceana* Introd. B j b, The Urbane Tribes of Rome consisting of the Turbaforensis [etc.]. ¶1681 H. NEVILE *Plato Rediv.* 61 The Rustik Tribes being twenty seven, and the Vrbane nine.

c. Following the pursuits, having the ideas or sentiments, characteristic of town or city life.

¶1698 FRYER *Acc. E. Ind. & P.* 54 The Citizens are urbane, being trained up to Commerce. ¶1870 LOWELL *Study Wind.* (1871) 177 The same combination of circumstances produced Béranger, an urbane or city poet.

2. Having the manners, refinement, or polish regarded as characteristic of a town; courteous, civil; also, blandly polite, suave.

¶1623 COCKERAM I, *Vrbane*, ciuill, courteous. ¶1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, Urbane,..civil in curtesie,..pleasant in behaviour and talk. ¶1796 T. HOLCROFT tr. *Stolberg's Trav.* lxii. I. 483 The urbane youth..gave due praise to the country of Menelaus. ¶1827 LYTTON *Pelham* xv, We took advantage of our acquaintance with the urbane Frenchman to join his party. ¶1873 DIXON *Two Queens* IV. 139 In Eustace Chapuys, master of requests, he had a man of law,..urbane, alert, unscrupulous. ¶1882 STEVENSON *Mem. & Portr.* xi. (1887) 170, I feel never quite sure of your urbane and smiling coter-ies.

b. Characterized by urbanity, courtesy, or politeness.

¶1679 MARG. MASON *Tickler Tickled* 2 To treat a Lady of Mrs. Ellen Rigby's Quality, with the name of Bitch-Fox,..is not at all Urbane. ¶1800 W. TOOKE *Cath.* II, III. 105 n., A man remarkable for his talents and urbane manners. ¶1832 W. IRVING *Alhambra* II. 289 His manners were gentle, affable, and urbane. ¶1860 W. COLLINS *Wom. in White* II. 279 Stepping forward in the most urbane manner. ¶1871 BROWNING *Balaust.* 1839 To guests, a servant should not sour-faced be, But do the honours with a mind urbane.

3. Refined in expression; politely expressed.

¶1806 W. L. BOWLES *Pope's Wks.* I. 298 The latter part of it [sc. an epistle] is certainly urbane, elegant, and unaffected. ¶1876 LOWELL *Among my Bks.* Ser. ii. 139 We miss the point, the compactness, and above all the urbane tone of the original.

Hence **urbanely** adv.; **urbaneness** (Bailey, 1727).

¶1822 *Monthly Rev.* XCVII. 540 This taste is so finely polished and so urbanely expressive. ¶1881 'RITA' *My Lady Coquette* xiii, 'I am going to the wood,' he answers urbanely.

irascible a.

(i'ræsɪb(ə)l, aɪ'ræs-)

[a. F. irascible (12th c. in Littré), ad. L. īrāscibil-is, f. īrāscī to grow angry.]

a. Easily provoked to anger or resentment; prone to anger; irritable, choleric, hot-tempered, passionate.

¶1530 PALSGR. 316/2 Irascible, inclyned or disposed to anger, irascible.

¶1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, Irascible, choleric, soon angred, subject to anger.

¶1759 ROBERTSON *Hist. Scot.* (1817) I. ii. 345 The Scots, naturally an irascible and high spirited people. ¶1831 SCOTT *Cast. Dang.* vii, The boar..was a much more irascible and courageous animal. ¶1873 BLACK *Pr. Thule* viii. (1874) 114 The only daughter of a solitary and irascible old gentleman.

b. Of emotions, actions, etc.: Characterized by, arising from, or exhibiting anger.

¶1659 D. PELL *Impr. Sea* 426 Irascible, and objurgatory speech. ¶1734 WATTS *Reliq. Juv.* lx. (1789) 200 Our irascible passions..indulged..are ready to defile the whole man. ¶1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) VII. 296 No animal in the creation seems endued with such an irascible nature. ¶1824 W. IRVING *T. Trav.* I. 302 Dignity is always more irascible the more petty the potentate. ¶1882 A. W. WARD *Dickens* v. 119 His irascible nature failed to resent a rather doubtful compliment.

c. irascible appetite, irascible affection, irascible part of the soul, in Plato's tripartite division of the soul, τὸ θυμοειδές, one of the two parts of the irrational nature, being that in which courage, spirit, passion, were held to reside; and which was superior to τὸ ἐπιθυμητικόν, the concupiscible part in which resided the appetites.

¶1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P.R.* iii. vi. (Add. MS. 27944) lf. 20 b/2 Drede & sorwe comeþ of þe irascibel, for of þing þat we hatip, we haueþ sorowe. ¶1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 112 b, It is called the appetyte irascyble, or the angry appetyte. ¶1606 L. BRYSKETT *Civ. Life* 48 The seates of the two principall appetites, the irascible and the concupiscible; of that the heart, of this the liuer. ¶1691 HARTCLIFFE *Virtues* 23 Pride, Contempt, Impatience, Anger, Fear, Boldness and the like generous and brave Passions, belong to what we say is the irascible part of the mind. ¶1863 DRAPER *Intell. Devel. Europe* v. (1865) 116 Now, the reason being seated in the head, the spirit or irascible soul has its seat in the breast.

d. quasi-n. = Irascible appetite, etc. Obs.

¶1594 [see CONCUPISCIBLE 2 b]. ¶1656 H. MORE *Enthus. Tri. To Rdr.* A iij a, These I spread before him..to provoke his Irascible.

Hence **irascibleness**, irascibility; **irascibly** adv., in an irascible manner, angrily.

¶1727 BAILEY vol. II, *Irascibleness*. ¶1828 *Mirror* V. 264/1 Nothing irascibly said will..make way with an obstinate or wilful man.

cranky a.1

(¹'kræŋki)

[A comparatively modern formation, covering a group of senses that hang but loosely together, and have various associations with crank n.2 and n.3, crank a.2 and a.3.]

(The order here followed is merely provisional.)

1. Sickly, in weak health, infirm in body; = crank a.3 3. dial.

¶1787 GROSE *Prov. Gloss.*, Cranky, ailing, sickly; from the dutch crank, sick. N[orth]. ¶1869 LONSDALE *Gloss.*, Cranky, ailing, sickly. [So in dial. Glossaries of Cumberland, Whitby, Holderness, Leicestersh., Berkshire; W. Somerset has crankety; in others prob. omitted as being a general word.]

¶1891 *Science* (N.Y.) 21 Aug. 102/2 The vigorous sheep being constantly drafted away for sale..these 'cranky' sheep (as they came to be called) were left behind.

2. Naut. = crank a.2

¶1861 WYNTER *Soc. Bees* 358 'Beg pardon, sir, but the boat is very cranky..if you goes on so, she will be over.' ¶1870 LOWELL *Study Wind*. (1886) 126 The craft is cranky.

3. Out of order, out of gear, working badly; shaky, crazy; = crank a.3 4.

¶1862 SMILES *Engineers* III. 90 It was constantly getting out of order..at length it became so cranky that the horses were usually sent out after it to bring it along. ¶1863 MRS. TOOGOOD *Yorksh. Dial.*, 'Don't sit on that chair, it is cranky.' ¶1888 BERKSHIRE *Gloss.*, Cranky..for machinery, out of gear; for a structure, in bad repair, likely to give way.

4. Of capricious or wayward temper, difficult to please; cross-tempered, awkward; 'cross'.

¶1821 *Blackw. Mag.* IX. 82 Cranky Newport, not annoyed with vouç. ¶1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* vii, That his friend appeared to be rather 'cranky' in point of temper. ¶1851 D. JERROLD *St. Giles* xv. 151 He got plaguy cranky of late; wouldn't come down with the money. ¶1876 C. M. YONGE

Womankind xxiii. 199 We view our maids as cranky self-willed machines for getting our work done. [In dial. Glossaries of Cumberland, Whitby, Holderness, Leicester.]

5. Mentally out of gear; crotchety, 'queer'; subject to whims or 'cranks'; eccentric or peculiar in notions or behaviour. Cf. crank n.2 4, 5.

¶1850 DICKENS *Poor Man's Tale of Patent* (Househ. Wds. 19 Oct. 70), I said, 'William Butcher..You are sometimes cranky'. ¶1863 C. READE *Hard Cash* II. 113 He [a mad-doctor] had..almost invariably found the patient had been cranky for years. ¶1876 *Whitby Gloss.* s.v., Cranky ways, crotchets.

¶1879 G. MACDONALD *P. Faber* II. iv. 66 A cranky, visionary, talkative man.

¶1884 *Boston (Mass.) Jrnl.* July 11, Butler makes a long fight over his cranky notions.

6. Full of twists or windings, crooked; full of corners or crannies. Cf. crank n.2 1, 2.

¶1836 W. S. LANDOR *Wks.* 1876 VIII. 94 No curling dell, no cranky nook.

¶1876 *Whitby Gloss.* s.v., Cranky roads, crooked roads. ¶1887 JESSOPP *Arcady* iii. 71 Old closets, dim passages, and cranky holes and corners.

7. (See quot.) dial. Cf. crank v.1 2.

¶1788 MARSHALL *Yorksh. Gloss.*, Cranky, checked [i.e. striped] linen; cranky apron, a checked-linen apron. ¶1876 WHITBY *Gloss.*, Cranky adj., of stout old-fashioned linen for housewives' aprons, with a blue stripe on a white ground.

rancour n.

(ˈræŋkə(r))

[a. OF. rancor, -cour, -cuer, raunkour, etc.:—L. rancōr-em rancidity, rankness, hence (in the Vulgate) bitter grudge.]

1. Inveterate and bitter ill-feeling, grudge, or animosity; malignant hatred or spitefulness.

¶[a1225 *Ancr. R.* 200 Þe oðer kundel is Rancor siue odium: þet is, hatunge oðer great heorte.] ¶13.. *E.E. Allit. P.* B. 756, I schal..my rankor refrayne for þy reken wordez. ¶c1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 5759 Fyrumbras..prayed him cesse of his rauncour. ¶1413 *Pilgr. Sowle* ii. xlv. (1859) 51 Wretched folke and irous, ful of venym, of rancour, and of hate. c ¶1440 *Jacob's Well* 249 Whanne þou mercyfully forþeuyst þi wrongys, wyth-oute wreche & rankure in herte, þat is mercy. a ¶1533 LD. BERNERS *Huon* lxxxiv. 266, I..pardon you of all myn

yll wyll, and put al rancoure fro me. ¶1547 J. HARRISON *Exhort. Scottes* A iv b, Peace in their mouthes, and all rancor and vengeaunce in their hartes. ¶1605 WILLET *Hexapla Gen.* 234 Yet doe retaine ranker and seedes of malice in their heart. ¶1667 MILTON *P.L.* x. 1044 Rancor and pride, impatience and despite. ¶1725 POPE *Odyss.* iii. 182 Each burns with rancour to the adverse side. ¶1828 D'ISRAELI *Chas.* I, II. vii. 174 To envy..Charles traced their personal rancour to the friend of his heart. ¶1865 MAFFEI *Brig. Life* II. 37 The gratification of private rancour, and personal revenge.

b. transf. and fig. of things.

¶1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* i. (Arb.) 22 Billows theire swelling ranckor abated. ¶1605 CAMDEN *Rem.* 207 Through the rancor of the poyson, the wound was iudged incurable. ¶1663 BUTLER *Hud.* i. i. 364 The peaceful Scabbard..The Rancor of its edge had felt. ¶1719 D'URFEY *Pills* (1872) I. 48 Let the frozen North its rancour show. ¶1860 EMERSON *Cond. Life, Power* Wks. (Bohn) II. 333 The rancour of the disease attests the strength of the constitution.

2. Rancid smell; rancidity; rankness. Obs. rare.

¶1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 6028 Ther come of hem a foul savour And smot to hem a gret rancour. c ¶1420 PALLAD. *on Husb.* xi. 111 Lest rancour oil enfecte, do fier away. ¶1567 J. MAPLET *Naturall Hist.* 33 b, It is also said sometime through the rancour of grounds to come vp vnsowne.

Hence **rancourless** a., free from rancour.

¶1886 H. JAMES *Bostonians* II. ii. xx. 26 She was too rancourless,..too free from private self-reference.

irenic a. and n.

(aɪ'renɪk, aɪ'ri:nɪk)

[ad. Gr. εἰρηνικ-ός, f. εἰρήνη peace. Cf. eirenic and F. irénique (Littré).

In this and the following word, the first pronunciation is that given by Smart, Ogilvie, and Cassell, and by Webster and the other American Dictionaries, and is in accordance with the general analogies of the language, as in academic, clinical, energetic, euphonic, Platonic, in which the long vowel of the Greek is uniformly shortened; but the modern use of the Greek Εἰρηνικόν, Eirēnicon, to which scholars naturally give the English academic pronunciation of Greek, affects the derivatives also, and makes the second pronunciation frequent among university men.]

A. adj. Pacific, non-polemic; = irenical.

¶1864 in WEBSTER. ¶1878 *N. Amer. Rev.* 335 President Porter, in his admirable and irenic opening of this discussion, makes it very difficult, for one who follows him. ¶1882-3 SCHAFF *Encycl. Relig. Knowl.* I. 710 He was a man of irenic temperament. ¶1885 *Ch. Times* 343/1 No irenic propositions will do the least good till we have had those standards restored.

B. n. pl. **irenics**: irenical theology.

¶1882-3 SCHAFF *Encycl. Relig. Knowl.* II. 1118 Irenical Theology, or Irenics .. presents the points of agreement among Christians with a view to the ultimate unity..of Christendom. ¶1890 *Congreg. Rev. Apr.* 158 Our mission is not one of polemics but irenics.

fray v.1

(frei)

[aphetic f. affray, effray v.]

1. trans. To affect with fear, make afraid, frighten. Cf. affray v. 2. Obs. exc. poet.

¶1330 [see frayed ppl. a.]. ¶13.. *E.E. Allit. P. B.* 1553 For al hit frayes my flesche þe fynGRES so grymme. ¶14.. *Sir Beues* 2396 (MS. M.) The dragon kest vp a yelle, That it wolde haue frayed the deuyl of hel. ¶1531 TINDALE *Exp.* 1 John (1537) 14 That..we shulde exalte our selues ouer you..frayenge you with the bugge of excommunicacyon. ¶1604 BP. W. BARLOW *Confer. Hampton Crt. in Phenix* (1721) I. 154 A Puritan is a Protestant fray'd out of his Wits. ¶1742 SHENSTONE *Schoolmistress* 149 And other some with baleful sprig she 'frays. ¶1832 J. BREE *St. Herbert's Isle* 98 He frayed the monsters with his bugle's sound. ¶1850 BROWNING *Christmas Eve & Easter Day*, My warnings fray No one, and no one they convert.

absol. ¶1496 *Bk. St. Albans, Fishing C j*, And when she hath plumyd ynough: go to her softly for frayenge. ¶1590 SPENSER *F.Q.* ii. xii. 40 Instead of fraying they themselves did feare.

2. To frighten or scare away. Also to fray away, fray off, or fray out. Cf. affray v. 4. Obs. exc. arch.

¶1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 55 God hath ordeyned..a specyall remedy, wherwith we may fray them away. ¶1533 TINDALE *Supper of Lord* cv b, Why fraye ye the comen people from the lyttral sense with thys bugge? ¶1586 MARLOWE *1st Pt. Tamburl.* v. ii, Are the turtles frayed out of

their nests? ¶1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* vi. i. 560 It [the Basilisk]..frayeth away other serpents with the hissing. ¶a1716 SOUTH *Serm.* (1744) X. 232 Can he fray off the vultur from his breast? ¶1825 SCOTT *Betrothed* xxiii, It is enough to fray every hawk from the perch. ¶1867 MANNING *Eng. & Christendom* 154 We should have to answer to the Good Shepherd, if so much as one of His sheep were frayed away from the fold by harsh voices.

¶1542 BECON *David's Harp* Wks. 1564 I. 147 Exhort unto virtue. Fray away from vice.

b. simply. To drive away, disperse.

¶1635 QUARLES *Embl.* i. xiv. (1718) 57 Thy light will fray These horrid mists. ¶1655 H. VAUGHAN *Silex Scint.* ii. Death (1858) 205 Thy shades..Which his first looks will quickly fray.

3. intr. To be afraid or frightened; to fear. Obs.

¶a1529 SKELTON *Image Hypocr.* 509 Yow fray not of his rod. ¶1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* I. 606 Thai had no caus to dreid Nor 3it to fray. ¶1638 R. BAILLIE *Lett.* (1775) I. 80 This and the convoy of it make us tremble for fear of division..Thir thingis make us fray.

4. trans. To assault, attack, or make an attack upon; to attack and drive off; rarely to make a raid on (a place). Obs.

¶1400 *Destr. Troy* 5237 The grekys..segh the kyng..With fele folke vppon fote þat hom fray wold. ¶a1440 *Sir Degrev.* 237 Thus the forest they fray, Hertus bade at abey. ¶c1575 DURHAM *Depos.* (Surtees) 286 Neither this examine nor his brother..ever did lay in wayt nor frayd off the said Sir Richard Mylner.

5. intr. To make a disturbance; to quarrel or fight. Also, to make an attack upon. to fray it out: to settle by fighting. Obs. exc. arch.

¶1460 TOWNELEY *Myst.* (Surtees) 147 Why shuld we fray? ¶1465 *Paston Lett.* No. 512 II. 205 My Lord of Suffolks men..fray uppon us, this dayly. ¶1494 FABYAN *Chron.* iv. lxxi. (1811) 50 Conan Meridok with a certayne of knyghtes of his affynyte, was purposed to haue frayed with the sayd Maximus, and to haue distressed hym. ¶1566 DRANT *Horace's Sat.* iii. B v b, For foode and harbour gan they fray..with clubbes. ¶1570 *Song in Wit & Sci.* etc. (Shaks. Soc.) 90 The sonne is up with hys bryght beames, As thoughe he wolde with the now fraye, And bete the up out of thy dreames.

¶1657 HOWELL *Londinop.* 337 A gaol..for such as should brabble, fray, or break the peace. ¶1889 *Univ. Rev.* Sept. 38 Sooner than fray it out thou wouldst retire.

Hence **fraying** vbl. n. and ppl. a.

¶1450 *Merlin* 339 Arthur was also fallen to ground with the fraying that thei hurteled to-geder. ¶1548 UDALL, etc. *Erasm. Par. John* x. 1 They doe their endeuour to maynteyn their tyrannie with disceytes, frayinges, wiles [etc.]. ¶1562 J. HEYWOOD *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 194 Of fraying of babes. ¶1577 HANMER *Anc. Eccl. Hist.* (1619) 394 But only avoideth this clause..as a fraying ghost.

galvanize v.

(ˈgælvənaɪz)

[ad. F. galvaniser: see galvanism and -ize.]

1. trans. To apply galvanism to; to stimulate by means of a galvanic current. Also absol.

¶1802 *Med. Jrnal.* VIII. 259 The heat is likewise increased in the part which is galvanised. ¶1825 SYD. SMITH *Wks.* (1867) II. 203 Galvanise a frog, don't galvanise a tiger. ¶1831 CARLYLE *Sart. Res.* (1858) 142 Those spasmodic, galvanic sprawlings are not life; neither indeed will they endure, galvanise as you may, beyond two days. ¶1839-47 TODD *Cycl. Anat.* III. 41/2, I galvanized a little boy with paralysis of the left leg. ¶1850 ROBERTSON *Serm. Ser.* iii. ix. 117 You may galvanize the nerve of a corpse till the action of a limb startles the spectator with the appearance of life.

b. fig. esp. in phrase to galvanize to or into life (also to galvanize life into).

¶1853 C. BRONTË *Villette* iii, Her approach always galvanized him to new and spasmodic life. ¶1869 GOULBURN *Purs. Holiness* xxi. 203 She would fain galvanize the soul into life by a sudden shock. ¶1880 *Daily News* 9 Jan. 3/1 To galvanise a little more life into the market. ¶1883 *Harper's Mag.* Mar. 537/1 A very old inn, that seemed suffering the first pangs of being galvanized back to life and modernity.

2. To cover with a coating of metal by means of galvanic electricity. Commonly but incorrectly applied to the coating of iron with zinc to protect it from rusting, though no galvanic process is ordinarily employed.

¶1839 [see GALVANIZED ppl. a. 2]. ¶1864 WEBSTER, *Galvanize*, to plate, as with gold, silver, &c., by means of galvanism. ¶1869 ROSCOE *Elem. Chem.* 230 Zinc..is employed as a protecting covering for iron, which when thus coated is said to be galvanized. ¶1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* i. 61/2 The wire is 'galvanised' or coated with metallic zinc.

absol. ¶1892 *Workshop Receipts* 287 It is an advantage, with all sheets thicker than 20 gauge, to galvanize after corrugation.

goad n.1

(gəʊd)

[OE. gád str. fem. corresponds to Lombard gaida arrow-head:—OTeut. type *gaidâ; for possible cognates see gare n.1 The northern form is gaid (q.v.), but in ME. both northern and southern forms are less common than the synonymous, though unrelated, gad n.1]

1. A rod or stick, pointed at one end or fitted with a sharp spike and employed for driving cattle, esp. oxen used in ploughing (cf. gad n.1 4).

¶c725 *Corpus Gloss.* 1937 Stiga [sic], gaad. ¶a1000 *Sal. & Sat.* 91 (Gr.) Hafað gudmæcga æierde lanæe, gyldene gade. ¶1388 WYCLIF *Ecclus.* xxxviii. 26 He that holdith the plow, and he that hath glorie in a gohode [L. in jaculo], dryueth oxis with a pricke. ¶c1394 *P. Pl. Creed* 433 His wijf walked him wiþ [at the plough] with a longe gode. ¶14.. *Voc in Wr.-Wülcker* 586/23 Gerusa, a goode. ¶c1440 *Prompt. Parv.* 184/1 Gad or gode, gerusa. ¶1539 TAVERNER *Erasm. Prov.* (1552) 15 It is harde kyckynge agaynst the gode. ¶1627 DRAYTON *Sheph. Sirena* 361 They their Holly whips haue brac'd, And tough Hazell goades haue gott. ¶1635-56 COWLEY *Davideis* iv. 166 With the same Goad Samgar his Oxen drives Which took..six hundred lives. ¶1703 MAUNDRELL *Journ. Jerus.* (1732) 110 In ploughing they us'd Goads..about eight foot long. ¶1783 HOOLE *Orl. Fur.* xxxvii. 804 A hind..A rustic weapon for her rage supply'd, A pointed goad he brought. ¶1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* xv, Countrymen armed with scythes..hay-forks..goads. ¶1875 HELPS *Ess., Organiz. in Daily Life* 109, I had a thought that drove me like a goad.

2. fig. Something that pricks or wounds like a goad.

a. A torment, 'thorn', 'sting'.

¶1561 tr. *Calvin's 4 Serm. agst. Idolatries* i. C ij b, Those same goads and prickes wherwith their consciences are prikt and wounded. ¶1641 J. JACKSON *True Evang. T.* ii. 138 These pointed and diamonded speeches, which doe indeed leave a sting, and goad in the mind of the pious Auditor.

¶1689 SHADWELL *Bury F.* iii. 181 Where is my Goad' my damned for better or worse. ¶1759 FRANKLIN *Ess. Wks.* 1840 III. 255 French forts and French armies so near us will be everlasting goads in our sides. ¶1861 TRENCH *Comm. Ep. to Ch. Asia* 80 There are ever goads in the memory of a

better and a nobler past. ¶1879 FARRAR *St. Paul* (1883) 140 The wounding goad of a reproachful conscience.

b. A strong incitement or instigation, 'spur', stimulus.

¶1600 HOLLAND *Livy* xxxix. xv. (1609) 1032 These..who pricke and provoke (as it were) with goads [L. *stimulis*] of furies your spirits and minds.

¶1608 R. ARMIN *Nest Ninn.* (1842) 4 That's the way to spoyle all, but with your goad pricke me on the true tract. ¶1615 CROOKE *Body of Man* 284

Those Females which are castrated or gelt..the goads of lust are in them vtterly extinguished. ¶1798 MALTHUS *Popul.* iii. i. (1806) II. 82 The labour..will

not be performed without the goad of necessity. ¶1859 MACAULAY *Biog.* (1867) 110 He no longer felt the daily goad urging him to the daily toil.

¶1876 MOZLEY *Univ. Serm.* iv. (1877) 94 Knowledge is a goad to those who have it.

3. A measure of length.

a. A cloth-measure = 4½ feet. Obs.

¶1481 HOWARD *Househ. Bks.* (Roxb.) 17 My Lord schal haue of hym iiij.c goodes off white..and my Lord schal pay him for euery goode, ix.d.

¶1552 *Act 5 & 6 Edw VI*, c. 6 §1 Cottonnes called Manchester..and Chesshire Cottonnes..shalbe in lenghe twentie two goades and conteyne in bredith thre quarters of a yarde in the water. ¶1674 S. JEAKE *Arith.* (1696) 65 In 1

Goad..4½ Feet, a Measure in some places for Land and Cloth received by Custom. ¶1721 C. KING *Brit. Merch.* I. 181, 1200 C. Goads of Cotton.

¶1727 W. MATHER *Yng. Man's Comp.* 399 In London, the Yard is used for Silks, Woollen Cloth, &c. The Ell for Linnen Cloth, &c., and the Goad for Frizes, Cotton, and the like.

b. A land-measure (see quotes. and cf. gad 6).

¶1587 FLEMING *Contn. Holinshed* III. 1353/1 The space of fortie goad (euerie goad conteining fifteene foot). ¶1880 E. CORNW. *Gloss.* s.v., It

represents nine feet, and two goads square is called a yard of ground.

4. A spike = gad n.1 1.

¶1855 J. HEWITT *Anc. Armour* I. 81 The spur of this period consisted of a single goad, sometimes of a lozenge form, sometimes a plain spike.

5. Comb., as goad-groom, goad-prick; also goad(s)-man = gadman; goad-spur, a spur without a rowel and with one point (cf. prickspur).

¶1614 SYLVESTER *Little Bartas* 877 Thou..by one man, one *Goad-groom (silly Sangar), Destroy'dst six hundred in religious anger.

¶1605 *Du Bartas* ii. iii. iv. Capitaines 710 And *Goad-man Sangar.
 ¶1765 A. DICKSON *Treat. Agric.* (ed. 2) 248 The goadman or driver. ¶1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* vi, Ye may be goadsman..and tak tent ye dinna o'erdrive the owsen. ¶c1826 HOGG in *Wilson's Wks.* (1855) I. 176 The goadman whistles sparely.

¶1609 BIBLE (Douay) *1 Sam.* xiii. 21 Even to the *godeprick, which was to be mended.

¶1889 *Century Dict.*, *Goad-spur.

instigate v.

('instigent)

[f. L. *instigāt-*, ppl. stem of *instigāre* to urge, set on, incite, f. *in-* (*in-*2) + **stigāre*: cf. Gr. *στίζειν* (root *στιγ-*) to prick.]

1. trans. To spur, urge on; to stir up, stimulate, incite, goad (now mostly to something evil).

¶1542 BOORDE *Dyetary* viii. (1870) 245 It doth instygate and lede a man to synne. ¶1639 WOODALL *Wks.* Pref. (1653) 2 Some Noble man, who was instigated thereunto through an excellent and divine power. ¶1651 HOBBS *Leviath.* iii. xlii. 278 To instigate Princes to warre upon one another. ¶1671 *True Nonconf.* 469 The only motive..whereby Henry was instigat to reject the Pope. ¶1747 JOHNSON *Plan Eng. Dict.* Wks. 1787 IX. 185 Commonly, though not always, we exhort to good actions, we instigate to ill. ¶1841 BREWSTER *Mart. Sc.* iii. iii. (1856) 204 The proud Duke of Tuscany, instigated no doubt by Galileo, sent Kepler a gold chain. ¶1855 BROWNING *Fra Lippo* 316 'Ay, but you don't so instigate to prayer!' Strikes in the Prior. ¶1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) IV. 335 You..must not instigate your elders to a breach of faith.

2. To bring about by incitement or persuasion; to stir up, foment, provoke.

¶1852 THACKERAY *Esmond* ii. iv, What he and they called levying war was, in truth, no better than instigating murder. ¶1868 MILMAN *St. Paul's* iii. 47 The mission of Otho had been instigated by the King.

Hence 'instigated, 'instigating ppl. adjs.; 'instigatingly adv., in an instigating manner, so as to instigate.

¶1611 COTGR., *Instigué*, instigated, incited, vrged. ¶1702 DE FOE *Reform. Manners Misc.* (1703) 81 How Clito comes from instigating Whore, Pleads for the Man he cuckold just before. ¶1856 WEBSTER, *Instigatingly*.

foment *v.*

(fəʊ'ment)

[ad. Fr. foment-er, ad. late L. fōmentāre, f. fōmentum foment *n.*]

1. trans. To bathe with warm or medicated lotions; to apply fomentations to. Also, to lubricate.

¶1611 COTGR, *Bassiner*, to warme, foment. ¶1643 J. STEER tr. *Exp. Chyrurg.* xii. 47 Foment the place affected with the following foment.

¶1656 RIDGLEY *Pract. Physick* 131 Foment it with white wax. ¶1748 tr. *Vegetius' Distemp. Horses* 144 You shall foment it for the Space of four Days.

¶1802 *Med. Jرنل.* VIII. 516 The breasts were frequently fomented. ¶1894 SIR F. FITZWYGRAM *Horses & Stables* §255 The leg.. may be conveniently fomented by putting it in a deep bucket of warm water.

absol. ¶1612 WOODALL *Surg. Mate Wks.* (1653) 303 Foment not too long at any one time.

2. 'To cherish with heat, to warm' (J.). Always in conjunction with another verb, as chafe, heat, warm. Obs.

¶1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* i. clv, Creeps chillness on him? She fomentments and heats His flesh. ¶1667 MILTON *P.L.* iv. 669 All things..these soft fires..foment and warme.

3. To rouse or stir up (a person or his energies); to excite, irritate. Obs.

¶1642 R. CARPENTER *Experience* v. xix. 326, I was active..fomented with your envenomed suggestions. ¶1680 OTWAY *Orphan* iv. v. 1506 Still chaff and fomented let my heart swell on. ¶1704 SWIFT *Batt. Bks.* (1711) 226 By its Bitterness and Venom..to foment the Genius of the Combatants. ¶1724 DE FOE *Mem. Cavalier* (1840) 127 The old general, not to foment him, with a great deal of mildness stood up.

b. intr. for refl.: To become excited or heated.

¶1665 J. WEBB *Stone-Heng* 16 In like manner, this Doctor fomenteth, saying; The one stumbles upon an Alter-stone..over which the other leaped clearly. ¶1680 OTWAY *Orphan* v. ii. To think of Women were enough to taint my Brains, Till they foment to madness.

4. a. To promote the growth, development, effect, or spread of (something material or physical).

¶1644 QUARLES *Barnabas & B.* 150 That humour which foments thy malady. ¶1661 *Burning of Lond. in Select. Harl. Misc.* (1793) 463 A violent easterly wind fomented it, and kept it burning all that day. ¶1667 MILTON

P.L. x. 1071 How we his gather'd beams Reflected, may with matter sere foment. ¶1707 *Curios. Husb. & Gard.* 180 Plants receive from their Roots this Nitre, which feeds, foment and preserves them. ¶1725 POPE *Odyss.* xix. 77 While those with unctuous fir foment the flame.

b. To cherish, cultivate, foster; to stimulate, encourage, instigate (a sentiment, belief, pursuit, course of conduct, etc.). Esp. in a bad sense.

¶1622 BACON *Hen. VII*, 12 Which brute was cunningly fomented by such as desired innovation. ¶1664 MARVELL *Corr. Wks.* 1872-5 II. 164 His Majesty..offers himself as a third to foment so amiable a controversy. ¶1725 POPE *Odyss.* xi. 226 Thy sire in solitude foment his care. 1726-7 Swift *Gulliver* i. iv, These civil commotions were constantly fomented by the monarchs of Blefuscu. ¶1774 FLETCHER *Equal Check* Wks. 1795 IV. P. V, Is not the Antinomianism of hearers fomented by that of preachers? ¶1868 M. PATTISON *Academ. Org.* iv. 75 To encourage indolence or foment extravagance. ¶1873 H. ROGERS *Orig. Bible* ii. (1875) 59 Persecutions which the Jews always fomented.

Hence fo'menting vbl. n. Also attrib.

¶1611 COTGR., *Bassinement*, warming, a fomentation or fomenting. ¶1894 SIR F. FITZWYGRAM *Horses & Stables* §255 During the fomentation a thick rug should be thrown over the fomenting cloth.

abet v.

(ə'bet)

[a. OFr. abeter, f. à to + beter to bait, hound on; prob. ad. Norse beita to cause to bite, hence to 'bait,' to hound on dogs, etc.; causal of bíta to bite.]

1. To urge on, stimulate (a person to do something). Obs.

¶c1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 5816 Bot if he þanne wold take fullozt, As he hym wolde abette. ¶1587 FLEMING *Cont. of Holinsh.* III. 1579/2 The Scottish queene did not onelie advise them, but also direct, comfort, and abbet them, with persuasion, counsell, promise of reward, and earnest obtestation.

2. esp. in a bad sense: To incite, instigate, or encourage (a person, to commit an offence (obs.), or in a crime or offence). In legal and general use.

¶1590 SHAKES. *Com. Err.* ii. ii. 172 Abetting him to thwart me in my moode. ¶a1593 H. Smith *Wks.* (1867) II. 429 He will not only pardon without exception, but he will abet them in their damnable courses. ¶1658-9

MR. SCOTT in *Burton's Diary* (1828) IV. 36 Are those fit to have a parliamentary authority, that will undertake to abet the single person to levy taxes without you? ¶1770 BURKE *Pres. Discon.* Wks. II. 259 He abets a faction that is driving hard to the ruin of his country. ¶1809 TOMLINS *Law Dict.* s.v. To abet..in our law signifies to encourage or set on. ¶1866 KINGSLEY *Hereward* xviii. 219 The two regents abetted the ill-doers. ¶1876 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* III. xii. 113 To abet them against their sovereign.

3. To support, countenance, maintain, uphold, any cause, opinion, or action. Obs. in a good sense.

¶1596 SPENSER *F.Q.* i. x. 64 Then shall I soone..abett that virgins cause disconsolate. ¶1603 DRAYTON *Heroical Epist.* (1619) xvi. 29 Who moves the Norman to abet our Warre? ¶1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 26 No farther to abet their opinions then as they are supported by solid reason.

¶1649 MILTON *Eikon.* Wks. 1738, I. 387 The Parlament..had more confidence to abet and own what Sir John Hotham had done. ¶1725 WOLLASTON *Relig. Nat.* §2. 31 That which demands next to be considered..as abetting the cause of truth.

4. esp. in a bad sense: To encourage, instigate, countenance a crime or offence, or anything disapproved of.

¶1779 JOHNSON *L.P. Dryden* II. 367 He abetted vice and vanity only with his pen. ¶1786 BURKE *Warren Hastings*, Wks. 1842, II. 214 To abet, encourage, and support the dangerous projects of the presidency of Bombay. ¶1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* II. 36 Having abetted the western insurrection. ¶1876 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* I. v. 286 The invasion was aided and abetted by Richard's subjects.

5. To back up one's forecast of a doubtful issue, by staking money, etc., to bet. Obs.

¶1630 TAYLOR (Water P.) *Travels, Ded.* Wks. iii. 76 I doe (out of mine own cognition) auerre and abett that he is senselesse.

thwart v.

(θwɔ:t)

[f. prec. adv.]

I. 1. trans. To pass or extend across from side to side of; to traverse, cross; also, to cross the direction of, to run at an angle to. Obs. or arch.

¶1413 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton) v. i. (1859) 70 A Cercle embelyfyng somewhat, and thwartyng the thycknes of the spyere. ¶1530 *PALSGR.* 757/2, I thwarte the waye, I go over the waye to stoppe one, je trenche le chemyn. ¶1608 *SHAKES. Per.* iv. iv. 10 Pericles Is now againe thwarting thy wayward seas. ¶1627 *CAPT. SMITH Seaman's Gram.* ix. 39 You set your sailes so sharp as you can to lie close by a wind, thwarting it a league or two,..first on the one boord then on the other. ¶1653 *R. SANDERS Physiogn.* 50 If the Hepatique line be thwarted by other small lines. ¶1769 *FALCONER Dict. Marine* N iij, The current thwarts the course of a ship. ¶1805-6 *CARY Dante's Inf.* xxv. 72 The lizard seems A flash of lightning, if he thwart the road. ¶1863 *P. S. WORSLEY Poems & Transl.* 10 That white reach Thwarting the blue serene, a belt of fire.

b. intr. To pass or extend across, to cross. Obs. or arch.

¶a1552 *LELAND Itin.* (1744) VII. 53 The Towne of Cokermuth stondeth on the Ryver of Coker, the which thwartheth over the Town. ¶1598 *STOW Surv.* xli. (1603) 436 A close cart, bayled ouer and couered with blacke, hauing a plaine white Crosse thwarting. ¶1609 *HEYWOOD Brit. Troy* xiv. xciii, Through the mid-throng the nearest way he thwarted. ¶1627 *HAKEWILL Apol.* Pref. 10 It led them some other way, thwarting, and upon the by, not directly. ¶1856 *T. AIRD Poet. Wks.* 189 They scream, they mix, they thwart, they eddy round.

c. trans. To cross the path of; to meet; to fall in with, come across. Obs.

¶1601 *CHESTER Love's Mart., K. Arth.* xx, Merlin..Who by great fortunes chance sir Vlfius thwarted, As he went by in beggers base aray. ¶1674 *N. FAIRFAX Bulk & Selv.* 146 Motions to be checkt..without the least hit or stop from other bodies that thwart them. ¶1812 *CARY Dante's Par.* iv. 89 Another question thwarts thee.

d. Naut. Of a ship, etc.: To get athwart so as to be foul of. Also intr. Obs.

¶1809 *Naval Chron.* XXIV. 23 The boat having thwarted against the moorings. ¶1810 *Ibid.* XXIII. 97 The frigate now..thwarted the Lord Keith's hawse. ¶1813 *Gen. Hist. in Ann. Reg.* 107/1 The Amelia twice fell on board the enemy in attempting to thwart his hawse.

2. To lay (a thing) athwart or across; to place crosswise; to set or put (things) across each other.

thwart over thumb (quot. 1522) app. = to cross (one) over the thumbs: see thumb n. 5 d.

¶1522 SKELTON *Why not to Court* 197 Thus thwartyng ouer thom, He ruleth all the roste. ¶1588 SPENSER *Virgil's Gnat* 514 The noble sonne of Telamon..thwarting his huge shield, Them battell bad. ¶1602 CAREW *Cornwall* i. 25 b, Their bils were thwarted crossewise at the end, and with these they would cut an Apple in two at one snap. Ibid. 26 b, The inhabitants make use of divers his Creekes, for griste-milles, by thwarting a bancke from side to side. ¶1623 MARKHAM *Cheap Husb.* i. ii. (1631) 14 Carry your rod..in your right hand, the point either directly upright, or thwarted towards your left shoulder. ¶1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* vii. 309 They make..the signe of the Crosse., thwarting their two foremost fingers.

3. To cross with a line, streak, band, etc. (Only in pa. pple.) Obs. or arch.

¶1610 J. GUILLIM *Heraldry* iii. xiv. (1660) 162 The blacke line on the ridge of all Asses backes, thwarted with the like over both the Shoulders. ¶1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* i. 63 Turbants are made like great globes of callico too, and thwarted with rouses of the same. ¶1658 J. ROWLAND *Moufet's Theat. Ins.* 942 The body all over of a yellow colour, except where it is thwarted with cross streaks or lines. ¶1861 *Temple Bar Mag.* II. 256, I saw Vesuvius..thwarted by a golden cloud.

b. To cross-plough; also, to cut crosswise.

¶1847 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* VIII. ii. 318 The burnt earth is then spread on the land and thwarted in (that is, ploughed across the direction in which the land is ploughed when laid up in stretches for sowing). ¶1871 COUCH *Hist. Polperro* vi. 117 Land broken for wheat is thwarted in the Spring. ¶1888 ELWORTHY *W. Somerset Word-bk.* s.v. Thurt, Why, 'tis a wo'th vive shillings to thurt thick there butt. ¶1898 RIDER HAGGARD in *Longm. Mag.* Nov. 38 All my three ploughs were at work 'thwarting'—that is crossploughing—rootland on the Nunnery Farm.

4. To obstruct (a road, course, or passage) with something placed across; to block. Obs. exc. fig.

¶c1630 RISDON *Surv. Devon* §65 (1810) 63 The rebellious commons..thwarted the ways with great trees. Ibid. §269. 278 [A stream] whose course is thwarted with a damm, which we call a wear. ¶1725 POPE *Odyss.* x. 72 What Dæmon cou'dst thou meet To thwart thy passage and repel thy fleet? ¶1760-72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) IV. 58 They met with a six-barred gate that directly thwarted their passage. ¶1807 CRABBE *Par. Reg.* ii. 72 They sometimes speed, but often thwart our course. ¶1856 KANE *Arct. Expl.* II. v. 60 If no misadventure thwarted his progress.

II. 5. To act or operate in opposition to; to run counter to, to go against; to oppose, hinder. Also absol. Now rare.

¶c1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 1324 Quat-so god bad, ðwerted he it neuer a del.
 ¶c1430,1530 [implied in THWARTING vbl. n. 2 and ppl. a. 2]. ¶1600 HOLLAND *Livy* xxxv. xxxii. 907 Such as might..not sticke to speake their minds franckly, yea, & thwart the king his embassadour. ¶1671 BP. PARKER *Def. Eccl. Pol.* iii. §15. 298 To what purpose does he so briskly taunt me for thwarting my own Principles. ¶1676 W. ALLEN *Address Nonconf.* 130 The danger of Schism, and the evil of thwarting publick Laws. ¶1783 JUSTAMOND tr. *Raynal's Hist. Indies* VII. 379 They had unfortunately been so much thwarted by the winds as to prevent their landing before summer. ¶1802 PALEY *Nat. Theol.* xxvi. (1819) 436 General laws, however well set and constituted, often thwart and cross one another. ¶1811 L. M. HAWKINS *C'tess & Gertr.* II. 370 The countess was not always disposed to thwart and vex: a little flattery would soothe her.

b. intr. To speak or act in contradiction or opposition; to be adverse or at variance, to conflict. Const. with. Now rare or Obs.

¶1519 W. HORMAN *Vulg.* 59 b, I wyll nat multiplye wordes or thwarte with the. ¶1601 ? MARSTON *Pasquil & Kath.* ii. 185 Is't possible that sisters should so thwart In natiue humours? ¶1656 *Burton's Diary* (1828) I. 15 This clause thwarts with his Highness's ordinances. ¶1737 BRACKEN *Farriery Impr.* (1757) II. 272 It would thwart with my intended Brevity. ¶1862 F. HALL *Hindu Philos. Syst.* 42 They also accept..the Smritis, the Puránas, &c., the work of Rishis, when those books do not thwart with the Veda.

6. trans. To oppose successfully; to prevent (a person, etc.) from accomplishing a purpose; to prevent the accomplishment of (a purpose); to foil, frustrate, balk, defeat. (The chief current sense.)

¶1581 MULCASTER *Positions* iv. (1887) 17 He may either proceede at his owne libertie, if nothing withstand him, or may not proceede, if he be thwarted by circunstance. ¶1641 EARL OF MONMOUTH tr. *Biondi's Civil Warres* v. 166 The Earle seeing himselfe twharted, resolved to fight. ¶1697 J. LEWIS *Mem. Dk. Glocester* (1789) 34 From being sometimes a little thwarted, and thro' dissatisfaction, she grew sick. ¶1718 *Free-thinker* No. 65 ¶6 Perpetual Obstacles..thwarted his Designs. ¶1803 DK. WELLINGTON in *Gurw. Desp.* (1837) II. 352 Thus are all our best plans thwarted. ¶1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* iv. I. 429 The party which had long thwarted him had been beaten down. ¶1871 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* IV. xvii. 15 But all these good intentions were thwarted by the inherent vice of his position.

balk v.1

(bɔ:k)

[f. balk, baulk n.1]

I. 1. trans. (and absol.) To make balks in ploughing; to plough up in ridges. Obs.

¶1393 GOWER *Conf.* III. 296 But so well halt no man the plough, That he ne balketh other while. ¶c1420 *Pallad. on Husb.* i. 184 To tille a felde man must have diligence, And balk it not. ¶1583 STANYHURST *Æneis* i. (Arb.) 22 With forck King Neptun is ayding. He balcks thee quicksands, and fluds dooth mollefye. ¶1611 COTGR., *Assilloner*, to baulke, or plow up in baulkes. [¶[a1640 JACKSON *Creed* xi. cxxxix. Wks. XI. 203 Whilst we labour to plough up your hearts..we must not balk that saying of St. John.]

II. 2. trans. To miss or omit intentionally. a.II.2.a lit. To pass by (a place), to avoid in passing; to shun.

¶1484 PASTON *Lett.* 859 III. 279 Mastyer Baley..woold not have balkyd this pore loggeyng to Norwyche wardes. ¶1612-5 BP. HALL *Contempl. N.T.* iv. iii. 173 Jericho was in his way from Galilee to Jerusalem: he baulks it not, though it were outwardly cursed. ¶1684 LADY R. RUSSELL *Lett.* I. xv. 43, I hope you will not balk Totteridge, if I am here. ¶a1733 North Exam. ii. iv. ¶94 Going to Lord Clarendon..baulking the Secretary. ¶1783 AINSWORTH *Lat. Dict.* (Morell) s.v. Balk, I will not balk your house.

b. fig. To pass over, overlook, refrain from noticing (what comes in one's way); to shirk, ignore.

¶c1440 *Prompt. Parv.* 22 Balkyn, or ouerskyppyn, omitto. ¶1582 FLEETWOOD in *Ellis Orig. Lett.* ii. 216 III. 90 As for my Lo. Maior..I am dryven every daie to bawke hym and his doynge. ¶1640 BP. HALL *Episc.* i. §11. 39, I may not baulke two pregnant testimonies of the Fathers. ¶1656 SANDERSON *Serm.* II. 160 The spyng of motes in our brother's eye, and baulking of beams in our own. ¶1684 *Cont. Foxe's A. & M.* III. 900 The Bayliff would fain have baulked him, As if he had not seen him. ¶1742 RICHARDSON *Pamela* III. 42 Let me tell you, (nor will I balk it) my Brother..will want one Apology for his Conduct. ¶1848 L. HUNT *Jar of Honey* Pref. 4 No topic is baulked if it come uppermost.

c. To refuse (anything offered or that comes in course, e.g. food or drink).

¶1587 TURBERV. *Trag. T.* (1837) 230 And balke your bed for shame. ¶1619 FLETCHER *M. Thomas* i. i. 386 A bait you cannot balk Sir. ¶1649 W.

BLITHE *Eng. Improv. Impr.* (1653) 183 If the stalk grow big, cattell will balk it. ¶a1784 JOHNSON in *Boswell* (1831) I. 236, I never..balked an invitation out to dinner. ¶1810 CRABBE *Borough* xvi, He took them all and never balk'd his glass.

d. To avoid (a duty or responsibility).

¶1631 PRESTON *Effect. Faith* 146 Thou must not balke the way of Religion, because of the troubles thou meetest. ¶a1707 BEVERIDGE *Priv. Th.* ii. 103 Not that we should run ourselves into danger, but that we should baulk no Duty to avoid it. ¶1785 COWPER *Tirocin.* 257 Such an age as ours baulks no expence.

e. To let slip, fail to use, seize, keep, reach, etc.

¶1601 SHAKES. *Twel. N.* iii. ii. 26 This was look't for at your hand, and this was baulkt. ¶1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg. Ded.* If I balk'd this opportunity. ¶1724 A. RAMSAY *Tea-t. Misc.* (1733) I. 2 This point of a' his wishes He wadna with set speeches bauk. ¶1826 HOR. SMITH *Gai. & Grav. in Casquet of Lit.* I. 326/2 My adviser insisted upon my not baulking my luck.

3. a. intr. To stop short as at an obstacle, to pull up, swerve. Esp. of a horse: To jib, refuse to go on, or to leap, to shy; also of the rider, and of any one on foot, refusing a leap. Also fig. (colloq.) to shy or jib at.

¶1481 CAXTON *Reynard* (Arb.) 32 Isegrym balked and sayde, ye make moche a doo, sir Tybert. ¶1596 SPENSER *F.Q.* iv. x. 25 Ne ever ought but of their true loves talkt, Ne ever for rebuke or blame of any balkt. ¶1722 DE FOE *Moll. Fl.* (1840) 78 If he balked, I knew I was undone. ¶1756 C. LUCAS *Ess. Waters* III. 340 No man, that drinks water, baulks at a pint..in the day. ¶1843 LEVER *J. Hinton* xxv, Burke..suddenly swerved his horse round, and affecting to baulk, cantered back. ¶1862 *Melbourne Leader* 5 July, His horse balked at a leap, and threw him. ¶1908 J. M. DILLON *Motor Days Eng.* xx. 241 It was the only time I ever saw Maud balk at gooseberries.

b. To lie out of the way. Obs.

¶1591 SPENSER *M. Hubberd* 268 Labour that did from his liking balke.

4. trans. To miss by error or inadvertence. Obs.

¶1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* Sept. 93 They..balk the right way, and strayen abroad. ¶1659 FELTHAM *Low Countr.* (1677) 46 You cannot baulk your Road without the hazard of drowning. ¶1710 PALMER *Proverbs* 6 Young dogs..balk the true game to ply every scent.

III. 5. trans. To place a balk in the way of. a.III.5.a To check, hinder, thwart (a person or his action).

¶1589 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* vi. xxxi. (1612) 153, I sometimes proffered kindnesse..but..was balked with a blush. ¶1635 SWAN *Spec. M.* v. §2 (1643) 105 The King..must not be balked in his late proceedings. ¶1726 DE FOE *Hist. Devil* i. xi. (1840) 155 An enemy who is balked and defeated, but not overcome. ¶1821 BYRON *Two Foscari* i. i, They shall not balk my entrance. ¶1855 PRESCOTT *Philip II*, I. ii. xiii. 292 The sturdy cavalier was not to be balked in his purpose.

b. To check (feelings, or a person in his feelings).

¶1682 DRYDEN *Rel. Laici* 212 Nor doth it balk my charity to find The Egyptian Bishop of another mind. ¶1746 LD. MALMESBURY *Lett.* I. 37 Lord Talbot was not much balked with this rebuke. ¶1855 H. MARTINEAU *Autobiog.* I. 92 My home affections..all the stronger for having been repressed and balked.

c. To disappoint (expectations, or any one in his expectations).

¶1590 MARLOWE *Edw. II*, ii. v, We..must not come so near to balk their lips. ¶1652 BROME *Jov. Crew* ii. 389 May your Store Never decay, nor balk the Poor. ¶1725 POPE *Odyss.* x. 135 Balk'd of his prey, the yelling monster flies. ¶1854 THACKERAY *Newcomes* I. 286 Balk yourself of the pleasure of bullying. ¶1873 SPENSER *Stud. Sociol.* vii. 161 Time after time our hopes are balked.

d. To frustrate, foil, render unsuccessful.

¶1635 QUARLES *Emblems* iii. xiv. (1718) 182 To balk those ills which present joys bewray. ¶1727 SWIFT *Censure Misc.* (1735) V. 104 The most effectual Way to balk Their Malice, is to let them talk. ¶1848 KINGSLEY *Saint's Trag.* ii. v. 90 With which we try to balk the curse of Eve.

6. trans. and absol. To meet arguments with objections; to quibble, chop logic, bandy words.

¶1596 SPENSER *F.Q.* iii. ii. 12 Her list in stryfull termes with him to balke. ¶1596 SHAKES. *Tam. Shr.* i. i. 34 Balke Lodgicke with acquaintance that you haue. ¶1653 MANTON *Exp. James* iii. 2 Wks. IV. 227 They do not divide and balk with God.

brisk a. and n.

(brisk)

[First found in end of 16th c.; evidently familiar to Shakespeare and his contemporaries. Derivation uncertain: Welsh *brysg* (used of briskness of foot)

occurs in a poem of the 14th c. This appears to answer in form to OIr. brisc, Ir. briosg, Gael. brisg, Breton bresk, 'brittle', 'crumbly'; but it is not easy to connect the senses.

It is however possible that brisk is identical with F. brusque (which appears as bruisk in Sc. c 1560, and as bruske as early as 1600); at least Cotgr. gives brisk as a translation of brusque, and the words appear to have influenced each other in early use. See brusque.]

A. adj.

1. Sharp or smart in regard to movement (in a praiseworthy sense) quick and active, lively. a.A.1.a of persons. (Sometimes used of disposition = 'cheery, sprightly, lively', but this is now chiefly dial.)

¶[1560 T. ARCHBALD *Let.* in Keith *Hist. Scotl.* (1734) 489 (Jam.) Thir ar the imbassadoris..thai depart wondrous bruisk.] ¶1592 SHAKES. *Rom. & Jul.* i. v. 16 Chearly Boyes, Be brisk awhile. ¶1611 COTGR., *Brusque*, briske, liuely, quicke, etc. Ibid. *Frisque*, friske, liuely, iolly, blithe, briske, fine, spruce, gay. ¶1613 R. C. TABLE *Alph.*, Brisque, quick, liuely, fierce. ¶1725 DE FOE *Voy. round World* (1840) 298 A company of bold, young brisk fellows. ¶1828 SCOTT *F.M. Perth* I. 5 The brisk, alert agent of a great house in the city. ¶1882 C. PEBODY *Eng. Journalism* xvi. 120 A bright, brisk lad, fresh from Oxford.

b. of actions and motions. (The prevalent modern use.)

¶1684 BUNYAN *Pilgr.* ii. 101 To enter with him a brisk encounter. ¶1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* iv. xi. §5 It must needs be some exterior Cause, and the brisk acting of some Objects without me. ¶1756 BURKE *Subl. & B. Wks.* I. 245 A slow and languid motion [of the eye] is more beautiful than a brisk one. ¶1777 WATSON *Philip II* (1839) II. 213 He made a brisk attack upon one of the gates. ¶1855 PRESCOTT *Philip II*, I. i. vii. 91 He..opened a brisk cannonade on the enemy. ¶1863 GEO. ELIOT *Romola* ii. xxii, The brisk pace of men who had errands before them.

c. of trade: Active, lively.

¶1719 W. WOOD *Surv. Trade* 339 When Trade is brisk, Money..is more in view. ¶1832 H. MARTINEAU *Hill & Vall.* iv. 49 The demand for iron was so brisk. ¶1833 *Br. Creek* iii. 64 A brisk traffic took place in the remaining articles.

d. of wind, fire, etc.

¶1725 POPE *Odyss.* xii. 184 Up sprung a brisker breeze. ¶1759 ROBERTSON *Hist. Scot.* I. iii. 203 At last a brisk gale arose. ¶1796 MORSE *Amer.*

Geog. I. 133 New and brisk fountains of water rise at spring tides. ¶1837 M. DONOVAN *Dom. Econ.* II. 269 The brisk fire should..be only employed when the meat is half roasted.

e. of purgatives.

¶1799 *Med. Jrnl.* II. 236 He had a brisk cathartic given him. ¶1815 *Scribbleomania* 207 note, They've drench'd her with cathartics brisk.

2. In allied senses, chiefly unfavourable. a. Sharp-witted, pert; curt. b. 'Fast' of life. c. Over hasty. d. Unpleasantly sharp of tone. (With c, d, cf. *Fr. brusque*.) e. Quickly passing, brief.

¶1601 SHAKES. *Twel. N.* ii. iv. 6 These most briske and giddy-paced times. ¶1665 GLANVILL *Sceps. Sci. Addr.* 13 Divers of the brisker Geniusses, who desire rather to be accounted Witts, then endeavour to be so. ¶1667 EVELYN in *Four C. Eng. Lett.* 108 The smoothest or briskest strokes of his Pindaric lyre. ¶1667 PEPYS *Diary* (1877) V. 422 The Surveyor began to be a little brisk at the beginning. ¶a1674 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* I. i. 8 When that brisk and improvident Resolution was taken. ¶1676 G. ETHEREGE *Man of Mode* i. i. (1684) 11 He has been, as the sparkish word is, Brisk Upon the Ladies already. ¶1700 *Penn. Archives* I. 138, I send yee ye Coats [= Court's] Lettr wch is very brisk. ¶1739 CIBBER *Apol.* vii. 214 The briskest loose Liver or intemperate Man. [¶1879 BROWNING *Ned Bratts* 23 Some trial for life and death, in a brisk five minutes' space.]

3. Smartly or finely dressed; spruce. Obs.

¶1590 MARLOWE *Edw. II*, i. iv. ad fin., I have not seen a dapper jack so brisk. ¶1596 SHAKES. *1 Hen. IV*, i. iii. 54 To see him shine so briske, and smell so sweet. ¶1603 PATIENT *Grissil* 17 My brisk spangled baby will come into a stationer's shop.

4. Of liquors: Agreeably sharp or smarting to the taste; effervescent, as opposed to 'flat' or 'stale'. (So *It. brusco*, *Fr. vin brusque* in *Cotgr.*) Similarly of the air: Fresh, keen, stimulating.

¶1597 SHAKES. *2 Hen. IV*, v. iii. 48 A Cup of Wine, that's briske and fine. ¶1697 POTTER *Antiq. Greece* iii. ix. (1715) 75 Brisk Wines and Viands animate Their Souls. ¶1741 BROWNRIGG in *Phil. Trans.* LV. 242 The brisk and pungent taste of the acidulæ. ¶1776 SIR W. FORBES in *Boswell Johnson* II. 404 A bottle of beer..is made brisker by being set before the fire. ¶1837 DISRAELI *Venetia* i. ii, The air was brisk. ¶1846 J. JOYCE *Sci. Dialogues* vii. 213 You see of what importance air is to give to all our liquors their pleasant and brisk flavour. ¶1877 L. MORRIS *Epic Hades* ii. 198.

5. Sharp to other senses; distinct, vivid. **a.** to the hearing. Obs.

¶1660 BOYLE *New Exp. Phys.-Mech.* i. 21 There is..produced a considerably brisk noise. ¶1667 PRIMATT *City & C. Build.* 51 Bricks well burnt..if you strike them with any thing, will make a brisk sound.

b. to the sight. Obs.

¶a1727 NEWTON (J.) Had it [my instrument] magnified thirty or twenty-five times, it had made the object appear more brisk and pleasant.

6. Comb. **a.** adverbial, as brisk-going, brisk sparkling; **b.** parasynthetic, as brisk-spirited.

¶1711 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4868/4 A..Cart Horse..brisk Spirited. ¶1831 CARLYLE *Sart. Res.* ii. iii. 132 Like a strong brisk-going undershot-wheel. ¶1837 *Fr. Rev.* II. iii. i. 128 Our brisk-sparkling assiduous official person.

B. n. a.B.a A 'brisk' or smart person; a gallant, a fop. (Cf. A3 above.) b.B.b A lively, forward woman, a wanton.

¶1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* iii. iii. i. ii. (1651) 604 A yong gallant..a Fastidious Brisk, that can wear his cloaths well in fashion. ¶1689 N. LEE *Princ. of Cleve* (N.) The forward brisk, she that promis'd me the ball assignation.

supine a.

('s(j)u:pain, formerly s(j)u:'pain)

[ad. L. supīnus (whence OF. souvin, Pr. sobi(n), supi(n), It., Sp., Pg. supino), f. Italic *sup-, root of super above, superus higher: see -ine1.]

1. Lying on one's back, lying with the face or front upward. Also said of the position. Often predicatively or quasi-advb.

Sometimes used loosely for 'lying, recumbent'.

¶c1500 KENNEDY *Passion of Christ, At Cumplin Tyme* 1290 Apoun his bak he did ly on suppyne. ¶1615 CROOKE *Body of Man* 268 The position or manner of lying of the sickeman, eyther prone that is downward, or supine that is vpward. ¶1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* iv. vi. 193 That women drowned swim prone but men supine, or upon their backs, are popular affirmations, whereto we cannot assent. ¶1658 *Hydriot.* iv. 21 They buried their dead on their backs, or in a supine position. ¶1700 DRYDEN *Ceyx and Alcione* 295 Where lay the God And slept supine, his Limbs display'd abroad. ¶1715 POPE *Iliad* iv. 603 Supine he tumbles on the crimson sands. ¶a1788 POTT *Chirurg.* Wks. II. 57 When the patient is in a supine posture. ¶a1806

H. K. WHITE *'Ye unseen Spirits'* 4 As by the wood-spring stretch'd supine he lies. ¶1876 *Trans. Clinical Soc.* IX. 72 Having placed the patient in the supine position. ¶1881 J. PAYN *Grape from Thorn* xi, The ancient Romans, taking their meals, as they did, supine, and resting on one elbow.

b. Of the hand or arm: With the palm upward; supinated.

¶1668 CULPEPPER & COLE *Barthol. Anat.* iv. viii. 165 The Radius makes the whole Arm prone or supine. ¶1865 TYLOR *Early Hist. Man.* iii. 48 The rustic Phidyle should hold out her supine hands. ¶1868 LIVINGSTONE *Last Jrnls.* 15 Nov. (1873) I. 346 The Africans all beckon with the hand, to call a person, in a different way from what Europeans do. The hand is held, as surgeons say, prone, or palm down, while we beckon with the hand held supine, or palm up.

c. (a) Of a part of the body: Situated so as to be upward; upper, superior.

¶1661 LOVELL *Hist. Anim. & Min.* b5, Their finns are foure, two in the prone part, two in the supine, & circumvallate round. *Ibid.*, The eyes [of fishes] are in the supine part of their heads. ¶1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* xxxiv. III. 415, I have seen a fly turn its head completely round, so that the mouth became supine and the vertex prone. *Ibid.* xlv. IV. 268 Supine Surface... The upper surface.

(b) Bot. See quot., and cf. procumbent a. 2.

¶1853 MACDONALD & ALLAN *Bot. Wordbk.* 32 Supine... The face of a leaf is called the supine disc.

d. transf. Sloping or inclining backwards. poet.

¶1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* ii. 373 If the Vine On rising Ground be plac'd, or Hills supine, extend thy loose Battalions. ¶1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* xii. xxi. 4 The prow and stern did curl, Horned on high, like the young moon supine.

2. fig. Morally or mentally inactive, inert, or indolent.

¶1603 [implied in SUPINELY 2]. ¶1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* ii. i. iv. ii. 301 Through their..contempte, supine negligence, extenuation, wretchednes & peeuishnesse, they vndoe themselues. ¶1630 DONNE *Serm. Easter-day* (1640) 246 So also did they fall under the rebuke and increpation of the Angell for another supine inconsideration. ¶1650 SIR E. NICHOLAS in *N. Papers* (Camden) I. 198 The Pr. of Orange..died..of the Small Pox thro' the supine negligence or worse of some of his Physicians. ¶1732 BERKELEY *Alciph.* iv. §13 The lazy supine airs of a fine gentleman. ¶1761 HUME *Hist. Eng.* lv. (1806) IV. 225 They lived in the most supine security. ¶1779 BOSWELL

Let. to Johnson 17 July, A supine indolence of mind. ¶1807 JEFFERSON *Writ.* (1830) IV. 72 The first ground of complaint was the supine inattention of the administration. ¶1819 SHELLEY *Cenci* iv. iv. 181 The supine slaves Of blind authority. ¶1852 THACKERAY *Esmond* i. v, He wakened up from the listless and supine life which he had been leading.

advb. ¶1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* i. 36 So supine negligent are they.

b. supine of: indifferent to, negligent of. (Cf. listless a.) Obs. rare.

¶1724 WELTON *Chr. Faith & Pract.* 195 A profane..mind that is altogether supine of religion.

c. Not active; passive.

¶1843 RUSKIN *Mod. Paint.* ii. v. iii. §21 The stream in their hands looks active, not supine, as if it leaped, not as if it fell. ¶1878 H. S. WILSON *Alpine Ascents* i. 11 In which the body is supine while the fancy remains active.

indolent a. (n.)

(ˈɪndəʊlənt)

[ad. late L. *indolēnt-em* (Jerome: ‘dicamus ἀπηλγήκοτες indolentes sive indolorios’), f. *in-* (in-3) + *dolēns* grieving, dolent. Cf. F. *indolent* (16-17th c.).]

1. Path. Causing no pain, painless; esp. in indolent tumour, indolent ulcer.

¶1663 BOYLE *Usef. Exp. Nat. Philos.* ii. i. 25 Curing of cancers..by the outward application of an indolent powder. ¶1713 R. RUSSELL in *Phil. Trans.* XXVIII. 277 An Indolent Tumour in her Breast. ¶1783 POTT *Chirurg.* Wks. II. 286 As he lay on his back, it was perfectly indolent; but in an erect posture..he complained of pain. ¶1804 ABERNETHY *Surg. Obs.* 58, I was led to inquire further, whether the surface might not be sometimes irritable and sometimes indolent. ¶1861 HULME tr. *Moquin-Tandon* ii. iii. iii. 133 *Ceratum Cantharidis*..is used to..stimulate issues and indolent ulcers.

b. loosely. Of a pain: Very slight. Obs.

¶1758 J. S. LE DRAN *Observ. Surg.* (1771) 155 He felt an indolent Pain on the Shoulder.

2. Of persons, their disposition, action, etc.: Averse to toil or exertion; slothful, lazy, idle.

¶1710 STEELE *Tatler* No. 132 ¶4 A good-natured indolent Man. ¶1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 5 ¶1 To gratifie the Senses, and keep up an indolent Attention in the Audience. ¶1744 H. WALPOLE *Lett. H. Mann* (1834) I. xciv.

324, I am naturally indolent and without application to any kind of business.

¶1839 LONGFELLOW *Hyperion* i. vi, An easy and indolent disposition.

¶1885 S. COX *Exposit. Ser.* i. ix. 112 [To] rouse the indolent and indifferent.

transf. ¶1839 LONGFELLOW *Hyperion* iii. i, Through the meadow winds the river—careless, indolent.

B. n. An indolent person. Obs.

¶1720 *Humourist* 49 The Indolent remains in Suspense and Anguish.

¶1810 *Splendid Follies* I. 144 'Yes, yes, I see her', replied the fair indolent.

Hence 'indolentness (Bailey vol. II, 1727).

reify v.

(ˈriːɪfaɪ, ˈreɪf-)

[f. as reification + -ify.]

trans. To convert mentally into a thing; to materialize.

¶1854 *Fraser's Mag.* LXIX. 75 The gods of their final and accepted polytheism were, in point of fact, only those sublimer portions of nature which..they had not yet dared to reify. ¶1882 *Pop. Sci. Monthly* XXI. 151 When people make or find a new 'abstract noun', they instantly try to put it on a shelf or into a box, as though it were a thing; thus they reify it. ¶1931 M. R. COHEN *Reason & Nature* iii. iii. 390 There is..a fundamental philosophic issue: the extent to which the principle of unity should be hypostatized or reified (I wish the use of the word thingified were more common). ¶1953 C. E. OSGOOD *Method & Theory in Experim. Psychol.* xvi. 680 The second hindrance to objectivity is the ubiquitous tendency to reify the word, to assume the word itself some~how carries its own meaning. ¶1971 *Times Lit. Suppl.* 31 Dec. 1619/3 To look upon them [sc. economic laws] as objective necessities, as bourgeois economists do, is to reify them. ¶1979 E. H. GOMBRICH *Sense of Order* x. 282 The temptation to 'reify' the shield into the open mouth of a gaping mask..proved as irresistible as did the opportunity of turning spiralling volutes into suggestions of eyes.

Hence 'reified ppl. a., 'reifying vbl. n. and ppl. a.

¶1941 H. MARCUSE *Reason & Revol.* iv. 115 Lordship and bondage result of necessity from certain relationships of labor, which are, in turn, relationships in a 'reified' world. ¶1962 MACQUARRIE & ROBINSON tr. *Heidegger's Being & Time* ii. vi. 487 Why does this reifying always keep coming back to exercise its dominion? ¶1965 B. PEARCE tr. *Preobrazhensky's New*

Economics 47 One can..understand its laws in the spirit of vulgar economics, that is, by offering in the guise of science mere superficial description, complete with the reified relations of commodity production. ¶1969 R. BLACKBURN in *Cockburn & Blackburn Student Power* 207 An alienated society naturally encourages a re-ifying vocabulary. ¶1979 E. H. GOMBRICH *Sense of Order* ix. 242 It is surely not far-fetched to interpret its coiling frame as a reified flourish on a reified support.

sway v.

(swei)

[Properly two distinct words. (1) ME. sweze (14th c.), conjugated strong and weak, also swye, to go, move (cf. ME. forsueie to go astray), may have been a native word orig. of the OE. type *sweænan, (3 pres. ind. *swiæp), pa. tense *swææ, parallel to OE. weænan to move, carry, weigh, (wiæp), wææ, ME. weze, occas. wye, pa. tense weze, wei(3), wei(e)de. (Cf. also the parallelism of swag and wag, sweight and weight.) Formally, sweæ might also be ad. ON. sveigja to bend (a bow), swing (a distaff), etc., give way, yield (cf. sveigr switch, twig), causative vb. f. svig-, in svig bend, curve, svigi switch, svigna to give way; but the ME. and ON. verbs do not agree in sense. (2) The modern sway dates only from c 1500, and agrees in form and sense with, and appears to be ad., LG. swâjen to be moved hither and thither by the wind (whence Sw. svaja to swing, Da. svaie to move to and fro, G. schwaien, schweien), Du. zwaaien to swing, wave, walk totteringly, slant, bevel.]

I. 1. intr. To go, move. Obs.

¶13.. *E.E. Allit. P. B.* 87 Swyerez þat swyftly swyed on blonkez. Ibid. C. 72 Now sweze me þider swyftly & say me þis arende. Ibid. 151 Þe sayl sweyed on þe see. ¶13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 1429 Al in a semblé sweyed to-geder. ¶?a1400 *Morte Arth.* 57 [He] Sweys in-to Swaldye wiþ his snelle houndes.

b. Often with down: To go down, fall (lit. and fig.); spec. to fall or sink into a swoon. Obs.

¶13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 1796 Sykande ho sweze doun, & semly hym kyssed.

¶13.. *E.E. Allit. P. B.* 956 Þe rayn rueled adoun..Of felle flaunkes of fyr..Swe aboute sodamas. Ibid. C. 429 Þe soun of oure souerayn þen swey in his ere. ¶?a1400 *Morte Arth.* 1467 So many sweys in swoghe swounande att ones!

Ibid. 3676 With þe swynge of þe swerde sweys þe mastys. ¶c1400 *De-str. Troy* 9454 Parys..Sweyt into swym, as he swelt wold. ¶a1400-50 *Wars*

Alex. 2057 (Dublin), Þe power ow't of perse..Sweyd sleghtly downe slayn of þair blonkes. ¶c1415 *Crowned King* 29 Swythe y swyed in a sweem þat y swet after. ¶1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* ii. x. 86 Quhar thir towris thou seis doun fall and sweye, And stane fra stane doun bet. ¶1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* iv. xv. (S.T.S.) II. 103 Þe hewmond's of romanis semyt as þai war sweyand doun.

c. causative. To cause to go or move; to drive. Obs. rare.

¶13.. *E.E. Allit. P. C.* 236 Styffe stremes..Pat drof hem dryzlych adoun þe depe to serue, Tyl a swetter ful swyþe hem swezed to bonk.

II. 2. intr. To move or swing first to one side and then to the other, as a flexible or pivoted object: often amplified by phr., e.g. backwards and forwards, to and fro, from side to side.

Not common before the 19th century.

¶c1500 *Bk. Mayd Emlyn* 334 in Hazl. *E.P.P.* IV. 94 An halfepeny halter made hym fast, And therin he swayes. ¶1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 120 Yet are they [sc. the branches of the trees] tossed therewith, and swaye sumwhat from syde to syde. ¶1797 S. & HT. LEE *Canterb. T.* (1799) I. 375 The lamp swayed with the blast. ¶1859 TENNYSON *Marr. Geraint* 171 A purple scarf, at either end whereof There swung an apple of the purest gold, Sway'd round about him as he gallop'd up. ¶1863 MRS. OLIPHANT *Salem Chapel* x, That stick over which his tall person swayed with fashionable languor. ¶1874 L. STEPHEN *Hours in Libr.* (1892) II. ii. 51 The dreary estuary, where the slow tide sways backwards and forwards.

b. fig. To vacillate. rare.

¶1563 WIN3ET tr. *Vincent. Lirin.* xv. Wks. (S.T.S.) II. 35 Thai, sweand and swounand betuix thame twa, determinatis nocht quhat wes specialie erast to be chosin be thame. ¶1825 JAMIESON, *Swee*,...to be irresolute. ¶1871 B. TAYLOR *Faust* (1875) II. i. i. 5 When the crowd sways, unbelieving.

3. trans. To cause to move backward and forward or from side to side (cf. 2). (See also 13.)

Not common before the 19th century.

¶1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 152 Swayinge her bodye twyse or thryse too and fro. ¶1667 MILTON *P.L.* iv. 983 As when a field Of Ceres ripe for harvest waving bends Her bearded Grove of ears, which way the wind Swayes them.

¶1717 PRIOR *Alma* ii. 215 Have you not seen a Baker's Maid Between two equal Panniers sway'd? ¶1784 COWPER *Task* vi. 73 The roof,...moveable through all its length As the wind sways it. ¶1819 SHELLEY *Julian* 276

The ooze and wind Rushed through an open casement, and did sway His hair.

¶1865 TROLLOPE *Belton Est.* xii. 137 He swayed himself backwards and forwards in his chair, bewailing his own condition. ¶1902 R. BAGOT *Donna Diana* xv. 178 When the cool breeze sweeps up from the sea, gently swaying the tops of the cypress-trees.

b. fig.

¶a1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* ii. xxix. (1912) 330 He was swayed withall..as everie winde of passions puffed him. ¶1592 W. WYRLEY *Armorie, Ld. Chandos* 29 Some turning fate, Which like wild whirlwind all our dooings sweath.

¶1596 SHAKES. *Merch.* V. iv. i. 51 Affection, Maisters [? = Mistress] of passion, swayes it to the moode Of what it likes or loaths. ¶a1650 MAY *Old Couple* ii. i. (1658) C2, He has got A great hand over her, and swayes her conscience Which way he list. ¶1866 G. MACDONALD *Ann. Q. Neighb.* xv. (1878) 307, I was swayed to and fro by the motions of a spiritual power. ¶1870 *Edin. Rev.* Oct. 388 Dr. Newman..tells us..with the utmost frankness, the persons who..swayed his beliefs hither and thither.

4. intr. To bend or move to one side, or downwards, as by excess of weight or pressure; to incline, lean, swerve.

In mod. quots. only a contextual use of 2.

¶1577 HOLINSHED *Chron.* II. 1624/1 The left side of the enimies..was..compelled to sway a good way backe, and giue grounde largely. ¶1593 SHAKES. 3 *Hen.* VI, ii. v. 5. ¶1610 BOYS *Wks.* (1622) 223 The tree falleth as it groweth..Learne then in growing to sway right. ¶1624 BACON *Consid. War w. Spain* Wks. 1879 I. 542/1 In these personal respects, the balance sways on our part. ¶1631 GOUGE *God's Arrows* iii. §48. 273 Aaron and Hur..kept his hands that they could not sway aside one way or other. ¶1670-1 NARBOROUGH JRNL. in *Acc. Sev. Late Voy.* i. (1694) 166 Could not get the Ship off, for the Water did Ebb, and the Ship Sued above 3 Foot.

¶1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* i. xxvii. 196 The carriage swayed towards the precipitous road side. ¶1881 'RITA' *My Lady Coquette* xv, She sways towards him like a reed.

b. transf. To have a certain direction in movement; to move. Obs.

¶1597 SHAKES. 2 *Hen.* IV, iv. i. 24 Let vs sway-on, and face them in the field. ¶1601 *Twel. N.* ii. iv. 32 So swayes she leuell in her husbands heart. ¶1605 *Macb.* v. iii. 9 The minde I sway by, and the heart I beare, Shall neuer sagge with doubt, nor shake with feare. ¶1650 W. D. tr. *Comenius' Gate*

Lat. Unl. §233 Man's estate swaieth (is going downwards) [L. vergit] towards a declining age.

c. To move against in a hostile manner. rare.

¶1590 SPENSER *F.Q.* ii. viii. 46 How euer may Thy cursed hand so cruelly haue swayd Against that knight. Ibid. x. 49 Yet oft the Briton kings against them [sc. the Romans] strongly swayd. ¶1603 KNOLLES *Hist. Turks* (1621) 195 A man would have thought two rough seas had met together swaying one against the other. ¶1871 DIXON *Tower* III. xxvi. 284 The Duke had grown too great to live. All passions swayed against him.

5. trans. To cause to incline or hang down on one side, as from excess of weight; dial. to weigh or press down; also, to cause to swerve.

¶1570 BUCHANAN *Chamæleon* Wks. (S.T.S.) 45 The said Chamæleon..changing hew as the quene sweyit ye ballance of hir mynd. ¶1625 BACON *Ess., Simulation* (Arb.) 509 To keepe an indifferent carriage, betweene both, and to be Secret, without Swaying the Ballance, on either side. ¶1663 CHARLETON *Chor. Gigant.* 27 As that no force of wind or tempest..by diminishing the gravity on one side, might incline or sway them to sink down on the other. ¶1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* ii. 145 The greater weight of water in the pendent Leg [of the Syphon]..sways down that in the shorter, as in a pair of Skales. ¶1678 BUTLER *Hud.* iii. ii. 1368 As bowls run true, by being made Of purpose false, and to be sway'd. ¶1797 HOLCROFT tr. *Stolberg's Trav.* (ed. 2) II. xliii. 81 The..tower of Pisa..is swayed fifteen feet from the centre. ¶1846 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* II. 848 They have learned to avoid swaying down the file at either extreme. ¶1856 KANE *Arctic Expl.* II. xiv. 143 These swayed the dogs from their course. ¶1857 WHITTIER *Poems, Funeral Tree Sokokis* Argt., The surviving Indians 'swayed' or bent down a young tree until its roots were upturned.

absol. ¶1624 BEDELL *Lett.* v. 84 A little weight is able to sway much, where the beame it self is false.

b. To strain (the back of a horse): see sway-backed, swayed 1. Obs. rare.

¶1611 COTGR., *Esflanquer*, to sway in the backe. ¶1639 T. DE GREY *Compl. Horsem.* 42 He might wrinch any member, or sway his back.

6. a. To turn aside, divert (thoughts, feelings, etc.); to cause to swerve from a course of action.

¶1596 SHAKES. *1 Hen. IV*, iii. ii. 130 Heauen forgiue them, that so much haue sway'd Your Majesties good thoughts away from me. ¶1616 Marlowe's *Faustus* iv. ii. (1631) Fj, Let vs sway [ed. 1624 stay] thy thoughts, From this

attempt. ¶1673 CAVE *Prim. Chr.* ii. vi. 135 No dangers could then sway good men from doing of their duty. ¶1679 J. GOODMAN *Penit. Pard.* i. iii. (1713) 69 An huge advantage may sway him a little aside. ¶1822 B. W. PROCTOR *Ludovico Sforza* ii, No ill has happened..to sway Your promise from me? ¶1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* vi. §6. 335 No touch either of love or hate swayed him from his course.

b. To influence in a specified direction; to induce to do something. Obs.

¶1625 *Impeachm. Dk. Buckhm.* (Camden) 292 To sweigh the people to accept the King's offers. ¶1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 63 He answered, his businesse swayed him to another end. ¶1667 MILTON *P.L.* viii. 635 Least Passion sway Thy Judgement to do aught, which else free Will Would not admit. ¶1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 357 ¶14 The Part of Eve..is no less..apt to sway the Reader in her Favour. ¶a1720 SEWEL *Hist. Quakers* (1795) II. vii. 83 He so swayed the master that at last he agreed. ¶1807 WORDSW. *White Doe* vi. 48 Even that thought, Exciting self-suspicion strong, Swayed the brave man to his wrong.

c. To give a bias to. Obs.

¶1593 BACON *Let. to Burghley* Apr., I spake simply and only to satisfy my conscience, and not with any advantage, or policy to sway the cause.

7. intr. To incline or be diverted in judgement or opinion; to swerve from a path or line of conduct; to lean (towards a side or party). Obs.

¶1556 J. HEYWOOD *Spider & F.* xxv. 94 We sweie From the streight lyne of iustice. ¶1581 LAMBARDE *Eiren.* ii. iv. (1588) 166 The common opinion swayeth to the other side. ¶1594 R. CAREW *Huarte's Exam. Wits* iii. (1596) 24 With which of these opinions the truth swaieth, time serueth not now to discusse. ¶1599 SHAKES. *Hen. V.* i. i. 73 He seemes indifferent: Or rather swaying more vpon our part, Then cherishing th' exhibitors against vs. ¶1659 W. GUTHRIE *Chr. Gt. Interest* (1724) 80 This imports a Sort of Impropriation: For the Heart, pleasing that Device, in so far swayeth towards it. *Ibid.*, *Explic. Sc. Words*, To sway or swey towards a Thing, is to bend towards it.

8. trans. To wield as an emblem of sovereignty or authority; esp. in phr. to sway the sceptre, sway the sword (also, by extension, sway the diadem, sway the rule), to bear rule.

Cf. Du. den schepter zwaaien.

¶1575 GASCOIGNE *Weedes, In Praise of Gentlewoman* 5 Golden Marcus he, that swaide the Romaine sword. ¶1576 *Steele Gl.* (Arb.) 61 You should

not trust, lieftenaunts in your rome, And let them sway, the scepter of your charge. ¶1590 SPENSER *F.Q.* ii. x. 20 Madan was young, vnmeet the rule to sway. ¶1590 GREENE *Orl. Fur.* Wks. (Rtldg.) 99/1 It fits me not to sway the diadem. ¶1593 SHAKES. *3 Hen.* VI, iii. iii. 76 Though Vsurpers sway the rule a while. ¶1671 MILTON *P.R.* iii. 405 If I mean to raign David's true heir, and his full Scepter sway. ¶1750 GRAY *Elegy* 47 Hands, that the rod of empire might have sway'd. ¶a1828 H. NEELE *Lit. Rem.* (1829) 26 Had Charles I. continued to sway the English sceptre.

b. transf. To wield (an implement or instrument). poet.

¶c1600 SHAKES. *Sonn.* cxxviii, When thou gently sway'st, The wiry concord that mine eare confounds. ¶1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* ii. vii, This harp, which erst Saint Modan swayed. ¶1867 MORRIS *Jason* vi. 239 Erginous now, Great Neptune's so the brass-bound tiller swayed.

9. To rule, govern, as a sovereign. Chiefly poet.

¶1595 SHAKES. *John* i. i. 13 To lay aside the sword Which swaies vsurpingly these seuerall titles. *Ibid.* ii. i. 344 By this hand I sweare That swayes the earth this Climate ouerlookes. ¶1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* vi. viii. 502 The Great Turke swayeth with his Ottoman Scepter..this Kingdome of Tunis, and all Africa, from Bellis de Gomera to the Redde Sea. ¶1634 MILTON *Comus* 825 A gentle Nymph..That with moist curb sways the smooth Severn stream. ¶1709 WATTS *Hymn*, 'The Lord! how fearful is his Name' vi, Now let the Lord for ever reign, And sway us as he will. ¶1812 BYRON *Ch. Har.* ii. xlvii, With a bloody hand He sways a nation, turbulent and bold. ¶1896 A. AUSTIN *Eng. Darling* i. i, Buhred hath fled the land By him for two-and-twenty winters swayed.

b. transf. To have the command or control of; to control, direct.

¶1587 GOLDING *De Mornay* xxiv. (1592) 366 There must be some pretie speech of Fortune, which swayth the battels. As for God..not one word. ¶1590 SHAKES. *Mids. N.* i. i. 193 Teach me..with what art You sway the motion of Demetrius hart. *Ibid.* ii. ii. 115 The will of man is by his reason sway'd. ¶1665 BOYLE *Occas. Refl.* vi. iii. (1848) 352 Custom has much a larger Empire than men seem to be aware of, since whole Nations are wholly swa'd by it. ¶1791 BURKE *Corr.* (1844) III. 268, I have been long persuaded, that those in power here, instead of governing their ministers at foreign courts, are entirely swayed by them. ¶1874 GEO. ELIOT *Coll. Breakf. P.* 412 A sword..With edge so constant-threatening as to sway All greed and lust by terror.

10. intr. (occas. to sway it.) To rule; to hold sway. Also fig.

¶1565 J. PHILLIP *Patient Grissell* Pref. (Malone Soc.) 17 Let Grissills Patience sway in you. ¶1586 A. DAY *Engl. Secretary* i. (1625) 16 Yours while life swaieth within me. ¶1591 SHAKES. *1 Hen.* VI, iii. ii. 135 A gentler Heart did neuer sway in Court. ¶1615 ROWLANDS *Melanch. Knight* 23 For shee's a Gentlewoman (though I say it) That doth deserue to domineere and sway it. ¶1633 BP. HALL *Hard Texts 1 Cor.* vi. 3 Those evill and apostate spirits, which doe now sway so much in the world. ¶1667 MILTON *P.L.* x. 376 There let him still Victor sway, As Battel hath adjudg'd. ¶1711 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm. App.* v. 114 A tyrant is he..who swayes for his own onely pleasure. ¶1725 POPE *Odyss.* iii. 401 Lawless feasters in thy palace sway. ¶1853 J. HUNT *Spir. Songs, 'Let all the world rejoice'* ii, He rules by sea and land, O'er boundless realms he sways. ¶1886 A. T. PIERSON *Crisis of Missions* 117 Turkey..still sways over one million square miles.

11. To have a preponderating weight or influence, prevail. Obs.

This use combines senses 4 and 10.

¶1586 A. DAY *Engl. Secretary* i. (1625) 126 His counsell..swaieth not..in our mindes, so much as it might haue done with many others. ¶1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 586 Wee may understand..that gold swaieth much yea in Church matters, and among Church-men. ¶1647 N. BACON *Disc. Govt. Eng.* i. lxx. (1739) 187 Nor did the King's Proclamation sway much this or that way. ¶1710 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Let. to Mr. W. Montagu* 14 Nov., If my opinion could sway, nothing should displease you. ¶1768 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* I. i. v. §7. 96 To distinguish what motive actually swayed with him upon every particular occasion.

12. trans. To cause (a person, his actions, conduct, or thoughts) to be directed one way or another; to have weight or influence with (a person) in his decisions, etc.

¶1593 G. HARVEY *Pierce's Super. Wks.* (Grosart) II. 46 Had not affection otherwhiles swinged their reason, where reason should haue swayed their affection. ¶1605 B. JONSON *Volpone* iv. vi, Lady P. You shall sway me. ¶1674 CLARENDON *Surv. Leviath.* (1676) 108 Inclinations which sway them as much as other men. ¶1681 DRYDEN *Abs. & Achit.* i. 939 Thus long have I by Native Mercy sway'd, My Wrongs dissembl'd. ¶1743 BULKELEY & CUMMINS *Voy. S. Seas* 31 Believing we can sway most of the Seamen on Shore. ¶1760-2 GOLDSM. *Cit. W.* lvii, Swayed in their opinions by men who..are incompetent judges. ¶1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* xxxiii, The honour of an ancient family, the urgent advice of my best friends, have been in

vain used to sway my resolution. ¶1852 C. M. YONGE *Cameos* I. xii. 76 Bribery and every atrocious influence swayed the elections. ¶1870 MAX MÜLLER *Sci. Relig.* (1873) 292 The authority of their names continues to sway the public at large. ¶1892 *Speaker* 3 Sept. 279/1 The jury..was swayed by the customary ethical code in these matters.

13. To swing (a weapon or implement) about; dial. to swing (something) to and fro, or from one place to another. Also intr. to swing.

¶1590 SPENSER *F.Q.* i. xi. 42 When heauie hammers on the wedge are swaid. Ibid. iii. i. 66 She..Here, there, and every where, about her swayd Her wrathfull steele. ¶1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xlvi, Meg..lifted him into the vault 'as easily,' said he, 'as I could sway a Kitchen's Atlas.' ¶1818 S. E. FERRIER *Marriage* xxxii. (1881) I. 320 Do I look like as if I was capable of hindering boys from sweein' gates? ¶1822 HOGG *Perils of Man* iv. I. 60 Bairns, swee that bouking o' claes aff the fire. ¶1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* xxi, He..caught hold of one of the chains..and..swayed himself out of the water. ¶1894 P. H. HUNTER *James Inwick* xiv. 170 Ye've been sweein on the yett for a gey while.

14. Naut. (usually with up). To hoist, raise (esp. a yard or topmast).

¶1743 BULKELEY & CUMMINS *Voy. S. Seas* 15 He immediately gave Orders to sway the Fore-yard up. ¶1768 J. BYRON *Narr. Patagonia* (ed. 2) 15 He was going forward to get the fore~yard swayed up. ¶1835 MARRYAT *Jacob Faithful* xi, Forward there, Jacob, and sway up the mast. ¶1883 *Man. Seamanship for Boys* 61 A spanker is fitted with an outhaul and brails, the gaff being kept always swayed up in place.

b. absol.

¶1836 MARRYAT *Midsh. Easy* xii, How long will it be, sir, before you are ready to sway away? ¶1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* xvii, We got a whip on the main-yard, and, hooking it to a strap round her body, swayed away. ¶1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.*, Sway, or Sway away, to hoist simultaneously; particularly applied to the lower yards and top~masts, and topgallant-masts and yards. To sway away on all top-ropes, to go great lengths (colloquially).

c. To weigh (anchor). Obs.

¶1772-84 *Cook's Voy.* (1790) IV. 1405 The gale having subsided they swayed the anchor.

shrewd a.

(fru:d)

[ME. schrewed-e, etc., prob. orig. f. shrew n.2 (? or n.1) + -ed2. Cf. crabbed, dogged, wicked (all early ME.); the two former suggest the possibility that the animal (n.1) is alluded to. This formation coincided with the pa. pple. of shrew v., which may be the source of some of the senses; cf. the similar use of cursed.]

1. a. Of persons, their qualities, actions, etc.: Depraved, wicked; evil-disposed, malignant. Passing into a weaker sense: Malicious, mischievous. dial.

α ¶1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 4904 Ryche men haue shrewed sonys,—Shrewys yn dede and yn sawe. ¶13.. LAY *Folks Catech.* (MS. L) 139 Envy to oure ney3bore with oþer schrewde castys. ¶c1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* II. 349 Sclaundris and oþir shrewid wordis. ¶c1400 *Beryn* 1079 Fawnus..was set oppon a purpose to make his sone leue All his shrewde tacchis. ¶c1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 7330 Þe schrewed sonn of þe fende. Ibid. 7742 A schrewyd counsaile toke þai þan. ¶1470-85 MALORY *Arthur* ix. xviii. 366 Whan he dyd ony shrewd dede they wold bete hym with rodde. ¶1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 35/1 Thenemye the fende with his angellis cursed and shrewd. ¶c1490 *Rule St. Benet* 122 Kepe euer your tongue from euyll and shrewde langage, & speke lytyll & well. ¶1548 CRANMER *Catech.* 165 Our owne euyl workes and shrewed wylles. ¶1570 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xviii. 62 Schrewit is that seruice 3e haif schawin to 3our King. ¶1590 SHAKES. *Mids. N.* ii. i. 33 That shrew'd and knauish spirit Cal'd Robin Good-fellow. ¶1612 DAY *Festivals* ii. (1615) 29 How do they pule & cry? nay, how wil they shew a shrewd stomach or ever they can go or speake? ¶1634 MILTON *Comus* 846 All urchin blasts, and ill luck signes That the shrewd medling Elfe delights to make. ¶1879 G. F. JACKSON *Shropsh. Word-bk., Shrewd* (s'roa:d),...(shr'oa:d),...badly-disposed; wicked; vicious. 'E's gwun a despert srōde lad.'

β ¶1547 BOORDE *Brev. Health* cccxxix, Beware of anger, for it is a shrode hert that maketh al the body fare the worse. ¶1606 DEKKER *Seuen Deadly Sinnes* iii. Wks. (Grosart) II. 48 Drunkards, Vnthriftes and shrode Husbonds.

γ ¶13.. *Beues* (A.) 4498 Par was a Lombard in þe toun, Pat was scherewed & feloun. ¶14.. CHAUCER'S *H. Fame* 275 (Caxton), Ther may be vnder goodlyhede Couerd many a sherewd vyce.

b. Of children: Naughty. Obs.

¶[1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 91b, These ben called..capytall vyces, bycause other shrewde children ryseth of them.] ¶a1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. IV*, 9 Experience teacheth, that..of a shreude boye, proveth a good man. ¶1584 COGAN *Haven Health* cii. 89, I haue knowen..many a shreude boye

for the desire of Apples, to haue broken into other folkes orchardes. ¶1588 SHAKES. *L.L.L.* v. ii. 12 He [Cupid] hath beene fīue thousand yeeres a Boy. Kath. I and a shrewd vnhappy gallowes too. ¶1645 BP. HALL *Treat. Content.* 77 The best of us are but shrewd children.

c. Of animals: Of evil disposition, bad-tempered; vicious, fierce; = cursed 4b. Obs.

¶1509 WATSON *Ship of Fools* vi. (1517) Bvīj, Oftentymes a mylde bytche bryngeth forth shrewed whelpes. ¶?a1533 FRITH *Another Bk. agst. Rastell* (1829) 242 And may be likened to a shrewd cow, which, when she hath given a large mess of milk, turneth it down with her heel. ¶1546 HEYWOOD *Prov.* i. x. (1867) 22 God sendth the shrewd coow short hornes. ¶1547-50 BAULDWIN *Mor. Philos.* iv. Qiv, As to a shrewde horse belongeth a sharpe brydle: so oughte a shrewde wyfe to be sharpely handeled. ¶1607 MARKHAM *Caval.* ii. 96 The practice of some Horse-men..to tie a shrewd Cat to a Poale, with her heade and feete at libertie, and so thrusting it vnder the horses bellye,..to make her..clawe him. ¶1630 DRAYTON *Noah's Flood* 319 [They] together sat By the shrewd Muncky, Babian, and the Ape.

2. Of material things (esp. animals): Mischievous, hurtful; dangerous, injurious. Obs.

¶c1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 4431 An Axe had he þan an honde, A shrewedere wepene for to fonde Was neuere non yfounde. ¶1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 335 Wel schrewed mys [mures nocentissimos]. ¶1398 Barth. *De P.R.* v. xxviii. (Bodl. MS.), Blaynes..comeþ of schrewed and corrupt humours.

¶1399 LANGL. *Rich. Redeles* iii. 20 Þoru busschis and bromes þis beste.. Secheth and sercheth þo schrewed wormes. ¶c1400 MANDEVILLE (1839) v. 46 Egipt is a strong Contree: for it hathe manye schrewede Havenes, because of the grete Roches. ¶c1450 *Robyn & Gandeley* vi. (Child Ball.), There cam a schrewde arwe out of þe west. ¶1493 *Festyvall* 31b, They wyll slee theym with a shrewed knyfe. That is with the euyll and cursed tonge. ¶1593 SHAKES. *Rich. II*, iii. ii. 59 To lift shrewd Steele against our Golden Crowne.

¶1607-12 BACON *Ess., Of Wisdome for a Mans selfe* (Arb.) 182 An Ant..is a shrewd thing, in an Orchard, or a garden. ¶1621 DONNE *Serm.* xv. (1640) 148 The Bulls of Babylon, the shrewdest Bulls of all, in temporall, in spirituall persecutions.

3. a. Of things (chiefly immaterial): Of evil nature, character, or influence; ill-conditioned, bad, vile. Obs.

¶1382 WYCLIF *Luke* iii. 5 Schrewide thingis [prava] schulen be in to dres-sid thingis. ¶1387-8 T. USK *Test. Love* ii. vi. (Skeat) l. 72 Right so he is a

shrewe, on whom shreude thinges and badde han most werchinge. ¶c1400 *Beryn* 2613 They have a custom, a shrewid for the nonys, Yf [etc.]. ¶c1470 HENRY *Wallace* ii. 94 At thi shrewed ws thow wenys me to leid. ¶1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* ii. viii. 57 The eddir, with schrewit herbis fed. ¶1519 *Interl. Four Elem.* (ed. Pollard) 438 Though he loke never so well, I promyse you he hath a shrewde smell. ¶c1535 *Frere & Boy* 283 The good wyffe sayd, wer hast thou be? In schrewyd plas as thynkys me. ¶1644 MILTON *Areop.* 16 There are shrewd books, with dangerous Frontispices set to sale. ¶1678 in *Lauderdale Papers* (1885) III. 140 His Majtie did highly signify his displeasure against Sir William Lowther... The shreud effects whereof he has since tasted.

b. Of reputation, opinion, meaning: Evil, bad, unfavourable. Obs.

¶c1384 CHAUCER *H. Fame* 1619, Y graunte yow That ye shal haue a shrewde fame And wikkyd loos. ¶1527 in Froude *Hist. Eng.* (1881) I. 523 note, Some of them, as Master Dean hath known a long time, hath had a shrewd name. ¶1565 COOPER *Thesaurus* s.v. Commode, To be ill reported of: to haue a shrewde name. ¶1598 SHAKES. *Merry W.* ii. ii. 232 Shee enlargeth her mirth so farre, that there is shrewd construction made of her. ¶1621 T. WILLIAMSON tr. *Goulart's Wise Vieillard* 82 Many men..giue good things a shrewd vnhappie, and wrong name. ¶1664 H. MORE *Apology* 491 That spirit is not of God, but in some shreud sense or other is the spirit of Antichrist.

c. Poor, unsatisfactory. Obs.

α ¶1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 2 1126 Thow hast..Mad a shrewde marchaundyse. ¶1470-85 MALORY *Arthur* ix. xxiv. 375 There is shrewde herberowe..lodge where ye will, for I wille not lodge there. ¶1525 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* II. viii. 17 They will make a shrewde marchaundyce for vs. ? ¶1537 *Thersytes* 146 (Pollard) He that should medle with me shall have shrewde rest! ¶1565 COOPER *Thesaurus*, Coenare malum., to suppe with sorow and shrewde rest. ¶a1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* i. (Sommer) 26b, The Helots..would haue giuen a shrewd welcome to the [invading] Arcadians.

β ¶1593 *Tell-Troth's N.Y. Gift* (1876) 8 You might haue tooke better heede, and It was your owne fault, are two shrode plasters for a greene wound. ¶1616 *Marlowe's Faustus* (ed. Brooke) 990 By Lady sir, you haue had a shroud iourney of it.

d. In bad physical condition (the precise meaning varying with the application); in bad order; ugly; tough. Obs.

¶c1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* ii. cxxvi. (1869) 123, j can with good vynture

enoynte a shrewede wheel that cryeth. ¶1526 SKELTON *Magnyf.* (E.E.T.S.) 1155 With a shrewde face uilis imago. ¶1571 GOLDING *Calvin on Ps.* xviii. 26 A shrewd knot must haue a shrewd wedge [malo nodo quærendum esse malum cuneum]. ¶1593 *Tell-Troth's N.Y. Gift* (1876) 34 The young tree will stoup, when the old shrewd cannot bend.

4. Of events, affairs, conditions: Fraught or attended with evil or misfortune; having injurious or dangerous consequences; vexatious, irksome, hard; (of a task) difficult, dangerous. Obs.

α ¶1508 STANBRIDGE *Vulgaria* (W. de W.) Bvj, It is shrewed to lape with naked swerdes. ¶1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* v. ix. 64 The feirfull spa men therof pronosticate Schrewit chancis to betyde. ¶1531 FRITH *Judgm. upon Tracy* Wks. (1572) 79 Those holy fathers were in shreud cause, which continuing in long penurie, scant left at theyr departing, a halfe pennie. ¶1563-83 FOXE *A. & M.* 1936/2, I aduise thee beware of the fire, it is a shrewd matter to burne. ¶1595 SHAKES. *John* v. v. 14 Ah fowle, shrew'd newes.

¶1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 711 Strangers haue more shrewd entertainment, and scarsely in twentie daies..can shake off this Shaker [ague]. ¶1623 MIDDLETON *More Dissemblers* iii. ii, By'r Lady a shrewd business, and a dangerous. ¶1627 DONNE *Serm.* xxii. (1640) 222 The King, that comes after a good Predecessour, hath a shrewd burthen upon him. ¶1632 ROWLEY *New Wonder* iii. i. E3, Sir, 'tis a shrewd taske. ¶1821 J. BAILLIE *Metr. Leg., Lady G. B.* liv, The times are shrewd, my treasures spent.

β ¶1482 *Cely Papers* (Camden) 108 Wee fere here that ther weil be schrode passage to thys Balling martt. ¶1536 *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, II. 355, I promes you I am in a schroyd case, oneles the Kinges highe Majestie..do see redresse in suche causes. ¶1538 STARKEY *England* i. iii. 79 Yf the yeomanry of Englund were not, in tyme of warre we schold be in schrode case. ¶1573 G. HARVEY *Letter-bk.* (Camden) 11 This singulariti in philosophi is like to grow to a shrode matter.

5. shrewd turn: **a.** a mischievous or malicious act (arch.); **b.** a piece of misfortune, an accident (obs.).

¶1464 PASTON *Lett.* 29 Feb., He wold do Debenham a shrewd turne and he coud. ¶1530 PALSGR. 712/2, I provoke..him to do a shreude tourne. ¶1565 COOPER *Thesaurus* s.v. Fero, Infortunium ferre,..to haue a shrewde turne. ¶1593 *Passionate Morrice* (1876) 76 As a dogge doth that is crept into a hole, hauing done a shroude turne. ¶1612 BRINSLEY *Lud. Lit.* 9 They are..sent to the schoole to keepe them..from danger, and shrewd turnes.

¶1642 D. ROGERS *Naaman* 282 The nurses eie attends the feeble infant,

for feare of shrewd turnes. ¶1660 JER. TAYLOR *Duct. Dubit.* ii. i. rule 5 §3 They can doe a good turne or a shrewd. ¶1702 *Engl. Theophrastus* 204 No enemy is so despicable but some time or other he may do a body a shrewd turn. ¶1724 DE FOE *Mem. Cavalier* (1840) 211 That town owed us a shrewd turn for having handled them coarsely.

6. As an intensive, qualifying a word denoting something in itself bad, irksome, or undesirable: Grievous, serious, 'sore'.

a. of injury, loss, disease, etc. Obs.

α ¶1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VI. 357 Þe evel þat hatte ficus, þat is a schrewed evel. ¶1461 PASTON *Lett.* II. 4 Ther was shrewd rewle toward in this cuntre. ¶1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* i. 132b, He gaue a shrewd checke to ye vnmeasurable praiser. ¶1592 *Soliman & P.* 426 A shrewd losse, by my faith, sir. ¶1593 SHAKES. 2 *Hen.* VI, ii. iii. 41 Humfrey, Duke of Gloster, scarce himselfe, That beares so shrewd a mayme. ¶1606 CHAPMAN *Gent. Usher* ii. i. 25, I have been hanted..with a shrewd fever. ¶1609 G. ARCHER in *Purchas Pilgrims* (1625) IV. 1734 Some three or foure dayes after her, came in the Swallow,..and had a shrewd leake. ¶1626 B. JONSON *Staple of News* i. Interm. 73 O, but the poore man had got a shrewd mischance, one day. ¶1658 A. FOX *Wurtz' Surg.* iii. x. 248 A Wound closed up, where a piece of the vein is yet unhealed,..will cause shrewd Imposthumes. ¶1713 C'TESS OF WINCHILSEA *Misc. Poems* 180 Meeting with a shrewd mischance. ¶1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* xxxi, That is a shrewd loss.

β ¶1482 CELY *Papers* (Camden) 112 Hytt woll be a shrode losse. ¶1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* 441 With shrowde fines eftsoones redoubled, if not answered. ¶1612 N. FIELD *Woman is a Weathercock* ii. i, Mrs. Wag...Haulke, hauke. [Coughs and spits.] Page. Shee has a shrowde reach, I see that. ¶1623 BRADFORD *Plymouth Plant.* (1856) 150 His father suffered a shrowd check.

b. of temptation. Obs.

¶1601 *Death Rob. Earl Hunt.* iv. ii. in Hazl. Dodsley VIII. 297, I know thou shalt be offer'd wealth, Which is a shrewd enticement in sad want. ¶1650 FULLER *Pisgah* iii. ii. xii. 437 A shroud bait to tempt his hungry souldiers to sacriledge. ¶1696 WHISTON *Theory Earth* 61 They were under a shrewd Temptation of thinking very meanly of the Bible it self.

c. Qualifying an agent-noun. Obs.

¶1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 171 marg., Timorousnesse a shrewd hinderer of enterprises. ¶1591 SHAKES. 1 *Hen.* VI, i. ii. 123 These women are shrewd tempters with their tongues.

d. 'Hard to beat', formidable. rare—1.

¶1851 BORROW *Lavengro* xii, I was now a shrewd walker, thanks to constant practice.

e. As a vague intensive. Obs.

¶a1643 W. CARTWRIGHT *Ordinary* iv. i, Caster. He threw twice twelve. Credulous. By'r lady, a shrewd many!

7. Of persons and their actions: Severe, harsh, stern. Obs.

¶1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 379 Oure men beþ schrewed and angry inow to hem self, but in Goddes seruauntes þey leye neuere no hond.

¶c1470 HENRY *Wallace* ix. 1424 The captane than a schrewed ansuer him gaiff. ¶a1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* ii. xvi, She being sharp-set vpon the fulfilling of a shrewde office in over-looking Philoclea.

¶1600 HOLLAND *Livy* xxvii. xxxiv. 654 The hard and shrewd dealings of a mans countrie. ¶1654 BRAMHALL *Just Vind.* vi. 133 The Bishop..gave him..such a shrew'd remembrance, partly with words, and partly with his crosier staffe.

8. Severe, sharp, hard.

a. Of a blow, wound. arch.

¶1481 CAXTON *Reynard* (Arb.) 27 They..gauen hym many a shrewde stroke. ¶a1500 *Brut* 593 This shal be þe shrewdest bofet þat euer thow yovyst.

¶1596 LODGE *Wit's Misery* (1879) 92 Hee [the devil] will giue a shroud wound with his tongue. ¶1597 SHAKES. 2 *Hen.* IV, ii. iv. 228 Me thought hee made a shrewd thrust at your Belly.

¶1647 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* i. 39 Many..were drowned, or forced on shore with shrewd hurts, and bruises. ¶a1713 T. ELLWOOD *Hist. Life* (1714) 237 He struck her with the Stick, a shrewd Blow over the Breast.

¶1872 MORLEY *Voltaire* (1886) 9/1 The shrewd thrusts, the flashing fire, with which the hated Voltaire pushed on his work of 'crushing the Infamous'. ¶1885 V. L. CAMERON *Across Africa* xvi. (ed. 2) 224 One or two got some shrewd knocks.

b. Of conflict or effort. Obs.

¶1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 43 To abide other bitter brundes and shrewde skirmishes of aduersitie. ¶1630 R. *Johnson's Kingd. & Commw.*

111 Foure thousand men would have made a shrewd adventure to have taken his Indies from him. ¶1682 BUNYAN *Holy War* (1905) 412 Many a shrewd brush did some of the Townsmen meet with from them.

¶1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 21 They adventure with better force, and in shrewder Battels.

9. Sharp, piercing, keen. **a.** Of a weapon or the like; also of pain. arch. (After Shakes.: see quot. 1593 in 2.)

¶1842 TENNYSON *St. Sim. Styl.* 195 A sting of shrewdest pain Ran shrivelling thro' me. ¶1871 R. ELLIS *Catullus* lxxxiii. 5 A shrewder stimulus arms her, Anger. ¶1878 BROWNING *Poets Croisic* 107 Sharpest shrewdest steel that ever stabbed To death Imposture.

b. Of the air, wind, weather.

¶1642 D. ROGERS *Naaman* 96 There comes a shrewd right winde, and gets into the hollow of the tree. ¶1784 COWPER *Task* iii. 581 All plants..that can endure The winter's frown, if screen'd from his shrewd bite. ¶1824 W. IRVING *T. Trav.* I. 23 The night was shrewd and windy. ¶1849 ROSSETTI *Ruggiero & Angelica* 9 The sky is harsh, and the sea shrewd and salt. ¶1864 LOWELL *Fireside Trav.* 337 That shrewd Yorkshire atmosphere. ¶1894 CROCKETT *Raiders* xviii, The air was shrewd as it breathed from the north. advb. ¶1603 SHAKES. *Ham.* (Qo.) 400 The ayre bites shrewd [Qo. 1604 shroudly]; it is an eager and An nipping winde.

c. Of sound: Harsh. rare.

¶1876 SWINBURNE *Erechtheus* 10 The song-notes of our fear, Shrewd notes and shrill, not clear or joyful-sounding.

10. a. Of a sign, token, etc.: Of ill omen, ominous; hence, strongly indicative (of something unfavourable).

¶1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* iv. (1586) 177 Be sure to marke them well..whether they go all out or no: for if they doe, it is a shrewde signe they will away. ¶1619 T. TAYLOR *Titus* ii. 8 Bitternesse [is] a shrewd signe of a bad cause. ¶1630 DONNE *Serm.* xiii. (1640) 135 If our own heart..condemne us, this is shrewd evidence, saies S. Iohn. ¶1691 NORRIS *Pract. Disc.* 186 'Tis a shrewd Symptom of an ill habit of Body. ¶1692 BP. PATRICK *Answ. Touchstone* 262 We hear not a word of Fathers to countenance this Doctrine, which is a shrow'd sign it is so far from being Ancient, that they speak directly against it. ¶1732 BERKELEY *Alciph.* vi. §17 When a man is against reason, it is a shrewd sign reason is against him.

b. Of probability, etc. Obs.

¶1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* i. 149 A good plain maner of knowelage geuyng it was & a shrewd likelihood. ¶1619 SCLATER *Expos. 1 Thess.* v. 554 To array our selues..aboue our Calling [is] no lesse then Pride; at least a shrewd species and appearance of it. ¶1709 SHAFTESBURY *Moralists* ii. 52 If Pain be Ill..we have..a shrewd Chance on the ill side, but none at all on the better.

11. Of a piece of evidence: Hard to get over, 'awkward', damaging. arch.

¶1606 HOLLAND *Sueton. Annot.* 4 If his Questour or Treasurer had beene condemned, it would haue beene a shrewde precedent for his conviction also in the same cause. ¶1633 LAUD in *Strafford Lett.* (1739) I. 213, I am afraid that many of them will be found Guilty: You give me one shrewd Instance in the Bishop of Waterford. ¶1692 *Vindiciæ Carol.* ii. 31 The pinching Article against him [Strafford] was the Twenty third... A shrewd Article no doubt, and sufficiently evidences their Crime. ¶1849 H. MILLER *Footpr. Creator* xv. 310 A shrewd fact, which they who expect most from the future of this world would do well to consider.

12. a. Given to railing or scolding; shrewish. Obs.

α ¶1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) III. 285 Tweie schrewed [ligitiosissimas] wifes þat wolde alway chide and stryve. ¶1483 CAXTON *G. de la Tour* D vij b, The tale and matere of the euyll and shrewde wyues. ¶1550 COVERDALE *Spir. Perle* xv, His [Socrates'] curst and shrewd wife. ¶1599 SHAKES. *Much Ado* ii. i. 20 Thou wilt neuer get thee a husband, if thou be so shrewd of thy tongue. ¶1605 CAMDEN *Rem.* (1623) 250 Somewhat shrewd to her Seruants. ¶a1661 FULLER *Worthies, Shropsh.* (1662) 2 The Poets faining Juno, chaste and thrifty, qualities which commonly attend a shrewd nature.

β ¶a1500 *Brome Bk.* 11 The properte of a schrod qwen ys to have hyr wyll.

? ¶c1530 in *Pol. Rel. & Love Poems*, etc. (1903) 58 Thowe shalte bettyr chastise a shrode wyfe with myrthe, then with strokes or smytyng. ¶1596 SHAKES. *Tam. Shr.* i. ii. 70 As old as Sibell, and as curst and shrow'd As Socrates Zentippe.

b. Of words, language: Scolding, railing, abusive. Obs.

¶1538 CROMWELL in *Merriman Life & Lett.* (1902) II. 128 If ye had..sowght fully to instructe me in the matier, then thus to desire to conquer me by shrowde wordes. ¶1565 COOPER *Thesaurus* s.v. Confero, Maledicta in aliquem, to rayle at one; to geue shrewde woordes. ¶1606 HOLLAND *Sueton.* 191 She had reviled him & given him shrewd words. ¶1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* x. 488 With shrew'd Acerbious speech, you Anathematize. ¶a1661 FULLER *Worthies, London* (1662) 197 Shrewd words are sometimes improved into smart blows betwixt them.

13. a. In early use: Cunning, artful (obs.). Now only in favourable sense: Clever or keen-witted in practical affairs; astute or sagacious in action or speech. (The chief current sense.)

α ¶1520 CALISTO & MELIB. in Hazl. *Dodsley* I. 60 Seeming to be sheep,

and serpently shrewd. ¶1589 PUTTENHAM *Engl. Poesie* iii. xxi. (Arb.) 257 Least with their shrewd wits, when they were married they might become a little too phantasticall wiues. ¶1638 JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* 47 By acting sharpe old men, shrewd servants,..and all such parts as did require some noise and stirre. ¶a1700 EVELYN *Diary* 15 June 1675, His lady had ben very handsome, and seem'd a shrewd understanding woman. ¶1706 STANHOPE *Paraphr.* III. 331 The Men of the World are abundantly more shrewd in the Business of it, than even Good Men are in the Management of their great and eternal Concern. ¶1807-8 W. IRVING *Salmag.* (1824) 228 A shrewd old gentleman, who stood listening by with a mischievously equivocal look. ¶1867 SMILES *Huguenots Eng.* ii. (1880) 25 Palissy was..by nature a shrewd observer and an independent thinker. ¶1880 L. STEPHEN *Pope* iv. 102 A woman of shrewd intellect and masculine character. ¶1884 TENNYSON *Falcon* i. i. 468 Lady, I find you a shrewd bargainer.

absol. ¶1867 LOWELL *Fitz Adam's Story* 360 Hard-headed and soft-hearted, you'd scarce meet A kinder mixture of the shrewd and sweet.

β ¶1594 NASHE *Unfort. Trav.* B4b, They told the King he was a foole, and that some shrowd head had knauishly wrought on him. ¶1605 CHAPMAN *All Fools* iv. i. H2, Rinal. Y'aue gotten a learned Notarie Signior Cornelio. Corn. Hees a shrood fellow indeed. ¶1606 SHAKES. *Tr. & Cr.* i. ii. 206 He has a shrow'd wit.

b. Of action, speech: Cunning, artful (obs.); characterized by penetration or practical sagacity.

¶1589 ? Nashe *Pasquill & Marforius* B 1, Whereuppon they presume to make a shrewde scruple of their obedience. ¶1649 MILTON *Eikon.* xxvi. 502 The shrewdest and the cunningest obloquie that can be thrown upon thir actions. ¶1761 HUME *Hist. Eng.* II. xxvii. 120 Empson made a shrewd apology for himself. ¶1781 COWPER *Table-T.* 205 The cause..may yet elude Conjecture and remark, however shrewd. ¶1824 W. IRVING *T. Trav.* II. 259 An eminent man, who had waxed wealthy by driving shrewd bargains with the Indians. ¶1882 J. H. BLUNT *Ref. Ch. Eng.* II. 113 Taking shrewd advantage of the Lord Chancellor's unlucky mistake. ¶1884 R. W. CHURCH *Bacon* iii. 59 He liked to observe, to generalise in shrewd and sometimes cynical epigrams.

c. Of the face or look.

¶1816 SCOTT *Antiq.* i, A shrewd and penetrating eye. ¶1877 MRS. FORRESTER *Mignon* i, Fred Conyngham..has a plain, shrewd face. ¶1877

BLACK *Green Past.* iii, The shaggy, dark brown eyebrows gave shadow and intensity to the shrewd and piercing grey eyes.

14. Of a suspicion or guess: Coming 'dangerously' near to the truth of the matter. (?Partly arising from sense 10.)

¶1588 J. HARVEY *Disc. Probl.* 127, I denie not but the wisest..politiques may..giue a shrewd gesse, and go neare the marke. ¶1599 Warn. *Faire Women* ii. 1025 Should you be guilty of this fact, As this your flight hath given shrewde suspition. ¶1604 SHAKES. *Oth.* iii. iii. 429 'Tis a shrew'd doubt, though it be but a Dreame. ¶1653 H. MORE *Antid. Ath.* iii. xii. §3 It is a shrewd presumption that he doth lie with them indeed. ¶1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* li, I have a shrewd idea that it is a humbug.

15. Comb., as shrewd-eyed, shrewd-headed, shrewd-hearted, shrewd-looking, shrewd-pated, shrewd-tongued, shrewd-wit, shrewd-working adjs.; shrewd-head Austral. and N.Z. slang, a cunning person.

¶c1440 *Prompt. Parv.* 449/1 Schrewyd hertyd, pravicors. ¶1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* ii. (Arb.) 47 The priest Calchas was brought by the shrewdwytt Vlisses. ¶1607 HIERON *Wks.* I. 197 A shrewd-tongued woman. ¶1628 FORD *Lover's Mel.* iv. ii, A shrewd-braine Whorson; there's pith In his vn-toward plainenesse. ¶1629 MAXWELL tr. *Herodian* (1635) 199 A notable shrewd-pated Fellow. ¶1827 LYTTON *Pelham* xvi, She was a pretty, fair, shrewd-looking person. ¶1856 J. G. WHITTIER *Panorama* 9 The shrewd-eyed salesman, garrulous and loud. ¶1865 KINGSLEY *Herew.* ix, The .. shrewdest-headed .. Berserker in the North Seas. ¶1916 C. J. DENNIS *Songs Sentimental Bloke* 43 Now this 'ere gorspil bloke's a fair shrewd 'ead.

¶1946 J. MORRISON in *Coast to Coast* 163 Some shrewd-head overseas will get the blame for that pillaged case. ¶1959 *Daily Tel.* 20 May 17/1 A smiling, shrewd-eyed woman. ¶1960 N. HILLIARD *Maori Girl* iii. i. 177 Only the shrewd-heads go for that hard stuff: the shysters the takes.

perspicacity n.

(pəˈspɪˈkæsɪtɪ)

[ad. L. *perspicacitās*, f. *perspicāx*: see prec. and -ity: cf. F. *perspicacité* (15-16th c. in Hatz.-Darm.).]

1. Keenness of sight. Obs. or arch.

¶1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 493 From these fables of Lynceus came the opinion of the singular perspicacity of the beast Linx. ¶1646 SIR T.

BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* i. ii. 5 Nor can there any thing escape the perspicacity of those eyes which were before light, and unto whose opticks there is no opacity.

¶1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1862) II. ii. vii. 55 The barn-owl..watches in the dark, with the utmost perspicacity and perseverance.

2. Clearness of understanding or insight; penetration, discernment.

¶1548 BECON *Solace of Soule* Wks. (1560) ii. 115 Thou shalte neuer by the perspycacyte and quyckenes of thy owne reason perceyue how it maye be possible. ¶1663 BP. PATRICK *Parab. Pilgr.* xxviii. (1668) 323 The greatest wits want perspicacity in things that respect their own interest. ¶1779-81 JOHNSON *L.P., Blackmore* Wks. III. 173 [This] is the only reproach which all the perspicacity of malice..has ever fixed upon his private life. ¶1809-10 COLERIDGE *Friend* (1865) 153 A masterpiece of perspicacity as well as perspicuity. ¶1838 PRESCOTT *Ferd. & Is.* (1846) III. xvi. 183 She showed the same perspicacity in the selection of her agents. ¶1876 GLADSTONE *Homeric Synchr.* 61 Lessing, in his Laocoon, has discussed with luminous perspicacity [etc.].

astute a.

(ə'stju:t)

[(? a. F. *astut*) ad. L. *astūtus*, lengthened form of *astus* crafty, cunning.]

Of keen penetration or discernment, esp. in regard to one's own interests; shrewd, subtle, sagacious; wily, cunning, crafty.

¶1611 COTGR., *Astut*, astute, crafty, subtile, wily, guilefull. ¶1634 SIR M. SANDYS *Prudence* 168 Wee terme those most Astute, which are most Versute. [Not in Johnson 1755.] ¶1829 I. TAYLOR *Enthus.* x. 258 The astute atheism of Greece and Rome. ¶1878 R. B. SMITH *Carthage* 331 He had, with the astute fickleness of a barbarian, come to a secret understanding with Scipio.

obtuse a.

(əb'tju:s)

[ad. L. *obtūs-us* dulled, blunt, pa. pple. of *obtundere* to obtund. Cf. F. *obtus*, -use (1542 in Hatz.-Darm.).]

Blunt (in various senses): opp. to acute.

1. lit. Of a blunt form; not sharp or pointed: esp. in *Nat. Hist.* of parts or organs of animals or plants. The opposite of acute.

¶1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* ii. xi[i]. (Arb.) 114 Such shape as might not be sharpe..to passe as an angle, nor so large or obtuse as might not essay some issue out with one part moe then other as the rounde. ¶1657 S. PURCHAS *Pol. Flying-Ins.* 6 Their tails are somewhat sharp (the Drones more obtuse). ¶1660 BOYLE *New Exp. Phys. Mech.* xxxix. 322 An Oval Glass..with a short Neck at the obtuser end. ¶1753 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* Supp. s.v. Leaf, Obtuse Leaf, one terminated by the segment of a circle. ¶1767 GOOCH *Treat. Wounds* I. 237 A blow with an obtuse weapon. ¶1845 LINDLEY *Sch. Bot.* i. (1858) 10 Leaves are obtuse, or acute, in the ordinary sense of those words. ¶1877-84 HULME *Wild Fl.* p. viii, Spur stout, and obtuse.

2. Geom. Of a plane angle: Greater than a right angle; exceeding 90°.

obtuse bisectrix: the line bisecting an obtuse angle, e.g. between the optic axes of a crystal. **obtuse cone:** a cone of which the section by a plane through the axis has an obtuse angle at the vertex. **obtuse hyperbola:** a hyperbola lying within the obtuse angles between its asymptotes.

¶1570 BILLINGSLEY *Euclid* i. def. x. 3 An obtuse angle is that which is greater then a right angle. ¶1633 P. FLETCHER *Purple Isl.* iii. xxi, Into two obtuser angles bended. ¶1701 GREW *Cosm. Sacra* ii. v. §18 All Salts are Angular; with Obtuse, Right, or Acute Angles. ¶1879 WRIGHT *Anim. Life* 6 This bone forms an obtuse angle with the pelvis.

3. fig. Not acutely affecting the senses; indistinctly felt or perceived; dull.

¶1620 VENNER *Via Recta* ii. 31 The wine..carrieth the same, which otherwise is of an obtuse operation, vnto all the parts [of the body]. ¶1726 SWIFT *To a Lady*, Bastings heavy, dry, obtuse. ¶1790 CRAWFORD in *Phil. Trans.* LXXX. 426, I..felt an obtuse pain..in my stomach. ¶1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 126 Pain, sharp or obtuse.

4. Not acutely sensitive or perceptive; dull in feeling or intellect, or exhibiting such dullness; stupid, insensible. (In quot. 1606, Rough, unpolished: = BLUNT a. 4.)

¶1509 HAWES *Past. Pleas.* xiii. (Percy Soc.) 113, I am but yonge, it is to me obtuse Of these maters to presume to endyte. ¶1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* i. iii. Wks. 1856 I. 79, I scorne to retort the obtuse jeast of a foole. ¶1606 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* xvi. civ. (1612) 408 Obtuse in phrase.

¶1667 MILTON *P.L.* xi. 541 Thy Senses then Obtuse, all taste of pleasure must foregoe. ¶1829 SCOTT *Anne of G.* ii, Obtuse in his understanding, but kind and faithful in his disposition. ¶1885 M. BLIND *Tarantella* I. xi. 121 We were too obtuse to understand their peculiar way of manifesting it.

5. Comb., as **obtuse-angled**, having an obtuse angle or angles (also **obtuse-angular** rare—0); also in Nat. Hist., with another adj., expressing a combination of forms, as **obtuse-ellipsoid**.

¶1660 BARROW *Euclid* i. Def. xxvii, An Amblygonium, or obtuse-angled Triangle, is that which has one angle obtuse. ¶1706 PHILLIPS, *Obtuse-angled Cone*. ¶1878 A. H. GREEN, etc. *Coal* iv. 146 The two types of fin-structure are sometimes distinguished as obtuse-lobate and acute-lobate. ¶1882 OGILVIE, *Obtuse-angular*, having obtuse angles.

trenchant a. (n.)

(ˈtrɛn(t)ʃənt)

[a. OF. trenchant (mod.F. tranchant), pr. pple. of trenchier, trancher to cut; see trench v. and -ant.]

1. Cutting, adapted for cutting; having a keen edge, sharp; sharp-pointed (obs.). arch. and poet.

¶c1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 4414 Nemny on þe heued he smot; Hit was trenchaunt, ouer fer hit bot. ¶c1380 *Sir Ferumb*. 537 Ich hem wolde wel conquere wiþ my swerd trenchaunt. ¶c1400 MANDEVILLE (1839) v. 47 This monstre..hadde ij hornes trenchant on his forhede.

¶c1470 HENRY *Wallace* iv. 662 The trensand blaid to-persyt euirydeill.

¶c1477 CAXTON *Jason* 8 b, Jason smote another Centaure in the nekke with a trenchaunt arowe. ¶1590 SPENSER *F.Q.* i. i. 17 He..with his trenchand blade her boldly kept From turning backe. ¶1663 BUTLER *Hud.* i. i. 359 The trenchant Blade, Toledo trusty, For want of fighting was grown rusty. ¶a1774 GOLDSM. *Surv. Exp. Philos.* (1776) I. 236 The thin or trenchant end [of the wedge] is applied to the timber to be cleft, and the thick end struck upon by an hammer. ¶1830 TENNYSON '*Clear-headed friend*' ii, Nor martyr-flames, nor trenchant swords Can do away that ancient lie.

b. Zool. Of a tooth, bill, etc.: Having a cutting edge; sectorial.

¶1831 MCMURTRIE *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* II. 136 In a fourth tribe [of fishes], the teeth are trenchant. It comprises two genera, Boops and Oblada.

¶1835-6 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* I. 312/2 Trenchant bills which are..flattened horizontally. ¶1881 MIVART *Cat* 29 The lower molar..having a more completely trenchant form than any other tooth.

c. transf., or in fig. or allusive use.

¶1603 HOLLAND *Plutarch's Mor.* 30 Whose blood..now Trenchant Mars hath shed. ¶1809 W. IRVING *Knickerb.* vi. viii. (1849) 369 Pursuing its trenchant course, it severed off a deep coat pocket. ¶1851 GLADSTONE *Glean.* VI. lix. 39 Must it not be dangerous to place weapons so keen and trenchant in the hands of raw recruits? ¶1865 *Trav. by 'Umbra'* 10 Carve the impalpable and viewless air with thy trenchant paper knife. ¶1871 FREEMAN *Hist. Ess.* Ser. i. v. 117 The biographer of Edward [III], Mr. Longman, cannot wield the trenchant weapons of Lord Brougham.

2. fig. esp. of language: Incisive; vigorous and clear; effective, energetic.

¶a1325 [implied in TRENCHANTLY]. ¶1663 BUTLER *Hud.* i. iii. 882 Their Swords Were sharp and trenchant, not their Words. ¶1824 MISS MITFORD *Village Ser.* i. (1863) 208 Some trenchant repartee, that cuts off the poor answer's head like a razor. ¶1842 in L Estrange *Life* (1870) III. ix. 159 The most trenchant and violent writer of the 'Times'. ¶1877 OWEN *Wellesley's Desp.* p. xxxvi, For all these evils..Wellesley devised prompt and trenchant remedies, most unpalatable to his employers.

3. transf. and fig. Sharply defined or outlined; clear-cut; distinct.

¶1849 RUSKIN *Sev. Lamps* iii. §14. 78 The use of the dark mass characterises, generally, a trenchant style of design. ¶1852 DANA *Crust.* ii. 745 This subtribe has trenchant limits. ¶1873 H. ROGERS *Orig. Bible* ii. 78 The line of demarcation is seemingly most sharp and trenchant.

4. erron. Capable of being cut.

¶1824 LAMB *Elia* Ser. ii. Blakesmoor in Hshire, What herald shall go about to strip me of an idea? Is it trenchant to their swords?

B. n. One who or that which cuts or severs; a cutter, a divider. Obs. rare—1.

¶a1660 CONTEMP. *Hist. Irel.* (Ir. Archæol. Soc.) I. 133 A turne-coate of lawfull confederacie, a trinchante of holy union, a scandall and reproofe of all Christian pietie.

b. esquire trenchant, an esquire carver; cf. esquire n.1 1 c and 5, quot. 1797. Obs.

¶1563 RANDOLPH in *Calr. Scott. Pap.* II. 3 A longe yonge man..one of her graces esquire trenchantes. [Cf. ¶1611 COTGR., *Trenchant*, Escuyer,..valet trenchant, a Caruer.]

insolent a. (n.)

(ˈinsələnt)

[ad. L. insolēnt-em unaccustomed, unusual, excessive, immoderate, haughty, arrogant, insolent, f. in- (in-3) + solēnt-em, pr. pple. of solēre to be accustomed. Cf. F. insolent (R. Estienne, 1549).]

I.

1. Proud, disdainful, haughty, arrogant, overbearing; offensively contemptuous of the rights or feelings of others. Said of the powerful, rich, or successful, their actions, etc. Obs. or blended with 2.

¶c1386 CHAUCER *Pars T.* ¶325 Insolent is he that despiseth in his Iuggement alle othere folk, as to regard of his value and of his konnyng and of his spekyng and of his beryng. ¶1596 SPENSER *State Irel.* Wks. (Globe) 636/2 Thorough greatnes of their late conquests and seignories they grewe insolent.

¶1617 MORYSON *Itin.* ii. 87 These being neerer..were most insolent upon that City. ¶1676 tr. *Guillatieri's Voy. Athens* 16 A haughty insolent person who affected to make himself terrible. ¶1727-38 GAY *Fables* i. xxiv. 26 'What arrogance!' the snail replied; 'How insolent is upstart pride!' ¶1840 THIRLWALL *Greece* lvi. VII. 189 Antipater was neither insolent nor cruel.

¶1858 TRENCH *Synon. N.T.* §30 (1876) 101 The boastful in words, the proud in thoughts, the insolent and injurious in acts.

fig. ¶1822 SHELLEY *Hellas* 344 One star with insolent and victorious light Hovers above its fall. ¶1830 GALT *Lawrie T.* iii. iii. (1849) 93 The insolent and unknown waters which had so swelled the river, shrunk within their banks.

b. Comb., as insolent-looking adj.

¶1886 W. J. TUCKER *E. Europe* 198 The numberless Jewish equipages with all those insolent-looking Hebrew women of the Leopoldstadt.

2. Contemptuous of rightful authority; presumptuously or offensively contemptuous; impertinently insulting. Said of those who treat superiors or equals with offensive familiarity or disrespect.

¶1678 MARVELL *Growth Popery* 4 This last and Insolentest attempt upon the credulity of mankind. ¶1685 BAXTER *Paraphr. N.T., Matt.* xii. 39-40 God will not gratifie their insolent demand. ¶1706 PHILLIPS, *Insolent*, saucy, bold, malapert, proud, haughty, disdainful, presumptuous. ¶1793 BURKE *Policy Allies* Wks. 1842 I. 604 Their revolutionary tribunals, where every idea of natural justice..have been trodden under foot with the most insolent mockery. ¶1856 FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* (1858) II. vii. 128 Bonner's tongue was insolent, and under bad control. ¶1884 PAE *Eustace* 69 He is an idle, drunken, insolent fellow.

3. Extravagant, immoderate, going beyond the bounds of propriety. Obs.

¶c1480 HENRYSON *Mor. Fab.* i. ii, Damesellis wanton, and insolent, That fane wald play, and on the streit be sene. ¶1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 15 Thurston wasted..the goodes of that place, in lechery, and by other insolent meanes. ¶1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 312 ¶2 The constant Pursuit of Pleasure has in it something insolent and improper for our Being. Ibid. No. 426 ¶4 All the Extremities of Houshold Expence, Furniture, and insolent Equipage.

4. (?) Swelling, exulting: in good sense. rare.

¶1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* i. xxxi. (Arb.) 77 For dittie and amourous Ode I finde Sir Walter Rawleyghs vayne most loftie, insolent, and passionate.

II.

5. Unfrequented. Obs. rare.

¶c1420 *Pallad. on Husb.* xii. 57 Where is lond vnkept & insolent [regio insolens et incustodita] Take from the tronke al clene, vntil so hie As beestis may..Atteyne.

6. Unaccustomed, unwonted, unusual, strange.

¶1586 G. PETTIE *Guazzo's Civ. Conv. To Rdr.* A vij, If one chance to derive any word from the Latine, which is insolent to their eares..they forthwith make a jest at it. ¶1592 R. D. *Hypnerotomachia* 26 Letting passe to speake of the insolent greatnes of the Piramides of Memphis. ¶1608 A. WILLET *Hexapla Exod.* 468 This is an vnwonted and insolent signification of the word. ¶1612 BRINSLEY *Lud. Lit.* x. (1627) 164 Words which are insolent, hard and out of use, are to be as warily avoided. ¶1651 *Fuller's Abel Rediv.*, Bradford 181 This favour, though extraordinary and insolent, was thought well bestowed upon him by the whole University. ¶1665 JER. TAYLOR *Unum Necess.* viii. §3 The phrase is insolent, and the exposition violent.

7. Unused or unaccustomed to a thing; inexperienced. Obs.

¶c1480 HENRYSON *Orph. & Euryd.* 20 Tendouris to yung and insolent.

¶1598 MARSTON *Pygmal.* iv. 153 Would euer any erudite Pedant Seeme in his artles lines so insolent?

B. n. An insolent person (in senses 1 and 2).

¶1595 SHAKES. *John* ii. i. 122 Out, insolent, thy bastard shall be King, That thou maist be a Queen, and checke the world! ¶1639 tr. *Du Bosq's Compl. Woman* ii. 61 The salvation of these insolents, seems desperate, their repentance..Miracles. ¶1672 J. PHILLIPS *Montelion's Predict.* 10 What Christian will be a Second to such Insolents? ¶1765 H. WALPOLE *Otranto*

v. (1798) 82 Thou art an insolent. ¶1898 *Academy* 8 Oct. 28/1, I am [acquainted] with insolents, and you are one.

impertinent a. (n.)

(im'pɜːtɪnənt)

[a. F. *impertinent* (14th c. in Hatz.-Darm.) or ad. L. *impertinēns*, -ēnt-em not belonging, in med.L. 'ineptus, insulsus' (Du Cange), f. im- (im-2) + *pertinēns* pertinent.]

1. Not appertaining or belonging (to); unconnected, unrelated; inconsonant. ? Obs.

¶c1380 WYCLIF *Serm. Sel. Wks.* II. 31 Many men in þis world ben impertinent to erþeli lordis, for neiþer þei ben servantis to hem, ne þes lordis þeir worldly lordis. ¶1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 166 Thynges that be eche to other impertynent & dyuerse. ¶1666 *Ormonde MSS. in 10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm. App.* v. 23 His private affayres and business (impertinent to anything relating to the said Lord Archbishop). ¶1809-10 COLERIDGE *Friend* (1837) III. 118 The more distant, disjointed and impertinent to each other and to any common purpose, will they appear.

2. Not pertaining to the subject or matter in hand; not pertinent; not to the point; irrelevant. Now rare exc. in Law.

¶c1386 CHAUCER *Clerk's Prol.* 54 Trewely as to my Iuggement Me thynketh it a thyng impertinent Saue that he wole conuoyen his mateere. ¶1530 PALSGR. 7 As for w is no letter used in the frenche tong..therefore as impertinent I passe it over. ¶a1571 JEWEL *Serm. bef. Queen* (1583) A iij b, Let no man thinke these things are impertinent or from the purpose. ¶1610 SHAKES. *Temp.* i. ii. 138 I'll bring thee to the present businesse Which now's vpon's: without the which, this Story Were most impertinent. ¶1642 JER. TAYLOR *Episc.* (1647) 84 The allegation of S. Timothy's being an Evangelist, is absolutely impertinent, though it had been true. ¶1768 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* III. xxvii. 443 The master is to examine the propriety of the bill: and, if he reports it scandalous or impertinent, such matter must be struck out. ¶1812 M. EDGEWORTH *Vivian* x. (1832) 196 He did not..digress to fifty impertinent episodes, before he came to the point. ¶1872 WHARTON *Law Lex.* (ed. 5) 467/1 The Court may..direct the costs occasioned by any impertinent matter in any proceeding, to be paid by the party introducing it.

3. Not suitable to the circumstances; incongruous, inappropriate, out of place; not consonant with reason; absurd, idle, trivial, silly.

¶1590 P. BARROUGH *Meth. Physick* i. xxxiii. (1639) 53 Many ignorant practitioners..have endeavoured to cure this infirmity with many impertinent medicines. ¶1631 WEEVER *Anc. Fun.* Mon. 16 These superfluous and impertinent costs of funerall expenses. ¶1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Olearius' Voy. Ambass.* 80 The opinion the Muscovites have of themselves and their abilities, is sottish, gross, and impertinent. ¶1677 HALE *Prim. Orig. Man.* i. i. 13 In comparison of this, all other Knowledge is vain, light and impertinent. ¶1706 PHILLIPS, *Impertinent*, .. absurd, silly, idle. ¶1706 ESTCOURT *Fair Examp.* iv. i. 42 For my part, I think a Woman's Heart is the most impertinent part of the whole Body. ¶1849 RUSKIN *Sev. Lamps* iv. §21. 111 There never was a more flagrant nor impertinent folly than the smallest portion of ornament in anything concerned with railroads.

b. Unsuitable, unfitted for. Obs.

¶1594 CAREW *Huarte's Exam. Wits* (1616) 177 A power impertinent for curing. Ibid. 183 To make clockes, pictures, poppets, and other ribaldries..impertinent for mans service.

c. Of persons: Absurd, silly. Obs.

¶1639 T. BRUGIS tr. *Camus' Mor. Relat.* 205 As soone as a man brags, he is taken to be impertinent. ¶1681 J. CHETHAM *Angler's Vade-m.* xxii. §1 (1689) 143, I suspect myself to be Impertinent in saying thus much of the Conger, and Lampery. ¶1711 STEELE *Spect.* No. 148 ¶7 The Ladies whom you visit, think a wise Man the most Impertinent Creature living.

4. Const. to (unto): in senses 2 and 3.

¶1532 MORE *Confut. Barnes* viii. Wks. 740/1 Beyng as it is impertinent to the principall purpose. ¶1564 *Brief Exam.* C iij, I thynke it not impartinent vnto this matter. ¶1656 HOBBS *Lib., Necess. & Chance* (1841) 5 All the places of Scripture that he allegeth..are impertinent to the question. ¶1733 NEAL *Hist. Purit.* II. 304 It is no impertinent story to our present purpose. ¶1849 W. FITZGERALD tr. *Whitaker's Disput.* 185 All the common disquisitions upon this place..however true in themselves, are foreign to the subject and impertinent to the matter in hand.

5. Of persons, their actions, etc.: Meddling with what is beyond one's province; intrusive, presumptuous; behaving without proper respect or deference to superiors or strangers; insolent or saucy in speech or behaviour. (The chief current sense in colloq. use.)

¶1618 SIR D. CARLETON *Let.* 4 Dec. in *Crt. & Times Jas.* I (1848) II. 111 They [the Armenians at the Synod of Dort] are decried from their imper-

tinent boldness and impudence by all men.] ¶1681 NEVILE *Plato Rediv.* 32, I have been impertinent in interrupting you. ¶1716 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Let. to Mrs. Thistlethwaite* 30 Aug., It is publicly whispered, as a piece of impertinent pride in me, that I have hitherto been saucily civil to everybody. ¶1725 DE FOE *Voy. round World* (1840) 91 A very useful, skilful fellow, but withal so impertinent and inquisitive that we knew not what to say to him. ¶1798 NELSON *Let. to French Commander at Malta* Oct., I feel confident that you will not attribute it either to insolence or impertinent curiosity. ¶1847 JAMES *Convict* iii, He thought the stranger's tone rather impertinent. ¶1888 M. E. BRADDON *Fatal Three* i. iv, Fay has been most impertinent to me.

b. transf. of things.

¶1848 DICKENS *Dombey* iv, Fenced up behind the most impertinent cushions. ¶1860 SALA *Lady Chesterf.* v. 83 The Lowther Arcade is vulgar and impertinent. ¶1861 THACKERAY *Four Georges* iv. (1862) 221 Her fair hair, her blue eyes, and her impertinent shoulders.

B. n.

1. An impertinent or irrelevant matter.

¶1628 FELTHAM *Resolves* i. Ep. Ded. A iij b, To apparell any more [of my thoughts] in these Paper vestments, I should multiply impertinents.

2. An impertinent person: see the adj.; now esp. a meddlesome, presumptuous, or insolent person; one who does or says that which he has no business to do or say, and which is considered a piece of presumption or insolence.

¶1635 A. STAFFORD *Fem. Glory* (1869) 5 This curious Impertinent. ¶1678 R. L'ESTRANGE *Seneca's Mor.* (1702) 398 This Day I have had entire to my Self..For all the Impertinents were either at the Theatre..or at the Horse-match. ¶1682 A. BEHN *City Heiress* 39 Nay dear Impertinent, no more Complements, be gone! ¶1710 PALMER *Proverbs* 355 An inquisitive impertinent..medling where he has nothing to do. ¶1825 LAMB *Elia Ser.* ii. Stage Illusion, When the pleasant impertinent of comedy..worries the studious man with taking up his leisure, or making his house his home. ¶1846 W. P. SCARGILL *Purit. Grave* 52 Henry St. John..rebuked the young impertinents.

Hence im'pertinentness, impertinency.

¶1670 PENN *Truth Rescued fr. Impost.* 66 The Frivolousness and Impertinentness of this Ribaldry to the Controversie in hand.

impudent a. (n.)

('impjʊdənt)

[ad. L. *impudēns*, *impudēt-em* shameless, f. *im-* (*im-*2) + *pudēns* ashamed, modest, orig. pres. pple. of *pudēre* to make or feel ashamed. Cf. F. *impudent* (16th c. in Hatz.-Darm. and Godef. Compl.: but the latter has the adv. *impudemment* of 1461).]

1. Wanting in shame or modesty; shameless, unblushing, immodest; indelicate. (In quot. 1628, 'without the means of decency'.) Obs.

¶c1386 CHAUCER *Pars. T.* ¶323 Inpudent is he that for his pride hath no shame of hise synnes. ¶1533 UDALL *Floures* 90 Canis (sayth Donate) is a worde that menie vse to obiect vnto suche as be impudent shameles felowes. ¶1579 G. HARVEY *Letter-bk.* (Camden) 61 Setting the best and impudentist face of it that I can borrowe. ¶1611 BIBLE *Ecclus.* xix. 2 He that cleaueth to harlots will become impudent. ¶1628 HOBBS *Thucyd.* (1822) 101 Many for want of things necessary..were forced to become impudent in the funerals of their friends. ¶1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* i. 26 Their impudent Curtezans, the most lascivious harlots in the world. ¶1659 D. PELL *Impr. Sea* 76 With impudent fore-heads, and with brows rubbed on brass-pots. ¶1732 GAY *Achilles* iii, Then her bosom too is so preposterously impudent!

2. Possessed of unblushing presumption, effrontery, or assurance; shamelessly forward, insolently disrespectful.

¶1563-87 FOXE A. & M. (1684) III. 493 Thou art as impudent a Fellow as I have communed withal. ¶1583 FULKE *Defence* xix. 544 You are the most impudent advoucher, I think, that ever became a writer. ¶1638 BAKER tr. *Balzac's Lett.* (vol. III.) 123 Sufficient defence against the audaciousnesse of the most impudent. ¶1709-10 HEARNE in *Reliq.* (1857) I. 181 Some persons were so impudent (to speak in the canting phrase) as to huzza him. ¶1710-11 SWIFT *Lett.* (1767) III. 125 Oh faith, you're an impudent saucy couple of sluttekings for presuming to write so soon. ¶1829 LYTTON *Devereux* ii. iv, Thou art an impudent thing to jest at us. ¶1848 DICKENS *Dombey* viii, Wickam is a wicked, impudent, bold-faced hussy.

b. Of conduct, actions, etc.

¶1597 SHAKES. 2 *Hen.* IV, ii. i. 135 You call honorable Boldnes, impudent Sawcinesse. ¶1639 T. BRUGIS tr. *Camus' Mor. Relat.* 246 [She] disclosed..[his] impudent attempt against the reverence of his marriage. ¶1755 YOUNG *Centaur* ii. Wks. 1757 IV. 134 Our impudent folly puts nature out of countenance. ¶1862 MARSH *Eng. Lang.* i. 10 An impudent fabrication

of the fourteenth century. ¶1873 HALE *In His Name* vi. 64 This was the impudent reply of the largest boy of the group.

B. n. A person of unblushing effrontery or insolence.

¶1586 T. B. tr. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* (1589) 404 No beast (as they say) is so shamelesse as an impudent. Ibid. 253. ¶1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* i. xxvii. (Arb.) 69 Defrauded of the reward, that an impudent had gotten by abuse of his merit. ¶1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* x. 434 Many dissembling impudents intrude themselves in this high calling of God.

crass a.

(kræs)

[ad. L. *crass-us* solid, thick, dense, fat, etc. Cf. F. *crasse* fem. adj. (16th c. in Littré); OF. had *cras*, now *gras*.]

1. Coarse, gross, dense, thick (in physical constitution or texture). Now somewhat rare.

¶1545 T. RAYNALDE *Byrth Mankynde* 12 The bottome of the mother or wombe is more crasse, thycke, and fleshy. ¶1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* ii. v. 91 A crasse and fumide exhalation. ¶1695 WOODWARD *Nat. Hist. Earth* (1723) 295 Particles, which are more crass and ponderous. ¶1715 tr. *Pancirollus' Rerum Mem.* I. i. ix. 23 Of all Unguents..the most crasse and thickest. ¶1866 *Treas. Bot.* s.v., The leaves of cotyledons, which are much more fleshy, have been called crass. ¶1884 J. COLBORNE *Hicks Pasha* 180 A crass, gluey substance.

b. Said of things material as opposed to immaterial or spiritual. Obs.

¶1649 JER. TAYLOR *Gt. Exemp.* ii. Ad Sec. 12. 94 Dives had the inheritance of the earth, in the crasse materiall sense. ¶1653 H. MORE *Antid. Ath.* iii. vi. §7 Whatsoever is crass and external leaves stronger Impress upon the Phansie. ¶1664 *Synops. Proph.* 217 Bearing strongly upon the phancy by exhibiting crass and palpable objects.

2. Of personal qualities, ideas, and other things immaterial: Gross; grossly dull or stupid, 'dense'.

¶1660 R. COKE *Justice Vind.* 20 Where the phantasie..is crass and dull and moves slowly. ¶1664 H. MORE *Myst. Iniq.* 110 An undoubted and conspicuous piece of the crassest Anti-christianism. ¶1859 *Times* 20 Aug. 8/3 A free Press..to..dispel the crass ignorance which weighs over the land. ¶1877 E. R. CONDER *Bas. Faith* iii. 108 The crass materialism which talks

about the brain secreting thought as the liver secretes bile. ¶1881 W. R. SMITH *Old Test.* in *Jew. Ch.* 291 The crasser forms of religion.

b. Of persons: Grossly stupid, 'dense'; grossly insensitive or unrefined (rare).

¶1861 THACKERAY *Philip* viii, Your..undeserved good fortune..has rendered you hard, cold, crass, indifferent. ¶1872 GEO. ELIOT *Middlem.* xvi, Crass minds..whose reflective scales could only weigh things in the lump. ¶1877 BLACK *Green Past.* xx. (1878) 161 This crass idiot.

peril *n.*

(ˈpɛrɪl)

[a. F. *péril* (10th c. in Littré) = Pr. *peril*, *perilh*, Cat. *peril*, It. *periglio*:—L. *periculum*, *periculum* experiment, trial, risk, danger, f. root of *ex-peri-rī* to try, make trial of + *-culum*, suffix naming instruments.]

1. a. The position or condition of being imminently exposed to the chance of injury, loss, or destruction; risk, jeopardy, danger.

¶a1225 *Ancr. R.* 194 Gostlich fondunge..mei beon, uor þe peril, icleooped breoste wunde. ¶1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 2208 Of peril a se & eke a lond.

¶a1300 *Cursor M.* 24852 (Cott.) Þe mariners..war neuer in parel [v.r. *perel*] mar. ¶1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 168 Saturnus after his exil Fro Crete cam in gret peril. ? ¶a1400 LYDG. *Chorle & Byrde* 183 Who dredeth no paryll, in paryll he shall falle. ¶a1533 LD. BERNERS *Huon* lxxxiii. 257 He was neuer in his lyfe in suche perell. ¶1575 *Mirr. Mag., Dk. Somerset* xliv, Constant I was in my Princes quarel, To dye or liue and spared for no parel. ¶1595 SHAKES. *John* iii. i. 295 The perill of our curses light on thee So heauy, as thou shalt not shake them off. ¶1749 SMOLLETT *Regicide* ii. viii, Glory Is the fair child of peril. ¶1832 W. IRVING *Alhambra* II. 166 Having commanded at Malaga during a time of peril and confusion. ¶1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) V. 128 In the hour of peril.

b. Const. (a) of that which is exposed to danger (chiefly with life); (b) of the evil fate that threatens, or (obs. or arch.) of the cause of danger; (c) to with inf. (obs.).

¶1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 161 In grete perille of saul es þat man Pat has witt and mynde and na gude can. ¶c1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 1740 In perill of þair lyues þai stode. ¶1596 SHAKES. *Merch.* V. ii. ii. 173 To be in perill of my life with the edge of a featherbed. ¶1790 PALEY *Horæ Paul.* Wks. 1825 III. 174 He acquitted himself of this commission at the peril of his

life. ¶1840 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* ii, You were never in such peril of your life as you have been within these few moments.

¶c1375 *Cursor M.* 26193 (Fairf.) Quen men is in perel [Cott. wath] of dede. ¶1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. xiv. 301 Þorw þe pas of altoun Pouerte myzte passe with-oute peril of robbynge. ¶1481 CAXTON *Myrr.* ii. vi. 76 Kynge Alysandre..eschewed the parell and daunger of thise olyfauntes. ¶1553 BALE VOCACYON in *Harl. Misc.* (Malh.) I. 330 In parell of the sea, in parell of shypwrack. ¶1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 5 The..ship-boyes were in perill of those Sharkes. ¶1876 GEO. ELIOT *Dan. Der.* xlviii, A vessel in peril of wreck.

¶c1385 CHAUCER *L.G.W.* 1277 Dido, There as he was in paril for to sterue. ¶c1489 CAXTON *Blanchardyn* lii. 201 He was in pereyll to lose hym selfe and all his ooste. ¶1596 SHAKES. *Tam. Shr.* Induct. ii. 124 In perill to incurre your former malady.

2. (with a and pl.) A case or cause of peril; pl. dangers, risks.

peril of the sea (Marine Insurance): see quot. 1872.

¶a1300 *Cursor M.* 4051 (Cott.) O perils [v.r. perelis] þat he fell in Sumquat to tell i sal bigin. ¶1382 WYCLIF 2 *Cor.* xi. 26 In perelis of flodis, in perels of theues, in perelis of kyn, in perels of hethen men [etc.]. ¶1450-80 tr. *Secreta Secret.* 21 Pereylis and disesis that are to come of werres, pestilencis [etc.]. ¶a1548 HALL *Chron., Hen.* IV 15 b, To auenture themselves on a newe chance and a doubtfull parell. ¶1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) VI. 181 Scarce one in a thousand survives the numerous perils of its youth. ¶1817 W. SELWYN *Law Nisi Prius* (ed. 4) II. 893 It is the province of the jury to determine, whether the cause of the loss be a peril of the sea or not. ¶1872 *Wharton's Law Lex.* s.v., Perils of the sea..are strictly the natural accidents peculiar to the water, but the law has extended this phrase to comprehend events not attributable to natural causes, as captures by pirates, and losses by collision, where no blame is attachable to either ship, or at all events to the injured ship. ¶1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) I. 93 Soldiers,..who are courageous in perils by sea. ¶1884 *Manch. Exam.* 3 May 5/1 The certain perils of such an alliance.

3. Phrases. a. at all peril(s): at whatever risk; be the consequences what they may. by the (for, up) peril of my soul, upon my peril, etc.: used as asseverations. in peril of: at the risk of, under the penalty of (see also 1 b). Obs.

¶13.. *E.E. Allit.* *P. C.* 85 At alle peryles, quoth þe prophete, I aproche hit no nerre. ¶1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. vi. 47 Nai, bi þe peril of my soule, quod pers. ¶c1386 CHAUCER *Wife's Prol.* 561 My gaye scarlet gytes, Thise wormes ne

thise Motthes ne thise mytes Vpon my peril frete hem neuer a deel. ¶*Merch. T.* 1127 Vp peril of my soule I shal nat lyen. ¶1470-85 MALORY *Arthur* iv. i. 119 Ye lady, on my parel, ye shal see hit. ¶1607 SHAKES. *Cor.* iii. iii. 102 Wee..banish him our Citie In perill of precipitation From off the Rocke Tarpeian. [¶1820 BYRON *Mar. Fal.* i. ii, That I speak the truth, My peril be the proof.]

b. *at (on, to) your (his, etc.) peril:* you (etc.) taking the risk or responsibility of the consequences: esp. in commands, or warnings, referring to the risk incurred by disregard or disobedience.

¶1433 *Rolls of Parlt.* IV. 477/1 Such as they woll answere fore atte here perille. ¶1480 CAXTON *Chron. Eng.* ccxiv. 200 He sente hastily that they shold not fyght, and yf they dyd that they shold stonde to hir owne perylle.

? ¶a1550 *Freiris of Berwik* 541 in Dunbar's Poems (1893) 303 Gif thow dois nocht, on thy awin perrel beid [= be it]. ¶1590 SHAKES. *Mids. N.* iii. ii. 175 Disparage not the faith thou dost not know, Lest to thy perill thou abide it deare. ¶1632 MASSINGER *City Madam* iv. ii, Master Shrieve and Master Marshal, On your perils, do your offices. ¶1664 in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 541 As they will answer the contrary at their perils. ¶1696 PHILLIPS (ed. 5), *Peril*..sometimes used by way of threatning. Do such a thing at your Peril. ¶1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* ii. xi, We..bade them keep off at their peril. ¶1832 H. MARTINEAU *Hill & Valley* iii. 46 Shew yourselves at your peril. ¶1881 R. BUCHANAN *God & Man* I. 141, 'I must do my master's bidding.' 'At your peril! I have but to give the word, and they would duck you in the horsepond.'

c. without the peril of: beyond the (dangerous) reach or power of: cf. danger n. 1 b. Obs. rare.

¶1590 SHAKES. *Mids. N.* iv. i. 158 To be gone from Athens, where we might be Without the perill of the Athenian Law.

4. A matter of danger; a perilous or dangerous matter. Const. it is peril, it is dangerous (to do something). Obs.

¶1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 6786 Þe heimen of þe lond wolde hom al day mene þat hii nadde non eir of him & þat gret peril it was Vor þer miȝte com to al þe lond gret wo uor such cas. ¶c1386 CHAUCER *Wife's Prol.* 89 Peril is bothe fyr and tow tassemble. ¶c1400 MANDEVILLE (Roxb.) xxvi. 123 It es grete peril to pursue þe Tartarenes. ¶a1450 *Knt. de la Tour* (1868) 60 Whedir it were perelle to do her counsaile or not. ¶c1540 *Pilgr. T.* 164 in Thynne's *Animadv.* 81 You know what perrele it is together to ley hyrdis fast vnto the fyer.

5. attrib. and Comb., as *peril-proof*, *peril-daring* adjs.; *peril point* U.S. Econ. (see quot. 1965).

¶1605 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* ii. iii. ii. Fathers 75 A broad thick breast-plate..High peril-proof against affliction. ¶1807 MONTGOMERY *W. Indies* ii. 141 The valiant seized in peril~daring fight. ¶1948 *Congress. Rec.* 26 May 6503/2 No foreign trade agreement could be entered into until the Tariff Commission reports to the President its findings as to the so-called peril-point below which tariffs may not be cut. ¶1949 *Sun* (Baltimore) 11 July 10/2 The main innovation in the Republican program is the so-called 'peril-point' report which must be made to the President by the Tariff Commission. ¶1949 *Economist* 17 Sept., Peril Points. This year's battle over American tariff policy opened just as the Administration was assuring Sir Stafford Cripps and Mr Bevin that the United States would pursue policies appropriate to a great creditor nation. ¶1961 *Ibid.* 9 Dec. 1025/2 The President's authority to lower tariffs being renewed grudgingly but limited by 'peril points' and 'escape clauses'. ¶1965 *McGraw-Hill Dict. Mod. Econ.* 376 Peril point, the maximum cut in a U.S. import duty which could be made for a given commodity without causing serious injury to domestic producers or to a similar commodity.

Hence 'perilless a., without or free from peril.

¶a1614 SYLVESTER *Litt. Bartas* 313 In their chamber pain~lesse, perillesse.

devout a. and n.

(di'vaut)

[ME. *devot*, *devout*, a. OF. *devot*, *devote* (12th c. in Littré), = Pr. *devot*, Sp. *devoto*, It. *divoto*, ad. L. *dēvōt-us* devoted, given up by vow, pa. pple. of *dēvovēre* to devote. The close OF. *ō* became the vowel *ou* (u:) in ME., whence the modern diphthong *ou*; but a form in *ō*, Sc. *oi*, was also in use: see *devote* a.]

1. Devoted to divine worship or service; solemn and reverential in religious exercises; pious, religious.

α ¶a1225 *Ancr. R.* 376 Þuruh aromaz, þet beoð swote, is understonden swotnesse of deuot heorte. ¶c1325 *E.E. Allit. P. A.* 406 Be dep deuote in hol mekenesse. ¶c1400 MANDEVILLE (Roxb.) viii. 30 Þai er deuote men and ledez pure lyf. ¶1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* II. 567 Diuoit he wes with

mony almous deid. ¶1549 *Compl. Scot.* (1872) 4 The deuot Kyng, Numa pompilius. ¶1651 [see DEVOTE a.].

β ¶1297 R. GLOUC. (1724) 369 In chyrche he was deuout ynou. ¶1382 WYCLIF *Ex.* xxxv. 29 Alle men and wymmen with a deuowt mynde offerden 3iftis. ¶c1440 *Prompt. Parv.* 120 Devowte, devotus. ¶a1450 *Knt. de la Tour* (1868) 7 A shorte orison, saide with good devouute herte. ¶c1511 1ST *Eng. Bk. Amer.* (Arb.) Introd. 31/2 These people be very deuoute. ¶1530 PALSGR. 310/1 Devoute, holy disposed to praye, deuot. ¶1636 SIR H. BLOUNT *Voy. Levant* (1637) 87 All the devouter sort (which are not many) goe to Church, and say their prayers. ¶1732 *Law Serious* C. i. (ed. 2) 1 He..is the devout Man who lives no longer to his own will..but to the sole will of God. ¶1865 M. ARNOLD *Ess. Crit.* ix. (1875) 398 The devoutest of your fellow Christians. ¶1883 FROUDE *Short Stud.* IV. ii. ii. 185 Keble was a representative of the devout mind of England.

b. gen. Devoted, religiously or reverently attached (to a person or cause). Obs.

¶c1380 WYCLIF *Serm. Sel. Wks.* I. 113 God wolle have oure herte devoute to him wiþouten ende. ¶c1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 6953 To saint cuthbert he was deuoute. ¶1609 BIBLE (Douay) *Comm.* 201 Isaac was..devout to God. ¶1659 B. HARRIS *Parival's Iron Age* 205 Sir Thomas Wentworth..became the most devout friend of the Church.

2. Of actions and things: Showing or expressing devotion; reverential, religious, devotional.

α ¶a1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter*, Cant. 502 Þe deuot 3ernyngis of his halighis. ¶c1500 *Blowbol's Test.* in *Halliwell Nugae Poet.* 3 He wold syng Foure devoite masses at my biryng. ¶a1541 BARNES *Wks.* 318 (R.), To help mee wyth his deuote prayer. ¶1552 ABP. HAMILTON *Catech.* (1884) 8 Faithful and devoit prayar. 1625- [see devote a.].

β ¶c1340 HAMPOLE *Prose Tr.* 24 Deuoute prayers, feruent desires, and gostely meditacions. ¶1526 (Title), *The Pylgrymage of Perfeccyon*, a devoute Treatyse in Englysshe. ¶1603 KNOLLES *Hist. Turks* (1621) 78 The devout warre, taken in hand for the reliefe of the poore Christians in Syria. ¶1667 MILTON *P.L.* xi. 863 With uplifted hands, and eyes devout. ¶1763 JOHN BROWN *Poetry & Mus.* xii. 214 Our parochial Music..is solemn and devout. ¶1841 ELPHINSTONE *Hist. Ind.* II. 347 In his writings, he affects the devout style usual to all Mussulmans.

3. Earnest, sincere, hearty.

¶1828 WEBSTER *s.v.*, You have my devout wishes for your safety. ¶1880 MRS. E. LYNN *Linton Rebel of Family* I. v, The sanctity of caste, in which she..was so devout a believer.

B. as n.

1. A devotee. Obs.

¶[c1440 *GESTA Rom.* xcii. 419 (Add. MS.) This knyght had a good woman to wife, and a deuoute to oure ladie.] ¶1616 R. SHELDON *Miracles Antichrist* 247 (T.) Not..the ordinary followers of Antichrist, but..his special devout. ¶1675 tr. *Machiavelli's Prince* xv. (Rtldg. 1883) 98 One a devout, another an atheist.

2. That which is devout; the devotional part.

¶1649 MILTON *Eikon*. i. (1851) 344 This is the substance of his first Section, till we come to the devout of it, model'd into the form of a privat Psalter.

demur *v.*

(dɪ'mɜː(r))

[a. F. demeurer, in OF. demorer, -mourer (= Pr. and Sp. demorare, It. dimorare):—pop. L. dēmōrāre = cl. L. dēmōrārī to tarry, delay, f. de- I. 3 + morārī to delay. The OF. demor-, demour-, proper to the forms with atonic radical vowel, was at length assimilated to the tonic form demeure-; the latter gave the ME. forms demeore, demere: cf. people, and the forms meve, preve (F. meuve, preuve) of move, prove.]

1. intr. To linger, tarry, wait; fig. to dwell upon something. Obs.

¶a1225 *Ancr. R.* 242 Auh 3if ich hie swuðe uorðward, demeore 3e þe lengre. ¶c1300 *K. Alis.* 7295 He n'ul nought that ye demere [rime dere]. ¶1550 NICOLLS *Thucyd.* 73 (R.), Yet durst they not demoure nor abyde vpon the campe. ¶1559 BALDWIN in *Mirr. Mag.* (1563) 39 b, Take hede ye demurre not vpon them. ¶1595 SOUTHWELL *St. Peter's Compl.* 19 But ô, how long demurre I on his eyes. ¶1604 T. WRIGHT *Passions* v. 213, I demurre too long in these speculative discourses. ¶1653 URQUHART *Rabelais* i. ii, If that our looks on it demurre.

b. To stay, remain, abide. Obs.

¶1523 *St. Papers Hen.* VIII, IV. 34 She cannot demore there without extreme daunjur and peril. ¶1536 *Act 28 Hen.* VIII, c. 10 Any person..dwelllyng, demurryng, inhabitinge or resiant within this realme. ¶1550 NICOLLS *Thucyd.* 72 (R.) The sayde Peloponesyans demoured in the land.

c. To last, endure, continue. Obs.

¶1547 HOOPER *Declar. Christ* iii. Wks. (Parker Soc.) 21 This defence..shall demour for ever till this church be glorified.

2. trans. To cause to tarry; to put off, delay.

¶1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* ii. xviii. 174 Whose judgement is demurred until the day of Reconciliation. ¶1635 QUARLES *Embl.* iv. x. (1818) 239 The lawyer..then demurs me with a vain delay. ¶1682 D'URFEY *Butler's Ghost* 69, I swear.. Henceforth to take a rougher course, And, what you would demur to force.

3. intr. To hesitate; to delay or suspend action; to pause in uncertainty. Obs.

¶1641 MILTON *Ch. Govt.* vii. (1851) 135 This is all we get by demurring in Gods service. ¶1654 CODRINGTON tr. *Hist. Ivstine* 418 He found the King to demur upon it. ¶1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* ii. ii. §40 King Edwine demurred to embrace Christianity. ¶1699 BENTLEY *Phal.* 516 The Delphians demurring, whether they should accept it or no. ¶1743 J. DAVIDSON *Æneid* viii. 261 You need not demur to challenge. ¶1778 F. BURNEY *Evelina* li, You are the first lady who ever made me even demur upon this subject. ¶1818 W. TAYLOR in *Monthly Rev.* LXXXVII. 534 All the Yorkists could thus co-operate, without demurring between their rightful sovereigns.

b. To be of doubtful mind; to remain doubtful. Obs. rare.

¶1612 T. TAYLOR *Comm. Titus* i. 3 And demurre with the Philistines, whether God or Fortune smite vs. ¶a1628 F. GREVILLE *Sidney* (1652) 237 To have demurred more seriously upon the sudden change in his Sonne.

c. trans. To hesitate about. Obs. rare.

¶1667 MILTON *P.L.* ix. 558 What may this mean? Language of Man pronounc't By Tongue of Brute, and human sense exprest? The first..I thought deni'd To Beasts..The latter I demurre, for in thir looks Much reason, and in thir actions oft appeers. ¶a1730 E. FENTON *Hom. Odys.* xi. Imit. (Seager), Let none demur Obedience to her will.

4. intr. To make scruples or difficulties; to raise objection, take exception to (occas. at, on). (The current sense; often with allusion to the legal sense, 5.)

¶1639 FULLER *Holy War* ii. xxxvi. (1840) 98 The caliph demurred hereat, as counting such a gesture a diminution to his state. ¶1751 C. LABELYE *Westm. Br.* 93, I..gave my Directions..which being in some Measure demurred to, the Matter was brought before the Board. ¶1775 SHERIDAN *Rivals* ii.

ii, My process was always very simple—in their younger days, 'twas 'Jack, do this'—if he demurred, I knocked him down. ¶1807 SOUTHEY *Espriella's Letters* III. 29 They are so unreasonable as to demur at finding corn for them.

¶1855 BROWNING *Let. to Ruskin*, I cannot begin writing poetry till my imaginary reader has conceded licences to me which you demur at altogether.

¶1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* i. v. 40 My host at first demurred..but I insisted.

¶1875 MCLAREN *Serm.* Ser. ii. ix. 150 We can afford to recognise the fact, though we demur to the inference.

b. trans. To object or take exception to. rare.

¶1827 H. H. WILSON *Burmese War* (1852) 25 As the demand was unprecedented, the Mugs, who were British subjects, demurred payment.

¶1876 GLADSTONE *Homeric Synchr.* 59, I demur the inference from these facts.

5. Law. (intr.) To put in a demurrer.

¶[a1481 LITTLETON *Tenures* §96 Et fuist demurre en iudgement en mesme le plee, le quel les xl. iours serront accompts de le primer iour del muster de host le Roy.] ¶1620 J. WILKINSON *Coroners & Sherifes* 60 It was demurred on in Law. ¶1628 COKE *On Litt.* 70 a, And it was demured in iudgement in the same plea, whither the 40 dayes should bee accounted from the first day of the muster of the kings host. Ibid. 72 a, He that demurreth in Law confesseth all such matters of fact as are well and sufficiently pleaded. ¶1641 in *Rushw. Hist. Coll.* iii. (1692) I. 334 To which Plea Mr. Attorney-General demurred in Law, and the said Samuel Vassall joyned in Demurrer with him.

¶1660 *Trial of Regic.* 107, I must demur to your Jurisdiction. ¶1681 *Trial S. Colledge* 10 And if so be matter of Law arises upon any evidence that is given against you..you may demurr upon that Evidence, and pray Counsel of the Court to argue that demurrer. ¶1848 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* II. 84 The plaintiff demurred, that is to say, admitted Sir Edward's plea to be true in fact, but denied that it was a sufficient answer.

imposition *n.*

(ɪmpəʊ'zɪʃən)

[ME. ad. L. *impositiōn-em*, *n.* of action from *impōnēre* to place upon, impose, or a. OF. *imposition*, *-icion* (1317 in Godef.). First used in the special senses 1 b, 2, 5.]

1. The action of putting, placing, or laying on. Also concr. A layer over something. rare.

¶1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 38/2 The imposition of the fingers one the mouthes of the Veynes. ¶1599 tr. *Gabelhouer's Bk. Physicke* 54/2 On the sayed Straweberryes you must agayne strew saulte, and agayne thereon an impositione of strawberryes,..continuing the impositione of one on the other till the basen be replete. ¶1833 MEDWIN *Shelley* (1847) II. 48 The imposition of my hand on his forehead, instantly put a stop to his spasms.

¶1888 *Pall Mall G.* 6 Dec. 5/1 A Japanese lacquer box..in various stages of development, from the imposition of colour on the first stone to the last.

b. spec. The laying on of hands in blessing, ordination, confirmation, etc. [L. *impositio*, Vulgate, Acts viii. 18.]

¶1382 WYCLIF *Bible Pref. Ep. Jerome* iii, The grace, the which is 3ouun to hym bi imposicoun [1388 puttyng to] of the prestis hond. ¶1548 CRANMER *Catech.* 230 The ministration of Gods worde..was deryued from the Apostles vnto other after them by imposition of handes, and gyuyng the holy ghost. ¶1597 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* v. lxvi. §1 With prayers of spiritual and personal benediction the manner hath been in all ages to use imposition of hands, as a ceremony betokening our restrained desires to the party, whom we present unto God by prayer. ¶1660 JER. TAYLOR *Worthy Commun.* i. iii. 59 Thus we find that the grace of God is given by the imposition of hands. ¶1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* II. 157 Ministers, or preaching presbyters..alone can..assist at the imposition of hands upon other ministers. ¶1885 *Catholic Dict.* (ed. 3) s.v., In two instances (the imposition of hands in ordination and confirmation) it [the rite] has received a sacramental efficacy.

c. Print. The imposing or arranging of pages of type in the forme.

¶1824 J. JOHNSON *Typogr.* II. vii. 144 A general outline for the imposition of whatever odd matter there may be at the conclusion of a work. *Ibid.* xiv. 495 Pages..laid down for imposition, without folios or head lines, must be rectified by the person who has been slovenly enough to adopt this plan.

2. The action of attaching, affixing, or ascribing; bestowal (of a name, etc.).

¶1387-8 T. USK *Test. Love* ii. iv. (Skeat) l. 141 Wel, quod I, this inpossession I wol wel understande. ¶1430-40 LYDG. *Bochas* i. i. (1544) 1 b, Adam made an imposicion..to those beastes all Of very reason what men should them call. ¶1599 HAKLUYT *Voy.* II. ii. 89 Termed Cantam, which is rather the common name of the prouince, then a word of their proper imposition. ¶1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 49 ¶1 The Imposition of honest Names and Words upon improper Subjects. ¶1870 J. H. NEWMAN *Gram. Assent* i. §2. 7 By our apprehension of propositions I mean our imposition of a sense on the terms of which they are composed.

3. Imputation, accusation, charge. Obs.

¶1611 SHAKES. *Wint. T.* i. ii. 74 The Imposition clear'd, Hereditarie ours.

4. The action of imposing or laying as a burden, duty, charge, or task; the action of inflicting, levying, enjoining, or enforcing.

¶1593 SHAKES. *Lucr.* 1697 At this request..Each present Lord began to promise aide, As bound in Knighthood to her imposition. ¶1594 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* i. ii. §6 The Imposition of this Law upon himself is his own free and voluntary Act. ¶1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* i. ii. i. ii. (1651) 51 The superstitious impositions of fasts. ¶1841 MYERS *Cath. Th.* iii. §34. 123 Opinions..not derived from forcible external imposition. ¶1845 MCCULLOCH *Taxation* i. iv. 108 The effects that would result from the imposition of taxes.

b. The levying of a tax; taxation. Obs.

¶c1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* i. pr. iv. 9 (Camb. MS.) Coempcion..þat weere estabelyssed vp on the poeple by swich a manere imposicion as who so bowhte a bossel corn he moste yeue the kynge the fife part. ¶1628 in *Clarendon Hist. Reb.* iii. §217 Any power of Imposition upon any Merchandizes.

5. Anything imposed, levied, or enjoined:

a. An impost; tax, duty; spec. in pl. duties upon imports and exports imposed by the royal prerogative.

¶c1460 FORTESCUE *Abs. & Lim. Mon.* x. (1885) 132 He takith certayn imposicions made by hym selff vppon euery oxe. ¶1483 *Act 1 Rich. III*, c. 2 A new Imposition called a Benevolence. ¶a1533 LD. BERNERS *Huon* lx. 210 He hath reissyd vp in all his londes new taylles & gables & inpossessyons. ¶1689 BURNET *Tracts* I. 44 Those who stay behind, can scarce live and pay those grievous Impositions that are laid upon them. ¶1839 KEIGHTLEY *Hist. Eng.* I. 83 The lands of the church were also subject to the ordinary impositions for the public service. ¶1863 H. COX *Instit.* iii. ii. 601 Prerogative impositions at the ports were dormant from the reign of Edward III. to that of Mary.

b. A command, charge, or ordinance imposed or laid upon one. Obs.

¶1596 SHAKES. *Merch.* V. iii. iv. 33, I doe desire you Not to denie this imposition, The which my loue and some necessity Now layes vpon you. ¶1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 513 In those capitulations of peace..I find this expresse article and imposition, that they should not vse yron, but only about

tillage of the ground. ¶1637 R. HUMFREY tr. *St. Ambrose* i. 141 His imposition, 'let those in Iudea flie to the mountaines'. ¶1664 H. MORE *Myst. Iniq.* iii. 7 The decrees and ceremonial impositions of men.

c. A literary exercise or task imposed as a punishment at school or college. (Colloquially abbreviated impo or impot.)

¶1746 WARTON *Progr. Discontent* 121 When impositions were supplyd To light my pipe, or sooth my pride. ¶1785 *Minor Poems Milton* 422 note (Webster), Literary tasks called impositions. ¶1806-7 J. BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* (1826) xii. Concl. 322, I have never forgotten the passage, since I once translated it at Oxford as an imposition. ¶1844 J. T. J. *Hewlett Parsons & W.* xv, The penalty for transgressing this..was a long imposition—task some would call it. ¶1899 *Punch* 22 Feb. 88/2, I..got an 'impot' for cribbing a Greek exercise.

6. The action of imposing upon or deceiving by palming off what is false or unreal; an instance of this, an imposture.

¶1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* iii. 108 When the flat contrary of his abjured impositions, is infallibly knowne to be of undoubted trueth. ¶1708 SWIFT *Death Partridge*, The predictions you printed..were mere impositions on the people. ¶1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* xvi. ix, He was afraid Miss Western would never agree to an imposition of this kind. ¶1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) II. 83 He who would either impose on others or escape imposition must know the truth.

adjuvant a. and n.

(ˈædʒ(j)ʊvənt)

[a. Fr. adjuvant (16th c. in Litt.), ad. L. adjuvant-em, pr. pple. of adjuvā-re to assist; f. ad to + juvā-re to help.]

A. adj. Assisting, aiding, helpful, auxiliary.

¶a1614 P. LILIE 2 *Serm.* (1619) 3, I doe not say they are principall causes, but instrumentall, adjuvant, secondary, inferiour causes. ¶1650 GREEN-HILL *On Ezek.* (1874) Ded. 4 It is my unhappiness that I cannot be sufficiently adjuvant to such Princely beginnings. ¶1836 TODD *Cycl. Anat. & Phys.* I. 645/2 Used as adjuvant respiratory organs. ¶1874 WEBSTER *Rep. Patent Congress at Vienna* iv. 355 An examination system which should be adjuvant and advisory to the applicant.

B. n. [The adj. used absol.] A person or thing helping or aiding; a help, helper, or assistant. spec. in Med. A substance added to a prescription to assist the action of the principal ingredient or 'base.'

¶1609 YELVERTON in *Archæol.* XV. 51 (T.) I have only been a careful Adjuvant, and was sorry I could not be the efficient. ¶1654 T. WHITAKER *Bl. of Grape* 2 (T.) These [plants] are adjuvants by reason of their cathartique quality. ¶1865 HUXLEY *ETHNOLOGY* in *Crit. & Addr.* 1873, vii. 138 The value of philology as an adjuvant to ethnology. ¶1875 WOOD *Therap.* (1879) 83 *Serpentaria*, An elegant stimulant tonic, especially useful as an adjuvant to more powerful bitters.

subservient a. (n.)

(səb'sɜːviənt)

[ad. L. *subserviens*, -entem, pr. pple. of *subservire* to SUBSERVE.]

A. adj.

1. Being of use or service as an instrument or means; serving as a means to further an end, object, or purpose; serviceable. Const. to a person or thing, a design, condition, process.

¶1632 TATHAM *Love crowns the end* I. Dram. Wks. (1878) 19 If these eyes be my own, I fondly trust They may be more subservient to me. ¶1651 BAXTER *Inf. Bapt.* 144 If they do preach any wholsom Doctrine, it is usually but subservient to their great Design. ¶1656 RIDGLEY *Pract. Physick* 55 The spirits..subservient to the imagination in the Brain. ¶1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* ii. ix. §7 Ideas, which we may..suppose may be introduced into the Minds of Children in the Womb, subservient to the necessity of their Life..there. ¶1729 BUTLER *Serm.* Wks. 1874 II. 150 Every particular affection..is subservient to self-love. ¶1781 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xviii. (1787) II. 99 The arts of fraud were made subservient to the designs of cruelty. ¶1873 SYMONDS *Grk. Poets* vii. 189 The drama renders all arts subservient to the one end of action. ¶1879 G. C. HARLAN *Eyesight* ii. 18 All the other structures of the eye may be considered subservient to this one [the retina].

b. Const. to with inf. or a prep. with gerund.

¶1668 DRYDEN *Dram. Poesy* Wks. 1725 I. 43 They dwell on him and his concernments, while the rest of the Persons are only subservient to set him off.

¶1714 R. FIDDES *Pract. Disc.* ii. 145 Persons who are subservient in this respect towards promoting the honour of God. ¶1719 YOUNG *Revenge*

iii. i, This is a good subservient artifice, To aid the nobler workings of my brain. ¶1755 SMOLLETT *Quix*. (1803) II. 23 In making you subservient in facilitating our success.

c. without construction. Obs.

¶1650 BULWER *Anthropomet*. 173 They are not in the number of them that perform an action, but of those that are subservient. ¶1661 J. FELL *Hammond* 112 Scarce ever reading any thing which he did not make subservient in one kinde or other. ¶1701 GREW *Cosmol. Sacra* ii. i. 36 While we are awake, we feel none of those Motions, which are continually made, in the disposal of the Corporeal Principles Subservient herein.

2. Acting or serving in a subordinate capacity; subordinate, subject. Const. to. a. of persons.

¶1647 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* i. §140 That the Queen might have solely that Power, and he only be Subservient to her. ¶1667 DECAY *Chr. Piety* ii. ¶13 Can we think he will be patient thus to be made subservient to his enemy?

¶1711 G. HICKES *Two Treat. Chr. Priesth.* (1847) II. 79 The deacons as subservient inferior ministers. ¶1721 PRIOR *Predest.* 63 Wks. 1907 II. 347 Is God subservient to his own Decree? ¶1873 HAMERTON *Intell. Life* vii. vi. 258 Women are by nature far more subservient to custom than we are. ¶1880 'VERNON LEE' *Italy* iii. i. 73 They wanted the singer to remain subservient to the composer.

b. of things.

¶1641 MILTON *Ch. Govt.* iii. Wks. 1851 III. 109 Copies out from the borrow'd manuscript of a subservient scrawl. ¶1656 TUCKER *Rep. in Misc. Scott. Burgh Rec. Soc.* 19 The towne is a mercat towne, but subservient and belonging..to the towne of Lynlithquo. ¶1687 DRYDEN *Hind & P.* i. 88 Superiour faculties are set aside, Shall their subservient organs be my guide?

¶1709 POPE *Ess. Crit.* 263 Most Critics, fond of some subservient art, Still made the Whole depend upon a Part. ¶1864 PUSEY *Lect. Daniel* ii. 88 Antiochus Epiphanes..directed against God what was to be subservient to God. ¶1870 DISRAELI *Lothair* xii, Assuming that religion was true..then religion should be the principal occupation of man, to which all other pursuits should be subservient.

c. Law. (Cf. SERVIENT and SERVITUDE 7.)

¶1681 STAIR *Inst. Law Scot.* i. xvi. 327 Personal Servitudes are, whereby the property of one is subservient to the person of another. ¶1681 [see SERVITUDE 7]. ¶1884 *Law Rep.* 25 Chanc. Div. 580 The mortgagees of C,

D, and E..acquiesced in those blocks being made subservient to the adjoining block B.

3. Of persons, their actions, etc.: Slavishly submissive; truckling, obsequious.

¶1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xlviii, Emily was..disgusted by the subservient manners of many persons, who [etc.]. ¶1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* xxi, The foreigner came here poor, beggarly, cringing, and subservient. ¶1839 JAMES *Louis XIV*, IV. 251 He contrived to ally this subservient flattery to a degree of intemperate vehemence towards Louis. ¶1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* viii. §2 (1882) 472 The lawyers had been subservient beyond all other classes to the Crown.

B. n. A subservient person or thing. rare.

¶1867 D. PAGE *Man* 143 The primitive notion that this earth was the centre of the universe, and the sun, moon, and stars, formed merely to be its subservients. ¶1898 MEREDITH *Odes Fr. Hist.* 35 The fair subservient of Imperial Fact.

efficacious a.

(ɛfi'keɪʃəs)

[f. L. *efficāci-* (see *prec.*) + *-ous*: see *-acious*.]

That produces, or is certain to produce, the intended or appropriate effect; effective. (Said of instruments, methods, or actions; not, in prose, of personal agents.)

¶1528 ROY *Sat.* (1845) Goddis worde is so efficacious. ¶1651 BIGGS *New Disp.* 35 Lesse efficacious, that is, in plain English ineffectual. ¶1669 GALE *Crt. Gentiles* i. iii. iii. 39 He saies it is the first efficacious cause of the Being of althings. ¶a1679 T. GOODWIN *Wks.* (1863) VII. 510 God..vouchsafeth..efficacious grace to overcome temptation. ¶1744 BERKELEY *Siris* §58 Soap, therefore, is justly esteemed a most efficacious medicine.

¶1830 LYELL *Princ. Geol.* (1875) II. iii. xli. 421 Variation and Natural Selection will be efficacious in forming distinct races in separate islands. ¶1860 MILL *Repr. Govt.* (1865) 51/2 To provide efficacious securities against this evil. ¶1873 BROWNING *Red. Cott. Nt.-Cap* 497 Be efficacious at the Council there.

ennui n.

(ɒnuɪ)

[a. Fr. ennui, OF. enui:—L. in odio: see ANNOY, ENNOY, which are older adoptions of the same Fr. word.]

So far as frequency of use is concerned, the word might be regarded as fully naturalized; but the pronunciation has not been anglicized, there being in fact no Eng. analogy which could serve as a guide.]

a. The feeling of mental weariness and dissatisfaction produced by want of occupation, or by lack of interest in present surroundings or employments.

¶1667 EVELYN *Mem.* (1857) III. 161 We have hardly any words that do..fully express the French naivete, ennui, bizarre, etc. ¶1732 BERKELEY *Alciph.* ii. §17 They should prefer doing anthing to the ennui of their own conversation.] ¶1758 CHESTERFIELD *Lett.* IV. 117 In less than a month the man, used to business, found that living like a gentleman was dying of ennui. ¶1789 MRS. PIOZZI *Journ. France* II. 388 Muse! prepare some sprightly sallies To divert ennui at Calais. ¶1801 M. EDGEWORTH *Angelina* i. 10 She felt insupportable ennui from the want of books and conversation suited to her taste. ¶1871 DARWIN *Desc. Man* I. ii. 42 Animals manifestly enjoy excitement and suffer from ennui.

b. Personified. **c.** concr. A cause of ennui.

¶1790 C. M. GRAHAM *Lett. Educ.* 290 It would entirely subdue the dæmon Ennui. ¶1812 H. & J. Smith *Rej. Addr., Cui Bono* i, The fiend Ennui awhile consents to pine. ¶1847 W. E. FORSTER in *T. W. Reid Life* (1888) I. vii. 208 We drove to a first-class hotel..a stylish, comfortless temple of ennui. ¶1849 C. BRONTË *Shirley* vii. 87 Every stitch she put in was an ennui.

revere v.

(rɪˈvɪə(r))

[ad. F. révéler or L. reverēri, f. re- RE- + verēri to fear.]

1. trans. To hold in, or regard with, deep respect or veneration.

¶1661 in Blount *Glossogr.* ¶1665 GLANVILL *Def. Van. Dogm.* 53 If Aristotle were vicious and immoral, there is much the less reason why we should revere his Authority. ¶1691 HARTCLIFFE *Virtues* 137 Sudden Anger reveres or stands in awe of no Man. ¶1717 POPE *Iliad* ix. 754 Revere thy roof, and to thy guests be kind. ¶1761 HUME *Hist. Eng.* liii. III. 174 The people..generally abhorred the Convocation as much as they revered the Parliament. ¶1837 WHEWELL *Hist. Induct. Sci.* (1857) I. 213 Works which

were long revered as a code of science. ¶1864 BRYCE *Holy Rom. Emp.* v. (1875) 68 For all..had heard of Rome's glories, and revered the name of Cæsar.

absol. ¶1797 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Italian* xvii, Tremble, therefore, and revere. ¶1848 LYTTON *Harold* vii. v, The love that reveres.

2. With inf. To be reluctant to do something, through a feeling of respect. Obs. rare—1.

¶1689 HICKERINGILL *Ceremony-Monger* v, If I did not revere to cast Dirt upon the Ashes of the Dead, I could [etc.].

Hence re'vered ppl. a.

¶1787 BURNS *Addr. to W. Tytler* 1 Revered defender of beauteous Stuart. ¶1818 SHELLEY *Hymn Earth* 24 Such delights by thee Are given, rich Power, revered Divinity. ¶1836 THIRLWALL *Greece* xxiv. III. 311 The treaties were..preserved in the most revered sanctuaries. ¶1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) I. 327 As I was saying, revered friend, the abundance of your wisdom makes you indolent.

venerate v.

(ˈvenəreɪt)

[ad. L. venerāt-, ppl. stem of venerārī (also venerāre) to reverence, worship, adore; whence also It. venerare, Sp. and Pg. venerar, F. vénérer.]

1. trans. To regard with feelings of respect and reverence; to look upon as something exalted, hallowed, or sacred; to reverence or revere.

¶1623 COCKERAM I *Venerate*, to worship. ¶1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, Venerate, to reverence, worship or honour. ¶1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* ii. 355 Who venerate themselves, the world despise. ¶1794 R. J. SULLIVAN *View Nat.* I. 481 But there was a class of Alchymists, whose genius, probity, and conduct, we have reason to venerate. ¶1851 D. WILSON *Preh. Ann.* iv. iv. (1863) II. 293 The ruined chapels are still venerated. ¶1870 J. BRUCE *Life Gideon* iv. 70 [We] have learned to venerate the Word of God.

2. To pay honour to (something) by a distinct act of reverence.

¶1844 LINGARD *Anglo-Sax. Ch.* (1858) I. v. 189 Thrice he venerated the sacred remains.

Hence 'venerated, 'venerating ppl. adjs.

¶1790 BURKE *Fr. Rev. Wks.* V. 84 You would have had..a reformed and *venerated clergy. ¶1818 COBBETT *Pol. Reg.* XXXIII. 169 In the Reports,

the Resolutions, and in the venerated Acts, of your Honourable House.

¶1847 PRESCOTT *Peru* (1850) II. 143 It would be easier to govern under the venerated authority to which the homage of the Indians had been so long paid.

¶1873 BROWNING *Red Cotton Night-Cap Country* 272 Smiling and sighing had the same effect Upon the venerated image.

¶1663 BOYLE *Usef. Exp. Nat. Philos.* I. iii. 55 The Queen of Sheba..then brake forth into pathetic and *venerating exclamations. ¶1828 MISS HIGGINSON in Drummond & Upton *Life Martineau* (1902) I. iii. 50 [Her reply declines to accept from him a] venerating love. ¶1863 GEO. ELIOT *Romola* iii. xxxiv, He..saw the faces of men and women lifted towards him in venerating love. ¶1888 RUSKIN *Præterita* III. 8 Without..trouble to their venerating visitors in coming so far up hill.

contemn *v.*

(kən'tɛm)

[a. OF. *contemner*, *contempner* (cited 1453 in Godef.), ad. L. *contem(p)n-ĕre*, f. *con-* intensive + *temnĕre* to slight, scorn, disdain, despise: cf. Gr. *τέμνειν* to judge. Now chiefly a literary word.]

1. trans. To treat as of small value, treat or view with contempt; to despise, disdain, scorn, slight.

¶1450-1530 *Myrr. our Ladye* p. xlviij, They that do contempne me and forgette my charyte they do this to me. ¶1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 92 Who so contempneth you contempneth me. ¶1591 SHAKES. *Two Gent.* ii. iv. 129, I haue done pennance for contemning Loue. ¶1651 HOBBS *Leviath.* i. vi. 24 Those things which we neither Desire, nor Hate, we are said to Contemne. ¶1681 DRYDEN *Abs. & Achit.* i. 381 Not that your Father's mildness I contemn. ¶1777 SHERIDAN *Trip Scarb.* ii. i, I did not start at his addresses as when they came from one whom I contemned. ¶1876 GEO. ELIOT *Dan. Der.* iv. xxxiii, It lay in Deronda's nature usually to contemn the feeble.

b. Const. with inf. To scorn or disdain to do.

¶1609 BIBLE (Douay) *Deut.* xxi. 18 A stubbourne and froward sonne, that..contemneth to be obedient. ¶1622 WITHER *Mistr. Philar.* (1633) 738 Some..who do not contemne In his retyred walkes to visit him.

2. To treat (law, orders, etc.) with contemptuous disregard.

¶1573 TUSSEY *Husb.* (1878) 195 His benefites if we forget, or do contemne his lawe. ¶1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* Nov. 48 Let not my small demaund be so contempt. ¶c1665 MRS. HUTCHINSON *Mem. Col. Hutchinson* (1846) 424 Mr. Cooper contemned my lords' order, and would not obey it. ¶1762 HUME *Hist. Eng.* (1806) III. xlvi. 667 This counsel is not to be contemned. ¶1818 JAS. MILL *Brit. India* II. v. ix. 689 They..contemned and violated the engagement of treaties.

absol. ¶1609 BIBLE (Douay) *Bel & Dr.* i. 12 They contemned, because they had made under the table a secrete entrance [Vulg. contemnebant autem, quia, etc.].

tinge v.

(tɪndʒ)

[ad. L. ting-ĕre to dye, colour.]

1. trans. To impart a trace or slight shade of some colour to; to tint; to modify the tint or colour of (const. with). Also absol.

¶1477 RIPLEY *Comp. Alch.* xi. vi. in Ashm. Theat. Chem. Brit. (1652) 182 Saffron when yt ys pulveryzate, Tyngyth much more of Lycour. ¶1577 HARRISON *England* iii. viii. (1878) ii. 55 As their saffron is not so fine as that of Cambridge shire and about Walden, so it will not cake, ting, nor hold colour withall. ¶1577 HOLINSHED *Chron., Descr. Scot.* vii. 9/2 Theyr fleshe moreouer is redde as it were tynged with Saffron. ¶1658 A. FOX *Würtz' Surg.* iii. xvi. 265 Which will tinge the Aquavitæ to a redness. ¶1725 *Bradley's Fam. Dict.* s.v. Oak, A way of tinging Oak..so as it will resemble coarse Ebony. ¶1769 N. NICHOLLS *Corr. w. Gray* (1843) 99 Just when Autumn had begun to tinge the woods with a thousand beautiful varieties of colour. ¶1863 M. HOWITT *F. Bremer's Greece* II. xvi. 138 The summit of Parnassus was tinged with the red light of morning.

b. transf. To impart a slight taste or smell to; to affect slightly by admixture.

¶1690 C. NESSE *O. & N. Test.* I. 236 Fragrant flowers and fruits, the sweet odours whereof had likely ting'd those goodly garments. ¶1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* (1721) II. 353 Liquors tinged with the spirituous Flavour of other Fruits. ¶c1826 *Lond. Encycl.* s.v. *Barometer*, Common water, tinged with a sixth part of aqua regia. ¶1863 MRS. OLIPHANT *Salem Chapel* xiii, The sweet atmosphere was tinged with the perfumy breath which always surrounded her.

2. intr. To become modified in colour; to take a (specified or implied) tinge.

¶1662 R. MATHEW *Unl. Alch.* §107. 174 Put on more Vinegar..till thou seest that it will ting no more. ¶1756 C. LUCAS *Ess. Waters* I. 15 The solution..upon the addition of new spirit of salt, tinges a kind of orange color.

¶1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* I. 93 He [the oak] tinges slow with sickly hue.

3. fig. To affect in mind or feeling by intermixture, infusion, or association; to qualify, modify, or slightly vary the tone of.

¶1674 N. FAIRFAX *Bulk & Selv.* 47 Our souls are indeed so far ting'd with body. ¶1681 WOOD *Life* 14 Mar. (O.H.S.) II. 526 Fame tells us that he is tinged with presbyterian leven. ¶1702 C. MATHER *Magn. Chr.* iii. i. iii. (1852) 303 His exact education..tinged him with an aversation to vice.

¶1784 COWPER *Task* iv. 553 The town has ting'd the country. ¶1856 EMERSON *Eng. Traits, Lit. Wks.* (Bohn) II. 106 The influence of Plato tinges the British genius. ¶1884 JENNINGS *Croker Papers* I. vi. 182 This grief tinged the whole of Mr. Croker's subsequent life.

4. trans. Alch. To change by the action of a tincture: cf. TINCTURE v. 2 b, TINCT v. 3. Obs.

¶1650 FRENCH *Distill.* (1651) Ded. A iv b, As men bring lead to Philosophers to be tinged into gold. ¶1660 tr. *Paracelsus' Archidoxis* i. v. 75 So likewise doth this Tincture tinge the Hydropical..Body into a sound State.

5. Trade. To mark with a tinge (TINGE n.3).

¶1850 [see TINGE n. 3].

Hence **tinged** (tɪndʒd) ppl. a.

¶1658 A. FOX *Wüirtz' Surg.* iii. xvi. 265 This ting'd Aquavitæ is to be extracted per Balneum. ¶1774 M. MACKENZIE *Maritime Surv.* 110 With a smoked or tinged Glass before your Eye. ¶1867 DEUTSCH *Rem.* (1874) 23 To be dependent on the possibly tinged version of an interpreter.

smack n.1

(smæk)

[OE. smæc, = OFris. smek, MDu. smac, MLG. smak (LG. smakk, schmack; also Sw. smak, Da. smag), OHG. and MHG. smac, smach (G. dial. schmack; cf. G. geschmack). Slightly different in formation are OFris. smaka (WFr. smaek), MDu. smake (Kilian smaek; Du. smaak), MLG. smake (LG. smâk, schmaak). See also SMATCH n.1]

I. 1. A taste or flavour; the distinctive or peculiar taste of something, or a special flavour distinguishable from this.

¶a1000 in Wr.-Wülcker 225 *Dulcis sapor*, i. *dulcis odor*, swete smæc.
 ¶c1050 *Ibid.* 455 *Nectar*,..þone swetan smæc. ¶c1200 ORMIN 1653 Forr witt and skill iss wel inoh þurh salltess smacc bitacnedd. *Ibid.* 14294 Swa summ þe33 waterr wærenn, Off wikke smacc. ¶1340 *Ayenb.* 112 Þet is kynges mete huerinne byþ ech manyere lykinges and alle guode smackes.
 ¶a1400 *Stockh. Medical MS.* ii. 608 in *Anglia XVIII.* 322 Of hennebane arn spycys iij..Alle wyll sauour an hidhows smak. ¶c1475 HENRYSON *Poems* (S.T.S.) III. 152 It wilbe þe softar and sweittar of þe smak. ¶a1536 *Proverbs in Songs, Carols, etc.* (E.E.T.S.) 128 Thowgh peper be blak, it hath a good smak.
 ¶1578 LYTE *Dodoens* ii. lxxxv. 263 The leaues..are of a very strong and pleasant sauour, and good smacke or taste. ¶1606 J. CARPENTER *Solomon's Solace* xxviii. 118 Those vessels will long retaine and yeeld the smack of that liquor which was in them first steeped. ¶1675 EVELYN *Terra* (1729) 29 Every plant has a smack of the Root. ¶1710 T. FULLER *Pharm. Extemp.* 1 Midling Ale..that hath no burnt, musty, or otherwise ill smack. ¶1761 CHURCHILL *Rosciad* Wks. 1763 I. 24 And boniface, disgrac'd, betrays the smack..of Falstaff's sack. ¶1823 J. BADCOCK *Dom. Amusem.* 21 It possesses a dull, acidulous, offensive smack, and an empyreumatic smell. ¶1873 BROWNING *Red Cotton Night-Cap Country* 245 And now, for perfume, pour Distilment rare,..Till beverage obtained the fancied smack.

b. fig. or in fig. context.

¶1340 *Ayenb.* 177 Efterward me ssel lete þane smak of zenne. ¶1593 in *Lyly's Wks.* (1902) III. 451 Experience bids me..champe the bridle of a bitter smacke. ¶1690 DRYDEN *Amphitryon* i. i, He's constant to a handsome family; he knows when they have a good smack with them. ¶1850 THACKERAY *Pendennis* xli, There are works of all tastes and smacks.

c. Pleasant or agreeable taste or relish. Obs.

¶1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 132 Least Doue and the cadow, there finding a smack, with ill stormie weather doo perish thy stack. ¶1600 TOURNEUR *Trans. Metam.* xxix. 202 If this sweet sinne still feedes him with her smacke.

2. Scent, odour, smell. Obs.

¶a1000 [see sense 1]. ¶c1250 *Owl & Night.* 823 Þenne is þes hundes smel fordo; he not þurh þe meynde smak hweþer he schal vorþ þe abak. ¶1549 E. ALLEN *Par. Rev.* 19 A cat of ye mountayne., whiche with her smacke and savour, draweth many beastes unto her.

3. transf. A trace, tinge, or suggestion of something specified.

Common c1570-1680, and in mod. use.

¶1539 CROMWELL in *Merriman Life & Lett.* (1902) II. 173 To powre in som smak of the pure lernying of Cristes doctrine amonges them. ¶1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* iii. (1586) 138 b, Whatsoeuer commeth of an olde stocke, hath lightly a smack of his olde parentes imperfection. ¶1602 *2nd Pt. Return fr. Parnass.* ii. vi, Good faith, the boy begins to haue an elegant smack of my stile. ¶1639 FULLER *Holy War* iv. viii. (1840) 191 The others were suspected to have a smack of the imperial faction. ¶1688 HOLME *Armoury* iii. 233/1 The Orcadians..use the Gothish Language, which they derive from the Norwegians,..of whose qualities they still have a smack.

¶1845 S. AUSTIN *Ranke's Hist. Reform.* II. 75 Graceful poems—not the less attractive for a slight smack of the workshop. ¶1874 BURNAND *My Time* xxix. 280 A smack of real earnestness in his tone.

b. A slight or superficial knowledge; a smattering. Chiefly in phr. **to have a smack of, at, or in** something. Obs.

(a) ¶1551 ROBINSON tr. *More's Utopia* (1895) 9 If it be one that hath a lytell smacke of learnynge. ¶1581 MULCASTER *Positions* xxxvii. (1887) 144 Bycause they haue some petie smake of their booke. ¶c1618 MORYSON *Itin.* iv. 229 Hauing gott a smacke of the grownds of our lawe. ¶1685-90 J. COOD *Wonderful Provid.* (1849) 104 A very young man..who had got a smack of the Latin tongue. ¶1791 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Rom. Forest* (1820) I. 66, I learned a smack of boxing of that Englishman.

(b) ¶1579 LYLly *Euphues* (Arb.) 151 Whereby he may..haue in al sciences a smacke, whereby he may readily dispute of any thing. ¶1602 *2nd Pt. Return fr. Parnass.* iii. i, He hath also a smacke in poetry. ¶1679 M. MASON *Tickler Tickled* 2 For Padge hath a Smack at Latin, but let them English it that will.

c. A mere tasting, a small quantity, of liquor; a mouthful. Also fig.

¶1693 DRYDEN *Persius* iv. 69 He 'says the wimble, often draws it back, And deals to thirsty servants but a smack. ¶1759 GARRICK *High Life below Stairs* ii, He has had a smack of every sort of wine. ¶1766 ANSTEY *New Bath Guide* (ed. 2) 135 May I venture to give Her a Smack of my Muse? ¶1824 W. IRVING *Tales Trav.* I. 18 A relish of the Marquis's well-known kitchen, and a smack of his superior Champagne and Burgundy. ¶1865 J. HATTON *Bitter Sweets* iii, We'll just have one smack of the liquor before you're off to Helswick.

d. A touch or suggestion of something having a characteristic odour or taste.

¶1848 DICKENS *Dombey* vii, There was a smack of stabling in the air of Princess's Place. ¶1886 STEVENSON *Silverado Sq.* 34 A rough smack of resin was in the air. ¶1889 DOYLE *Micah Clarke* 320 A gentle breeze, sweet with the smack of the country.

II. 4. a. The sense or faculty of taste. Obs.

So OFris. smek, G. (ge)schmack, etc.

¶a1200 *Vices & Virtues* 17 3esihthe, 3eherhpe, smac, and smell, and tactpe.

b. fig. Delight or enjoyment; inclination, relish. Chiefly in phrases. Obs.

¶1340 *Ayenb.* 33 He..to-ualþ ine þa slacnesse þet he ne heþ smak, ne deuocion, wel to done. ¶1551 ROBINSON tr. *More's Utopia* ii. (1895) 254 So quyckelye they haue taken a smacke in couetesenes. ¶1580 LYLly *Euphues* (Arb.) 426 Philautus had taken such a smacke in the good entertainment. ¶1609 *Ev. Woman in Hum.* ii. i, I haue no appetite at all to live in the countrie.., now, as they say, I have got a smacke on the Cittie. ¶1620 SHELTON *Quix.* iii. xi. I. 231 She hath a very great Smack of Courtship, and plays with every one.

leaven *n.*

(ˈlɛv(ə)n)

[a. F. levain (recorded from 12-13th c.) = Prov. levam:—L. levāmen means of raising (recorded only in the sense 'alleviation, relief, comfort'), f. levāre (F. lever) to raise.]

1. A substance which is added to dough to produce fermentation; spec. a quantity of fermenting dough reserved from a previous batch to be used for this purpose (cf. sour-dough). In 16-18th c. often pl. Phrase, to lay, put leaven(s).

¶1340 *Ayenb.* 205 Ase þe leuayne zoureþ þet do3. ¶1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 294 He is the levein of the brede, Which soureth all the past about.

¶c1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 352 Take þe wombis of cantarides & grinde him wiþ leueyne. ¶c1425 *Voc. in Wr.-Wülcker* 663/21 Hoc leuamentum, lewan.

¶1471 RIPLEY *Comp. Alch.* ix. viii. in Ashm. (1652) 175 Lyke as flower of Whete made into Past, Requyreth Ferment whych Leven we call. ¶a1483 *Liber Niger in Househ. Ord.* (1790) 70 One yoman furnour..seasonyng the ovyn and at the making of the levayne at every bache. ¶c1532 G. DU WES *Introd. Fr. in Palsgr.* 946 To put the levain, fermenter. ¶1533 ELYOT *Cast. Helthe* (1539) 27 b, Breadde of fyne floure of wheate, hauynge no leuyn,

is slowe of digestion. ¶1541 R. COPLAND *Guydon's Quest. Chirurg.* N j, And yf ye veynes as yet appere nat wel, a day before he must haue a plaster of leueyne. ¶1573 TUSSEY *Husb.* lxxxix. (1878) 179 Wash dishes, lay leauens. ¶1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 566 The meale of Millet is singular good for Leuains. ¶1611 BIBLE *Exod.* xii. 15 Euen the first day yee shall put away leauen out of your houses. ¶1671 SALMON *Syn. Med.* iii. xxii. 430 Rie, the leaven is more powerfull than that of Wheat, in breaking all Aposthumes.

¶1699 EVELYN *Acetaria* 53 Add a Pound of Wheat-flour, fermented with a little Levain. ¶1747 H. GLASSE *Cookery* xvii. 151 The more Leaven is put to the Flour, the lighter and spongier the Bread will be. ¶1809 N. PINKNEY *Trav. France* 33 The bread is made of wheat meal, but in some cottages consisted of thin cakes without leaven. ¶1876 tr. *Schützenberger's Ferment.* 10 The ancients used as leaven for their bread either dough that had been kept till it was sour, or beer-yeast.

b. In wider sense: Any substance that produces fermentation; = FERMENT n. 1; occasionally applied to the 'ferment' of zymotic diseases.

¶1658 R. WHITE tr. *Digby's Powd. Symp.* (1660) 111 Oyl of tartar fermented by the levain of roses. ¶1689 HARVEY *Curing Dis. by Expect.* iv. 21 [The] humours..acquire a levain so pernicious, as to deprave and subvert the animal Faculty. ¶1747 tr. *Astruc's Fevers* 254 Moreover such a foreign levain is so disproportioned to our nature, that its effects will be the greater; nor must we admire, that this mortal ferment should be the product of some particular countries. ¶1758 J. S. *Le Dran's Observ. Surg.* (1771) 137 Her Blood was loaded with a bad Leven. ¶1822-34 *Good's Study Med.* (ed. 4) I. 694 The activity of its [typhus'] leaven by which it assimilates all the fluids of the body to its own nature.

2. fig. a. Chiefly with allusion to certain passages of the gospels (e.g. Matt. xiii. 33, xvi. 6): An agency which produces profound change by progressive inward operation.

¶1390 [see sense 1]. ¶1555 PHILPOT *Apol.* (1599) B 8 b, What pharisaical leuen dothe they scatter abroad. ¶1641 MILTON *Reform.* ii. Wks. 1851 III. 49 The soure levin of humane Traditions mixt in one putrif'd Masse with the poisonous dregs of hypocrisie in the hearts of Prelates. ¶1647 N. BACON *Disc. Govt. Eng.* i. iii. 7 And thus the Romans leavened with the Gospell..insinuated that leuen by degrees, which in the conclusion prevailed over all. ¶1725 BOLINGBROKE 24 JULY in *Swift's Lett.* (1767) II. 211 Lest so corrupt a member should come again into the house of lords, and his bad leaven should sour that sweet untainted mass. ¶1799 J. ADAMS *Wks.*

(1854) IX. 8 There is a very sour leaven of malevolence in many English and in many American minds against each other. ¶1865 PARKMAN *Huguenots* ii. (1875) 17 To the utmost bounds of France, the leaven of the Reform was working. ¶1875 STUBBS *Const. Hist.* III. xxi. 542 The evil leaven of these feelings remained.

b. Used for: A tempering or modifying element; a tinge or admixture (of some quality).

¶1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 410 You have your fine walkes..and there-withall communication seasoned with the leaven of learning. ¶1699 BENTLEY *Phal.* 406 Their Style had some Leaven from the Age that each of them liv'd in. ¶1740 J. CLARKE *Educ. Youth* (ed. 3) 124 The latter [Seneca]..has a Mixture of the Stoick Leaven. ¶1793 HOLCROFT *Lavater's Physiogn.* i. 13 Virtue unsullied by the leaven of vanity. ¶1864 SWINBURNE *Atalanta* 318 Pleasure with pain for leaven. ¶1883 S. C. HALL *Retrospect* II. 185 A leaven of gaiety clung to her through life. ¶1884 *Manch. Exam.* 23 June 6/1 We should remember their temptations and mix a large leaven of charity with our judgments.

c. Phrases. *of the same leaven*: of the same sort or character. *the old leaven*: after 1 Cor. v. 6, 7, the traces of the unregenerate condition; hence often applied to prejudices of education inconsistently retained by those who have changed their religious or political opinions.

¶1598 B. JONSON *Ev. Man in Hum.* i. ii. 73 One is a Rimer, sir, o' your owne batch, your owne levin. ¶1650 TRAPP *Comm. Num.* 48 A loafe of the same leaven, was that resolute Rufus. ¶1653 MILTON *Hirelings* Wks. 1738 I. 569 They quote Ambrose, Augustin, and some other ceremonial Doctors of the same Leven. ¶1722 SEWEL *Hist. Quakers* 4 The Prejudice of the old Leaven. ¶1727 SWIFT *To Very Yng. Lady* Wks. 1755 II. II. 42 Of the same leaven are those wives, who, when their husbands are gone a journey, must have a letter every post. ¶1839 STONEHOUSE *Axholme* 191 The old leaven of dissent, in which Wesley was brought up.

3. attrib.

¶1547 BOORDE *Brev. Health* ccvii. 72 Rye breade, Levyn bread,..and all maner of crustes. ¶1880 KINGLAKE *Crimea* VI. vi. 134 The army of General Canrobert was often..able to provide itself with good leaven bread.

reprove v.1

(rɪ'pru:v)

[ad. OF. reprover (AF. also repruver; mod.F. *réprouver*):—L. *reprobāre*: see *reprobate* v. The β -forms are from those parts of the verb in which the stem had stress (AF. *repreov-*, OF. *repreuv-*): see *prove* v.]

1. trans. To reject. Obs.

¶a1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* xx. 12 Amange þe deuels of hell, þe whilke þou has forsaken and reprobued. ¶1382 WYCLIF *Luke* xx. 17 The stoon whom men bildinge reproueden [1388 *repreueden*], this is maad in to the heed of the corner. ¶c1450 MIROUR *Saluacioun* 3474 The stone whilk the biggers reproved in the heved is made angulere. ¶1526 TINDALE *Heb.* vi. 8 That grounde which beareth thornes and bryars is reproved and is nye vnto cursynge. ¶1582 BENTLEY *Mon. Matrones* 69 It seemeth to them God is parcial, bicause he hath elected some, and some reprooued. ¶1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* ii. xii. 109, I am almost ready to follow the opinion of such as reprove the qualities..which Aristotle gives vnto the Elements, saying they are but imaginations.

b. Sc. To set aside as invalid. Obs. rare.

¶1480 *Act. Dom. Conc.* (1839) 52/1 Þat þe saidis provost, chanonis, & chapelanis, sall brouke & Joyse þe said landis..quhil þe said lettre be Repreifit & declarit of na vale.

2. To express disapproval of (conduct, actions, beliefs, etc.); to censure, condemn. Now rare.

α ¶1340-70 *Alex. & Dind.* 220 Þat non hapel..mihte alegge any lak our lif to reproue. ¶1432-50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) III. 401 Thyne arte is to be reprouede that schewede not this to the before. ¶1483 CAXTON *Cato* F viij, Tho ben fooles that blamen and reprouen the tyme, sayeng that the tyme is cause of theyr sekenesse. ¶1579 GOSSON *Sch. Abuse* (Arb.) 54 If he come to our stall, and reprooue our ballance when they are faultie. ¶1615 J. STEPHENS *Satyr. Ess.* 20 Envy loves That humor best, which bitterly reproves All states.

¶1658 EVELYN *Fr. Gard.* (1675) 58, I do not utterly reprove the grafting of the wood, though but of one year. ¶1770 GOLDSM. *Des. Vill.* 169 He tried each art, reproved each dull delay. ¶1820 SHELLEY *Fiordispina* 40 Lulled by the voice they love, which did reprove The childish pity that she felt for them.

β ¶c1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 9 3if þei haten..trewen men to techen frely holy writt and repreuen synne. ¶c1450 tr. *De Imitatione* ii. ii. 42 Oþir men knowe oure defautes & repreue hem. ¶1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* i. Prol. 106 My werk or 3e repreif Considdir it warlie, reid oftair than anis. ¶1567 *Satir. Poems Reform.* vii. 82 Quhat preachour this repreif, I pray 3ow, durst?

3. To reprehend, rebuke, blame, chide, or find fault with (a person). Also const. for, of.

α ¶a1325 *Prose Psalter* xlix. 9 Y ne shal nouȝt reþruue þe in þy sacrifices.

¶1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 5314 Alle þis sall he do þos openly To reprove þe synful men þar-by. ¶c1400 MANDEVILLE (Roxb.) xv. 70 Me thoȝt grete schame þat Sarzenes..schuld þus reþroue vs of oure inperfiteness. ¶c1450 LOVELICH *Grail* xxxvi. 8 [For] On thyng that he dyde At Rome, Reproved he was be Clergies dome. ¶1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 729 Reproouing and reuiling him with such yll wordes..that all the hearers abhorred it. ¶1667 MILTON *P.L.* x. 761 What if thy Son Prove disobedient, and reprov'd retort, Wherefore didst thou beget me? ¶1727 DE FOE *Syst. Magic* i. iv. (1840) 95 Others suggest, that Noah having reprov'd and reproach'd Canaan for some crime,..the Devil took hold of his resentment. ¶1855 TENNYSON *Maud* i. xx. i, Was it gentle to reprove her..? ¶1871 B. TAYLOR *Faust* (1875) II. i. iii. 27 You praise us—reprove us, It doesn't move us.

β ¶1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 3722 Ȝyf þou for wrappe madyst chy-dyng, Or reþreuedyst a man of vyle þyng. ¶1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. x. 261 God in þe gospel grymly reþreueth Alle þat lakken any lyf. ¶1483 CAXTON *Cato* 4 Of Saynt Ambrose that reþreued openly themperour of his synne. ¶1549 *Compl. Scot.* xv. 123 Thou reþreifis & accuis me of the faltis that my tua brethir committis daly. ¶1596 SPENSER *F.Q.* v. vi. 24 Nor suffering the least twinckling sleepe to start Into her eye.; But if the least appear'd, her eyes she streight reþrieved.

b. To accuse or convict. Obs. rare.

¶c1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 30 Þer-for crist seiþ to þe iewis who of ȝou schal reþreue me of synne. ¶1382 *John* xvi. 8 He schal reþroue the world of synne. ¶c1440 *York Myst.* xxxii. 241 Oure poynte expresse her reþroues þe Of felonye falsely and felle.

c. To reproach, taunt. Const. of. Obs. rare—1.

¶c1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 1 1665 Þey reþreue vs of our auncessours þat þey ouer-cam þem wyþ harde stours; Of pouerte þey make vmbreyd.

4. absol. To employ reprehension or rebuke.

¶a1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* xiii. 6 þaire mouth is ay redy to myssay and reþroue. ¶1382 WYCLIF *Prov.* xxv. 10 Lest perauenture he asaile to thee, whan he shal heren, and to reþreuen cese not. ¶1533 GAU *Richt Vay* 29 Al the writ quhilk is inspirit..is profetabil to tech, to reprw, to correk. ¶1611

BIBLE 2 *Tim.* iv. 2 Reprooue, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering & doctrine. ¶1766 FORDYCE *Serm. Yng. Wom.* (1767) I. i. 36 Reprove only when you must. ¶1821 SHELLEY *Epipsych.* 603 The troop which errs, and which reproves. ¶1876 M. E. BRADDON *J. Haggard's Dau.* I. 11 He came to the water-side tavern to reprove and exhort.

5. To disprove; to prove (an idea, statement, etc.) to be false or erroneous. Obs.

¶c1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* v. met. iv. 130 (Camb. MS.), Whan it retorneth in to hym self it reproeueth and distroyet the false thinges by the trewe thinges.

¶1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. x. 345 'Contra' quod I, 'bi cryste þat can I repreue'.

¶c1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* i. lxxxv. (1869) 49 For to assoile better þine argumentes þat seist j haue falsed and reprevd þi gretteste principle. ¶1538 BALE *God's Promises* ii, All thys is true, Lorde, I cannot thy wordes reprove.

¶1593 SHAKES. 2 *Hen.* VI, iii. i. 40 Reproue my allegation, if you can, Or else conclude my words effectuall. ¶1691 RAY *Creation* i. (1692) 25 This confident Assertion of DesCartes is fully examined and reprov'd by..Mr. Boyl.

b. To refute or confute (a person). Obs.

¶1563 WIN3ET *Four Scoir Thre Quest.* Wks. (S.T.S.) I. 101 Men in this vocatioun..suld..be..potent to repreue and conuict the gainsayaris of the samin.

¶1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* ii. ix. 42 b, Where he sayth the second to lye on the North part, he may by the view & eisight onely be reproued, being in deed towards the East. ¶1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* xvi. xxxi, Deceived they are, and may be reprov'd by the instance of fig-trees.

6. To impair, diminish. Obs. rare.

¶1450-80 tr. *Secreta Secret.* 9 Kepe euyr temperaunce in largete.., ne neuer repreue thi yeftis with ayentakyng. ¶1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 403 Hee sheweth that his loue is so farre from being reproued, that it is augmented.

¶1590 GREENWOOD *Collect. Sclaund. Art.* G ij b, This is hit that..maketh all the syluer saints..to bestur them, least their portions should be reproued; They would gladly haue their portions improved.

reprimand ^{v.}

(rɛpri'ma:nd, -æ-)

[ad. F. *réprimander*, *reprimender* (1642), f. *réprimande*: see *prec.*]

1. trans. To rebuke, reprove, or censure (a person) sharply or severely.

¶1681 PRIDEAUX *Lett.* (Camden) 102 In the same manner he proceeded to repriman them for their unworthy behavior both to his Majesty and us.
 ¶1687 H. HOLDEN in *Magd. Coll. & Jas. II* (O.H.S.) 124 The Bishop..in a large speech..reprimanded the Fellows of their disobedience. ¶1727 SWIFT *Poisoning E. Curll* Wks. 1755 III. i. 149 This gentleman..reprimanded Mr. Curll for wrongfully ascribing to him the aforesaid poems. ¶1748 *Anson's Voy.* i. iii. 30 The Boatswain immediately reprimanded them, and ordered them to be gone. ¶1770 JUNIUS *Lett.* xxxviii. (1788) 205 The lofty terms in which he was persuaded to reprimand the city. ¶1835 W. IRVING *Tour Prairies* 203 The Captain..reprimanded the sentinel for deserting his post, and obliged him to return to it. ¶1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) I. 137 In such cases any man will be angry with another, and reprimand him.

absol. ¶1856 KANE *Arct. Expl.* I. xvi. 195 It was in vain that I..argued, jeered, or reprimanded: an immediate halt could not be avoided.

b. To censure, find fault with (an act). rare—1.

¶1722 WATERLAND *Arian Subscript.* Suppl., Wks. 1823 II. 380 Lord Burghley..reprimanded the warm proceedings of the Heads against him.

2. To repress, restrain. Obs. rare—1.

¶1710 T. FULLER *Pharm. Extemp.* 116 It [i.e. the electuary] reprimands the Animal Spirits when too furious.

Hence repri'mander; repri'manding vbl. n. and ppl. a.; repri'mandingly adv.

¶1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) II. 315 Giving a hint, which perhaps..you will reprimandingly call, 'Not being able to forego the ostentation of sagacity.' ¶1851 J. HAMILTON *Royal Preacher* xvii. (1854) 220 A long lecture of rough reprimanding and perverse faultfinding. ¶1867 *Quiver* II. 186 Then said the owl unto his reprimander—'Fair sir, I have no enemies to slander.' ¶1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 2 Aug. 10/3 The cleric found his Bishop in a reprimanding mood.

reprobate v.

(ˈreprəbeɪt)

[f. L. reprobāt-, ppl. stem of reprobāre, f. re- RE- 2 d + probāre to PROVE: cf. REPROVE v.]

1. trans. To disapprove of, censure, condemn.

¶1432-50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) VI. 407 Sergius..beynge a cardinalle diacon, and reprobate by Formosus the pope, wente to Fraunce. Ibid. VIII. 259

Gregory the xthe..approve certeine of the ordres of beggers.; somme he reprobate, as frers Saccines. ¶1607 J. CARPENTER *Plaine Mans Plough* 36 So those Scribes..were rejected..and their workes reprobated. ¶1671 [R. MACWARD] *True Nonconf.* 145 It was not only not introduced, but plainly reprobate by our Lord and his Apostles. ¶1752 LAW *Spirit Love* ii. (1816) 129 For nothing is reprobated in Cain, but that very same which is reprobated in Abel. ¶1787 WINTER *Syst. Husb.* 205 His neighbours reprobated his method of proceeding. ¶1850 W. IRVING *Mahomet* vii. (1853) 36 He reprobated what he termed the heresies of his nephew. ¶1882 J. B. STALLO *Concepts Mod. Physics* 57 The 'assumption' of universal attraction is reprobated as an 'absurdity' by James Croll.

b. To abhor to do a thing. Obs. rare.

¶1779 EARL MALMESBURY *Diaries & Corr.* I. 236 His Prussian Majesty has..perhaps employed means we should reprobate to make use of.

2. Of God: To reject or cast off (a person or persons) from Himself; to exclude from participation in future bliss. (Cf. reprobation 3.)

¶1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 24 b, For theyr synne they be reprobate & forsaken of god. ¶1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 340 That the Thiefe on the right hand was saved, and the other on the left reprobated..we are ready to admit. ¶a1711 KEN *Psyche Poet.* Wks. 1721 IV. 294 Paternal God, though it is just To reprobate infected Dust [etc.]. ¶1751 G. LAVINGTON *Enthus. Meth. & Papists* iii. (1754) 3 Persons of weak Spirits..will naturally..look upon themselves as reprobated, and forsaken of God. ¶1783 COWPER *Let. to Newton* 21 Apr., Such a man reprobated in the great day, would be the most melancholy spectacle. ¶1847 J. KIRK *Cloud Disp.* xi. 164 Proof that God has reprobated from eternity a certain part of mankind.

3. To reject, refuse, put away, set aside. (Sometimes with suggestion of sense 1.)

¶1609 BIBLE (Douay) *Gen.* xxv. comm., The younger is elected, the elder reprobate. ¶a1661 FULLER *Worthies* (1840) III. 130 Pole being reprobated, Julius the Third..was chosen in his place. ¶1773 JOHNSON *Let. to Mrs. Thrale* 20 Sept., I think the resolution both of my head and my heart engaged, and reprobate every thought of desisting from the undertaking. ¶1782 PRIESTLEY *Matt. & Spir.* (ed. 2) I. Pref. 30 Mr. De Luc..will see this opinion..reprobated with contempt. ¶1850 NEALE *Med. Hymns* (1867) 116 Reprobated and rejected Was this Stone.

b. Law. To reject (an instrument or deed) as not binding on one. (Chiefly in

Sc. Law, as opposed to approbate.) Also absol.

¶1726 AYLIFFE *Parergon* 305 An Exception lies against the Tenor of an Instrument by other Proofs and Evidence in Writing: and this Method (among others) is the best way of reprobating an Instrument. ¶a1768 ERSKINE *Inst. Law Scot.* iii. iii. §49 (1773) 465 The grantee does not in such case approbate and reprobate the same deed. ¶1836 *Blackw. Mag.* XXXIX. 662 You cannot approbate and reprobate the same instrument. ¶1899 *19th Cent.* May 734 The clerical objector cleaves to the one set of laws and rejects the other. He seeks to approbate and reprobate.

c. To repudiate, cast off, disown. ? Obs.

¶1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) I. xxv. 179, I beseech him not to reprobate his child for an aversion which it is not in her power to conquer. ¶1780 *Newgate Cal.* V. 154 The seduction was followed by very disagreeable consequences: the father reprobated his daughter.

4. intr. To employ reproaches. Obs. rare.

¶1698 *Christ Exalted* 100 He reprobated exceedingly against Israel. Hence 'reprobated ppl. a. Also absol.

¶1535 JOYE *Apol. Tindale* (Arb.) 16 Where the state of the electe and of the reprobated immediately after their deth is described. ¶1647 WITHER *Carmen Expost.* B iij, God hath, for that offence, Expos'd you to a reprobated sense, Believing lies. ¶1668 CLARENDON *Contempl. Ps. Tracts* (1727) 571 It is not possible for the most reprobated sinner to believe [etc.]. ¶1782 COWPER *Table-T.* 459 Callous and tough, The reprobated race grows judgment-proof. ¶1790 H. MORE *Relig. Fash. World* (1791) 197 This reprobated strictness therefore..is in reality the true cause of actual enjoyment.

contempt n.

(kən'tem(p)t)

[ad. L. contempt-us (u stem) scorn, f. contempt- ppl. stem of contemnere to CONTEMN. Cf. OF. contemps 'mépris' (1346 in Godef.), contempt (Cotgr.), which was possibly the immediate source.]

1. The action of contemning or despising; the holding or treating as of little account, or as vile and worthless; the mental attitude in which a thing is so considered. (At first applied to the action, in modern use almost exclusively to the mental attitude or feeling.) Const. of, for; phrase in contempt of.

¶1393 GOWER *Conf.* I. 217 He toke upon him alle thinge Of malice and of tirannie In contempte of regalie. ¶a1400 *Cov. Myst.* 83 Contempt of veyn glory. ¶1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (1531) 16 b, Couetyngge..the goodes of this worlde, to the contempte and despysynge of grace. ¶1581 MARBECK *Bk. of Notes* 249 Contempt consisteth chiefelie in three things: for either wee contemne onelie in minde..or lastlie when we adde words or deedes. ¶1605 SHAKES. *Lear* ii. iii. 8 The basest..shape That euer penury in contempt of man Brought neere to beast. ¶1611 BIBLE *Esther* i. 18 Thus shall there arise too much contempt [Coverdale despytefulnes] and wrath. ¶1614 BP. HALL *Medit. & Vows* iii. §18. 72 Wee are soon cloyed..and have contempt bred in us through familiaritie. ¶a1679 HOBBS *Rhet.* ii. ii. 46 Contempt, is when a man thinks another of little worth in comparison to himself. ¶1711 STEELE *Spect.* No. 148 ¶1 New Evils arise every Day..in contempt of my Reproofs. ¶1732 BERKELEY *Alciph.* i. §4 An outward contempt of what the public esteemeth sacred. ¶1845 M. PATTISON *Ess.* (1889) I. 21 This flimsy hypocrisy..inspired Gregory with a contempt which he could not dissemble. ¶1872 DARWIN *Emotions* xi. 254 Extreme contempt, or, as it is often called, loathing contempt, hardly differs from disgust.

b. (with a and pl.) Obs. except as in 4 b.

¶1574 WHITGIFT *Def. Aunsw.* ii. Wks. 1851 I. 284, I beseech God forgive you your outrageous contempts. ¶c1665 MRS. HUTCHINSON *Mem. Col. Hutchinson* (1846) 34 All the contempts they could cast at him were their shame not his. ¶1733 WESLEY *Wks.* (1872) VII. 486 Our sins are so many contempts of this highest expression of his love.

2. The condition of being contemned or despised; dishonour, disgrace; esp. in to have, hold in contempt, bring, fall into, contempt.

¶c1450 CASTLE *Hd. Life St. Cuthb.* (Surtees) 3711 My teching eftir my dissesse Sall no3t be had in contempt. ¶1550 BALE *Sel. Wks.* (1849) 259 Having his verity in much more contempt than afore. ¶1560 BIBLE (Genev.) *Isa.* xxiii. 9 To bring to contempt [1611 into contempt] all them that be glorious in the earth. ¶1594 SHAKES. *Rich. III*, i. iii. 80 My selfe disgrac'd, and the Nobilitie Held in contempt. ¶c1645 HOWELL *Lett.* (1650) I. 473 She may be said to have..fallen to such a contempt that she dares scarce show her face.

¶1837 W. IRVING *Capt. Bonneville* I. 219, I and my people will share the contempt you are bringing upon yourselves. ¶1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) III. 189 He would like to bring military glory into contempt.

3. = Object of contempt. Obs. (Cf. similar use of joy, delight, aversion, etc.).

¶1611 BIBLE *Gen.* xxxviii. 23 And Iudah said, Let her take it to her, lest we bee shamed [marg. become a contempt]. ¶1746 W. HORSLEY *Fool* (1748) I. 101 The Companion of every Scoundrel, and the Contempt of every reasonable Creature breathing. ¶c1832 BEDDOES *Poems*, Murderer's Haunted Couch, Thou shalt not dare to break All men's contempt, thy life, for fear of worse.

4. Law. Disobedience or open disrespect to the authority or lawful commands of the sovereign, the privileges of the Houses of Parliament or other legislative body; and, esp. action of any kind that interferes with the proper administration of justice by the various courts of law; in this connexion called more fully contempt of court. [OF. *contemnement de justice*.]

Contempt of court includes any disobedience to the rules, orders, or process of a court, whether committed by an inferior court, by the servants of the court or officers of the law, or by strangers, and any disrespect or indignity offered to the judges in their judicial capacity within or without the court.

¶[1552 HULOET, *Contempte* ..properlye agaynste the lawe.] ¶1621 H. ELSING *Debates Ho. Lords* (Camden) 78 Yf he had spoaken anything which doth touch the Kinge in his honour..Arundell. Difference betwene contempt and treason. ¶1625 in *Rymer Fœdera* XVIII. 144/1 Such further Paynes, Penalties, and Imprisonments, as..can or may be inflicted upon them for their Contempt and Breach of Our royall Commandment in this Behalfe. ¶1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* xxv, 'Mr. Jinks,' said the magistrate, 'I shall commit that man for contempt.' ¶1866 CRUMP *Banking* iii. 82 An order restraining bankers from parting with money..must be obeyed at the risk of being committed for contempt of court.

b. (with a and pl.) An act of such disregard or disobedience.

¶1621 H. ELSING *Debates Ho. Lords* (Camden) 78 The question whether Yelverton be not fytt to be censured of a greate contempt. ¶a1626 BACON *Max. & Uses Com. Law* (1636) 5 Contempts against the crowne, public annoyances against the people. ¶1722 SEWEL *Hist. Quakers* (1795) I. iv. 352 Imprisoned upon contempts (as the not putting off hats before the magistrates was called). ¶1768 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* III. 287 Not having obeyed the original summons, he had shewn a contempt of the court. ¶1862 BROUGHAM *Brit. Const.* xvii. 256 Both Houses claim to visit with severe punishment what are called contempts or breaches of their privileges.

c. *in contempt*: in the position of having committed contempt, and not having purged himself.

¶1768 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* III. 443 If the defendant, on service of the subpoena, does not appear..he is then said to be in contempt. ¶1766 ENTICK *London* IV. 265 It is a general court for debtors, and such as are in contempt of the Courts of Chancery and Common-pleas. ¶1845 STEPHEN *Laws Eng.* II. 177 note, On continuing to make default after having been ordered by the court to pay..he will be in contempt.

vitiate v.

(ˈvɪʃieɪt)

[f. L. *vitiāt-* (med.L. also *viciāt-*), ppl. stem of *vitiāre* (whence It. *viziare*, Sp. and Pg. *viciar*, F. *vicier*), f. *vitium* VICE n.1 Cf. *prec.*]

1. trans. To render incomplete, imperfect, or faulty; to impair or spoil.

¶1534 MORE *Treat. Passion* Wks. 1303/1 Hym must we serue, though specially wyth the mynde (whych if it be not good, viciateth all together) yet..also wyth body and goodes and al. ¶a1631 DONNE *Serm., Matt.* v. 16 (1640) 82 A superstitious end, or a seditious end vitiates the best worke.

¶1665 MANLEY *Grotius' Low C. Wars* 453 Other Advices were prefer'd, which..do many times vitiate, if not ruine, the most noble and valiant Undertakings. ¶1678 BARCLAY *Apol. Quakers* vii. §2. 197 This Doctrine of Justification hath been, and is greatly vitiated in the Church of Rome.

¶1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 25 ¶5 A continual Anxiety for Life vitiates all the Relishes of it, and casts a Gloom over the whole Face of Nature. ¶1738

WARBURTON *Div. Legat.* I. 166 Time, which naturally and fatally viciates and depraves all things. ¶1794 HUTTON *Philos. Light*, etc. 124 It would

only lead us into error, and thus vitiate the science or philosophy in which it were employed. ¶1808 J. HASLAM *Observ. Madness & Mel.* i. (1809) 31 It

might be urged, that in these instances, the perception was vitiated. ¶1851 NICHOL *Archit. Heav.* (ed. 9) 60 Considering that a deviation from truth by the fraction of a hairbreadth, would vitiate the figure.

b. To corrupt (a) literary works or (b) language by carelessness, arbitrary changes, or the introduction of foreign elements.

(a) ¶1659 BP. WALTON *Consid. Considered* 198 The Septuagint..which we now have is the same for substance with that anciently used, though..by the injury of time, and frequent transcriptions vitiated. ¶1788 REID *Aristotle's Logic* i. §i. 5 There is reason to doubt whether what [works] are his be not much vitiated and interpolated.

(b) ¶1690 *Temple Ess.*, Poetry Wks. 1720 I. 243 Where~ever the Roman Colonies had remained, and their Language had been generally spoken, the common People used that still, but vitiated with the base Allay of their Provincial Speech. ¶1742 DE FOE'S *Tour Gt. Brit.* (ed. 3) III. 4 It is observable, that the Normans could not well pronounce Lincoln, but vitiated it to Nichol.

¶1756 JOHNSON *Dict. Pref.*, Many barbarous terms and phrases, by which other dictionaries may vitiate the style, are rejected from this. ¶1790 'CASSANDRA' (J. Bruckner) *Crit. Tooke's Purley* 55 Those who consider how much the language had been vitiated at the time they lived, by the importation of foreign words.

2. To render corrupt in morals; to deprave in respect of principles or conduct; to lower the moral standard of (persons).

¶1534 MORE *Treat. Passion* Wks. 1311/2 We shulde note well and marke thereby, that the vice of a vicious personne, viciateth not the company or congregacion. ¶1658-9 in *Burton's Diary* (1828) IV. 59 This will not vitiate persons, but your nature and your posterity. ¶1682 BURNET *Rights Princes* Pref. 13 Mankind is not so vitiated with prejudice. ¶1751 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 177 ¶12 The suppression of those habits with which I was vitiated.

¶1770 JUNIUS *Lett.* xxxvii. (1788) 199 If any part of the representative body be not chosen by the people, that part vitiates and corrupts the whole.

¶1853 C. L. BRACE *Home Life Germany* 258 In 1806, the army had become thoroughly vitiated by luxury. ¶1880 E. KIRKE *Garfield* 55 In short, he had only one fault, but that was radical, and in the end, vitiated the whole man. He was thoroughly selfish.

b. Similarly with impersonal objects.

¶1584 R. SCOT *Discov. Witchcr.* v. v. (1886) 80 He being a spirit, may with Gods leave and ordinance viciat and corrupt the spirit and will of man.

¶1598 MARSTON *Pygmal.*, Sat. ii, Many spots my mind doth vitiate. ¶1634 HABINGTON *Castara* Pref. (Arb.) 12, I encounter'd there..Innocencie,..not vitiated by conversation with the world. ¶1675 TRATHERNE *Chr. Ethics* 324 So doth one vice cherished and allowed corrupt and viciate all the vertues in the whole world.

¶1714 R. FIDDES *Pract. Disc.* ii. 93 Sufferings vitiate the best tempers. ¶1751 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 172 ¶2 Many vitiate their principles in the acquisition of riches. ¶1837 H. MARTINEAU *Soc. Amer.* III. 263 The encouragement of an amusement which does seem to be vitiated there.

¶1847 HAMILTON *Rewards & Punishm.* viii. (1853) 362 One sin of youth vitiates a protracted life. ¶1861 MILL *Utilit.* i. 4 To what extent the moral beliefs of mankind have been vitiated..by the absence of any distinct

recognition of an ultimate standard.

c. To pervert (the eye, taste, etc.), so as to lead to false judgements or preferences.

¶1806 A. HUNTER *Culina* (ed. 3) 120 Stomachs may be so far vitiated as to lose all relish for plain roast, or boiled meat. ¶1821 CRAIG *Lect. Drawing*, etc. ii. 103 This practice has such a tendency to vitiate the eye and to mislead the mind. ¶1845 MCCULLOCH *Taxation* i. vi. (1852) 245 It had the mischievous effect of vitiating the public taste and stimulating the consumption of ardent spirits.

3. To deflower or violate (a woman). Obs.

¶1547-50 [see *Vitiating* vbl. n.]. ¶1624 HEYWOOD *Gunaik*. i. 35 Till she returned into her owne naturall forme, in which he vitiated her, and of her begat Achilles. ¶c1645 HOWELL *Lett.* (1650) I. 49 This beutious Maid [Venice] hath bin often attempted to be vitiated. ¶1675 BAXTER *Cath. Theol.* i. 107 Being not..moved by him (as David to murder Urias, and to vitiate his wife). ¶1710 STEELE *Tatler* No. 198 ¶8 He confessed his Marriage, and his placing his Companion on Purpose to vitiate his Wife. ¶1769 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* IV. 81 It was a felony and attended with a forfeiture of the fief, if the vasal vitiated the wife or daughter of his lord. ¶1791 BURKE *Lett. Member Nat. Assembly Wks.* VI. 36 Pedagogues, who betray the most awful family trusts, and vitiate their female pupils.

4. To corrupt or spoil in respect of substance; to make bad, impure, or defective.

¶1572 J. JONES *Bathes Buckstone* 15 For blood is the treasure of lyfe, not viciated. ¶1599 SANDYS *Europæ Spec.* (1632) 103 As a dead Flie doth vitiate a whole boxe of sweet oyntment. ¶1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* 125 Euen as women in their monthly courses doe vitiat their looking-glasses. ¶1652 L. S. *People's Liberty* iii. 6 As much water cannot so soon be viciated as a lesser quantity. ¶1674 R. GODFREY *Inj. & Ab. Physic* 33 The very texture of his Stomach and other vital bowels was vitiated. ¶1759 MILLS tr. *Duhamel's Husb.* i. xvi. 93 Farmers distinguish the wheat thus vitiated by saying that it is blacked in the point. ¶1789 W. BUCHAN *Dom. Med.* (1790) 465 When the saliva is vitiated,..the curing of the disorder is the cure of this symptom.

¶1863 GEO. ELIOT *Romola* xxxiv, The oncoming of a malady that has permanently vitiated the sight. ¶1882 *Med. Temp. Jرنl.* No. 52. 177 As I shall endeavour to show you, it vitiates the blood.

b. esp. To render (air) impure and so inadequate for, or injurious to, life.

¶1715 DESAGULIERS *Fires Impr.* 34 The ill Humours which go out of their Bodies..vitiate the Air more and more. ¶1793 BEDDOES *Consump.* 137 Only a very small portion of the air was vitiated, i.e. converted into fixed air. ¶1869 E. A. PARKES *Pract. Hygiene* (ed. 3) 118 The impurity of the air vitiated by respiration. ¶1878 HUXLEY *Physiogr.* 84 This gas would unduly accumulate, and..vitiate the entire bulk of the atmosphere.

5. To render of no effect; to invalidate either completely or in part; spec. to destroy or impair the legal effect or force of (a deed, etc.).

¶1621 SANDERSON *Serm.* I. 170 An earthly judge is subject to misprision, mis-information, partiality, corruption, and sundry infirmities that may vitiate his proceedings. ¶1726 AYLIFFE *Parergon* 104 A Transposition of the Order of the Sacramental Words, does, in some Mens Opinion, vitiate Baptism. ¶1790 BURKE *Fr. Rev.* 37 If all the absurd theories of lawyers and divines were to vitiate the objects in which they are conversant, we should have no law, and no religion left in the world. ¶1827 JARMAN *Powell's Devises* II. 21 If an undefined portion of a bequest is to be applied to a purpose void by the statute, it vitiates the whole. ¶1853 LYTTON *My Novel* xii. xxvii, I told them flatly..that, as Mr. Egerton's agent, I would allow no proceedings that might vitiate the election. ¶1883 *Law Rep.* 11 Q.B. Div. 568 The plaintiff is engaged in carrying out the illegal objects of the association;..and this circumstance alone vitiates the contract for repayment.

b. To render (an argument, etc.) inconclusive or unsatisfactory.

¶1748 HARTLEY *Observ. Man* i. iii. §i. 308 This will not vitiate the foregoing Conjectures. ¶1846 MILL *Logic* i. v. §3 The theory of that intellectual process has been vitiated by the influence of these erroneous notions. ¶1866 HERSCHEL *Fam. Lect. Sci.* (1867) 73 His proof is vitiated by an enormous oversight: and the thing..is a physical impossibility. ¶1878 STEWART & TAIT *Unseen Univ.* ii. §84. 94 It is this eternity of atom which vitiates the hypothesis.

6. a. To adulterate. Obs.

¶1728 SHERIDAN tr. *Persius* ii. (1739) 35 It was Luxury first made us vitiate our Oyl with Cassia.

b. To alter feloniously. Obs.

¶1753 *Scots Mag.* Aug. 420/1 And William Taylor, for vitiating a bank-note.

Hence 'vitiating' vbl. n. and ppl. a.

¶1547 HOOVER *Declar. Christ & Office* xii. L viij, The deathe of his chyl-dre, the conspyricie of Absolon, the uiciating of his wiues. ¶a1550 LELAND *Itin.* (1769) V. 21 The Collegiate Chirch..was translatid to Aberguili for vitiating of a Maide. ¶1647 CLARENDON *Contempl. Ps. Tracts* (1727) 392 The yielding to every corrupt affection and passion is as great a vitiating and weakening of the mind. ¶1669 BOYLE *Certain Physiol. Ess.* (ed. 2) Absol. Rest Bodies 27 Finding its passage obstructed..by the vitiating of the Pores of the Glass. ¶1832 J. S. MILL in *Monthly Repos.* VI. 658 After all which has been done to break down these vitiating, soul-debasing prejudices,..where are we now? ¶1858 J. MARTINEAU *Stud. Chr.* 275 A certain vitiating unsoundness of mind. ¶1859 GEO. ELIOT A. *Bede* xxix, No man can escape this vitiating effect of an offence against his own sentiment of right.

vituperate *v.*

(vaɪˈtjuːpəreɪt, vi-)

[f. L. *vituperāt-*, ppl. stem of *vituperāre* to censure, blame, disparage, find fault with, etc., f. *vitu-* for *viti-*, stem of *vitium* blemish, fault, *VICE* n.1 + *parāre* to prepare. See also *VITUPER* v.]

trans. To blame, speak ill of, find fault with, in strong or violent language; to assail with abuse; to rate or revile.

Not in common use until the beginning of the 19th c.

¶1542 BOORDE *Dyetary* xvi. (1870) 273 They louyth not porke nor swynes flesshe, but doth vituperat & abhorre it. ¶1611 COTGR., *Vituperer*, to vituperate, dispraise, discommend. [Hence in Cockeram, Blount, Bailey, etc.]

¶1638 PENKETHMAN *Artach.* C ij, Whatsoever transcends their sedulous apprehension..without any favourable expostulation..they will unworthily and unwittingly vituperate and reprehend.

¶1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* xxxiii, The incensed priests..continued to raise their voices, vituperating each other in bad Latin. ¶1826 LAMB *Elia* Ser. ii. Pop. Fallacies iv, A speech from the poorest sort of people which always indicates that the party vituperated is a gentleman. ¶1860 FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* V. 477 He vituperated from the pulpit the vices of the court. ¶1883 A. FORBES in *Fortn. Rev.* 1 Nov. 671 Englishmen are not in the habit of vituperating Monk as a traitor.

refl. ¶1812 H. & J. SMITH *Rej. Addr.* x. (1873) 96 Deviation from scenic propriety has only to vituperate itself for the consequences it generates.

b. absol. or intr. To employ abusive language.

¶1856 R. A. VAUGHAN *Mystics* viii. v. 46 Vituperated and vituperating, he became a wanderer throughout Germany. ¶1877 MRS. OLIPHANT *Makers Flor.* vi. 168 He loses his temper and begins to vituperate.

Hence **vi'tuperated** ppl. a.

¶1841 EMERSON *Conservative Wks.* (Bohn) II. 272 You are yourself the result of this manner of living, this foul compromise, this vituperated Sodom.

invective a. and n.

(in'vektiv)

[a. F. *invectif*, -ive adj., *invective* n. (14-15th c. in Hatz.-Darm.), ad, late L. *invectivus* 'reproachful, abusive', in med.L. *invectīva* (sc. *ōrātio*) as n., f. ppl. stem of *invehēre*: see *invect* and -ive.]

A. adj.

1. Using or characterized by denunciatory or railing language; inclined to inveigh; expressing bitter denunciation; vituperative, abusive. Now rare.

¶1430-40 LYDG. *Bochas* vi. xv. (MS. Bodl. 263) 336/2 He..Compiled hadde an *Invectiff* scripture Ageyn Antoyne. ¶1576 A. HALL *Acc. Quarrell* (1815) 35 Divers *invective* speeches..had passed in the same. ¶1591 GREENE *Disc. Coosnage* (1859) 58 What is the matter good wife (quoth I) that you use such *invective* words against the collier? ¶a1661 FULLER *Worthies, Cambr.* i. (1662) 153 He was..always devoted to Queen Mary, but never *invective* against Queen Elizabeth. ¶1716 WODROW *Corr.* (1843) II. 120 They kept a fast to pray for success to the Pretender's arms, and a thanksgiving for his arrival..and were very *invective* and bitter. ¶1741 MIDDLETON *Cicero* I. vi. 471 Cicero..made a reply to him on the spot in an *Invective* speech, the severest perhaps, that was ever spoken by any man. ¶1866 *Athenæum* No. 2001. 299/3 What we may call *invective* history. ¶1890 E. JOHNSON *Rise Christendom* 368 William, the *invective* opponent of the..friars.

2. Carried or borne in (against something). Obs.

¶1603 FLORIO *Montaigne* ii. xii. (1632) 244 As hugh rocks doe regorge th' *invective* waves.

B. n.

1. A violent attack in words; a denunciatory or railing speech, writing, or expression.

¶1523 SKELTON *Garl. Laurel* 96 Iuuenall was thret parde for to kyll For certayne enuetyfs, yet wrote he none ill. ¶1546 *Supplic. Poore Commons* (E.E.T.S.) 84 Theyr sermons were lytle other then inuectiues agaynst vsery. ¶1640 BP. HALL *Episc.* ii. xvii. 183 This it is that fills..Pamphlets with spightfull invectives. ¶1781 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xxvii. (1869) II. 82 Their satirical wit degenerated into sharp and angry invectives. ¶1839 JAMES *Louis XIV*, IV. 342 The duke, in going down stairs, poured forth volleys of invectives upon the Chief President. ¶1844 THIRLWALL *Greece* lxii. VIII. 177 Cleomenes..sent a letter to the assembly, containing bitter invectives against Aratus.

2. (Without pl.) Denunciatory or opprobrious language; vehement denunciation; vituperation.

¶1602 W. FULBECKE *2nd Pt. Parall.* 26 Yet the Græcians did not alwaies suffer this licentious rage and inuectiue of Poets. ¶a1770 JORTIN *Serm.* (1771) V. xix. 401 The book of Proverbs is full of invective and indignation against..those profligates. ¶1839 KEIGHTLEY *Hist. Eng.* II. 27 He burst out into a torrent of invective.

obloquy *n.*

(ˈɒbləkwɪ)

[ad. late L. obloqui-um contradiction, f. obloquī to speak against, gainsay, contradict, f. ob- (ob- 1 b) + loquī to speak. (The early spelling obliq- may have arisen through confusion with oblique.)]

1. Evil-speaking directed against a person or thing; abuse, detraction, calumny, slander. Formerly also with an and pl., An abusive or calumnious speech or utterance (obs.).

¶1460 J. CAPGRAVE *Chron.* 281 In this tyme cam oute a bulle..whch revokid alle the graces that had be graunted..of whch ros mech slaundir and obliqui ageyn the Cherch. ¶1502 W. ATKYNSON tr. *De Imitatione* iii. xl. 229 Infyrmytes, & iniurye, oblyquies & repreues..these thynges helpe to purches vertues. ¶1591 SHAKES. *1 Hen.* VI, ii. v. 49 He..did vpbrayd me with my Fathers death; Which obloquie set barres before my tongue. ¶1673 *True Worsh. God* p. ii, I shall not much concern my self with the obloquies of such men. ¶1777 WATSON *Philip II* (1839) 375 It would be prudent perhaps not to expose himself again to the obloquy of his detractors. ¶1867 SMILES *Huguenots Eng.* viii. (1880) 137 They had to..hold their convictions in the face of obloquy, opposition.

b. Abuse or detraction as it affects the person spoken against; the condition of being spoken against; evil fame, bad repute; reproach, disgrace.

¶1469 *Paston Lett.* II. 380 They that be abut yow be in obloquy of all men.

¶1494 *FABYAN Chron.* vii. 618 All was ruled by the quene & her counsayll..to the great maugre & oblyquy of the quene. ¶1513 *MORE in Grafton Chron.* (1568) II. 767 From the great obloquy that he was in so late before, he was..in so great trust that..he was made [etc.] ¶1602 *MARSTON Antonio's Rev.* iv. iii, The just revenge Upon the author of thy obloquies. ¶1647 *CLARENDON Hist. Reb.* vii. §337 And undergo the perpetual obloquy of having lost a Kingdom.

2. transf. A cause, occasion, or object of detraction or reproach; a reproach, a disgrace. Obs.

¶1589 *NASHE Anat. Absurd.* 39 To shew what an obloquie these impudent incipients in Arts are vnto Art. ¶1601 *SHAKES. All's Well* iv. ii. 44 An honour longing to our house,..Which were the greatest obloquie i' the world, In me to loose. ¶1621 *BURTON Anat. Mel.* ii. iii. vii. (1651) 356, I have been..arraigned and condemned, I am a common obloquy.

scurrility n.

(skə'rɪlɪtɪ)

[a. F. *scurrilité* (15th c.), or ad. L. *scurrilitās*, f. *scurrilis*: see *SCURRILE* a. and -ITY.]

a. The quality of being scurrilous; buffoon-like jocularity; coarseness or indecency of language, esp. in invective and jesting.

¶1508 *DUNBAR Flyting* 58 Scarth fra scorpione, scaldit in scurrilitie.

¶1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 90 b, Scurrilite or spekyng of fylthy wordes.

¶1588 *SHAKES. L.L.L.* v. i. 4 Your reasons at dinner haue beene..pleasant without scurrillity. ¶1654 *GATAKER Disc. Apol.* 3, I list not to contend with him in scurrilitie and bad language. ¶1759 *SYMMER in Ellis Orig. Lett.* Ser. ii. IV. 414 The hawkers..every day have some new piece of scurrility against him, to bawl about the streets. ¶1849 *MACAULAY Hist. Eng.* v. I. 650 He was, as usual, interrupted in his defence by ribaldry and scurrility from the judgment seat. ¶1874 *GREEN Short Hist.* vii. §1. 346 The Sacrament of the Mass..was attacked with a scurrility and profaneness, which passes belief.

¶a1566 *R. EDWARDS Damon & Pithias* (1908) B j b, I came not yet to be the Kinges foole, Or to fill his eares with seruile squirilitie. ¶1577 *STANYHURST Descr. Irel.* ii. 6 b in Holinshed, The heathen misliked in an orature

squirilitie. ¶1607 DEKKER & WEBSTER *Westw. Hoe* ii. i. B 4 b, So long as your mirth bee voyde of all Squirrility.

b. Something scurrilous.

¶1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* i. xxxi. (Arb.) 76 Such among the Greekes were called Pantomimi, with vs Buffons, altogether applying their wits to Scurrillities & other ridiculous matters. ¶1733 POPE *Dunc.* ii. 299 note, Concanen..was author of several dull and dead scurrilities in the British and London Journals. ¶1830 D'ISRAELI *Chas. I, III.* xi. 244 Who could have imagined that the writers of these scurrilities were scholars.

c. Buffoon-like behaviour. Obs.

¶1614 J. NORDEN *Labyrinth Mans Life* L 4, Heroicke acts, that make men honorable, Are only sweet and most inestimable; The rest are false, found mere scurrilitie, By which some loose, both fame and dignitie. ¶1624 HEYWOOD *Gunaik.* i. 24 We may as well say, Cats, Goates and Apes, are by chance given to voracitie, lust, and squirilitie.

Hence **scu'rilitiship** nonce-wd., ? the state of persons who indulge in scurrility.

¶1592 NASHE *Strange Newes* G 2 b, Maister Bird shall..meeter it mischieuously in maintenance of their scurrilitiship and ruditie.

Billingsgate *n.*

(ˈbɪlɪŋsget)

[The proper name (presumably from a personal name Billing) of one of the gates of London, and hence of the fish-market there established. The 17th c. references to the 'rhetoric' or abusive language of this market are frequent, and hence foul language is itself called 'billingsgate.']

1. One of the gates of the city of London; the fish-market near it; the latter noted for vituperative language.

¶c1250 LAY. 15070 And ladde to Londene..bisides Bellinges-gate [c1205 BæL3ES-]. ¶1585 PILKINGTON *Exp. Nehem.* (1841) 345 The gates of cities have their names..of them that builded them, as Lud-gate and Billings-gate, of Lud and Billinns. ¶1658 R. NEWCOURT *Title Map Lond.*, Billings gate Founded by Belen ye 23th Brittish Kinge. ¶1672 MARVELL *Reh. Transp.* i. 167 There is not a scold at Billins~gate but may defend herself. ¶1705 HICKERINGILL *Priest-cr.* i. (1721) 56 The Rhetorick of Billingsgate, viz. Lying and Slandering. ¶1795 WINDHAM *Speeches Parl.* (1812) I. 266 The

scolding of a fishwoman in Billingsgate. ¶1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xiii, Mr. Osborne..cursed Billingsgate with an emphasis worthy of the place.

b. attrib. (in reference to language.)

¶1652 CULPEPPER *Eng. Physic.*, With down-right Billingsgate-Rhetoric.

¶1726 AMHERST *Terræ Fil.* x. 48, I know nothing that he is fit for, but Billingsgate sermons. ¶1750 WESLEY *Wks.* (1872) IX. 87 Low, Billingsgate invectives.

2. Scurrilous vituperation, violent abuse.

¶1676 WYCHERLEY *Pl.-Dealer* iii. i. (1678) 35 With sharp Invectives Wid. (Alias Belin'sgate). ¶1710 SHAFTESBURY *Charac.* (1737) III. ii. 15 Philosophers and Divines, who can be contented to..write in learned Billingsgate. ¶1799 T. JEFFERSON *Writ.* (1859) IV. 289 We disapprove the constant billingsgate poured on them officially. ¶1867 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1876) I. App. 625 This is mere Billingsgate.

3. A clamouring foul-mouthed person, a vulgar abuser or scold. Obs.

¶1683 TRYON *Way to Health* 480 Neither have we any Billings-gates, all that sort of People are our hewers of VWood and drawers of Water. ¶1715 Bowes' *Trag.* in *Yorksh. Anthol.* (1851) 18 Words not fit for a Billingsgate. ¶1721-90 BAILEY, *Billingsgate*, a scolding impudent Slut.

Hence **Billingsgate** v. rare. **Billingsgatri**, scurrilous language.

¶1673 *Remarks upon Rem.* 56 (Boucher) A great deal of Billingsgatri against poets. ¶1715 A. LITTLETON *Lat. Dict.*, To Billingsgate it. *Arripere maledictum ex trivio.*

lascivious a.

(lə'sɪvɪəs)

[ad. late L. *lascīviōs-us* (Isidore), f. L. *lascīvi-a* (n. of quality f. *lascīvus* sportive, in bad sense lustful, licentious): see -ous.]

1. Inclined to lust, lewd, wanton.

¶c1425 LYDG. *Assembly of Gods* 686 Lastyuyous [read lascyuyous] lurdeyns, & pykers of males. ¶1494 FABYAN *Chron.* vii. 402 Ye lassiuuyous and wanton dispositions of the sayd Pyers of Gaueston. ¶1555 EDEN *Decades* 141 He chaunced to lyue in those lasciuious and wanton dayes. ¶1567 J. MAPLET *Gr. Forest* 88 The Gotebucke is verie wanton or lasciuious. ¶1601 SHAKES. *All's Well* iv. iii. 248, I knew the young Count to be a dangerous and

lasciuious boy. ¶1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 544 One picture there is of his doing, wherein he would seeme to depaint Lascivious [quoted in mod. Dicts. as 'lascious'] wantonnesse. ¶1667 MILTON *P.L.* ix. 1014 Hee on Eve Began to cast lascivious Eyes. ¶1781 COWPER *Anti-Thelyphthora* 199 The Fauns and Satyrs, a lascivious race, Shrieked at the sight. ¶1856 MRS. BROWNING *Aur. Leigh* iii. 767 Thin dangling locks, and flat lascivious mouth.

¶1586 W. WEBBE *Eng. Poetrie* D iiij, He.. is wholly to bee reputed a laciuius disposed personne.

b. Inciting to lust or wantonness. Also in milder sense, voluptuous, luxurious. Obs.

¶1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* ii. ix. [x.] (Arb.) 97 Carols and rounds and such light or lasciuious Poemes. ¶1594 SHAKES. *Rich. III*, i. i. 13 He capers nimbly in a ladies Chamber, To the lasciuious pleasing of a Lute.

¶1602 T. FITZHERBERT *Apol.* 36 b, How many are there..that..make no scruple to keep lasciuious pictures to prouoke themselues to lust? ¶1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* ii. ii. ii. (1651) 240 By Philters and such kinde of lascivious meats. ¶1660 F. BROOKE tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 155 Their garments are something lascivious, for being cut and open their skin is seen. ¶1671 L. ADDISON *W. Barbary* 150 That they should have Chaires there to sit in with as much lascivious ease, as at home. ¶1780 COWPER *Table T.* 462 To the lascivious pipe and wanton song, That charm down fear, they frolic it along.

¶1838 LYTTON *Leila* i. iv, Not thine the lascivious arts of the Moorish maidens.

2. Used for: Rank, luxuriant.

¶1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 243 Forded several Plashes where flourished lascivious Shrubs.

voluptuous **a.**

(və'ɫʌptjuəs)

[ad. OF. (also mod.F.) voluptueux, -euse (= Sp. and Pg. voluptuoso, It. voluttuoso), or L. voluptuōsus (Pliny, etc.), f. voluptas pleasure, VOLUPTY. Cf. VOLUPTEOUS **a.**]

1. Of or pertaining to, derived from, resting in, characterized by, gratification of the senses, esp. in a refined or luxurious manner; marked by indulgence in sensual pleasures; luxuriously sensuous: **a.** Of desires or appetites.

¶c1374 CHAUCER *Troilus* iv. 1573 Love ne drof yow nought to don this dede, But lust voluptuous, and cowarde drede. ¶c1407 LYDG. *Reson & Sens.* 4714 To sojourne in the Erbere..Oonly ordeyned for delyte And voluptuose appetyte. ¶1491 CAXTON *Vitas Patr.* (W. de W. 1495) i. i. 5/1 This techith us our sauour for to kepe us from voluptuous desyres. ¶1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 82 b, Abstynence from the carnall voluptuous appetyte of the flesshe. ¶c1540 in *Prance Addit. Narr. Pop. Plot* (1679) 36 The supporters of our voluptuose and Carnal Appetite. ¶1697 SOUTH *Serm.* I. 32 God..has corrected the Boundlessness of his Voluptuous desires, by stinting his strengths, and contracting his Capacities. ¶1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* II. 546 [Dancing girls, who] communicate, by a natural contagion, the most voluptuous desires to the beholders.

b. Of pleasure or pleasurable sensations.

¶c1407 LYDG. *Reson & Sens.* 2022 Venus..goddesse is of al plesaunce, Of lust, and fleshly appetyte, And of voluptuous delyte. ¶1603 KNOLLES *Hist. Turks* (1638) 242 Solyman..lay in great securitie,..passing his time in all voluptuous pleasure. ¶1663 S. PATRICK *Parab. Pilgr.* xiv, Because I believe you are desirous to know, how they receive and take in those voluptuous enjoyments. ¶1756 BURKE *Subl. & B.* i. v, That smooth and voluptuous satisfaction which the assured prospect of pleasure bestows. ¶1820 SHELLEY *Prometh. Unb.* i. 426 If thou might'st dwell among the Gods the while Lapped in voluptuous joy? ¶1869 J. PHILLIPS *Vesuv.* i. 10 The long voluptuous dream came to a startling end. ¶1888 *Buck's Handbk. Med. Sci.* VI. 397/2 Excessive voluptuous sensations may be the result of peripheral or central causes.

transf. ¶1614 DONNE *Lett.* (1651) 173 Out of a voluptuous loathnesse to let that taste go out of my mouth. ¶1815 SHELLEY *Alastor* 11 Spring's voluptuous pantings when she breathes Her first sweet kisses, have been dear to me.

c. Of modes of life or conduct.

¶1432-50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) VI. 79 The luffe of the cuntre and elegancy voluptuous deceyvide his grevous labors. ¶1553 BRENDE Q. *Curtius* x. 209 Hauing in these and suche other like voluptuous vanities consumed a great part of the treasure. ¶a1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 82 They subornit him quyitlie to dissobedience,..for by it they thocht they had ane woluptous lyfe. ¶1582 BIBLE (Genev.) *2nd Alph. Direct., Voluptuous* liuing, one of the thornes that choke the worde. ¶1600 HOLLAND *Livy* xxxvi. ii. 925 The very souldiours were let loose and given over to take

voluptuous waies. ¶1634 W. TIRWHYTT tr. *Balzac's Lett.* 211 He as easily surmounteth all his voluptuous irregularities, as he doth his most violent revels. ¶1685 OTWAY *Windsor Castle* 124 The Priests who humble Temp'rance should profess, Sought silken Robes and fat voluptuous Ease. ¶a1734 NORTH *Lives* (1826) II. 95 By his voluptuous unthinking course of life he ran in debt. ¶1809 W. IRVING *Knickerb.* (1861) 75 The gallant warrior starts from soft repose, from golden visions, and voluptuous ease. ¶1817 SHELLEY *Constantia* iv, The breath of summer night, Which..suspends my soul in its voluptuous flight. ¶1838 THIRLWALL *Greece* xxxviii. V. 29 A man of voluptuous habits, who desired power as an instrument of sensual indulgence.

d. Of fare or feasting.

¶1544 *Exhort.* in *Priv. Prayers* (1851) 569 Wholesome abstinence..from all delicious living in voluptuous fare. ¶1585 LUPTON *Thous. Notable Th.* (1675) 77 Cleopatra, the last Queen of Egypt,..did drink one so voluptuous a draught as never any did before. ¶1638 PENKETHMAN *Artach.* K 3 Excessive consumption and abuse of Wheat and other Victuals in voluptuous Feasts. ¶1727 [DORRINGTON] *Philip Quarll* (1816) 14 These provisions being somewhat too voluptuous for an hermit. ¶1759 B. MARTIN *Nat. Hist.* I. 78 The most voluptuous Part of Cookery. ¶1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* II. 589 That dissolving jelly which is so voluptuous a rarity at European tables.

e. Of places.

¶1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* i. 39 They tell a thousand other Fopperies of this voluptuous Paradise. ¶1820 SHELLEY *Prometh. Unb.* i. 171 Foodless toads Within voluptuous chambers panting crawled. ¶1832 W. IRVING *Alhambra* I. 4 A soft southern region, decked out with all the luxuriant charms of voluptuous Italy. ¶1839 THIRLWALL *Greece* l. VI. 227 The army was permitted to revel for some time in the enjoyments which the most splendid and voluptuous of Eastern cities offered in profusion.

2. Addicted to sensual pleasure or the gratification of the senses; inclined to ease and luxury; fond of elegant or sumptuous living.

¶c1440 *Gesta Rom.* xviii. 333 (Add. MS.), The voluptuous flesh, that bereth the fire of glotonye and lechery. ¶1577 tr. *Bullinger's Decades* (1592) 20 Voluptuous and daintie louers of this world..doo without any fruite at al heare Gods worde. ¶1594 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* ii. 121 Our Lord Iesus Christ himselfe, who was neither nice nor voluptuous. ¶1612 T. TAYLOR *Comm. Titus* ii. 12 The voluptuous person, is a louver of his pleasure more then of God. ¶1638 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (ed. 2) 240 The poore are not

so voluptuous: they content themselves with drie ryce, herbs, roots. ¶1670 CLARENDON *Ess. Tracts* (1727) 166 The lustful and voluptuous Person, who sacrifices the Strength and Vigour of his Body to the Rage and Temptation of his Blood. ¶a1734 NORTH *Lives* (1826) II. 411 The bey was a merry fellow, and, like other voluptuous Turks, had his buffoons to divert him. ¶1783 JOHNSON *Lett.* (1788) II. 298 A friend of mine, who courted a lady of whom he did not know much, was advised to see her eat, and if she was voluptuous at table, to forsake her. ¶1838 THIRLWALL *Greece* II. 172 The voluptuous and unwarlike people were protected by impregnable walls. ¶1848 LYTTON *Harold* i. i, A large building that once had belonged to some voluptuous Roman.

absol. ¶a1680 BUTLER *Characters* (1908) 266 The voluptuous is very hard to be pleas'd. ¶1682 BURNET *Rights Princes* v. 160 As if it had been the Rich and Voluptuous, and not the Poor and the Hungry. ¶1762 *Charac. in Ann. Reg.* 13 His high relish of social enjoyment soon brought him into request with the voluptuous of all ranks. ¶1802 *Gentl. Mag.* Jan. 3/1 To the..Splenic—the Voluptuous—the Petulant—and the Proud.

transf. ¶a1822 SHELLEY *Calderon* iii. 56 And, voluptuous Vine, O thou Who seekest most when least pursuing.

3. Imparting a sense of delicious pleasure; suggestive of sensuous pleasures, esp. of a refined or luxurious kind.

¶1816 BYRON *Ch. Har.* iii. xxi, And when Music arose with its voluptuous swell, Soft eyes look'd love to eyes which spake again. ¶1820 HAZLITT *Lect. Dram. Lit.* 71 The poet succeeds less in the voluptuous and effeminate descriptions. ¶1844 LEVER *T. Burke* xli. 307 The seigneur..had..mixed in the voluptuous fascinations of the period. ¶1877 DOWDEN *Shaks. Primer* vi. 87 The voluptuous moonlit nights are only like a softer day.

b. Suggestive of sensuous pleasure by fulness and beauty of form.

¶1839 HALLAM *Hist. Lit.* (1847) II. 101 We recognise his spirit in the sylvan shades and voluptuous forms of Albano and Domenichino. ¶1841 MACAULAY *Ess., Hastings* (1851) 649 There appeared the voluptuous charms of her to whom the heir of the throne had in secret plighted his faith. ¶1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) III. 144 The voluptuous image of a Corinthian courtesan. ¶1891 FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* xxvi, She was now twenty-six, but had lost none of her voluptuous loveliness.

transf. ¶1852 TENNYSON *Ode Wellington* 208 He shall find the stubborn thistle bursting Into glossy purples, which out~redden All voluptuous garden-roses.

ostensible a. (n.)

(ɒ'stensɪb(ə)l)

[a. F. ostensible (1740 in Dict. Acad.), ad. L. type *ostensibil-is (med.L. in Laws Hen. I. c. 80 §11), f. ostens-, ppl. stem of ostendĕre: see ostend.]

1. That may be shown, exhibited, or presented to view, hence, presentable; also, made or prepared to be shown. Obs.

¶1762-71 H. WALPOLE *Vertue's Anecd. Paint.* (1786) II. 140 [Rubens] was called to Paris by Mary de' Medici, and painted the ostensible history of her life in the Luxemburgh. ¶1783 LD. TEMPLE *Let.* 2 Apr. in *Dk. Buckhm. Crt. Geo.* III (1853) I. 226, I wish you to write me an ostensible letter..upon the conduct of the Portuguese. ¶1798 BAY *Amer. Law Rep.* (1809) I. 92 B. was the only ostensible person in the country, P. having gone off, and C.'s estate not being sufficient to make good the loss. ¶a1805 A. CARLYLE *Autobiog.* i. (1860) 31 He took great pains to make them (especially the first, for the second was hardly ostensible) appear among his best scholars. ¶1828 BENTHAM *Wks.* (1843) X. 591 You should..send me two letters—one confidential, another ostensible.

2. That presents itself to view or shows itself off; open to public view; conspicuous, ostentatious. Obs.

¶1782 in *Ld. Macartney's Life &c.* (1807) I. 144 Were we to adopt the ostensible and artificial language of that prudence which [etc.]. ¶1803 MRQ. WELLESLEY *Let. to A. Wellesley* 26 June in *Owen Desp.* (1877) 302 The most direct and even ostensible interposition of the British authority. ¶1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* x. ii. ¶12 He has been in an ostensible situation..and his father ought to be buried with all the forms of state. ¶1828 LD. GRENVILLE *Sink. Fund* 29 Which..can exhibit to us only the outward and ostensible workings of this complicated mechanism.

3. Declared, avowed, professed; exhibited or put forth as actual and genuine: often implicitly or explicitly opposed to 'actual', 'real', and so = merely professed, pretended.

¶1771 JUNIUS *Lett.* liv. 289 The best of princes is not displeased with the abuse which he sees thrown upon his ostensible Ministers. ¶1786 BURKE *W. Hastings Wks.* 1842 II. 119 A party of British and other troops, with the nabob in the ostensible, and the British resident in the real, command. ¶1837 H. MARTINEAU *Soc. Amer.* III. 269 There will be less that is ostensible and more that is genuine, as they grow older. ¶1848 C. BRONTË *J. Eyre* x. (1873) 85 My ostensible errand on this occasion was to get measured for a pair

of shoes. ¶1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* vii. §4. 381 Her ostensible demand was for English aid in her restoration to the throne.

B. as n. in pl. Ostensible matters.

¶1861 J. PYCROFT *Agony Point* xxiii. (1862) 231 When all these positive essentials and ostensibles were so respectably witnessed.

specious a.

(ˈspiːʃəs)

[ad. L. speciōs-us fair, beautiful, fair-seeming, f. speciēs species. Hence also F. spécieux, -euse, It. spezioso, Sp. and Pg. especioso.]

1. Fair or pleasing to the eye or sight; beautiful, handsome, lovely; resplendent with beauty. ? Obs.

a. Of persons, their parts, etc., or of things.

(a) ¶a1400 MINOR *Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxiii. 146 Heil ful of grace, eke Specious at al, Mayden wys and þerto Meke. ¶c1425 *St. Elizabeth of Spalbeck in Anglia* VIII. 115/45 Hir chere semiþ þen ful specyous and cleer & gracyous. ¶1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 184 Specyous & beautyfull is he aboue all the chylder of men. ¶1626 T. H[AWKINS] *Caussin's Holy Crt.* 45 Nicephorus relateth certaine lineaments of his stature, colour and proportion of his members,..in all parts louely and specious. ¶1652 GAULE *Magastrom.* 265 Yet the wise men of Greece were not ashamed to pursue specious boyes. ¶a1670 HACKET *Cent. Sermons* (1675) 422 There is thy Saviour..looking like a specious Bridegroom. ¶1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) I. xvi. 109 Disagreeable only as another man has a much more specious person. ¶1791 COWPER *Odyss.* xvii. 547 Gods! how illiberal with that specious form! ¶1818 HAZLITT *Eng. Poets* i. (1870) 14 The Greek statues are little else than specious forms.

(b) ¶1402 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 98 The pore man at the specious zate praiede to the apostlis to parten of her almes. ¶c1440 *Gesta Rom.* viii. 20 That oþer [way] specius and faire, sett aboute withe lileis and Rosis. ¶1582 N.T. (Rhem.) Acts iii. 10 He which sate for almes at the Specious gate of the temple. ¶1621 R. BRATHWAIT *Nat. Embassie* (1877) 188 Smooth to the touch, and specious to the sight. ¶1651 FRENCH *Distill.* vi. 192 So will the Spirit..be coloured with a very specious blue colour. ¶1697 AUBREY *Brief Lives* (1898) I. 77 The great Cardinal Richelieu, who lived both to designe and finish that specious towne of Richelieu. ¶1756 BURKE *Subl.* & B. Wks.

1842 I. 57 When any object partakes of the above mentioned qualities, or of those of beautiful bodies, and is withal of great dimensions, it is full as remote from the idea of mere beauty; I call it fine or specious.

transf. ¶c1485 DIGBY *Myst.* (1882) iii. 628 To me itt is a Ioye most spece-ows. ¶1631 MASSINGER *Emperor East* i. ii, Your specious titles Cannot but take her.

b. Of flowers, birds or their feathers, etc. In later use, having brilliant, gaudy, or showy colouring. Also transf.

(a) ¶1513 BRADSHAW *St. Werburge* i. 3456 This rutilant gemme and specious floure [sc. the body of St. Werburge]. ¶a1637 B. JONSON *Underwoods, Epitaph Master Corbet* Wks. (1640) 178 And adde his Actions unto these, They were as specious as his Trees. ¶a1682 SIR T. BROWNE *Misc. Tracts* (1684) 93 Successive acquists of fair and specious Plants. ¶1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. Saxifraga, The fourth Sort is propagated for the Sake of its specious Flowers. ¶1800 ANDREWS *Bot. Rep.* 87 This truly specious Ixia! ¶1812 *New Botanic Gard.* I. 29 The corolla specious, and purple in colour. ¶1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 265 The novice in botany, who is attracted, perhaps, only by what is specious in the plant or flower.

(b) ¶1688 HOLME *Armoury* ii. 287 It can set up specious feathers on the crown of its head like a crest. ¶1688 *Phil. Trans.* XVII. 996 There be other sorts of Goldfinches variegated with red, orange and yellow Feathers, very specious and beautiful. ¶1786 S. GOODENOUGH in *Mem. Sir J. E. Smith* (1832) I. 184 Bees, several new ones, one very specious indeed. ¶1803 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* IV. ii. 603 Specious Mackrel, Scomber Speciosus. ¶1809 *Ibid.* VII. ii. 364 Specious Jay, *Corvus speciosus*. Crested green Jay.

2. Having a fair or attractive appearance or character, calculated to make a favourable impression on the mind, but in reality devoid of the qualities apparently possessed.

In certain contexts passing into the sense ‘merely apparent’.

¶1612 T. TAYLOR *Comm. Titus* i. 16 Their actions, although neuer so good in themselues, neuer so specious vnto others,..yet are abhominable vnto God. ¶1644 QUARLES *Judgm. & Mercy* 144 Let not the specious goodness of the end encourage me to the unlawfulness of the means. ¶1681 DRYDEN *Abs. & Achit.* 746 A smooth pretence Of specious love, and duty to their Prince. ¶1705 STANHOPE *Paraphr.* II. 264 The most specious Instances,..such as Martyrdom,..are no necessary Proofs of Charity. ¶1743 FRANCIS tr. *Hor., Odes* ii. i. 4 The specious Means, the private Aims,..how fatal to the Roman State! ¶1774 REID *Aristotle's Logic* iv. §2 (1788) 72

The friends of Aristotle have shown that this improvement of Ramus is more specious than useful. ¶1807 CRABBE *Birth Flattery* 67 What are these specious gifts, these paltry gains? ¶1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* v. I. 599 It appeared that this plan, though specious, was impracticable. ¶1873 W. H. DIXON *Two Queens* x. v. II. 179 What was done by him in Rome was merely specious.

absl. ¶1676 DRYDEN *Aurengz. Ep. Ded.* A ij, But somewhat of Specious they must have, to recommend themselves to Princes.

b. Of pretences, pretexts, etc.

¶1611 SPEED *Hist. Gt. Brit.* ix. viii. 499/2 Traiterous requests..which he was now willing to maske with the specious pretext of iustice and deuotion. ¶1632 *Galway Arch. in 10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm. App.* V. 478 The specious pretences you made. ¶1734 *Col. Records Pennsylv.* III. 546 Notwithstanding the specious and ample Professions made by the Governor of Maryland. ¶1769 ROBERTSON *Chas.* V, x. III. 254 The specious pretexts which had formerly concealed his ambitious designs. ¶1836 THIRLWALL *Greece* xvii. III. 4 Cimon seized this specious pretext for exterminating the people.

c. Of appearance, show, etc.

¶a1628 PRESTON *Effect. Faith* (1631) 74 There be many works that have a specious and faire shew in the view of men; But..God regards them not. ¶1647 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* iv. §172 The law..being neglected or disesteemed (under what specious shews soever). ¶1729 BUTLER *Serm.* Wks. 1874 II. 65 A discovery..which they..have found out through all the specious appearances to the contrary. ¶1735 SOMERVILLE *Chase* ii. 313 To rob, and to destroy, beneath the Name And specious Guise of War. ¶a1827 WORDSW. *Sonn. Liberty* ii. vi. 10 Ere wiles and politic dispute Gave specious colouring to aim and act. ¶1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* vii. II. 231 A policy which had a specious show of liberality. ¶1870 MOZLEY *Univ. Serm.* iv. (1877) 74 We have even in the early Christian Church that specious display of gifts which put aside as secondary the more solid part of religion.

d. Of falsehood, bad qualities, etc.

¶1665 J. GLANVILL *Scepsis Sci.* xiv. 79 Such an Infinite of uncertain opinions, bare probabilities, specious falshoods. ¶1682 DRYDEN *Abs. & Achit.* ii. 955 Who Truth from specious falsehood can divide [etc.]. ¶1728 YOUNG *Love Fame* ii. 68 If not to some peculiar end assign'd, Study's the specious trifling of the mind. ¶1748 W. MELMOTH *Fitzosborne Lett.* lii. (1749) II. 63 Religion without this sovereign principle [generosity], degener-

ates into slavish fear, and wisdom into a specious cunning. ¶1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* xvii, In whose eyes the sincere devotion of a heathen is more estimable than the specious hypocrisy of a Pharisee. ¶1866 MRS. H. WOOD *St. Martin's Eve* i. (1874) 4 Be not ensnared by specious deceit.

3. Of language, statements, etc.: Fair, attractive, or plausible, but wanting in genuineness or sincerity.

¶1651 HOBBS *Leviath.* ii. xxi. 110 It is an easy thing, for men to be deceived, by the specious name of Libertie. ¶1665 MANLEY *Grotius' Low C. Wars* 371 The Prince,..by an evident demonstration, confuting specious words. ¶1670 MARVELL *Corr. Wks.* (Grosart) II. 338 This motion seemed specious and welcome to the Committee. ¶1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 469 ¶5 Gratifications, Tokens of Thankfulness, Dispatch Money, and the like specious Terms. ¶1798 S. & HT. *Lee Canterb. T.* II. 230 She then imparted the specious tale of the Marquis's loss at the gaming-table. ¶1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* v. I. 568 The meaning latent under this specious phrase. ¶1855 MOTLEY *Dutch Rep.* v. v. (1866) 748 The specious language of Philip's former letters.

b. Of reasoning, arguments, etc.: Plausible, apparently sound or convincing, but in reality sophistical or fallacious.

¶1651 HOBBS *Leviath.* i. xv. 73 This specious reasoning is nevertheless false. ¶1656 tr. *Hobbes' Elem. Philos.* (1839) 415 For the establishing of vacuum, many and specious arguments and experiments have been brought.

¶1726 POPE *Odyss.* xix. 8 To sooth their fears a specious reason feign. ¶1788 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xlv. IV. 378 A specious theory is confuted by this free and perfect experiment. ¶1791 MACKINTOSH *Vind. Gall. Wks.* 1846 III. 107 Many subtle and specious objections are urged. ¶1856 *N. Brit. Rev.* XXVI. 23 Undoubtedly it is robust good sense which is here brought to bear upon a specious sophism. ¶1877 GEIKIE *Christ* xxvii. (1879) 308 He was not led away by such suggestions, however specious.

absol. ¶a1850 J. C. CALHOUN *Wks.* (1874) III. 274 To this it may be traced, that the Senator prefers the specious to the solid, and the plausible to the true.

4. Apparent, as opposed to real. Obs.—1

¶1617 MORYSON *Itin.* ii. 64 The Lord Deputie conceived the Earles surprise to bee an evill more spetious then materiall.

5. Of material things: Outwardly or superficially attractive or pleasing, but possessing little intrinsic worth; showy. rare.

¶1816 SIR J. REYNOLDS *Charac. of Painters of Italy* 136 [Michael Angelo] has rejected all the false, though specious ornaments, which disgrace the works even of the most esteemed artists. ¶1825 MACAULAY *Ess., Milton* (1851) I. 23 We shall, like Bassanio in the play, turn from the specious caskets., and fix on the plain leaden chest.

6. Of persons: Characterized by conduct, actions, or reasoning, of a specious nature; outwardly respectable.

¶1740 RICHARDSON *Pamela* (1824) I. 83 But now I have found you out, you specious hypocrite! ¶1798 CANNING *New Morality* 84 in *Poetry Anti-Jacobin* (1799) 223 If Vice appal thee..Yet may the specious bastard brood, which claim A spurious homage under Virtue's name,..rouse thee! ¶1799 W. GILPIN *Serm.* v. 54, I propose next to describe that of the specious or decent man. By the decent man, I mean him, who governs all his actions by appearances. ¶1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* xl, You are a specious fellow,..and carry two fans under your hood. ¶1884 *Pall Mall G.* 14 May 5/1 If we were to sum up similarly in one word the chief characteristics of their German rival, we should say that Von Hartmann was specious.

7. Of algebra: = LITERAL a. 1 c. Obs. (Cf. SPECIES 8 b.)

¶1670 COLLINS in *Rigaud Corr. Sci. Men* (1841) I. 154 A design to cause Diophantus to be turned into specious algebra. ¶1673 KERSEY *Algebra* I. i. 2 Algebra is by late Writers divided into two kinds; to wit, Numeral and Literal (or Specious). ¶1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. Algebra, In 1590, Vieta..introduc'd what he call'd his 'Specious Arithmetick', which consists in denoting the Quantities..by Symbols or Letters.

8. Psychol. Appearing to be actually known or experienced.

¶1890 W. JAMES *Princ. Psychol.* I. 642 We are constantly conscious of a certain duration—the specious present—varying in length from a few seconds to probably not more than a minute.

opprobrious a.

(ə'prəʊbrɪəs)

[ad. OF. ob-, opprobrieux, or late L. opprobriōs-us, f. L. opprobrium: see opprobrium.]

1. Of words, language, etc.: Conveying opprobrium or injurious reproach; attaching, or intended to attach, disgrace; contumelious, vituperative, abusive. Rarely of persons: Using contumelious or abusive language.

¶1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VII. 167 Prayeng a opprobrious a rep-
vynge name unto þaym but if they drank. ¶1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.*
(1892) 1079 After many obprobryes wordes..they ladde hym forthe vnto a tree.

¶a1548 HALL *Chron., Edw. IV*, 198 b, A man contumelious, opprobrious,
and an iniurious person. Ibid., Hen. VIII, 144 These with many approbrious
wordes, were spoken against the Cardinall. ¶1602 ROWLANDS *Greene's*

Ghost 3 The name of Conicatchers is..vsed for an opprobrious name for eu-
erie one that sheweth the least occasion of deceit. ¶1715-20 POPE *Iliad* vii.

108 Stern Menelaus first the silence broke, And, inly groaning, thus opprobri-
ous spoke. ¶1831 MACAULAY *Ess., Hampden* (1887) 228 The multitude
pressed round the King's coach, and insulted him with opprobrious cries.

¶1839 I. TAYLOR *Anc. Chr.* I. iv. 548 The opprobrious epithet, hypocrite..is
the world's rough judgment.

b. Of actions, feelings, etc.: Offering or disposed to offer indignity; insulting,
insolent. Obs.

¶1630 QUARLES *Div. Poems, Sion's Sonn.* xi. iv, The Bridall bed, which
Time, or Age Durst never warrant from th' opprobrious rage Of envious fate.

¶1701 ROWE *Amb. Step-Moth.* iv. iii, Whom that fell Dog..With most
opprobrious Injuries has loaded.

2. Attended by or involving shame or infamy; held in dishonour; associated
with disgrace; infamous, shameful, disgraceful. Now rare.

¶c1510 MORE *Picus Wks.* 15/2 The opprobriouse death of the crosse.
¶1597 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* v. lxxxi. §15 Neither did any thing seeme oppro-
brious out of which there might arise commoditie and profit. ¶1667 MIL-

TON *P.L.* i. 403 The wisest heart Of Solomon he led..to build His Temple right
against the Temple of God, On that opprobrious Hill. ¶1784 COWPER *Task*

v. 379 Opprobrious more To France than all her losses and defeats,..Her house
of bondage,..the Bastille. ¶1860 PUSEY *Min. Proph.* 81 The reproachful
words of the enemies of God are but the echo of the opprobrious deeds of His
unfaithful servants.

b. Subject to opprobrium. rare.

¶1804 E. DE ACTON *Tale without Title* II. 133 To see their emoluments
arise from some other source than tithes, the collection of which frequently
renders them very opprobrious to their parishioners.

vituperative **a.**

(vaɪ'tju:pə'reɪtɪv, vɪ-)

[ad. L. type *vituperātiv-us, f. vituperāt-, ppl. stem of vituperāre, or directly f. vituperate v. + -ive. Cf. obs. F. vituperativement adv. (Godef.), It. vituperativo.]

1. Of words, language, etc.: Containing, conveying, or expressing strong depreciation; violently abusive or fault-finding; contumelious, opprobrious. Also, of or pertaining to vituperation. Freq. in the 19th c.

¶1727 POPE, etc. *Art of Sinking* 115 The vituperative partition will as easily be replenished with a most choice collection [of arguments]. ¶1759 STERNE *Tr. Shandy* i. xix, Tristram!—Melancholy dissyllable of sound! which, to his ears, was unison to Nincompoop, and every name vituperative under heaven. ¶1816 SCOTT *Antiq.* xxx, In utter despair at this vituperative epithet. ¶1856 KANE *Arct. Expl.* II. xii. 129 His eloquence becoming more and more licentious and vituperative. ¶1859 MILL *Liberty* ii. (1865) 32/1 It is far more important to restrain this employment of vituperative language than the other.

b. Const. of (a person). rare— 1.

¶1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* viii, Had I..heard by report that a question vituperative of my Prince had been asked by the King of France, I had..instantly mounted and returned.

2. Characterized or accompanied by vituperation or abuse.

¶1754 CHESTERFIELD in *World* No. 101 ¶3 The torrents of their [sc. female] eloquence, especially in the vituperative way, stun all opposition. ¶1844 DISRAELI *Coningsby* ii. i, The indignant, soon to become vituperative, secession of a considerable section of the cabinet. ¶1871 'HOLME Lee' *Miss Barrington* I. ix. 129 When they have been most in fault themselves, they are most prone to shower a general vituperative blame and condemnation on the other side.

3. Of persons: Given to vituperation; employing or uttering abusive language.

¶1819 *Blackw. Mag.* V. 90 A Whig is a vituperative animal. ¶1843 CARLYLE *Past & Pr.* iii. v, Quietly hearing all manner of vituperative able editors speak. ¶1904 H. PAUL *Hist. Mod. Eng.* I. xii. 208 The violent and vituperative champion of the Protestant religion.

Hence *vituperatively* adv., in a vituperative manner; with vituperation or abuse.

¶1831 CARLYLE in Froude *First 40 Years* (1882) II. 159 The critical republic will cackle vituperatively, or perhaps maintain total silence. ¶1852 *Fraser's Mag.* XLVI. 456 [He] continues his vituperatively shrill demands.

¶1884 J. PARKER *Apost. Life* III. 115 They would not speak their mother tongue if they did not speak vituperatively.

contumelious a.

(kɒntjuːˈmiːliəs)

[a. OF. *contumélius* (mod.F. *-eux*), ad. L. *contumeliōs-us*, f. *contumēlia* *contumely* + *-ous*.]

1. Of words and actions: Of the nature of, or full of contumely; reproachful and tending to convey disgrace and humiliation; spiteful.

¶1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 427/3 He sayd noo wordes tumelous ne contumelious ne other dysordynate wordes. ¶1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (1531) 13 Contumelyous and opprobrious blasphemous of the iewes. ¶1531 ELYOT *Gov.* iii. xii, Catullus..wrote agayne hym contumelyouse or reprocheable versis. ¶1591 SHAKES. *1 Hen. VI*, i. iv. 39 With scoffes and scornes, and contumelious taunts. ¶1701 SWIFT *Contests Nobles & Com.* Wks. 1755 II. I. 31 The people frequently proceeded to rude contumelious language. ¶1884 *Manch. Exam.* 29 Oct. 5/2 ‘Bonnet’..‘jackal’..‘badger’..are all contumelious terms.

b. Of persons: Dealing in or using contemptuous reproach or abuse; superciliously insolent.

¶1548 HALL *Chron.* 198 b, Kyng Edward..is a man, contumelious, opprobrious. ¶1614 T. ADAMS *Divell's Banket* 229 He is not contumelious against vs, that haue been contumacious against him. ¶1855 TENNYSON *Maud* i. xiii. 2 Curving a contumelious lip.

c. Insolent. Obs.

¶1561 T. N[ORTON] *Calvin's Inst.* (1634) Table Script. Quot., A contumelious and stubborne sonne, which will not be ruled by his Father or Mother.

¶1650 BULWER *Anthropomet.* viii. 100 In the contumelious despiht of Nature [they] will have ears larger than Hounds. ¶a1745 SWIFT *Wks.* (1841) II. 438 [Faction] was so universal that I observed the dogs in the streets much more contumelious and quarrelsome than usual.

2. Reproachful, shameful, disgraceful. Obs.

¶1546 LANGLEY *Pol. Verg. De Invent.* iv. v. 89 a, It was a contumelious thing both emong the Romaines and the Lumbardes to be shauen. ¶1663 COWLEY *Verses & Ess., Of Liberty* (1669) 82 If anything indeed ought to be called honorable, in so base and contumelious a condition.

scurrilous a.

('skʌrɪləs)

[f. *scurrile* a. + -ous.]

'Using such language as only the licence of a buffoon can warrant' (J.); characterized by coarseness or indecency of language, esp. in jesting and invective; coarsely opprobrious or jocular.

¶1576 GASCOIGNE *Needles Eye Wks.* 1910 II. 419 What shall we thinke of skurulous, deceptfull, byting, slanderous..wordes? ¶1597 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* v. Ded. §7 The scurrilous and more then Satyricall immodestie of Martinisme. ¶1611 SHAKES. *Wint. T.* iv. iv. 215 Forewarne him, that he vse no scurrilous words in's tunes. ¶1651 HOBBS *Leviath.* ii. xxi. 110 Sometimes a scurrilous Jester, as Hyperbolus. ¶1716 ADDISON *Freeholder* No. 23 ¶1 They are grown scurrilous upon the Royal family. ¶1828 MACAULAY *Ess., Hallam* (1851) I. 56 They might be violent in innovation and scurrilous in controversy. ¶1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* vii. §2. 359 The old scurrilous ballads were heard again in the streets.

Hence *scurrilously* adv., in a scurrilous manner; after the manner of a buffoon. Also *scurrilousness*.

¶1597 BEARD *God's Judgem.* ii. xxxvi. (1631) 431 Such as shamed not as soone as they had glutted their..heads with wine, to fall scurrilously a dauncing. ¶1666 PEPYS *Diary* 17 Oct., Heard the Duke discourse, which he did mighty scurrilously, of the French. ¶1727 BAILEY vol. II, Scurrilousness, scandalous Language, saucy Drollery, Buffoonry. ¶1789 W. BELSHAM *Ess.* (1799) II. 369 He has been..scurrilously reviled as the genuine successor and counterpart of..Hugh Peters.

bellow v.

('bɛləʊ)

[Of uncertain etymology. The equation of ME. *belwen* with the rare OE. *bylæian* suggests that the latter is late WSax. for **bielæian*, Anglian **bēlæian*; but the origin of this is not evident, unless it be a parallel formation to the synonymous *bellan*, *bell* v.4, say from OTeut. **balligōjan*: cf. OE. *a-dīlæian*, OS. *dīligōn*, OTeut. **dīligōjan*, parallel to **dīlōjan*, in OHG. *tīligōn* and *tīlōn* to destroy.]

1. prop. To roar as a bull, or as a cow when excited. (Ordinarily, a cow lows.)

¶c1000 *Martyrol.* 17 Jan. (Cockayne Shrine 52) Hwylum þa deofol hine swungon..hwylum hi hine bylædon on swa fearras and ðuton eall swa wulfas.

¶c1305 *Leg. Rood* 145 Beestes gan belwe in eueri binne. ¶1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. xi. 333 Pere ne was cow..þat wolde belwe after boles. ¶1388 WYCLIF *Jer.* 1. 11 And lowiden ether bellewiden, as bolis. ¶1580 NORTH *Plutarch* 358 (R.) Like wild beasts bellowing and roaring. ¶1611 SHAKES. *Wint. T.* iv. iv. 28 Jupiter Became a Bull, and bellow'd. ¶1784 BURNS *Lett.* x. Wks. (Globe) 302 A cow bellowing at the crib without food. ¶1868 *Once a Week* No. 5. 99 The first bull advances bellowing fiercely.

b. trans.

¶1868 *Once a Week* No. 5. 99 A young bull bellows a challenge.

2. Applied to the roaring of other animals; used formerly in sense of BELL v.4 2.

¶1486 *Bk. St. Albans* E v, An hert belowys. ¶1575 TURBERV. *Venerie* 238 An harte belloweth. ¶1596 SHAKES. *Merch.* V. v. i. 73 Youthful and vnhandled Colts..bellowing and neighing loud. ¶1602 *Ham.* iii. ii. 264 The croaking Rauen doth bellow for Reuenge. ¶1738-51 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. Hunting. The terms for their noise at rutting time..A hart belleth; a buck growns or troats; a roe bellows. ¶1766 *Vacation* in Dodsley *Coll. Poems* III. 153 The master stag..Bellows loud with savage roar. ¶1875 B. TAYLOR *Faust* iii. I. 51 Poodle..Cease to bark and bellow.

3. Of human beings: To cry in a loud and deep voice; to shout, vociferate, roar (depreciative or humorous); also (seriously) to roar from pain.

¶1602 SHAKES. *Ham.* iii. ii. 36 There bee Players..that..haue so strutted and bellowed. ¶1649 MILTON *Eikon.* Wks. (1738) I. 43 Not fit for that liberty which they cried out and bellowed for. ¶1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 54 ¶3 He is accusom'd to roar and bellow so terribly loud in the Responses. ¶1718 POPE *Iliad* v. 1053 Mars bellows with the pain. ¶1824 W. IRVING *T. Trav.* II. 234 Like a bully bellowing for more drink.

b. trans. To utter (words or cries) in a loud and deep voice; frequently with out, forth.

¶1581 NOWELL & DAY in *Confer.* i. (1584) D iiij b, Beelzebub bellowed out most horrible blasphemies. ¶1603 KNOLLES *Hist. Turkes* (1621) 663 Bellowing out certaine superstitious charms. ¶1771 SMOLLETT *Humph. Cl.* (1815) 143 Noisy rustics bellowing 'Green pease' under my window. ¶1881 C. M. YONGE *Lads & Lasses Langley* i. 41 Some used to bellow or screech out any familiar hymn in an irreverent way.

c. *to bellow off*: to drive off by shouting, to shout down.

¶1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. iii. ix. 249 Fain would Reporter Rabaut speak his..last-words; but he is bellowed off.

4. Of thunder, cannon, wind, the sea, and other inanimate agents: To make a loud hollow noise; to roar.

¶1384 CHAUCER *H. Fame* (Fairf.) 1803 A soun As lowde as beloweth [v.r. belwith, bellyth, belleth] wynde in helle. ¶1596 SPENSER *F.Q.* i. vii. 7 A dreadfull sownd, Which through the wood loud bellowing did rebownd.

¶1653 HOLCROFT *Procopius* 36 Mount Vesuvius bellowed. ¶1727 THOMSON *Summer* 1168 Thule bellows through her utmost isles. ¶c1800 WORDSW. *Sonn. Liberty* xii, And Ocean [should] bellow from his rocky shore. ¶1866 B. TAYLOR *Soldier & Pard* 27 Our cannon bellowed round.

b. With obj.: To give forth, emit, utter, or proclaim with loud noise.

¶1706 WATTS *Horæ Lyr.* ii. I. 236 Till the hollow brazen clouds Had bellow'd..Loud thunder. ¶1852 TENNYSON *Ode Wellington* 66 His captain's-ear has heard them boom, Bellowing victory, bellowing doom. ¶1858 HAWTHORNE *Fr. & It. Jrnls.* I. 141 A large cannon-ball..rolling down..bellowing forth long thunderous echoes.

vociferous a.

(və(ʊ)'sɪfərəs)

[f. L. *vōcifer-ārī* (see VOCIFERATE v.) + -ous.]

1. Uttering loud cries or shouts; clamorous, bawling, noisy.

¶c1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* ii. 83 Thrise three vociferous heralds rose to checke the rout, and get Eare to their Ioue-kept gouernors. ¶1700 T. BROWN tr. *Fresny's Amusem.* 121, I sailed into a Presbyterian Meeting..where the vociferous Holder-forth was as bold and saucy, as if the Deity and all Mankind had owed him Money. ¶1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* ii. ix, Mr. Allworthy had been before silent, from the same cause which had made his sister vociferous. ¶1784 COWPER *Task* 1 299 The boorish driver leaning o'er his team Vocif'rous, and impatient of delay. ¶1816 SOUTHEY *Poet's Pilgr. Proem* xviii, The restless joy Of those glad girls, and that vociferous boy! ¶1834 JAMES J. *Marston Hall* vii, My companions were very vociferous. ¶1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) V. 56 The whole audience instead of being mute became vociferous.

transf. ¶1850-1 LONGFELLOW *Gold. Leg. Prol.*, Sp. iv, Hover downward! Seize the loud, vociferous bells, and..to the pavement Hurl them from their windy tower.

fig. ¶1883 *Harper's Mag.* Sept. 565/1 Mr. Cody..could scarcely design a vulgar and vociferous work if he tried.

b. Applied to birds.

¶1809 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* VII. 94 Vociferous Eagle, Falco Vocifer. ¶1809 W. IRVING *Knickerb.* iii. ii. (1820) 170 Flocks of vociferous geese cackled about the fields.

2. Of the nature of vociferation; uttered with or accompanied by clamour; characterized by loud declamation.

¶1631 R. BRATHWAIT *Whimzies, Piper* 144 All he reedes, he puts into his pipe: which consisting of three notes breaks out into a most vociferous syllogisme. ¶1740 CIBBER *Apol.* (1756) II. 59 Though candour and benevolence are silent virtues, they are as visible as the most vociferous ill-nature.

¶1828 D'ISRAELI *Chas.* I, II. v. 126 Popular gratitude is as vociferous as it is sudden. ¶1837 W. IRVING *Capt. Bonneville* II. 283 Jealousy of their good name now prompted them to the most vociferous vindications of their innocence. ¶1873 BLACK *Pr. Thule* i, Showing by his answers that he was but vaguely hearing the vociferous talk of his companions.

strident a. (and n.)

(ˈstraɪdənt)

[ad. L. stridentem, pr. pple. of strīdēmacbreve>re, to creak. Cf. F. strident.]

1. a. Making a harsh, grating or creaking noise; loud and harsh, shrill.

¶1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, Strident, crashing or making a noise, creaking. ¶1721 BAILEY. ¶1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* li, 'Brava! brava!' old Steyne's strident voice was heard roaring over all the rest. ¶1860 FARRAR *Orig. Lang.* iv. 76 Strident consonants evidently formed from the hiss of certain serpents. ¶1875 H. JAMES R. *Hudson* xxv. (1879) III. 231 His strident accent. ¶1905 J. B. FIRTH *Highw. Derbysh.* xxvi. 394 The rush and rattle of strident wheels.

b. Phonetics. Of the articulation of a consonantal sound: characterized by friction that is comparatively turbulent. Also as n., a consonant articulated in this way.

¶1956 JAKOBSON & HALLE *Fundamentals of Lang.* 31 Strident/mellow: acoustically—higher intensity noise vs. lower intensity noise; genetically—rough-edged vs. smooth-edged. Ibid. 42 Mellow constrictives, opposed to strident constrictives, or strident plosives (affricates) opposed to mellow plosives (stops proper) do not appear in child language before the emergence of the first liquid. ¶1965 *Amer. Speech* XL. 9 T cannot follow a dental stop or S follow a strident (sibilant). ¶1968 CHOMSKY & HALLE *Sound Pattern Eng.* 329 Strident sounds are marked acoustically by greater noisiness than their nonstrident counterparts. ¶1976 *Word* 1971 XXVII. 220, s .. [and] f .. also embody the Strident vs. Mellow distinction and are both +Strident.

2. transf. and fig.

¶1876 F. HARRISON *Choice Bks.* (1886) 413 All this is not to be disposed of by a somewhat strident scorn in the name of a somewhat mysterious gospel.

¶1907 *Athenæum* 25 May 641/1 The..picture..is free from the strident colour which he has sometimes fallen into of late.

Hence *stridently* adv.

¶1859 BOYD *Recreat. Country Parson* (1862) 36 There lies the large blue quarto,..there the massive foolscap,..then the ivory stridently cuts it through.

¶a1894 STEVENSON *St. Ives* xxvi. (1908) 194 The whole enclosure continuously and stridently resounded with the rain.

boisterous a.

(ˈbɔɪstərəs)

[Used in the same sense as the earlier boisteous, boistuous, boistous, of which it appears to be a variant modified by some obscure analogy.]

I. Rough or coarse in quality.

1. Rough, coarse, as e.g. food. Obs.

¶1474 CAXTON *Chesse* iii. i, The labourer of the erth vseth grete and boistrous metis.

2. Of rough, strong, or stiff texture; stout, stiff, unyielding. Obs.

¶1572 tr. *Buchanan's Detect. Mary* in H. Campbell *Love-lett. Mary* (1824) 135 She could abide at the poop, and..handle the boisterous cables. ¶1577 HOLINSHED *Chron.* III. 915/1 Hauing vpon him a great gowne of boisterous veluet. ¶1586 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* ii. viii. (1612) 37 About his boistrous necke full oft their daintie armes they cast. ¶1594 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr.*

Acad. ii. 33 Hee hath not made the ligaments..nor the sinewes of any such boisterous or stiffe matter. ¶1700 DRYDEN *Sigismonda* & G. 59 The leathern out-side, boistrous as it was, Gave way.

3. Roughly massive, bulky, big and cumbrous.

¶1596 SPENSER *F.Q.* i. viii. 10 His boystrous club. ¶1633 J. FOSBROKE *Warre or Conflict* 30 Goliah, notwithstanding..his huge and boisterous armour, etc. ¶1641 R. BROOKE *Eng. Episc.* i. x. 59 The Pandects of the Civill Law are too boystrous, and of too great extent for any Civilian to comprehend. ¶1642 MILTON *Apol. Smect.* Wks. (1851) 292 If the work seeme more triviall or boistrous then for this discourse.

4. Rough to the feelings; painfully rough. Obs.

¶1592 SHAKES. *Rom. & Jul.* i. iv. 26 Is loue a tender thing? it is too rough, Too rude, too boisterous, and it pricks like thorne. ¶1595 *John iv.* i. 95 Feeling what small things are boisterous there [in the eye].

5. Rough in operation; not skilful or delicate.

¶1609 SIR G. PAULE *Abp. Whitgift* 28 This bishop was not so boisterous a surgeon.

6. Strong- or coarse-growing, rank. Obs.

¶1622 WITHER PHILAR. in *Juv.* (1633) 590 [The pool] overgrowne with boystrous Sedge. ¶1671 MILTON *Samson* 1164 As Good for nothing else, no better service, With those thy boisterous locks.

II. Acting roughly, violent.

7. Violent in action or properties. Obs.

¶1544 PHAËR *Regim. Lyfe* (1560) N ii b, The saide venime is so swift, so fearce, and so boistrous of itselfe. ¶1645 MILTON *Colast.* Wks. (1851) 349 A boisterous and bestial strength. ¶1695 WOODWARD *Nat. Hist. Earth* vi. (1723) 294 The Heat becomes too powerful and boisterous for them.

8. Of wind, weather, waves, etc.: Rough, the opposite of 'calm'.

¶1576 THYNNE *Ld. Burghley's Crest in Animadv. App.* iv. (1865) 113 In calme or boystrous tyde. ¶1596 DRAYTON *Leg.* iii. 488 The boyst'rous Seas. ¶1684 *Contempl. State of Man* i. ii. (1699) 20 A boystrous Wind had blown away the Leaves. ¶1726-7 BOLINGBROKE in *Swift's Lett.* (1766) II. lxxiii, This boisterous climate of ours. ¶1836 MACGILLIVRAY tr. *Humboldt's Trav.* xxi. 299 A boisterous passage of twenty-five days. ¶1843 PRESCOTT *Mexico* (1850) I. 194 Finding some difficulty in doubling a boisterous headland.

9. Of persons and their actions. a.II.9.a Full of rough violence to others, violently fierce, savage, truculent. Obs.

¶1581 MARBECK *Bk. of Notes* 753 Those boisterous Nemrothes, that neuer will be satisfied with the slaughter of Innocents. ¶1593 SHAKES. *3 Hen. VI*, ii. i. 70 Oh..boyst'rous Clifford, thou hast slaine The flowre of Europe. ¶1681 E. SCLATER *Serm. Putney* 11 What care boisterous Enemies for what these can do unto them? ¶1713 POPE *Frenzy J.D. in Swift's Wks.* (1755) III. i. 144 By your indecent and boisterous treatment of this man of learning, I perceive you are a violent sort of person. ¶1791 COWPER *Iliad* v. 370 Distant from the boisterous war.

b. Rough and violent in behaviour and speech, turbulent; too rough or clamorous. (Orig. in a distinctly bad sense, but gradually passing into c.)

¶1568 T. HOWELL *Newe Sonets* (1879) 139 Feare not his boustrous vantage worde. ¶1593 SHAKES. *Rich. II*, i. i. 4 Heere to make good ye boistrous late appeal. ¶1667 E. CHAMBERLAYNE *St. Gt. Brit.* i. i. iii. (1743) 8 The men are strong and boisterous, great wrestlers, and healthy. ¶1690 CROWNE *Eng. Frier* i. i. 3 Pox o' this boystrous fool. ¶1705 OTWAY *Orphan* v. xix. 2296 Stand off thou hot-brain'd boistrous noisy Ruffian. ¶1853 MARSDEN *Early Purit.* 55 Every form of church government..had for awhile its boisterous advocates.

c. Abounding in rough but good-natured activity bordering upon excess, such as proceeds from unchecked exuberance of spirits.

¶a1683 SIDNEY *Disc. Gov.* iii. §25 (1704) 334 That boisterous humor being gradually temper'd by disciplin. ¶1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 45 ¶8 Their boisterous Mirth. ¶1752 HUME *Ess. & Treat.* (1777) I. 5 It renders the mind incapable of the rougher and more boisterous emotions. ¶1822 W. IRVING *Braceb. Hall* xix. 167 A rich, boisterous, foxhunting baronet. ¶1848 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* I. 213 Under the outward show of boisterous frankness.

10. quasi-adv. Boisterously. Obs.

¶1595 SHAKES. *John* iv. i. 76 Alas, what neede you be so boistrous rough?

obstreperous a.

(əb'strɛpərəs)

[f. L. obstreper-us clamorous (f. obstrep-ěre to make a noise against, shout at, oppose noisily or troublesomely) + -ous.]

1. Characterized by great noise or outcry, esp. in opposition; clamorous, noisy; vociferous.

Quot. 1922 is ellipt. for 'obstreperous mouth'.

¶c1600 *Timon* i. ii. (1842) 6 Proceed'st thou still with thy ostreperous noyse. ¶1603 B. JONSON *Sejanus* v. iii, They [ravens] sate all night, Beating the ayre with their obstreperous beakes. ¶a1661 FULLER *Worthies* (1840) II. 211 He..was very obstreperous in arguing the case for transubstantiation. ¶1748 SMOLLETT *Rod. Rand.* viii. (1804) 41, I heard him very obstropulous in his sleep. ¶1751 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 89 ¶11 The most careless and obstreperous merriment. ¶1824 J. WIGHT *Mornings at Bow St.* 155 They were forthwith conveyed to the watch-house, and there they conducted themselves so 'obstropolously', that the constable of the night found it necessary to have them put down below. ¶1856 R. A. VAUGHAN *Mystics* (1860) II. 51 The obstreperous rhetoricians will plague me with their big words. ¶1875 EMERSON *Lett. & Soc. Aims* v. 131 Obstreperous roarings of the throat. ¶1922 JOYCE *Ulysses* 420 Hark! Shut your obstropolos.

2. Resisting control, management, advice, etc., in a noisy manner; turbulent or unruly in behaviour, esp. in resistance.

¶1657 [see OBSTREPEROUSNESS]. ¶1727 PHILIP *Quarll* 105 Fearing she would grow obstrepulous, they each of 'em took hold of one of her Arms. ¶1773 GOLDSM. *Stoops to Conq.* iii, I'm sure you did not treat Miss Hardcastle..in this obstropalous manner. ¶1806 T. S. SURR *Winter in Lond.* (ed. 3) III. 5 You have been quite obstropulous; no getting any food into your mouth but by force. ¶1827 SCOTT *Diary* 2 Oct. in Lockhart, We dined at Wooler, where an obstreperous horse retarded us for an hour at least. ¶1874 BURNAND *My time* i. 4 Generally having my own way..and becoming remarkably obstreperous when thwarted. ¶1881 *Macm. Mag.* Nov. 40 The most obstreperous and unmanageable of all young merlins.

whimsical a. (n.)

(ˈhwɪmzɪkəl)

[f. WHIMSY + -ICAL.]

1. Of persons, their actions, thoughts, etc.: Full of, subject to, or characterized by a whim or whims; actuated by or depending upon whim or caprice.

¶1653 W. RAMESEY *Astrol. Rest.* To Rdr. 10 So they fell to words and at last (to end this Whimsical controversie) they resolved to kill one another.

Ibid. 11 Were not they better be..grave, sober, serious, then whymiscal, fickle and fantastical? ¶1690 C. NESSE O. & N. Test. I. 251 So do the whimsical Enthusiasts..make long relations of strange dreams. ¶1703 EARL OF ORRERY *As you find it* iii. i. 35 A Man with a fantastical, whimsical Stomach may starve in the midst of Plenty, not for want of Food, but such as he likes. ¶1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 101 ¶7 One Sir Roger de Coverley, a whimsical Country Knight. ¶1756 BURKE *Subl. & Beaut.* iii. xi. (1759) 208 It has given rise to an infinite deal of whimsical theory. ¶1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* iv. vii. ¶2 One of those old codgers who have been a little whimsical or so in their youth. ¶1839 HALLAM *Lit. Eur.* ii. vii. §20 It would be rather whimsical to deny this to be a principal merit in a comparison. ¶1875 J. E. T. ROGERS *Protests of Lords* I. Pref. p. lvi, Two whimsical dissents from Lords Radnor and Abingdon.

2. Characterized by deviation from the ordinary as if determined by mere caprice; fantastic, fanciful; freakish, odd, comical.

¶1675 E. WILSON *Spadacr. Dunelm.* Pref. B 5 b, Panacæa's, Universal Medicines, Secrets, and such like whimsical Remedies. ¶1687 T. BROWN SAINTS in *Uproar* Wks. 1730 I. 79 The most whimsical scene of the farce is still behind. ¶a1700 EVELYN *Diary* 29 Nov. 1644, A whimsical chayre, which folded into so many varieties as to turn into a bed, a bolster, a table, or a couch. ¶1710 SWIFT *Lett.* (1767) III. 57 Is it not whimsical that the dean has never once written to me? ¶1769 BURKE *Corr.* (1844) I. 165 Matters here are in a situation whimsical enough. ¶1773 WESLEY *Jrnl.* 29 Nov., Wks. 1830 IV. 5, I went..to Sheerness; over that whimsical ferry, where footmen and horses pay nothing. ¶1826 F. REYNOLDS *Life & Times* I. 193 The Germans are whimsical animals in their appearance. ¶1836 BRANDE *Chem.* (ed. 4) 17 Alembics, stills, retorts, receivers, and a variety of whimsical and complex vessels. ¶1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* ix. 66 Our senator..looked after his little wife with a whimsical mixture of amusement and vexation. ¶1890 *Science-Gossip* XXVI. 85 All these whimsical prescriptions gradually fell out of the Pharmacopœias.

absol.¶1740 CIBBER *Apol.* (1756) I. 112 Who..delighted more in the whimsical than the natural. ¶1838 DICKENS *Nich. Nick.* xxiv, Hesitating between the respect he ought to assume, and his love of the whimsical.

b. Subject to uncertainty or the 'caprice of fortune'. Obs.

¶1654 WHITLOCK *Zootomia* 151 Must the bread of Life be ground only by the winde of every Doctrine? and whimsicall Wind-Mills? ¶1700 CONGREVE *Way of World* ii. vii, A Fellow that lives in a Windmill has not a more

whimsical Dwelling than the Heart of a Man that is lodg'd in a Woman. There is no Point of the Compass to which they cannot turn. ¶1716 ADDISON *Freeholder* No. 18 ¶3, I shall only take notice of the whimsical circumstances a people must lie under, who can be thus made poor or rich by an edict. ¶1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1768) III. 191 Poor man! he stands a whimsical chance between us.

B. n. (in pl.) A cant name for a section of the Tories in the reign of Queen Anne: see quotes.

¶1714 SWIFT *Pres. St. Aff. Wks.* 1841 I. 492/2 That race of politicians, who in the cant phrase are called the whimsicals. ¶1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* xxvii, Many of the High Church party..affected to separate their principles from those of the Jacobites, and, on that account, obtained the denomination of Whimsicals.

quaint a. (adv.)

(kweint)

[a. OF. *cointe* (quointe, cuinte, etc.), *queinte*:—L. *cognitum* known, pa. pple. of *cognoscere* to ascertain. The development of the main senses took place in OF., and is not free from obscurity (cf., however, COUTH and KNOWN).

In its older senses the Eng. word seems to have been in ordinary use down to the 17th c., though in many 16–17th c. examples the exact meaning is difficult to determine. After 1700 it occurs more sparingly (chiefly in sense 6), until its revival in sense 8, which is very frequent after 1800.]

A. adj. **I. 1.** Of persons: Wise, knowing; skilled, clever, ingenious. In later use chiefly with ref. to the employment of fine language (cf. sense 6). Obs.

¶a1250 *Leg. Kath.* 580 (Cott. MS.) Hei! hwuch wis read Of se cointe [v.r. icudd] keiser. ¶c1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 381/165 þe beste Carpenter And þe quoynteste þat ich euer e i-knev. ¶a1325 *Prose Psalter* cxviii. 98 Thou madest me quainte [L. *prudentem*] vp myn enemis to þi comaundement. ¶c1400 *Destr. Troy* 1531 Wise wrightis to wale..qwaint men of wit. ¶1501 DOUGLAS *Pal. Hon.* i. lxxv, 3it clerkis bene in subtell wordis quent, And in the deid als schairp as ony snaillis. ¶1593 SHAKES. *2 Hen.* VI, iii. ii. 274 To shew how queint an Orator you are. ¶1596 *Tam. Shr.* iii. ii. 149 Wee'll ouerreach..The quaint Musician. ¶a1628 PRESTON *New Covt.* (1634) 273 If you would preach as other men do, and be curious and quaint of Oratory. ¶1697 DRYDEN *Æneid* xi. 698 Talk on ye quaint Haranguers of the Crowd.

¶1728 MORGAN *Algiers* I. vi. 176 The Arabs in general are quaint, bold, hospitable, and generous, excessive Lovers of Eloquence and Poesy.

b. In bad sense: Cunning, crafty, given to scheming or plotting. Obs.

¶a1225 *Ancr. R.* 328 Peos kointe harloz þet scheaweð forð hore gutefestre.

¶c1340 *Cursor M.* 739 (Fairf.) Þe nedder þat ys so quaynt of gyle. ¶c1394 *P. Pl. Crede* 482 'Dere broþer' quap Peres 'þe devell is ful queynte'. ¶1402 HOCCLEVE *Letter of Cupid* 152 Sly, queynt, and fals in al vnthrift coupable.

¶1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* ii. i. 59 Knew 3e nocht bettir the quent Vlexes slycht? ¶1674-91 RAY N.-C. *Words* (E.D.S.), 'A wheint lad', q. quaint; a find lad: ironice dictum. Also, cunning, subtle. ¶1680 OTWAY *Orphan* iii. iv. 864 The quaint smooth Rogue, that sins against his Reason.

2. Of actions, schemes, devices, etc.: Marked by ingenuity, cleverness, or cunning. Now arch.

¶a1225 *Ancr. R.* 294 Ure Louerd..brouhte so to grunde his kointe ku-luertschipe. ¶c1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 4447 (Kölbing) Morgein..þat wiþ hir queint gin Bigiled þe gode clerk Merlin. ¶1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 429 Iosephus..fonde up a queynte craft, and heng wete cloþes uppon þe toun walles. ¶c1460 TOWNELEY *Myst.* xiii. 593 This was a qwantte gawde, and a far cast, It was a hee frawde. ¶1522 *World & Child* in Hazl. *Doddsley* I. 245, I can many a quaint game. ¶1598 ROWLANDS *Betray. Christ* 10 When traitor meets, these quaint deceits he had. ¶1641 BROME *Jovial Crew* ii. Wks. 1873 III. 378, I..over-heard you in your queint designe, to new create your selves. ¶1742 W. SHENSTONE *Schoolmistress* xii, With quaint arts the giddy crowd she sways. ¶1889 'MARK TWAIN' *Yankee* iv. 37 This quaint lie was most simply and beautifully told. ¶1970 C. HAMPTON *Philanthropist* i. 13 John puts the revolver into his mouth and presses the trigger. Loud explosion. By some quaint device, gobs of brain and bright blood appear on the whitewashed wall.

3. Of things: Ingeniously or cunningly designed or contrived; made with skill or art; elaborate. Obs.

¶c1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 88/62 He liet heom makien a quoynte schip.

¶1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 1555 Hii 3eue him an quointe [v.r. koynte] drench, mid childe vor to be. ¶c1384 CHAUCER *H. Fame* iii. 835 And evermo..This queynte hous aboute wente, That never-mo hit stille stente. ¶a1400-50 *Alexander* 4275 Have we no cures of courte ne na cointe sewes. ¶1627 DRAYTON *Nymphidia* lxix, He told the arming of each joint, In every piece how neat and quaint. ¶1631 SHIRLEY *Traitor* iv. ii, Who knows But he may marry her, and discharge his Duchess With a quaint salad?

4. Of things: Skilfully made, so as to have a good appearance; hence, beautiful, pretty, fine, dainty. Obs.

¶13.. *E.E. Allit. P. B.* 1382 With koynt carneles aboue, coruen ful clene.

¶13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 877 Whyssynes vpon queldepoyntes, þat koynt wer bope. ? ¶a1366 CHAUCER *Rom. Rose* 98 A sylvre nedle forth I droughe, Out of an aguler queynt ynoughe. ¶c1400 *Destr. Troy* 777 An ymage full nobill..þat qwaint was & qwem, all of white siluer. ¶1596 SPENSER *F.Q.* iv. x. 22 Nor hart could wish for any queint device, But there it present was, and did fraile sense entice. ¶1671 MILTON *Samson* 1303 In his hand A Scepter or quaint staff he bears.

b. Of dress: Fine, fashionable, elegant. Obs.

¶a1366 CHAUCER *Rom. Rose* 65 The ground..maketh so queynt his robe and fayr That it hath hewes an hundred payr. ¶1380 *Lay Folks Catech.* (Lamb. MS.) 1221 Ne worschipe not men for here fayre clopes, ne for here qweynte schappis þat sum men usen. ¶1501 DOUGLAS *Pal. Hon.* i. xlv, In vestures quent of mony sindrie gyse. ¶1592 GREENE *Upst. Courtier in Harl. Misc.* (Malh.) II. 223 Costly attire, curious and quaint apparell is the spur that prickes them forward. ¶1627 FLETCHER *Locusts* i. xiii, All lovely drest In beauties livery, and quaint devise.

5. Of persons: Beautiful or handsome in appearance; finely or fashionably dressed; elegant, foppish. Obs.

¶a1300 *Cursor M.* 28015 Yee leuedis..studis..hu to mak yow semle and quaint. ¶a1310 in *Wright Lyric P.* 26 Coynte ase columbine, such hire cunde ys. ¶1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. ii. 14 A wommon wonderliche clothed..Ther nis no qweene qweyntore. ¶a1450 *Knt. de la Tour* (1868) 40 Folke shulde not have thaire herte on the worlde, nor make hem queint, to plesse it. ¶1590 GREENE *Never Too Late* Wks. 1882 VIII. 82 He made himselfe as neate and quaint as might be. ¶1598 SHAKES. *Merry W.* iv. vi. 41 Quaint in greene, she shall be loose en-roab'd. ¶1610 *Temp.* i. ii. 317 Fine apparision: my queint Ariel, Hearke in thine eare. ¶1784 COWPER *Task* ii. 461 A body so fantastic, trim, And queint in its deportment and attire.

6. Of speech, language, modes of expression, etc.: Carefully or ingeniously elaborated; highly elegant or refined; clever, smart; full of fancies or conceits; affected. Obs. (now merged in 8).

¶13.. GUY *Warw.* (A.) 346 To hir he spac..Wiþ a wel queynt steuen.

¶c1386 CHAUCER *Can. Yeom. Prol. & T.* 199 We semen wonder wise, Oure termes been so clergial and so queynte. ¶1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* i. Prol. 255 The quent and curious castis poetically. ¶c1570 *Pride & Lowl.* (1841)

807 Pleasaunt songes..To queynt and hard for me to understand. ¶1655 E. TERRY *Voy. E. Ind.* XII. 232 The Persian there is spoken as their more quaint and Court-tongue. ¶1676 MARVELL *Mr. Smirke* K iv, A good life is a Clergy man's best Syllogism, and the quaintest Oratory. ¶1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 450 ¶1 A new Thought or Conceit dressed up in smooth quaint Language. ¶1783 BURKE *Rep. Aff. India* Wks. 1842 II. 76 A style,..full of quaint terms and idiomatick phrases, which strongly bespeak English habits in the way of thinking.

7. Strange, unusual, unfamiliar, odd, curious (in character or appearance). Obs. (now merged in 8).

¶13.. *Coer de L.* 216 Thou schalt se a queynte brayd. ¶c1369 CHAUCER *Dethe Blaunche* 1330 This is so queynt a sweuyn. ¶c1400 *Destr. Troy* 7715 There come with this kyng a coynt mon of shappe. ¶c1440 *Ipomydon* 1637 Right vnsemely on queynte manere He hym dight. ¶1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* iii. Prol. 12 Now moist I write..Wyld auentouris, monstreis and qwent afrayis. ¶1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* Oct. 114 With queint Bellona in her equipage. ¶1629 MILTON *Nativity* 194 A drear, and dying sound Affrights the Flamins at their service quaint. ¶1714 POPE *Wife of Bath* 259 How quaint an appetite in woman reigns! Free gifts we scorn, and love what costs us pains. ¶1808 SCOTT *Marm.* iii. xx, Came forth—a quaint and fearful sight.

8. Unusual or uncommon in character or appearance, but at the same time having some attractive or agreeable feature, esp., having an old-fashioned prettiness or daintiness.

¶1795 SOUTHEY *Joan of Arc* viii. 234 He for the wintry hour Knew many a merry ballad and quaint tale. ¶1808 SCOTT *Marm.* ii. iii, For this, with carving rare and quaint, She decked the chapel of the saint. ¶1824 W. IRVING *T. Trav.* I. 91 The streaks of light and shadow thrown among the quaint articles of furniture. ¶1862 STANLEY *Jew. Ch.* (1877) I. x. 202 The device is full of a quaint humour which marks its antiquity. ¶1884 J. T. BENT in *Macm. Mag.* Oct. 434/2 The herdsmen were much quainter and more entertaining than our city-born muleteers.

b. Of furniture: designed in the style of art nouveau.

¶1897 *Furnit. & Decoration* XXXIV. 197/1 That new style called 'Quaint', which seems to be carcase without the spirit of the new style promulgated by the Arts and Crafts and other societies. ¶1952 J. GLOAG *Short Dict. Furnit.* 377 A fashion in furniture design, corresponding with the New Art movement at the end of the 19th and the opening of the present century, was known as

the quaint style. ¶1975 *Country Life* 2 Oct. 852/3 The spindly chairs and tables of the 'quaint' vogue.

II. 9. Proud, haughty. Obs. rare.

¶a1225 *Ancr. R.* 140 þet fleshs is her et home..ant for þui hit is cwointe & cwiuer. ¶1340 *Ayenb.* 89 Po þet makeþ ham zuo quaynte of þe ilke poure noblesse þet hi habbeþ of hare moder þe erþe. ¶c1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* ii. cvii. 115, I hatte orgoill, the queynte [F. la bobanciere], the feerce hornede beste. [¶1610 G. FLETCHER *Christ's Vict.* ii. liv, Queint Pride Hath taught her sonnes to wound their mother's side.]

10. Dainty, fastidious, nice; prim. Obs.

¶1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 128 b/1 She chastysed them that were nyce and queynte. ¶1579 G. HARVEY *Letter-bk.* (Camden) 73 The rest in a manner ar..overstale for so queynte and queasye a worlde. ¶1590 SPENSER *F.Q.* iii. vii. 10 She nothing quaint Nor 'sdeignfull of so homely fashion. ¶1640 *Brome Sparagus Gard.* iii. vii. Wks. 1873 III. 167 Your new infusion of pure blood, by your queint feeding on delicate meates and drinks. ¶1678 R. L'ESTRANGE *Seneca's Mor.* To Rdr., Fabius..taxes him..for being too Queint and Finical in his Expressions.

11. *to make it quaint*, to act quaintly, in various senses, esp. to behave proudly, disdainfully, or deceitfully. Obs.

¶c1369 CHAUCER *Dethe Blaunche* 531 Lo! how goodly spak this knight..He made hyt nouthur tough ne queynte. ¶1390 GOWER *Conf.* v. 4623 (II. 282) O traiteresse..Thou hast gret peine wel deserved, That thou canst maken it so queinte. ¶c1400 *Rom. Rose* 2038, I..kneled down with hondis loynt, And made it in my port ful queynt. ¶c1422 HOCCKLEVE *Jonathas* 642 He thoghte not to make it qweynte and tow. ¶c1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* ii. cvi. (1869) 115 With alle myne joyntes stiringe and with alle my sinewes j make it queynte [F. je marche si fierement.]

B. adv. Skilfully, cunningly. Obs. rare.

¶c1340 *Cursor M.* 5511 (Fairf.) 3ou be-houys to wirke ful quaynte and in þaire dedis ham attaynt. ¶c1384 CHAUCER *H. Fame* i. 245 What shulde I speke more queynte, Or peyne me my wordes peynte? ¶1552 LYNDESAY *Monarchie* 180 Fresche flora spred furth hir tapestrie, Wrocht be dame Nature quent and curiouslie.

C. Comb., as *quaint-carved*, *quaint-eyed*, *quaint-felt*, *quaint-looking*, *quaint-mouthed*, *quaint-shaped*, *quaint-sounding*, *quaint-stomached*, *quaint-witty*, *quaint-worded* adjs.

¶1575 G. HARVEY *Letter-bk.* (Camden) 91 Thou arte so queyntefelt In thy rondelett. ¶1598 MARSTON *Pygmal.* i. 140 Like no quaint stomack't man [he] Eates vp his armes. ¶1603 FLORIO *Montaigne* i. xxxvi. (1632) 115 A quaint-wittie, and loftie conceit. ¶1744 AKENSIDE *Pleas. Imag.* iii. 250 Where'er the pow'r of ridicule displays Her quaint-ey'd visage. ¶1838 J. R. LOWELL *Class Poem* ix. 11 What quaint-mouthed sentences! and how profound! ¶1853 JAMES *Agnes Sorel* (1860) I. 2 This tall quaint-shaped window. ¶1859 J. G. WHITTIER *On Prayer Bk.* in *Independent* (N.Y.) 15 Sept. 1/1 The quaint-carved, Gothic door. ¶1863 GROSART *Small Sins* (ed. 2) 17 Their quaint-worded dispositions and distinctions. ¶1922 R. LEIGHTON *Compl. Bk. Dog* xii. 178 Most people are well acquainted with the personal appearance of this quaint-looking dog. ¶1957 A. N. PRIOR *Time & Modality* 55 'The True' and 'The False' are certainly quaint-sounding objects to be named by phrases like 'The conquest of Gaul by Caesar'.

frivolous a.

('frɪvələs)

[f. L. *frivol-us* + *-ous*. Cf. *frivol* a.]

1. Of little or no weight, value, or importance; paltry, trumpery; not worthy of serious attention; having no reasonable ground or purpose.

¶1549 BALE *Leland's N.Y. Gift* D iv, We fynde for true hystories, most fryuolouse fables and lyes. ¶1578 TIMME *Caluine on Gen.* 25 It is too frivolous and vaine to expound this worde. ¶1624 LD. KENSINGTON in *Ellis Orig. Lett.* Ser. i. III. 172 In their frivolous delayes, and in the unreasonable conditions which they propounded. ¶1648 GAGE *West Ind.* xx. 169 His answers seeming frivolous. ¶c1670 WOOD *Life* (O.H.S.) I. 398 The warden..did put the college to unnecessary charges, and very frivolous expences. ¶1770 *Junius' Lett.* xxxix. 198 They voted his information frivolous.

¶1776 ADAM SMITH *W.N.* i. xi. (1869) I. 184 The other frivolous ornaments of dress and furniture. ¶1828 SCOTT *F.M. Perth* vii, The slight and frivolous complaints unnecessarily brought before him. ¶1871 DIXON *Tower* III. xxv. 280 He was arrested on a frivolous charge.

b. Law. In pleading: Manifestly insufficient or futile.

¶1736 in *Swift's Lett.* (1766) II. 249 The decree was affirmed most unanimously, the appeal adjudged frivolous. ¶1883 SIR H. COTTON in *Law Rep.* 11 Q. Bench Div. 532 Unless the counter-claim is frivolous and unsubstantial.

2. Characterized by lack of seriousness, sense, or reverence; given to trifling, silly.

¶1560 tr. *Fisher's Treat. Prayer* F ij, Eschewyng all vayne, friuolus, and vn-fruitfull thoughtes. ¶1575 G. HARVEY *Letter-bk.* (Camden) 101 Frivolous boyishe grammer schole trickes. ¶1687 WOOD *Life* 21 Apr., The duke of Bucks is dead..many frivolous things extant—'Bays', a comedy. ¶1711 STEELE *Spect.* No. 156 ¶6 From reading frivolous Books, and keeping as frivolous Company. ¶1783 JOHNSON 18 APR. in *Boswell*, He may be a frivolous man, and be so much occupied with petty pursuits, that he may not want friends. ¶1862 M. E. BRADDON *Lady Audley* ix. 63 Lady Audley amused herself in her own frivolous fashion.

absol. ¶1836 EMERSON *Nat., Idealism* Wks. (Bohn) II. 160 The frivolous make themselves merry with the Ideal theory, as if its consequences were burlesque.

Hence *frivolously* adv., *frivolousness*.

¶1611 COTGR., *Vainement*, vainely, friuolously, to no purpose. ¶1624 DONNE *Serm.* (Alford) V. cxxx. 330 If Abraham had any such doubts, of a Frivolousness in so base a Seal. ¶1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 448 ¶2 The frivolously false ones. ¶1768-74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1852) I. 119 To..judge of the weight or frivolousness of objections. ¶1812 G. CHALMERS *Dom. Econ. Gt. Brit.* 396 This argument..has been found to have, at least, the pertinacity of faction, if it have not the frivolousness of folly. ¶1885 LD. BLACKBURN in *Law Rep.* 10 Appeal Cases 223 The bankrupt being held to be acting frivolously and vexatiously.

Index

- abandon, 1
- abandoned, 2
- abash , 13
- abashed, 14
- abate , 14
- abdicate , 20
- aberrant, 22
- abet, 5, 452
- abominate, 23
- abrasive, 23
- abrogate , 24
- abstemious, 25
- abstinent, 25
- abstruse , 26
- abusive, 5
- accolade, 27
- acerbic , 28
- acme , 28
- acolyte, 30
- acquiesce , 31
- acrimonious , 33
- acronym , 33
- adage , 34
- adamant, 8
- adamantine, 8
- adduce, 1
- adjuvant, 505
- admonitory , 34
- adroit , 35
- adulation , 35
- advance, 1
- adversity , 36
- aegis, 37
- affable , 38
- affinity , 39
- aficionado , 38
- aggrandize , 42
- alacrity , 43
- allay , 44
- allege, 1
- allegory , 48
- alleviate , 49
- alliteration, 50
- amanuensis , 50
- ambience , 51
- ambiguous , 52
- ambivalent , 54
- ambulatory , 55
- ameliorate , 56
- amenable , 56
- amenity , 58
- amorous , 59
- amorphous , 62
- anachronism , 63
- anagram , 64
- analogy , 65
- anathema , 68
- ancillary , 70
- animus , 72
- annals, 73
- anomaly , 74
- antecedent , 76
- anthropology , 78
- antic , 79
- antipathy, 83
- antiquity, 84
- antithesis, 87
- aphorism, 88
- aplomb, 89
- apocalypse, 89
- apocryphal, 90
- apogee, 91
- apostate, 92
- apotheosis, 94
- appellation, 95
- apposite, 96
- apprehend, 97
- appropriate, 100
- apt, 102
- arbiter, 104
- arcane, 105
- arch, 106
- arduous, 107
- argot, 107
- arid, 108
- Armageddon, 108
- arraign, 343
- arrant, 109
- arrogate, 111
- arsenal, 113
- artful, 114
- artless, 115
- ascetic, 116
- asperity, 118
- aspersion, 119
- assiduous, 120
- assuage, 121
- astute, 484
- atavistic, 123
- atrophy, 123
- attenuate, 124
- augment, 125, 126
- augur, 127, 128
- auspicious, 129
- autonomous, 130

- avuncular, 130
 awry, 131
 axiom, 133

 badinage, 135
 bailiwick, 135
 baleful, 136
 balk, 457
 banal, 137
 bastion, 138
 bathos, 138
 behemoth, 139
 beleaguer, 140
 bellicose, 140
 belligerent, 141
 bellow, 550
 bemuse, 142
 bestow, 142
 bibliophile, 145
 bibulous, 146
 Billingsgate, 535
 bland, 347
 blandishment, 146
 blatant, 6, 147
 boisterous, 6, 554
 bovine, 148
 bravado, 149
 brickbat, 150
 brisk, 459
 bromide, 151
 brook, 153
 brouhaha, 155
 brusque, 155
 bucolic, 156
 burgeon, 157

 cabal, 159
 cachet, 162
 cacophony, 163
 cadaverous, 163

 cadge, 164
 cajole, 166
 callow, 167
 calumny, 169
 canard, 169
 candour, 171
 canon, 172
 cant, 178
 cantankerous, 182
 capitulate, 183
 caprice, 7
 capricious, 185
 captious, 185
 carnal, 187
 carnivorous, 189
 carp, 189
 carrion, 192
 castigate, 196
 casuistry, 197
 cataclysm, 198
 catharsis, 198
 catholic, 199
 caustic, 402
 caveat, 210
 cavil, 212
 celibacy, 213
 champion, 214
 charlatan, 215
 chary, 216
 chasm, 218
 chicanery, 220
 chide, 221
 chimera, 225
 choleric, 4
 churlish, 227
 cipher, 229
 circuitous, 233
 circumlocution, 233
 circumspect, 235

 cite, 1
 clamorous, 6, 235
 clandestine, 236
 claptrap, 237
 cleave, 238, 241
 clemency, 244
 cloy, 244
 co-opt, 290
 cogent, 247
 cognizant, -isant, 248
 collation, 248
 colloquy, 255
 compendium, 256
 complacent, 258
 complaisant, 259
 complement, 259
 compliant, 261
 comport, 394
 conceit, 7
 concomitant, 262
 concrete, 263
 conduit, 269
 congenital, 273
 consensus, 274
 consortium, 275
 conspicuous, 358
 consummate, 277, 278
 contemn, 511
 contempt, 524
 contentious, 280
 context, 281
 contiguous, 283
 contretemps, 284
 contrite, 286
 contumacious, 287
 contumelious, 5, 549
 conundrum, 288
 copious, 291

- corollary, 293
corporeal, 295
correlate, 297
coruscate, 298
cosset, 298, 299
coterie, 300
crabbed, 4, 426
cranky, 4, 442
crass, 494
craven, 302
crawl, 303
credible, 305
creditable, 306
credulous, 308
crest-fallen, 309
cross, 4
crotchet, 7
culpable, 309
curmudgeon, 311
cursory, 312
curt, 313
cynosure, 314

dalliance, 315
daub, 316
dauntless, 319
dearth, 319
debacle, 321
debase, 322
debilitate, 323
debunk, 323
decimate, 324
decorous, 326
decorum, 327
decry, 329
deduce, 330
deem, 334
defer, 373
demur, 500

desert, 1
devout, 498
dissolute, 2
divulge, 348
doleful, 7
dolorous, 7
dour, 4
déclassé, 325

efficacious, 508
ennui, 508
eschew, 392
exculpate, 383
exonerate, 381

fancy, 7
fastidious, 407
fateful, 10
flaccid, 9
flappy, 9
flashy, 9
flimsy, 9
floppy, 9
foment, 5, 451
forsake, 1
fractious, 3
fray, 445
freak, 7
fretful, 3, 421
frivolous, 564

gainsay, 349
galvanize, 447
garish, 9
gaudy, 9
gloomy, 4
glum, 4
goad, 448

hoard, 341
huffy, 3

imbue, 8
impertinent, 2, 490
imposition, 502
impudent, 493
impugn, 351
inauspicious, 10
incite, 5
incriminate, 343
inculpate, 342
indolent, 464
inexorable, 8
inflexible, 8
infuse, 8
ingrain, 8
inoculate, 8
insolent, 487
instigate, 5, 450
intrusive, 2
invective, 532
irascible, 4, 440
irenic, 444
irritable, 3

lascivious, 11, 536
leaven, 8, 516
lecherous, 11
lewd, 11
libertine, 11
libidinous, 11
licentious, 11
limp, 9
lugubrious, 7
luscious, 399
lustful, 11

meddlesome, 2
melancholy, 7
meretricious, 9
meridian, 369
mordant, 404

- morose, 4, 406
mundane, 365

obdurate, 8
obloquy, 533
obstreperous, 6, 556
obtrusive, 2
obtuse, 484
officious, 2
ominous, 10
opprobrious, 5, 546
ostensible, 541

peevish, 3, 408
peril, 495
perspicacity, 483
pettish, 3
petulant, 3
piquant, 344
plantive, 7
portentous, 10
precocious, 368
procure, 376
profligate, 2
proscribe, 397

quaint, 559
querulous, 3
rancour, 443

reify, 465
remit, 384
reprimand, 521
reprobate, 2, 522
reprove, 518
repudiate, 352
revere, 509
rueful, 7

sapid, 398
saturnine, 4
scruple, 411
scrupulous, 415
scurrility, 534
scurrilous, 5, 550
shrewd, 473
sleazy, 9
smack, 513
snappish, 3
specious, 542
splenetic, 4
spurn, 355
strident, 6, 553
suave, 346
subservient, 506
suffuse, 8
sulky, 4
sullen, 4, 422
sundry, 360

supine, 462
surly, 4
sway, 466

tawdry, 9
testy, 4
thwart, 453
tinge, 512
touchy, 4
trenchant, 486

unpropitious, 10
urbane, 439

vagary, 7
venerate, 510
venomous, 430
vitiate, 527
vituperate, 531
vituperative, 5, 547
vociferous, 6, 552
voluptuous, 537

wanton, 11
waspish, 3
wayward, 418
whim, 7
whimsical, 557
whimsy, 7
wroth, 435

Colophon

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