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honour | honor, *n.*

Pronunciation: Brit. /'ɒnə/, U.S. /'ɑnər/

Forms: ME *honere*, ME *honneur*, ME *honowur*, ME *onnere*, ME *onour*, ME *onoure*, ME *onur*, ME 16 *honnur*, ME–15 *honnoure*, ME–15 *honore*, ME–15 *honowr*, ME–15 *honowre*, ME–15 *honure*, ME–16 *honnour*, ME–16 *honoure*, ME–16 *honur*, ME–16 *onor*, ME– *honor* (now chiefly *U.S.*), ME– *honour*, 15–16 *honor*, 15–16 *honovr*, 15–17 *honer*, 16 *honeur*, 16 *onowre*; also *Sc.* pre-17 *honer*, pre-17 *honnor*, pre-17 *honnour*, pre-17 *honor*, pre-17 *honore*, pre-17 *honour*, pre-17 *honoure*, pre-17 *honowr*, pre-17 *honowre*, pre-17 *honur*, pre-17 *honure*, pre-17 *honvr*. With coalescence of preceding *the* lME–15 *thonoure*, lME–16 *thonour*, 15–16 *th'onor*, 15–16 *th'onour*.

Frequency (in current use):

Origin: Of multiple origins. Partly a borrowing from French. Partly a borrowing from Latin. **Etymons:** French *honore*; Latin *honor*.

Etymology: < (i) Anglo-Norman *honore*, *honoure*, *honure*, *honneure*, *oner*, Anglo-Norman and Old French *honor*, *honur*, *onur*, *onour*, Anglo-Norman and Old French, Middle French *honour*, Anglo-Norman and Middle French *honneur*, *honeur*, *onneur*, *honnour* (French *honneur*) mark of esteem (10th cent.), office, responsibility (10th cent.), esteem, respect, repute, renown (11th cent.), domain, feudal possession (c1100), dignity, dignified conduct (especially of a woman) (12th cent.),

and its etymon (ii) classical Latin *honor* (also *honōs*) esteem, respect, mark of esteem, privilege, public or political office, holding of office, dignity, grace, in post-classical Latin also as a title (6th cent.), benefice, fief (9th cent.), seignior, group of fiefs (frequently from 11th cent. in British and continental sources), of unknown origin.

Compare Old Occitan *onor*, Catalan *honor* (14th cent.), Spanish *honor* (10th cent. as *honore*), Portuguese *honor* (13th cent.), Italian *onore* (13th cent.).

Spelling history.

Like many other nouns of condition with ultimate etymons in Latin ending in *-or*, *honour* came increasingly often to be spelt with *-or* in early modern English (compare general discussion at *-OR suffix*). The form *honour* is generally preferred in British dictionaries from the mid 17th cent., although a notable exception is Ash 1775 (who describes *honor* as 'a modern but correct spelling, from the Lat[in]'). For comment on 18th-cent. usage compare:

1758 J. ARMSTRONG *Sketches* 19 Our Reformers in the Art of Spelling...at present..write Honor, Favor, Labor.

1791 J. WESLEY *Wks.* (1872) VIII. 317 Avoid the fashionable impropriety of leaving out the *u* in many words, as *honor*, *vigor*, etc.

This is mere childish affectation.

The form *honor* was preferred by Noah Webster, and today *honour* shows the same pattern as a number of other nouns of condition showing *-OR suffix*, with the spelling *honour* generally being preferred in Britain, but *honor* in the United States. In modern British English the spelling of derivative formations and other related words varies between *honour-* and *honor-*, with spellings in *honor-* generally being used for those words where the connection with a Latin etymon or model is more evident, and spellings in *honour-* for those words where the derivative relationship with *honour* is most obvious; compare e.g. *honoured*, *honourable*, *honourless*, beside e.g. *honorary*, *honorific*, *honorand*. Johnson 1755 likewise has *honourable* beside *honorary*, but there is much more variation among his contemporaries.

1.

a. Great respect, esteem, or reverence received, gained, or enjoyed by a person or thing; glory, renown, fame; reputation, good name.

Opposed to *dishonour* or *disgrace*.

badge, Medal of Honour, etc.: see the first element.

- a1225 (†?a1200) *MS Trin. Cambr.* in R. Morris *Old Eng. Homilies* (1873) 2nd Ser. 83 Hie giuen here elmesse..oðer for onour to hauen, oðer ne mai elles for shame.
- c1325 (†c1300) *Chron. Robert of Gloucester* (Calig.) 8176 Deie we raþer wiþ onour.
- c1475 (†?c1451) *Bk. Noblesse* (Royal) (1860) 26 The hope and trust of recovering on another day..onnere and fortune.
- 1548 *Hall's Vnion: Henry VI* f. cxxxiiij The duchesse of Bedford..myndyng also to marye, rather for pleasure then for honour.
- 1579 T. NORTH tr. Plutarch *Liues* 238 (*margin*) To soden honor in youth killeth further desier of fame.
- a1616 SHAKESPEARE *Henry VI, Pt. 3* (1623) I. i. 247 But thou preferr'st thy Life, before thine Honor .
- 1691 C. GILDON *Hist. Athenian Soc.* I. 5/1 The desire of Honour, and Veneration..has been the cause of small Progress of Learning in former Ages.
- 1715 J. STEVENS tr. *Hist. Persia* 25 Girdles, or Sashes ever were, and still are Badges of Honour, and Dignity in Persia.
- 1765 W. BLACKSTONE *Comm. Laws Eng.* I. xviii. 467 The honour of originally inventing these political constitutions entirely belongs to the Romans.
- 1822 R. SOUTHEY *Vision of Judgem.* III Peace is obtain'd then at last, with safety and honour!
- 1853 W. HAZLITT tr. A. De Beauchesne *Louis XVII* I. ix. 348 He had..defended his honour against the accumulated calumnies directed it against it.
- 1933 M. R. BRAILSFORD tr. H. Pinnow *Hist. Germany* 102 The worthy man..played his part in the battle of life, winning honour and respect.
- 1996 M. STRICKLAND *War & Chivalry* 331 The fear of shame and reproach, mirrored by a desire for honour and glory, acted as a powerful stimulus.

b. Great respect, esteem, or reverence demonstrated or expressed.

Cf. *in honour of* at Phrases 3.

- c1300 (†?a1200) LA3AMON *Brut* (Otho) (1963) 3033 Hii..leide hine mid honoure heȝe in þan toure.
- a1400 (†a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Vesp.) l. 23586 (*MED*) Heuen and erth als creature Sal ber þam wirscip and honur.
- a1425 (†?c1350) *Ywain & Gawain* (1964) l. 720 (*MED*) I aw þe honore and servyse.
- 1535 *Bible* (Coverdale) 2 Kings Contents How Iosias..setteth vp the true honoure of God againe.
- 1577 H. I. tr. H. Bullinger *50 Godlie Serm.* I. II. ii. sig. H.iiij/1 Outward honour irreligiously exhibited to the true and very God.
- 1601 W. WALKER tr. J. C. van Neck *Jrnl. Voy. Eight Shippes of Amsterdam* 34 The admiral..was very

- gladly and friendly entertained with great honour and reuerence.
- 1662 E. LAKE *Memoranda* ii. 11 Mr Cambden..mentions him with honour.
- 1712 *Medley* 25 July We owe Honour and Obedience to our Parents.
- 1759 W. ROBERTSON *Hist. Scotl.* I. III. 174 He received the queen herself with the utmost honour and respect.
- 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* IV. xviii. 242 The remains of Hastings and Carter were brought on shore with every mark of honour.
- 1875 W. STUBBS *Constit. Hist.* II. xv. 304 Let then the honour be given where it is due.
- 1911 *Catholic Encycl.* XII. 735/2 The inferior and relative nature of the honour due to relics was always kept in view.
- 1988 H. R. ELLIS DAVIDSON *Myths & Symbols Pagan Europe* 74 Heads and weapons were..in some cases treated with honour.
- 2006 A. GUPTA *Early Childhood Educ., Postcolonial Theory, & Teaching Pract. India* ii. 24 Ancient Indian educators..believed that an individual should be accorded honor and respect based on erudition, work, age, and wealth.

c. Great respect, esteem, or deferential admiration felt towards a person or thing. Frequently in ***to hold in honour***.

- a1425 (†?c1375) *N. Homily Legendary* (Harl.) in C. Horstmann *Altengl. Legenden* (1881) 2nd Ser. 128 (MED) Men suld hald þat haly tre In honore.
- ?c1450 *Life St. Cuthbert* (1891) l. 6957 (MED) Gude men him in honour had.
- ?1560 T. NORTON *Orations of Arsanes* sig Qiv^v They and the whole world kepe in honor the fame of Hercules valiaunce and iustice.
- a1616 SHAKESPEARE *Winter's Tale* (1623) v. i. 51 Good Paulina, Who hast the memorie of Hermione I know in honor .
- 1664 in G. MIEGE *Relation of Three Embassies* (1669) 361 Desirous of shewing..the great honour She retains and cherishes for your Majesty.
- 1713 R. STEELE in *Guardian* 12 Mar. 2/1 To show my Honour for them.
- 1763 H. BLAIR *Crit. Diss. Poems of Ossian* 13 Of the honour in which the Bards were held, many instances occur in Ossian's poems.
- 1809–10 S. T. COLERIDGE *Friend* (1837) III. 76 Honor implies a reverence for the invisible and super-sensual in our nature.
- 1857 J. RUSKIN *Polit. Econ. Art* i. 2 True wealth I hold..in great honour.
- 1910 *Encycl. Brit.* I. 709/1 The athlete held in highest honour at the Olympic Games..was the winner of the pentathlon.
- 1917 *Bellman* 15 Sept. 299 A concrete expression of the honour in which a peace-loving community holds the heroic fighter.
- 2012 E. GEITZ *I am that Child* iv. 18 I want to show the honor I feel for you.

2.

a. Quality of character entitling a person to great respect; nobility of

mind or spirit; honourableness, uprightness; a fine sense of, and strict adherence to, what is considered to be morally right or just.

code, debt, man, point, word of honour, etc.: see the first element.

- c1300 *St. Thomas Becket* (Laud) l. 260 in C. Horstmann *Early S.-Eng. Legendary* (1887) 114 (MED) He moste with honour bi-leue þulke baillie And ech oþur seruise of court.
- a1450 *Seven Sages* (Cambr. Dd.1.17) (1845) l. 2 In Rome was an emperour, A man of swyth mikil honur.
- 1548 *Hall's Vnion: Edward IV* f. ccxxxiii^v The king of England had so great trust..in the honor & promise of the French kyng.
- 1649 R. LOVELACE *Poems* (1864) 27 I could not love thee, dear, so much, Lov'd I not Honour more.
- a1677 I. BARROW *Serm. Several Occasions* (1678) 127 A man of honour, who surely is the best man next to a man of conscience.
- 1687 A. LOVELL tr. J. de Thévenot *Trav. into Levant* III. 111 The Japanese make it a point of honour to breed Merchants.
- 1705 G. STANHOPE *Paraphr. Epist. & Gospels* II. 94 What is Honour, but a greatness of mind which scorns to descend to an ill and base thing?
- 1755 JOHNSON *Dict. Eng. Lang.* Honour, nobleness of mind; scorn of meanness; magnanimity.
- 1767 G. LYTTTELTON *Hist. Henry II* II. 246 The idea of honour..seems to have arisen from the notions of chivalry.
- 1815 WORDSWORTH *Poems* II. xv. 241 Say, what is Honour?—'Tis the finest sense Of justice which the human mind can frame.
- 1880 W. CORY *Lett. & Jrnls.* (1897) 460 The sentiment of Honour is a lay thing; it is a rival of the sentiment of saintliness.
- 1905 *Ohio Law Bull.* 23 Oct. 387/2 A lawyer's honor is his crown, and no hand but his own can ever discrown him.
- 1971 D. STOCKTON *Cicero* (1988) 293 Criticism of his recent behaviour is balanced by an appeal to his honour and sense of duty.
- 2011 *Observer* (Nexis) 18 Sept. (Review section) 43 Bucky, who has a deep sense of honour, approaches his duties..with unflagging dedication.

b. A statement or promise made on one's honour (see Phrases 4a(a)); word of honour. Frequently in **to give one's honour**. Now *arch.* and *rare*.

- 1659 T. BURTON *Diary* (1828) IV. 6 You took the honour of a Lord the other day. You may well take the word of a gentleman now.
- 1709 S. CENTLIVRE *Busie Body* I. i. 11 He had given her his Honour, that he never would..endeavour to know her till she gave him Leave.
- 1773 *Town & Country Mag.* June 322/2 King William, having insisted on lord H—n's giving him his honour not to fight., his lordship was obliged seemingly to comply.
- 1825 T. MOORE in *Mem.* (1853) IV. 309 Having first made the prince and all the rest give their honours that they would not [etc.].

1893 R. L. STEVENSON *Catriona* vii. 81 I gave my honour and now I have broke it.

1994 S. BARNES *Firedance* (1995) 241 I gave my word. I gave my honor.

c. Allegiance to a conventional standard of behaviour among a particular group of people (often those otherwise considered to be unprincipled); a code of honour. Frequently with *among*, esp. in *honour among thieves***.**

schoolboy, Scout's honour: see the first element.

1742 *Gentleman's Mag.* Apr. 201/1 The Honour of Thieves is the Scorn and Detestation of all honest Men.

1773 *Gentleman's & London Mag.* Oct. 634 This seems to prove the truth of the old observation, that there is honour among thieves.

1837 *Parley's Mag.* 5 46/2 Honor among savages.

1889 *Critic* 30 Mar. 157/2 There is a certain 'honor' among corrupt voters, as among thieves, on which bribers can rely.

1915 L. T. HOBHOUSE *Morals in Evol.* II. v. 538 Thieves' honour recognizes a principle which the thief applies only to his fellow-thieves.

1990 W. L. WHITE *Culture of Addiction* v. 112 Honor among addicts is rare.

2007 R. TROUT *Sign of Dragon* 245 There is a certain honor among informants and people like myself.

3.

a. Exalted status or position; dignity, distinction.

Companion, guard, lady, maid of honour, etc.: see the first element.

c1300 *St. Thomas Becket* (Laud) l. 1898 in C. Horstmann *Early S.-Eng. Legendary* (1887) 161 (MED) Heo beden him holden op his honour stifliche hore help to beo.

a1400 (►a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Vesp.) l. 24713 Chamburlain o grett honure.

a1500 *Sir Degrevant* (Cambr.) l. 299 Knyghtus..Lordus off honor.

1534 T. MORE *Treat. Passion in Wks.* 1286/2 Gyuing to a poore man..landes..with the honour of a dukedome also.

1569 R. GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 350 They would not..disgrade him from the honor of Knighthood.

a1616 SHAKESPEARE *King John* (1623) I. i. 182 A foot of Honor better then I was, But many a many foot of Land the worse.

1632 J. HAYWARD tr. G. F. Biondi *Eromena* 185 The affect of honour being somewhat a-kin to that of gold, whereof the more one hath the more he covets.

1709 J. ADDISON *Tatler* No. 100. ¶6 Posts of Honour, Dignity, and Profit.

1756 W. BLACKSTONE *Anal. Laws Eng.* 15 The King..is likewise the Fountain of Honour.

1854 P. FAIRBAIRN *Typol. Script.* (new ed.) v. 337 The youth..rises to the highest position of honour and influence.

1857 D. M. M. CRAIK *Nothing New* II. 162 It is the apex of feminine honour to be a bride.

1900 A. H. DOUGLAS *Westm. Coll., Cambr.: Acct. of Opening* 11 Dr. Chalmers..gained a position of

great honour and influence in the English Presbyterian Church.

- 1930 *Times* 26 Sept. 12/2 Herr Hitler said the old Germany was a State of great honour and of glorious events.
- 2001 G. MURSELL *Eng. Spirituality* iii. 121 The king's honour and status were..derived from those of God.

b. With possessive adjective and frequently with capital initial, as **Your Honour**, etc.: (a) a deferential form of address for any person of higher rank or status (now *rare*, chiefly *regional* in later use); (b) a title of respect or form of address for a person holding a particular office, esp. that of court judge.

- 1551 T. LEVER *Serm. xiiii. December* (new ed.) Epist. sig. A.ii Mercy, grace, and peace from God the father almyghty, vnto your honours, wyth my moste humble and reuerente comendacions.
- 1577 J. LANGLEY in H. Ellis *Orig. Lett. Eng. Hist.* (1827) 2nd Ser. III. 51 My dutie humblye remembred to your Honor [sc. Lord Burghley].
- 1596 J. HARRINGTON *Let. to Lady Russell in Ajax* (1813) xv Your honors most bownde John Haryngton.
- a1616 SHAKESPEARE *Timon of Athens* (1623) I. ii. 176 I beseech your Honor, vouchsafe me a word.
- 1647 N. WARD *Simple Cobler Aggawam* 28 What greater honour can your Honors desire?
- 1722 R. STEELE *Conscious Lovers* IV. i. 47 Ah! says I Sir, your Honour is pleas'd to joke with me.
- 1786 R. BURNS *Poems* 36 God bless your Honors, a' your days.
- 1796 G. M. WOODWARD *Eccentric Excurs.* 83 Indeed the title of Your Honor is bandied about and indiscriminately used.
- 1832 *Legal Examiner* 4 Feb. 488 The New Court would sit in judgment upon his Honor's decision.
- 1885 TENNYSON *Tomorrow in Tiresias* 88 Her, that yer Honour was spakin' to? Whin, yer Honour?
- 1913 (title) Communication of His Honor Mayor Harrison to the City Council of the city of Chicago.
- 1971 *Life* 12 Mar. 64/3 Your honor, the defendant at this time wishes to withdraw his plea of not guilty.
- 2006 R. HOWSON *Challenging Hegemonic Masculinity* vi. 111 The Bench viewed the failure by her Honour..not to consider the value of the business.

4.

a. A person, thing, action, or attribute which confers distinction or renown; a person who or thing which does credit to another. Also: that which makes one feel honoured, a privilege.

- c1325 (†c1300) *Chron. Robert of Gloucester* (Calig.) l. 9340 (MED) Þat 3oure dede mowe be coupþ bi norþe & bi souþe, Þat it be onour to 3ou & to 3oure eirs al so.
- c1330 *Otuel* (Auch.) l. 473 (MED) It hadde be more honour to þe For soþe to habbe i-smite me.
- a1500 (†?c1450) *Merlin* (1899) xxix. 580 So that it myght be savacion to there soules,..and honour to there bodyes.

- a1568 R. ASCHAM *Scholemaster* (1570) i. f. 19 Erasmus the honour of learning of all our time.
- 1611 C. TOURNEUR *Atheist's Trag.* (new ed.) i. sig. B2 Nephew, you are the honour of our blood.
- 1657 J. OWEN *Of Communion with God* i. iv. 37 It is an Honour to stand in the presence of Princes, though but as Servants.
- 1748 *London Mag.* Jan. 28/2 A Prince who is the Honour of his Country.
- 1798 J. FERRIAR *Illustr. Sterne* vi. 176 It is an honour to think like great men.
- 1867 *Brit. Med. Jnl.* 17 Aug. 137/1 It was an honour to receive the degree from the College of Physicians, and it was an honour to the College to have such recipients on its roll.
- 1894 'I. MACLAREN' *Beside Bonnie Brier Bush* vii. ii. 265 You are an honour to our profession.
- 1918 *N. Amer. Review's War Weekly* 31 Aug. 14/1 She is an honor to all American motherhood.
- 1994 I. BOTHAM *My Autobiogr.* xix. 346 Of course it is always an honour to play for your country.
- 2006 'A. ANT' *Stand & Deliver* (2007) vii. 154 I was visited by the 1960s pop star Dave Berry, which was a great honour for me.

†**b.** *poet.* and *literary.* A decoration, adornment, or ornament which confers distinction; (*esp.*) the foliage of a tree or trees. Usually in *pl.*
Obs.

- 1589 T. LODGE *Scillaes Metamorphosis.* sig. A2 I sat vnder a Willow tree, The louelie honour of faire Thetis bower.
- 1623 SHAKESPEARE & J. FLETCHER *Henry VIII* iii. ii. 355 He..beares his blushing Honors thicke vpon him.
- 1695 P. HUME *Annot. Paradise Lost* 133 Leaves, by a frequent Metaphor, are called the Honour, and the Hair of the Trees.
- 1726 POPE tr. Homer *Odyssey* IV. XVIII. 182 He shook the graceful honours of his head.
- 1785 W. COWPER *Task* i. 321 The woods, in scarlet honors bright.
- 1841 COUNTESS OF BLESSINGTON *Idler in France* i. xxv. 296 There, many of them [sc. trees] lay on the ground shorn of their leafy honours.
- 1863 *Morning Post* 27 Aug. 2/1 A gnarled trunk..That bears its honours high, even as it falls.

5.

a. Something conferred or done as a mark of respect, esteem, distinction, or privilege; a mark or observance of respect. Also: an official award or privilege; an office, rank, or title awarded to honour individual achievement or service. Frequently in *pl.*

birthday, funeral, last, military, team honours, etc.: see the first element.

- c1330 (†?c1300) *Guy of Warwick* (Auch.) l. 4486 (*MED*) Ich in þis ȝere wille ȝiue þe þe richest honour þat in mi lond be.
- c1400 (†?a1300) *Kyng Alisaunder* (Laud) l. 1389 He..ȝaf vche lordyng gret honoure, And parted wiþ hem his fader tresoure.
- a1500 (†?a1450) *Gesta Romanorum* (Harl. 7333) 176 He yede forthe to bataile, and had þe victorye; and after took boþe honoures & dolours, as is seide befor.

- 1600 SHAKESPEARE *Henry V* IV. viii. 60 Weare it fellow, As an honour in thy cap.
- 1634 T. HERBERT *Relation Some Yeares Trauaile* 48 The English Agents receiue custome of all strangers, that honour being granted them from the Persian King.
- 1663 A. MARVELL *Let.* 19 May in *Poems & Lett.* (1971) II. 36 A clause to be inserted against buying and selling of Honours.
- 1701 W. WOTTON *Hist. Rome* iv. 56 Divine Honors were payd him.
- 1791 J. BOSWELL *Life Johnson* anno 1765 I. 272 Trinity College, Dublin, at this time surprized Johnson with a spontaneous compliment of the highest academical honours, by creating him Doctor of Laws.
- 1806 WORDSWORTH *Char. Happy Warrior* 44 Who..does not stoop, nor lie in wait For wealth, or honours, or for worldly state.
- 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* II. vi. 126 Papists were admitted in crowds to offices and honors.
- 1922 *Times* 16 Nov. 9/4 Mr. Lloyd George..may fairly be described as having been most profuse in the distribution of honours.
- 1988 D. D. BARRY *Law & Gorbachev Era* 267 In 1986 2316 persons were awarded honors for their work in planning and running the XII World Congress of Youth and Students in Moscow.
- 2007 S. BEDWELL *Vizard Uncut* 359 Vizard was awarded an honour that he genuinely wasn't expecting. He was named Australian Father of the Year.

b. An obeisance; a bow or curtsy. Now *rare*.

- 1531 T. ELYOT *Bk. named Gouvernour* I. xxii. sig. Liv The first meuyng in euery daunse is called honour, whiche is a reuerent inclination or curtaisie, with a longe deliberation or pause.
- 1605 G. CHAPMAN *Al Fooles in Plays* (1873) I. 136 I..plant my selfe of one legg Draw backe the tother with a deep fetcht honor.
- 1698 J. FRYER *New Acct. E.-India & Persia* v. i. 225 The sly Banyans were invited with the rest; who durst not but be present, though only to make their Honours, and return.
- 1719 T. D'URFEY *Wit & Mirth* II. 171 Make your Honour Miss,..Now to me Child.
- 1740 S. RICHARDSON *Pamela* II. 360 They..made their Honours very prettily, as they passed by us.
- 1805 'E. DE ACTON' *Nuns of Desert* I. 113 He walked onward, without deigning to make a departing honour.
- 1982 *Dance Chron.* 5 104 Should the conclusion of the choreography fall into the middle of a musical phrase, the remaining measures can properly be filled with honours.

c. Chiefly with reference to higher education. (a) An award for proficiency in scholarship beyond that required to pass a particular examination, degree, etc. (b) (in *pl.*) a course of studies or series of examinations in a subject or group of subjects of a higher or more specialized character than is required for an ordinary degree or pass (cf. PASS *n.*⁴ 4). Cf. *honours degree n.*, HONS. *n.*

[Compare post-classical Latin *honor*, apparently first attested slightly later in this sense (1779 or earlier).]

- 1774 *Gentleman's Mag.* May 210/2 When the questionists take their degrees, they are publicly examined., and honours are conferred on those who, in the opinion of the moderator, are deemed the most worthy.
- 1790 W. GOOCH *Let.* 6 Nov. in C. Wordsworth *Scholae Academicae* (1877) 321 Peacock kept a very capital Act indeed and had a very splendid Honor.
- 1818 J. S. BOONE *Oxford Spy* (ed. 3) App. 15 A man, who gains the highest honours, must have a perfect acquaintance with all the important and decent fables or Herodotus and Livy.
- 1837 J. R. McCULLOCH *Statist. Acct. Brit. Empire* II. v. i. 463 A private tutor's fee, an expense which is seldom incurred except by those who are preparing for honours.
- 1880 TROLLOPE *Duke's Children* I. iii. 33 He..had gone out in honours, having been a second class man.
- 1901 *Times* 11 July 11/6 Captain of the poll, or first in order of merit among the Bachelors of that year who did not compete for honours.
- 1976 *New Scientist* 7 Oct. 69/1 Applicants should possess a science degree (with Honours).
- 2005 *Weekend Austral.* (Brisbane) 30 July (Suppl.) 4/2 A four-year degree program for which honours may be awarded.

6. Feudal Law. A domain or seigniorship of several manors under one baron or lord paramount. *hist.* in later use.

- c1330 (†a1300) *Kyng Alisaunder* (Auch.) l. 132 (MED) He haþ afelled min honour..He haþ taken mi castels.
- 1439–40 *Rolls of Parl.: Henry VI* (Electronic ed.) Parl. Nov. 1439 §30. m. 9 Tenauntz of oure lorde the kyng, as of his castell and honure of Tutbury, parcell of his duchie of Lancastre.
- 1523 J. FITZHERBERT *Bk. Surueyeng* x. f. 10^v The lorde of the honer or manere.
- a1639 D. DIGGES *Compl. Ambassador* (1655) 17 Given under our signet at our Honour of Hampton Court.
- 1708 *London Gaz.* No. 4424/4 The Humble Address of the Honour and Borough of Cockermonth, in the County of Cumberland.
- 1841 H. J. STEPHEN *New Comm. Laws Eng.* I. 202 If several of these manors were held..under one great baron, or lord paramount, his seigniorship over them was termed an honor.
- 1957 *Econ. Hist. Rev.* 9 435 The Percy lands in the south were more scattered... Chief amongst them was the Honour of Petworth.
- 2008 J. SHERWOOD in T. Slater & N. Goose *County of Small Towns* x. 245 The manor and honour of Berkhamsted had remained part of the Duchy of Cornwall.

7.

a. With reference to a woman: virtue as regards sexual morality; chastity; virginity; a reputation for this, one's good name. Now *arch.* (frequently somewhat *humorous*).

- †a1393 GOWER *Confessio Amantis* (Fairf.) VI. l. 681 So as sche mai..Hir honour and hir name save.
- a1500 tr. *La Belle Dame sans Mercy* (Cambr.) l. 369 in F. J. Furnivall *Polit., Relig., & Love Poems*

- (1903) 94 Iffe I purpose your honour to defface, Or ever dide, gode and fortune me schende.
- 1596 SPENSER *Second Pt. Faerie Queene* IV. i. sig. A3^v Nathlesse her honor dearer then her life, She sought to saue, as thing reseru'd from stealth.
- a1616 SHAKESPEARE *Tempest* (1623) I. ii. 350 Till thou didst seeke to violate The honor of my childe.
- 1675 W. WYCHERLEY *Country-wife* II. 26 To neglect her own honour, and defame her own Noble Person, with little inconsiderable Fellows.
- 1747 B. HOADLY *Suspicious Husband* I. ii. 10 And yet I'll answer for her Honour.
- 1767 R. BENTLEY *Philodamus* v. i. 53 What could violence itself do more, Than ravish from a father's arms his daughter, To violate her honour in your own?
- 1856 *Bouvier's Law Dict. U.S.A.* (ed. 6) I. 589 To deprive a woman of her honor is, in some cases, punished as a public wrong.
- 1919 *Good Housek.* Aug. 49/1 A woman's honor..has one meaning and one meaning only—her chastity.
- 1989 *Theatre Res. Internat.* 14 27 Donna Elvira leaves the stage to retire to a nunnery, a quite proper course of action for a lady who has compromised her honour.
- 2004 P. H. COLLINS *Black Sexual Politics* ii. 66 Rather than submit to Gus, the White heroine protects her honor by jumping off a cliff to her death.

†b. *concr.* The female genitals. *Obs.*

[Compare German *Scham* (Middle High German in this sense), lit. 'shame' (see SHAME *n.*.)]

- 1688 R. HOLME *Acad. Armory* III. 94/2 These Buskes..if to keep the Belly down, then it reacheth to the Honor.
- 1700 E. WARD *Dancing-school* 4 I found my self as Warm as a Dutch Womans Honour, when a Stove's under her Petticoats.
- 1724 *Weekly Jrnl.* No. 276 Her What, in Heroicks, we call Honour.

8.

a. In *Bridge*, *Whist*, and other trick-taking card games: a high scoring card or trump card. Usually in *pl.*

spec. in *Bridge*: an ace, king, queen, jack, or ten; *cf.* *honour card n.* at Compounds 1c.

In *Whist*: one of the four highest trumps (ace, king, queen, and jack), the relative proportion in which they are held by the two sides being an element in counting the points in some forms of the game; *cf.* *honours easy* at *EASY adj.* 18, *can you (also ye)?* at *CAN v.* Phrases 6.

In *Ombre* and *Quadrille*: an ace of spades or clubs, or the lowest card of the trump suit.

- 1674 C. COTTON *Compl. Gamester* xi. 115 The four Honours are the Ace, King, Queen, and Knave.
- 1740 S. RICHARDSON *Pamela* II. 259 We cast in, and..I had all four Honours the first time.
- 1778 T. JONES *Hoyle's Games Improved* 47 It being 5 to 4 that your Partner has an Honour in that Suit.
- a1839 W. M. PRAED *Poems* (1864) II. 63 Well—four by honours, and the trick!

- 1878 H. H. GIBBS *Game of Ombre* (ed. 2) 12 The Ace of Clubs called *Basto* both in English and Spanish, is the Third Honour even though another suit may be trumps.
- 1886 J. COLLINSON *Biritch* 4 There are five honours, viz.:—Ace, King, Queen, Knave and Ten, if trumps are declared.
- 1909 W. DALTON *'Saturday' Bridge* 5 Honours consist of ace, king, queen, knave, and ten of the trump suit. When there are no trumps they consist of the four aces.
- 1939 N. DE V. HART *Bridge Players' Bedside Bk.* 22 I got home by playing for split honours.
- 1967 P. ANDERTON *Play Bridge* vii. 49 You drop 100 points on going down but get 100 for honours.
- 2004 *Bridge Mag.* Mar. 12/2 He..bravely underled his spade honours hoping he would win and return a diamond.

b. Golf. With *the*. The privilege of being first in the order of play among a group of players at a particular tee. Also in *pl.* in same sense.

The privilege is usually awarded to the player who has achieved the lowest score on the previous hole.

- [1863 *London Society* Aug. 168/1 He has the honour of leading, as winning the last, and again strikes off a fairish hit.]
- 1869 *Belgravia* June 82 Miss Y., having won the last hole, had what is termed the 'honour', and played off first.
- 1896 W. PARK *Game of Golf* 6 This privilege of playing first from the Tee is called 'the honour'.
- 1930 *Rotarian* Sept. 55/2 Wully had the honor on the first tee, and with a tremendous swipe his ball hit the sandbox.
- 2011 *Wall St. Jrnl.* 11 June A14/1 I used to love telling jokes on the tee box when I had the honors and everyone was forced to listen.

PHRASES

P1. Law and Business. *for (the) honour* (with reference to the acceptance or payment of a protested bill of exchange by a third party acting to protect the good name or credit of the drawer or endorser): on behalf of the drawer or endorser. Cf. *act of honour n.* at ACT *n.* Phrases 7. Now *disused*.

- 1622 G. DE MALYNES *Consuetudo* III. vi. 399 Another man may accept the Bill for the Honour of it.
- 1751 C. VINER *Gen. Abridgm. Law & Equity* (new ed.) IV. 251 If any other Merchant will pay the Money to the Indorsee, for the Honour of the Indorser, then the first Drawer is chargeable to him.
- 1828 R. PETERS *Rep. Supreme Court U.S.* 1 271 In case of acceptance *supra protest* for honour of the endorser, the bill must be presented for payment, and duly protested.
- 1859 *Law Jrnl. Rep.* 29 109/2 It is part of the mercantile law respecting payments for honour, that they must be preceded or accompanied by a declaration.
- 1882 *Act 45 & 46 Vict.* c. 61 §65 Where an acceptance for honour does not expressly state for whose

.....
 honour it is made, it is deemed to be an acceptance for the honour of the drawer.

1967 *Lloyd's List Law Rep.* 17 Nov. 406/1 The defendants paid..the face value..*supra protest* for the honour of the plaintiffs.

P2. in honour: according to the moral principles imperative in one's position, or to some conventional standard of behaviour; as a moral responsibility (occasionally implying that there is no legal obligation; cf. *debt of honour n.*). Frequently collocated with *bound* (cf. *honour bound adj.* at Compounds 1c).

- 1572 *Treat. Treasons against Q. Elizabeth II.* f. 160^v The Pope and other Princes of Italie, thought themselues bound, both in honour and iustice, to assiste the same King in those his Ciuile warres.
- ?1592 *Trag. Solyman & Perseda I.* sig. E1^v Why so, I am in honour bound to combat him.
- 1609 SHAKESPEARE *Louers Complaint in Sonnets* sig. K3^v Finding my selfe in honour so forbidde.
- 1654 E. WOLLEY tr. 'G. de Scudéry' *Curia Politiaë* 40 His Master esteemed himselfe obliged in honour to requite the injury.
- 1738 SWIFT *Compl. Coll. Genteel Conversat.* p. xxxvi Young Ladies under Twenty..being in Honour obliged to blush.
- 1796 F. BURNEY *Camilla IV.* ii. 19 'Certainly,' she cried, 'you cannot, in honour, now refuse him.'
- 1837 T. LEWIN *Pract. Treat. Law Trusts & Trustees* xviii. 361 Honorary Trustees..[are] bound in honour only to decide on the most proper and prudential course.
- 1849 G. GROTE *Hist. Greece V.* II. xxxviii. 6 A new king of Persia was in honour obliged to enlarge the boundaries of his empire.
- 1903 H. JAMES *Ambassadors* xvi. 216 You can't in honor not see him.
- 1927 J. B. S. HALDANE *Possible Worlds* 244 He proposed, as he was in honour bound, to support the defeated Greeks against the Turks.
- 1971 *New Scientist* 7 Jan. 17/1 Having joined it [*sc.* the union], he must in honour abide by its disciplines.
- 2001 A. J. DOMMEN *Indochinese Experience of French & Americans* 334 The government had been obliged in honor to resign.

P3. in honour of: as an expression of respect or esteem for; for the sake of honouring; in celebration or remembrance of. Also **in (or to) the honour of, in honour to.**

[Compare classical Latin *in honorem* (with the genitive), French *en l'honneur de* (12th cent. in Old French), *à l'honneur de* (14th cent. in Middle French).]

- c1300 *St. Margarete* (Harl.) l. 279 in O. Cockayne *Seinte Marherete* (1866) 32 If eni man in honour of me eni chapel doþ rere.
- c1325 (þc1300) *Chron. Robert of Gloucester* (Calig.) l. 466 (MED) Brut..let vair tabernacle in honour of him rere.
- a1422 T. HOCCKLEVE *Balades to Henry V & Knights Garter* l. 35 in *Minor Poems* (1892) I. 42 In honour of his name Shoue on & putte his foos to the outtraunce!

- c1450 (b1386) CHAUCER *Legend Good Women* (Fairf. 16) (1879) Prol. l. 81 Ye see I do yt in the honour Of love.
- 1526 W. BONDE *Pylgrimage of Perfection* Pref. sig. Ai Diuyded into thre bokes, in the honour of the trinite.
- ?1577 J. NORTHBROOKE *Spiritus est Vicarius Christi: Treat. Dicing* 57 *Ludi Florales*, which abhominable Playes in Rome, to the honour of their strumpetlike Goddess *Flora*.
- 1613 S. PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* 834 The Diuel..in honour of whom they sacrifice their Captives.
- 1637 T. HEYWOOD *Curtaine Lect.* 117 They repaired to a Temple or Chappell erected to the honour of a certaine goddess called *Dea viriplaca*.
- 1720 N. F. HAYM *Brit. Treasury* II. 73 The Philadelphian Games were instituted in Honour of the Union betwixt Caracalla and Geta.
- 1788 C. REEVE *Exiles* II. 158 To..keep every thing in good repair, in honour to the memory of the noble benefactors.
- 1847 G. GROTE *Hist. Greece* IV. II. xxix. 118 The primitive Dithyrambus was a round choric dance and song in honour of Dionysus.
- 1897 H. CAINE *Christian* I. x. 46 I believe this rout to-night is expressly in honour of the event.
- 1908 J. M. CATTELL (title) Essays in honor of W. James.
- 1955 N. COWARD *Diary* 30 Oct. (2000) 289 On Monday I attended a gargantuan cocktail party given by the publishers in honour of my new paper-bound book.
- 2006 C. SCRACE & G. LEGG *Dragons* 40 Bridges bear dragon shapes in honour of the river dragons.

P4.

a. *on (also upon) one's honour.*

(a) Used in oaths and asseverations as an expression of strong assurance or affirmation, by which the speaker pledges his or her honour or good faith.

- c1475 *Gregory's Chron.* in J. Gairdner *Hist. Coll. Citizen London* (1876) 119 (MED) The for sayde captaynys have sworne a-pon hyr honowre.
- 1485–6 *Rolls of Parl.: Henry VII* (Electronic ed.) Parl. Nov. 1485 1st Roll §15. m. 14 Ye shall swere that [etc.]..upoun youre honour and wurshippe.
- 1548 *Hall's Vnion: Henry IV* f. xvii Assuryng hym on his honour that if [etc.].
- 1598 SHAKESPEARE *Love's Labour's Lost* v. ii. sig. H3^v *Quee*. When she shall challenge this, you will reiect her. *King*. Vpon mine honour no.
- 1657 T. BURTON *Diary* 10 Jan. (1828) I. 335 Promising, upon her honour, to return within six weeks.
- 1672 J. EACHARD *Mr. Hobbs's State Nature Considered* 3 Upon my honour I intend nothing but a walk.
- 1753 S. RICHARDSON *Hist. Sir Charles Grandison* V. x. 54 You shan't go madam... Upon my honour you shan't.
- 1782 *London Mag.* May 225/2 He promised, upon his honour, that..he would never injure or oppress any baron of the realm.
- 1831 *Blackwood's Edinb. Mag.* Feb. 378/1 We protest, upon our honour, that we never heard their names.
- 1853 E. F. CARLAN *Lover's Stratagem* 102/2 'What do you mean?' stammered Augusta... 'Oh nothing,

on my honor!'

- 1922 *Encycl. Brit.* XXX. 487/2 The Scout Promise, to carry out, on his honour, as far as in him lies, the Scout Law, is the binding disciplinary force.
- 1998 *Evening Standard* (Nexis) 13 Mar. 49 If you see it, I swear you'll laugh. On my honour.

(b) Under obligation to act honourably or according to one's word of honour. Also without personal pronoun. Frequently in *to be on (also upon) (one's) honour*.

In *Brit.* use sometimes *spec.* with reference to members of the House of Lords who are not legally under oath.

- 1757 D. GARRICK *Male-coquette* II. 38 No, no; we are upon Honour—There shall be none.
- 1765 W. BLACKSTONE *Comm. Laws Eng.* I. i. xii. 390 A peer, sitting in judgment, gives not his verdict upon oath, like an ordinary juryman, but upon his honour: he answers also to bills in chancery upon his honour.
- 1770 H. BROOKE *Fool of Quality* V. 163 You are upon Honour not to reveal any thing.
- 1856 *Bouvier's Law Dict. U.S.A.* (ed. 6) I. 589 In courts of equity, peers, peeresses and lords of parliament, answer on their honor only.
- 1861 *Rep. Educ. Destitute Children in Rep. Comm.* (House of Commons) III. 37/2 They are on honour, not to ask them anything of a sectarian character.
- 1901 *Athenæum* 14 Dec. 810/1 The lame V.C...suggested to his two girls and their companions that they were 'on honour' to play with Meg and Pollie Watkins.
- 1992 N. SCHWARZKOPF & P. PETRE *It doesn't take Hero* (1993) 69 There was nothing to stop those who took it [sc. a test] first from leaking the questions..—except that they were on their honour.

b. *to put (a person) on his or her honour* (and variants): to oblige or expect (a person) to act honourably, or according to his or her word of honour.

- 1656 tr. R. Hutton *Reports* 87 It is no deminution of his Honor, to be sworn concerning that which he would not have to be put upon his Honor.
- 1730 D. TURNER *Force Mother's Imagination upon Fœtus* 42 I must put you upon your Honour; did you, *bona fide*, take the trouble of this Enquiry?
- 1743 ERSKINE tr. A. F. Prévost d'Exiles *Mem. & Adventures Marquis de Bretagne & Duc d'Harcourt* III. XIII. 88 I will put them upon honour to say what they really think.
- 1805 G. COLMAN *Who wants Guinea?* III. i. 31 That's tellings.—He ha' put I upon honour.
- 1895 G. ATHERTON *Whirl Asunder* vi. 86 You have placed me on my honor.
- 1919 *Thrill Bk.* 1 Sept. 18/2 He practically put you on honor to preserve Nita's happiness at the cost of your own.
- 2010 S. KING *Full Dark, No Stars* 66 You make sure you tell them that you've never driven in town before. I'm putting you on your honor, son.

P5.

a. to do (a person or thing) honour. Also **to do (one's) honour to.**

(a) [Compare French *faire honneur à* (13th cent. in Old French).] To honour (a person or thing); to confer honour upon, to treat with honour; to show or pay due respect to. Also: to pay one's last respects to.

- c1330 (▶?c1300) *Guy of Warwick* (Auch.) l. 1025 (MED) Do ich-il 3ou grete honour For þat maidens loue Blanche flour.
- a1400 (▶?a1325) *Medit. on Supper of our Lord* (Harl.) l. 1131 We onely hym þanke and do hym onoure.
- c1540 (▶?a1400) *Gest Historiale Destr. Troy* (2002) f. 73 Agamynon..To Diana full derely did his honowre.
- 1548 *Hall's Vnion: Henry V* f. lxxv To se his estate and dooe hym honor.
- 1644 MILTON in tr. M. Bucer *Ivdgem. conc. Divorce* To Parl. sig. B3^v To doe me honour in that very thing, wherin these men thought to have blotted me.
- 1698 M. HENRY *Acct. Life & Death P. Henry* ix. 204 All the Country round..and the Towns about, came to do him Honour at his Death.
- 1798 J. S. MURRAY *Virtue Triumphant* II. 41 You do me honour, Madam.
- 1849 T. M. POST *Pilgrim Fathers* 10 Not, therefore, as saints, or demigods, or arbiters and limiters of human reason and faith would we do them honor.
- 1866 J. H. RIDDELL *Maxwell Drewitt* xxiv. 96/1 All the men who had ever paid rent to Archibald Drewitt..came to do honor to him now.
- 1903 R. MAISCH *Man. Greek Antiq.* ii. 32 The head men of the stock do honour to him by gifts.
- 1953 *Life* 21 Dec. 6 The thunderous surge of applause from..delegates who did him honor humbled him.
- 2008 D. MICHAELS *Tom Clancy's EndWar* 299 As one soldier to another, do me honor and shoot me.

(b) To do credit to (a person or thing); to bring honour to.

- a1450 *Seven Sages* (Cambr. Dd.1.17) (1845) l. 531 (*MED*) Thow doost thy selfe lytil honour, For to suffyre thy sone by slawe.
- 1586 A. DAY *Eng. Secretorie* ix. 63 Let Hanibal reste with his predecessors, who sometimes by vnbearded fortune did honour to mightye Carthage.
- 1673 J. RAY *Observ. Journey Low-countries* Ded. I am not..so well conceited of any Composition..of mine, as to think I shall do you any Honour by this Dedication.
- 1738 SWIFT *Compl. Coll. Genteel Conversat.* p. lxxxii Mr. Colly Cibber, who does too much Honour to the Laurel Crown he deservedly wears.
- 1796 F. BURNEY *Camilla* IV. VII. viii. 110 Which is a wiseness that does honour to her education.
- 1815 W. MEESTON tr. J. H. B. de Saint-Pierre *Harmonies of Nature* III. 388 He had in his thoughts a plan which would do him great honour if it should succeed.
- 1873 *Pop. Sci. Monthly* Dec. 177 A truly human type.., possessed of a mind that is fitted to do honor to the race.
- 1918 *Everybody's Mag.* June 75/1 He had a delicacy that did him honor.
- 1993 W. J. PALMER *Films of Eighties* (1995) ii. 42 A marine who does honor to the Corps achieves immortality.

b. to do (a person or thing) the honour: (with *of* and gerund or *to*-infinitive) to honour (a person or thing) by performing a specified action; to show a specified mark of respect or courtesy to.

- ?1572 T. PAYNELL tr. *Treasurie Amadis of Fraunce* 88 I shal kepe companie (if it so please you) with these other Ladyes, if they wyll do me the honoure to receiue me.
- 1623 *Let. to F. Bacon* 20 Dec. in *Baconia* (1679) 208 [We] to whom you have pleas'd to do the honour of sending a Letter.
- a1691 R. BOYLE *Gen. Hist. Air* (1692) 189 His late Majesty..doing me one day the honour to discourse about several marine observations.
- 1720 D. DEFOE *Mem. Cavalier* 60 I must do him the Honour to go with him to wait on the King.
- 1768 L. STERNE *Sentimental Journey* I. 70 He..begg'd I would do him the honour to present him to the lady.
- a1828 H. NEELE *Literary Remains* (1829) 207 The Debtor's prison..is thus designated, at Boulougne.., on account of our countrymen who do it the honour to take up their residence there.
- 1898 E. E. HALE in *Christian World* 19 May 7/4 He did me the honour to say that this was precisely true.
- 1916 *Cosmopolitan* May 848/1 'That is so, isn't it, Bowden?' he said, without doing him the honor to look at him.
- 1984 *New Scientist* 9 Feb. 80/1 If you cannot handle your native language with some fluency and do it the honour of spelling its words correctly, customers..will be deeply unimpressed.
- 2005 J. M. COETZEE *Slow Man* xxi. 166 Will you..do me the honour of accepting a gift that comes..with no strings attached.

P6. to do (also perform) the honours: (chiefly with *of*) to perform

the civilities or courtesies associated with a particular thing or place; to serve as a host or hostess; to perform some specified or implied social act. Also **to do (also perform) the honour**.

- a1645 W. BROWNE tr. M. Le Roy *Hist. Poleyander* (1647) II. i. 147 He..intreated Zelmattida to give him leave, to performe the honour of his lodging.
- 1656 B. HARRIS tr. J. N. de Parival *Hist. Iron Age* II. I. ix. 183 Received with respect..at Amsterdam, where that illustrious Magistracy performed the honours of the Republick.
- 1715 J. VANBRUGH *Country House* I, in *Wks.* (1840) 462/1 This son of a whore does the honours of my house to a miracle.
- 1737 POPE *Epist. of Horace* I. vi. 13 Then hire a Slave, or (if you will, a Lord) To do the Honours, and to give the Word.
- 1768 in *Priv. Lett. Ld. Malmesbury* I. 168 The Duchesse..did the honours of the table, or rather received them, as ladies here never interfere with carving.
- 1849 *Sporting Mag.* Sept. 168 Our host's favourite daughter, whose pleasure it had been to rise thus early to do the honour of the breakfast-table for her father and her guest.
- 1871 R. BROWNING *Balaustion* 112 To guests, a servant should not sour-faced be, But do the honours with a mind urbane.
- 1901 M. FRANKLIN *My Brilliant Career* xxii. 192 She and Harold would rest while I did the honours of the fern grots to my companion.
- 1987 R. CURTIS & B. ELTON *Blackadder Third* in R. Curtis et al. *Black-Adder* (1998) 269/2 Nothing a nice roaring fire can't solve. Baldrick—do the honours, will you?
- 1999 J. SCHUELER *Elsewhere* 19 A family member was the caretaker and did the honors of his absent master's house.
- 2011 L. GRAHAM *Ghost of Greenwich Village* 252 He did the honors, carving the lamb beautifully.

P7. to have the honour: (with *of* or *to*-infinitive) to enjoy the distinction or privilege associated with a specified thing or action. Also without construction: to have the pleasure or privilege of doing, or of having done, something (esp. of having met someone before).

- 1525 LD. BERNERS tr. J. Froissart *Chron.* II. xxxiv. f. xliii Sith the kyng wolde they shulde haue the honour of the iourney, let vs suffre them to take it.
- 1550 T. NICOLLS tr. Thucydides *Hist. Peloponnesian War* f. Cvi^v They were angrie, that other people shulde haue the honnor to haue caryed to Athens, those prisoners, which they had conquered & vainquished.
- 1666 R. HOOKE *Let.* 21 Mar. in R. Boyle *Corr.* (2001) III. 119 This account having had the honour to be very well approved in the royall Society.
- 1719 J. STIRLING *Let.* 6 Aug. in I. Newton *Corr.* (1977) VII. 53 I had the honour of your letter about five weeks after the date.
- 1775 R. B. SHERIDAN *Rivals* v. II. 88 Sir, you have the advantage of me: I don't remember ever to have had the honour.
- 1820 G. W. FEATHERSTONEHAUGH in *Sir J. Sinclair's Corr.* (1831) II. 73 I have the honour to forward to

you..a pamphlet [etc.].

- 1847 B. DISRAELI *Tancred* I. II. vi. 180 'Lady Charmouth's carriage is called. May I have the honour?' said Tancred, offering his arm.
- 1892 R. L. STEVENSON & L. OSBOURNE *Wrecker* ix. 147 I have the honour to explain to you, sir.
- 1912 A. CONAN DOYLE *Lost World* iii. 31 'May I ask if you have met my husband before?' 'No, madam, I have not had the honour'.
- 1955 J. THOMAS *No Banners* xxix. 287 Hey, Lord Muck! May we have the honour of introducing ourselves!
- 2001 *Oxoniensia* 65 155 The current mayor..and the mayoress were 'at home' to guests invited to have the honour of meeting the Prince.

P8. *my* (also *his*, etc.) *honour saved*: see SAVE *v.* 5a(b).

P9. *colloq. honour bright*: used as an expression of, or interrogatively as an appeal to, one's honour or sincerity. Cf. *honest Injun* at INJUN *n.* and *adj.* Phrases. Now somewhat *arch*.

- 1778 C. DIBDIN *Poor Vulcan* I. ii. 24 *Maud*. Serjeant, d'ye love me? *Pike*.—Honour bright!
- 1819 T. MOORE *Tom Crib's Memorial to Congress* 36 At morning meet, and—honour bright,—Agree to share the blunt and tatters.
- 1852 'G. ELIOT' in J. W. Cross *George Eliot's Life* (1885) I. 293 Is it not so, honour bright?
- 1856 R. W. EMERSON *Eng. Traits* vii. 121 The phrase of the lowest of the people is 'honor-bright,' and their vulgar praise, 'his word is as good as his bond'.
- 1915 *St. Nicholas* June 682/1 I'll give you the first wish. Yes, anything you say, and honor bright.
- 1993 *Grain* Spring 61 'I'll never do it again, Mommy,' he'd say after she told him. 'Honour bright, I won't.'

P10. *honours even* (and variants): used to denote equality, esp. in a contest of some kind.

- 1864 *Boston Daily Advertiser* 14 Apr. Comparisons are not in order, but it is safe to say that honors are even.
- 1920 B. CRONIN *Timber Wolves* iii. 62 'I don't know your name?'..'But then I don't know yours, do I? That makes the honours even, don't you think?'
- 1927 W. E. COLLINSON *Contemp. Eng.* 31 The card-expressions now most prevalent in a figurative application are drawn in the main from bridge, e.g. to call one's hand (or one's bluff), to finesse, Honours are even, After you, partner, etc.
- 2009 S. CALEY *Williams' Way* 64 The result was a 13-13 draw, thus allowing both lots of supporters to leave satisfied with honours even.

P11.

honours of war *n.* (a) the privileges granted by a victorious commander to a capitulating enemy force, such as being permitted to march out under arms with colours flying and drums beating (now *hist.*); †(b) = *military honours n.* at *MILITARY adj.* and *n.* Special uses 2 (*obs.*)

- 1706 tr. *Present State Europe* June 256 The Garrison, as well the Spanish and French Troops, shall march out,..with their Arms and Baggage,..all the Honours of War, and 4 Waggon loaded with Ammunition.
- 1739 tr. C. Rollin *Rom. Hist.* II. IV. iii. 92 After they had rendered him all the honours of war, justice was demanded against the murderers.
- 1813 *Convent. Capitulation Fort La Motte* 8 Sept. in Duke of Wellington *Dispatches* (1838) XI. 101 The French troops shall file out tomorrow..with all the honors of war, with arms and baggage, and drums beating, to the outside, where they will lay down their arms.
- 1855 TROLLOPE *Warden* xi She capitulated, or rather marched out with the honours of war.
- 1873 J. GRANT *Brit. Battles* I. lxxviii. 430/2 Admiral Carter and Colonel Hastings were interred with the honours of war.
- 1903 *Special Literary Suppl. to Spectator* 3 Oct. 495/2 He allowed the garrison to march out with the honours of war.
- 1977 G. E. ROTHENBERG *Art Warfare Age of Napoleon* (1980) vii. 219 The garrison marched out with the honours of war, bayonets fixed, drums beating and flags flying.
- 2009 J. MALCOLM *Peter's War* xvii. 224 It was humiliating for the British and meant to be, an unconditional surrender without the full honors of war.

P12. place (also seat, chair, etc.) of honour: a place (seat, chair, etc.) reserved for or allocated to a person or thing held in great honour or esteem; also in extended use.

- ?1530 J. RASTELL *Pastyme of People* sig. D.iiii For her sake the kyngis of the land..wold not suffer theyr wyvis to set by them in placis of honor long tyme afterward.
- 1645 T. GATAKER *Gods Eye on Israel* 62 As if the..lifting of him up on the crosse, had been the lifting of him to some chair of estate, or some seat of honour, some royall throne, or some triumphant Charet.
- 1783 *Morning Herald & Daily Advertiser* 22 May In some processions the place of honor was to walk first; in others, it was to walk last.
- 1847 C. BRONTË *Jane Eyre* I. vii. 115 These ladies were deferentially received..and conducted to seats of honour.
- 1867 *Northern Monthly Mag.* Nov. 42 Miss Cottle had a place on the bench of honor by the schoolmaster's own table.
- 1896 *Harper's Mag.* Apr. 680/2 Varnishing-day came at last. The portrait was received with enthusiasm and given a place of honor.
- 1920 *Plumbers' Trade Jrnl.* 15 Feb. 250/1 He was received by an usher and warmly welcomed by Wilson, who led him to a chair of honor on the platform.

- 1961 T. DART in A. Baines *Musical Instruments through Ages* iii. 68 For more than four hundred years the clavichord held a place of honour among keyboard instruments.
- 2003 B. NILES *What goes with What for Parties* iii. 25 Reserve the spot to your right for a special guest or a friend in from out of town; it is still the place of honor.

P13. *act, affair, bed, court, field, law, Legion, matter, point, roll of honour*, etc.: see the first element.

COMPOUNDS

C1. With the first element in singular form.

a. General *attrib.* (in sense 5c), as ***honour course, honour thesis***, etc. Cf. Compounds 2a.

- 1841 *Belfast News Let.* 3 Sept. One of these classes..will comprehend the whole Mathematical business of the Honour Course required by the University.
- 1857 *Jackson's Oxf. Jrnl.* 16 May 5/1 For pass-men he would wish a 'poll' examination, chiefly in classics, but would give a free choice to the Honour candidates.
- 1890 *Methodist Mag. (Canada)* Feb. 133 Three hours a day represents a reasonable amount of instruction for a pass student, and three and a half..for an honour student.
- 1905 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 20 May 1116/1 The candidate was required to choose beforehand a 'pass' or an 'honour' paper. The results have been disastrous.
- 1931 F. SYMONS *Courses on Internat. Affairs in Amer. Colleges* 214 This may be..contributory to a larger piece of work for an honor thesis in Economics.
- 1959 *Social Stud.* 50 230/1 How can the grading system be adapted to give the proper weighting to students in..honor classes and to students in regular classes?
- 2005 *Park Cities (Texas) People* 14 July 4 A/5 Each year, the college..invites 30 incoming juniors to participate in its honor program, and designates this select group as Senior Fellows.

b. Objective with agent and verbal nouns and participial adjectives, instrumental, etc.

† **honour-flawed** *adj.* *Obs. rare*

- a1616 SHAKESPEARE *Winter's Tale* (1623) II. i. 145 Be she honor-flaw'd .

† **honour-giver** *n.* *Obs. rare*

- 1605 J. SYLVESTER tr. G. de S. Du Bartas *Deuine Weekes & Wks.* i. iv. 128 Pure goldie-lockes Sol, States-friend, Honour-giuer.
- 1894 *Lima Times Democrat* 20 July We congratulate both the honor giver and the honor bearer.

honour-giving *n.* and *adj.*

- 1565 J. JEWEL tr. Justinian in *Replie Hardinges Answere* iii. 174 The faithful people..may be sturred to more deuotion, and honour geuinge to God the Lorde.
- a1616 SHAKESPEARE *King John* (1623) I. i. 53 The Honor-giuing-hand Of Cordelion.
- 1782 *Gentleman's Mag.* Nov. 541/1 Julia..invokes the honour-giving Muse.
- 1832 T. CARLYLE in *Fraser's Mag.* May 384/1 Honour-giving noblemen.
- 1922 D. J. SNIDER *Biographic Outl. Homer* p. lxvi Homer strikes her [sc. the city of Beotia's] name from his honor-giving muster-roll of the Greeks embattled against Troy.
- 2010 M. STIBBE *I am your Father* viii. 182 It is not healthy to drive ourselves to the point of exhaustion in order to win the approval that we never had from an honour-giving father.

† **honour-owing** *adj.* *Obs. rare*

- a1616 SHAKESPEARE *Henry V* (1623) IV. vi. 9 His honour-owing-wounds [1600 honour dying wounds].

honour seeker *n.*

- 1849 *Adams Sentinel* May 14 No servile tool—no crouching sycophant—no treacherous honor-seeker ever bore such a character.
- 1920 *Jrnl. Criminal Law & Criminology* May 156 They are faddists, honor seekers.
- 2009 W. R. NEWELL *Soul of Leader* 195 Napoleon wanted to supplement bourgeois self-interest with Caesarean glory by enlisting the honor seekers to spread..bourgeois rights to all the peoples of Europe.

honour-seeking *adj.* and *n.*

- 1663 J. HEATH *Brief Chron. Late Intestine Warr* (ed. 2) III. f. 734^v The irresistible daring gallantry of the Honour-seeking Red-coats.
- 1802 *European Mag. & London Rev.* Mar. 209/2 Had the Fates but heard my fervent prayer, And kindly spar'd his [sc. a game-cock] honour-seeking life.
- 1842 J. D. HAAS tr. F. W. Krummacher *Second Portion of Elisha* ii. 48 O that we may become conscious anew, that such an honour-seeking amongst men involves the most culpable denial of God.
- 1907 *Young Woman's Jrnl.* Oct. 449/2 The monk saw where this individual honor-seeking would lead any man.
- 1998 E. C. BOGLE *Islam* (2001) i. 23 Loyalty of the brave and honor-seeking Arab tribesmen usually required assurance that sufficient action could enforce all threats.
- 2009 *Polit. Theory* 37 47 He [sc. Aristotle] is not a..Christian who conceives of honor-seeking as indicative of pride.

† **honour-splitted** *adj.* *Obs. rare*

1611 R. CHESTER *Ann. Great Brit.* 78 He a place did want, For to reuiue his Honor-splitted Name, And raisd againe the cinders of his Fame.

honour-thirsty *adj.*

1624 R. BELLINGS *Sixth Bk. Arcadia* sig. B^v Honour-thirstie minds.

1861 *Brit. Controversialist* 3rd Ser. 135 A brave and dashing, death-despising, honour-thirsty soul.

2009 G. STANIVUKOVIC in M. E. Lamb & V. Wayne *Staging Early Mod. Romance* v. 101 The honor thirsty and adventurous Christian masculinity turns to travel first to satisfy vanity.

c.**honour board** *n.* = *honours board n.* at Compounds 2b.

1879 *Treuman's Exeter Flying Post* 2 Apr. 5/5 His name stands on the Honor Board as having successfully passed the Cambridge examination.

1931 E. WAUGH *Remote People* 211 They have honour boards, on which the name of one boy is inscribed every year.

1943 *Rotarian* July 48 (*caption*) In honor of servicemen of Welch..this 20- by 80-foot honor board was erected under the sponsorship of the local Rotary Club.

2012 *Courier Mail (Austral.) (Nexis)* 19 May 86 The honour board at Yeronga revealed he will be chasing his seventh successive veterans' singles title this year.

honour bound *adj.* (with *to* or infinitive) bound by honour; morally or ethically obliged.

1854 J. J. THOMPSON *Hist. Feud between Hill & Evans Parties* vii. 52 The Hills were honor-bound to keep the peace in virtue of our bonds.

1874 *All Year Round* 21 Nov. 144/2 It shocks..her to remember that he is honour-bound to the powerless woman behind them.

1888 *N.-Y. Times* 1 Nov. 2/1 Mr. Morse of course is honor bound not to reveal the information given him by Chairman Jewett.

1929 *Rotarian* Feb. 38/1 We are not compelled to attend, but we should feel honor bound to do so if at all possible.

1970 A. DEBO *Hist. Indians U.S.* ix. 177 Ross refused to defect, saying the Nation was honor bound to the Confederate alliance, and was taken prisoner.

2008 *Financial Times* 30 Oct. 14/2 Most non-execs are on a short notice period, but you may feel honour bound to stay longer until someone else is found.

honour card *n.* *Cards* a high-scoring card; *esp. (Bridge)* one with a

value of ten or higher; cf. sense 8a.

- 1876 W. H. WILLSHIRE *Descr. Catal. Playing & Other Cards* 319 In the centre of the title page is the representation of the honour card—the king of hearts.
- 1885 *Sheffield & Rotherham Independent* 21 Nov. 6/1 Having only one honour card, and that the ace of trumps, he hastily led with it.
- 1936 E. CULBERTSON *Contract Bridge Compl.* xxxviii. 421 An honour-card is technically a ten or higher card.
- 2012 *Bismarck (N. Dakota) Tribune* (Nexis) 2 July (Dakota Wire Section) 1B If you play an honor card, even your partner will see it.

honour clause *n.* *Law* an express statement in a contract indicating that an agreement is intended to be binding in honour only, and is therefore not legally enforceable.

- 1875 *Times* 1 Dec. 11/3 It is customary..to effect such insurances and to insert in the policy what is termed an 'honour clause', which binds the underwriters in honour, although they are not bound in law.
- 1978 *Mod. Law Rev.* **41** 318 One..wonders..what the judicial reaction would be to a standard 'honour clause'.
- 2001 J. C. CARE *Contract Law in South Pacific* iv. 65 In the absence of an honour clause, contracts for legal gaming and lotteries will be upheld.

honour court *n. hist.* in later use a court held within a (former) feudal honour or seignior (cf. sense 6).

- 1661 T. BLOUNT *Glossographia* (ed. 2) at *Honour* There are no Honors, but such as did originally belong to the King, and have since been given in Fee to Noble men. Of this sort are the Honors of Windsor, Greenwich, Tickhil, &c. And Courts there held are called Honor-Courts.
- 1670 T. BLOUNT *Νομο-λεξικον: Law-dict.* Honor Courts, are Courts held within the Honors aforesaid.
- 1815 R. W. DICKSON & W. STEVENSON *Gen. View Agric. Lancs.* i. 1 Noblemen..kept their Honour Courts yearly, or oftener.., with great pomp and ceremony.
- 1996 R. SHARPE in F. A. C. Mantello & A. G. Rigg *Medieval Lat.* 332 The most local level of court records to be preserved are the rolls of manor and honor courts.

honour guard *n.* a body of members of a uniformed service appointed to receive or guard a head of state or other dignitary, or to attend at state ceremonials, esp. funerals (= *guard of honour* at GUARD *n.* 9a); an individual serving in such a body.

Recorded earliest in extended use.

- 1851 *Civil Engineer & Architect's Jrnl.* **14** 440/1 Two symbolic figures—those of the military and civil

- power—form a sort of honour-guard of the momentous place [sc. the tomb of Napoleon I].
- 1899 *Washington Post* 22 Sept. 2/4 (*headline*) Dewey's honour guard. Cavalry troop to escort him while he is in town.
- 1931 *N.Y. Times* 23 Dec. 19/3 The funeral services will begin at 10 A. M. tomorrow... Along the railroad line from Milan to Forli Fascists will be out to serve as honour guards.
- 1986 *Associated Press* (Nexis) 28 Apr. Two American flags at half-staff snapped in the breeze... Honor guards from various police agencies stood at attention.
- 2006 E. GRIFFITHS *Turbulent Iran* 1. 106 In Egypt..he [sc. the Shah of Iran] was welcomed as a still reigning monarch with bands, red carpets, and an honour guard.

honour killing *n.* the killing of a person in order to settle a matter of honour; *spec.* the killing of a (usually female) relative who has brought dishonour upon the family, associated especially with cultures which highly value family honour and consider it compromised by sexual misdemeanours in particular; an instance of this.

- 1929 *Syracuse (N.Y.) Herald* 23 Jan. 1/2 (*heading*) Pair testify in 'honour killing'.
- 1941 *Social Forces* 19 311 In a country where honour killings are numerous, people in general do not believe in murder but they do hold ideas concerning certain situations which makes murder an understandable, excusable, and even probable outcome in certain cases.
- 1981 *Washington Post* 11 Oct. A31/1 'A silent death,' the term applied to the discreet burials in upper Egypt's timeless villages after the honour killings that sometimes follow family troubles, such as a compromised daughter or a suspect wife.
- 2004 J. H. MOMSEN *Gender & Devel.* 97 Dilber Kina's death was an 'honour killing', a practice occurring with increasing frequency in cities across Turkey and in other developing countries.

honour list *n.* = *honours list n.* at Compounds 2b.

- 1842 *Morning Post* 14 Jan. Mr. Hopewood..was expected to stand high in the mathematical honour list.
- 1873 *Q. Rev.* Jan. 280 In the honour lists these non-resident students make no appearance whatever.
- 1921 *Chron. Events in Ann. Reg. 1920* June 10 The King's Birthday Honour List was headed by Prince Albert on whom the King conferred the dignity of Duke of York.
- 1947 *Billboard* 11 Jan. 4/4 The New Year Honor List was published in London.
- 2012 K. GULLIVER *Mod. Women China & Japan* 86 Zen's academic success at Vassar made the newspapers in the USA, when she was one of 28 women to make the honour list.

honour man *n.* now *hist.* = *honours man n.* at Compounds 2b.

- 1839 J. ROMILLY *Diary* 12 Jan. in *Cambridge Diary* (1967) 161 This year we have allowed our Lecture rooms to the Honor-men.
- 1880 *Times* 12 Nov. 8 It represents to the honour-man, whose attainments are not classical, the goal of his studies in that direction.

- 1893 *Public-School Jrnal*. June 509/2 The 'honour' men are divided into four classes—first, second, third, and fourth, the rank being determined by examinations.
- 1913 *Crisis* Feb. 196/2 One year alone all the 'honor men' in the college class of Howard were Alpha Phi Alpha men.
- 1940 *Boys' Life* Oct. 8/1 Degrees were being awarded to honor men who had made conspicuous achievement in various fields of endeavor.
- 1998 R. BOYD in F. Zak & C. C. Weaver *Theory & Pract. Grading Writing* i. 4 The English system of 'Honor Men', 'Pass Men', 'Charity Passes', and 'the Unnamed' (students whose names were not published in University records).

honour moderations *n.* (at the University of Oxford) a first set of public examinations taken during the first part of some undergraduate degree courses; cf. MODERATION *n.* 4a, *honour mods n.*

- 1877 W. SMITH (*title*) Translations from the Organon of Aristotle: comprising those sections of Magrath's selections offered by candidates for Honour Moderations.
- 1965 W. R. WARD *Victorian Oxf.* x. 213 Scholarship was now examined at Honour Moderations and the final school was left unencumbered for the examination of history and philosophy.
- 1970 *Oxf. Univ. Cal.* 195 The prizes are awarded each year by the Moderators for Honour Moderations in English Language and Literature.
- 2004 *Times* 14 Feb. 29/1 Oxford's honour moderations in greats..once held a certain notoriety as the most testing..of inquisitions.

honour mods *n.* = *honour moderations n.*

- 1877 *John Bull* 21 July 450/1 An Oxford Undergraduate, Classical Scholar of his College, Honour Mods., seeks an Engagement.
- 1912 *Rep. Brit. Assoc. Advancem. Sci.* 1911 219 It has been suggested that if students are not encouraged to come to the university younger the better men should be allowed to enter for Honour Mods. after six months.
- 2007 W. VAUS in B. L. Edwards *C. S. Lewis* vi. 138 At the end of it all Jack took a first in Honour Mods.

honour point *n.* *Heraldry* a central point which lies midway between the true centre (or fess point) and the top (or centre chief point) of an escutcheon.

- 1572 J. BOSSEWELL *Wks. Armorie* f 11^v Poyntes in escocheons. Dextre poynte, Sinistre poynte., The honour poynte, Fesse poynte, and the nombrill.
- 1610 J. GUILLIM *Display of Heraldrie* I. vii. 30 The Honour Point is the next about the same [sc. the Fesse Point] in a direct line.
- 1680 G. MACKENZIE *Sci. Heraldry* 39 In the honor point a cinquefoil sable.
- 1725 J. COATS *New Dict. Heraldry* (rev. ed.) (at cited word) There are nine principal Points in any

Escutcheon... A...the Dexter Chief. B. the..Middle Chief. C. the Sinister Chief. D. the Honour Point.
E. the Fesse Point, call'd also the Center [etc].

1819 J. DUGDALE *New Brit. Traveller* III. 30/2 In the honour point, a dove.

1996 I. ATHERTON *Norwich Cathedral* 464 A longbow azure stringed or, at the honour point.

honour policy *n.* (chiefly in marine insurance) an insurance policy in which the insured has no insurable interest and which cannot be legally enforced; cf. *ppi n.* at P *n.* Initialisms, *wager policy n.* at WAGER *n.*²

Compounds 2.

1875 *Times* 1 Dec. 11/3 An honour policy..which could not bind the underwriters in point of law.

1895 SIR W. R. KENNEDY in *Law Times Rep.* 72 861/1 All these 'disbursements' policies were p. p. i. or 'honour' policies—policies, that is to say, wherein it was stipulated that the policy should be deemed sufficient proof of interest.

1902 A. C. CAMPBELL *Insurance & Crime* vi. 115 One proposal is that honour policies shall be abolished.

2002 R. HODGIN *Insurance Law* (ed. 2) iv. 307 The insurer's discretion to dishonour the so called 'honour policies' does not exist.

honour roll *n.* = *roll of honour n.* at ROLL *n.*¹ Phrases 1b.

1863 *Daily Cleveland Herald* 5 May The author's name shall be placed on the 'Honor Roll' of patriotic poets.

1909 *Daily Chron.* 7 Apr. 3/3 Such is the honour-roll of these sturdy spirits.

1949 *Lisle (Illinois) Eagle* 10 Mar. 5/1 With the new scroll placed on the bulletin board all may see who made the honor roll this time.

1991 *Guardian* 1 Nov. 13/2 I've got three granddaughters and they all graduated from college on the honour roll and not one of them can find a job.

honour school *n.* (at the University of Oxford) a course of study designed for those aiming at academic honours or an honours degree.

1857 *Morning Chron.* 17 June 5/5 Scholarships to the Classical Honour School.

1889 *Month* May 34 By far the most beneficial alteration was the permission to take the two Honour Schools in separate terms.

1965 W. R. WARD *Victorian Oxf.* x. 220 Rawlinson alleged that the standard in the non-classical honour schools would be less than the proposed mixed degree.

1970 *Oxf. Univ. Cal.* 194 Candidates must be members of the University reading for a Final Honour School.

2002 *Brit. Jrnl. Hist. Sci.* 197 197 Sidgwick was placed in the first class of the Honour School of Natural Sciences.

honour society *n.* *U.S.* (*a*) a society promoting honourable or

respectable behaviour (cf. sense 2a) (*rare*); (*b*) an organization of individuals recognized for excellence within a particular field, *esp.* one for high-school or college students of high academic achievement.

- 1873 *Guardian* (Philadelphia) Feb. 68 A public meeting was lately held..to prevent this vice [sc. profanity]... 'Honor societies' have been formed in the Sunday schools, tracts are circulated., and other measures are taken to promote thorough reform.
- 1886 *Kappa Alpha Jrnl.* Apr. 6 The other clubs are the O. K., a secret literary organization, the Signet, also literary, and the honor society, — — —.
- 1912 *Michigan Alumnus* June 446/1 The Barristers, the honor society of the Law Department, initiated twelve members of the Law class of 1913 into the society.
- 1978 J. F. OHLES *Biogr. Dict. Amer. Educators* I. 383 She [sc. E. V. Dobbs] was credited with founding Pi Lambda Theta, an honor society for women in 1911.
- 2008 *Washington Post* (Nexis) 19 Feb. (Metro section) B7 He also was a member of..the Order of the Arrow, the Boy Scouts honor society.

honour system *n.* a system under which a person is relied on to act honestly without being supervised (orig. (*U.S.*) with reference to abstention from cheating in examinations, later more generally with regard to the provision of goods and services (cf. HONESTY *n.* Compounds)).

- 1893 *Daily Princetonian* 1 May 3/2 The Honor system in examinations was tried at Cornell today.
- 1904 *Pittsburgh Gaz.* 3 Dec. 4 The most successful plan of combating the tendency of college students to cheat in examinations has been some form of an 'honor system' by which the pupil is implicitly trusted and his statement accepted that he used no dishonest aids.
- 1966 *Listener* 24 Feb. 266/2 On the buses and trams an 'honour' system: you throw your money into a coin box..and tear off your own ticket.
- 1994 *Guardian* 24 Mar. II. 19/4 It's an honour system: if you enjoy a book, you send the author money.

honour trick *n.* *Bridge* a combination of cards which may be expected to win a trick.

- 1931 E. CULBERTSON *Contract Bridge at Glance* 6 A defensive honour-trick is a card, or combination of cards, which may be expected to win even if the opponents play the hand at a trump.
- 1959 T. REESE & A. DORMER *Bridge Player's Dict.* 116 The Culbertson system, which first popularized the honor-trick method of valuation, uses the following table for counting honor-tricks.
- 2005 D. KLEINMAN *365 Winning Bridge Tricks* 200 You have only 1 1/2 honor tricks with some plus values.

C2. With the first element in plural form.

a. General *attrib.* (in sense 5c), as *honours course*, *honours thesis*,

etc. Cf. Compounds 1a.

- 1860 *Brit. & Foreign Medico-chirurg. Rev.* July 8 Those [papers] for the honours students have indeed the appearance of being difficult beyond the ordinary measure of a matriculation test.
- 1869 *Sheffield & Rotherham Independent* 3 July The honours paper could only be successfully answered by those possessed of a large acquaintance with the subject.
- 1881 *Times* 28 Sept. 3/4 (advt.) Tuition in English, Classics, Mathematics, French, German (acquired abroad), by Honours Graduate.
- 1911 *Kerry Archaeol. Mag.* 1 301 Butcher made it his business to become personally acquainted with his pupils, at least with the members of his Honours class.
- 1932 C. S. BOUCHER in K. McHale & G. M. Whipple *Changes & Exper. in Liberal-Arts Educ.* ii. 21 One of the most noteworthy examples of special treatment for leading students has swept across the country in the form of honors courses.
- 1962 *German Q.* 35 4 Three such students..chose this past year to pursue the honors program with German as their major.
- 1994 A. WELLS & S. MACINTYRE in B. Symons et al. *Communism in Austral.* IX. 206/2 Honours theses..are generally not held in university libraries.
- 2005 *Washington Post* (Nexis) 3 Apr. w19 Honors seminars are limited to 20 students and emphasize critical thinking.

b.

honours board *n.* a commemorative board bearing the names of distinguished people; *spec.* one at a school or college inscribed with the names of pupils who have gained honours; (a notional) one in a sports club with the names of distinguished members; cf. *honour board n.* at Compounds 1c.

- 1882 *Derby Mercury* 20 Dec. 5/4 An honours board, which will be an ever present stimulus to the boys to emulate their successful predecessors.
- 1960 C. DAY LEWIS *Buried Day* vi. 129 My name was never inscribed on the University Honours Board in the Big School.
- 1975 *Times* 18 Aug. 8/3 He had written his name on to the League's honours board..when he made 50 runs off 22 balls, the fastest televised 50.
- 2007 *Southland Times* (N.Z.) (Nexis) 19 Apr. 18 A Riversdale family's contribution to the wars of the 20th century will be recognised when a new honours board is unveiled at the town's Anzac Day service next Wednesday.

honours degree *n.* an academic degree with honours (sense 5c), resulting from a more specialized course of study than that of an ordinary or pass degree (*pass degree n.* at PASS *n.*⁴ Compounds 2); a course of studies at a university leading to this.

- 1851 *Oxf. Univ. Cal.* 127 A reference will be made in the lists of Honours and ordinary Degrees, to the

distinctions awarded by the Moderators.

- 1873 *Leeds Mercury* 24 May 11/5 The honours degree of Bachelor of Medicine.
- 1904 *Daily Chron.* 31 Oct. 4/4 I cannot deal here with the wholly false and mischievous qualification of an 'Honours Degree' that the rich women are answerable for.
- 1969 *Oxf. Univ. Handbk.* 159 About one third of the students at Oxford are working for honours degrees in mathematics or natural science.
- 2009 J. KINGTON in G. Letherby & G. Reynolds *Gendered Journeys, Mobile Emotions* 91 I made a successful application to a nearby university and enrolled on an Honours Degree course in Ecology.

honours examination *n.* an examination for academic honours or an honours degree; *spec.* (at the University of Oxford) one in an honour school (*honour school n.* at Compounds 1c).

- 1851 *Huddersfield Chron. & West Yorks. Advertiser* 21. June 6/1 Heath and Jackson were respectively 9th and 10th in the Classical and Mathematical Honours Examination.
- 1885 *Oxf. Univ. Cal.* p. iii Honours Examinations for Women.
- 1927 C. E. MALLETT *Hist. Univ. Oxf.* III. xxiii. 170 In 1830, a Fourth Class in Honours was provided, and the Honours examination was separated from the examination for the ordinary Pass degree.
- 1965 *New Scientist* 18 Mar. 759/2 Candidates who are about to sit final Honours examinations may also apply.
- 2000 *Compar. Educ.* 36 169 Candidates for Honours examinations in the few new subjects that had been admitted to the Cambridge curriculum.

honours list *n.* (a) a list of students who have been successful in an honours examination, or who have achieved academic honours; (b) (chiefly *Brit.*) a list of awards and titles conferred by the sovereign, typically at his or her official birthday and at New Year; also *fig.*

- 1849 THACKERAY *Pendennis* (1850) I. xix. 179 A man may be famous in the Honours-lists and entirely unknown to the undergraduates.
- 1862 *Oxf. Univ. Cal.* 273 Honours Lists issued by Moderators.
- 1910 H. G. WELLS *New Machiavelli* (1911) III. i. 304 The New Year and Birthday honours lists are always very sagely and exhaustively considered.
- 1929 *Melody Maker* Dec. 1169/1 This disc goes right into the honours list.
- 1988 P. CORSI *Sci. & Relig.* ix. 111 The printed mathematical questions revealed the high level of proficiency required to earn a place in the honours list at Cambridge.
- 2001 *Guardian* 27 June II. 5/1 Can some kind of recognition be expected in the next honours list?

honours man *n.* a male student who has obtained, or who is studying for, academic honours (sense 5c); cf. *honour man n.* at Compounds 1c, PASSMAN *n.* 1.

- 1859 *Liverpool Mercury* 14 July 2/2 First Classical Honours Man, Dublin University, and Scholar of the Queen's.
- 1891 *Daily News* 26 Sept. 7/5 A Cambridge honoursman will..read with pupils.
- 1998 *Furrow* **49** 303 I thought of an old monsignor categorizing class mates as an 'honours' man or a 'pass' man.

honours school *n.* = *honour school n.* at Compounds 1c.

- 1857 *Morning Post* 17 June 3/6 Scholarships to the classical honours school.
- 1923 *Granta* 2 Mar. At Oxford the Honours School of English claims that its 'first' is harder to win than a 'first' in any other School there.
- 2002 *Jrnl. Law & Society* **29** 510 The honours school of jurisprudence at Oxford was not the fulfilment of a burning ambition.

honours system *n.* (a) a system of university education in which undergraduates pursue a course of study leading to an honours degree; (b) a system of awards and titles conferred by a country or state in recognition of individual achievement or service; (chiefly) *spec.* that used in the United Kingdom, or any of various similar systems used in other Commonwealth countries; cf. *honours list n.* (b).

- 1869 J. CHRISTISON *Let.* 3 June in *Aberdeen Jrnl.* 8 Dec. 6/5 To the encouragement of the honours system, it is expedient that the honours examination should be allowed to be taken as an alternative for the pass examination in any department of the Arts Faculty.
- 1901 A. WHITE *Efficiency & Empire* vi. 55 (*heading*) Is our 'honours' system to blame?
- 1963 *Life* 8 Mar. 4/2 A Gallup Poll last fall showed 70% of Americans favoring some kind of official honors system.
- 1987 *Sydney Morning Herald* (Nexis) 19 Feb. 1 The Secretary of the Council for the Order of Australia, Mr David Smith, denied there was any bias in the administration of the honours system by the council.
- 2005 C. MCCREERY *Canad. Honours Syst.* v. 65 It was..announced as part of the Order of Canada when the new honours system was unveiled in April 1967.

DERIVATIVES

'honour-worthy *adj.*

- 1535 *Bible* (Coverdale) Song Three Children 22 That thou only art the Lorde God, & honoure worthy thorow out all the worlde.
- 1609 J. RAWLINSON *Fishermen* Ep. Ded. Your most honoured and honour-worthy Father.

- 1886 *Homilist* 57 453 We are commanded to 'honour all men'. Of course, this means all men who are honour-worthy.
- 1998 L. GUZZETTI in T. Dean & K. J. P. Lowe *Marriage in Italy 1300–1650* 265 It was certainly also important that Marina was a noble and honour-worthy woman.
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