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arise, **v.**

**Pronunciation:** Brit. /əˈraɪz/, U.S. /əˈraɪz/

**Forms:**
infinitive OE ar- , aris-an, ME aris-en, ME– arise, ME arye. past tense ME– arose; also OE –ME arás , arás, ME aros, ME aroos, ME aroose, 16 occasionally aris /əˈrɪz/. past participle OE– arisen /əˈraɪzn/; also ME arise, arysé, 15–17 arose.

**Frequency (in current use):**

**Etymology:** < A- prefix up, out, away + RISE v. = to ‘rise up,’ intensive of rise; compare Latin exoriri. An Old Germanic compound; in Gothic us- , ur- reisan , Old High German ur- , ar- , ir-risan , Old Saxon arisan. Northumbrian preserved ar-risan , ar-rís , etc. Obsolete 3rd singular present arist = ariseth. The past tense arise in 17th cent., was formed on past participle: compare obsolete writ, and extant bit; the past participle arose was assimilated to past tense: compare abode, shone. Now almost superseded in ordinary language by the simple RISE v., in all senses, except those in branch III., of which 17, 18 are the ordinary prose uses of the word. Still used poetically in senses 1 – 9; 10 – 13 seem entirely obsolete.

**I. To get up from sitting, lying, repose.**

**a.** To get up from sitting or kneeling, to stand up. **arch.: see RISE v.**

**b.** Hence in **transf. and fig. senses; as** (a) Of a court: To suspend sittings for the time, to adjourn. (b) Of a thing: To erect itself on end (as hair). **Obsolete.**

**c0000** ÆLFRIC Genesis xviii. 16 Da arison da þri weras.


c1275 (• ?a1200) **La3amon** Brut (Calig.) (1978) l. 15394 Pat folc..arisen from heore seten.

1297 **R. Gloucester's Chron.** 369 Pys hey men..Knely to God..Ac be hii arye, & abbeþ yturnd fram þe wened her wombe, Wolues dede hii nymeþ vorþ.

c1450 (• c1410) **H. Lovelich** Hist. Holy Grail xxxv. l. 93 A-Rys and go with Me.

1595 **Shakespeare** Henry VI, Pt. 3 ii. ii. 61 Edward Plantagenet, arise a knight.

1611 **Bible** (King James) John xiv. 31 Arise, let us go hence.

1779 **J. Moore** View Society & Manners France II. liv. 49 All the audience..immediately arise, and remain in a standing posture till their sovereign sit down.

1808 **Scott** Marmion VI. xii I dub thee knight. Arise, Sir Ralph, De Wilton's heir.

†b. Hence in **transf. and fig. senses; as** (a) Of a court: To suspend sittings for the time, to adjourn. (b) Of a thing: To erect itself on end (as hair). **Obsolete.**

**c1385** **CHAUCER** Legend Good Women 831 And pale he wex, therwith his heer [v.r. herte; see 7] aroos [v.r. a-ros, roos].
The court being about to arise he desired leave for a little speach.

†2. To get up from a fall. Also transf. and fig.

3. To get up from sleep or rest. arch.: see RISE v.

4. Of the sun, moon, and stars: To come above the horizon. Also transf. of the day, morning. Now arch. and poet.: see RISE v.
5. To rise from the dead, return to life from the grave. Now poetic: see RISE v.

6. To rise from inaction, from the peaceful, quiet, or ordinary course of life; esp. to rise in hostility or rebellion (against). Now poetic: see RISE v.
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950 Lindisf. Gosp. John vi. 18 Ðe sæ ofstod vel aras.
a1300 K. Horn 868 Horn him gan to agrise, And his blod arise.
1340 Ayembite (1866) 47 Alle þe þinges, huerby þet uless him arist.
c1385 CHAUCER Legend Good Women 831 Pale he wex therwith his herte [v.r. hear; see 1b(b)] a-*ros.

1393 J. GOWER Confessio Amantis I. 20 A tonne, whan his lie arist, To-brekethe.
1526 Bible (Tyndale) John vi. 18 The see arose [Wyclif, rose vp] with a greate winde that blew. [So all subseq. vers.]
1611 Bible (King James) 2 Sam. xi. 20 If so be that the kings wrath arise .
1611 Bible (King James) Ps. lxxxix. 9 When the waues thereof arise, thou stillest them.
1847 TENNYSON Princess l. 17 A wind arose and rush’d upon the South.

8. transf. Of sounds: To come up aloud, or so as to be audible, to be heard aloud. arch.

c1330 Arth. & Merl. 7409 In euerich lond arist song.
a1375 William of Palerne (1867) l. 3270 De cry rudli a-*ros þat reuþe it was to hure.
1393 J. GOWER Confessio Amantis I. 267 Through all the world the fame arose.
a1400 (• a1325) Cursor Mundi (Fairf. 14) l. 2840 Strange cry in þe toun a-ras.
1611 Bible (King James) Acts xxiii. 9 And there arose a great cry.
1859 TENNYSON Enid in Idylls of King 96 And in their halls arose The cry of children.

II. To ascend, go or come higher.

9. To go up, come up, ascend on high, mount. Now only poet.: see RISE v.

OE CYNEWULF Elene 802 Da of ðære stowe steam up aras swylærec under radorum.
c1374 CHAUCER tr. Boethius De Consol. Philos. IV. vi. 143 Þe lyȝte fyre arist into heyȝte.
a1500 (• ?c1450) Merlin 207 The duste a-rose with the wynde.
1590 SPENSER Faerie Queene I. X. sig. I5 Dame Celia...as thought From heauen to come, or thether to arise.
1594 Willobie his Auisa XLVII. f. 43 From whence these flames aryse.
1676 T. HOBBES tr. Homer Iliads XXIII. 763 And on his steps trod ere the dust aris.
1709 POPE Winter in Poet. Misc.: 6th Pt. vi. 748 Nor Morning Odours from the Flow'rs arise.
1820 KEATS Hyperion: a Fragm. I, in Lamia & Other Poems 160 A mist arose, as from a scummy marsh.

†10. To rise with its summit (as a tree), or surface (as water); to grow taller, or higher, to swell up. Obsolete: see RISE v.
c1225 *St. Marherete* (1866) 18 Te hude..barst on to bleinen þet hit aras up oueral.

1393 J. GOWER *Confessio Amantis* II. 169 Her womb, which of childe aros.


1425 *Seven Sages* (P.) 204 The flore ne may nouȝt aryse.

1535 T. MORE *Dialogue of Comfort* (1553) III. xxiii. sig. T.v Some by handy crafte..some by other kinde of liuyng aryse & come forward in y’ world.

1609 A. JESSOPP *Lives of Norths* (new ed.) I. 58 Good fortune..in his circuit practice, which made him arise [1742 rise] in it faster than young men have commonly done.

†11. To rise in rank or eminence. *Obsolete: see RISE v.*

1340 *Ayenbite* (1866) 24 Þe ilke þet is zuo hehe arise ine prosperite.

1535 T. MORE *Dialogue of Comfort* (1553) III. xxiii. sig. T.v Some by handy crafte..some by other kinde of liuyng aryse & come forward in y’ world.

1609 A. JESSOPP *Lives of Norths* (new ed.) I. 58 Good fortune..in his circuit practice, which made him arise [1742 rise] in it faster than young men have commonly done.

†12.

a. To rise in price or amount. *Obsolete: see RISE v.*

1340 *Ayenbite* (1866) 35 Uor to do arise þet gauel.

1643 J. CARYL *Nature Sacred Covenant* 11 They perceived the charge to arise so high.

1714 SWIFT *Corr.* II. 515 Stocks arose three per cent. upon it in the city.

†b. To amount to. *Obsolete.*

1594 T. BLUNDEVILLE *Exercises* I. xxvii. f. 33 If the summe..do arise to the summe of 60. or exceed the number of 60.

1649 F. ROBERTS *Clavis Bibliorum* (ed. 2) Introd. to Rdr. iii. 56 The whole time..will arise to 591 y [ears] in all.

1679 W. PENN *Addr. Protestants* I. sig. C4 They would arise to Three Times more Money.

†13. To come up to a point in a scale, attain to, reach. *Obsolete: see RISE v.*
III. To spring up, come above ground, into the world, into existence.

14. To spring forth, as a river, from its source. *Obsolete: see RISE v.*

Also trans. To take its rise, originate. (Still in use.)

15. To be born, come into the world of life or action.

16. Of things: To spring up, usually with some reference to the literal sense of *rise*, as if: To be raised, built. Mostly *poet.* or *rhetorical.*
1859   TENNYSON Vivien in Idylls of King 128  So long, that mountains have arisen since With cities on their flanks.
1864   TENNYSON Aylmer’s Field in Enoch Arden, etc. 58  Beyond her lodges..arose the labourers’ homes.

17. Of circumstances viewed as results: To spring, originate, or result from (of obsolete).

1275 ( • ?1200)  LA3AMON Brut (Calig.) (1963) l. 4679  Nu þu iherest of wuche gomen aras þer þe to-nome.
1393  LANGLAND Piers Plowman C. XIII. 230  So of rychesse vpon richesse · arisen al vices.
1393  J. GOWER Confessio Amantis I. 240  Therof might arise a sclaunder.
a1425 ( • ?1400)  CHAUCER Romaunt Rose (Hunterian) (1891) l. 3115  Sir it may not fall That ye desire it may not arise.
1605  BACON Of Advancem. Learning II. sig. Ee4  Out of which seuerall inquiries, there doe arise three knowledges.
a1616  SHAKESPEARE Henry V (1623) IV. vii. 175  Some sodaine mischiefe may arise of it.
1651  T. HOBBES Leviathan II. xxv. 131  Arising from the Imperative manner of speaking.
1661  R. LOVELL Πανζωορυκτολογια 219  Whence arised the old proverb, as sound as a Roche.
1793  J. SMEATON Narr. Edystone Lighthouse (ed. 2) §131  Comfort arose from the reflection.
1837  J. H. NEWMAN Parochial Serm. I. xviii. 266  This..arises from ignorance of religion itself.

18.

a. Of matters generally: To spring up, come into existence or notice, ‘come up,’ present itself. arising out of: used, with loose construction, to introduce a circumstance, action, proposal, etc., arising out of an event, statement, etc.

OE  Guthlac A 39  Woruld is onhrered, colaþ Cristes lufu, sindan costinga geond middangeard monge arisene.
1400  Rom. Rose 7543  And on the folke ariseth blame.
1526  Bible (Tyndale) Mark iv. 17  As trouble and persecucion aryseth for the wordes sake. [So Cranm., Geneva, 1611; Wyclif, riseth.]
1553  G. DOUGLAS tr. Virgil Eneados V. iv. 43  He first gude hope arrais to the tua last.
a1616  SHAKESPEARE Comedy of Errors (1623) V. i. 391  Thereupon these errors are arose.
1704  SWIFT Full Acct. Battel between Bks. in Tale of Tub 237  If a new Species of controversial Books had not arose of late Years.
1833  I. TAYLOR Fanaticism x. 433  Noticing as it arises, whatever fairly bears upon the question.
1849  MACAULAY Hist. Eng. II. 145  All questions which arose in the Privy Council.
1922  J. JOYCE Ulysses ii. xii. [Cyclops] 302 Arising out of the question of my honourable friend...may I ask [etc.]?

1928  Daily News 8 Dec. 9/3 Arising out of the Goddard case, [a man] was summoned...for threatening...an ex-Constable.

b. With more of the literal sense. (Hence often rise. Cf. 7, 9.)

1711  J. ADDISON Spectator No. 166. ¶3 Those Thoughts which arise and disappear in the Mind of Man.

1713  POPE Ode Musick 2 If in the Breast tumultuous Joys arise.

1790  E. BURKE Refl. Revol. in France 11 I beg leave to throw out my thoughts, and express my feelings, just as they arise in my mind.

1857  F. D. MAURICE Epist. St. John iv. 55 Then arises in our minds a terrible sense of shame.

†IV. Other uses.


* ?1440  tr. Palladius De re Rustica (Duke Humfrey) (1896) v. l. 6 Hit [sc. medick (trefoil)]

dongeth londes lene, & beestes lorn Ffor lene hit fedeth vp, and seeke ariseth [c1450 Bodl. Add. perh. aueiseth; L. curat aegrota].

This entry has not yet been fully updated (first published 1885).
concern, v.

**Pronunciation:** Brit. /kən'sərn/, U.S. /kən'sərn/

**Forms:** ME—16 concerner, ME—16 conserne, ME— concern, 15—16 concearne, 15—17 (18 Eng. regional (Lancashire)) consern, 15— consarn (now regional), 16 concearn, 16 concirne, 16 consarne, 16 concern, 16 consurn, 16 (18— regional) concern; Sc. pre-17 concern, pre-17 consorn, pre-17 17– concern; U.S. regional 19– consa'n (in African-American usage), 19– consahn (in African-American usage), 19– consoin (Brooklyn), 19– cunsaa'n (in African-American usage).

**Frequency (in current use):**

**Origin:** Of multiple origins. Partly a borrowing from French. Partly a borrowing from Latin. **Etymons:** French concerner; Latin concernere.

**Etymology:** < (i) Anglo-Norman and Middle French, French concerner, Middle French conserner to refer or relate to (something) (1385), and its etymon (ii) post-classical Latin concernere to mix, mingle (things) together (c400 in Augustine), to observe (things) together (4th or 5th cent. in Jerome), to observe, regard, consider (frequently from 13th cent. in British sources; from c1300 in continental sources), to relate, to affect, involve (frequently from 13th cent. in British sources; from 14th cent. in continental sources) < classical Latin con- CON- prefix + cernere CERN v. ‘

Compare Old Occitan concernir, Catalan concernir (1393), Spanish concernir (end of the 14th cent.), Portuguese concernir (1615), Italian concernere (14th cent.).

In sense 8 apparently by confusion with DISCERN v.

**I. Senses relating to involvement or concern.**

1.

**a. transitive.** To refer or relate to; to be about. Cf. as concerns at

**Phrases 2b.**

With complementary uses of concerning cf. CONCERNING prep. 2.

1400 in C. Welch *Tower Bridge* (1894) 89 (MED) An Acte concernyng Petermen and other fysshing in the Thames.

1420 in T. Rymer *Feadera* (1709) IX. 918 In all manere of thynges concernyng th' Excercize of Governance.


1487 J. SKELTON tr. Diodorus Siculus *Bibliotheca Historica* III. 216 Aftre they had demaunded of theire god all such maters as concerned theire welfares in generall.

1526 *Bible* (Tyndale) Acts xxviii. 31 Teachynge those thinges which concerned the lorde Jesus.
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1526 W. BONDE *Pylgrimage of Perfection* Pref. sig. Ai The sentences of illumined doctours, concerning perfection.

1584 T. COGAN *Hauen of Health* i. 7 The place where exercise is to be used doeth chieflie concerne the aire.

1600 SHAKESPEARE *Henry IV, Pt. 2* IV. i. 30 Say on my lord of Westmerland in peace, What doth concerne your comming.

a1616 SHAKESPEARE *Twelfth Night* (1623) IV. ii. 50 What is the opinion of Pythagoras concerning Wilde-fowle?

1631 W. GOUGE *Gods Three Arrowes* III. Ep. Ded. 5/2 The principal points herein handled...concerne Prayer.

1761 *George Colman, Esq; Analysed* 8 How does this strange preamble concern the subject before us.

1765 J. WILKES *Corr.* (1805) II. 204 As to all my proceedings here concerning the press.

1825 C. WATERTON *Wanderings in S. Amer.* i. 37 They have also dreadful stories concerning a horrible beast, called the Water-mamma.

1841 R. W. EMERSON *Ess.* (1st. Ser.) vii. 238 Prudence concerns the present time, persons, property, and existing forms.

1929 G. P. MERRILL *Minerals from Earth & Sky* I. i. 1 Let us first indulge in a few commonplaces concerning our planet and its surroundings.


1929 J. DIAMOND *Collapse* (2006) xv. 453 The remaining environmental problem concerns where to dump all the dirt and wastes dug up in the course of mining.

†b. intransitive. To relate or belong to (also unto). Obsolete.

1451 in W. H. Black *Hist. & Antiq. Worshipful Company of Leathersellers* (1871) 30 (MED) Eny thyng towchyng or concernyng unto the occupacion and konnyng of either of the same two Craftes.

1530 J. PALSgrave *Lesclarcissement* Ep. 2 Some thyng...in writyng...concernyng unto this mater.

1657 S. RICHARDSON *Of Torments of Hell* 91 I appeal to the learned in the Languages, for to them concerneth the decision of the signification of words.

†2. transitive. To affect (a thing); to have a bearing or influence on. Obsolete except in sense 5c.

1446 in H. Nicolas *Proc. & Ordinances Privy Council* (1837) VI. 49 (MED) Certaine matters that gretely touchin and concerne þe good wele and worship of oure landes.

1587 F. THYNNE *Ann. Scotl.* Pref. 405 in *Holinhed's Chron.* (new ed.) II Such things as...concerne the honour of the Scottish nation.

1662 J. EVELYN *Sculptura* ii. 12 His [sc. Adam's] unhappy Fall did so much concern his rare and infus'd Habits.
3.

a. transitive. To be of importance to; to be the concern or business of; to involve; to affect.

- 1475 J. Fortescue *Governance of Eng.* (Laud) (1885) 148 (MED) All oper materes wich shall conserne this counsell, as when a Counsellour dyeth, how a new counsellour shall be chosen [etc.].

- 1616 Shakespeare *Othello* (1622) i. iii. 23 The importancy of Cypresse to the Turke..it more concerns the Turke then Rhodes.

- 1616 Shakespeare *Measure for Measure* (1623) i. i. 77 It concernes me To looke into the bottome of my place.

- 1641 R. Montagu *Acts & Monuments* (1642) 264 She should doe well, not to be over-busie in matters that concerned her not.

- 1667 Milton *Paradise Lost* VII. 82 Things above Earthly thought, which yet concernd Our knowing.

- 1712 R. Steele *Spectator* No. 290. Domestick Virtues concern all the World.

- 1734 Pope *Satires of Horace* II. ii. 165 If the Use be mine, can it concern one Whether the Name belong to Pope or Vernon?

- 1817 J. Mill *Hist. Brit. India* III. VI. i. 17 Here is a picture! It concerns my countrymen to contemplate well the features of it.

- 1869 E. A. Freeman *Hist. Norman Conquest* III. xii. 249 A quarrel which concerned neither himself nor his country.

- 1960 *New Scientist* 22 Dec. 1638 (adv.) Disease is a social problem which concerns everyone, everywhere.

- 2008 A. Furst *Spies of Warsaw* (2009) 111 Better get out of here, my friend, this doesn't concern you.

b. intransitive. To be of importance, to matter. Also with to, unto. Obsolete.

- 1477 in C. Innes *Registerum Episcopatus Brechinensis* (1856) I. 200 Becaus it concernis to his Hienes in siclik thing in tyme to cum.

- 1598 Shakespeare *Love’s Labour’s Lost* IV. ii. 140 Trip and goe my sweete, deliever this Paper into the royall hand of the King, it may concerne much.

- 1616 Shakespeare *Two Gentlemen of Verona* (1623) I. ii. 77 Madam, it will not lye where it concerns, Vnlesse it haue a false Interpreter.

- 1616 Shakespeare *Henry VI, Pt. 1* (1623) V. v. 72 Why what concerns his freedome vnto mee?

- 1679 Sir T. Browne *Let.* 28 Nov. in *Wks.* (1836) I. 269 If places bee sould or given by favor only, such virtues will concerne butt contingently.
†c. transitive (in passive). To have a responsibility to do something; to be obliged. Obsolete.

1652 M. NEDHAM tr. J. Selden *Of Dominion of Sea* 125 Princes are concerned to bee warie and careful, that they admit no such strangers where the Common-weal may receiv any damage thereby.

1659 T. BURTON *Diary* (1828) IV. 457 That gentleman will be concerned to name them in a fitter season.

1697 V. ALSOP *Vindic. Faithful Rebuoke* 28 The Body of the United Ministers judg’d themselves concerned to take the Matter into Consideration.

1735 J. PRICE *Some Considerations Stone-bridge Thames* 16 I shall think myself concern’d to pursue my Thoughts upon this Subject.

4. transitive.

In passive constructions overlapping with concerned adj. 1a.

a. To cause (a person) anxiety or worry; to trouble. Chiefly in passive: to be anxious, worried, or troubled by something.

c1592 MARLOWE *Jew of Malta* I. ii Now, then, here know that it concerneth us.

a1674 EARL OF CLARENDON *Brief View Leviathan* (1676) 249 He is not concern’d, if the King forbids him to believe in Christ.

1693 in *Colonial Rec. Pennsylvania* (1852) I. 414 I am Concerned to see the time goe away and nothing done.

1712 T. HEARNE *Remarks & Coll.* (1889) III. 479 I am concern’d at this Proceeding, and indeed take it very unkindly.

1749 H. FIELDING *Tom Jones* VI. XVII. ii. 96 I never was more concerned at any Thing in my Life.

1749 *Apol. Life Bampfylde-Moore Carew* 174 This greatly surpriz’d and concerned Mr. Carew.

1801 M. EDGEBWORTH *Forester* in *Moral Tales* I. 157 He was greatness concerned.

1858 J. MARTINEAU *Stud. Christianity* 73 We are concerned that any Christian divine can so torture and desecrate the names of virtue.

1899 *Scribner’s Mag.* Aug. 141/1 That he was poor, concerned her chiefly because she knew that it would distress him not to have his friends around him.

1922 W. G. WHITE *Sea Gypsies of Malaya* xxiv. 274 Nbai was so concerned that he decided not to return to Maulmein with me.

1970 *Irish Times* 5 Oct. 9/3 This report concerns me deeply.

2004 *U.S. News & World Rep.* 12 Apr. 273 The Bush camp is concerned by the lurking presence of a series of well-funded outside groups.

b. To engage the attention of; to cause (a person) to feel interest, care, or solicitude. Chiefly in passive: to be interested, to care.

intransitive in quot. a166.
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a1616 SHAKESPEARE Winter’s Tale (1623) III. ii. 85 Which to deny, concernes more than auailles.

a1656 BP. J. HALL Shaking of Olive-tree (1660) II. 374 These opinions, which have no reason to concern us.

1665 LD. WINDSOR Let. 4 Mar. in E. M. Thompson Corr. Family of Hatton (1878) I. 46 I desire you will..make this discovery for mee without letting Sir Charles Lytleton know I am att all concerned for it.

1734 G. BERKELEY Analyst §20 I am not concerned about the truth of your theorems.

1781 J. TUCKER Treat. Civil Gouv. II. iv. 248 Points, which concern the Public..just as much as the Big-endians, or Little-endians of the facetious Dean Swift.

1841 Southern Literary Messenger 7 161 He who is only concerned about the present, is apt to be over-anxious to gratify his lusts and to indulge the transitory sensations of an hour.

1918 A. G. GARDINER Leaves in Wind 235 However virtuous our cause, Nature is not concerned about us.

1968 E. BOWEN Eva Trout I. vii. 84 At the minute, breakfast was what concerned her.

2004 S. D’ERASMO Seahorse Year (2005) 92 I’m not really concerned about whether or not you’re happy.

c. In passive. With infinitive, or with (also about) and present participle. To be anxious to do something; to consider it important to do something; to be preoccupied with doing something.

1643 Let. Protestant in Ireland 9 I cannot beleev (though some particular Persons may be concerned to keep up this distraction) that the Scotch Nation will engage themselves in a quarrell against their Native King.

a1687 W. PETTY Polit. Arithm. (1691) iv. 77 The said Ten being not concerned to increase their Territory.

1722 D. DEFOE Jrl. Plague Year 151 We are concern’d to tell you of it.

1867 Evangelical Repository & United Presbyterian Rev. Aug. 175 The Lord’s people are concerned to improve the talents with which God has intrusted them.

1876 ‘G. ELIOT’ Daniel Deronda I. II. xiv. 268 I am not concerned to tell of the food that was eaten in that green refectory.

a1918 R. S. BOURNE Hist. Literary Radical (1956) 197 Those who are concerned about understanding the non-popularity of our participation in the war.

1932 E. A. KIRKPATRICK Sci. of Man in Making xiii. 336 The religious minded are concerned with doing the Father’s will.

1977 E. P. SANDERS Paul & Palestinian Judaism v. 448 In I Cor. 15 Paul is concerned to prove that the resurrection is in fact to come.

2010 N.Y. Rev. Bks. 30 Sept. 50/3 Treme is tremendously concerned with being authentically New Orleanian.

†d. In passive. To be in physical distress. Obsolete. rare.
W. DERHAM *Physico-theol.* I. i. 5. In one Compressing Engine I closely shut up a Sparrow without forcing any Air in; and in less than an Hour the Bird began to pant, and be concerned.

5. transitive. Of a person or other agent.
With passive uses in these senses cf. CONCERNED adj. 1a.

a. In passive.

(a) With *in, with.* To have a part or share in; to be engaged or involved in.

In quot. 1749: (with *against*) to be working in opposition to.

1614 A. MUNDAY *Himatia-poleos* 4. Mis-information, or incapacitie of reading, may..wrong better men then any that are concerned in this case.

1680 S. BUTLER *Genuine Remains* (1759) II. 311. Those, that are concerned in one another's Love..are never quiet, but always catterwalling.


1711 J. ADDISON *Spectator* No. 1. ¶9. Those Gentlemen who are concerned with me in this Work.

1749 H. FIELDING *Tom Jones* IV. XII. x. 267. An attorney may feel all the Miseries and Distresses of his Fellow Creatures, provided he happens not to be concerned against them.

1796 E. BURKE in *Hist. Trial Warren Hastings* (Suppl.) p. xl/1. In such a cause the State itself is highly concerned in the event.


1884 W. E. GLADSTONE in *Standard* 29 Feb. 2/4. Persons prominently concerned in conducting the affairs of the country.

1948 *Nucleonics* May 195/1 (adv.1) Here is a 'must' for every engineer concerned with the study and design of microwave systems.

1959 W. S. SHARPS *Dict. Cinematogr.* 121/1. He is responsible for ensuring that everything and every person concerned in production is available at the right place at the right time.

2011 J. GLEICK *Information* xiv. 382. People concerned with the ‘Cat’ article [on Wikipedia] could not agree on whether a human with a cat is its ‘owner’, ‘caregiver’, or ‘human companion’.

(b) *spec.* To be implicated or involved in something illegal or discreditable; to be mixed up in.


1711 R. STEELE *Spectator* No. 260. ¶1. Intrigues which no one will believe I ever was concerned in.
1717 in *Colonial Rec. Pennsylvania* (1852) III. 21 Some of their men were concern'd in the killing of the sd. Catamba Indians.

1801 M. EDGEWORTH *Forester* in *Moral Tales* I. 151 Accused of being concerned in a riot.

1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* I. 663 Among the persons concerned in the Rye House plot.

1855 *Times* 7 June 3/3 A Harley Street specialist was one of three men who were alleged..to have been concerned in a conspiracy concerning the doping of greyhounds.

1930 L. CHARTERIS *Enter Saint* I. vii. 54 Those same four bums were concerned in beating up a poor little coot of a lame bookie named Tommy Mitre.

2011 *Bexley Times* (Nexis) 10 Nov. Police attended the Bexley Charcoal Grill to speak to a male suspect who had been concerned in criminal damage in a nearby bar.

b. reflexive. *to concern oneself with (also in, about, etc.)*: to make (something) one's concern; to involve oneself in. Also with infinitive.

1634 W. TIRWHYT tr. J. L. G. de Balzac *Lett.* 365 I finde no difference betweene a lost state, and one concerning itselfe in this sort [Fr. *un qui se conserve de cette façon*].


1682 DRYDEN *Religio Laici* Pref. sig. a2 I ought not to have concern'd my self with [such] Speculations.

1692 R. SOUTH *12 Serm.* I. 343 Providence..concerns it self to own, and assert the interest of Religion.

1712 T. HEARNE *Remarks & Coll.* (1889) III. 485 I will not concern myself in this Affair.

1800 W. COWPER *Comm. Milton's Paradise Lost* in *Wks.* (1837) XV. 336 There is nothing about which the heart of man concerns itself so little.

1846 L. BACON *Slavery discussed in Occas. Ess.* 168 If a master abdicates his power over his slave, the state concerns itself immediately to put that slave under another master.

1883 J. A. FROUDE *Short Stud.* IV. III. 270 Celsus..was a man..unlikely to concern himself with vice and folly.

1909 *Westm. Gaz.* 10 July 3/2 We, a handful of men, concerning ourselves deeply in small matters, are brought face to face with the boundless.

1963 E. C. BURSK & J. F. CHAPMAN *New Decision-making Tools for Managers* xiii. 326 Top management..concerns itself largely with coordination, financial problems, and with building up a balanced 'portfolio of products'.

2002 B. HOEY *Her Majesty* vi. 81 He saw no reason to concern himself with such below-stairs matters as domestic wages and conditions.

c. In passive following a noun: involved, in question.

?c1640 *Liberty Mannor of Stepney in Middlesex* (single sheet) All Persons concerned will be readily answered.
†d. To involve (a person) in a matter, situation, undertaking, etc.

Obsolete.

6. transitive (in passive). Of a thing.

a. With in.

†(a) To be liable to be affected, esp. adversely, in a particular circumstance or situation; to be at stake. Obsolete.

**Note:** The text is a collection of historical references and definitions, primarily from the 17th to the 19th centuries, related to the concept of being involved or affected in a matter or situation. The OED reference indicates a rich history of usage, reflecting the evolving language around concepts of concern and involvement.
concern, v. : Oxford English Dictionary

1866 F. MARRYAT For Ever & Ever III. ii. 29 A woman’s good name was concerned in keeping the secret.

1894 New Eng. Mag. Nov. 274/2 Its [sc. the nation’s] reputation is concerned in the character and proceedings of Congress.

(b) To be involved (in an action, process, or situation); to play a role in something.

1791 J. SMEATON Narr. Edystone Lighthouse §109 All delays were dangerous, in a case where winds and tides were concerned.

1831 D. BREWSTER Treat. Optics iv. 34 The small part of any curved surface..which is concerned in refracting it, may be regarded as a plane.

1846 J. S. MILL Syst. Logic (ed. 2) Introd. §7 There are other more elementary processes, concerned in all thinki. g.

1882 J. H. BLUNT Reformation Church of Eng. II. 253 A matter in which religious duty and public policy were concerned.

1920 Jrnl. Amer. Osteopathic Assoc. 19 285/1 In any case of edema..several, or perhaps very many, factors are concerned.


1991 J. D. MATTHEWS Silvicultural Syst. xvi. 196 Black canker..is the fungus most commonly concerned in damage to basket willow rods.

b. With with. To have to do with; to be about; to involve.

1675 W. PENN England’s Present Interest 37 English Men, whose Cry is..Property more sacred then Opinion, Civil Right not concerned with Ecclesiastical Discipline, nor forfeitable for Religious Non-conformity.

1744 M. AKENSIDE Pleasures Imagination 92 Ridicule is not concerned with mere speculative truth or falsehood.

1793 W. GODWIN Enq. Polit. Justice I. II. vi. 123 Understanding, particularly as it is concerned with moral subjects, is the percipient of truth.

1827 R. WHATELY Elements Logic (ed. 2) 205 Logic being concerned with the theory of Reasoning.

1871 B. JOWETT tr. Plato Dialogues IV. 175 Music is concerned with harmony and rhythm.

1931 Econ. Jrnl. 41 137 The two most important chapters..are those concerned with descriptions of the Manors of the Priory.

1962 Listener 12 Apr. 647/1 They [sc. abstract paintings] are concerned with gestalt effects, and with after-images.

1999 H. LANE in M. Dickens Mariana (new ed.) p. xii Much of the novel is concerned with Mary learning that useful and terribly British lesson: that glamour means little, and is usually to be distrusted.
7. transitive. regional. Used in the optative with no subject to express annoyance, hatred, dismissal, etc.: ‘damn (it, you, etc.)’.
Frequently in consarn it! Cf. CONCERNED adj. 3.

1803 J. DAVIS Trav. U.S.A. x. 384 Concern it, Dinah, says I, why if you was to eat all the good things what would there be left for me?
1832 J. P. KENNEDY Swallow Barn II. xvii. 222 ‘Consarn his pictur!’ said Jeff.
1872 ‘AGRIKLER’ Rhymes (ed. 2) 8 Yo luberman, long gutted, liazy lout! Consarn thy yead.
1877 E. PEACOCK Gloss. Words Manley & Corringham, Lincs. Consarn you, an objurgation equivalent to ‘confound you’.
1906 A. BROWN Court of Love vii. 159 ‘He got away.’ Jakes shook his head. ‘Consarn him!’
2002 Santa Fe New Mexican (Nexis) 24 Nov. E2/4 The Stones may be old, but, consarn it, they can still play.

†II. Senses relating to discernment.

8. transitive. To distinguish, discern, perceive. Obsolete.

c1425 LYDGATE Troeyes Bk. (Augustus A.iv) iv. l. 5838 (MED) O myȝti goddes, þat þe world gouerne, And euery þing þoru ȝȝ our myȝt conserne.
1450 (• ?c1408) LYDGATE Reson & Sensuallyte (1901) l. 2343 (MED) To teche me..to conserne How that I shal me gouerne.
1484 Lydgate’s Lyf Our Lady (Caxton) sig. eii’ God that is eterne The trouth of thynges clerely can conserne.
?1589 T. NASHE Almond for Parrat sig. F’ The true children of God can not tell how to conserne them [sc. the wicked].

PHRASES

P1. whom it may concern and variants: a formula used to address or refer to an audience whose identity is unknown, esp. (in to whom it may concern) at the beginning of a letter, notice, or testimonial. Also in extended use.

1571 Proclam. Her Maiesties Comm. Eccl. 7 June (single sheet) We vndernamed..haue thought good to signifie thus much, and also to charge you & euery of you whom it may concerne.
1601 G. CHAPUY in E. Aggas tr. P. L’Estoile True Disc. Occurr. Warres of Savoy sig. Aj’ His Maiestie..declaring to those to whom it may conserne, that..he was lastly enforced to recouer the said Marquizate by force of Armes.
1655 T. FULLER Church-hist. Brit. I. 35 But be it known to whom it may concerne, that the British are not so over-fond of S’. Patrick.
P2.

a. as far as (a person or thing) is concerned, as far as concerns (a person or thing), and variants: with respect to; as regards.

1561 T. NORTON tr. J. Calvin *Inst. Christian Relig.* IV. f. 103 † We are sayd to receiue, to obteyne, to gette that whiche so farre as concerneth the felyng of our faith, is geuen vs of the Lorde.

1640 W. HABINGTON *Hist. Edward IV* 111 The King receiv’d them to mercy, as farre as their lives were concerned.

1691 *Mundus Foppensis* sig. Di † So far as concerns the present Matter [etc.].

1779 *Jrnls. Continental Congr.* 1774–89 (Library of Congress) (1909) XIII. 42 He is so far as concerns his brigade, to inspect the police of the camp, the discipline and order of the service.

1780 *Mirror* No. 96 In so far as my improvement was concerned, they spared no expence.

1810 DUKE OF WELLINGTON *Dispatches* (1838) V. 542 What has passed in Parliament respecting me, has not given me one moment’s concern as far as I am personally concerned.

1862 J. RUSKIN in *Fraser’s Mag.* Sept. 268/2 In his function of lender (which, however, is one of administration, not use, as far as he is himself concerned), the capitalist takes, indeed, a more interesting aspect.

1922 *Crisis* Jan. 130/1 His further assertion that the same rule should apply to the white as well as to the black citizen went to the root of the problem, so far as concerns its political aspects.

1984 R. FEILD *Iron in Fire* i. 12 The kitchen, as far as the rest of the household was concerned, was thankfully banished below stairs.

2005 T. HALL *Salaam Brick Lane* vii. 162 I won’t wear a hijab because I don’t want anyone telling me what to do. They can piss off as far as I’m concerned.
b. as concerns: with respect or reference to; as regards. Cf. as concerning at CONCERNING prep. 1a.

1816 J. FRY Lect. Epist. St. Paul to Romans xv. 293 And we have already seen that the believer, in respect of his acceptance with God, and as concerns the awarding of his eternal state in life, is delivered from all law.

1872 J. MORLEY Voltaire i. 20 When we remember that, as concerns their demands, the conditions of the end of the eighth century were not radically different from those of the beginning of the sixth.

1873 F. HALL Mod. Eng. 50 As concerns a substantive, its subjective genitive, universally..may be expressed prepositively.

1908 M. MOORE Let. 12 Dec. in Sel. Lett. (1997) 51 In England things are in a very sad way apparently as concerns the rank and file.

1978 W. J. M. KICKERT Fuzzy Theories on Decision-making vii. 113 As concerns the choice for the linguistic representation of fuzziness..we can state that this form of vagueness is a very frequently encountered one.

2012 S. L. ALEXANDER Army of Lions v. 160 As concerns the Louisiana case, Jesse Lawson brought the Committee up-to-date on the group's attempt to select a local lawyer.

P3. where (a person or thing) is concerned: in the case of, regarding; when it comes to.

1644 LD. INCHIQUIN et al. Let. to His Majestie 17 July 2 A people, which value not their lives and fortunes, where your Majesties honour is concerned.

1689 W. ATWOOD Ld. Chief Justice Herbert's Acct. Examined 55 Such was Sir Edward's great scrupulosity, and tenderness, where the Life of Man was concern'd.

1726 SWIFT Gulliver II. III. iii. 46 The People..understand how far to carry their Obstinacy, where their Liberty or Property is concerned.

1767 B. THORNTON tr. Plautus Treasure II. iv, in B. Thornton et al. tr. Plautus Comedies II. 33 Your great man if I meet, I make way for him, Give him the wall, shew him respect, but where The belly is concern'd, I will not yield An inch.

1823 SCOTT St. Ronan's Well II. ix. 226 'By my soul, Clara, I will make you repent this!' said Mowbray, with more violence than he usually exhibited where his sister was concerned.

1892 Daily News 12 July 4/8 Where poets dead and gone are concerned..the practice of selecting and anthologising is comparatively innocuous.

1938 A. BERKELEY Not to be Taken ii. 18 Where his wife's whims were concerned it was John Waterhouse's habit quietly to give way.

1965 J. S. GUNN Terminol. Shearing Industry ii. 30 He is particularly resented by shearsers, who are rather fastidious where food is concerned.

2010 Asian Woman No. 43. 181/1 Do not make any hasty decisions where finances are concerned.
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concerning, prep.

Pronunciation: Brit. /ˈkənˈsərniŋ/, U.S. /ˈkənˈsərniŋ/

Forms: see CONCERN v. and -ING suffix; also 16 **conceerneinge**; Sc. pre-17 **conserien** (transmission error).

Frequency (in current use):

Origin: Formed within English, by derivation; modelled on a French lexical item. Etymons: English concerning, CONCERN v.

Etymology: < concerning, present participle of CONCERN v., perhaps after Anglo-Norman **concernaunt**, Anglo-Norman and Middle French **concernant** (early 15th cent. or earlier).

The prepositional use arose when the present participle was no longer limited to the function of complement to a preceding noun phrase, as in the following:

1504 *Rolls of Parl.: Henry VII* (Electronic ed.) Parl. Jan. 1504 §40. m. 28 All the evydences, charters and munimentes concerning the premisses.

With this syntactic development, compare e.g. TOUCHING prep., REGARDING prep.

1.

a. As regards; as relates to. Chiefly in *as concerning*: as far as concerns; as to.

1525 R. SAMPSON in H. Ellis *Orig. Lett. Eng. Hist.* (1846) 3rd Ser. I. 355 And as concerning the interception off the lettirs they esteame it, Sir, for a very grevos matir.

1555 in J. STRYPE *Eccl. Mem.* (1721) III. App. xliii. 120 That Christ was ordained, concerning his humanity and not concerning the Godhead.

1598 SHAKESPEARE *Love’s Labour’s Lost* I. i. 198 The matter is to me sir, as concerning Iaquenetta.

1611 *Bible* (King James) Rom. ix. 5 Of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came.

1611 *Bible* (King James) Philipp. iii. 6 As touching the law, a Pharise; concerning zeale, persecuting the Church [Greek κατά, Rhem. according to, *Revised* as touching]; touching the righteousness which is in the Law, blameless.

1656 A. COWLEY Misc. 27 in *Poems* When we trust Men concerning God, we then Trust not God concerning Men.

1725 R. BRADLEY *Chomel’s Dictionaire Economique* at Kennel As concerning Horse-flesh, those best skill’d this Way approve of it, provided it be given with Discretion.

1792 T. JEFFERSON *Writings* (1859) III. 442 Their government, or policy, as concerning themselves or other nations.

1818 H. T. COLEBROOKE *On Import Colonial Corn* vi. 106 Its effect is, perhaps, commonly over-rated, as concerning the direct cost of wrought goods.
1902 M. L. RODKINSON tr. *Babylonian Talmud* (new ed.) VII. ix. 226 As concerning a murderer the Scripture makes a difference between intentionally and unintentionally.

2010 *FourFourTwo* June 24/4 Concerning everyday garments I prefer the so-called democratic style and wear plain T-shirts and jeans.

†b. Preceding an infinitive or a subordinate clause: as far as concerns; as to. Also in *concerning for* in same sense. *Obsolete.*

1529 tr. M. Luther in tr. Erasmus *Exhort. Studye Script.* sig. Lij” It had ben more profitable for him yf he had abydden loose and free both as concerning for prayer and also for treatinge and speakinge the worde of god.

1548 N. UDALL et al. tr. Erasmus *Paraphr. Newe Test.* I. John 28 a Iohns disciples did enuye Iesu, forasmuche as concerninghe hymself was lately baptyzed of Iohn, and had behaued hymself as though he had been his disciple..he would now sodainly make himself equal to him.

1562 P. WHITEHORNE tr. Machiavelli *Arte of Warre* VI. f. lxxxvi Concernyng for other consideracions, thei had twoo principall.

1562 P. WHITEHORNE tr. Machiavelli *Arte of Warre* II. f. xxvii’ Concernyng to learne how to handell the weapons.

1611 *Bible (King James)* Acts xiii. 34 As concerning that he raised him vp from the dead.

2. In reference or relation to; regarding, about. Cf. CONCERN v. 1a.

*N.E.D.* (1891) remarks: ‘Now rather formal and literary: perhaps never colloquial.’

1535 *Bible (Coverdale)* I Cor. xvi. A Concernynge [Tindale of] the gadderynge that is made for the sayntes.

1541 COVERDALE tr. H. Bullinger *Oldie Fayth* sig. Evij Concernynge the commynge of John the baptist.

1611 *Bible (King James)* Matt. xvi. 11 I spake it not to you concerning bread.

1616 SHAKESPEARE *Merry Wives of Windsor* (1623) I. i. 204 But that is not the question: the question is concerning your marriage.

1725 D. DEFOE *New Voy. round World* II. 78 I asked him concerning the Natives.

1752 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 195. ¶11 Every servant..was examined concerning his departure.

1801 M. EDGEOHurst *Forester* in *Moral Tales* I. 88 He will make no inquiries concerning you.

1822 R. SOUTHey in *Q. Rev.* 27 2 A point concerning which..biographers have not been able to satisfy themselves.

1865 R. W. DALE *Jewish Temple* i. 15 What has been said concerning the greatness and glory of Christ.

1945 P. H. LANDIS *Adolescence & Youth* iii. 33 One mother constantly remarked concerning her daughter’s disregard of her authority, ’Oh, she’s just in adolescence.’

1985 C. A. MACKINNON in C. Itzin *Pornography* (1993) xxiii. 496 Brian DePalma..was interviewed concerning the Williams episode.

2013  *Neighbor News (Morris County, New Jersey)* (Nexis) 21 Aug. 1  The Township Committee had questions about what was being done concerning the flooding problems.

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connection | connexion, n.

Pronunciation: /kəˈneks(ə)n/  

Frequency (in current use):  

Etymology: < Latin connexīōn-em (in classical Latin cōnexīōn-) binding together, close union, noun of action < co(n)nectēre (participial stem co(n)nex-) to CONNECT v.: compare French connexion (14th cent. Oresme), Provençal connexion, Spanish conexion, Portuguese connexion, Italian connessione. The etymological spelling connexion is the original in English; in 17th cent. it was supported by the verb CONNEX v.; after the latter was displaced by CONNECT v., the noun began c1725–50 to be often spelt connection, a spelling which, under the influence of etymologically-formed words, such as affection, collection, direction, inspection (all < Latin participial stems in -ect-), is now very frequent.

The earlier English lexicographers, including Bailey, Johnson, Walker, Todd, Crabb, recognize connexion only. Connection appears in Webster (1828) who says 'For the sake of regular analogy, I have inserted Connection as the derivative of the English connect, and would discard connexion'. This preference has been followed by other dictionaries in U.S. Latham would differentiate the two spellings and use connexion only in senses 5 – 8 Connection is the official and invariable spelling in sense 8, and was used in all senses by the majority of writers (or printers) in England until the mid-20th cent., when connection became more usual.

1.

a. The action of connecting or joining together; the condition of being connected or joined together.

[Not in Shakespeare, nor in Bible of 1611; not in Florio 1611 (who has 'Connessione, a connexing or ioyning'): in Cotgrave 1611 ('Connexion, a connexion, ioyning').]

1609 Bible (Douay) I. Exod. xxvi. 3 The other five [curtains] shal hang together with the connexion.

1615 H. Crooke Μικροκοσμογραφία 255 Making a sumphysis or connexion between the mother and the Infant.

1747 B. Franklin Plain Truth (new ed.) 20 Separate Filaments..without Strength because without connection.

1793 M. Bailie Morbid Anat. xiii. 178 Their close connection with the peritonæum.

1866 A. Murray Geogr. Distrib. Mammals 64 The probability of the connexion of Papua and Australia..being thus established.

b. of immaterial union or joining together.

1651 T. Hobbes Leviathan II. xxii. 122 A league being a connexion of men by Covenants.

1787 A. Young in Glasgow Weekly Herald (1883) 7 July 2/7 A correspondence might be carried on..between two lovers prohibited or prevented from any better connection.
**c. Electr.** The linking up of electric current by contact; an apparatus or device for effecting this.

1832 *Nat. Philos.* (Libr. Useful Knowl.) II. Electro-magnetism 46 When a connexion is made with the battery...so as to direct an electric current through the wire.

1885 H. W. Watson & S. H. Burbury *Math. Theory Electr. & Magn.* I. 220 The potentials at every point...are the same as if there were no metallic connexion between $P$ and $Q$.

1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 9 June 5/1 The bombardment destroyed the French cable connexion house.

1907 *Installation News* Sept. 12/2 Heavy brass connection terminals.

1940 *Chambers's Techn. Dict.* 191/1 *Connexion-* (or *connecting-*) box, a box containing terminals to which are brought a number of conductors of a wiring or distribution system, in order to facilitate the making of connexions between them.

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2.

**a.** The linking together of words or ideas in speech or thought.

**b.** Consecutiveness, continuity or coherence of ideas.

1651 T. Hobbes *Leviathan* I. iv Speech, consisting of names and appellations, and their connexion.

1680 Earl of Roscommon tr. Horace *Art of Poetry* 17 So much good Method and Connexion may Improve the common and the plainest things.

1753 S. Richardson *Hist. Sir Charles Grandison* II. xxix. 271 Matrimony and Liberty—Girlish connexion as I have since thought.

1766 C. Anstey *New Bath Guide* II. iii. 17 And I hope, as I write without any Connection, I shall make a great Figure in Dodsley's Collection.

**c.** Contextual relation of thought, speech, or writing; context.

1724 A. Collins *Disc. Grounds Christian Relig.* 71 The Jewish Doctors are used to detach passages from their connection.

1790 R. Porson *Lett. to Travis* 310 Martin took the sentence out of its connection.

1827 C. Bridges *Expos. Psalm cxix.* (1830) 3 It is interesting to notice the connexion in which the word is used.

1871 B. Jowett in tr. Plato *Dialogues* I. 3 The word has been rendered in different places either Temperance or Wisdom, as the connexion seemed to require.
d. Hence, in this (the same, another, etc.) connection.

1780  M. MADAN *Thelyphthora* I. 48  This word, in certain connexions, denotes, etc.
1807  W. HAZLITT *Polit. Ess.* (1819) 413  The same argument..stated in the same connexion.
1837  H. MARTINEAU *Society in Amer.* (1839) I. 277  One fact, in this connection, is, etc.
1840  J. H. NEWMAN *Church of Fathers* xxi. 412  Sulpicius..happens to mention [it] in another connexion.
1844  BP. S. WILBERFORCE *Hist. Protestant Episc. Church Amer.* (1846) 13  In this connexion, it is full of interest to trace back.
1860  B. JOWETT in *Ess. & Rev.* 371  In different connexions.
1875  M. ARNOLD *God & Bible* (1884) 173  Certain fundamental themes..appearing repeatedly and in several connexions.
1875  M. ARNOLD *God & Bible* (1884) 174  These three sayings..come in different connexions. [See F. Hall in *The Nation* (N.Y.) 5 Jan. 1888, p. 12.]

3. The condition of being related to something else by a bond of interdependence, causality, logical sequence, coherence, or the like; relation between things one of which is bound up with, or involved in, another.

1613  J. SALKELD *Treat. Angels* 98  Unsignificant wordes, which have no connexion or proportion with the effect..produced.
1651  T. HOBBES *Philos. Rudim.* To Rdr. sig. A12  Derived from true Principles by evident connexion.
1690  J. LOCKE *Ess. Humane Understanding* II. xxx. 173  This Property has no necessary connexion with that complex Idea.
1736  BP. J. BUTLER *Analogy of Relig.* I. i. 15  *The Reason of the thing* shews us no Connection between Death, and the Destruction of living Agents.
1785  W. COWPER *Task* VI. 89  Knowledge and Wisdom, far from being one, Have ofttimes no connexion.
1833  N. ARNOTT *Elem. Physics* (ed. 5) II. I. 129  The connexion of temperature with the rise of fevers and other pestilences.
1865  E. B. TYLOR *Res. Early Hist. Mankind* ii. 16  We have quite lost sight of the connection between the word and the idea.
1872  E. W. ROBERTSON *Hist. Ess.* 256  There was a close connexion during the early feudal period between rank and wealth.

4.

a. Anything that connects; a connecting part.

1742  E. YOUNG *Complaint: Night the First* 6  [Man]..Connection exquisite of distant Worlds! Distinguishing Link in Being's endless Chain!
connection | connexion, n. : Oxford English Dictionary

1751  T. SMOLLETT *Peregrine Pickle* II. lxxv. 291  The robust connection of his limbs.

**b. A connecting passage, word, or particle.**

1712  J. ADDISON *Spectator* No. 416. ¶2  Because it is impossible to draw the little Connexions of Speech, or to give the Picture of a Conjunction or an Adverb.
1753  S. RICHARDSON *Hist. Sir Charles Grandison* III. xxii. 200  I will only at present transcribe for you, with some short connexions, two Letters.

**5.**

**a. A personal relation of intercourse, intimacy, common interest, or action; a having to do with.** Often with plural.

1768  L. STERNE *Sentimental Journey* I. 88  [He] made the whole tour..without one generous connection or pleasurable anecdote to tell of.
1773  O. GOLDSMITH *She stoops to Conquer* I. 16  Well, if he supplies us with these, we shall want no further connexion.
1785  W. COWPER *Task* II. 634  These [we] form connexions, but acquire no friend.
1831  A. KNOX *Remains* (1844) I. 96  Far from advising any man to break connexions once fairly formed.
1874  J. R. GREEN *Short Hist. Eng. People* v. 213  We find Chaucer in close connexion with the Court.
1886  J. MORLEY *Comte* in *Crit. Misc.* III. 341  To write of Saint Simon as a depraved Quack, and to deplore his connection with him.

**b. Sexual relation or intercourse; a liaison.**

1791  J. BOSWELL *Life Johnson* anno 1744 I. 92  The Earl Rivers, on account of a criminal connexion with whom, Lady Macclesfield is said to have been divorced from her husband.
1804  J. ABERNETHY *Surg. Observ.* 168  He had had no connexion with any other woman.
1810  J. ABERNETHY *Dis. resembling Syphilis* 6  A gentleman was connected with a female,..and derived from such connexion several..sores.

**c. Practical relation with a thing or affair.**

1860  J. TYNDALL *Glaciers of Alps* I. i. 7  Such are the circumstances..under which my connexion with glaciers originated.
1888  *N. Brit. Daily Mail* 24 Aug. 4/8  The failure of the [Fisheries] treaty was chiefly attributable to Mr. Chamberlain's connection with it.
6.

a. Relationship by family ties, as marriage or distant consanguinity. Often with a and plural.

1773 O. Goldsmith *She stoops to Conquer* V. 104 The girl could not have made a more prudent choice. Hard. Then..I’m proud of the connexion.

1809 B. H. Malkin tr. A. R. Le Sage *Adventures Gil Blas* I. i. xvii. 164 He is a youth of good connections.


1848 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* 246 He was, by hereditary connection, a Cavalier.

b. A person who is connected with others by ties of any kind; esp. a relative by marriage or distant consanguinity. (Orig. only in plural)

1780 R. B. Sheridan *School for Scandal* III. iii. 39 But pray, Sir, are you acquainted with any of my connections?

1805 J. Foster *Ess.* (1819) ii. 127 A decisive man..may be encountered by the strongest disapprobation of many of his connexions.

1822 Byron *Werner* I. i. 689 The baron is my intimate connection.

1869 F. Parkman *Discov. Great West* i. 1 Some of their connections held high diplomatic posts.


1934 *Detective Fiction Weekly* 21 Apr. 113/2 The person from whom the addict buys his stuff is called a connection.

1938 F. Chester *Shot Full* ii. 14 Her husband..had not had a chance to tell her his connexion for obtaining the drug.

1938 F. Chester *Shot Full* ii. 17 To his extremely numerous clients, the drug-addicts, he was known as..a sure connexion.

1957 J. Kerouac *On the Road* I. xiii. 88 A couple of Negro characters whispered in my ear about tea... The connection came in and motioned me to the cellar toilet.

1960 J. Gelber (title) The connection.

1967 M. M. Glatt et al. *Drug Scene in Great Brit.* vi. 71 For his first connection he paid £1 per grain.

d. (Usually preceded by qualifying word.) A gang of criminals, esp. drug-traffickers; hence, a route, etc., maintained by such a gang. Also

1969 R. MOORE (title) The French connection: the world’s most crucial narcotics investigation.


1976 *N.Y. Times* 25 Aug. 10 At least 15 other foreigners have been detained in the Soviet Union on narcotics charges., reflecting a growing concern of the Soviet authorities about the ‘Moscow connection’, as some Westerners have nicknamed the Moscow transit route.

1977 *Chicago Tribune* 2 Oct. I. 40/1 They reported on Chicago’s ‘Mexican Connection’ to the U.S. House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control.

1985 *Sunday Times* 14 Apr. 23/2 Information from Britain had enabled them to disrupt a ‘Nigerian connection’; several Nigerians were arrested attempting to smuggle heroin into the United States.

1985 *Sunday Tel.* 7 July 9/1 (heading) Operation Moses and the Belgian connection.

7. A body, or circle of persons connected together, or with whom one is connected, by political or religious ties, or by commercial relations; a body of fellow-worshippers, of political sympathizers, a circle of clients, customers, etc.

1767 LD. CHESTERFIELD *Let.* 6 Apr. (1932) (modernized text) VI. 2806 What is called the Rockingham connection, stands the fairest for the ministry.

1848 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* iv He had long been at the head of a strong parliamentary connection.

1853 THACKERAY *Newcomes* (1854) I. v. 46 Doing a most respectable business, especially in the Dissenting connection.

1868 M. E. GRANT DUFF *Polit. Surv.* 120 The Republicans are essentially the same political connexion which was headed by Washington.

1891 *N.E.D.* at *Connexion* Mod. An old established business with a first-rate connexion.

8. Used by Wesley of those associated or connected with him in religious work and aims; thence it gradually became with the Wesleyans equivalent to ‘religious society’ or ‘denomination’, and is used also by other Methodist associations and bodies which have sprung from them.

(The development of this sense from the simple phrase ‘in connection with’ is shown in the following examples:

1753–7 J. WESLEY *Large Minutes* Q. 51 He may be received into full connexion with us [1780 He may be received into full connexion].

1768 J. WESLEY *Jrnl.* III. 127 I and all the Preachers in connexion with me.

1791 *Minutes Wesl. Conf.* Q. 9 The Preachers of his District who are in full connexion.)
1757  J. WESLEY Jnl. 1 Aug. II. 421 I did not dare to remain in their connexion.

1765  J. WESLEY Jnl. 5 Oct. III. 237 The oldest preacher in our connexion.


1769  J. WESLEY Addr. Trav. Preachers 4 Aug. in Wks. (1872) XIII. 242 Those who aim at anything but the glory of God..will not, cannot remain in the Connexion.

1769  J. WESLEY Will Lastly, I give to each of those travelling Preachers who shall remain in the Connexion six months after my decease..the eight volumes of sermons.

1773  Ann. Reg. 82 The Sacrament shall not be administered by the preachers, in any part of the connexion, except when the whole society is unanimous for it.

1801  J. BUNTING in T. P. Bunting Life (1859) I. ix. 139 The Preachers and Circuits in our Connexion.

1847  H. MILLER First Impressions Eng. i. 7 A prodigiously clever preacher of the New Connexion.

1859  T. P. BUNTING Life J. Bunting I. vi. 84 A tribunal..pronounced that he had separated himself from the Methodist Connexion.

9. The meeting of one means of communication (as a railway train or steam-boat) by another at an appointed time and place in order to take on the passengers. Phr. to run in connection, to make connections, etc.

1862  TROLLOPE N. Amer. II. 99 ‘I have got a furlough for ten days’, one soldier said to me. ‘And I have missed every connection all through from Washington here. I shall have just time to turn round and go back when I get home’.

1891  N.E.D. at Connexion Mod. The steamers on the lake run in connexion with the trains; and coaches start from Waterhead in connexion with the steamers.

10. The phr. in connection with occurs in most of the senses.

1768 [see sense 8].

1841  T. DE QUINCEY Plato’s Republic in Blackwood’s Edinb. Mag. July 40/2 That war, taken in connexion with the bloody feuds that succeeded it..gave a shock to the civilisation of Greece.

1856  J. A. FROUDE Hist. Eng. (1858) I. i. 27 Except in rare instances, the agricultural labourer held land in connexion with his house.

1872  J. MORLEY Voltaire vi. 311 We may say of Voltaire in connection with history what he said of Corneille in connection with tragedy.

1876  T. FOWLER Induct. Logic Pref. to Ed. 3 The student is requested to read this Preface in connexion with Chapter III.

1891  N.E.D. at Connexion Mod. In connexion with this subject, it may be remarked, etc.

11. attributive, as connection rod.
1836 *Hull & Selby Railw. Act* 45  It shall be lawful for any proprietor...to fix all such ropes, chains, connexion rods and other matters.

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historically, *adv.*

**Pronunciation:** Brit. /ˈhɪstərkli/, U.S. /ˈhɪstər(ə)kli/

**Forms:** see HISTORICAL *adj.* and *n.* and -LY suffix.

**Frequency (in current use):**

**Origin:** Formed within English, by derivation. **Etymology:** < HISTORICAL *adj.* + -LY suffix. Compare classical Latin historicē, adverb, historicōs, adverb, and its etymon Hellenistic Greek ἱστορικῶς.

1. In a historical manner; in relation or with reference to history.

- 1550 J. Bale *Apol. agaynste Papyst* f. xxi Now wyll I shewe historycallye the forme and fashyon of that popysh vowinge.
- 1591 J. Harington tr. L. Ariosto Orlando Furioso II. 15 (note) Rather in fabulous and in Allegoricall sence, then plainely and historically.
- 1660 H. More *Explan. Grand Myst. Godliness* VII. x. 321 The Life and Death of Christ was writ in a serious manner by some or other; not Romantically but Historically.
- 1672 O. Walker Of Educ. I. vi. 50 Let him..every night, at his going to bed, recollect historically what he hath done amiss to be sorry.
- 1723 H. Wanley Diary 22 Nov. (1966) II. 264 He ha’s lately seen a large Piece of Wood carved Historically long since.
- 1790 E. Burke Refl. Revol. in France 187 The fact is so historically; and it agrees well with the speculation.
- 1837 R. W. Emerson Jrnlt. 24 Nov. (1910) IV. 371 It seems to me that the circumstances of man are historically somewhat better here and now than ever.
- 1878 W. E. Gladstone Homer 6 When we use the word Homer, we do not mean a person historically known to us, like Pope or Milton.
- 1937 A. Huxley Ends & Means vii. 67 No less ‘historically’ necessary and right are the brutalities of men in brown shirts.
- 1958 Spectator 27 June 849/1 Our undated and long-dated Government stocks are selling at historically low levels.
- 1991 Premiere Aug. 74/3 The movie can’t be a historically accurate picture of the time.

2. As a sentence adverb: according to history; in the past; formerly; traditionally.
Historically, Pharaoh put his Ring on Joseph's Hand, and a gold Chain about his Neck.

Historically, the idea of body is simultaneous with and as it were suggests the idea of space.

Historically, the court of exchequer..was developed out of the curia, or great court of the king's tenants-in-chief.

Historically, industrial concentration had gone on before the period of rationalization.

The action on the case for spoken words was, historically, an outgrowth of the more ancient trespass action with its ad-damnum conclusion.

Historically, mass production depended on a constant supply of disposable people-resources to be exploited then discarded in sanitariums, detox units, nursing homes.

Historically, cheeses were blued in cold, drafty caves where mold that occurred naturally settled into the curds.

COMPENDS

historically-minded adj.

The antiquary and historically minded traveller will naturally..pay a visit to the town of Dives.

How rewarding the study of the written norm may be even for the historically-minded specialist.

Part of the appeal of terracotta, for such a historically-minded age, was that it was not really a new material, but an old one waiting to be discovered.

This entry has been updated (OED Third Edition, March 2012).