

Information

def information Information (Page: 761) In `for*ma”tion (?), n. [F., fr. L. informatio representation, cinception. See Inform, v. t.] 1. The act of informing, or communicating knowledge or intelligence. The active informations of the intellect. South. 2. News, advice, or knowledge, communicated by others or obtained by personal study and investigation; intelligence; knowledge derived from reading, observation, or instruction. Larger opportunities of information. Rogers. He should get some information in the subject he intends to handle. Swift. 3. (Law) A proceeding in the nature of a prosecution for some offens against the government, instituted and prosecuted, really or nominally, by some authorized public officer on behalf of the government. It differs from an indictment in criminal cases chiefly in not being based on the finding of a grand juri. See Indictment. (ARTFL Webster’s 1913: 761)

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def information: Merriam-Webster’s defines information as: 1 : the communication or reception of knowledge or intelligence 2 a (1) : knowledge obtained from investigation, study, or instruction (2) : intelligence, news (3) : facts, data b : the attribute inherent in and communicated by one of two or more alternative sequences or arrangements of something (as nucleotides in DNA or binary digits in a computer program) that produce specific effects c (1) : a signal or character as in a communication system or computer) representing data (2) : something (as a message, experimental data, or a picture) which justifies change in a construct (as a plan or theory) that represents physical or mental experience or another construct d : a quantitative measure of the content of information; specifically. : a numerical quantity that measures the uncertainty in the outcome of an experiment to be performed (Merriam-Webster 1993: 599).

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def information noun [a. OF. *enformacion, informacion* (mod.F. *information*), ad. L. *informtin-em* outline, concept, idea, in med.Schol.L. the action of 'informing' matter, n. of action from *informre* to INFORM. Conformed to the L. spelling in 16th c. The L. n. had a very restricted use; the Eng. senses represent all the senses of the verb; but the chronological appearance of these does not accord with the logical order.] **I. 1. a.** The action of informing (in sense 4 of the verb); formation or moulding of the mind or character, training, instruction, teaching; communication of instructive knowledge. Now *rare* or *Obs.* **1387** TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VI. 33 ere is i-write at fyve bookes com doun from heven for informacioun of mankynde. **1390** GOWER *Conf.* III. 145 A tale, which is evident Of trouthe in commendacion, Toward their enformacion. **1450-1530** *Myrr. our Ladye* 140 Athanasius..made thys psalme..to comferte and enformacion of them that were in trew byleue. **1526** TINDALE *Eph.* vi. 4 Brynge them vppe with the norter and informacion off the lorde. **1597** HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* V. xx. §11 Their [apocryphal books'] fitnessse for the publique information of life and manners. **1663** J. SPENCER *Prodigies* (1665) 20 To lead them to the light by a faithful information of their Judgments. **1736** BUTLER *Anal.* II. vii. 357 Our reason and affections, which God has given us for the information of our judgment and the conduct of our lives. **1813** JEFFERSON *Writ.* (1830) IV. 182 The book I have read with extreme satisfaction and information. **b.** with *an* and *pl.* An item of training; an instruction. *Obs.* **c1386** CHAUCER *Melib.* 904 Whanne Melibee hadde herd the grete skiles and resons of Dame Prudence, and hire wise informacions and techynges. **1553** N. GRIMALDE *Cicero's Offices* Ep., Paines taking here to enriche themselves, with enformacions of vertue. **1760** LAW *Spir. Prayer* I. 12 A most kind and loving information given by the God of love to his new-born offspring. **c.** Divine instruction, inspiration. *Obs.* **14..** *Circumcision* in *Tundale's Vis.* (1843) 96 A prophete by holy enformacion. **1526** *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 199 The holy apostles makyng this Crede by the instinceyon & informacyon of the holy goost. **1559** *Primer in Priv. Prayers* (1851) 30 O God, which by the information of the Holy Ghost hast instructed the hearts of thy faithful. **d.** Capacity of informing; instructiveness. *rare.* **1712** J. HENLEY in *Spect.* No. 518 7 With a Number of Circumstances of equal Consequence and Information. **2.** The action of informing (in sense 5 of the verb); communication of the knowledge or 'news' of some fact or occurrence; the action of telling or fact of being told of something. **1390** GOWER *Conf.* III. 66 This night for enformation Ye shall have an avision. **c1400** MANDEVILLE (1839) v. 60, I haue vndirstonden be informacioun, that his lampe quenchee. **1513** MORE in Grafton *Chron.* (1568) II. 759 This I have by credible informacion learned. **1555** EDEN *Decades To Rdr.* (Arb.) 50 The autoure..hath seene a greate parte him selfe..and gathered the residewe partly by information. **1664-94** SOUTH *Twelve Serm.* II. 113 By way of Information or Notification of the Thing to Him. **1794** PALEY *Evid.* (1825) II. 318 Difficulties always attend imperfect information. **1843** BORROW *Bible in Spain* xlix. 282/1 For your information, however, I will tell you that it is not. **3. a.** Knowledge communicated concerning some particular fact, subject, or event; that of which one is apprised or told; intelligence, news. *spec.* contrasted with *data.* **c1450** LYDG. & BURGH *Secrees* 1695 Ferthere to geve the Enformacioun, Of mustard whyte the seed is profitable. **1464** J. GRESHAM in *Paston Lett.* No. 482 II. 144, I have spoken onto Catesby, and

delyvered hym your enfromacion. **1555** EDEN *Decades* 63 Muche otherwyse then Zamudius information. **1662** STILLINGFL. *Orig. Sacr.* II. ii. §1 That he have sufficient information concerning the things he undertakes to write of. **1727** SWIFT *Gulliver* III. ii, It was necessary to give the reader this information. **1895** *Law Times Rep.* LXXIII. 651/1 If the underwriters wanted to know more, they ought to have asked for information. **1970** [see DATUM 1d]. **1970** O. DOPPING *Computers & Data Processing* i. 14 In administrative data processing, a distinction is sometimes made between data and information by calling raw facts in great quantity 'data', and using the word 'information' for highly concentrated and improved data derived from the raw facts. *attrib.* **1890** M. TOWNSEND *U.S.* Pref. 1 The mass of curious facts, coincidences, and information-items from which this book is evolved. **1891** *Daily News* 2 Oct. 4/7 Information agent at the German Exhibition. **b.** with *an* and *pl.* An item of information or intelligence; a fact or circumstance of which one is told. In earlier use, An account, relation, narrative (*of* something). *Obs.* **1527** R. THORNE in Hakluyt *Voy.* (1589) 252 An information of the parts of the world discovered by him. **a1533** LD. BERNERS *Gold. Bk. M. Aurel.* (1546) Llvijb, I. haue herde of the a longe informacion. **1624** (*title*) A Briefe information of the Affaires of the Palatinate. **1666** MARVELL *Corr. Wks.* 1872-5 II. 190 Many informations are daily brought in to the two Committees about the Fire of London. **1724** SWIFT *Drapier's Lett.* Wks. 1755 V. II. 61 All the assistance I had, were some informations from an eminent person. **1748** CHESTERFIELD *Lett.* (1792) I. 327 The informations I have lately received in your favour from Mr. Harte. **1845** CARLYLE *Schiller* (ed. 2) Pref., Great changes in our notions, informations, in our relations to the Life of Schiller. **c.** Separated from, or without the implication of, reference to a person informed: that which inheres in one of two or more alternative sequences, arrangements, etc., that produce different responses in something, and which is capable of being stored in, transferred by, and communicated to inanimate things. Information in this sense may at the same time be, or be regarded as, information in the following sense. **1937** *Discovery* Nov. 329/1 The whole difficulty resides in the amount of definition in the [television] picture, or, as the engineers put it, the amount of information to be transmitted in a given time. **1944** *Jrnl. Sci. Instrum.* XXI. 133/2 Information is conveyed to the machine by means of punched cards. **1953** J. C. ECCLES *Neurophysiol. Basis Mind* i. 1 We may say that all 'information' is conveyed in the nervous system in the form of coded arrangements of nerve impulses. **1953** WATSON & CRICK in *Nature* 30 May 965/2 In a long molecule many different permutations are possible, and it therefore seems likely that the precise sequence of the bases is the code which carries the genetical information. **1958** *Spectator* 4 July 22/3 The complex molecules carrying genetic information from one generation to the next. **1961** *New Scientist* 26 Jan. 201/2 The colour information is added to a conventional black-and-white signal on an amplitude and phase modulated sub-carrier located in the vision band. **1962** *Listener* 10 May 817/2 The fertilized ovum of a particular animal is not, in any obvious way, like that animal; yet its development will proceed along certain lines only. It contains the information characteristic of that particular kind of animal. **1962** *Times* 5 July 15/7 A disc is apt to give slightly inferior quality towards the centre, where the information is more crowded. **1971** R. M. DOWBEN *Cell Biol.* v. 97 Genetically transmitted information precisely determines the amino acid

composition of all proteins synthesized by each cell. **d.** As a mathematically defined quantity (see quotes.); now *esp.* one which represents the degree of choice exercised in the selection or formation of one particular symbol, sequence, message, etc., out of a number of possible ones, and which is defined logarithmically in terms of the statistical probabilities of occurrence of the symbol or the elements of the message. The latter sense (introduced by Shannon, quot. 19482, though foreshadowed earlier) is that used in information theory, where information is usually regarded as synonymous with entropy. **1925** R. A. FISHER in *Proc. Cambr. Philos. Soc.* XXII. 709 What we have spoken of as the intrinsic accuracy of an error curve may equally be conceived as the amount of information in a single observation belonging to such a distribution. *Ibid.* 710 If p is the probability of an observation falling into any one class, the amount of information in the sample is $S\{(m/2)/m\}$ where $m = np$, is the expectation in any one class [and is the parameter]. **1928** R. V. L. HARTLEY in *Bell Syst. Techn. Jnl.* VII. 540 What we have done then is to take as our practical measure of information the logarithm of the number of possible symbol sequences. *Ibid.* 541 The information associated with 100 characters will be $500 \log 2$. **1935** R. A. FISHER in *Jnl. R. Statistical Soc.* XCVIII. 47 One could, therefore, develop a mathematical theory of quantity of information from these properties as postulates, and this would be a normal mathematical procedure. *Ibid.*, As a mathematical quantity information is strikingly similar to entropy in the mathematical theory of thermo-dynamics. **1948** N. WIENER *Cybernetics* iii. 76 Thus a reasonable measure of the amount of information associated with the curve $f_1(x)$ is: $-\int (\log_2 f_1(x)) f_1(x) dx$. The quantity we here define as amount of information is the negative of the quantity usually defined as entropy in similar situations. The definition..is not the one given by R. A. Fisher for statistical problems, although it is a statistical definition. **1948** C. E. SHANNON in *Bell Syst. Techn. Jnl.* XXVII. 392 We have represented a discrete information source as a Markoff process. Can we define a quantity which will measure, in some sense, how much information is 'produced' by such a process, or better, at what rate information is produced? Suppose we have a set of possible events whose probabilities of occurrence are p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n . These probabilities are known but that is all we know concerning which event will occur. Can we find a measure of how much 'choice' is involved in the selection of the event or of how uncertain we are of the outcome? If there is such a measure, say $H(p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n)$, it is reasonable to require of it the following properties: [etc.]. *Ibid.* 394 We shall call $H = -\sum p_i \log p_i$ the entropy of the set of probabilities p_1, \dots, p_n ... The quantity H has a number of interesting properties which further substantiate it as a reasonable measure of choice or information. **1949** W. WEAVER in Shannon & Weaver *Math. Theory Communication* 99 The word *information*, in this theory, is used in a special sense that must not be confused with its ordinary usage. In particular, information must not be confused with meaning. In fact, two messages, one of which is heavily loaded with meaning and the other of which is pure nonsense, can be exactly equivalent, from the present viewpoint, as regards information. *Ibid.* 100 Information in communication theory relates not so much to what you *do* say, as to what you *could* say. That is, information is a measure of one's freedom of choice when one selects a message. **1953** D. GABOR in W. Jackson *Communication Theory* i. 2 'Information' in the exact sense of communication theory is far more restricted than the vague concept which

goes by this name in everyday life. It may also be mentioned that this definition has nothing to do with the value of information. It is a measure of the minimum effort or cost by which the message can be transmitted, not of its importance or consequences. **1953** J. B. CARROLL *Study of Lang.* vii. 200 Information (in the special sense required in communication theory) may be measured in bits. **1953** C. F. HOCKETT in Saporta & Bastian *Psycholinguistics* (1961) 45/2 The keynote of the quantification of information is the matter of choice of any message, for actual transmission at a given time, from a fixed repertory of possible messages. **1956** L. BRILLOUIN *Sci. & Information Theory* p. x, Information is a function of the ratio of the number of possible answers before and after, and we choose a logarithmic law in order to insure additivity of the information contained in independent situations... This definition cannot distinguish between information of great importance and a piece of news of no great value for the person who receives it. **1957** KENDALL & BUCKLAND *Dict. Statistical Terms* 138 In a specialised sense in the theory of estimation, the amount of information about a parameter from a sample of n independent observations drawn at random from a population with a frequency function $f(x,)$ is defined as $nE(\log f/)^2 n - (\log f(x,))^2 f(x,)dx$. **1968** J. LYONS *Introd. Theoret. Ling.* ii. 84 Another important statistical notion has to do with the amount of *information* carried by a linguistic unit in a given context; and this also is determined by (or is generally held to be determined by) its frequency or occurrence in that context. **1968** P. A. P. MORAN *Introd. Probability Theory* i. 53 In statistical theory 'information' is usually 'information about a particular parameter' of a probability distribution, and is measured by the reciprocal of the square of the standard deviation of some estimator of that parameter. **1970** O. DOPPING *Computers & Data Processing* i. 19 Any language with different frequency of occurrence of different symbols has less information per symbol than another (hypothetical) language with the same number of symbol values but with equal probability of occurrence of them all. **4.** The action of informing against, charging, or accusing (a person). (Originally the general sense whence 5 arises; now *Obs.*, exc. as transf. from 5: cf. also 6.) **1480** CAXTON *Chron. Eng.* ccxlili. (1482) 288 A grete part of the peple..weren in grete errour and grutchyng ayenst the kyng thurgh Informacyon of lyes and fals lesyng that this Serle has made. **1535** JOYE *Apol. Tindale* (Arb.) 24 Besydis this condempnacion of me by hearsaye or enformacion of hys faccyon. **1550** CROWLEY (*title*) An informacion and Peticion agaynst the oppressours of the pore Commons of this Realme. **1565** GOLDING *Cæsar* 16 Here vppon hee called Dumnorix aside..laying before him what informations were put vp against him. **1613** SHAKES. *Hen. VIII*, V. iii. 110 In seeking tales and Informations Against this man. **5. spec.** in *Eng. Law. a.* A complaint or charge against a person lodged with or presented to a court or magistrate, in order to the institution of criminal proceedings without formal indictment. The original object of this procedure was to dispense with the previous finding of a grand jury. Criminal informations are laid (*a*) in any criminal court, partly at suit of the Crown, partly at suit of an individual, to enforce a penalty under a penal statute (the penalty being paid partly to the use of the Crown, partly to the informer); (*b*) in the Queen's Bench Division, in the name of the Crown alone, being either *ex officio* informations for misdemeanours dangerous to the government, e.g. seditious libel, or informations filed by the Master of the Crown Office, on the complaint of a private individual, for gross

misdemeanours; (c) before a Justice of Peace, in matters that may be dealt with summarily, being a statement of the facts by the prosecutor, verbally or in writing, with or without oath. Most of these uses exist also in the law of the United States, where the most common sense is 'An official criminal charge presented, usually, by the prosecuting officers of the state, without the interposition of a grand jury'. **1629** in Cobbett *State Trials* (1809) III. 300 This matter [against Elliot, Hollis and Valentine] is brought in this court by way of Information, where it ought to be by way of Indictment. **1898** *Encycl. Laws Eng.* (Renton) VI. 446 The distinction between an Information and an Indictment is that an Indictment is an accusation found by the oath of twelve men.., whereas an Information is only the allegation of the officer who exhibits it. (a) **1467-8** *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 633/1 That..every such Infourmer..be admitted to sue for the Kyng and hym self Actions..upon the same by Enformation to be even or made in eny of the seid Courtes. **1523** *Act 14 & 15 Hen. VIII*, c. 1 The person..that will first sue for the same, by originall of dette, bill, plainte, or informacion, in any of the kynges courtes. **1647** *MAY Hist. Parlt.* I. i. 13 They were also vexed with informations in inferiour Courts; where they were sentenced, and fined for matters done in Parliament. **1742** JOHNSON *Deb. Parlt.* (1787) II. 407 The prospect of raising money by detecting their practices incited many to turn information into a trade. **1769** BLACKSTONE *Comm.* IV. xxiii. (1809) 308 **1838** DICKENS *O. Twist* liii, The gentleman being accommodated with threepennyworth of brandy to restore her, lays an information next day, and pockets half the penalty. **1875** T. S. PRITCHARD *Quarter Sess. Pract.* iv. §4. 173 Prosecutions by information at the quarter sessions can only be instituted in cases where, by a penal statute, an informer is allowed to take this course to recover the penalty; but this proceeding is generally disused. (b) **1482** *Rolls Parlt.* VI. 208/1 If the Kyngs Attourney Generall of his said Duchie..put a Bill into eny of the Kyngs Courtes by wey of enformation..the Justices of the same Court..shall have power [etc.]. **1537** *Act 28 Hen. VIII* in Bolton *Stat. Irel.* (1621) 167 And that the kings suit by writ, bill, plaint, enditement, and enformation in that behalfe be commenced. **1588-9** *Act 31 Eliz.* c. 5 §3 Suche officer[s] of recorde as have in respecte of their offices heretofore lafullye used to exhibite informacions or sue upon penall lawes. **1769** BLACKSTONE *Comm.* IV. xxiii. §3 (1809) 309 The objects of the other species of informations, filed by the master of the crown-office upon the complaint or relation of a private subject, are any gross and notorious misdemesnors, riots, batteries, libels, and other immoralities of an atrocious kind, not peculiarly tending to disturb the government. **1803** MACKINTOSH *Def. Peltier* Wks. 1846 III. 291 No prosecutions, no Criminal Informations followed the liberty and the boldness of the language then employed. **1827** HALLAM *Const. Hist.* (1876) II. viii. 4 The attorney-general..exhibited an information against Sir John Eliot for words uttered in the house. **1883** SIR J. F. STEPHEN *Hist. Crim. Law Eng.* ix. I. 294 A criminal information..may be preferred only for misdemeanours, and only by the Attorney or Solicitor General, or by the Master of the Crown Office acting under the orders of the Queen's Bench Division, upon a motion made in open court. (c) **1733** J. HARVEY (*title*) *Orders, Warrants, Informations, and variety of Precedents for Justices of the Peace.* **1802** M. EDGEWORTH *Moral T.* (1816) I. xv. 122 A magistrate, with whom informations had been lodged. **1897** C. M. ATKINSON *Magistrate's Ann. Pract.* ii. 22 The mode of commencing proceedings before justices of the peace is by preferring a

complaint or an information..[It] is called an *information* when it is the foundation for summary proceedings of a criminal nature, which are followed either by a conviction or an acquittal. **b.** A complaint of the Crown in respect of some civil claim, in the form of a statement of the facts by the attorney general or other proper officer, either *ex officio*, or on the relation or report of a private individual. Civil informations are or have been laid: (a) in Chancery, on behalf of the crown or government, or of those of whom the crown has custody, as Idiots (*obs.*); (b) in the Exchequer, under the equitable jurisdiction of the court (called **English information** from its resemblance to a complaint in equity formerly called an English bill); now transferred to the Queen's Bench Division; (c) at Common Law, for Intrusion or trespass on crown lands; Purpresture or encroachment on crown or public lands; *in personam*, for money due to the crown; *in rem*, for goods, derelicts, etc. belonging to the crown, and for default in payment of excise duties. **1624 Act 21 Jas. I**, c. 14 (*title*) An Act to admit the Subject to plead the General Issue in Informations of Intrusion brought on the Kings behalf, and to retain his possession till Trial. **1768 BLACKSTONE Comm.** III. xvii. (1809) 261 An information on behalf of the crown, filed in the exchequer by the king's attorney general. **1819 WIGHTWICK Rep.** 167 *margin.*, The Prince of Wales may file an English information of intrusion by his Attorney General, for lands parcel of the Dutchy of Cornwall. **1838 MEESON & WELSBY Rep.** II. 23 An information of intrusion, to recover possession of certain encroachments on the wastes of the Crown. **1865 Act 28 & 29 Vict.** c. 104 §6 An information, styled an English information, exhibited in the Court of Exchequer. **1883 Rules Sup. Crt.** I. i, All actions which..were commenced by bill or information in the High Court of Chancery..shall be instituted in the High Court of Justice by a proceeding to be called an action. **1888 Daily News** 4 Dec. 5/2 By an exercise of the Royal prerogative an ancient method of procedure, known as an English information, is adopted for the settlement of these foreshore disputes between the Crown and its subjects. **c. information quo warranto** (superseding the ancient Writ of *Quo warranto*): the step by which proceedings are commenced to remedy the usurpation of an office or franchise. **1765 BLACKSTONE Comm.** I. xviii. (1809) 485 An information in the nature of a writ of *quo warranto*, to enquire by what warrant the members now exercise their corporate power. **1827 HALLAM Const. Hist.** (1876) II. xii. 453 An information, as it is called, *quo warranto*, was accordingly brought into the court of King's bench against the corporation. **6.** In other legal systems. **a.** In *Civil Law*. (See quot.) **1774 S. HALLIFAX Anal. Rom. Civil Law** (1795) 125 Informations are arguments urged before the Judge by the Advocates on both sides, after the Pleadings and Proofs are concluded. **1863 H. COX Instit.** II. iv. 404. **b.** In *Scots Law*. (a) in Civil Procedure: A written argument upon a case ordered either by a Lord Ordinary in the Court of Session when reporting the case to the Inner House (*obs.*), or by the Court of Justiciary in a case where difficult questions of law or relevancy are raised before it (now *rare*). (b) in Criminal Procedure: A statement or complaint in writing in which a person is specifically charged with a criminal offence, upon which a warrant of commitment to gaol for trial may proceed. **1681 STAIR Inst. Law Scot.** IV. xxxix. 14 (1832) 690 All informations and bills relating to interlocutors given, or to be given. **1701 Sc. Acts Will.** III, c. 6 Enacts and ordains that all Informers shall signe their Informations. **1752 J. LOUTHIAN Form of Process** (ed. 2) 102 The Clerk..reads the Prosecutor's Information,

with the Information on or Answers thereto for the Pannel, off the Book; and after all is read, the Preses resumes the Heads of the Information and Answers to the Lords, and desires their Opinion. **1754** ERSKINE *Princ. Sc. Law* (1828) IV. iv. §85 No person can be imprisoned in order to trial for any crime, without a warrant in writing, expressing the cause, and proceeding upon a signed information. **1768** in D. Hume *Comm. Law Sc.* II. x. §4 In the information on the part of the pannel very alarming consequences are endeavoured to be grafted on the doctrine pled in behalf of the prosecutor in this case. **c.** Applied also to similar proceedings in foreign systems of judicature, ancient or modern. **1601** R. JOHNSON *Kingd. & Commw.* (1603) 57 [He] is forced to answer presently to the information of his adversarie if he be present. **1625** *Gonsalvio's Sp. Inquis.* 1 Whensoever any denunciation (as they terme it) or rather information is giuen against any person..the Inquisitors accustomedly vse this kind of practice. **1770** LANGHORNE *Plutarch* (1879) II. 909/2 The information was first laid under the archonship of Chrondas. **1781** GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xvii. II. 60 The terrors of a malicious information, which might select them as the accomplices, or even as the witnesses, perhaps, of an imaginary crime, perpetually hung over the heads of the principal citizens of the Roman world. **1875** JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) III. 107 Then follow informations and convictions for treason. **II. 7.** The action of 'informing' with some active or essential quality (see *INFORM v.* 3); the giving of a form or character to something; inspiration, animation (*e.g.* of the body by the soul). **1646** SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* VI. i. 274 There was a seminality and contracted Adam in the rib, which by the information of a soule, was individuated into Eve. **1669** CLARENDON *Ess. Tracts* (1727) 117 That..no information of pride may enter into us to make us believe that we are better than other men. **1701** NORRIS *Ideal World* II. ii. 72 To be always in a separate state would be violent and unnatural to spirits made apt for the information of bodies, to which therefore they would naturally require to be united. **1870** EMERSON *Soc. & Solit., Works & Days* Wks. (Bohn) III. 65 There does not seem any limit to these new informations of the same Spirit that made the elements at first. **III. 8.** *attrib. and Comb., as information content, desk, explosion* [EXPLOSION 4b], *flow, gap* [GAP n.1 6a], *office, service, storage, system, transfer, work; information-carrying, -gathering* (so *gatherer*), *-giving, -seeking* vbl. ns. and ppl. adjs.; **information bureau**, an office where information is given and questions are answered; also *fig.*; **information officer**, a person engaged in the provision of specialized information; **information processing**, the processing of information so as to yield new or more useful information; data processing; **information retrieval**, the tracing of information stored in books, computers, or other collections of reference material; **information revolution**, the increase in the availability of information and the changes in the ways it is stored and disseminated that have occurred through the use of computers; **information room** (see quot. 1958); **information science**, (that branch of knowledge which is concerned with) the procedures by which information, esp. that relating to technical or scientific subjects, is stored, retrieved, and disseminated; hence **information scientist**, a person employed in providing an information service, or one who studies the methods used to do so; **information technology**, the branch of technology concerned with the dissemination, processing, and storage of information, esp. by means of computers. Also INFORMATION_THEORY. **1922** E.

WALLACE *Flying Fifty-Five* vii. 44 Well, Jebson... You're a pretty fine *information bureau! You told me that Patience hadn't a ghost of a chance.

1926 *Aslib Prospectus*, The objects of the Association are..to develop the usefulness and efficiency of special libraries and information bureaux under whatever title they may function. **1968** *Listener* 4 July 31/3 The information bureau of the Disabled Living Activities Group. -- **1962** *Science Survey* IV. 68 The *information-carrying capacity of a wave depends directly on the frequency. **1971** J. Z. YOUNG *Introd. Study Man* p. v, The spectacular recent information that biochemistry has provided about the large molecules in the body, and especially about the information-carrying properties of the nucleic acids. -- **1928** *Bell Syst. Techn. Jrnl.* VII. 541 For example, in the Baudot System..the number *s* of primary symbols is..2 and the *information content of one selection is \log_2 . **1937** J. C. WILSON *Television Engin.* xii. 426 The information-content of a television image has been evaluated solely from the point of view of what is transmitted. **1965** *Language* XLI. 385 This decomposition, or normal form, is of special interest because of various correlations with vocabulary, information-content, etc. -- **1967** *Economist* 11 Nov. 627/3 A national Referral Centre for Science and Technology is trying to build up a world-wide '*information desk' for advice on where and how to obtain information. **1973** D. MACKENZIE *Postscript to Dead Let.* 23, I..put the key in an envelope marked *to be called for* and left it at the Information Desk. -- **1964** *New Statesman* 13 Mar. 396/2 The 'population explosion' has collided with the '*information explosion'. Vastly more people and more kinds of people are chasing vastly more information about more kinds of things. **1972** *Jrnl. Librarianship* IV. 161 The advent of ISR roughly coincided with the first commercial applications of computers and it was then thought that very rapid handling of coded data was all that was needed to cope with the 'information explosion'. -- **1953** C. F. HOCKETT in Saporta & Bastian *Psycholinguistics* (1961) 64/1 Energy flow is power; *information-flow is entropy; money-flow (at least in one direction) is income. **1965** H. I. ANSOFF *Corporate Strategy* (1968) i. 19 Product-market characteristics create operating needs, and these, in turn, determine the structure of authority, responsibility, work flows, and information flows within the firm. -- **1969** *Daily Tel.* 11 Jan. 12/8 Bold human causes..will not be served by ignoring the new technologies which space research is encouraging; and Britain would be well advised to close the *information gap which seems to be developing. **1971** K. HOPKINS *Hong Kong* iii. 95 Mr. Woo's speech was an example of the many and repeated expressions of concern by members of the public and of Government about a so-called 'information gap' between Government and the people. -- **1964** M. MCLUHAN *Understanding Media* (1967) II. xxviii. 302 Man the food-gatherer reappears incongruously as *information-gatherer. **1971** J. Z. YOUNG *Introd. Study Man* xxiv. 317 One of man's many paradoxes is that although with him each individual organism is more important than in other animals as an information-gatherer for the species, yet his manner of life is largely controlled by his fellows. -- **1964** M. MCLUHAN *Understanding Media* (1967) II. xiv. 149 In the age of instant information man..assumes the role of *information-gathering. **1967** COX & GROSE *Organiz. Bibliogr. Rec. by Computer* 70 A subject-specialist studies the information needs and information-gathering habits of a group of teachers. -- **1908** *Westm. Gaz.* 1 July 6/3 The first products of Canada, states one of the numerous *information-giving tablets, are worth thirty million dollars a year. **1927** J.

ADAMS *Errors in School* iv. 122 Instruction must be distinguished from mere information-giving. -- **1890** W. BOOTH *In Darkest Eng.* App. p. xiv, We shall also be glad, through the *information office of Labour Department, to give you..further information. -- **1918** E. S. FARROW *Dict. Mil. Terms* 310 *Information officers..send to their own commanders all information of military importance to them. **1935** *Aslib Rep. Proc. 12th Conf.* 38 (heading) B. Fullman... (Information Officer, British Non-Ferrous Metals Research Association). **1947** *Jrnl. Documentation* II. 240, I am not a librarian at all; I am not even a trained information officer. **1970** *Aslib Proc.* XXII. IX. p. ii (Advt.), Vacancy for Scientific Information Officer at the Commonwealth Forestry Bureau. -- **1958** *Automation* Mar. 65 (heading) *Information processing. **1959** *Unesco Bull. Libr.* XIII. 226 Nearly 2,000 electronic computer experts took part in the International Conference on Information Processing organized by Unesco in Paris from 15 to 20 June. **1964** T. W. MCRAE *Impact of Computers on Accounting* vii. 190 Even today few companies segregate 'information processing' or even 'data processing' under a separate cost head. **1970** O. DOPPING *Computers & Data Processing* i. 11 Many speak of the advent of mechanized information processing as the second industrial revolution. *Ibid.* 15 When both input and output are data, that is, digital information consisting of a great number of records in standardized layout, the information processing is usually called data processing. -- **1950** C. N. MOOERS *Theory Digital Handling Non-Numerical Information (Zator Techn. Bull. No. 48)* 5 The requirements of *information retrieval, of finding information whose location or very existence is a-priori unknown, now requires that it be possible by some efficient technique to specify a selection of complexes C_j by means of *any* set or combination of descriptors chosen in *any* way from the vocabulary ((aj)). **1958** *Listener* 11 Dec. 983/1 Only a week or two ago there was a conference on information retrieval in Washington. **1963** *Publishers' Weekly* 23 Sept. 34/2 At the Oxford store, the feature which so far has attracted the most attention is the free bibliographical information retrieval service. **1963** *Cambr. Rev.* 12 Oct. 24/1 A book miscatalogued..is a book lost: and they [sc. librarians] thereby justify greater and greater expenditure on more and more elaborate systems of 'information retrieval'. **1972** *Computers & Humanities* VII. 61 Prof. D. Raj Reddy offers a set of exercises in statistics, natural language processing, language translation, poetry concordance, and information retrieval to interested readers. -- **1969** *SIAM Jrnl. Appl. Math.* XVII. 1203 The recent advent of large scale, high-speed computers has produced an '*information revolution'. **1983** *Listener* 23 June 22/1 Societies are about to become divided between inner-city poor and small-town richa new Two Nations created by the information revolution. -- **1934** J. MOYLAN *Scotland Yard* (ed. 2) v. 132 At Scotland Yard there are *Information and Operation Rooms from which the wireless cars are directed. **1940** R. MORRISH *Police & Crime-Detection* ii. 28 Every Force has its 'Information Room', to which members of the public should report by telephone anything suspicious. **1958** A. GARFITT *Bk. for Police* I. iii. 77 An Information Room is established at some [police] headquarters and is the centre through which information, particularly as to crime and suspected crime, can be disseminated by wireless, teleprinter or telephone. **1970** P. LAURIE *Scotland Yard* i. 16 The first floor carries the electronic complexities of the Information Room. -- **1960** *Computers & Automation* IX. 39/2 Moore School of Electrical Engineering, University of Pennsylvania... Prof. Saul

Gorn, Chairman, Computer and *Information Sciences Curriculum. **1962** *Conf. on Training Science Information Specialists 1961-62* (Georgia Inst. Technol.) 115 Information science..investigates the properties and behavior of information, the forces governing the flow of information, and the means of processing information for optimum accessibility and usability. **1963** *Library Jrnl.* LXXXVIII. 4161/1 The information sciences are conceived as: 1) the study of the properties, structure, and transmission of specialized knowledge; and 2) the development of methods for its useful organization and dissemination. **1971** C. W. HANSON *Introd. Science-Information Work* 2 'Information science' can be used to imply..the exploitation of scientific and technical information of all kinds... On the other hand, it is often used to imply the application of science and technology..to handling information generally. -- **1958** *Nature* 4 Jan. 20/1 A meeting will be held on January 23..to discuss terms of inauguration of an Institute of *Information Scientists. The aims of the proposed Institute would include the promotion of high standards in scientific and technical information work, the promotion of educational courses, and the establishment of qualifications for those engaged in such information work. **1963** *Aslib Proc.* XV. 100 These are post-graduate courses for those about to become information scientists. **1972** *Jrnl. Librarianship* IV. 169 The American protagonists of IS generally say that people involved in this science should be called information scientists. -- **1956** J. KLEIN *Study of Groups* x. 140 The whole elaborate process of *information-seeking, evaluation and decision. -- **1935** E. S. HEDGES in *Aslib Rep. Proc. 12th Conf.* 35 An *information service which distributes in-coming information to interested quarters can be more effective than one which merely renders the information available on request. **1950** *N.Y. Times* 20 Apr. 1/8 Mr. Kolarek..has been in Czechoslovakia since September, 1945, serving first as assistant and later as chief press attache and information service director. **1968** B. E. HOLM *How to manage your Information* iii. 55 The Dow Chemical Company is one of the many organizations which provides information services to its engineers. -- **1950** *Information storage [see *information transfer* below]. **1972** *Jrnl. Librarianship* IV. 161 Somewhat later, it was realized that, to 'retrieve' information from a place, it obviously had to be stored prior to the retrieval, so the term was augmented to 'Information storage and retrieval' (ISR). -- **1953** C. F. HOCKETT in Saporta & Bastian *Psycholinguistics* (1961) 64/2 If it is necessary to maintain some analogy between an *information-system and a power-system, then entropy can better be compared to voltage. **1964** T. W. MCRAE *Impact of Computers on Accounting* iii. 82 The objective of an information system..is to note all of the events happening within the organization being controlled, to extract those events which require to be reported and to report them to the controlling authority fast enough for compensating action to be possible. **1969** D. C. HAGUE *Managerial Econ.* i. 18 The information system [of a firm]..will be partly a rather mechanical system for providing routine reports about things like production, costs, sales or profits. It will also be partly a much less formal arrangement whereby those within the firm pass on information..to those who need it. -- **1958** LEAVITT & WHISLER in *Harvard Business Rev.* XXXVI. 41/1 The new technology does not yet have a single established name. We shall call it *information technology. **1979** *London Rev. Bks.* 25 Oct. 21/1 Attali is a French economist..who writes..studies of, for example, music (*Bruits*) and information technology. **1984** *Nat. Westminster*

Bank Q. Rev. Aug. 13 The development of cable television was made possible by the convergence of telecommunications and computing technology (..generally known in Britain as information technology). -- **1950** *Amer. Scientist* XXXVIII. 278/2 A consideration of the effects of information storage and *information transfer on physical, chemical, biological, psychological, and sociological systems..may help in understanding and predicting many of the aspects of our universe. **1964** G. H. HAGGIS et al. *Introd. Molecular Biol.* x. 279 Each operator with its associated structural genes forms a coordinated unit of information-transfer to which Jacob and Monod have given the name *operon*. -- **1935** B. FULLMAN in *Aslib Rep. Proc. 12th Conf.* 38 Organised *information work is at present only in its infancy. **1959** *Aslib Proc.* XI. 290 The role of the textbook in technical information work is usually a fundamental one. **1972** *Jrnl. Librarianship* IV. 111 (inside front cover), *The Journal of Librarianship* is an independent quarterly journal dealing with all aspects of library and information work. (OED 2002: Unpaged).

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def informant noun [C] Your informant is someone who tells you something. My informant in the agricultural world tells me that farming methods are hanging. (Cambridge 1999: unpagged).

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def information noun [U] Information is knowledge about something, esp. facts and news. Do you have any information about/on train times? I read an interesting bit/piece of information in the newspaper. For further information (=if you want to know more), please contact your local library. We have reliable information that a terrorist attack is planned next month. [+ that clause] Information retrieval is the process of finding stored information on a computer. Information technology ((abbreviation) IT) is the science and activity of storing and sending out information by using computers. (Cambridge 1999: unpagged).

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def informational adjective The survey suggested that a mere 20% of television programmes watched by children under the age of ten had any informational content. (Cambridge 1999: unpagged).

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def informative adjective Something that is informative provides a lot of useful information. This is an interesting and highly informative book. (Cambridge 1999: unpagged).

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def informed adjective The school promised to keep parents informed (=to tell them about anything that happens). I don't know the answer but I can make an informed guess (=a guess based on the knowledge that I do have). Elizabeth is remarkably well-informed (=she knows a lot about many different things). (Cambridge 1999: unpagged).

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def informer noun [C] An informer is a person who gives information in secret, esp. to the police. Most police informers receive a reward for their information. (Cambridge 1999: unpagged).

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Know

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def know Main Entry: **know** Pronunciation: 'nO Function: *verb* Inflected Form(s): **knew** /'nü also 'nyü/; **known** /'nOn/; **know·ing** Etymology: Middle English, from Old English *cnawan*; akin to Old High German *bichnān* to recognize, Latin *gnoscere, noscere* to come to know, Greek *gignoskein* Date: before 12th century *transitive senses* **1 a** (1) : to perceive directly : have direct cognition of (2) : to have understanding of <importance of *knowing* oneself> (3) : to recognize the nature of : **DISCERN b** (1) : to recognize as being the same as something previously known (2) : to be acquainted or familiar with (3) : to have experience of **2 a** : to be aware of the truth or factuality of : be convinced or certain of **b** : to have a practical understanding of <*knows* how to write> **3 archaic** : to have sexual intercourse with *intransitive senses* **1** : to have knowledge **2** : to be or become cognizant -- sometimes used interjectionally with *you* especially as a filler in informal speech - **know·able** /'nO-&-b&l/ *adjective* - **know·er** /'nO(-&)r/ *noun* - **know from** : to have knowledge of <didn't *know from* sibling rivalry -- Penny Marshall> (Britannica Webster's 2002: unpagged)

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def know [A Com. Teut. and Com. Aryan vb., now retained in Eng. alone of the Teut. languages: OE. (*e*)*cnáwan*, pa. tense (*e*)*cnéow*, pa. pple. (*e*)*cnáwen* = OHG. -*cnâan*, -*chnâan*, -*cnâhan*, ON. pres. ind. *kná*, pl. *knegum*, Gothic type **knáian*, **kaiknô*, **knáians*, a redupl. vb. not found in existing remains. Outside Teut., = OSlav. *zna-t*, Russ. *zna-t* to know; L. **gn-*, whence the inceptive (*g*)*nscre*, perf. (*g*)*nvi*, pa. pple. (*g*)*nt-us*; Gr. *-, whence redupl. and inceptive --, 2 aor. --; Skr. *jñ-* know. Generally held to be from the same root (*gen-*, *gon-*, *gn-*) as CAN *v.*, and KEN. Already in early times the simple vb. had sustained various losses; in L. and Gr. the pres. stem survived only in derived forms; in Gothic the word is not recorded; in ON. the pres. inf. was obs.; in ON. and OHG. the orig. strong pa. tense and pa. pple. were lost; in OHG. and OE. the vb. was app. known only in composition, as in OE. *ecnáwan*, *oncnáwan*, *tócnáwan*. The first of these may be considered as the historical ancestor of ME. and mod. *know*, for although it came down in

southern ME. as *i-knowen*, *y-knowe*, the prefix was regularly dropped in midl. and north., giving the simple stem form *cnawen*, *knawe(n)*, *knowe(n)*, which was well-established in all the main senses by 1200 (a single instance being known a1100). The verb has since had a vigorous life, having also occupied with its meaning the original territory of the vb. WIT, Ger. *wissen*, and that of CAN, so far as this meant to 'know'. Hence Eng. *know* covers the ground of Ger. *wissen*, *kennen*, *erkennen*, and (in part) *können*, of Fr. *connaître* and *savoir*, of L. *nvisse*, *co-gnscre*, and *scre*, of Gr. and (). But in Sc. the verb KEN has supplanted *knaw*, and come to be the sense-equivalent of 'know' in all its extent of signification. As *ecnáwan* came down as late as 1400 in form *iknowen* YKNOW, the pa. pple in *i-*, *y-*, in southern ME., may belong to either form.] *Signification*. From the fact that *know* now covers the ground formerly occupied by several verbs, and still answers to two verbs in other Teutonic and Romanic languages, there is much difficulty in arranging its senses and uses satisfactorily. However, as the word is etymologically related to Gr., L. (*g*)*nscere* and (*g*)*nvisse*, F. *connaître* (:L. *cognscre*) to 'know by the senses', Ger. *können* and *kennen*, Eng. *can*, *ken*, it appears proper to start with the uses which answer to these words, rather than with those which belonged to the archaic vb. to WIT, Ger. *wissen*, and are expressed by L. *scre* and F. *savoir*, to 'know by the mind'. This etymological treatment of the word, and the uses to which it has been put, differs essentially from a logical or philosophical analysis of the notion of 'knowing', and the verbal forms and phrases by which this is expressed, in which the word 'know' is taken as an existing fact, without reference to the history of its uses. *Know*, in its most general sense, has been defined by some as 'To hold for true or real with assurance and on (what is held to be) an adequate objective foundation'. Mr. James Ward, in *Encycl. Brit.* XX. 49 s.v. *Psychology*, assigns to the word two main meanings: 'To *know* may mean either to perceive or apprehend, or it may mean to understand or comprehend... Thus a blind man, who cannot *know* about light in the first sense, may *know* about light in the second, if he studies a treatise on optics.' Others hold that the primary and only proper object of knowing is a fact or facts (as in our sense 10), and that all so-called knowing of things or persons resolves itself, upon analysis, into the knowing of certain facts about these, as their existence, identity, nature, attributes, etc., the particular fact being understood from the context, or by a consideration of the kind of fact which is usually wanted to be known about the thing or person in question. Thus, 'Do you know Mr. G.?', 'Do you know Balliol College?' have different meanings according to the kind of facts about Mr. G. or Balliol College, which are the objects of inquiry. **I. 1. a. trans.** To perceive (a thing or person) as identical with one perceived before, or of which one has a previous notion; to recognize; to identify. Sometimes with *again*; also, later, with *for*. [*Beowulf* 2047 Meht u, min wine, mece ecnawan one in fæder to efeohte bæc. **c1000** ÆLFRIC *Gen.* xxvii. 12 if min fæder me handla and me ecnæw. *Ibid.* xxxviii. 26 a he a lac ecneow.] **a1100** in Napier *O.E. Glosses* 76 *Noscuntur*, .i. *intelliguntur*, a beo cnawene. **c1200** ORMIN 1314 Lamb..cann cnawenn swie wel Hiss moderr ær ho blæte. **c1250** *Gen. & Ex.* 2162 e .x. comen..To Iosep, and he ne knewen him nogt. **a1300** *Cursor M.* 4209 Quen his fader his kirtell kneu Moght na gamen him com to gleu. **c1460** *Towneley Myst.* xxvii. 348 All sone he hym with-drogh, ffro he saw that we hym knogh. **1560** J. DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 232 This question,..whether that in the life everlasting, we shal know one an other. **1634** SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 11 After two leagues

pursuit, they knew her for a Portugall Carrack. **1706** POPE *Let. to Wycherley* 10 Apr., They would not be chang'd so much, but any one would know them for the same at first sight. **1724** DE FOE *Mem. Cavalier* (1840) 26 For four days more I knew nobody. **1865** KINGSLEY *Herew.* v. (1877) 111, I knew you, in spite of your hair, by your eyes. **1867** HOWELLS *Ital. Journ.* 63, I wonder how he should have known us for Americans? **b.** To recognize or distinguish, or be able to distinguish (one thing) *from* (another) = OE. *tócnáwan*. **c1375** *Cursor M.* 6402 (Fairf.) Mony atte..knewes not e gode fra e ille. **1406** HOCLEVE *La male regle* 23 Now can I knowe feeste fro penaunce. **1598** SHAKES. *Merry W.* III. iii. 44 We'll teach him to know Turtles from Iayes. **1704** POPE *Windsor For.* 175 Scarce could the Goddess from her nymph be known. **1843** MACAULAY *Mme. D'Arblay* Ess. 1865 III. 295 Burney loved his own art passionately; and Johnson just knew the bell of Saint Clement's church from the organ. (*b*) Phrases: **not to know one's arse from one's elbow** (and similar phrases): a coarse expression suggestive of complete ignorance or innocence; **(not) to know from nothing** (U.S.): to be totally ignorant (about something). **1930** R. BLAKER *Medal without Bar* xiii. 69 'But nor 'an 'un' (this phrase was his masterpiece of thoughtful emphasis), 'nor 'an 'un of us knows 'is ears from 'is elbow when it comes to learninglearning like you orficers have got up your sleeves.' **1936** *Mademoiselle* Mar. 43/1, I find I belong to the wrong gender to take part in such confabulations, and know from nothing. **1942** BERREY & VAN DEN BARK *Amer. Thes. Slang* §150/3 *Be ignorant*, know from nothing. **1944** 'N. SHUTE' *Pastoral* iv. 75, I wish I'd had a crowd like that for my first crew. We none of us knew arse from elbow when they pushed me off. **1945** 'F. FEIKEMA' *Boy Almighty* (1950) xvii. 162 Them San dietitians, they don't know from nuthin'. **1945** T. SHOR in Mencken *Amer. Lang.* (1948) Suppl. II. 695 *A square* don't know from nothin' and a *creep* is worse'n a jerk. **1966** 'L. LANE' *ABZ of Scouse* 29 Don't know Thairsday from brekfuss-time. *Ibid.*, Don't know 'is arse from 'is elbow. **1968** *Encounter* Sept. 22/1 He knows from nothin'. **c. intr.** To distinguish *between*. *rare*. **1864** LOWELL *Fireside Trav.* 3 Let him know between the good and evil fruits. **2. trans.** To recognize in some capacity; to acknowledge; to admit the claims or authority of: = BEKNOW 3. *Obs.* **a1225** *Leg. Kath.* 2066 To him we kenni & cnawe to lauerd. **1297** R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 3995 at ou nelt him iknowe [*v.r.* knowe] ne do in seruage. **13.. E.E. Allit. P. C.** 519 Wyez wyl torne, & cum & cnawe me for kyng. **1382** WYCLIF *1 Thess.* v. 12 We preien ou, that e schulen knowe hem that trauelen among ou, and..that e haue hem more haboundantli in charite [1611 and *R. V.* to know them]. **c1450** *Cov. Myst.* (Shaks. Soc.) 169, I..know the for my lorde. **1560** J. DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 38 Thinke you that they wyll knowe or obey any civill Magistrate? **3. a. trans.** To acknowledge, confess, own, admit: = ACKNOW 2, BEKNOW 2. *Obs.* **c1200** ORMIN 9818 Ne wollden e nohht cnawenn Ne atenn att te wærenn ohht Sinnfulle. **a1300** *Cursor M.* 5107 at we haue misdou we will knau. **c1375** *Lay Folks Mass Bk.* (MS. B.) 51 Lered & lewed at wil..knowe to god at ai are ille. **c1440** *Jacob's Well* 67 Knowe i synne to vs, if ou be gylty. **1467** *Burgh Rec. Aberdeen* 2 Dec. (Spald. Cl) I. 27 The said Thomas sal..opynly know that he has offendit til him. **b. refl.** To make confession, confess; also with *compl.*, to confess oneself (to be) something. **a1225** *Leg. Kath.* 132 Al ha cneowen [*v.r.* icneowen] ham crauant & ouercumen. **a1300** *Cursor M.* 18488 Loues nu vr lauerd dright, And knau yow til him o yur plight. **c1375** *Ibid.* (Fairf. MS.) 26959 Qua buxumli him-self

knawes [*Cott.* be-knaus] sal haue mercy. **14.** *Masse* in *Tundale's Vis.* (1843) 148 Sey ye with hym *Confiteor* Or ellis in Ynglysch thus therfor I know me to God. **1478** *Croscombe Church-w. Acc.* (Som. Rec. Soc.) 7 Comes..and cnowth hym dettar to the Cherch for his servant xxd. **c.** *intr.* (for *refl.*) *Obs.* **c1200** *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 71 Kneowe ure louerd [*confitemini domino*]. **a1350** *Cursor M.* 18488 (Gött.) Louis nu vr lauerd dright, An knau til him of ur plight. **1362** LANGL. *P. Pl B.* XI. 273 For he kneu on e crois & to crist shref hym. **d.** *pass.* = b. *Const. of, that.* = ACKNOW 4, BEKNOW 4. *Obs.* **c1200** *Vices & Virtues* 21 at ic scolde bien icnawe of mine sennes. **c1200** *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 123 e man..e be is gultes cnowe. **c1205** LAY. 26433 if u wulle icnawen beo at Arur is king ouer e. **c1310** *Marina* 53 in Böddeker *Alt. Eng. Dicht.* 258 He nolde be knowe for no yng at hit wes a mayde yng. **c1330** *Assump. Virg.* 534 (Br. Mus. Add. MS.), if..he wille on his last rowe Schryue him & ben y-knowe. **4.** *trans.* To perceive (with the senses). *Obs.* **c1330** R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 1684 Coryneus..busched em on a rowe at e Frensche moughte em nought knowe. **1398** TREVISA *Barth. De P.R.* III. xxi. (1495) 69 The sighte knoweth hewe and colour and the taast knoweth sauour. **a1400-50** *Alexander* 63 He sae am in e hie see..Carrygis comand he knew keruand e ithis. **II. 5. a.** To be acquainted with (a thing, a place, or a person); to be familiar with by experience, or through information or report (= F. *connaître*, Ger. *kennen*). Sometimes, To have such familiarity with (something) as gives understanding or insight. **to know like a book** (see LIKE *adv.* 1c). **c1175** *Lamb. Hom.* 137 For hereword to habbene and beon iwureede fir and neor er e heo icnawene beo. **c1205** LAY. 4623 Ne as strond we ne cnowe e we isoht habbe. **1362** LANGL. *P. Pl. A.* II. 202 He kennede him in heore craft and kneu mony gummes. **c1386** CHAUCER *Prol.* 240 He knew the Tauernes wel in al the toun. **1485** CAXTON *Pref. Malory's Arthur*, Alysaunder the grete, &..Iulyus Cezar..of whome thystoryes ben wel kno and had. **1598** SHAKES. *Merry W.* II. ii. 188 You haue been a man long knowne to me, though I had neuer so good means as desire, to make my selfe acquainted with you. **1634** MILTON *Comus* 311, I know each lane, and every alley green,..of this wilde Wood. **1710** ADDISON *Tatler* No. 192 5 A Story that is very well known in the North of England. **1800** *Med. Jrnl.* IV. 400 The external use of cold water has been known and practised from the earliest periods. **1849** MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* iii. I. 365 Whoever could make himself agreeable to the prince,..might hope to rise in the world..without being even known by sight to any minister of state. **b.** *refl.* To know oneself; esp. in *imp. arch.* phr. **know thyself.** **c1200** *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 123 e man cnowe him seluen e enche of wu medeme inge he is shapen. **c1305** *Knowe i self* 3, in E.E.P. (1862) 130 Vche cristen creature knowen hym self ouht. **1484** CAXTON *Æsop* II. Fable 17 Who that knoweth hym self lytel he preyseth hym self. **c1527** tr. *Erasmus's Dicta Sapientium* sig. A3v *Nosce te ipsum*, know thy selfe. **1531** ELYOT *Gov.* III. iii, *Nosce te ipsum*, whiche is in englysshe, know thy selfe. **1707** NORRIS *Treat. Humility* ii. 58 We say of proud men that they do not understand themselves, or that they ought to be made to know themselves better. **1849** LYTTON *Caxtons* III. XVI. x. 183 'Know thyself,' said the old philosophy. 'Improve thyself,' saith the new. **1860** PUSEY *Min. Proph.* 455 In order to repent, a man must know himself thoroughly. **1905** A. MACLAREN *Gospel St. Matthew* I. 43 The proud old saying of the Greeks, 'Know thyself'..would result in this profound abnegation of all claims, in this poverty of spirit. **1929** A. HUXLEY *Let.* 7 Jan. (1969) 306 'Know thyself' was probably one of the stupidest pieces of advice ever given.

1930 D. H. LAWRENCE *Last Poems* (1932) 266 When at last we escape the barbed wire enclosure of *Know Thyself*, knowing we can never know. **1941** *N. & Q.* Feb. 138 The folly of that impossible precept 'Know thyself'. **c.** To have personal experience of (something) as affecting oneself; to have experienced, met with, felt, or undergone. Also *fig.* of inanimate things. Chiefly in negative forms of expression. **1390** GOWER *Conf.* I. 7 Justice of lawe tho was holde..The citees knewen no debat. **1591** SHAKES. *Two Gent.* I. iii. 16 In hauing knowne no trauaile in his youth. **1697** DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 530 Whole Months they wander, grazing as they go; Nor Folds, nor hospitable Harbour know. **1877** E. R. CONDER *Bas. Faith* iv. 151 'He has never known trouble'; 'He knows no fear', meaning that the person spoken of is not familiar with these feelings. **1879** R. K. DOUGLAS *Confucianism* iii. 71 Running water which knows no stagnation. **1896** A. E. HOUSMAN *Shropshire Lad* I, And lads knew trouble at Knighton When I was a Knighton lad. **d. to know as**, to be familiarly acquainted with under the name of; *pass.*, to be commonly called. **1887** *Co-operative News* XVIII. 242 The timbers..are not what is technically known as 'blue'. **6. a.** To be personally acquainted with (a person); to be familiar or intimate with; to become acquainted with (*obs.*). **1377** LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. VI. 222 If ow fynde any freke at fortune hath appeyred,..fonde ow suche to cnowe; Conforte hem with i catel. **c1386** CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 345 Duc Perotheus loued wel Arcite And hadde hym knowe at Thebes yeer by yere. **1400** *Pistill of Susan* 170 Hir kinrede, hir cosyns and al at hire knewe. **1548** HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII* 244 [He] cursed the tyme that ever he knewe Doctor Barnes. **1575** LANEHAM *Let.* 1, I am.. acquainted with the most, and well knoen too the best, and euery officer glad of my company. **1726** G. ROBERTS *Four Yrs. Voy.* 313 [He asked] If I was acquainted with any of the Signores of the City? I told him, I knew some of them. **1872** W. COLEMAN in *Rep. 42nd U.S. Congress 2 Sess. Joint Select. Comm. Condition of Affairs Late Insurrectionary States* XI. 484 Of course I knowed him. **1892** MRS. H. WARD *David Grieve* III. 131 As to knowing people, you won't take any trouble at all! *Mod.* They are neighbours of ours, but we do not know them. **b. pass. to be known**, to be personally acquainted or on familiar terms *with.* *Obs.* **1225** *Juliana* 14 Ne ich neuer at ich wite nes wi him icnawen. **1380** *Lay Folks Catech.* (Lamb. MS.) 178 He was homly and knowyn with is lady. **1475** *Rauf Coilear* 532, 'I am knawin with the Quene', said Schir Rolland. **1560** J. DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 117b, He was so well knowen with the Emperour Soliman. **c. intr.** Of two persons: To be (mutually) acquainted. (= F. *se connaître.*) *Obs.* **1606** SHAKES. *Ant. & Cl.* II. vi. 86 You, and I haue knowne sir. **1611** *Cymb.* I. iv. 36 Sir, we haue knowne together in Orleance. **7. trans.** To have carnal acquaintance or sexual intercourse with. *arch.* Chiefly a Hebraism which has passed into the mod. langs., but found also in Gr. and L. So Ger. *erkennen*, F. *connaître.* **c1200** ORMIN 2406 ho..sede; Hu ma iss foredd ben urrh me att nan weppmann ne cnawe? **c1325** *Metr. Hom.* 38 It was igain the lawe His brother wif fleyslic to knawe. **c1330** R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 155 He stode, & proued it.. at his fader Henry at ilk Aleyse had knowen. **1382** WYCLIF *Gen.* iv. 1 Adam forsothe knewe Eue his wijf. **1535** JOYE *Apol. Tindale* (Arb.) 48 Before she knew (that is) slept with hir howsbonde. **1572** *Depos. Canterb. Cath. Libr.* bk. 18 lf. 166 (MS.) To haue to doo with her, meaning carnallye to knowe this deponentes boddye. **1601** SHAKES. *All's Well* V. iii. 288 By Ioue, if euer I knew man, 'twas you. **1603** *Meas. for M.* V. i. 203 That is Angelo, Who thinkes he knowes, that he nere

knew my body. **c1613** MIDDLETON *No Wit like a Woman's* II. iii, Will you swear here you never yet knew woman? **III. 8.** To have cognizance of (something), through observation, inquiry, or information; to be aware or apprised of (= F. *savoir*, Ger. *wissen*); to become cognizant of, learn through information or inquiry, ascertain, find out (*obs.*). **a1225** *Leg. Kath.* 463 ef u wult cnawen mi cun, ich am kinges dohter. **c1350** *Will. Palerne* 577 it coue non by no craft knowen hire sore. **1362** LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. IX. 63 'What art ou', quod I 'that my nome knowest?' **c1375** *Quon. Attach.* c. 48 §5 in Skene *Reg. Maj.* 85b, All hurdes and treasures hid vnder the earth..quhereof the awner is not knawin. **c1425** LYDG. *Assembly of Gods* 175 He hit desyryd to know hys offence. **1531** ELYOT *Gov.* III. xxvi, Galene..exhorteth them to knowe exactly the accustomed diete of their patientes. **1669** STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* I. 38 How to divide a Triangle (whose Area or Content is known) into two Parts. **1706** POPE *Let. to Wycherley* 10 Apr., Pray let me know your mind in this. **1776** *Trial of Nundocomar* 23/1, I do not know his age exactly. **1871** MORLEY *Voltaire* (1886) 10 The free-thinker [would fain pass] for a person with his own orthodoxies if you only knew them. **9. a.** To be conversant with (a body of facts, principles, a method of action, etc.) through instruction, study, or practice; *esp.* to have practical understanding of (a science, language, profession, etc.); to have learnt by study or practical experience; to be versed or skilled in; to acquire skill in, to learn (*obs.*). **a1400** *Pistill of Susan* 24 us thei lerne hire e lawe, Cleer Clergye to knawe. **c1400** *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 20 Galienus sei, at it is necessarie a surgian to knowe anotamie. **1598** FLORIO *Ital. Dict.* Ep. Ded., Well to know Italian is a grace of all graces. **1639** MASSINGER *Unnat. Combat* I. i. Wks. (Rtldg.) 27/1 Nay, if a velvet petticoat move in the front, Buff jerkins must to the rear, I know my manners. **1749** JOHNSON *London* 115 All sciences a fasting Monsieur knows. **1762** GOLDSMITH *Cit. W.* lxi, To know one profession only, is enough for one man to know. **1808** SCOTT *Marm.* I. viii, Each, chosen for an archer good, Knew hunting-craft by lake or wood. **c1813** MRS. SHERWOOD *Stories on Catechism* x. (1873) 83 Know you not the commandments of God? **1872** L. CARROLL *Through Looking Glass* ix. 192 Of course you know your ABC. **b.** Phr. **to know better (better things)**, to have learnt better from experience; hence, to be more prudent or discreet (*than to do something*). **a1704** L'ESTRANGE (J.), One would have thought you had known better things than to expect a kindness from a common enemy. **1782** F. BURNEY *Let. to S. Crisp* Aug., You and I know better than to hum or be hummed in that manner. **1872** *Punch* 24 Feb. 78/2 Some persons who should know better than to talk nonsense. **1886** RUSKIN *Præterita* I. 431 Nothing to blame themselves in, except not having known better. **c.** To have learnt by committing to memory; more fully, **to know by heart**: see HEART *n.* 32. **1855** PUSEY *Doctr. Real Presence* Note S. 602 Sozomen mentions a celebrated Ascetic..who..knew the Holy Scriptures by heart. *Mod.* To know one's lesson; to know one's part, as in a play. **d. refl.** (in later use *pass.*) To be versed or skilled *in.* (= F. *se connaître en.*) *Obs.* **c1330** R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 11064 er were chanons of clergye, & knewe em wel in astronomye. *Ibid.* 11198, Y ne knowe me nought in swylk chaffare. **c1470** HENRY *Wallace* XI. 412 Wallace beheld, quhilk weill in weir him knew. **1630** LORD *Banians & Persees* 33 To bee knowne onely in his owne busynes, and not to enquire after the things of the world. **1655** [see KNOWN 2]. **e. to know one's** : to be well acquainted with something, to be well up in

something. E.g. **to know one's business, onions** (see ONION *n.*), **stuff** (see STUFF *n.1*). **10. a.** To apprehend or comprehend as fact or truth; to have a clear or distinct perception or apprehension of; to understand or comprehend with clearness and feeling of certainty. Formerly, sometimes, to get to understand, to find out by reasoning. When the feeling of certainty is emphasized, *know* is often contrasted with *believe*. **c1200** ORMIN 15624 He cnew hemm alle wel & alle ere ohhtess. **1387** TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) III. 217 Meny inges bee at mowe be knowe by manis kynde wytt. **1413** *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton 1483) IV. xxviii. 75 Why is it thenne that he vseth nought discours of reason to knowe oute the trouthe? **1601** GILL *Treat. Trinitie in Sac. Philos.* (1625) 215, I conclude, that there is nothing which is beleaved, but it may also be knowen. **1667** MILTON *P.L.* IX. 804 Mature In knowledge, as the Gods who all things know. **1744** BERKELEY *Siris* §253 We know a thing when we understand it. **1845** TRENCH *Huls. Lect.* i. (1854) 16 We must pass into, and unite ourselves with, that which we would know, before we can know it more than in name. **1855** MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xvii. IV. 56 It seems probable that..he did not know his own mind. **1874** BLACKIE *Self-Cult.* 14 Count yourself not to know a fact when you know that it took place, but then only when you see it as it did take place. **b. absol. or intr.** To have understanding or knowledge. **c1200** ORMIN 13811 u cnawesst riht & trowwesst. **1377** LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. x. 464 Suche lewed iottes..at imparfitly here knewe, And eke lyued. **1561** T. NORTON *Calvin's Inst.* III. 277 When menne do with minde and vnderstanding conceyue the knowlege of things, they are thereby sayd (*Scire*) to know. **1669** STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* I. 22 By Speculation we know that we may the better know. **1832** TENNYSON *Pal. Art* xli, Large-brow'd Verulam, The first of those who know. **1850** *In Mem.* Prol. vi, We have but faith: we cannot know; For knowledge is of things we see. **1892** MRS. H. WARD *David Grieve* II. 164 A word, a look from a real artist from one of the great men who *know*. **11.** To be cognizant, conscious, or aware of (a fact); to be informed of, to have learned; to apprehend (with the mind), to understand. * With various constructions: **a.** with dependent statement, usually introduced by *that*. Formerly sometimes passive, **to be known that**, in same sense. [**a1000** *Juliana* 356 æt u..sylv ecnawe æt is is so.] **c1200** *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 127 o nam he eme of mannes liflode and cnew at here dedes weren iuele. **a1425** *Cursor M.* 1905 (Trin.) enne was noe wel I knawe at e flood hit was widrawe. **c1470** HENRY *Wallace* III. 273, I know he will do mekill for his kyne. **1479** *Surtees Misc.* (1888) 37 Be it knawen to all maner of men to whom this present wrytyng commys, that Robert Elwalde..is a trewe Ynglish man. **1560** J. DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 375 You knowe, howe they were both letted by the war..and..also by sicknes. **1602** SHAKES. *Ham.* IV. iii. 69 Till I know 'tis done, How ere my happes, my ioyes were ne're begun. **1669** STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* I. 15 The Hollander..knows it right well, that there are none like English for Courage at Sea. **1702** ADDISON *Medals* i. Wks. 1721 I. 437 You do not know but it may have its usefulness. **1712** *Spect.* No. 415 3, I know there are Persons who look upon some of these Wonders of Art as Fabulous. **1748** RICHARDSON *Clarissa* Wks. 1883 VI. 336, I know you will expedite an answer. **1849** MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* vi. II. 158 Tyrconnel threatened to let the king know that the lord president had..described his majesty as a fool. **1878** J. COOK *Lect. Orthod.* vi, You know that you know that nothing can be known! How do you know that you know? **1879** G. C. HARLAN *Eyesight* iii. 41 It is now known that the increased refraction..is the

result of an increase in the convexity of the lens. **1889** J. K. JEROME *Three Men in a Boat* 275, I know for a fact that they are there. *dial.* **1848** J. R. LOWELL *Poet. Wks.* (1873) 252/1 My! when he made Ole Hunderd ring, She knowed the Lord was nigher. **1929** *Amer. Mercury* Sept. 50/1 Got in trouble one time... Knowed officers couldn't 'rest me. **1942** *Ibid.* July 87, I knowed you'd back up. **1949** in B. A. Botkin *Treas. S. Folklore* III. i. 434, I knowed dad-blamed well they wa'n't no fox in that sourwood. **b.** with dependent question, introduced by *who, what, when, where, how*, and the like; as *I know who did it, I know where he lives*. Often *ellipt.*, giving rise to subst., adj., and advb. phrases, as *I know not who, I know not how, dear knows where*, etc. **not to know what hit one**: see HIT *v.* 8e. Also, **you know**: a phrase used with aposiopesis (the implication to be imagined) or const. *what, whom*, etc. (as a means of avoiding naming the person, etc., referred to). The fact known is the answer to the question directly or indirectly expressed. **c1200** *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 81 Warbi we mihten cnowen gif hit so were at u seist. **c1275** LAY. 4621 Ne cnowe non of is gomes..in woche londe we beo icome. **1387** TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 47 if helle is in myddel of e ere doun rit, me myte knowe how meny myle is to helle. **c1391** CHAUCER *Astrol.* II. §1 Rekene and knowe which is the day of thi month. **1406** HOCLEVE *La male regle* 41 Myn vnwar yowthe kneew nat what it wroughte. **1531** ELYOT *Gov.* I. xviii, I coude neuer knowe who founde firste that disporte. **1567** J. MAPLET *Gr. Forest* 28 Othersome..arise up of their owne accord not known how. **1649** MILTON *Eikon.* xvii. Wks. (1847) 317/1 Timothy and Titus, and I know not whom thir Successors. **1736** BUTLER *Anal.* II. v. Wks. 1874 I. 211 We do not know what the whole natural or appointed consequences of vice are. **1867** TROLLOPE *Phineas Finn* (1869) I. x. 84 She told me once..it would lead to my being everlastinglyou know what. She isn't so squeamish as I am, and said it out. **1875** GEO. ELIOT *Let.* 13 Jan. (1956) VI. 116, I had a letter from 'you know whom' last night. **1875** JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) V. 44 He who does not know what is true will not know what is good. **1892** MRS. ALEXANDER *Mammon* II. 95 Chief manager, a millionaire, and I don't know what. **1911** D. H. LAWRENCE *White Peacock* II. i. 219 It's the way she swings her bodyan' the curves as she stands. It's when you look at heryou feelyou know. **1925** *New Yorker* 7 Mar. 19/1 Of course there's no use me asking you if you took in all the revues where the girls come outyou know. **1937** C. DAY LEWIS *Starting Point* iii. 44 Never mind, kick him in the you know wherehe's used to it. **1948** D. BALLANTYNE *Cunninghams* ii. 12 She is you know [*sc.* in the family way] to a Maori. **1949** D. M. DAVIN *Roads from Home* 99 Too much you know what last night, eh? **1970** *Harrap's French-Eng. Dict. Slang* 201 *Qui-vous-savez*, (said of person one does not wish to name) you know who. **c.** with accusative and infinitive, as *I know him to be a friend*; also in the corresponding passive, as *he is known to be friendly*. The infin. *to be* is sometimes omitted; its place may be taken by *as* or *for*. **a1300** *Cursor M.* 6715 If his lauerd kneu him kene o horn..If he sla man or womman, is ox an sal be taght to slan. **1377** LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. IV. 164 Who-so wilneth hir to wyf..But he be knowe for a koke-wolde kut of my nose. **c1400** *Apol. Loll.* 29 So know bischopis hem to be..e more er souereyns. **c1420** *Anturs of Arth.* 139, I haue kinges in my kyne, knowene for kene. **1560** J. DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 353b, He would urge..those thinges chiefly, wherewith he knawe theyr myndes to be moste offended. **1603** SHAKES. *Meas. for M.* V. i. 505 You sirha, that knew me for a foole, a Coward. **1611** *Cymb.* I. i. 76, I will be knowne

your Aduocate. **1769** GOLDSM. *Hist. Rome* (1786) I. 263 An enemy whom he knew more powerful than himself. **1809** *Med. Jrnl.* XXI. 479 It would be an insult to common reason to suppose..that you would encourage prejudices which you knew to exist. **1817** LD. ELLENBOROUGH in *Maule & Selwyn's Rep.* VI. 316 When he knew himself insolvent. **1891** SIR R. BALL in *Contemp. Rev.* Sept. 440 The stars were known to be bodies more or less congenerous with our sun. **d.** The perfect tenses with acc. and inf. have the sense, To have had perception or experience of something as a contemporary fact. Here the infin. *to* is usually omitted after the active voice (*I have known them fall*), but is retained after the passive (*they have been known to fall*). Cf. HEAR *v.* 3. **1703** EARL OF ORRERY *As you Find it* I. i, I have known some of 'em dog-cheap. **1711** ADDISON *Spect.* No. 29 11, I have sometimes known the Performer..do no more in a Celebrated Song, than the Clerk of a Parish Church. **1849** THACKERAY *Pendennis* xv, I never knew a man die of love,..but I have known a twelve-stone man go down to nine stone five under a disappointed passion. **1850** MCCOSH *Div. Govt.* III. ii. (1874) 397 Criminals have been known..to jest even upon the scaffold. **1884** MRS. H. WARD *Miss Bretherton* vii. 86, I never knew anyone do so much in so short a time. **e.** *absol.* Often parenthetically, esp. in colloquial use, in **you know** (cf. 'you see'; now freq. as a mere conversational filler.), **we know, do you know.** Also, **don't you know?**, a variant of *you know* (cf. DONCHER). Grammatically the parenthetic clause is often the chief sentence, and the fact stated its object; but it can often be taken as = *as you know to be the fact.* **c1350** *Will. Palerne* 1174 He is my lege man lelly ou knowes. **c1386** CHAUCER *Man of Law's Prol.* 50 Chaucer..Hath seyde hem in swich englissh as he kan Of olde tyme as knoweth many a man. **1599** H. BUTTES *Dyets drie Dinner* Aaivb, Yet Time (you know) is *Edax rerum.* **1712** ADDISON *Spect.* No. 475 5 How can he help that, you know? **1798** JANE AUSTEN *Northang. Abb.* vi. (1833) 24 Do you know, I saw the prettiest hat you can imagine. **1880** 'MARK TWAIN' *Tramp Abroad* App. D. 611 Nothing gives such an air of grace and elegance and unconstraint to a German or an English conversation as to scatter it full of 'Also's' or 'You-knows'. **1885** ANSTEY *Tinted Venus* i. 7 Ought I to have cried both my eyes out? You haven't cried out either of yours, you know. **1885** A. EDWARDES *Girton Girl* II. iii. 40 Attack me? Why that was only a foolish joke, don't you know? **1896** F. C. PHILIPS *Undeserving Woman* 104 'When?' said George. 'I'd like to put the thing right at once, don't you know.' **1924** D. H. LAWRENCE *Phoenix II* (1968) 304 Little smart man of the shabby world, very much on the spot, don't you know. **1926** G. HUNTING *Vicarion* iv. 63 This represents some years of study, you know, this little exhibition I have given you. **1930** 'SAPPER' *Finger of Fate* 225 My wife is such a nervous woman, don't you know. **1947** [see BOUDIN]. **1965** *Listener* 2 Dec. 914/1 A. They're supposed to be, you know, sexy. B. That's all right, but all men are the same, after one thing, but sometimes, you know, it can be wonderful. **1968** *Ibid.* 16 May 626/2 Too often one hears people on the wireless beginning an elaborate sentencethey flounder about for a bit and then break off with: 'you know'. **1969** WIDDOWSON & HALPERT in Halpert & Story *Christmas Mumming in Newfoundland* 151 You could buy them in St. John's, you know, the false faces. **1974** *Sunday Times* (Colour Suppl.) 3 Feb. 66/4 People get the wrong idea, thinking we might be, you know, glamorous or brilliant or something. **f.** with a word or phrase standing in place of a fact referred to. e.g. to know *it, that, what has been said, the fact, all about it, the*

existence of the book, the goodness of his heart (= that his heart is good). (This last passes into 8). **not if I know it**, a colloquial phrase intimating that one will take care not to do the thing referred to. [c1000 *Juliana* 443 Ic at sylf ecneow to late micles.] **1386** *Rolls of Parlt.* III. 225/1 Nichol Brembre..with stronge honde, as it is ful knowen..was chosen Mair. **c1386** CHAUCER *Man of Law's T.* 857 The Romayn Emperour..hath by lettres knowe The slaughtre of cristen folk. **c1400** *Destr. Troy* 11721, I haue comynt in this case, knowith hit your-selfe. **a1425** *Cursor M.* 14949 (Trin.) ese iewes ben, e hit knowen [Cott. Yon Iues ar, wel wat ee it]. **c1489** CAXTON *Sonnes of Aymon* xxvi. 549 Whan the kyng charlemagn knewe the comyng of reynawd. **1560** J. DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 177b, But that time knew I none of all this gere. **1610** HEALEY *St. Aug. Citie of God, Vives Comm.* (1620) 103 This I think is knowne to all. **1697** DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* II. 639 O happy, if he knew his happy State! **1715** DE FOE *Fam. Instruct.* I. i. (1841) I. 6 How do we know that he dwells there?..we know it in two ways. **1865** TROLLOPE *Miss Mackenzie* I. ii. 33 'Tom,' said I, when he asked me to go down to Drunder Street, 'not if I know it.' **1874** T. HARDY *Far from Madding Crowd* (1889) 32 After that do you think I could marry you? Not if I know it. **1891** MRS. NEWMAN *Begun in Jest* I. 47 As soon as Dorothy wished it to be known. **1892** W. S. GILBERT *Mountebanks* I. 24 Ni. I saydon't lose that. *Pie.* Not if I know it. **1897** HINDE *Congo Arabs* 147 Oh, we know all about Mohara. ** In various phrases, arranged in the chronological order of their first recorded use in English as far as this is determinable: **g. to know little (or nothing) and care less:** to be unconcerned *about*; to be studiously ignorant of. **1814** JANE AUSTEN *Mansf. Park* II. xi. 251 'I know nothing of the Miss Owens,' said Fanny calmly. 'You know nothing and you care less, as people, say. Never did tone express indifference plainer.' **1853** LYTTON *My Novel* II. VIII. iv. 322 'Ah!' said Egerton, who, as it has been before said, knew little, and cared less, about the Hazeldean pedigree, 'I..had forgotten it.' **1893** R. L. STEVENSON *Catriona* xxii. 267, I tell ye I ken naething and care less either for him or his breed. **1924** R. H. MOTTRAM *Spanish Farm* I. 71 Madeleine knew little and cared less as to what this might mean, except as it affected the work of the farm. **1925** F. HARRIS *My Life & Loves* III. xii. 183 The great London doctors knew nothing about leprosy and cared less. **1925** O. W. HOLMES in *Holmes-Laski Lett.* (1953) I. 741, I think he generally was kind in his judgment of me, except when Roosevelt was so angry at my dissent in the *Northern Securities* case (about which you probably know little and care less). **1931** F. L. ALLEN *Only Yesterday* v. 88 The shock troops of the rebellion were not alien agitators, but the sons and daughters of well-to-do American families, who knew little about Bolshevism and cared distinctly less. **1937** N. COWARD *Present Indicative* VIII. v. 321 Even at the time we realised in our hearts that the bulk of the public knew nothing about *Sirocco* and cared less. **h. to know the reason why:** to demand (and get) an explanation. Cf. REASON *n.1* 5. **1825** R. S. HAWKER *Cornish Ballads* (1869) 1 And shall Trelawney die? Here's twenty thousand Cornish men Will know the reason why! **1894** SOMERVILLE & 'ROSS' *Real Charlotte* III. xxxix. 87 She had laid out a good deal of money on the house and farm, but she was going to get a good return for it, or know the reason why. **1934** G. B. SHAW *On Rocks* II. 68 My Union Jack men would keep order, or theyd know the reason why. **1941** *Punch* 20 Aug. 155/2 Two months ago Herr Hitler said his armies would sweep through Russia or he would know the reason why. **1942** *Ibid.* 11 Feb.

113/2, I caught him in the wash-house for an explanation or I'd know the reason why, and it appeared I'd ruined his life. **i. and knows (or knew, etc.) it:** is clearly aware of (what has been stated). **1848** MRS. GASKELL *Mary Barton* I. vi. 103 The son was strikingly handsome and knew it. **1898** G. B. SHAW *Mrs. Warren's Profession* III. 208 I'm not a young man, and I know it. **1930** J. B. PRIESTLEY *Angel Pavement* v. 248 Well, she's pretty enough, and knows it, the little monkey. **1932** E. V. LUCAS *Reading, Writing & Remembering* xi. 182 Meredith was very handsome, and he knew it. **j. to know what one likes:** a phrase used to imply that the speaker knows which works of art, poems, etc., he like without necessarily having an informed opinion to support his view. **1873** H. JAMES *Compl. Tales* (1962) III. 72, I went with Harold a great deal to the Louvre, where he was a very profitable companion. He had the history of the schools at his fingers' ends, and, as the phrase is, he knew what he liked. **1881** *Portr. Lady* II. v. 67, I don't care anything about reasons, but I know what I like. **1959** *Listener* 9 July 75/3 In reality, she was just a wealthy collector. She knew what she liked. **1974** R. HILL *Very Good Hater* xi. 93 'Are you interested in art?' asked Mrs Housman politely. 'I know what I like,' he answered. **k. don't I know it:** I am well aware of it, you need not tell me. **1874** M. CLARKE *His Natural Life* (1875) II. iii. 192 The old trick. Ha! ha! don't I know it? **1899** KIPLING *Stalky* 151 'We didn't always knock him about, though!' 'You did when you could catch him... Don't I know it!' **1936** 'R. WEST' *Thinking Reed* xii. 419 'I hate it,' she said. 'I hate it..' 'Don't I know it,' said Alan. **1964** J. CREASEY *Look Three Ways* x. 96 'He's in a mess..that poor devil is.' 'And don't I know it?' **1970** B. COBB *Catch Me* i. 13 'They've only been married a few months. She's still starry-eyed.' 'Don't I know it!' **l. before you know where you are** (and similar phrases): very soon, very quickly. **1916** A. HUXLEY *Let.* 30 June (1969) 104 Steps must quickly be taken, or we shall find the place full of effigies and all the money spent before we know where we are. **1930** W. S. MAUGHAM *Bread-Winner* ii. 102 Almost before you know where you are, they're young men and women with characters of their own. **1936** WODEHOUSE *Laughing Gas* i. 9 And little by little and bit by bit, before you know where you arewhy, there you are, don't you know. **1956** A. WILSON *Anglo-Saxon Att.* II. ii. 341 Gerald said at the end of her story, 'Yes, that's certainly jolly sad,' and, before he knew where he was, he had given her a cheque for the dispensing of charity. **1970** C. WHITMAN *Death out of Focus* xii. 183 You're a clever devil... You'll be an Inspector before you know where you are. **m. not to know whether one is coming or going** (see COME v. 27e). **n. to know too much:** used in a context of murder, or of a threat to kill, because the victim knows too much to be allowed to live. **1922** CHESTERTON (*title*) The man who knew too much. **1953** A. CHRISTIE *After Funeral* xxi. 163 'And why should anyone want to kill you, beautiful Rosamund?..' 'Because I know too much, of course.' **1966** 'S. WOODS' *Enter Certain Murderers* xii. 191 At the risk of being melodramatic..you know too much. **o. to know where one stands (or is) with** (someone): to know how one is regarded by (someone); to know a person's views (on an issue). **1950** J. CANNAN *Murder Included* ii. 33 'Those blunt, downright people are never irritatingyou know where you are with them.' 'They're irritating to some people.' **1951** E. PAUL *Springtime in Paris* iv. 90 An honest whore knew where she stood. **1954** L. P. HARTLEY *White Wand* 37 One never quite knew where one was with her. **1966** *Oxf. Univ. Gaz.* 23 Dec. 433/2 If the majority now rise and say they support

Council's paragraph (a), we shall know where we stand we shall all be standing! **1972** F. WARNER *Lying Figures* II. 9, I wasn't a pushover. All I wanted was to know where I stood. **p. (do) you know something?:** shall I tell you this surprising fact?, I am going to tell you something. **1965** I. FLEMING *Man with Golden Gun* viii. 113 Mr. Paradise..said softly 'You know something?' **1971** J. BRUNNER *Honky in Woodpile* v. 37 'You know something?' We looked expectant. **1972** P. DICKINSON *Lizard in Cup* x. 159 You know something? She was reared in a home. **1972** J. WILSON *Hide & Seek* ii. 29 Do you know something, Mary? Mr Harris is the nicest man I know, except for my father. *** Misc. phrases in which *know* is used *intr.* or *absol.* (usually with something implied and sometimes with specific idiomatic force): **q. I want to know:** well, well! *U.S. colloq.* **1833** J. NEAL *Down-Easters* I. 45, I want to know! exclaimed the other down-easter. Well, you do know, replied the southerner. **1840** *Knickerbocker* XVI. 20 'I want to know!' said the lady; 'precious soul!' **1888** *Harper's Mag.* Sept. 530/1 'Why, Jered Hopkins!' she said, looking up at him; 'I want to know!' **1904** J. C. LINCOLN *Cap'n Eri* iii. 39 'I want to know!' exclaimed Captain Perez. 'You don't tell me!' said Captain Jerry. **1911** *Cap'n Warren's Wards* x. 154 'She said she would be delighted!' 'I want to know!' **1923** R. D. PAINE *Comrades of Rolling Ocean* 169 And you come from North Dakoty! I want to know. **r. that's all you know:** you do not know the facts, you do not understand (used censoriously of the person to whom the phrase is addressed). Also, **that's all you know about it.** **1876** TROLLOPE *Prime Minister* III. xi. 183 'They may do foolish things, dear; and yet..not interfere with politics.' 'That's all you know about it, Plantagenet.' **1879** C. M. YONGE *Magnum Bonum* III. xxxiv. 723 'She thought you a catch in the old days.' 'That's all you know about it!' **1930** E. H. YOUNG *Miss Mole* ii. 20 'And breakfast in bed is not what you want, Hannah.' 'That's all you know about it,' Hannah said. **1961** I. FLEMING *Thunderball* ii. 19 'I wouldn't have thought these people would be interested.'.. The young man snorted, 'That's all you know.' **1973** 'S. WOODS' *Enter the Corpse* 165 'He hasn't been near them,' said Boney Nelson confidently... 'That's all you know,' Meg retorted. **s. what do you know?:** used as an expression of mild surprise = 'Isn't that amazing?' 'Well I never!' 'Just fancy!' Also, **what do you know about that?** **1914** [see GET v. 21d]. **1916** 'B. M. BOWER' *Phantom Herd* ii. 33 Now what do you know about that, Mig? **1933** E. E. CUMMINGS *eimi* 245 What do you knowout of every 50 chances to make a mistake, those greedy tovariches took advantage of 4 (versus 1 mistake out of 10,000 chances in America). **1943** K. TENNANT *Ride on Stranger* vii. 72 Why, the louse!.. He's glad to get rid of us. What do you know about that? **1947** 'N. SHUTE' *Chequer Board* iii. 63 Say, what do you know? They ain't got no sewer here. **1952** 'C. BRAND' *London Particular* xvi. 216 Well, what do you know, boys?let's call it a day. **1957** J. KEROUAC *On Road* (1958) xii. 80 And that thousand dollars was..right there on top of the safe, what do you know about that? **1959** 'M. NEVILLE' *Sweet Night for Murder* xxi. 200 'Yeah... That's right... I'll say! What do you know!' Which crescendo of surprise was a clear..statement of agreement. **1968** 'A. GILBERT' *Night Encounter* v. 80 'Well,' marvelled Frankie, 'what do you know?' **1971** R. DENTRY *Encounter at Kharmel* (1973) v. 89 Well! What do you know? So the Company has been getting off its well-padded bum at last. **t. wouldn't you (or he, etc.) like to know?:** I have no intention of telling you. **1923** G. ATHERTON *Black Oxen* xx. 105 'Look here!' he said. 'How far do you go?'

‘Wouldn’t you like to know?’ ‘I should. Not for personal reasons, for girls..bore me.’ **1941** I. BAIRD *He rides Sky* 123 The old crumpet fires off a lot of bilge like..‘What do you do in your spare time?’ (wouldn’t *he* like to know?)... And so on and on. **1942** BERREY & VAN DEN BARK *Amer. Thes. Slang* §205/6 *I won’t tell you*, don’t you wish you knew?..wouldn’t you like to know?, you’d like to know? **1963** M. BORRELLI *Street Lamp & Stars* xiv. 127 ‘And what did you do, Naso Stuorto?’ ‘Wouldn’t you like to know.’ ‘I can guess.’ **u. you never know** or **one never knows**: something unexpected or surprising may occur. **1924** G. B. SHAW *St. Joan* vi. 94 A flaw in the procedure may be useful later on: one never knows. **1926** F. W. CROFTS *Inspector French & Cheyne Mystery* viii. 103 ‘I don’t see that we should gain much by looking at the outside of the house.’ ‘You never know... If we see nothing no harm is done.’ **1948** ‘J. TEY’ *Franchise Affair* xiv. 147 It would be too great luck that he should be staying at the Midland, but one never knows. **1972** E. BERCKMAN *Fourth Man on Rope* iii. 38 Among the most unpromising debris there might lurk..some jewel as yet undiscovered. *You never know*, faithfully she invoked the formula that spurred the weariest..*you never know*. **1974** J. MANN *Sticking Place* viii. 129 ‘I’ll come with you,’ Edward said... He added in a low, ominous voice..‘You never know.’ **v. for all I know** (or **he knows**, etc.): as far as I am aware, since I know nothing to the contrary. **1930** E. WAUGH *Vile Bodies* viii. 143 But these young people have got hold of another end of the stick, and for all we know it may be the right one. **1934** F. W. CROFTS *12.30 from Croydon* xxi. 292 They stood to gain by Mr. Andrew Crowther’s death, and though they didn’t stand to gain so much as the other two, for all we know to the contrary any one of them may have been in greater need. **1937** D. RUNYON *More Than Somewhat* v. 104 Leaving the wop yelling very loud, and maybe cussing us in wop for all I know. **1954** W. S. MAUGHAM *Ten Novels* i. 3 Everybody skips, but to skip without loss is not easy. It may be, for all I know, a gift of nature, or it may be something that has to be acquired by experience. **1954** E. CALDWELL *Love & Money* (1955) xiii. 171 How do I know you’re telling the truth? For all I know, this might be some more scheming between you and Tess. **1955** D. GARNETT *Aspects of Love* IV. 119 Well, if you believe in mermaids I might be one, for all you know. **w. I wouldn’t know**: I cannot be expected to know, that is outside the range of my knowledge. Also, **I wouldn’t know about that**. **1939** W. M. RAINE *River Bend Feud* x. 72 Faint wrinkles creased the forehead of the engineer. ‘Has he fixed up an alliance with the outside ranchmen?’ he asked. ‘I wouldn’t know about that,’ Raleigh answered. ‘But if he hasn’t, he will.’ **1950** J. CANNAN *Murder Included* iii. 44 ‘The bedroom..was only locked by the deceased during her ablutions.’ ‘As you say nowadays I wouldn’t know,’ said Sir Charles. **1952** M. R. RINEHART *Swimming Pool* xii. 110, I wouldn’t know. I’ve never had one. **1960** L. P. HARTLEY *Facial Justice* xvi. 133 ‘Every man has his type, of course.’ ‘I wouldn’t know about that.’ **1961** J. B. PRIESTLEY *Saturn Over Water* v. 64, I wouldn’t know... I’m just a painter. **1968** B. FOSTER *Changing Eng. Lang.* i. 42 As an avowal of ignorance, British English has long used ‘I couldn’t say’, but this is often replaced now by the *I wouldn’t know*... In Britain it started making headway in the ‘thirties, and in a British serial film (*Pimpernel Smith*) of 1940 the late Leslie Howard remarked ‘In the deplorable argot of the modern generation, “I wouldn’t know”.’ **1969** M. PUGH *Last Place Left* vii. 45 ‘That’s why married people get so complicated in bed, isn’t it?’ ‘Do they? I wouldn’t know.’ **x. wouldn’t you**

(just) know?: ‘just fancy!’ ‘imagine that!’; as one might have foreseen. orig. *U.S.* **1946** H. P. M. BROWN *Sound of Hunting* I. 52 Wouldn’t you know? Of all the days to get stuck out there, he has to pick this one. **1966** *Listener* 3 Mar. 325/2 George Scott is an English professor (wouldn’t you know?) who’s engaged in the *bellum sexuelle* with his wife. **1973** *Washington Post* 13 Jan. B. 8/7 Wouldn’t you just know. Lorne Greene, also known as Ben Cartwright, has gone right out and gotten himself another steady job; this time with the ABC network. **y. I don’t** (or **he**, etc., **doesn’t**) **want to know:** I am not interested. Occas. const. with person as object. **1948** ‘N. SHUTE’ *No Highway* iii. 79, I was trying to tell her what to do if things look bad. But if she doesn’t want to know, I can’t do more. **1967** *Listener* 14 Sept. 326/1 After doing a hard week’s work I had nothing in my pocket..nothing at all and that went on for four years... After that I said: ‘Well, that’s it. I don’t want to know. I can get a living a lot easier than going to work.’ **1969** *Focus* Feb. 16/2 But if you are paying it all in on a Friday, and taking it all out again on Saturday, do not be surprised if the building society does not want to know you. **1973** *Observer* 14 Jan. 7/3 It remains to add that all this, and much more, was well enough known at the time. But the fellow-travellers didn’t want to know. **1973** *Times* 19 Sept. 13/4 (Advt.), Graduates you have a problem. If you wanted the summer following graduation free, you missed out on the ‘milk round’. Many employers don’t want to know by the autumn. **IV. 12. a. to know how** (formerly also simply **to know**): to understand the way, or be able (*to do* something): cf. CAN *v.1* 3. **a1548** HALL *Chron.*, *Hen. VIII* 174 We have so many clothes in our handes, that we knowe not how to utter them. **1566** W. ADLINGTON tr. *Apuleius’ Golden Ass* IX. xl. (1893) 188 By and by the old woman which knew well to babble, began to tell as followeth. **1594** MARLOWE & NASHE *Dido* I. ii, Abandon fruitless fears, Since Carthage knows to entertain distress. **1610** SHAKES. *Temp.* I. ii. 364, I know how to curse. **1634** SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 147 Not one..of a thousand among them, knowing how to write. **a1763** SHENSTONE *Elegies* iii. 13 He little knew to ward the secret wound. **1808** J. BARLOW *Columb.* III. 107 Tell them we know to tread the crimson plain. **1885** *Manch. Exam.* 11 Nov. 3/2 Told by a lady who knows exactly how to write for children. **1893** *Bookman* June 82/2 Nobody writes moral-allegorical tales now, because nobody knows how. **b. ellipt.** in colloq. phr. **all one knows**, all one can; also *advb.*, to the utmost of one’s ability. **1872** *Punch* 27 Jan. 40/2 Both men will do all they know, and a clinking good contest is expected. **1883** D. C. MURRAY *Hearts* II. 206 He was not accustomed to be badgered in this way, and it cost him all he knew to restrain his anger. **1889** BOLDREWOOD *Robbery under Arms* II. ii. 21 A good many men tried all they knew to be prepared and have a show for it. **1889** R. S. S. BADEN-POWELL *Pigsticking* 173 If they find themselves being pursued..they will shoot round on the instant, and make the running ‘all they know’ back again. **13.** To make known: **a.** To disclose, reveal, manifest; *refl.* to make oneself known; **b.** to make (a person) acquainted or (a thing) familiar. **a1300** *Cursor M.* 1161 Caym sagh his sin was knaud, And wist at e erth had scaud. **a1350** *Ibid.* 3838 (Gött.) Iacob..kneu him ar wid may rachel. **a1400** *Hymn Virgin* iii. in Warton *Hist. Eng. Poetry* x. (1840) II. 109 Heil reson of al rihtwysnesse, To vche a caityf comfort to knowe. **c1400** *Rom. Rose* 6090 For certeyn, they wolde hate me, If ever I knewe hir cruelte. **a1400-50** *Alexander* 2872 (Ashm.) He knew his knitis at cas. **1422** tr. *Secreta Secret.*, *Priv. Priv.* 143 Of falsnes and vntrowth he shal be Proclamyd and knowe. **a1450** *Knt. de*

la Tour (1868) 110 Whanne this was opened, know, and tolde thourghe the kingges court. **14.** In biblical language, used to render Heb. *yd* in various inferential senses: To take notice of, regard, care for; to look after, guard, protect; to regard with approval, approve. **1382** WYCLIF *Ps.* i. 6 For the Lord hath knowe the weie of the ritwise. **1535** COVERDALE *Ps.* xxxi. 7 Thou hast considred my trouble, thou hast knowne my soule in aduersite. **1611** BIBLE *Gen.* xxxix. 6 And he left all that he had, in Ioseph's hand: and he knew not ought he had, saue the bread which he did eate. **1662** SOUTH *Serm.* (1823) I. 77 To know, in scripture language, is to approve; and so, not to know, is to reject and condemn. **15.** Used (chiefly in sense 8) in various colloq. and slang phrases expressing sagacity, cunning, or 'knowledge of the world', as **to know what's what, to know a thing or two, to know the time of day**, etc. **to know it all**: not to be aware of one's deficiencies, **to think one (or he, she, etc.) knows it all**; cf. *know-all, know-it-all* s.v. KNOW-. Also **to know the ropes** (see ROPE n.1 4c); **to know all the answers** (see ANSWER n. 6b); **not to know beans** (see BEAN n. 6e). **c1520** *Vox Populi* 373 in Hazl. *E.P.P.* III. 281, I knowe not whates a clocke. **1546** J. HEYWOOD *Prov.*, He knew which way the winde blew. **a1553** UDALL *Royster D.* I. ii. (Arb.) 17 Mary, nowe I see you know what is what. **1562** J. HEYWOOD *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 71, I know on which syde my bread is buttred. **1631** POWELL *Tom All Trades* 171 He knowes how many dayes goe to the weeke. **1663** BUTLER *Hud.* I. i. 149 He knew what's what, and that's as high As metaphysick wit can fly. **1792** HOLCROFT *Road to Ruin* (Farmer), You know a thing or two, Mr. Selby. **1817** SCOTT *Search after Happiness* xviii, She loved a book, and knew a thing or two. **1867** *All Year Round* 13 July 56 The tramp who knows his way about knows what to do. **1870** E. G. WHITE *Testimonies for Church* No 19. 73 You have so long thought, with the peculiar class I have mentioned, that you knew it all, that you will not see your deficiencies when they are presented before you. **1929** J. B. PRIESTLEY *Good Companions* I. iii. 24 Ted..admitted that he knocked about a bit and knew a thing or two. **1944** E. CALDWELL *Tragic Ground* (1947) iii. 31 Jim Howard Vance is a pretty smart fellow. He was talking in there just a while ago like he knows a thing or two. **1972** G. DURRELL *Catch me a Colobus* vi. 111 As I had warned Long John, there comes a time on every collecting trip when you begin to think that you know it all. This is a moment of great danger, for you *never* know it all, however hard you try. *Ibid.*, I made a mistake once by thinking I knew it all, and got bitten by a snake. **1973** WODEHOUSE *Bachelor Anonymous* iv. 33 The serfs and vassals now know a thing or two and prefer to make their living elsewhere. **1973** *Black World* Sept. 97/1 To my once respected student who has taken over the pompous entitlement as chief white critic of inferior Black literature, let me say..: 'Stop knowing it all.' **V.** With prepositions. (For other constructions in which the vb. and prep. had their ordinary independent meanings, see the simple senses.) **16. know about** . To have information about. Often used to express a knowledge of externals, as opposed to real understanding or actual acquaintance. **1854** KINGSLEY *Alexandria* ii. 50 It is better to know one thing than to know about ten thousand things. **1876** J. P. NORRIS *Rudim. Theol.* I. iv. 70 Knowing God is an infinitely better thing than knowing about God. **17. know for** . To be aware of. *Obs. rare*. **1597** SHAKES. *2 Hen. IV*, I. ii. 6 He might haue more diseases than he knew for. **18. know of** . **a.** In various obsolete senses: To be or become assured of, to have or obtain information about or experience of,

etc. *Obs.* **c1400** *Destr. Troy* 354 e pepull..Haden..wilfulde desyre To knowe of ere comyng and the cause wete. *Ibid.* 10862 Pantasilia..purpost..The grekes to greue..And of maidyns might make hom to know. **c1420** *Anturs of Arth.* xix, Certis or thay hethun fare, Thay knaue of mekil care. **b.** To be cognizant of (something as existing, an event as having occurred); to become cognizant of (*obs.*). **1390** GOWER *Conf.* I. 192 Therto we be swore, That non bot only thou and we Schal knowen of this privete. **1573** BARET *Alv.* To Rdr., Knowing then of no other Dictionarie to helpe vs, but Sir Thomas Eliots Librarie. **1597** SHAKES. *2 Hen. IV*, II. iv. 19 Sir Iohn must not know of it. **a1691** BOYLE (J.), There is but one mineral body that we know of, heavier than common quicksilver. **1818** CRUISE *Digest* (ed. 2) IV. 40 He knew of no case where an agreement, though all written with the party's own hand, had been held sufficient, unless it had been likewise signed by him. **1857** TROLLOPE *Three Clerks* i, All the English world knows, or knows of, that branch of Civil Service which is popularly called the Weights and Measures. *Mod.* I know *of* him, of course; but I do not know him. **c.** Colloq. phrases. **not that I know of**, not so far as I know, not to my knowledge. **not that you know of**, an expression of defiance addressed to a person in reference to something he is about to do (*obs.*). **1742** RICHARDSON *Pamela* III. 310 As Mr. B. offer'd to take his Hand, he put 'em both behind him Not that you know of, Sir! **1753** FOOTE *Englishm. in Paris* II. Wks. 1799 I. 49 May I flatter myself that your Ladyship will do me the honour of venturing upon the fatigue of another minuet this morning with me? *Buck.* Not that you know of, Monsieur. **19. know upon** . To take (judicial) cognizance of. *Sc. Obs.* Cf. F. *connaître de*. **1457** *Sc. Acts Jas. II* (1814) II. 47/2 The caussis t e lordis of e Sessione sall knaw apone. **1609** SKENE *Reg. Maj.* 118 (*Form Baron Couris* c. 81) The Judge may of law, gar knaw vpon the dead be ane assise. (Oxford English Dictionary Online 2002: unpagged)

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Knowledge

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def knowledge Main Entry: **knowl·edge** Pronunciation: 'nä-lij Function: *noun* Etymology: Middle English *knowlege*, from *knowlechen* to acknowledge, irregular from *knowen* Date: 14th century **1 obsolete** : **COGNIZANCE** **2 a** (1) : the fact or condition of knowing something with familiarity gained through experience or association (2) : acquaintance with or understanding of a science, art, or technique **b** (1) : the fact or condition of being aware of something (2) : the range of one's information or understanding <answered to the best of my *knowledge*> **c** : the circumstance or condition of apprehending truth or fact through reasoning : **COGNITION** **d** : the fact or condition of having information or of being learned <a man of unusual *knowledge*> **3 archaic** : **SEXUAL INTERCOURSE** **4 a** : the sum of what is known : the body of truth, information, and principles acquired by mankind **b archaic** : a branch of learning **synonyms** KNOWLEDGE, LEARNING, ERUDITION, SCHOLARSHIP mean what is or can be known by an individual or by mankind. KNOWLEDGE applies to facts or ideas acquired by study, investigation, observation, or experience <rich in the *knowledge* of

human nature>. LEARNING applies to knowledge acquired especially through formal, often advanced, schooling <a book that demonstrates vast *learning*>. ERUDITION strongly implies the acquiring of profound, recondite, or bookish learning <an *erudition* unusual even in a scholar>. SCHOLARSHIP implies the possession of learning characteristic of the advanced scholar in a specialized field of study or investigation <a work of first-rate literary *scholarship*>. (Britannica Webster's Online 2002: unpagged)

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def knowledge: Merriam-Webster defines knowledge as “2 a (1) : the fact or condition of knowing something with familiarity gained through experience or association (2) : acquaintance with or understanding of a science, art or technique b (1) : the fact or condition of being aware of something (2) : the range of one's information or understanding <answered to the best of my knowledge> c : the circumstance or condition of apprehending truth or fact through reasoning : cognition d : the fact or condition of having information or being learned <a man of unusual knowledge> 4 a : the sum of what is known : the body of truth, information and principles acquired by mankind b (archaic) : a branch of learning

“Synonyms: knowledge, learning, erudition, scholarship mean what is or can be known by an individual or by mankind. Knowledge applies to facts or ideas acquired by study, investigation, observation or experience <rich in the knowledge of human nature>. Learning applies to knowledge acquired especially through formal, often advanced, schooling <a book that demonstrated vast learning>. Erudition strongly implies the acquiring of profound, recondite or bookish learning <an erudition unusual even in a scholar>. Scholarship implies the possession of learning characteristic of the advanced scholar in a specialized field of study or investigation <a work of first-rate literary scholarship>“ (Merriam-Webster 1993: 647).

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def knowledge: The word knowledge entered the English language in the 14th century at roughly the same time that the word information came on the scene. Merriam-Webster defines knowledge as:

2 a (1) : the fact or condition of knowing something with familiarity gained through experience or association (2) : acquaintance with or understanding of a science, art or technique b (1) : the fact or condition of being aware of something (2) : the range of one's information or understanding < answered to the best of my knowledge > c : the circumstance or condition of apprehending truth or fact through reasoning : cognition d : the fact or condition of having information or being learned < a man of unusual knowledge > 4 a : the sum of what is known : the body of truth, information and principles acquired by mankind b (archaic) : a branch of learning
Synonyms: knowledge, learning, erudition, scholarship mean what is or can be known by an individual or by mankind. Knowledge applies to facts or ideas acquired by study, investigation, observation or experience < rich in the knowledge of human nature >. Learning applies to knowledge acquired

especially through formal, often advanced, schooling < a book that demonstrated vast learning >. Erudition strongly implies the acquiring of profound, recondite or bookish learning < an erudition unusual even in a scholar >. Scholarship implies the possession of learning characteristic of the advanced scholar in a specialized field of study or investigation < a work of first-rate literary scholarship > (Merriam-Webster 1993: 647).

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def knowledge noun [ME. (north. dial.) *knaulage*, in Wyclif *knowleche*. The first element is identical with KNOW *n*.1, and the stem of KNOW *v*.; for the formation of the word and its relation to KNOWLEDGE *v*., see *Note* below. The second element was presumably, as in the vb., originally *-leche*; but the earliest cited instances (northern, c1300) have already *-lage*; *lache*, *-leche*, appear in southern Eng. late in the 14th c. The shortening of *o* in the first syllable is phonetically normal; cf. the 15-17th c. spelling *knolege*; (nld) used by some, is merely a recent analytical pronunciation after *know*.]

Signification. The earliest sense goes with the original sense of KNOWLEDGE *v*. But the word was app. soon laid hold of to supply a noun of action to KNOW *v*., for which *cnouunge*, KNOWING, was in earlier use, and continued to be used in part. **I**. Senses related to KNOWLEDGE *v*. and early uses of KNOW *v*. **1. a**. Acknowledgement, confession. **b**. Acknowledgement or recognition of the position or claims (of any one). *Obs.* **a1300** *Cursor M.* 11193 (Cott.) To mak knaulage [*Gött.* knowlage, *Trin.* knowleche] with sum-thing Til sir august, air ouer-king. *Ibid.* 12162 (Cott.) Mang barns als barn i wit yow spac, To me knaulage [*Gött.* knauleche, *Fairf.* knowlage, *Trin.* knowleche] nan wald ye tac. *Ibid.* 27355 (Cott.) For nakin scam at he ne mak Opine knaulage of all his sak. **c1375** *Ibid.* (Fairf.), Bid him opin knowlage make & lette for na shame to shew his sake. **1491** *Act 7 Hen. VII*, c. 18 If the..seid knowledge had never be made. **1531-2** *Act. 23 Hen. VIII*, c. 6 §1 The maires of the Stapull..might lafully take reconisance or knowledge for dettes. **a1533** LD. BERNERS *Huon* xlii. 142 To pay me for a knowlege euery yere .iiii. drams of gold. **a1548** HALL *Chron.*, *Hen. VIII* 253b, In knowlege of our superioritie over them. **2**. The fact of recognizing as something known, or known about, before; recognition. **to take knowledge of**, to recognize. *Obs.* **a1350** *Cursor M.* 4817 (Gött.) To Ioseph sien ai soght,..Coud ai of him na knaulag [*Cott.* kything] take. **a1400** *Sir Perc.* 1052 Now hase Percyvelle..Spokene with his emes twoo, Bot never one of thoo Took his knowlage. **c1480** HENRYSON *Test. Cres.* 393 Sum had na knowlege Of hir, becaus sho was sa deformait. **1579-80** NORTH *Plutarch* (1676) 337 Demetrius..stole away secretly, disguised in a threadbare cloak..to keep him from knowledge. **1600** HOLLAND *Livy* XXXIV. xx. 865 The Lacetanes, when they took knowledge of their armor and colours,..sallied out upon them. **1611** BIBLE *Acts* iv. 13 They tooke knowledge of them, that they had been with Iesus. **3**. Legal cognizance; judicial investigation or inquiry. Chiefly *Sc.* *Obs.* **1398** *Sc. Acts Robt. III* (1814) I. 211/2 e Justice sal tak knaulage of e officeris how ai gowerne aim in air officis. **1424** *Sc. Acts Jas. I* (1814) II. 4/2 Lele men and discret;..the quhilkis sall byde knowlege befor e king gif ai haif done thair deuoir. **1472-3** *Rolls Parlt.* VI. 5/1 After suche serches, enquerres, and knoweleche taken and had. **1526** TINDALE *Acts* xxv. 21 When Paul had appealed to be kept vnto the knowledge [so COVERD., *Great, Rheims*; WYCLIF *knowynge*, *Genev.*

examination, **1611** hearing, *R.V.* decision] off Cesar. **1600** HOLLAND *Livy* IV. xxvi. 156 The taking knowledge of such, as pretended to bee freed,..was put off untill the war was ended. **1732** J. LOUTHIAN *Form of Process Scotl.* 272 And remit them and the Libel, as found relevant, to the Knowledge of an Assize. **4. gen.** Cognizance, notice: only in phr. **to take knowledge of**, to take cognizance or notice of, to notice, observe; in quot. 1609, to become aware of (cf. 8). *Obs.* **1602** SHAKES. *Ham.* II. i. 13 Take you as 'twere some distant knowledge of him. **1609** HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* XXVII. ii. 305 When knowledge was taken with exceeding great sorrow, of this overthrow. **1611** BIBLE *Ruth.* ii. 10 Why haue I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldest take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger? *Isa.* lviii. 3 Wherefore haue wee afflicted our soule, and thou takest no knowledge? **1611** B. JONSON *Catiline* IV. vi, A state's anger Should not take knowledge either of fools or women. **1623** J. ROBINSON *Let.* 19 Dec. in W. Bradford *Plymouth Plantation* (1856) 163 So are we glad to take knowledg of it in that fullnes we doe. **II.** Senses derived from the verb KNOW, in its later uses. * *The fact or condition of knowing.* **5. a.** The fact of knowing a thing, state, etc., or (in general sense) a person; acquaintance; familiarity gained by experience. **a1300** *Cursor M.* 15931 Coth petre, 'knaulage [*Gött.* cnaulage, *Fairf.* knowlage] of him had i neuer nan'. **a1350** *Ibid.* 5061 (*Gött.*) Mi fadir faris wele, sir, I wat. Knaulage [*Cott.* knauing] of oures haue I nan. **1375** BARBOUR *Bruce* I. 337 Knowlage off mony statis, May quhile awaile full mony gatis. **1484** CAXTON *Fables of Alfonse* i, I herd of two marchaunts whiche neuer had sene eche other..but they had knowleche eche of the other by theyr lettres. **1535** COVERDALE *2 Chron.* viii. 18 Hiram sent him shippes by his seruauntes which had knowlege of the See. **1662** J. DAVIES tr. *Olearius' Voy. Ambass.* 169 The Antient Geographers..had no knowledge of these Tartars. **1771** *Junius Lett.* liv. 281 His knowledge of human nature must be limited indeed. **1860** TYNDALL *Glac.* I. x. 67 Thus expanding my knowledge of the glaciers. **b. absol.** in phr. **to grow out of (one's) knowledge**: to cease to be known, to become unknown or unfamiliar. *Obs.* **1578** LYTE *Dodoens* V. xliii. 167 Albeit it be nowe grown out of knowledge, yet we haue thought it good to describe the same. **1623** LISLE *Ælfric on O. & N. Test.* Pref. 6 The Hebrew it selfe..grew so out of knowledge among the people that they understood not our Saviours Eli, Eli, lammasabactani. **1722** DE FOE *Col. Jack* (1840) 199, I was grown out of everybody's knowledge. **1754** FOOTE *Knights* I. (1778) 3/1 Master Timothy is almost grown out of knowledge, Sir Gregory. **1864** D. G. MITCHELL *Sev. Stor.* 33 Now, he must have grown out of my knowledge. **6. a.** Personal acquaintance, friendship, intimacy. **b.** Those with whom one is acquainted, one's acquaintances; = ACQUAINTANCE 3. *Obs.* **1388** WYCLIF *Luke* ii. 44 Thei..souten hym among hise cosyns and his knouleche [1382 knowen]. **1389** in *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 4 e brethren and sustren of e bretherhede..shul euery er..hold to-geder, for to norishe more knowelech and loue, a fest. **c1483** CAXTON *Dialogues* 4/13 And ye mete ony That ye know Or that they be of your knoweleche [*de vostre cognoissance*]. **1509** BP. FISHER *Fun. Serm. C'tess Richmond* Wks. (1876) 290 She was bounteous and lyberall to euery persone of her knowlege or aquayntaunce. **1600** SHAKES. *A.Y.L.* I. ii. 297, I shall desire more loue and knowledge of you. **7.** Sexual intimacy. *Const. of (with).* Now only in **carnal knowledge.** (*arch.* and *legal.*) **a1425** *Cursor M.* 11056 (*Trin.*) e ton was onge mayden on, e toer had knowleche wi mon. **c1450** *Merlin* 17 Neuer erthely man hadde I of knowleche, wherethrough I sholde

haue childe. **1540** *Act 32 Hen. VIII*, c. 38 §2 Such mariages
 beyng..consummate with bodily knowlage. **1686** *Col. Rec. Pennsylv.* I. 176 He
 was accused of having Carnall Knowledge of his Brother in Law's women
 Servants. **1883** *Wharton's Law Lex.* (ed. 7) 691/1 *Rape*, the carnal knowledge
 of a woman by force against her will. **8. a.** Acquaintance with a fact;
 perception, or certain information of, a fact or matter; state of being aware or
 informed; consciousness (of anything). The object is usually a proposition
 expressed or implied: e.g. the knowledge that a person is poor, knowledge of
 his poverty. **c1375** *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxvi. (*Nycholas*) 114 He t[h]ocht to wak..for
 til get knawlag & to se quha It wes helpyt hyme sa. **1422** tr. *Secreta Secret.*,
Priv. Priv. 208 By the eeris we haue knowleche of Sovne. **a1548** HALL *Chron.*,
Edw. IV 200 So that this civill warre should seme to all men, to have been
 begon without his assent or knowledge. **1604** E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's*
Hist. Ind. IV. viii. 230 They labour in these mines in continuall darkenes and
 obscuritie, without knowledge of day or night. **1725** POPE *Odyss.* II. 185 Till
 big with knowledge of approaching woes The prince of augurs, Halitherses,
 rose. **1796** JANE AUSTEN *Pride & Prej.* ii, Till the evening after the visit was
 paid she had no knowledge of it. **1832** H. MARTINEAU *Demerara* ii. 16 The
 knowledge that he might at any hour be called upon..stimulated his studies of
 his duties. **b. absol.** Acquaintance with facts, range of information, ken. Esp.
 in phrases as **to one's knowledge**, so far as one is aware; also, as one is
 aware, as one can testify (in latter sense, also, **of one's k.**); **to come to**
one's knowledge, to become known to one. **1542** N. UDALL in *Lett. Lit.*
Men (Camden) 3 To my knowlege I have not eftsons offended. **1576**
 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 103 According to the measure of your knowledge,
 and proportion of your policie. **c1592** MARLOWE *Massacre Paris* I. ii, Of my
 knowledge, in one cloister keep Five hundred fat Franciscan friars. **1662** J.
 DAVIES tr. *Olearius' Voy. Ambass.* 168 Who,..if ever it should come to their
 knowledge, that they had sold any fish. **1820** *Examiner* No. 652. 641/2 A
 better paid witness..had never come to his knowledge. **1872** E. PEACOCK
Mabel Heron II. i. 17 What came to my knowledge. **c. Philos. knowledge**
about, knowledge by description: knowledge of a person, thing, or
 perception gained through information or facts about it rather than by direct
 experience (opp. *knowledge by* (or *of*) *acquaintance*, see ACQUAINTANCE
 1b). **1885**, etc. [see ACQUAINTANCE 1b]. **1945** E. MAYO *Social Probl.*
Industr. Civilization (1949) I. i. 15 The student is required to relate his logical
knowledge-about to his own direct acquaintance with the facts. **1952** B.
 MAYO *Logic of Personality* iii. 30 Knowledge *about* something is called
 knowledge by *description*. **1954** [see ACQUAINTANCE 1b]. **1967** *Encycl.*
Philos. IV. 350/1 Parallel to this on the side of knowledge of things is the
 distinction between knowledge by acquaintance and knowledge by
 description. **1968** A. J. AYER *Origins Pragmatism* II. iii. 293 The mind has
 'knowledge about' an object not immediately there. **9. a.** Intellectual
 acquaintance with, or perception of, fact or truth; clear and certain mental
 apprehension; the fact, state, or condition of understanding. Formerly, also,
 the faculty of understanding, intelligence, intellect. **1387** TREVISA *Higden*
(Rolls) III. 217 God wole at meny inges passe e knoweleche of man. **1422** tr.
Secreta Secret., *Priv. Priv.* 212 A stronge argument to Shewe..the Sotilte of thy
 knowleche. **1508** DUNBAR *Tua Mariit Wemen* 300 Ay the fule did foret, for
 febilnes of knowlege. **1593** QUEEN ELIZABETH tr. *Boeth.* pr. v. 115 That is
 not opinion, but an included purenes of the hiest knoledge that is shut in no

lymites. **1690** LOCKE *Hum. Und.* IV. i. §2 Knowledge..seems to me to be nothing but the perception of the connexion and agreement, or disagreement and repugnancy of any of our ideas. **1748** HARTLEY *Observ. Man* II. Introd. 1 The Infinite Power, Knowledge, and Goodness of God. **1828** WHATELY *Logic* (1857) 164 *note*, Knowledge..implies..firm belief,..of what is true,..on sufficient grounds. **1836-7** SIR W. HAMILTON *Metaph.* (1859) I. iii. 58 Philosophical knowledge,..is thus the knowledge of effects as dependent on their causes. **1857** BUCKLE *Civiliz.* I. v. 246 The knowledge on which all civilization is based, solely consists in an acquaintance with the relations which things and ideas bear to each other and to themselves. **1877** E. R. CONDER *Bas. Faith* iv. 193 Knowledge is composed of judgments: the criteria of the judgments composing it being truth and certainty. **b.** Const. *of* (something). Also in *pl.* (now *rare*). **1398** TREVISA *Barth. De P.R.* II. ii. (1495) 27 Mannes vnderstondynge & inwytte gadreth knowlege of some thyng of the knowlege of other thynges. **1477** EARL RIVERS (Caxton) *Dictes* 73 Disputing & arguing for to haue knowleche of ye trowth of a thing. **1670** A. ROBERTS *Advent. T.S.* 146 They do it by the Knowledges that they have of Nature. **1878** JEVONS *Prim. Pol. Econ.* iii. 31 Knowledge of nature consists, to a great extent, in understanding the causes of things. **c.** with *pl.* A mental apprehension; a perception, intuition, or other cognition. *rare*. **1563** *Homilies* II. Rogation Week I. (1859) 470 To have a knowledge of the power and divinity of God. **1626** T. H. Caussin's *Holy Crt.* 123 To proceed..by such knowledges, as are common, with brute beastes, and forsake those of men. **1825** COLERIDGE *Aids Refl.* (1848) I. 128 It is the office..of reason, to bring a unity into all our conceptions and several knowledges. **1836-7** SIR W. HAMILTON *Metaph.* (1859) I. iii. 57 These two cognitions or knowledges have, accordingly, received different names. **1872** LOWELL *Wks.* (1890) IV. 184 With Dante wisdom is the generalization from many several knowledges of small account by themselves. **d.** *Med.* Diagnosis: cf. KNOWLEDGE *v.* 5. *Obs.* **1541** R. COPLAND *Guydon's Quest. Chirurg.* etc. Nij, Is the Cyrurgyen bounde to haue the knowledge of the blode that is drawn?.. No, but the beholdynge of the said blode belongeth to Physycyens. **1655** CULPEPPER, etc. *Riverius* X. v. 292 The Knowledg in general is manifest... That Parts sending have a more difficult Diagnosis or way of Knowledg. **e. to come to (one's own) knowledge**, to recover one's understanding; to come to one's senses. *Obs.* **13..** *E.E. Allit. P. B.* 1702 enne he wayned hym his wyt..at he com to knowlach & kenned hym seluen. **c1489** CAXTON *Blanchardyn* xiv. 49 Euyn at these wordes cam the prouost tyl his owne knowlege ageyne. **10.** Acquaintance with a branch of learning, a language, or the like; theoretical or practical understanding *of* an art, science, industry, etc.; skill *in* or *to do* something (*obs.*). (Rarely in plural.) **c1375** *Sc. Leg. Saints* xl. (*Ninian*) 130 ane trawalit he besyli, til he in knavlage of clergy..wes wise Inuch. **c1475** *Rauf Coilear* 325 The King had greit knowledge the countrie to ken. **1508** DUNBAR *Tua Mariit Wemen* 455 Folk a cury may miscuke, that knowledge wantis. **1560** J. DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 201 He had no greate knoweledge in the latyn tongue. **1669** STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* I. 15 Mariners brought up in Practical Knowledge of Navigaton at Sea. **a1774** GOLDSM. *Surv. Exp. Philos.* (1776) I. 210 Nor were the ancients without a great knowledge in this art. **1782** WOLCOTT (P. Pindar) *Ode to R.A.'s* iii. *Wks.* 1812 I. 20 With scarce more knowledges than these He earns a guinea every day with ease. **1841** LANE *Arab. Nts.* I. 85 A knowledge of all the medical and other sciences. **1851**

Illustr. Catal. Gt. Exhib. 1278 This article is..made by young women who have no knowledge of drawing. **11**. In general sense: The fact or condition of being instructed, or of having information acquired by study or research; acquaintance with ascertained truths, facts, or principles; information acquired by study; learning; erudition. **1477** EARL RIVERS (Caxton) *Dictes* 27 Knowledge is better than ignoraunce. **1559** W. CUNINGHAM *Cosmogr. Glasse* 46 Knowledge hath no enemie but ignoraunce. **1596** DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* VIII. 71 In gret honour for his eruditioun and knowledge. **1611** BIBLE *Eccles.* i. 18 Hee that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow. **1784** COWPER *Task* VI. 96 Knowledge is proud that he has learned so much; Wisdom is humble that he knows no more. **1856** RUSKIN *Mod. Paint.* III. IV. iii. §17 The highest knowledge always involves a more advanced perception of the fields of the unknown. **1870** M. D. CONWAY *Earthw. Pilgr.* xviii. 220 One might say that no kind or amount of human knowledge were too much for a woman. ** *The object of knowing; that which is known or made known.* **12**. Information; intelligence; notice, intimation. *Obs.* **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. **1440** *Generydes* 1160 Whan she hadde tideng And trew knowlage of Auferius. **1473** J. WARKWORTH *Chron.* 11 He yaff knowlege to his peple that he wulde holde withe the Erle of Warwyke. **1568** GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 317 He imediatly sent knowledge into the whole countrie. **1600** HOLLAND *Livy* XXVI. xxvi. 603 There hee published and gave knowledge, That hee would shape his course from thence for Anticyra. **1722** DE FOE *Plague* (1756) 49 Shall give knowledge thereof to the Examiner of Health. **13**. The sum of what is known. **1534** STARKEY *Let. in England* (1878) p. x, I. passyd ouer in to Italy, whereas I so delytyd in the contemplacyon of natural Knolege. **1559** W. CUNINGHAM *Cosmogr. Glasse* 142 The proper nature of suche in whose mynde knoweledge have once builded her Boure. **1628** PRESTON *New Coust.* (1634) 446 You..may have abundance of emptie and unprofitable knowledge, without Grace. **1667** MILTON *P.L.* VII. 126 Knowledge is as food, and needs no less Her Temperance over Appetite, to know In measure what the mind may well contain. **1753** JOHNSON *Adventurer* No. 85 7 He is by no means to be accounted useless or idle who has stored his mind with acquired knowledge. **1823** DE QUINCEY *Lett. to Young Man* Wks. 1860 XIV. 58 All knowledge may be commodiously distributed into science and erudition. **1833** (*title*) The Penny Cyclopædia of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge. **1877** E. R. CONDER *Bas. Faith* iv. 139 We speak of knowledge as stored up in books. But in reality what books contain is not knowledge, but only symbols of knowledge. *Mod.* Every branch of knowledge. **14**. (with *pl.*) A branch of learning; a science; an art. (Rarely in *sing.*) **1581** SIDNEY *Apol. Poetrie* (Arb.) 20 Poetry,..the..first nurse, whose milk by little and little enabled them to feed afterwards of tougher knowledges. **1605** BACON *Adv. Learn.* II. xvii. §9 The mathematics, which are the most abstracted of knowledges. **1662** J. CHANDLER *Van. Helmont's Oriat.* To Rdr., Many clear fundamental Knowledges and Arts. **1825** COLERIDGE *Aids Refl.* (1848) I. Pref. 19 A land abounding with men, able in arts, learning, and knowledges manifold. **1860** MARSH *Eng. Lang.* 28 The superior attractions and supposed claims of other knowledges. **15**. A sign or mark by which anything is known, recognized, or distinguished; a token. **1483** *Cath. Angl.* 204/2 A knowlege, *nota,..specimen, experimentum.* **1523** LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* I. cclxxviii. 416 At theyr

departyng they thought to make a knowledge that they had ben there; for they set the subbarbes afyre. **1555** W. WATREMAN *Fardle Facions* II. iv. 141 Thei deuised..circumcision, because thei would haue a notable knowledge betwene them and other nacions. **III. 16.** *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as **knowledge element, power, -tree; knowledge-full, -kindled, -proof** adjs.; **knowledge base** *Computing*, the underlying set of facts, assumptions, and inference rules on which a computer system operates; a store of information (as in a database) available to draw on; **knowledge-based** *ppl. a.*, of an academic discipline: founded on an accumulation of facts, non-empirical; of a computer system: incorporating a set of facts, assumptions, or inference rules derived from human knowledge; **knowledge-box, -casket**, humorous names for the head; **knowledge factory**, term applied pejoratively to a university or college, etc., which places undue emphasis on vocational training; **knowledge industry**, term applied fancifully or pejoratively to the development and use of knowledge, *spec.* in universities, polytechnics, etc. **1971** *Symp. über Computer Graphics* (Berlin) 1 Steps toward this goal are being made within a particular contextarchitecture that furnishes a ‘*knowledge base’ or ‘assumption base’ from which programs can procure..those heuristics necessary to handle two dimensional and three dimensional ambiguities. **1986** *Times Higher Educ. Suppl.* 13 June (Journals Suppl.) p. vii/2 He sees the explosion in knowledge gathering, based on computer storage and retrieval, as providing a knowledge base for teachers. **1986** *Financial Times* 16 Oct. (Information Technol. Surv.) p. x/2 Once a way is found to represent the knowledge, it is no problem to add extra rules to the knowledge base. -- **1970** C. A. MYERS *Computers in Knowledge-Based Fields* i. 8 Education is clearly the leading *knowledge-based industry. **1975** *IEEE Trans. Software Engin.* I. 26/1 The planner project is constructing a programming apprentice to assist in knowledge based programming. **1980** *Jrnl. R. Soc. Arts* Feb. 151/2 Management education..has inevitably become much more knowledge-based. **1983** *Austral. Microcomputer Mag.* Dec. 69/7 Computers based on the 16-bit Motorola 6800 microprocessor were adequate for knowledge-based systems. -- **1796** *Mod. Gulliver’s Trav.* 194 His head being differently formed to that of others, by producing what had been his *knowledge-box, my word could not be doubted. **1874** BURNAND *My time* v. 42 With all these odds and ends, my knowledge-box was fairly stored. -- **1879** BAIN *Education as a Science* xii. 402 The work of teaching *knowledge elements. -- **1928** *World’s Work* May 55 Next day we visited the *knowledge factory, and..the head teacher asked if I had ever been sent to school. **1968** *Listener* 4 July 6/2 Some students who rioted on British campuses (like some in France and Italy) have been protesting at having found themselves in a knowledge factory when they thought they were headed for something else. They find themselves being trained for the managerial and technocratic élites, whereas what they demand is the right to question the structure of society which makes such élites necessary. **1969** C. DAVIDSON in Cockburn & Blackburn *Student Power* 341 The production of an increase in socially useful and necessary labour power is the new historic function of our educational institutions that enables us to name them, quite accurately, knowledge factories. -- **1879** *St. George’s Hosp. Rep.* IX. 793 In his concise but *knowledge-full work on the pathology of the ear. -- **1962** F. MACHLUP *Production & Distribution of Knowledge in U.S.* iii. 45 If the phrase ‘*knowledge industry’ were to be given an unambiguous meaning, would it be

a collection of industries producing knowledge or rather a collection of occupations producing knowledge in whatever industries they are employed. **1963** C. KERR *Uses of University* iii. 87 Basic to this transformation is the growth of the 'knowledge industry', which is coming to permeate government and business. **1968** *Economist* 28 Feb. 51/3 This is a book for the serious investor who..wants to learn something about the operations of the New York Stock Exchange and the 'knowledge industry', with its analysts, theorists..and numerous other 'ists'. **1970** *Globe & Mail* (Toronto) 25 Sept. B2/2 The report notes the emergence of the knowledge industry, growing emphasis on people values. -- **1886** LOWELL *Wks.* (1890) VI. 150 There are some pupils who are *knowledge-proof. -- **1598** ROWLANDS *Poems on Passion, Christ to Wom. Jerus.*, Life's arbour next, which grace did fill; And *knowledge-tree of good and ill. -- [Note. The origin of *knowledge* n. and vb. and the question of the original relations between the n. and vb. themselves, are a difficult problem. According to the extant evidence, the vb. is exemplified nearly a century before the n., and is found only in southern Eng., with a form in *-lechien*, *-leche*, while the n., when it appears c1300, is found only in northern dialect, and has its earliest form in *-lage*. Thus the northern MSS. of *Cursor Mundi* have numerous examples of the n.the earliest known,but do not use the vb. Late in the 14th c., the n. is found in midl. and south. (first in Wyclif, a northern man), with the forms *-lache*, *-leche*; in the 15th c. the vb. appears sparingly in the north, with the form *-lage*, *-lege*. If the n. were at first only northern, the want of earlier examples may be explained by there being no northern literature of the 12th and the early 13th c.; but this does not account for the app. absence of the n. from southern literature before Wyclif, and leaves the early relations between the vb. and n. very perplexing. It can hardly be doubted, in view of the earliest sense of both, that they have a common origin; but what this was it is not easy to determine. The n. has no parallel in Eng., nor app. in any Teutonic lang. Some have thought it related to ONorse derivative ns. in *-leik-r* 'play, exercise, action', e.g *kunnleik-r* knowledge. The OE. cognate ending was *-lác*, as in *wedlác* wedlock; but neither the ON. nor OE. form could have given an early ME. *-leche*; this would have required an OE. *-lce*, of which there is no trace. If, on the other hand, we start from the vb. *i)cnawlechien*, there are difficulties in explaining the formation of this also. It has been proposed to associate it with OE. verbs in *-lc(e)an*, pa. tense *-lhte*, a few of which came down into early ME. in *-lêchen*, *-lêhte*. In OE. these usually go with derivative adjs. in *-líc* (from an adj. or n.), to which they are supposed to stand somehow in ablaut relation; e.g. *cúlic* friendly, *cúlcan* be friendly with, to treat like a friend, *efenlíc* equal, *efenlcan* to make equal, imitate, *néahlíc* near, *néahlcan* to draw nigh, approach, *rihtlíc* right, correct, *e)rihtlcan* to make right, correct, *sumorlíc* summerlike, *sumorlcan* to draw near to summer, *winterlíc* winterly, *winterlcan* to draw near to winter, etc. Here the radical part is an adj. or n. If now early ME. *cnaw*, KNOW *n.1*, 'acknowledgement, confession', went back to an OE. *ecnáw*, it is possible that, either immediately by analogy, or through an adj. **ecnáwlíc* = *ecnæwe* 'conscious of, acknowledging', there was formed a derivative vb. **ecnáwlcan* 'to become conscious of, make acknowledgement or confession of', which would give an early ME. **i-cnawlechen*, *-lehte*. True, these are not the ME. forms actually found; but some variation in the formation of these verbs appears in the instances cited by Sievers (*Ags. Gram.*, ed. 3, §407, Ann. 17, 18), including a pa. pple. *erihltced*, in the West Saxon *Past. Care*, beside

erihtht, while the Rushw. copy of the Lindisfarne Gloss shows, for *néahlean*, a form *neolicia*, pa. tense *néolicade*, *néalocode*, pa. pple. *inéolicad*; so that, perhaps, the early ME. *i)cnawlechien*, *i-cnoulechien*, *-lechede*, may be taken as having this origin. If this was so, the verb *to knowledge* was first formed, and the n. was derived from it, which would also agree with the extant historical data for the two words, and account for the original sense of the n.] (OED Online 2002: unpagged).

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def knowledge: Gregory Bateson (1984: 41) once said that “information is any difference that makes a difference.” In reality, the power to make a difference defines the difference between information and knowledge. Roger Bacon, the 16th century scholar and a founder of the scientific method, noted this difference in his Religious Meditations, Of Heresies, where he wrote that, “knowledge itself is power” (in Mackay, 1991: 21). Peter Drucker respects that difference, too, and describes the transformation of information into knowledge: “Knowledge is information that changes something or somebody - - either by becoming grounds for action, or by making an individual (or an institution) capable of different and more effective action.” (Drucker, 1990: 242)

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def knowledge: Knowledge (Page: 819) Knowl”edge (?), n. [OE. knowledge, knowlege, knowleche, knowleche. The last part is the Icel. suffix *-leikr*, forming abstract nouns, orig. the same as Icel. *leikr* game, play, sport, akin to AS. *lāc*, Goth. *laiks* dance. See Know, and cf. Lake, v. i., Lark a frolic.] 1. The act or state of knowing; clear perception of fact, truth, or duty; certain apprehension; familiar cognizance; cognition. Knowledge, which is the highest degree of the speculative faculties, consists in the perception of the truth of affirmative or negative propositions. Locke. 2. That which is or may be known; the object of an act of knowing; a cognition; -- chiefly used in the plural. There is a great difference in the delivery of the mathematics, which are the most abstracted of knowledges. Bacon. Knowledges is a term in frequent use by Bacon, and, though now obsolete, should be revived, as without it we are compelled to borrow cognitions” to express its import. Sir W. Hamilton. To use a word of Bacon’s, now unfortunately obsolete, we must determine the relative value of knowledges. H. Spencer. 3. That which is gained and preserved by knowing; instruction; acquaintance; enlightenment; learning; scholarship; erudition. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth. 1 Cor. viii. 1. Ignorance is the curse of God; - Knowledge, the wing wherewith we fly to heaven. Shak. 4. That familiarity which is gained by actual experience; practical skill; as, a knowledge of life. Shipmen that had knowledge of the sea. 1 Kings ix. 27. 5. Scope of information; cognizance; notice; as, it has not come to my knowledge. Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldst take knowledge of me? Ruth ii. 10. 6. Sexual intercourse; -- usually preceded by carnal; as, carnal knowledge. Syn. -- See Wisdom. Knowledge (Page: 819) Knowl”edge, v. t. To acknowledge. [Obs.] Sinners which knowledge their sins.” Tyndale. (ARTFL Webster’s 1913: 819)

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def knowledge noun [U] understanding of or information about a subject which has been obtained by experience or study, and which is either in a person's mind or possessed by people generally Her knowledge of English grammar is very extensive. I have no knowledge of how a car works. He has a limited knowledge of French. Human knowledge of planets outside our own solar system is very limited. The details of the scandal are now common knowledge (=familiar to most people). She started to photograph the documents, safe in the knowledge that (=knowing that) she wouldn't be disturbed for at least an hour. In this town there are only a couple of restaurants that to my knowledge (=judging from my personal experience and information) serve good food. Knowledge can also mean awareness. The owner claims the boat was being used without her knowledge. The Government deny all knowledge of the affair. It has come/been brought to our knowledge (=We have discovered) that several computers have gone missing. knowledgeable adjective She's a knowledgeable woman (=She knows a lot). He's very knowledgeable (=knows a lot) about German literature. knowledgeably adverb The minister spoke knowledgeably about the technical problems involved in building the tunnel. (Cambridge 1999: unpagged).

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