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arrogant, *adj.* and *n.*

Pronunciation: Brit. /'arəg(ə)nt/, U.S. /'erəgənt/

Forms: 1ME *arragaunt*, 1ME–15 *arrogaunt*, 1ME–16 *arogant*, 1ME–16 *arrogaunte*, 15 *arrogante*, 15–*arrogant*, 16 *arragant*.

Frequency (in current use):

Origin: Of multiple origins. Partly a borrowing from French. Partly a borrowing from Latin. **Etymons:** French *arrogant*; Latin *arrogant-*, *arrogāns*.

Etymology: < (i) Middle French *arrogant* (13th cent. in Old French as adjective, early 15th cent. as noun; French *arrogant*),

and its etymon (ii) classical Latin *arrogant-*, *arrogāns* insolent, overbearing, conceited, presumptuous, use as adjective of present participle of *arrogāre* ARROGATE *v.*

Compare Old Occitan *arrogan* (a1215), Spanish *arrogante* (late 14th cent. as adjective, early 15th cent. as noun), Italian *arrogante* (early 13th cent. as adjective, early 14th cent. as noun).

A. *adj.*

1. Of a person: having a high or inflated opinion of his or her own abilities, importance, etc.; presumptuous, excessively self-confident, or believing oneself to be superior to others.

c1405 (►c1390) CHAUCER *Parson's Tale* (Hengwrt) (2003) §322 *Arrogaunt* þ^t thynketh þ^t he hath thilke bountees in hym þ^t he hath nat.

1541 'J. SAWTRY' *Def. Mariage Preistes* sig. Aiiii^v Of y^e which deullishe doctryne almost now pressed by Goddis worde, bolde *arrogant* Steuen Gardener, bisshop of Wynchester with his dronken blak monke Repse abbot quondam of. s. Benits..ar the inbringers.

1570 J. FOXE *Actes & Monumentes* (rev. ed.) II. 1888/2 Master Chauncelour here noted me to be *arrogant*, because I would not geue place to my Byshop.

1654 P. ENGLISH *Surv. Policy* ii. 137 In the heroick age..men were extream haughty and *arrogant*, and could not be governed by equals.

1663 W. CLARK *Marciano* 56 Now get you gone both of you..., you *arrogant*, empty-skull'd wittals.

1711 R. STEELE *Spectator* No. 104. ¶1 To be negligent of what any one thinks of you, does not only shew you *arrogant* but abandoned.

1823 *Blackwood's Edinb. Mag.* 13 278 The head of Julius..is a fine portrait of that *arrogant* and irascid priest.

1872 C. DARWIN *Expression Emotions Man & Animals* xi. 264 The *arrogant* man looks down on others, and with lowered eyelids hardly condescends to see them.

1927 F. M. THRASHER *Gang* IV. xxii. 523 The 'dethroning' of an *arrogant* gang leader known as 'the king'.

1958 C. ACHEBE *Things fall Apart* xx. 127 These court messengers were greatly hated in Umuofia

because they were foreigners and also arrogant and high-handed.

2012 J. TOMSKY *Heads in Beds* iii. 64 This arrogant prick thought meeting him was my dream come true.

2. Of an act, assumption, utterance, etc.: characterized by, resulting from, or revealing arrogance.

- 1529 T. MORE *Supplic. Soulys* I. f. xxii Obstynate rebellyouse mynde agaynst all lawes rule and gouernaunce wyth arrogante presumpcyon to medle wyth euery mannys substaunce.
- a1538 T. STARKEY *Dial. Pole & Lupset* (1989) 12 Some..juge al vyce & vertue only to consiste in the opinyon of man, wych ys arrogant blyndnes.
- 1601 J. MARSTON et al. *Iacke Drums Entertainm.* IV. sig. H I do hate these bumbaste wits, That are puft vp with arrogant conceit.
- 1698 R. SOUTH *12 Serm.* III. 180 The Arrogant Assertions of Self-Justiciaries on the one hand, and the wild Opinions of the Antinomians on the other.
- 1704 T. GOODWIN *Hist. Reign Henry Fifth* VI. 248 The Duke..by his Pride and arrogant Department had pull'd this sad Fate upon his own Head.
- 1796 E. BURKE *Let. to Noble Lord* 34 It would be a most arrogant presumption in me to assume to myself the glory of what belongs to his Majesty.
- 1857 'F. FERN' *Fresh Leaves* 322 The overbearing and undeserved rebuke of arrogant assumption?
- 1876 *Catholic World* June 388/1 This..arrogant rejection by pedantic orthodoxists of facts that seemingly conflicted with accepted views.
- 1920 *Painter & Decorator* June 220/2 I speak for..the unpartaking victims of your arrogant efficiency.
- 2006 *Managem. Today* Jan. 76/3 His arrogant attitude to his staff..was demotivating his support team.

B. n.

An arrogant person; one who behaves in a presumptuous or supercilious way. Also with *the* and *pl.* concord: those who are arrogant; arrogant people regarded as a class.

- 1489 CAXTON tr. C. de Pisan *Bk. Fayttes of Armes* I. ii. sig. Aii^v To repress the arrogaunts.
- 1562 N. WINSET *Certain Tractates* (1888) I. 78 In the rebuk of chief arrogantis.
- 1594 J. STOCKWOOD tr. L. Daneau *Fruitfull Comm. Twelue Small Prophets* ii. 6 Plato in *Charmide* seemeth to make a difference betweene those that are indeede Fore-shewers, whome hee calleth *Prophets*, and those which for ostentation or vaine glories sake doe fore-tell things to come, whome hee calleth *Arrogants*.
- 1668 J. HOWE *Blessednesse of Righteous* xii. 219 Proud arrogantis formed, by necessity and misery, into humble supplicants.
- 1692 R. L'ESTRANGE *Fables* xviii. 19 But Good Council is cast away, upon the Arrogant, the Self-conceited, or the stupid.
- ?1708 *Fair Play for One's Life* 6 The young Arrogants now raise themselves by insulting their

improv'd Learning, their Observations of the Happy, or ill Success of the various Methods and Medicines in all kinds of Diseases.

- 1769 D'ALENZON tr. 'Hoamchi-Vam' *Bonze* I. 152 He cast the arrogants into prison.
- 1843 *Ohio Statesman* 31 May The whole country knew that our claim to the 'disputed territory', (as it had been called in courtesy to British arrogants,) was founded in right.
- 1899 *Huddersfield Chron.* 1 July 10/2 They had driven two good nails into the coffins of the arrogants.
- 1965 *Observer* 17 Oct. 40/5 There were superb specimens of the Silver-Haired Pinstripe, the Moustached Arrogants (the most common variety)..and other famous Tory types.
- 1990 *Daughters of Sarah* Jan. 6/1 The humble will triumph and the arrogant be brought down.
- 1996 N. DAVIES *Europe* 17 These words are a standing rebuke to anyone who would lump all 'Western imperialists' into the same gang of arrogants.
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