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rich, *adj.*, *n.*, and *adv.*

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

Forms:

α. eOE **riece** (*West Saxon*), eOE **riicnæ** (accusative singular masculine, runic), OE **riccera** (genitive plural), OE **riccra** (genitive plural), OE **ryce** (*rare*), OE–eME **rice**, ME **rijche**, ME **ruche**, ME **ryiche**, ME–15 **reche**, ME–16 **rech**, ME–16 **rych**, ME–16 **ryche**, ME–16 (17 *arch.*) **riche**, ME– **rich**, lME **ricche**, 15 **rutche**, 15 **rytche**, 15–16 **ritch**, 15–16 **ritche**, 15–16 **rytch**, 18 **reech** (*Irish English (Wexford)*); *Sc.* pre-17 **rach**, pre-17 **rache**, pre-17 **ratch**, pre-17 **reche**, pre-17 **reich**, pre-17 **riche**, pre-17 **richt**, pre-17 **ritch**, pre-17 **ritche**, pre-17 **rych**, pre-17 **ryche**, pre-17 17– **rich**.

β. Chiefly *north.* and *north midl.* ME **reke**, ME **rik**, ME **rike**, ME **ryke**, lME **ric-** (in compounds), lME **ryc-** (in compounds); *Sc.* pre-17 **raik**, pre-17 **rik**, pre-17 **ryck**, pre-17 **ryik**, pre-17 **ryk**, pre-17 19– **rike**, pre-17 19– **ryke**.

Also comparative. OE **riccra**, lOE **riccere**, ME **riccher**, ME **ricchere**, ME **ricchor**, ME **ricchore**, ME **richcher**, ME **richchere**, ME **ryccher**, ME **rycchere**, ME **rychcher**, ME **rychchere**. Also superlative. lOE **riccest**, ME **ricchest**, ME **riccheste**, ME **richcheste**, ME **rihchest**.

Frequency (in current use):

Origin: A word inherited from Germanic.

Etymology: Cognate with Old Frisian *rīke*, *rīk* (*West Frisian rijk*), Middle Dutch *rīke*, *rijc*, etc. (*Dutch rijk*), Old Saxon *rīki* (*Middle Low German rīke*, *rīk*), Old High German *rīhhi* (*Middle High German rīche*, *rīch*, German *reich*), Old Icelandic *rīkr*, Old Swedish *rīker* (*Swedish rik*), Old Danish *rīgh*, *rīgh*, *rikir*, *rikær* (*Danish rig*), Gothic *reiks* (recorded as genitive plural, *reikjane*), related to the Germanic base of *RICHE n.* and also to that of Gothic *reiks* ruler; all three of these words (i.e. a Germanic *ja-* stem adjective, *ja-* stem noun, and root noun) ultimately reflect a borrowing < the Celtic base of Gaulish *rig-*, *rix*, which is recorded chiefly in personal names, in which it is very frequent, chiefly in the sense ‘king’ (compare e.g. *Biturix*, lit. ‘king of the world’) and apparently also in the sense ‘rich in, having an abundance of’ (compare e.g. *Secorix*, probably lit. ‘rich in strength’), and is also attested in place names, e.g. *Rigomagus*, lit. ‘fort of the king, royal fort’, the name of several places (now e.g. Remagen (Rhineland), Ruoms (Ardèche)), and which is also found in British, compare *Rigodunon*, lit. ‘fort of the king, royal fort’, the name of a place near York (now lost) < the same Indo-European base as classical Latin *rēx* king (see *REX n.*); the borrowing from Celtic into Germanic is shown by the root vowel (*ī rather than *ē) of the Germanic words; it is unclear whether the derivative formations were formed in Germanic from a borrowed base word, or existed already in Celtic; the borrowing appears to have occurred before the Grimm's law change of *g to *k (unless the *k results from sound-substitution, since Germanic *g was a fricative in all positions, and hence did not correspond exactly to the Celtic stop *g).

In Middle English the use of the word may have been reinforced by Anglo-Norman and Old French, Middle French *riche* (French *riche*) powerful, noble, mighty, wealthy (11th cent.), precious, valuable, sumptuous, splendid (12th cent.), (with *de*) abounding in (13th cent.), ultimately showing a borrowing < a Germanic language, as also do Old Occitan *ric*, Catalan *ric* (12th cent.), Spanish *rico* (12th cent.), Portuguese *rico* (13th cent.), Italian *ricco* (13th cent.). Influence of the French word may have been a factor in the disappearance of the β. forms (which probably result partly from levelling of an unassibilated plosive from parts of the paradigm in which a back vowel immediately followed, and partly from the influence of the Scandinavian cognates).

In English, as in the other Germanic languages, sense A. 2 apparently arose as a specialization of sense A. 1, material wealth being taken to be a usual attribute of any powerful or noble person. A parallel semantic development is found also in French and in other Romance languages. The gradual separation of the senses (and eventual loss of sense A. 1) reflects cultural and material changes in medieval and early modern society.

The base is a very common element in Germanic personal names, compare Old English *Ælfrīc*, *Æðelrīc*, *Godrīc*, *Wulfrīc*, etc., Frankish (in Latinized form) *Childericus*, *Chilpericus*, etc., Old High German *Alberīch*, *Fridurīh* (German *Friedrich*), *Vulferīch* (German *Ulrich*), etc., Old Icelandic *Alfrīkr*, *Eiríkr*, *Gunnrīkr*, etc., Gothic *Friþareikeis*, (in Latinized form) *Ermanaricus*, *Theudericus*, etc., and is also very frequent in Celtic personal names, compare Gaulish *Dumnorix*, *Vercingetorix*, etc. (see above).

In the early Old English runic form *riicnæ* (from the inscription on the Ruthwell Cross (c700)) the stem-final consonant is spelt with a *cēn*-rune, indicating palatalization and assibilation of the original velar plosive /k/. The isolated Old English (West Saxon) form *riecce* shows an inverted spelling due to monophthongization of *īe* (see A. Campbell *Old Eng. Gram.* (1959) §300). Old English forms in *-cc-* (chiefly late West Saxon) show doubling of the consonant before *r* and consequent shortening of the stem vowel (see A. Campbell *Old Eng. Gram.* (1959) §454, R. M. Hogg *Gram. Old Eng.* (1992) I. §5.199).

Attested in early Middle English in bynames and surnames, as William *le Richeman* (a1200: see *RICH MAN n.*), William *Richeloverd* (1221), John *Richandgood* (1327), etc.; compare also *Godwinus le Riche* (1185; earlier as *Godwinus Diues* (1177)), *Mosse le riche* (1193), although it is uncertain whether these are to be interpreted as reflecting the English or Anglo-Norman word.

A. *adj.*

†1. *Sc.* in later use.

a. Of a person: powerful, mighty; noble, great. *Obs.*

α.

eOE tr. Bede *Eccl. Hist.* (Tanner) IV. xxix. 368 Se..cyning self, & se halga biscop..& monige oþre æfeste weras & rice [L. *una cum..aliis religiosis ac potentibus viris*] liðon on ðæt ealond.

OE *Vercelli Homilies* (1992) x. 210 Hwær syndon þa rican caseras [c1175 *Bodl.* 343 þæ rice caseres] & cyningas þa þe gio wæron?

OE *Old Eng. Martyrol.* (Corpus Cambr. 41) 27 Dec. 7 Rice hæþene men hine snidon þæt he dranc ator.

IOE *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Laud) anno 1087 Swa þet þa riceste Frencisce men..wolden swican heora hlaforde.

c1275 (†?a1200) LA3AMON *Brut* (Calig.) (1978) 13592 Ich æm rihchest alre kinge vnder Gode seolue.

a1300 in C. Brown *Eng. Lyrics 13th Cent.* (1932) 71 (*MED*) He is ricchest mon of londe, so wide so mon spekeþ wiþ muþ.

c1450 (†?a1400) *Wars Alexander* (Ashm.) 351 (*MED*) Þe riche qwene was resyn fra slepe.

a1500 *Sidrak & Bokkus* (Lansd.) (Ph.D. diss., Univ. of Washington) (1965) 424 (*MED*) Ne deuie þe noght To make þi sacrifice..To suche a riche god.

c1580 tr. *Bk. Alexander* (1921) II. II. 2757 Ane riche man that worth is ocht Suld nocht be moued in dede na thocht.

a1627 W. FOWLER tr. Petrarch *Triumphs* in *Wks.* (1914) I. 109 He..maid hir to our brawe Triumphe a rechar pray be sene.

β.

- c1330 (▶a1300) *Arthur & Merlin* (Auch.) (1973) 8899 (MED) Þis was Colidoines cosyn þe rike,
Naciens sone of Betike.
- a1400 (▶a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Vesp.) 9 (MED) Kyng arthour..was so rike..non in hys tim was like.
- 1508 *Golagrus & Gawain* 402 He is the raillest roy reuerend and rike.
- 1535 W. STEWART tr. H. Boethius *Bk. Cron. Scotl.* (1858) III. 7 King Henrie passit into France With
mony rynk that ryall wes and ryke In plane battell.

b. Of a thing: powerful, strong; spec. (of a medicine) efficacious. Obs.

α.

- eOE *Bald's Leechbk.* (Royal) (1865) I. xlii. 106 Of gealadle..cymeþ great yfel; sio biþ ealra adla ricust,
þonne geweaxeð on innan ungemet wætan.
- OE *Daniel* 456 Wæron hyra rædas rice, siððan hie rodera waldend..wið þone hearm gescylde.
- c1275 (▶a1200) LA3AMON *Brut* (Calig.) (1963) 384 Brutus heom rædde to mid richere strengðe.
- c1275 (▶a1200) LA3AMON *Brut* (Calig.) (1978) 13374 Walwain..igrap Petreiu on richen his steden
[c1300 his gode stede].
- ?c1450 in G. Müller *Aus Mittlengl. Medizintexten* (1929) 34 (MED) A precious watir and a riche.
- c1485 (▶1456) G. HAY *Bk. Gouvernaunce of Princis* (1993) vii. 72 Ffor that is the caus quhy, yat the
yndis ar sa mychty, sa riche and sa publyd.
- 1570 (▶c1478) HARY *Actis & Deidis Schir William Wallace* (Lekprevik) VI. I. 547 Than with riche
[1488 MS ryth] hors ye Scottis upon yame raid.
- ?a1600 (▶a1500) *Sc. Troy Bk.* (Cambr.) I. 217 in C. Horstmann *Barbour's Legendensammlung* (1882)
II. 221 A fare Cite, baith ryche & witht.

β.

- 1488 (▶c1478) HARY *Actis & Deidis Schir William Wallace* (Adv.) (1968–9) IX. 142 Aryet the hot
syng coloryk, In-to the Ram quhilk had his Rowmys Ryk.

2.

a. Of a person.

(a) Having much money or abundant assets; wealthy, moneyed,
affluent. Opposed to *poor*.

get-rich-quick: see GET-RICH-QUICK *adj.*; *mega-*, *seriously rich*, etc.: see the first element.

α.

- eOE tr. Bede *Eccl. Hist.* (Tanner) III. iii. 162 Ða gife & þa feoh þe him rice men sealdon [L. *a*
divitibus].
- OE ÆLFRIC *Catholic Homilies: 1st Ser.* (Royal) (1997) xiii. 288 Þæs rican mannes welan sind his saule
alysednys.
- OE ÆLFRIC *Catholic Homilies: 1st Ser.* (Royal) (1997) xviii. 324 Gif rice wif, & earm acennað
togædere [L. *pariant simul mulier dives et mulier pauper*]; gangon hi aweig: nast ðu hwæðer
bið, þæs rican wifes cild, hwæðer þæs earman.
- ?a1160 *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Laud) (Peterborough contin.) anno 1137 Sume ieden on ælmes þe wæren
sum wile rice men.

- a1225 (†?OE) *MS Lamb.* in R. Morris *Old Eng. Homilies* (1868) 1st Ser. 53 Þes riche men þe habbeð þes mucheles weorldes ehte.
- c1230 (†?a1200) *Ancrene Riwe* (Corpus Cambr.) (1962) 36 Þe wrecche poure peoddere mare nurð he madeð..þen þe riche mercer.
- c1325 (†c1300) *Chron. Robert of Gloucester* (Calig.) 495 Corn & frut hom wax..so þat hii were riche [*B. ruche*] inou in a stounde.
- †a1393 GOWER *Confessio Amantis* (Fairf.) v. 2612 (*MED*) Sche per cas..richest is, And hath of gold a Milion.
- a1400 (†a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Fairf. 14) 27830 (*MED*) Riche men..of þe pouer has na pite.
- c1450 (†a1425) *Metrical Paraphr. Old Test.* (Selden) 423 (*MED*) Abraham and loth..wex so rych that þer catell Couerd the cuntre.
- a1538 T. STARKEY *Dial. Pole & Lupset* (1989) 66 When the fermys of al such pasturys..are brought to the handys of a few & rychar men.
- 1580 J. LYLY *Euphues & his Eng.* (new ed.) f. 2^v To bee rich is the gift of Fortune, to be wise the grace of God.
- 1609 J. DAVIES *Humours Heau'n on Earth* ccxiv. 182 The working woes of th' idle-curious; Of the Rich-couetous.
- 1630 P. MASSINGER *Renegado* III. ii. sig. F4 Rich sonnes forget they euer had poore fathers.
- 1651 T. HOBBS *Leviathan* II. xxvii. 161 To Robbe a poore man, is a greater Crime, than to robbe a rich man.
- 1707 J. STEVENS tr. F. de Quevedo *Comical Wks.* 361 There is no doubt but that you imagin'd me to be as rich as Croesus.
- 1770 O. GOLDSMITH *Deserted Village* 142 He was..passing rich with forty pounds a year.
- 1801 M. EDGEWORTH *Forester* in *Moral Tales* I. 87 You cannot be rich and poor at the same time.
- 1862 J. RUSKIN *Unto this Last* iv. 128 The persons who become rich are, generally speaking, industrious.
- 1871 S. SMILES *Character* vi. 181 He does not seek to pass himself off as richer than he is.
- 1919 E. GLASGOW *Builders* I. iii. 30 A man as rich as David Blackburn will always have a trail of sycophants..at his heels.
- 1941 'N. BLAKE' *Case of Abominable Snowman* xii. 131 Some [children] had rich parents and plenty of pocket-money, and others stole to get the cash.
- 1961 'S. GILLESPIE' *Neighbour* vi. 93 Her flat was pretty much what he had expected; the apartment of a rich woman of taste.
- 2000 *Wall St. Jrnl.* 11 July A26/1 A device to prevent unimaginably rich people from using loopholes to avoid paying any taxes.
- β.
- c1380 *Sir Ferumbras* (1879) 61 (*MED*) He slow þe Pope..monekys & frerys eke, & alle clerkes of honours boþe pore & reke.
- a1400 (†a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Vesp.) 12492 (*MED*) Was þar wonnand in þat wik þat hight iosep, a burges rik.
- c1480 (†a1400) *St. Anastasia* 287 in W. M. Metcalfe *Legends Saints Sc. Dial.* (1896) II. 415 God bad sel al þe gudis þat I had, & gif pure men, & nocht ryk.
- a1530 (†c1425) ANDREW OF WYNTOUN *Oryg. Cron. Scotl.* (Royal) VIII. l. 5868 The land had rest, the folk ware ryke.

?a1600 (▷a1500) *Sc. Troy Bk.* (Cambr.) l. 596 in C. Horstmann *Barbour's Legendensammlung* (1882) II. 227 Þar was neur nane hyr lyk..pure no ryk.

(b) *fig.* Having an abundance of immaterial possessions, esp. blessings or good qualities; fortunate, blessed.

α.

c1478 *Liber Pluscardensis* (Glasg.) (1877) I. 396 Justice makis riche..Bath king and knaif.

1542 T. BECON *Pleasaunt Newe Nosegaye* sig. B.j I am sufficiently rytch, so longe as I haue y^e rytches of Gods word.

1747 G. WHITEFIELD *Five Serm.* III. 78 You never will be truly rich, until you are made rich in Jesus.

1798 S. LEE *Young Lady's Tale* in H. Lee *Canterbury Tales* II. 197 He knew the only good on earth his soul desired, to be his own, yet found himself not the richer.

1828 T. CARLYLE in *Edinb. Rev.* Dec. 288 Hume was too rich a man to borrow.

1841 MACAULAY in G. O. Trevelyan *Life & Lett. Macaulay* (1876) II. 101 At present I consider myself as one of the richest men of my acquaintance.

1872 T. L. CUYLER *Heart Thoughts* 31 Would you grow rich toward God? Then learn to give.

1903 A. H. LEWIS *Peggy O'Neal* vi. 170 I've just you; and that's how rich I am for confidants.

1983 *Internat. Rev. Educ.* **29** 284 There is protection in being materially poor, even if one is spiritually rich.

2002 E. JUNGREIS *Committed Marriage* (2004) iv. 54 A man of moderate means who appreciates life is truly rich.

β.

c1480 (▷a1400) *St. Ninian* 726 in W. M. Metcalfe *Legends Saints Sc. Dial.* (1896) II. 325 For he studit here to be pouer, in hewine rike is he.

2014 S. GILLILAND in *Lallans* **84** 13 Rike's the chiel wi feres wha prief leal.

b. Of a country or region: having valuable natural resources or a successful economy; (of a building or institution) having much money or abundant assets.

IOE *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Laud) (Peterborough interpolation) anno 963 Se biscop..leot macen þone mynstre..& macode hit swyðe rice.

c1275 (▷?a1200) LA3AMON *Brut* (Calig.) (1963) 1013 He gon aræren riche ane burhe mid bouren & mid hallen.

c1300 *St. Brendan* (Harl.) l. 144 in C. Horstmann *Early S.-Eng. Legendary* (1887) 223 (MED) Murie weder is her ynou3, & lese suyþe riche.

a1325 (▷c1250) *Gen. & Exod.* (1968) l. 1280 Ðog was nogt is kinde lond Richere he it leet ðan he it fond.

c1400 (▷c1378) LANGLAND *Piers Plowman* (Laud 581) (1869) B. III. 207 (MED) That is þe richest rewme þat reyne ouer houeth.

- ?a1475 *Ludus Coventriae* 151 (*MED*) As a lord in ryalte in non Regyon so ryche..I ryde.
- c1540 (†?a1400) *Gest Historiale Destr. Troy* 9086 Paris..ordant..The souerain..To be entiret..in his kythe riche.
- 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. N. de Nicolay *Nauigations Turkie* III. xviii. f. 104^v They doe lodge themselues..in the best and richest house.
- 1596 SPENSER *Second Pt. Faerie Queene* IV. XI. sig. L^v Those warlike women, which so long Can from all men so rich a kingdome hold.
- 1667 DRYDEN *Annus Mirabilis 1666* cxliiii. 37 With Cord and Canvass from rich Hamburg sent, His Navies molted wings he imps once more.
- 1742 S. RICHARDSON *De Foe's Tour Great Brit.* III. 285 A Town which, in its flourishing State, was said to be the richest in Christendom.
- 1787 P. H. MATY tr. J. K. Riesbeck *Trav. Germany* III. 238 The monks fare particularly well in so rich a Country.
- 1802 J. PINKERTON *Mod. Geogr.* II. 691 The department of Popayan abounds in mines of native gold; the richest being those of Cali, Buga, Almaguar, and Barbacoas.
- 1859 TENNYSON *Elaine in Idylls of King* 216 That shrine which then in all the realm Was richest.
- 1915 T. C. NIXON *Ess. in Social Justice* v. 125 Only rich countries can afford democratic government.
- 1974 *Times* 11 Feb. 16/4 Queen's is among the richest colleges in Oxford, but it cannot hope to finance the scheme from its own resources.
- 1992 *Economist* 28 Mar. 59/2 He reviles Roman politicians..for milking taxes from the richer north to buy votes in the poorer south.

3. With *in*, †*of*, †*on*, *with*.

a. Wealthy by the possession of specified goods or assets.

(a) *fig.*

- OE ÆLFRIC *Catholic Homilies: 1st Ser.* (Royal) (1997) xviii. 324 Ne hi ne hopian on heora ungewissum welan. Ac beon hi rice on godum weorcum [L. *divites sint in operibus bonis*].
- c1275 (†?a1200) LA3AMON *Brut* (Calig.) (1978) 9445 Ich am on rade rihchest alre monnen.
- †c1384 *Bible* (Wycliffite, E.V.) (Royal) (1850) James ii. 5 Wher God chees not pore men in this world, riche [L. *divites*] in feith.
- †a1387 J. TREVISA tr. R. Higden *Polychron.* (St. John's Cambr.) (1865) I. 211 (*MED*) While þat citee was pore, was no place more holy noþer richere of good ensample.
- a1400 (†a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Vesp.) 11312 (*MED*) For pouert thar naman mislik, Quils he es in god truth rike.
- c1430 (†c1386) CHAUCER *Legend Good Women* (Cambr. Gg.4.27) (1879) l. 2291 Of aray..there was non hire lyche And 3it of Beute was she two so ryche.
- †?a1513 W. DUNBAR *Poems* (1998) I. 235 Sweit rois of vertew..Richest in bontie.
- 1596 M. DRAYTON *Tragicall Legend Robert Duke of Normandy* sig. E5^v They rich in gold, he onely rich in wounds.
- 1658 E. REYNOLDS *Rich Mans Charge* 15 To be rich in faith..will stand us in stead, when the World hath left us.
- 1681 R. BOYLE *Let.* 7 July in *Corr.* (2001) V. 257 Many of these persecuted people, are far more rich in faith than in the Goods of this World.

- 1751 T. GRAY *Elegy* xiii. 7 Her ample page rich with the spoils of time.
- 1762 O. GOLDSMITH *Citizen of World* I. 124 Though I was at that time rich in fame., yet I was very short in money.
- 1839 THACKERAY in *Fraser's Mag.* Dec. 722 Poor in purse were both, but rich in Tender love's delicious plenties.
- 1906 *Times* 25 May 11/3 He is rich in the admiration, the affection, the regard of those whose regard and affection are worth having.
- 1950 W. D. GANN *Magic Word* xi. 81 I am rich in God's love.
- 2006 P. COLMAN *Adventurous Women* 82 She never had much money, but she was rich with family and friends and activities.

(b) *lit.*

- ?c1200 *Ormulum* (Burchfield transcript) l. 6384 Laban wass an riche mann I werelldþingess sellþe.
- ?c1200 *Ormulum* (Burchfield transcript) l. 12084 Te33 hafenn mikell fe. & sinndenn riche off ahhte.
- c1275 (þ?a1200) LA3AMON *Brut* (Calig.) (1963) 2027 Cloten hæfde mest riht..ah þa oðere weoren..richere of golde & of garisume.
- a1325 (þc1250) *Gen. & Exod.* (1968) l. 1355 Abraham, riche of welðe and wale, Wente a-gen in-to manbre dale.
- þa1382 *Bible* (Wycliffite, E.V.) (Bodl. 959) (1959) Gen. xiii. 2 He was forsoþ full riche in possessioun of syluer & of gold.
- c1425 in N. Davis *Non-Cycle Plays & Fragments* (1970) 118 A knyght..was bold and wyght, Rich of rent.
- 1485 *Malory's Morte Darthur* (Caxton) III. xv. sig. fij^v Them that were of londes not ryche, he gaf them londes.
- a1500 *Theophilus* (Rawl. Poet. 225) in *Englische Studien* (1903) 32 5 (MED) Tyofle..was..riche of gold & fee.
- 1530 J. PALSGRAVE *Lesclarcissement* 322/2 Ryche of substance, *riche*, *opulent*.
- 1603 P. HOLLAND tr. Plutarch *Morals* 32 Many times Poets abuse this word, calling a man blessed and happie, who is rich in world goods.
- 1687 A. LOVELL tr. J. de Thévenot *Trav. into Levant* III. 46 There are People in Dehly, vastly rich in Jewels, especially the Rajas.
- a1732 T. BOSTON *View this & Other World* (1775) v. 247 Abraham was rich in silver and gold, and Job in stocking.
- 1756 C. SMART tr. Horace *Epistles* I. vi, in tr. Horace *Wks.* II. 249 The king of the Cappadocians, though rich in slaves, is in want of coin.
- 1803 R. SOUTHEY *Inchcape Rock* 43 Now grown rich with plunder'd store, He steers his course for Scotland's shore.
- 1891 J. TYLER *Forty Years among Zulus* xix. 167 He was rich in cattle and was contemplating the purchase of a second wife.
- 1907 *World's Work* Dec. 9708/1 That settlement left him rich in stocks and money.
- 1976 R. S. BAGNALL *Admin. Ptolemaic Possessions outside Egypt* viii. 181 Ptolemy III, less rich in gold and silver than his father, issued far fewer coins.

2001 P. NAZARETH in D. Okafor *Medit. on Afr. Lit.* ix. 102 An old woman..makes him rich with cattle.

b. Having or containing an abundance of some specified thing, esp. something good or valuable.

- ▶a1398 J. TREVISA tr. Bartholomaeus Anglicus *De Proprietatibus Rerum* (BL Add. 27944) (1975) II. XVII. cxvi. 1010 Iudea, þe Iuerye, is riche [L. *inclita*] of palmes.
- 1513 G. DOUGLAS tr. Virgil *Aeneid* x. iv. 28 The ile..Sa rich of steill it may nocht wastit be.
- ?1572 T. PAYNELL tr. *Treasurie Amadis of Fraunce* VI. 134 A region ritch of golde and precious stones more than any other.
- 1604 E. GRIMSTON tr. J. de Acosta *Nat. & Morall Hist. Indies* III. xx. 186 High rockes, the which are very rich in mines.
- a1691 R. BOYLE *Gen. Hist. Air* (1692) 55 Nature is much more rich in things, than our dictionaries are in words.
- 1712 R. BLACKMORE *Creation* I. 30 Observe the pleasant Lawn, and airy Plain, The fertile Furrows rich with various Grain.
- 1791 A. RADCLIFFE *Romance of Forest* I. i. 22 Rich with wood, and fading into blue and distant mountains.
- 1843 *Penny Cycl.* XXVI. 230/1 Like most other Venetian churches, [it is] rich in paintings.
- 1845 M. PATTISON in *Christian Remembrancer* Jan. 67 Our own immediate age is confessedly rich in works of the historical class.
- 1878 T. H. HUXLEY *Physiogr.* (ed. 2) 126 The river-water..is usually rich in organic impurities.
- 1936 L. G. GREEN *Secret Afr.* 226 I motored with Mr. Grimmer to a place rich in memories.
- 1950 W. O. DOUGLAS *Of Men & Mountains* xx. 280 The open slopes..are rich with the low-bush huckleberry in the summer.
- 1973 J. SEYMOUR & S. SEYMOUR *Self-sufficiency* xii. 150 If the land is very rich in nitrogen a dressing of phosphate and potash will counterbalance this.
- 1994 *BBC Vegetarian Good Food* Aug. 23/1 Tomatoes are rich in vitamins A and C.

4.

a. Of great monetary worth; valuable, precious.

- a1225 (▶?OE) *MS Lamb.* in R. Morris *Old Eng. Homilies* (1868) 1st Ser. 5 (MED) He mihte ridan..on riche stede & palefrai.
- c1300 *Holy Cross* (Laud) l. 459 in C. Horstmann *Early S.-Eng. Legendary* (1887) 14 (MED) Mid þat gold and þe riche þingues þat he fond..þe churchene..he liet a-rere.
- c1330 (▶?a1300) *Arthour & Merlin* (Auch.) (1973) 4055 Þe siluer to part and þe gold And mani oþer riche þinges.
- a1400 (▶a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Vesp.) 5120 (MED) Wit pall he cled þam of affrik, And als he gaue þam giftes rik.
- c1450 (▶?a1400) *Wars Alexander* (Ashm.) 1572 (MED) Sum..Bare..candilstickis of clere gold..With releckis full rially, þe richest on þe auutere.
- 1560 J. DAUS tr. J. Sleidane *Commentaries* f. ccccxiij^v There is a very ritch promotion ecclesiasticall,

- whiche he had sued for manye moneths.
- 1596 W. RALEIGH *Discoverie Guiana* (new ed.) 79 The great good, & rich trade which England may be possessed off thereby.
- 1642 T. FULLER *Holy State* v. xviii. 430 Counting themselves the petty-Landlords of the times, to whom rich fines and herriots would accrue upon every exchange.
- 1699 W. DAMPIER *Voy. & Descr.* I. vii. 145 Some of the Portuguese..put their richest Goods into a Boat, ready to take their flight on the first Alarm.
- a1771 T. GRAY tr. Tasso in *Wks.* (1814) II. 92 In one rich mass unite the precious store.
- 1788 GIBBON *Decline & Fall* V. xlix. 136 The first fruits were paid in his rich offerings to the shrine of the apostle.
- 1842 A. STRICKLAND *Lives Queens of Eng.* IV. 116 The hood cap of five corners is bordered with rich gems.
- 1871 E. A. FREEMAN *Hist. Norman Conquest* IV. xviii. 142 A rich harvest for Norman spoilers.
- 1933 *Times* 23 Dec. 13/6 A hawklike eye on every barrow or bookseller's shop is still..sometimes rewarded by a rich prize.
- 1957 E. C. McREYNOLDS *Seminoles* (1985) i. 4 Rumors of vast stores of rich jewels and precious metals.
- 2002 *Ashmolean Ann. Rep.* 4 Among a rich haul of new acquisitions are..two Bronze Age gold hair-rings.

b. Of a non-material thing: valuable, precious; highly prized.

- c1300 *St. Augustine* (Laud) l. 53 in C. Horstmann *Early S.-Eng. Legendary* (1887) 25 (MED) Huy bi-heten him þe loye of heouene, þat so riche was and is.
- c1330 (þ?a1300) *Arthur & Merlin* (Auch.) (1973) 4058 (MED) Arthur þou3t gode afin þe riche conseil of Merlin.
- a1500 *Gospel of Nicodemus* (Harl.) 115 (MED) Sathan, alle the ryche joyes that þou hadest conquered by the trespace of Adam..thou hast now lost.
- 1597 SHAKESPEARE *Romeo & Juliet* I. v. 46 Beautie too rich for vse, for earth too deare.
- 1612 BACON *Ess.* (new ed.) 71 True dispatch is a rich thing.
- 1657 J. BEALE *Herefordshire Orchards* 54 Colts well chosen..may be a rich help to repair the distresses of dry pasture.
- 1702 M. SMITH *Vision* III. 76 They were soon carest With..rich Advice, Which pointed out the way to Paradise.
- 1768 P. HILL *Misc. Poems* I. 8 My mind is tranquil, pleasing scenes appear, And rich Delight disperses every fear.
- 1828 *Times* 27 Nov. 2/2 He will receive a rich reward in knowing that he has partaken with others in the delightful work of alleviating the sufferings of deserving fellow-creatures.
- 1859 TENNYSON *Elaine* in *Idylls of King* 211 As much fairer—as a faith once fair Was richer than these diamonds.
- 1907 A. V. V. RAYMOND *Union Univ.* I. xxi. 334 A constant, silent educating is going on that yields rich results.
- 1989 J. E. DOLIBOIS *Pattern of Circles* (1990) v. 43 The good, rich gift of laughter.

2006 *Daily Tel.* (Austral.) (Nexis) 21 Sept. 38 His life was a rich blessing for which we are forever thankful.

†c. Choice; good of its kind. *Obs. rare.*

c1330 (†?a1300) *Arthur & Merlin* (Auch.) (1973) 523 (MED) Loke þat trewe and ston be riche, þe tour largge, and depe þe diche.

c1350 (†a1333) WILLIAM OF SHOREHAM *Poems* (1902) 56 (MED) By-tuixe god and holy folk Loue hys wel trye and ryche.

5. a.

(a) Of dress, fabric, etc.: splendid, costly; of superior material or make.

a1225 (†?a1200) *MS Trin. Cambr.* in R. Morris *Old Eng. Homilies* (1873) 2nd Ser. 33 (MED) Peues..him bireueden alle hise riche weden.

c1250 *Body & Soul* (Trin. Cambr. B.14.39) l. 144 in A. S. M. Clark *Seint Maregrete & Body & Soul* (Ph.D. diss., Univ. of Michigan) (1972) 146 Of alle his riche cloþis, ne hauet he na more scrud.

c1380 *Sir Ferumbras* (1879) 1395 (MED) Ryche garnymenz forþ sche drow & by-tok hymen for to were.

a1400 (†a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Vesp.) 5167 (MED) He..sagh þam cled in pall sa rike.

?c1450 *Life St. Cuthbert* (1891) l. 812 Þai se þe woman in ryche wedis.

1508 W. DUNBAR *Goldyn Targe* (Chepman & Myllar) in *Poems* (1998) l. 186 Thare saw I Nature present hir a gown Rich to behald.

1548 *Hall's Vnion: Edward IV f. cxc^v* His high cap of estate..garnished with twoo riche Crounes.

1591 SPENSER *Prosopopoia* in *Complaints* 582 The Mule all deckt in goodly rich aray.

1617 BOYLE in *Lismore Papers* (1886) l. 157 I gave Sir Robert Steward a ritch pair of gloves.

1662 J. DAVIES tr. A. Olearius *Voy. & Trav. J. Albert de Mandelslo* 119 in *Voy. & Trav. Ambassadors* On each side of the head Pendants as rich as can be imagined.

1718 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Let.* 10 Mar. (1965) l. 384 I don't doubt these rich habits were purposely plac'd in sight.

1759 D. HUME *Hist. Eng. under House of Tudor* II. v. 618 She dressed herself in a rich habit of silk and velvet.

1807 G. CRABBE *Parish Reg.* III, in *Poems* 108 Silks beyond Price, so rich they'd stand alone.

1866 C. KINGSLEY *Hereward the Wake* I. vi. 174 His handsome palfrey, furrey cloak, rich gloves and boots.

1923 *Times* 12 Nov. 17/3 He is in complete armour, and she in a rich gown, as they lie side by side.

1958 D. G. SPICER *Festivals Western Europe* (1967) l. i. 19 Saint Nicholas..traditionally wears rich robes, gold miter, and an enormous bishop's ring on the left hand.

1976 N. MACLEAN *River runs through It* 108 He was dressed..in a rich Black Watch plaid shirt..and a beautiful new pair of logging boots.

1992 *Independent* 20 Jan. 3/3 Hundreds of metres of rich silk fabrics and 48 outfits modelled by stick-thin women with fixed smiles.

(b) Of a building, furniture, etc.: made of or adorned with valuable materials; elaborately ornamented or wrought; sumptuous, splendid.

- c1275 (▶a1200) LA3AMON *Brut* (Calig.) (1963) 2139 In are riche temple mid golde heo hine bi-tunden.
- c1300 *Body & Soul* (Laud Misc. 108) (1889) 27 3were ben þi wurldli wedes, Ði somers with þi riche beddes?
- c1330 (▶c1250) *Floris & Blancheflur* (Auch.) 240 (MED) In þe bourh..þer stant a riche tour.
- a1400 (▶a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Vesp.) 415 (MED) Þis palais..was sua rike Als mighti king in his kingrike.
- c1425 LYDGATE *Troyes Bk.* (Augustus A.iv) II. l. 655 Þe riche koynng, þe lusty tablementis.
- a1450 (▶a1300) *Richard Coer de Lyon* (Caius) (1810) l. 5899 That castle was strong and ryche, In the world was non it lyche.
- 1506 in *Memorials Hen. VII* (1858) 285 Which was richly hanged with cloth or arras and a great rich bed in the same chamber.
- c1540 (▶a1400) *Gest Historiale Destr. Troy* (2002) f. 139^v To be entiret trietly in a tounge riche As be come for a kyng in his kythe riche.
- c1600 *Wriothesley's Chron. Eng.* (1875) I. 19 She herself riding in a rytch chariott covered with cloath of silver.
- 1617 F. MORYSON *Itinerary* I. 262 The rooffe is beautified with pictures of that rich painting which Italians call *alla Mosaica*.
- 1740 S. RICHARDSON *Pamela* I. xxix. 102 He sat down upon a rich Settee; and took hold of my Hand.
- 1781 W. BUTLER *Cheltenham Guide* v. 38 The centre is decorated with three rich glass chandeliers.
- 1815 T. RICKMAN in J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* I. 163 The ribbed roofs, which are rich without being gorgeous.
- 1848 J. H. PARKER *Rickman's Styles Archit. Eng.* (ed. 5) 212 The whole of the interior of the richer buildings of this style, is more or less a series of panels.
- 1864 D. G. MITCHELL *Seven Stories* 220 An ancient bronze knocker..of rich Venetian sculpture.
- 1925 *Woman's World* (Chicago) Apr. 68/3 The rich cupboards were ornamented with carving and geometrical panel work.
- 1978 *Amer. Jnl. Archaeol.* **82** 541 The wooden carvings which decorated the rich furniture of the Palace.
- 2003 K. BAILLIE et al. *Rough Guide to Paris* (ed. 9) xii. 224 More fabulously rich rooms, this time belonging to the queen's apartments, line the northern wing.

(c) Of a feast, banquet, or similar occasion: sumptuous, luxurious. Also in figurative contexts.

- [OE *West Saxon Gospels: Luke* (Corpus Cambr.) xvi. 19 Sum welig man wæs, & he..dæghwamlice riclice [L. *splendide*] gewistfullude.]
- c1300 (▶c1250) *Floris & Blancheflur* (Cambr.) 23 (MED) Riche soper þer was idiȝt.
- c1330 (▶a1300) *Arthour & Merlin* (Auch.) (1973) 6521 (MED) In halle þai hadden riche seruisse.

- c1330 (†?c1300) *Bevis of Hampton* (Auch.) 732 (MED) Riche baþes 3he let him make.
- ?c1400 (†c1380) CHAUCER tr. Boethius *De Consol. Philos.* (BL Add. 10340) (1868) III. met. viii. l. 2257 Fisse of whiche 3e may maken ryche festes.
- 1582 T. BENTLEY et al. *Monument of Matrones* IV. 635 Let vs gather vp the remnants or fragments cast from thy sumptuous and rich banquet vnto vs.
- 1604 E. GRIMESTON tr. J. de Acosta *Nat. & Morall Hist. Indies* v. xxviii. 411 They called it *Capacrayme*, which is to say, a rich and principall feast.
- 1757 T. GRAY *Ode II* II. ii, in *Odes* 17 The rich repast prepare.
- 1785 W. COWPER *Task* IV. 113 He..spreads the honey of his deep research At his return—a rich repast for me.
- 1814 BYRON *Corsair* II. iv. 37 Methinks he strangely spares the rich repast.
- 1884 *Trans. Royal. Hist. Soc.* 1 139 Masters and scholars were all alike invited to a rich banquet.
- 1944 *Times* 8 Dec. 7/1 Here is a rich repast for the lover of good eating and drinking.
- 1958 P. GEYL *Revolt of Netherlands* ii. 46 An English spectator, obviously impressed, describes..the festive mood.., and the rich banquets.
- 1991 *Greece & Rome* 38 107 This is a rich feast, both in text and pictures, magisterially ordered and deeply researched.

b. gen. Fine, splendid, magnificent. Also: (of a mode of life) luxurious.

- [IOE KING ÆLFRED tr. St. Augustine *Soliloquies* (Vitell.) (1922) I. 39 Ofermetta wela and ofermytta wyrdscipe and ungemetlice riclic and seftlic lyf.]
- c1275 (†?a1200) LA3AMON *Brut* (Calig.) (1963) 5566 Þa læuedi Ælene..to Ierusalem wende mid richere genge.
- a1325 (†c1250) *Gen. & Exod.* (1968) l. 1255 His kinde wune Fro ðe riche flod eufrate..to ðe rede se.
- a1400 (†c1303) R. MANNYNG *Handlyng Synne* (Harl.) 6071 (MED) Y speke to men of ryche lyfe..Ðat mow weyl..lyue as lordes.
- c1400 (†?c1390) *Sir Gawain & Green Knight* (1940) 513 (MED) Blossumez bolne to blowe Bi rawez rych & ronk.
- c1450 (†?a1400) *Wars Alexander* (Ashm.) 4822 Þare fand þai Revers..ricchest of þe werd, Þof it ware Ioly Iurdan, or Iacobs well.
- 1508 *Golagrus & Gawain* 248 Apone that riche river..The side wallis war set.
- 1578 H. LYTE tr. R. Dodoens *Niewe Herball* v. xxxiii. 593 In her most ryche and pleasant gardens.
- 1648 R. CRASHAW *Steps to Temple* (ed. 2) 79 A little volume, but great booke..the rest Of a rich binding.
- 1667 MILTON *Paradise Lost* v. 357 Thir rich Retinue..Dazles the croud, and sets them all agape.
- 1734 I. WATTS *Reliquiæ Juveniles* lxiv. 282 While the Garnish of some [dishes] was profusely rich and gay, that of others was very coarse and poor.
- 1794 R. B. SHERIDAN *Duenna* (new ed.) I. 22 The rich blossoms of my daughter's beauty.
- 1852 *Trans. N.Y. State Agric. Soc.* 11 App. 55 A very rich display was made in the English department, scarcely inferior to that from France.
- 1876 J. MEAD *Alexander the Great* II. 59 Her sumptuous court first to the King displayed The Eastern

luxury and rich parade.

- 1920 *National Geographic Mag.* Aug. 93/1 One..hastened on through rich gardens, past fine houses and villas, to the wonderful Valley of Daphne.
- 1973 *TDR* 17 72/2 A rich procession begins to the mellifluous words of a religious song.
- 1996 K. BRAUN *Hist. Polish Theater* ii. 118 He always built elaborate stagings, used rich sets., and inspired actors to expressive performances.

6.

a. Of a colour: strong, deep, warm.

- c1330 (►?a1300) *Arthur & Merlin* (Auch.) (1973) 5641 (MED) His pensel hadde rich colour.
- a1400 (►c1303) R. MANNYNG *Handlyng Synne* (Harl.) 1413 (MED) Þo wynly wones..were caste with ryche colours.
- c1460 (►a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Laud) 17867 Brighter thanne þe sonnys beme So riche purpowr hew is non.
- a1500 (►?c1450) *Merlin* (1899) 384 (MED) Ther myght oon haue seyn..many a fressh banere of rich colour.
- a1586 *King Hart* l. 90 in W. A. Craigie *Maitland Folio MS* (1919) I. 257 Richt as the rose..In ruby colour reid most ryik of hew.
- 1601 P. HOLLAND tr. Pliny *Hist. World* II. xxxiii. vii. 476 Vermillion..ought to have the rich and fresh colour of skarlet.
- 1657 R. LIGON *True Hist. Barbados* 81 A rich green, with stripes of yellow so intermixt, as hardly to be discerned where they are.
- 1748 T. GRAY *Ode Death Favourite Cat* iii, in R. Dodsley *Coll. Poems* II. 268 Their scaly armour's Tyrian hue Thro' richest purple to the view Betray'd a golden gleam.
- 1776 J. LEDYARD *Methods improving Manuf. Indigo* 12 This liquor..would perhaps dispose the fresh Indigo to..yield a richer colour.
- 1830 TENNYSON *Recoll. Arab. Nights* viii, in *Poems* 53 A sudden splendour from behind Flushed all the leaves with rich goldgreen.
- 1889 *Sat. Rev.* 16 Mar. 326/1 The celebrated Monarque, who was a rich bay horse.
- 1934 J. A. THOMSON & E. J. HOLMYARD *Biol. for Everyman* II. 1180 Many North American maples..contribute to the rich colours of the woods in the fall.
- 1989 G. DALY *Pre-Raphaelites in Love* ii. 34 In a dusky room her hair glinted a rich red.
- 1999 *Grosvenor House Art & Antiques Fair: 1999 Handbk.* 171 (caption) The porcelain is finely painted in rich tones of *famille rose*.

b. Of a sound: full and mellow in tone. Also *fig.*

In quot. c1400: loud.

- c1400 (►?c1390) *Sir Gawain & Green Knight* (1940) 1916 (MED) Alle þat euer ber bugle blowed..& alle þise oþer halowed..Hit watz þe myriest mute þat euer men herde, Þe rich rurd þat þer watz raysed.
- 1599 SHAKESPEARE *Romeo & Juliet* II. v. 27 Let rich musicke tongue, Vnfold the imagind

happines.

- 1602 J. MARSTON *Antonios Reuenge* III. v. sig. G Rich musique, father; this is Iulio's blood.
- 1640 N. RICHARDS *Trag. Messallina* II. i. sig. C6 Musicke, rich musicke there; O that my skill Could transcend mortall.
- 1757 T. GRAY *Ode I* II. i, in *Odes* 5 Now the rich stream of music winds along.
- 1761 L. STERNE *Life Tristram Shandy* IV. xxv. 163 Up started an air in the middle of it, so fine, so rich, so heavenly.
- 1852 G. DUBOURG *Violin* (ed. 4) ix. 346 The Amati family..constructed instruments of a soft and rich tone.
- 1859 'G. ELIOT' *Adam Bede* III. VI. li. 263 The boy's flute-like voice has its own spring charm; but the man should yield a richer, deeper music.
- 1891 *Scribner's Mag.* Dec. 680/1 A deep-toned chorus filled with rich chords like an old mass.
- 1949 H. WILCOX *Six Moons in Sulawesi* ii. 57 The tone of the instruments was rich and remote, a little like a *cor anglais*.
- 1969 *Post-Standard* (Syracuse, N.Y.) 27 Oct. 28/3 The orchestral accompaniment was rich, with a full, even bass-heavy string tone.
- 1998 *Strad* July 726/1 The bow produced a richer sound with more lower and higher harmonics.

c. Of an odour: full of fragrance; deep, mellow.

- 1590 *Tarltons Newes out of Purgatorie* 15 Rich perfumes for the interteinment of hir paramour.
- 1616 B. JONSON *Cynthias Revels* (rev. ed.) v. iv, in *Wks.* I. 246 Is the perfume rich, in this jerkin?
- 1709 POPE *Winter in Poet. Misc.: 6th Pt.* VI. 748 No rich Perfumes refresh the fruitful Field.
- 1830 TENNYSON *Spirit Haunts* (song) ii. 68 The moist rich smell of the rotting leaves.
- 1887 A. ELLIOT *Old Man's Favour* II. 286 The atmosphere was..languorous and heavy with the rich scent of flowers.
- 1908 *Times* 18 May 14/6 The rich perfume and fresh-tasting, delicate almond flavour of old pedigree Sherry.
- 1956 L. DURRELL *Justine* ii. 134 The rich poignant scent of her powder hanging heavy in the bed-curtains.
- 1994 S. BRAUDE *Mpho's Search* ii. 8 There was a rich smell of coffee, tobacco and soap.

7.

a. Of food: of choice or superior quality, esp. so as to be wholesome or nourishing; made from fine ingredients; esp. containing much fat, eggs, cream, etc.

- 1340 *Ayenbite* (1866) 55 Hit is wel ofte uor bost þet hi zechep zuo riche metes and makeþ zuo uele mes, huer-of ofte comeþ uele kueades.
- a1400 (►a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Vesp.) l. 3532 (MED) His broþer he fand giueand his tent To grayth a riche [*Trin. Cambr.* noble] pulment.
- a1500 *Sidrak & Bokkus* (Lansd.) (Ph.D. diss., Univ. of Washington) (1965) l. 10114 (MED) If þou come til a feeste þere riche metis ben..þe homeloker shalt þou etc.

- 1691 T. TRYON *Wisdom's Dictates* 151 This is a rich Pottage, affording a great nourishment, and therefore it must be eaten the more sparingly.
- 1738 POPE *Satires of Horace* II. vi. 202 That Jelly's rich, this Malmsey healing.
- 1767 J. WOODFORDE *Diary* 24 July (1924) I. 64 I gave them a fine ham..and a good rich raisin pudding.
- 1824 S. E. FERRIER *Inheritance* I. xi. 116 The richest of cakes, and the strongest and sweetest of wines.
- 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. of Farm* II. 169 A great favourite..on account of the pieces of rich fat in it.
- 1865 I. M. BEETON *Dict. Every-day Cookery* 292/2 Richer rolls may be made by adding 1 or 2 eggs and a larger proportion of butter.
- 1937 A. CHRISTIE *Dumb Witness* i. 10 A faint yellowness in her skin was a warning that she could not eat rich food with impunity.
- 1973 *Times* 9 Mar. 18 Poached eggs smothered in a rich sauce using four egg yolks.
- 2000 *N.Y. Press* 29 Mar. I. 5/3 I'm not much for Frenchy food—way too rich—but it was a rather compelling menu.

b. Of drink, esp. wine: of superior quality; full-bodied, having depth of flavour.

- a1425 (†?c1350) *Ywain & Gawain* (1964) l. 760 (MED) Sho..brought..a pot with riche wine And a pece to fil it yne.
- ?1507 W. DUNBAR *Tua Mariit Wemen* (Rouen) in *Poems* (1998) I. 44 Thai..raucht the cop round about, full off riche wynis.
- 1633 P. MASSINGER *New Way to pay Old Debts* i. iii. sig. C3 There came not six dayes since from Hull, a pipe Of rich Canarie.
- 1697 DRYDEN tr. Virgil *Georgics* III, in tr. Virgil *Wks.* 119 He never..surfeited on rich Campanian Wine.
- 1723 *Briton* No. iii Rich wines and high-season'd Ragouts supply the place of Vegetables.
- 1781 W. COWPER *Truth* 364 As leanest land supplies the richest wine.
- 1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* I. iii. 61 A sweet and rich liquor, composed of wine highly spiced, and sweetened also with honey.
- 1862 C. TOVEY *Wine & Wine Countries* iii. 108 The Pedro Ximenes..is one of the richest and most delicate of the Malaga wines.
- 1926 P. M. SHAND *Bk. Wine* v. 66 A rich, sweet white wine that is made from the Sémillon grape.
- 1972 *Times* 20 Oct. 4/6 (adv.) A very old, rich oloroso cream sherry.
- 1996 *Homemaker's Mag.* (Toronto) Mar. 56/1 Guinness, the rich dark beer that's Ireland's national drink.

c. Of balm, lotion, etc.: of superior quality, esp. so as to be nourishing or effective; made from fine ingredients; thick, viscous.

- 1535 W. STEWART tr. H. Boece *Bk. Cron. Scotl.* (1858) 35782 As men wald keip balme riche in ane bois.
- a1672 P. STERRY *Rise Kingdom of God* (1683) 268 The skilful Apothecary beateth his Spices to a

- small, and fine powder, that by a more curious, and exact mixture of them he may make them into a rich ointment, or cordial.
- 1794 M. HARLEY *Prince of Leon* II. 274 Such care..operated like a rich balm, and his wounds were pronounced curable.
- 1847 J. S. KNOWLES *Fortescue* xliv. 180/1 She lubricated her hands and arms with the same rich lotion.
- 1860 E. B. PUSEY *Minor Prophets* 205 A rich ointment..to which odorous substances, myrrh, cinnamon,..and cassia gave scent.
- 1952 *Good Housek.* (U.S. ed.) Dec. 115/2 (*caption*) Are your hands red and rough? At bedtime rub them with rich cream.
- 2008 *Asiana* Summer 208/1 Slather your skin with a rich moisturiser or mask.

†**d.** Of the nose or face: inflamed or reddened, esp. as a result of drinking. Also in figurative contexts. *Obs.*

- 1573 J. BRIDGES *Supremacie Christian Princes* 366 What gorbely paunches, what fat cheekes, what riche noses and highe faces, your stalfed fasters had?
- 1612 J. BOYS *Autumne Part* 152 At the last his house doth cast him out of the doore, hauing left nothing rich except a rich nose.
- 1638 R. BRATHWAIT *Barnabees Journall* (new ed.) I. sig. F3 Let Bacchus bush bee Barnabees rich Nose.
- 1656 S. HOLLAND *Don Zara* II. i. 65 Tellus has formerly been a profound Tipler, and..wears a rich face.
- 1747 T. GILBERT *Poems Several Occasions* 167 In equal numbers drink the sacred nine, Till your rich face shall like your genius shine!
- 1796 *Grose's Classical Dict. Vulgar Tongue* (ed. 3) Rich Face or *Nose*, a red pimpled face.

8.

a. Plentiful, abundant, ample.

- a1500 (†?c1450) *Merlin* (1899) 400 (*MED*) I se ther my baners that brynge vs riche socour.
- 1598 SHAKESPEARE *Love's Labour's Lost* V. ii. 198 Our duetie is so rich, so infinite, That we may do it still without accompt.
- 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* XVI. ccxxix. 314/1 Her Minde did feast on every Sweet And Wonderous Thing, which all the way she went With rich Varieties her Eyes did meet.
- 1658 T. BANCROFT *Heroical Lover* VI. 60 The Plain, Whose bounteous soile glads Italy and Spain, Malta and Barbary, with rich supplies Of graine.
- 1741 I. WATTS *Improvem. Mind* I. iii. 53 In order to furnish the Mind with a rich Variety of Ideas.
- 1745 *Scot. Trans. & Paraph.* v. ii In rich Effusion on his Soul My Spirit's Pow'rs shall flow.
- 1845 *Encycl. Metrop.* VI. 655/1 It yields a most rich supply of molluscous remains.
- 1867 P. SCHAFF *Hist. Christian Church* (1888) VI. v. lxxvii. 459 The event was a rich theme for scandal.
- 1942 *Times* 29 Aug. 4/6 This new and unexpected Italian claim to the inheritance of the Ottoman Empire furnishes the Turkish Press with a rich subject for sarcastic remarks.

- 1950 *Waterloo (Iowa) Daily Courier* 14 Dec. 17 (adv.) 'A trip through candy heaven!' Rich selection of choice chocolate candies.
- 1988 P. WAYBURN *Adventuring in Alaska* (rev. ed.) II. 151 The wildlife of Admiralty Island is rich and diverse.
- 2002 *Economist* 6 July 100/3 Alex's incompetence in English is a rich source..of linguistic jokes in the novel.

b. Of a full, ample, or unstinted nature; highly developed or cultivated.

- 1561 N. WINJET *Wks.* (S.T.S.) I. 5 Your nurissing of pure studentis, of ryche ingyis.
- 1678 R. CUDWORTH *True Intellect. Syst. Universe* I. iv. 364 This sence, we chose rather to follow, as more Rich and August, than that other Vulgar one.
- 1759 B. MARTIN *Nat. Hist. Eng.* I. 78 A very thick and delicious Compound, greatly admired by People of a rich Taste.
- 1781 W. COWPER *Expostulation* 166 What nation will you find, whose annals prove So rich an int'rest in almighty love?
- 1820 KEATS *Ode on Melancholy in Lamia & Other Poems* 141 If thy mistress some rich anger shows, Emprison her soft hand.
- 1858 N. HAWTHORNE *French & Ital. Note-bks.* I. 138 This idea..would develop itself into something very rich.
- 1884 J. RUSKIN *Pleasures of Eng.* 43 The richest fighting element in the British army and navy is British native.
- 1947 *College Eng.* 9 24/2 She has given rich praise and recognition to those who hit upon the secret of pleasing the American public.
- 1974 M. TIPPETT *Moving into Aquarius* 32 Schönberg's imaginative life was unusually rich and powerful.
- 2001 in R. Dawkins *Devil's Chaplain* (2003) iv. 166 His technophilia shone through, but so did his rich sense of the absurd.

c. *colloq.* Highly entertaining or amusing; preposterous, outrageous (esp. in **a bit rich**). Frequently in **that's rich!**: expressing ironic amusement or indignation at something.

- 1675 DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM *Rehearsal* (ed. 3) I. 6 This is one of the richest Stories, Mr. Bayes, that ever I heard of.
- 1761 L. STERNE *Life Tristram Shandy* IV. vii. 89 O Garrick! what a rich scene of this would thy exquisite powers make!
- 1836 A. W. FONBLANQUE *Eng. under Seven Admin.* (1837) III. 313 This is marvellously rich. Sir O. Mosley thinking work on the Sabbath a sin, compounds for obliging servants to commit it.
- 1863 C. C. CLARKE *Shakespeare-characters* iv. 97 But what a rich set of fellows those 'mechanicals' are!
- 1889 L. B. WALFORD *Stiff-necked Generation* xxix. 345 If it really is so, it would be the richest thing I ever knew in my life.

- 1906 G. BONNER *Rich Men's Children* iv. 52 Cora giggled and threw across the hall..a delighted murmur of, 'Oh, say, ain't he just the richest thing?'
- 1936 N. COWARD *To-night at 8.30* II. 40 Me, grumble! I like that, I'm sure. That's rich, that is.
- 1977 J. ANDERSON *Appearance of Evil* i. 6 'You have experienced a spontaneous demonstration of disapproval..at your last recital.' 'Spontaneous! That's rich.'
- 1996 *Minx* Nov. 139/3 We were classed as a 'security risk', which was a bit rich, considering we'd handed ourselves in.

9.

a. Of soil, land, a river, etc.: having the properties necessary to produce fertile growth; abounding in nutrients.

- a1522 G. DOUGLAS tr. Virgil *Aeneid* (1957) II. xii. l. 41 Quhar..Tybris..Rynnys throu the rych feldis.
- a1525 in W. A. Craigie *Asloan MS* (1923) I. 308 With riche fludis & ryveris as Forth, Tay, Tweid [etc.].
- 1577 B. GOOGE tr. C. Heresbach *Foure Bks. Husbandry* I. f. 30 It is cast into very riche grounde or wel manured.
- 1655 G. PLATS in S. Hartlib *Legacy* (ed. 3) 193 A rich earth for Compost worth twenty shillings a load at the least for the fertilizing of land.
- 1697 DRYDEN tr. Virgil *Georgics* II, in tr. Virgil *Wks.* 75 The Thasian Vines in richer Soils abound.
- a1701 H. MAUNDRELL *Journey Aleppo to Jerusalem* (1703) 3 We came into a very rich Vally.
- 1788 H. COWLEY *Poetry of Anna Matilda* 74 The Lion Virgin Sphinx, that shows What time the rich Nile overflows.
- 1813 H. DAVY *Elements Agric. Chem.* (1814) 185 Such soils merit the appellation which is commonly given to them of rich soils.
- 1866 C. KINGSLEY *Hereward the Wake* I. Prel. 16 Its herds of mares and colts, which fed with the cattle and the geese in the rich grass-fen.
- 1888 J. BRYCE *Amer. Commonw.* III. xci. 256 One of the richest wheat-growing districts on the continent.
- 1903 C. T. JOHNSTON *Egyptian Irrigation* 34 Only by the old flood-irrigation system can the land receive any considerable amount of rich Nile silt.
- 1925 W. D. JONES & D. S. WHITTLESEY *Introd. Econ. Geogr.* I. II. 248 This rock is extremely soluble in water, and it therefore takes a layer many feet thick to form a few inches of soil; hence the characteristic location of rich lime soils in lowlands.
- 1958 M. L. KING *Stride toward Freedom* i. 15 I drove through rich and fertile farmlands.
- 2002 *National Trust Mag.* Summer 31/1 Sprouts like a rich, fertile soil and ground which has had plenty of well-rotted manure added.

b. Of mines, ores, or deposits: yielding or containing a high proportion of metals, minerals, or precious stones. †Of a conduit: for conveying such ore (*obs. rare*). Also *fig.*

- c1536 J. BELLENDEN tr. H. Boece *Hist. & Chron. Scotl.* (1821) I. xxxix Ane riche mine of gold..won but

- ony labour.
- 1589 R. LANE in R. Hakluyt *Princ. Navigations* III. 742 And touching the Minerall, thus both M. Yougham affirme that though it be but copper, seeing the Sauages are able to melt it, it is one of the richest in the worlde.
- 1604 E. GRIMESTON tr. J. de Acosta *Nat. & Morall Hist. Indies* IV. v. 218 They cal that poore which yields least silver,..and that riche which yields most silver.
- 1670 J. PETTUS *Fodinæ Regales* 9 Where the Oar digged from any Mine doth yield..so much Gold or Silver,..then it is called rich Oar or a Mine Royal.
- 1758 A. REID tr. P. J. Macquer *Elements Theory & Pract. Chym.* I. 398 The oldest and richest mine of Mercury is that of Almaden in Spain.
- 1839 A. URE *Dict. Arts* 816 The conduit or water-course is divided into three portions.., called the rich conduit, the middle conduit, and the inferior.
- 1877 R. W. RAYMOND *Statistics Mines & Mining* 42 The rich-ore bodies, however, seem to occur in lenticular masses.
- 1912 *Trans. Amer. Inst. Mining* 42 31 There is a common feeling among the miners in Colorado that manganese is a very good sign of rich ore.
- 1970 R. W. THOMAS *Iron & Steel* i. 3/1 Magnetite..[is] the richest of iron ores with up to 73% of iron.
- 1993 *N.Y. Times* 26 Sept. III. 11/4 Besides the well-known mines in South Africa, there are rich deposits [of diamonds] in countries to its north.

c. Of lime: pure, containing little silica or other impurity and hence producing a smooth, creamy mortar (cf. FAT *adj.* 5). Also (of sand): relatively fine grained, hence combining with water to produce a cohesive paste or mortar (now *rare*).

- 1837 J. T. SMITH tr. L. J. Vicat *Pract. & Sci. Treat. Mortars & Cements* i. 6 I have been led to arrange them [*sc.* limes] in five categories... The rich limes are such as may have their volume doubled, or more, by slaking in the ordinary manner,..and which dissolve to the last grain in pure water frequently changed.
- 1837 J. T. SMITH tr. L. J. Vicat *Pract. & Sci. Treat. Mortars & Cements* vi. 44 This powder renders the sand 'rich', or, in other terms, susceptible of a certain cohesion, when tempered with water.
- 1837 J. T. SMITH tr. L. J. Vicat *Pract. & Sci. Treat. Mortars & Cements* 186 The known absence of action of the hydrate of rich lime upon quartz.
- 1873 F. ROBERTSON *Engin. Notes* vi. 140 Pure rich lime is obtained by burning stones which contain no silicates in them.
- 1902 *Builder* 2 Aug. 108/2 Mortar made with rich lime is not so strong as mortar made with lime containing active silica.
- 1921 J. A. AUDLEY *Silica & Silicates* iii. 126 When a limestone is nearly pure calcium carbonate, the lime obtained from it is called a 'fat' or 'rich' lime.
- 1990 *Ceramic Industry* (Nexis) 1 Jan. 75 A rich lime is one containing <5% total of silica, alumina, iron, etc.

d. Of a fuel–air mixture in an internal-combustion engine: containing

a high proportion of fuel; *spec.* in excess of what can be completely combusted with a given proportion of oxygen.

to run rich: (of an engine, motor vehicle, etc.) to operate with a fuel–air mixture having too high a proportion of fuel, resulting in incomplete combustion, and leading to increased fuel consumption, smoky exhaust, stalling, etc.

- 1882 *Van Nostrand's Engin. Mag.* **27** 367/1 It does not matter whether the mixture used is rich or weak in gas; the rich mixture can be fired slowly and the weak one rapidly.
- 1909 *Amer. Blacksmith* June 212/3 Screw in air-adjusting valve until motor runs rich (black smoke, etc.).
- 1917 P. G. WODEHOUSE *Uneasy Money* x. 117 Your chauffeur, having examined the carburettor, turns to you and explains the phenomenon in these words: 'The mixture is too rich.'
- 1935 *N.Y. Times* 23 Oct. 8/2 Evidence here indicates these people knew the left engine was running rich and having carburetor trouble.
- 1971 P. J. MCMAHON *Aircraft Propulsion* vi. 196 During an acceleration..the fuel/air ratio will already be richer than for normal steady running.
- 1998 J. SCOTT *How to tune & modify your Camaro* vi. 97/3 If the exhaust is oxygen-rich, the air/fuel mixture isn't rich enough.
- 2004 J. BRABHAM & D. NYE *Jack Brabham Story* xvii. 244/2 A hesitancy on initial pick-up whenever I opened the throttle..was symptomatic of the engine running rich, using more fuel than it ideally required.

B. n.

1. With *pl.* concord. Those who are rich; rich people as a class. In early use also: †those who are powerful; powerful people as a class (*obs.*).

new, super-rich, etc.: see the first element.

a. With *the*.

the idle rich: see *the idle rich* at IDLE *adj.* 4a.

- eOE KING ÆLFRED tr. Boethius *De Consol. Philos.* (Otho) (2009) I. xxvii. 513 Pæm wære mare ðearf..þæt him mon þingode to þæm ricum, and bæde þæt him mon dyde swa micel wite swa hi þæm oðrum unscyldgum dydon.
- OE ÆLFRIC *Catholic Homilies: 1st Ser.* (Royal) (1997) xiii. 287 He awearp þa rican [L. *potentes*] of setle, & he ahof þa eaðmodan. He gefylde þa hungrian mid his godum & he forlet þa rican [L. *divites*] idele.
- c1175 (►OE) ÆLFRIC *Homily* (Bodl. 343) in S. Irvine *Old Eng. Homilies* (1993) 23 Þa welan we wurðiaþ wolice on ðam ricum.
- c1275 (►?a1200) LA3AMON *Brut* (Calig.) (1963) 1283 Þa riche he makede wrecchas, þa hæne hine awarieden.
- c1300 (►?a1200) LA3AMON *Brut* (Otho) l. 5676 He..sloh þe Romleode. þe pore and þe riche.
- 1340 *Ayenbite* (1866) 67 (MED) Þis zenne is ine uele maneres ase in sergons aye hire lhordinges..Ine poure aye þe riche.
- a1375 *William of Palerne* (1867) l. 338 (MED) Be..seruisabul to þe simple so as to þe riche.
- c1400 (►a1376) LANGLAND *Piers Plowman* (Trin. Cambr. R.3.14) (1960) A. I. 149 I rede þe riche haue reuþe on þe pore.

- †c1426 J. AUDELAY *Poems* (1931) 9 (*MED*) Þe pore schul be made domysmen Apon þe ryche at domysday.
- a1500 in F. B. Bickley *Little Red Bk. Bristol* (1900) I. 141 Aswell to the power as to the riche.
- 1578 J. ROLLAND *Seuin Seages* 28 The grace of God to na man is obstant As to the riche, euin siclyke to the pure.
- 1609 J. SKENE *Regiam Majestatem* I. 149 They doe not justice equallie to the pure and the ritch.
- 1744 J. WESLEY & C. WESLEY *Coll. Psalms & Hymns* (new ed.) I. 53 The Rich, the Poor, the Mean, the Great Are link'd by thy strong Hands.
- 1781 W. COWPER *Hope* 18 The rich grow poor, the poor become purse-proud.
- 1817 SCOTT *Let.* 7 May (1933) IV. 448 The rich..do not in general require to be so much stimulated to benevolence.
- 1879 J. A. FROUDE *Cæsar* i. 6 The rich were extravagant, for life had ceased to have practical interest, except for its material pleasures.
- 1935 S. WALKER *Mrs. Astor's Horse* (1937) 1 Franklin D. Roosevelt..was frightening the solvent with his program to 'Tax the Rich'.
- 1956 M. BRYAN *Intent to Kill* vi. 67 In our country, the rich have no sense of responsibility.
- 1964 M. MCLUHAN *Understanding Media* xx. 200 The press photo coverage of the lives of the rich.
- 1992 *Utne Reader* Jan. 15/1 The rich will grow in number and wealth while the non-rich will grow only in number.

b. Without article. Frequently coupled with *poor*.

- eOE *Metres of Boethius* (partly from transcript of damaged MS) vii. 14 Swa deð rīca nu grundleas gitsung gilpes and æhta.
- OE *Lambeth Psalter* lxxxv.14 *Sinagoga potentium quæsierunt animam meam* : gesamnung rīca uel mihtigra & sohtan mine sawle.
- ?c1200 *Ormulum* (Burchfield transcript) l. 16139 Þatt herrte..standeþþ upp biforenn folc. Biforenn rīche & kene. To niþþrenn woh.
- c1250 in *Stud. Philol.* (1931) 28 597 (*MED*) Of sueche rīche speket þe boc..ant seiid þat hem is sclep op on þat hore catel leued op on, [etc.].
- ?a1300 *Iacob & Iosep* (Bodl.) (1916) l. 192 (*MED*) Of pore & of rīche he haþ wel god word.
- a1375 *William of Palerne* (1867) 1310 (*MED*) Forto riȝtleche þat reaume real of rīche & of pore.
- c1400 (†?a1387) LANGLAND *Piers Plowman* (Huntington HM 137) (1873) C. VI. l. 183 (*MED*) Ich rede ȝow rīche And comuners to a-corden.
- 1433 *Petition in Rotuli Parl.* (1767–77) IV. 476/2 Do right as well to poure as to ryche.
- c1480 (†a1400) *St. Katherine* 17 in W. M. Metcalfe *Legends Saints Sc. Dial.* (1896) II. 442 Þat þai suld cume, bath gret & small,..bath poure & Rik.
- 1535 W. STEWART tr. H. Boethius *Bk. Cron. Scotl.* (1858) II. 445 Pluralitie of meit and drink siclike, Forbiddin wes bayth for puir and ryke.
- 1567 *Compend. Bk. Godly Songs* (1897) 13 As we forgeue all Creature Offendand vs, baith ryche and pure.
- 1622 M. DRAYTON *2nd Pt. Poly-olbion* xxii. 39 Then [Cade] goodly London tooke, There ransoming some rich.

- 1736 S. WESLEY *Poems Several Occasions* 99 The very vilest both of Rich and Poor, From the lewd Peeress to the hackney Whore.
- 1792 *Analyt. Rev.* **14** App. 528 Both poor and rich are exhorted to cultivate a genuine spirit of piety.
- 1850 TENNYSON *In Memoriam* civ. 162 Ring out the feud of rich and poor.
- 1871 J. S. NEWBERRY *U.S. Sanitary Comm. Valley of Mississippi* II. ii. 222 A central depot of deposit was appointed, to which humble and rich were alike invited to send contributions.
- 1918 *Rec. Columbia Hist. Soc.* **21** 231 Before the Civil War the city had many rich; after the war these were richer and many other rich were added.
- 1942 *Econ. Jnl.* **52** 40 We should abolish all free social services save those..which are equally desired by rich and poor.
- 1998 G. S. JACOBS *Getting around Brown* iv. 184 The controversy had also managed to pit rich against rich, rural against rural, black against black.

c. the rich and famous: people who are rich and famous, as a class.

- 1854 J. W. ALEXANDER *Life Archibald Alexander* xxi. 673 He in no instance ran after the great, or addicted himself to the ministry of the rich and famous.
- 1919 *Independent* (N.Y.) 23 Aug. 258/1 I had read that there were homes there of the rich and famous.
- 1974 F. FORSYTH *Dogs of War* II. ix. 169 Megalomania..is usually..interpreted, at least when present in the rich and famous, as merely exaggerated egocentricity.
- 2003 A. NOTARO *Back after Break* xix. 174 As a reward they were invited for a drink with the crew after the show...a chance to really mingle with the rich and famous.

2. One who is rich; a rich person. In early use also: †one who is powerful; a powerful person (obs.). Now rare.

- OE ÆLFRIC *Catholic Homilies: 1st Ser.* (Royal) (1997) xviii. 323 Se rica & se þearfa sind wægfaerende on þisre worulde. Nu berð se rica swære byrðene.
- OE *Beowulf* (2008) 399 Aras þa se rica, ymb hine rinc manig.
- c1175 (†OE) ÆLFRIC *Homily* (Bodl. 343) in S. Irvine *Old Eng. Homilies* (1993) 70 On ðare nihte cwylmde..þe wælþa rice.
- c1275 (†?a1200) LAȜAMON *Brut* (Calig.) (1978) 12460 Þa iherde Arður..and þus spac þe riche wið raȝen his folke.
- †a1393 GOWER *Confessio Amantis* (Fairf.) VI. l. 1072 The riche ayeinward cride tho: ‘O Habraham’ [etc.].
- a1450 (†c1412) T. HOCCLEVE *De Regimine Principum* (Harl. 4866) 4885 (MED) Þe worlde fauorith ay þe riches sawe, Þow þat his conseil be noght worth an hawe.
- a1500 (†?a1400) *Morte Arthur* 2905 (MED) Suche A dynte he yaffe hym one That many a Ryche Rewed that resse.
- 1508 *Golagrus & Gawain* 1265 Yone riche cummis arait in riche robbing.
- 1611 *Bible* (King James) Prov. xiv. 20 The poore is hated euen of his owne neighbour: but the rich hath many friends.

- a1740 J. BRERETON *Poems* (1744) 84 The Rich is liberal, humble is the Great, And condescends to those of low Estate.
- 1963 H. BRODKEY *Stories in almost Classical Mode* (1989) 49 When all is said and done, you're nothing but another hard-nosed rich.

C. *adv.*

Richly, fully. *rare* in later use.

- a1325 (►c1250) *Gen. & Exod.* (1968) l. 3482 [God] ðe slog..Egypte..De gaf ysaac so manige sunen; De Iosep dede so riche wunen.
- c1425 LYDGATE *Troyyes Bk.* (Augustus A.iv) v. 1034 (*MED*) Worþi Emperours..richest regne in her royal floures.
- c1480 (►a1400) *Prol. Evangelists* 82 in W. M. Metcalfe *Legends Saints Sc. Dial.* (1896) I. 238 Sa sancte Iohnne, quhene he spekis, to godis godhed rycheste rekis.
- a1525 *Thre Prestis of Peblis* (Asloan) (1920) 6 Syne in ane hall..He herberit all his burgess riche & bene.
- 1803 D. P. COKE & J. BIRCH *Paper War* 339 Our tankard, decorated rich with silken blue.
- 1884 *Harper's Mag.* June 21/1 They lived rich and happily; and if they lived well, they died well too.
- 2002 L. LEVY *Mind of Wall St.* ii. 32 We lived through the 1930s rather comfortably... This is not to say we lived rich—Dad hated ostentation.

PHRASES

P1. *as rich as Croesus*: see CRÆSUS *n.*

P2. *to strike it rich*: see STRIKE *v.* 68d.

P3. *the rich get richer (and the poor get poorer)* and variants.

- 1832 *Huron Reflector* (Norwalk, Ohio) 14 Feb. 1/5 [The system] has, in fact, made the 'rich, richer, and the poor, poorer'.
- 1890 C. W. HASKINS *Argonauts of Calif.* xxii. 320 The rich are getting richer whilst the poor are gittin' poorer.
- 1921 G. KAHN & R. B. EGAN *Ain't we got Fun* (song) 5 There's nothing surer The rich get rich and the poor get children.
- 1972 *Times* 8 May 14/1 It is the old story of the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer, this time by courtesy of Dr Borlaug's miracle grains.
- 1973 *Black Panther* 31 Mar. C/1 County underassessment too, perpetuates the 'rich get richer' cycle in Oakland.
- 1997 *N.Y. Times Bk. Rev.* 27 Apr. 8/4 Mr. Reich's umpteenth insistence that the rich are getting richer

and the poor are getting shafted.

P4. *poor little rich girl, poor little rich boy*: see POOR *adj.* and *n.*¹
Special uses 4.

P5. *soak-the-rich*: see SOAK *v.* 7f.

P6. *life's rich pageant*: see PAGEANT *n.* 3c.

SPECIAL USES

S1.

a. Forming adjectives with the sense 'richly —'.

(a) With past participles. Now somewhat *rare* or *arch*.

c1330 *Sir Orfeo* (Auch.) (1966) l. 362 (MED) Þe butras com out of þe diche Of rede gold y-arched riche.

c1400 (þ?a1300) *Kyng Alisaunder* (Laud) 4173 (MED) Þere weren coupes riche ywrou3th.

?c1450 tr. *Bk. Knight of La Tour Landry* (1906) 39 Welle arraied with riche clothinge, and riche atyred of perles and presious stones.

a1500 (þc1400) *St. Erkenwald* l. 139 (MED) As riche reuestid as he was, he rayked to þe tounge.

1594 SHAKESPEARE *Lucrece* sig. L1 The shining glorie Of rich-built Illion.

1595 T. EDWARDS *Cephalus & Procris* L'Envoy Adon deafly masking thro Stately troupes rich conceited.

1606 J. SYLVESTER tr. G. de S. Du Bartas *Deuine Weekes & Wks.* (new ed.) II. iv. 48 Not far from her, coms Wealth, all rich-bedight.

a1616 SHAKESPEARE *Henry VI, Pt. 1* (1623) I. viii. 25 The rich-iewel'd Coffe of Darius.

1671 MILTON *Paradise Regain'd* II. 352 In order stood Tall stripling youths rich clad.

1723 R. BLACKMORE *Alfred* iii. 88 Whither rich-laden num'rous Fleets resort.

1776 W. J. MICKLE tr. L. de Camoens *Lusiad* 70 Rich-figured tap'stry now supplies the sail.

1807 G. CRABBE *Parish Reg.* III, in *Poems* 110 A rich-bound Book of Prayer, the Captain gave.

1848 W. S. MAYO *Kaloolah* (1850) 170 The merchants..with rich-laden camels.

1913 H. B. COTTERILL *Anc. Greece* i. 14 Rich-embroidered jackets or blouses and heavily flounced skirts and lofty coiffures of hair.

1941 G. SMITH *Many Green Isle* xviii. 243 The rich-painted cathedral.

2002 D. LAMB DIN *Sea of Grey* xvii. 193 Most naval officers..would let *three* privateers sail past if there was a chance of taking a rich-laden merchantman.

(b) With present participles.

- a1586 SIR P. SIDNEY *Arcadia* (1593) III. sig. Ff5 So fitly did the riche growing marble serue to beautifie the vawt of the first entrie.
- 1686 A. BEHN tr. B. de Bonnecourse *La Montre* 219 Rich flowing Wit, when e'er you Silence break, Flows from your Tongue, and sparkles in your Eyes.
- 1784 W. HAYLEY *Happy Prescription* II. i, in *Plays of Three Acts* 37 Some hundred brave lads..Have toil'd many years in those rich-burning climes.
- 1839 A. URE *Dict. Arts* 963 This coal has been found to afford..a very rich-burning gas.
- 1842 I. WILLIAMS *Baptistry* (1874) I. v. 58 What I thought rich-glittering spoil, Was but the [serpent's] scales.
- 1905 *Gardeners' Chron.* 3 June 350/2 Staged in a tent and surrounded by groups of rich-flowering plants.
- 1993 B. THEISS & P. THEISS *Family Herbal* (rev. ed.) xi. 149 Lavender is a rich-blooming summer plant.

b. Parasynthetic.

- 1590 SPENSER *Faerie Queene* I. II. sig. B5 As when two rams..Fight for the rule of the rich fleeced flocke.
- ?1614 G. CHAPMAN tr. Homer *Odyssees* v. 75 When rich-haird Ceres pleasd to giue the raines To her affections.
- 1747 W. COLLINS *Odes* 16 Thou rich-hair'd Youth of Morn.
- 1820 KEATS *Isabella* in *Lamia & Other Poems* 56 Many..stood, To take the rich-ored driftings of the flood.
- 1850 TENNYSON *In Memoriam* lxxiii. 102 What..voice the richest-toned that sings, Hath power to give thee as thou wert?
- a1894 W. PATER *Gaston de Latour* (1896) i. 17 He hunted the rich-fleshed game of La Beauce through the..corn.
- 1925 E. BLUNDEN *Eng. Poems* 93 Rich-tongued anew The foreign birds are come.
- 1936 K. BOYLE *Death of Man* (1989) xiii. 138 She watched the rich-skinned women shrewdly through her half-closed seemingly myopic eyes.
- 2005 *Time Out N.Y.* 24 Feb. 115/2 *Heart like a River* brims with rich-toned guitars, scratchy violin quivers and '70s-esque piano chords.

c. Complementary.

- 1789 W. MARSHALL *Rural Econ. Gloucestershire* I. xvi. 82 An arch of dark-coloured rich-looking mould.
- 1839 F. TROLLOPE *Widow Barnaby* I. iv. 71 You, or any other rich-seeming lady like you.
- 1881 *Macmillan's Mag.* 44 86 Mrs. Osmond's warm, rich-looking reception-rooms.
- 1922 J. JOYCE *Ulysses* III. xviii. [Penelope] 693 Those richlooking..drinks those stagedoor johnnies drink with the opera hats.
- 1930 E. WAUGH *Vile Bodies* x. 195 A really good story my second day on the paper. This ought to do me good with the *Excess—very rich*-making.
- 1966 *Phylon* 27 291 Flora dumped three rich-smelling loaves of bread onto the table.
- 1994 *Canad. Living* May (Ontario insert) 5/1 A rich-tasting sauce to spoon over rice or noodles.

S2. With prefixed noun, forming adjectives with the sense 'rich in ——'.

Frequently in scientific contexts.

For more established compounds, such as *energy-*, *information-*, *mineral-*, *oil-rich*, etc.: see the first element.

- 1593 MARLOWE tr. Ovid *Elegies* (c1602) III. ix. sig. E8 The graine-rich goddesse in high woods did stray, Her long haire eare-wrought garland fell away.
- 1895 W. MORRIS *Beowulf* 17 The gem-rich hoard-burg of the heroes.
- 1897 *Jrnl. Geol. (U.S.)* May 351 The intermediate potash-rich rocks..carry basic plagioclase-labradorite to anorthite.
- 1906 *Bio-chem. Jrnl.* 2 22 Case XV..was allowed a fat-rich diet.
- 1964 R. H. BAKER *Astron.* (ed. 8) xvi. 471 Photographs in many parts of the Milky Way show small dark nebulae against backgrounds of star-rich regions.
- 1989 *PC Mag.* May 88/1 They don't have the versatility or power of a feature-rich programming language like Hypercard's Hypertalk.
- 2002 A. PEARSON *I don't know how she does It* (2003) xv. 146 At the pool you hire for such occasions, the water is tepid, bacteria-rich and, unlike most water, not transparent.

S3.

rich bitch *n.* derogatory a wealthy woman perceived as malicious or haughty.

- 1930 S. BENSON *Far-away Bride* xii. 337 Fifty yen more—fifty yen less—it is nothing to a man whose daughter is rich bitch.
- 1962 H. GOLD *Age of Happy Probl.* II. 187 There is no mama to cradle him, only this rich bitch whose particular mattress needs he tries to predict.
- 1990 *USA Today* 16 Feb. 4 D Along comes Jessie's rich-bitch sister, kicked out of the mansion by her Arab husband (whom she sensitively calls 'towel head').
- 2007 *Now* 21 May 31/2 I couldn't give a rat's ass where she lives, the skinny little rich bitch!

rich blood *n.* Christian Church (now arch. and rare) = precious blood *n.* at PRECIOUS *adj.*, *adv.*, and *n.* Compounds 2.

- c1400 (1380) *Pearl* l. 646 (MED) Ryche blod ran on rode so roge.
- 1450 in C. Brown *Relig. Lyrics 15th Cent.* (1939) 141 (MED) At many a betyr wovnde þe ryche blod out spronge.
- 1635 W. MURE *Ioy of Tears* l. 46 Eternall life receive through my rich blood.
- 1698 J. DONALDSON *Pick-tooth for Swearers* 16 The Cleansing Virtue, and Excelling Worth Of that Rich Blood which from his Side sprung forth.
- 1727 C. PITT *Poems & Transl.* 62 Behold thy King with Purple cover'd round, Not in the Tyrian Tinctures dy'd,..But in his own rich Blood that streams from every Wound.
- 1893 G. BARLOW *Crucifixion of Man* 115 I had preached of Christ's redemption. Could his rich blood

wash out this?

1917 'J. OXENHAM' *Vision Splendid* 17 Christ's own rich blood, for healing of the nations, Poured through his heart the message of reprieve.

rich-field *adj.* *Astron.* designating a telescope with a short focal length giving optimum wide-angle, low-power views of faint and extended objects such as nebulae, galaxies, and star fields.

1938 *N.Y. Times* 25 Dec. II. 9/6 Known as the Rich-field type, the unusually short focus of the telescope allows for a wide and bright field rather than a great magnifying of stellar objects.

1957 *Sci. Monthly* Dec. p. ii/2 (*advt.*) Use as a Rich-field Scope for viewing star clusters.

1979 *Globe & Mail* (Toronto) (Nexis) 10 Dec. Best for viewing deep-sky objects is a rich-field telescope, either a reflector or refractor that use relatively low magnification but give a wide, clear field of view.

2002 *Sci. News* 7 Dec. 368/2 (*advt.*) Large 4¼" clear aperture Newtonian Rich-field reflector that provides a breathtaking 3° field.

rich kid *n. colloq.* (orig. *U.S.*, usu. *depreciative*) a child or young adult from a wealthy or privileged family.

1895 *Galveston (Texas) Daily News* 26 May 10/7 Just read that column article headed 'A Rich Kid Elopes With An Actress.' I ain't the rich kid, but I am the actress.

1927 F. M. THRASHER *Gang* II. xii. 216 The 'rich kids' are usually given some sort of opprobrious epithet by the gangs, such as 'sissies'.

1973 L. BANGS in G. Marcus *Psychotic Reactions* (1987) 114 So what makes..[him] any different? That he was a spoiled rich kid?

2006 *Independent* 14 Aug. 28/3 In the last century, young rich kids did a Grand Tour which restricted them to the ancient sites of Europe.

rich rhyme *n.* a rhyme in which the rhyming elements include matching consonants before the stressed vowel sounds (for example *taken* and *mistaken*, *peer* and *pier*); (as a mass noun) rhyming of this kind; cf. RIME RICHE *n.*

1656 A. COWLEY *To Dr. Scarborough in Pindaric Odes* Note ii *Find, Refind*: These kinds of Rhymes the French delight in, and call Rich Rhymes.

1764 *Anecd. Polite Lit.* IV. vii. 230 There is no real beauty in the similitude of sound at the conclusion of two lines; in some rich rhymes there is an appearance of it, but even these repeated, become tiresome to the ear.

1838 *Monthly Mag.* Jan. 105 Errors that are invariably committed, in the double or rich rhyme, by those who are not poets *born*, but poets *made*.

1902 P. CHUBB *Teaching of Eng.* x. 164 It is essentially a poem to be read, full of music, of plentiful

alliteration and onomatopœia, of rich rhyme, and a rhythm that varies greatly.

2003 *French Rev.* **76** 964 It is legitimate to point to the musical qualities of the French poem, its effective use of rich rhymes and repetitions.

rich-soil *adj.* (of land) characterized by rich or fertile soil.

1889 W. WESTGARTH *Austral. Progress* 187 The flats and rich-soil marshes had much of the New Zealand flax.

2002 S. MCINTIRE *Amer. Cutting Garden* i. 6 In an expansive cutting garden, it makes sense to create a rich-soil area for plants like delphinium or astilbes.

rich text *n.* *Computing* = *Rich Text Format n.*; (also) text in this format; cf. *plain text n.* (b) at *PLAIN adj.*² Special uses 3.

1988 *Business Wire* (Nexis) 31 May Rich text allows certain words, numbers or blocks of text to gain added impact on the screen and in published reports.

1999 G. PADWICK *Using Microsoft Outlook 2000* iii. 86 Select HTML or Rich Text if you want to switch to either of those formats.

2007 *Lifehacker* (Nexis) 14 June Create notes in different colors and sizes that can contain rich text and graphics.

Rich Text Format *n.* *Computing* a document format that allows text to be stored with a significant quantity of information about its font, size, layout, etc., in a form that can be transferred between different (types of) machine and/or operating systems; abbreviated *RTF*.

RTF was the first widely used transferable format on the IBM PC.

1986 *InfoWorld* 9 June 8/1 A standard so applications can exchange text information and preserve document-formatting information such as font, face, size, color, style, paragraph layout, and spacing. The new standard is called the Rich Text Format.

1998 *Merriam-Webster's Man. for Writers & Editors* xiv. 352 One approach to standardization has been developed by Microsoft Corp., in the form of Rich Text Format (RTF).

2008 *Independent Extra* (Nexis) 17 Dec. 12 Users can store and display personal business documents in formats such as Adobe PDF and Microsoft Word, which are converted into rich-text format.

