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smart, *adj.*

Pronunciation: Brit. /sma:t/, U.S. /smart/

Forms: OE–eME **smeart**, eME **smært** (*south-west midl.*), eME **smeort** (*south-west. and south-west midl.*), eME **smort** (*west midl.*), ME **smartt**, ME **smertt**, ME **smyrte**, ME–15 **smerte**, ME–15 (18– *regional*) **smert**, ME–16 **smarte**, ME– **smart**, lME **smrt** (transmission error), lME **suert** (transmission error), 19– **smart** (*Eng. regional*); *Sc.* pre-17 **smarte**, pre-17 17– **smart**, pre-17 19– **smert**.

Frequency (in current use):

Origin: A variant or alteration of another lexical item.

Etymology: < an ablaut variant (*o*-grade) of the same West Germanic base as SMART *v.*¹

Some of the Middle English forms probably result from association with SMART *v.*¹ and SMART *n.*¹ The expected reflex of Old English *smeart* is Middle English *smart*. The forms *smeort*, *smort* perhaps show influence of the present stem of SMART *v.*¹, which reflects an original *e*-grade base (compare discussion of the variant *smeorte* at SMART *n.*¹). The rare form *smyrte* suggests an antecedent with *i*-mutation; compare discussion of forms at SMART *n.*¹ (and compare also forms of SMART *v.*¹). Forms such as *smert* could ultimately reflect either the *o*-grade of the base (with *i*-mutation) or the *e*-grade; by early modern English the reflex of *smert*- has usually merged with the reflex of *smart*- (compare forms of SMART *n.*¹ and SMART *v.*¹ and discussion at those entries).

Use of the word as a male personal name is apparently recorded for 1066 in the form *Smert* in *Domesday Bk.* (1086); also attested early as a surname, e.g. Lifwinus *Smart* (c1180), Hugone *Smart* (1209), and as a surname element, e.g. Christiana *Smartknav* (1279). These uses imply earlier currency of the use of the word with reference to a person (compare senses 8b, 9).

I. Painful, uncomfortable; sharp, severe, intense.

1.

a. Of an instrument, such as a rod, whip, etc.: inflicting or causing pain; biting, stinging; (of a weapon) sharp and cutting. Now *rare* and chiefly in *hist.* context.

OE *Homily: Sermo ad Populum Dominicis Diebus* (Lamb. 489) in A. S. Napier *Wulfstan* (1883) 295

Ic wylle swingan eow mid þam smeartestum swipum.

a1225 (†?OE) *MS Vesp.* in R. Morris *Old Eng. Homilies* (1868) 1st Ser. 243 Þu ahst to habben ehte

wepnecin, þa beoð sceold, helm and brenie, swrd and spere, stede and twei sporen, and ane smearte 3erd.

c1330 *Short Metrical Chron.* (Royal) l. 929 in J. Ritson *Anc. Eng. Metrical Romanceës* (1802) II. 309

(MED) He was yschote With an arewe kene ant smert.

a1400 (†a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Vesp.) l. 15785 Wit maces and wit neues smert vn-rekenli on him

ran.

1447 O. BOKENHAM *Lives of Saints* l. 1593 Whan he on þe [MS ye] crosce..Heng nakyd, fastnyd wyth

nyales smerte.

c1480 (†a1400) *St. Vincent* l. 157 in W. M. Metcalfe *Legends Saints Sc. Dial.* (1896) II. 263 In a

frame [he] stent hyme..with smert cordis sa faste til senonis ore hyd ma leste.

- ?1567 M. PARKER *Whole Psalter* lv. 159 Hys wordes were felt, yet were sharpe dartes and smart.
- 1594 SHAKESPEARE *Henry VI, Pt. 2* III. ii. 329 Their softest tuch as smart as lyzards stings.
- 1604 J. GODSKALL *Arke of Noah* sig. A3 We at diuers times haue felt this rod, and also at this present time in Flanders they doo taste of this smart-whip.
- 1673 J. FLAVELL *Fountain of Life* xvi. 198 Sometimes he spares their outward, and afflicts their inner man, which is a much smarter rod.
- ?1705 E. HICKERINGILL *Surv. Earth* 44 A Whip and Lash is of great and necessary use to slash..Offenders that debauch this vile Earth; and the smarter the better.
- 1796 *Augusta Fitzherbert* II. xxx. 65 I met one of them..dressed in a riding habit, and flourishing in her hand a smart whip, with a spur at the end.
- 1813 DR. MARSHALL in *Addr. Relative to Election in Durham* 37/2 The Darlington colt, Who trainers inform me is subject to bolt: And this when he feels the smart whip on his flank.
- 1899 *Cornish Mag.* 2 394/2 Mr. Lethbridge is both master and huntsman, and is assisted by a smart whip.
- 1976 E. S. MORGAN *Meaning of Independence* iii. 63 A navy would be a smart rod, for, as James Madison had earlier suggested to him, 'A single frigate under the orders of Congress could make it the interest of any one of the Atlantic States to pay its quota.'

†**b.** Of land: rugged; (of an object) sharp or rough to the touch. Cf.

SHARP *adj.* 2. *Obs. rare.*

- a1525 *Eng. Conquest Ireland* (Trin. Dublin) (1896) 128 (MED) For hyt was smert lond, woddy, & of Marche, & ferr.
- c1540 (†?a1400) *Gest Historiale Destr. Troy* (2002) f. 16^v Pis stone..Be it smethe owþer smert smaragden hit hat.

†**c.** Of an instrument of pain: severe or hard *on* (also *upon*) one. *Obs.*

- 1549 T. STERNHOLD *Al Such Psalmes of Dauid* xxxii. sig. Diiii Thy hande on me, So [grievous was] and smerte.
- 1648 BP. J. HALL *Breathings Devout Soul* x. 14 When thy hand hath been smart and heavy upon me.
- 1679 J. BUNYAN *Fear of God* 81 When the rod was most smart upon them, they made great conscience of giving way to their first fears wherewith they were made afraid by the Spirit.

2. Of a blow, stroke, etc.: sufficiently hard or severe to cause pain; sharp, stinging; (in later use sometimes without implication of pain being caused) delivered quickly and sharply (cf. sense 8a). Also in figurative contexts.

- a1225 (†?OE) *MS Trin. Cambr.* in R. Morris *Old Eng. Homilies* (1873) 2nd Ser. 207 Mannes lichame ihalsneð iwis þenne me hine pined mid hunger..and mid stiue wedes next þe liche and smerte smiten of smale longe 3erden.

- c1275 (†?a1200) LA3AMON *Brut* (Calig.) (1978) l. 10660 [They] uppen Colgrime smiten mid swiðe smærte [c1300 *Otho* smorte] biten.
- c1330 (†?c1300) *Bevis of Hampton* (Auch.) l. 2883 (MED) Beues þanne wiþ strokes smerte Smot þe dragoun to þe herte.
- a1400 (†a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Vesp.) l. 25543 Iesu..Sufferd..Dintes sare and smert.
- a1500 (†?a1400) *Sir Torrent of Portyngale* (1887) l. 2472 (MED) Smert boffettes they yeldyd there.
- 1574 A. GOLDING tr. J. Calvin *Serm. on Job* (new ed.) cxlv. 747 When as wee feele so smart blowes, and the hand of God maketh vs to quake.
- 1604 SHAKESPEARE *Hamlet* III. i. 52 How smart a lash that speech doth giue my conscience.
- 1664 H. POWER *Exper. Philos.* III. 160 With a few smart strokes of a great Mall, or Ham|mer, you beat the one end of it.
- 1764 T. REID *Inq. Human Mind* v. §6 Suppose him first to be pricked with a pin—this will, no doubt, give a smart sensation.
- 1789 J. BONNER *Bee-master's Compan.* xxiii. 219 With a knife loose the edges of the combs from the hive all around, and give the hive a smart knock on the floor.
- 1813 *Sporting Mag.* 42 68 Cooper planted a smart hit on his adversary's neck.
- 1859 'G. ELIOT' *Adam Bede* II. IV. xxx. 293 When a man's got his limbs whole, he can bear a smart cut or two.
- 1921 S. COMSTOCK *Daughter of Helen Kent* i. 4 Its passengers huddled indoors, cowering from the smart whips of the December air.
- 1939 F. D. TREDREY *Pilot's Summer* 28 If you bale out and land in water..a smart rap will release the whole lot and you can swim free.
- 1993 *Dog World* June 107/1 Food is held out to the dog, and as soon as he snaps or only merely sniffs at it he is given a smart blow.

†3. Of an event, time, etc.: dreadful, dire; difficult; testing. *Obs.*

- a1225 (†?a1200) *MS Trin. Cambr.* in R. Morris *Old Eng. Homilies* (1873) 2nd Ser. 61 (MED) Vuele he us briseð gif he binimeð us ure agte..oðer þurh orf qualm, oðer þurh smerte gier.
- c1330 *Simonie* (Auch.) (1991) l. 392 God..sen[t]e a derþe on eorþe and made hit ful smart.
- a1400 (†c1303) R. MANNYNG *Handlyng Synne* (Harl.) l. 8539 (MED) For shame he myȝt nat telle how smart þe temptyng þat come to hys hert.
- a1463 (†c1440) S. SCROPE tr. C. de Pisan *Epist. of Othea* (Pierpont Morgan) (1970) 109 Hector me must pronounce thi death smerte.

4. Of pain (physical or mental), sorrow, etc.: sharp, keen, painful, severe. Also of a wound or other cause of discomfort.

- †c1300 *Havelok* (Laud) (1868) l. 2055 And mikel sorwe in his herte For hise wundes, þat we[r] so smerte.
- 1372 in E. Wilson *Descriptive Index Lyrics John of Grimestone's Preaching Bk.* (1973) 33 (MED) Hand, heued, foot, herte Criȝet Crist for wondis smerte.
- a1400 (†a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Vesp.) l. 58 Wyt chauce of ded, or chauce of hert, þat soft began

- has endyng smart.
- c1450 (†1369) CHAUCER *Bk. Duchess* (Fairf. 16) (1871) l. 507 Hym thought hys sorwes were so smerte.
- 1513 G. DOUGLAS tr. Virgil *Aeneid* v. xii. 63 The fadir Eneas, smyt with this smart cais.
- 1562 A. BROOKE tr. M. Bandello *Tragicall Hist. Romeus & Iuliet* f. 50^v And though with greater payne she cloked sorowes smart: Yet did her paled face disclose the passions of her hart.
- 1678 *Lively Oracles* III. §5. 264 That long train of smart calamities which succeeded his sin.
- 1688 J. BUNYAN *Good News for Vilest of Men* 75 The Gospel..threatneth them with the heaviest and smartest Judgments.
- 1740 *Athenæum* 24 Sept. 1887 The whey..gives me pretty smart colicks.
- 1753 S. RICHARDSON *Hist. Sir Charles Grandison* I. 187 Sir Rowland took notice, that I must have had a smart illness for the time, by my alter'd countenance.
- 1826 S. T. COLERIDGE *Coll. Lett.* (1971) VI. 648 Henry suffered a Relapse..with a smart attack of fever, oppression on the chest and dyspnoea.
- 1899 T. C. ALLBUTT et al. *Syst. Med.* VIII. 488 There may be high fever,..nausea, vomitings, smart diarrhoea and so on.
- 1907 *Brit. Med. Jrnal.* 25 Apr. 65/2 In patients suffering from gastric ulcer smart pain is produced at once.
- 1985 T. VALENTINE & C. VALENTINE *Appl. Kinesiology* (1987) ii. 16 A smart pain served as my morning alarm clock for nearly thirty years, arousing me promptly at six daily regardless of the firmness of my mattress.

5.

a. Esp. of a natural force or process: strong, vigorous, intense; bracing, keen. Cf. SHARP *adj.* 4d, 4j.

- c1300 *St. Patrick's Purgatory* (Laud) l. 245 in C. Horstmann *Early S.-Eng. Legendary* (1887) 207 (MED) A smart wind..on heom bleu3 wel faste, Pat heom þou3te heo weren i-barnd.
- a1425 (†a1400) *Prick of Conscience* (Galba & Harl.) (1863) l. 3257 Þai er dungen..With smert stormes als of wynd and rayn.
- c1450 (†?a1400) *Wars Alexander* (Ashm.) l. 1309 Quen it was smeten in small with þe smert wazes.
- c1540 (†?a1400) *Gest Historiale Destr. Troy* (2002) f. 146 Ffor the smorther & the smoke of þe smert loghys..All the Citie might se the sercle aboute.
- 1672 SIR T. BROWNE *Let. to Friend* xii. 136 Sepulchral fires and smart flames.
- 1692 J. RAY *Misc. Disc.* v. 91 A smart and continuing Rain.
- 1711 SWIFT *Jrnal. to Stella* 31 Jan. (1948) I. 178 We are here in as smart a frost for the time as I have seen.
- 1726 T. SMITH *Jrnal.* (1849) 265 This has been a very smart, close winter.
- 1774 E. LONG *Hist. Jamaica* II. xl. 240 Into these basons they let a smart stream of water, to loosen the earth.
- 1800 *Med. Jrnal.* 5 31 They..had a smart fever for three days, and then an eruption.
- 1875 R. HUNT & F. W. RUDLER *Ure's Dict. Arts* (ed. 7) III. 1055 The assistant must look to the oil, and bring it to a smart simmer.

- 1900 J. SLOCUM *Sailing Alone around World* (1901) xvii. 235 It was blowing a smart gale and was too rough for the sloop to be towed with safety.
- 1992 B. UNSWORTH *Sacred Hunger* xxxviii. 429 Sea breeze came in but soon overpowered by a smart tornado obliging us to furl all and come to anchor in 25 fathoms.

b. Of a substance (esp. alcoholic drink) or its taste: pungent, acrid; sharp, piquant; invigorating to the palate. Also in figurative contexts. Cf. SHARP *adj.* 6a. Now *rare*.

- 1372 in E. Wilson *Descriptive Index Lyrics John of Grimestone's Preaching Bk.* (1973) 45 (MED) Lewes..Menkten eysyl with galle smerte, And bodin him drinken þo.
- 1567 G. TURBERVILLE tr. G. B. Spagnoli *Eglogs* iii. f. 20 Hee tels a wofull tale that tasteth smart.
- 1664 H. POWER *Exper. Philos.* I. 33 Both in the keenest and smartest, as well as in the weakest and most watrish Vineger.
- 1684 J. HAINES *Epil. to Lacy's Sir Hercules Buffoon* (single sheet) These new Wits Relish, small, smart, Bottle Beer.
- 1702 C. BEAUMONT *J. Beaumont's Psyche* (new ed.) IX. lxxxii. 128 A flood, to which..smart Gall is dropping Myrrh.
- 1710 T. FULLER *Pharmacopœia Extemporanea* 3 The smarter and staler [ale is], the more it openeth and detergeth.
- 1762 O. GOLDSMITH *Citizen of World* I. 241 It will eat best with some smart bottled beer.
- 1818 KEATS *Let.* 29 June (1995) 110 We have now begun upon whisky,..very smart stuff it is.
- 1912 *Farmers' Cycl.* (1916) I. 332 The vegetable drugs—fenugreek, fennel, anise, gentian, ginger and pepper—were employed in sufficient quantities to produce an agreeable odor and smart taste.
- 1984 C. G. HUNTER *Wildflowers of Arkansas* 68 The leaves of smartweeds have a sharp or 'smart' taste. The knotty stem-joints are a trademark of the genus.

c. Of a battle, attack, etc.: fierce, violent; *esp.* vigorous and quick. Cf. SHARP *adj.* 4c.

- ?a1400 (▶a1338) R. MANNYNG *Chron.* (Petyt) II. 21 (MED) Þe Danes stode þam ageyn with bataile fulle smerte.
- a1450 (▶?a1300) *Richard Coer de Lyon* (Caius) (1810) l. 5389 Kyng Richard..Gaff the batayle hard and smerte, That no Paynym myght withsterte.
- 1672 tr. G. Gualdo Priorato *Hist. Managem. Cardinal Mazarine* II. II. II. 200 On the 14. of August, there happen'd a smart skirmish, in which the two Counts..and Turenne's Lieutenant-Collonel was slain.
- 1791 G. MORRIS in J. Sparks *Life G. Morris* (1832) II. 137 A good smart action would be useful rather than pernicious.
- 1846 H. H. WILSON *Hist. Brit. India 1805–35* II. ii. 51 A smart affair with the enemy took place.
- 1885 *Manch. Examiner* 21 Mar. 6/2 A smart passage at arms between his Grace and Lord Bramwell.
- 1921 W. FOSTER *Early Trav. India* 288 A Portuguese carrack was overtaken and destroyed, after a smart encounter in which the English commander was slain.

1985 P. R. NEWMAN *Atlas of Eng. Civil War* 70 On 15 August the royalist cavalry won a smart action at Ribble Bridge, near Preston.

d. Of a sound: short and sharp; abrupt and loud.

c1400 (þ?a1300) *Kyng Alisaunder* (Laud) l. 1183 (MED) To mouþe he sett his olyfaunt; He blowep smert and loude sounes.

1607 G. MARKHAM *Cavelarice* v. 54 The noyse and smart sounde of the lash of his whippe.

1716 B. CHURCH *Entertaining Passages Philip's War* l. 38 In the Evening they heard a smart firing at a distance from them.

1752 *London Mag.* Dec. 535/2 The electricity breaks off with a smart crack, and a spark of fire.

1829 *Chapters Physical Sci.* 463 It demonstrates its presence both by a sudden flash and a smart report.

1851 N. HAWTHORNE *Twice-told Tales* I. viii. 154 That smart, slapping sound, produced by an open hand upon tender flesh.

1913 T. HARDY *Changed Man* 200 The hoofs of his horse sending up a smart sound now that he had reached the hard road of the drive.

1991 *N.Y. Mag.* 25 Nov. 30/2 The smart crack of a bat and the roar of engines.

e. Of an incline (esp. a hill): (relatively) steep. Cf. SHARP *adj.* 10d. Now *rare*.

1670 S. WILSON *Lassels's Voy. Italy* (new ed.) l. 58 I went vp a smart hill called Mount Aurigo.

1794 N. PARRY *Jrnl. in Kentucky Hist. Soc. Reg.* (1936) 34 385 I found the mouth wide enough to..walk in strait; and the bottom was dry; it being on the top of a smart hill.

1833 *Jrnl. Steam Transport & Husb.* Dec. 55/2 It has been making almost daily trips to Edgeware, upon which road there are two smart hills.

1855 *Jrnl. Hort. Soc.* 9 130 The great accumulation of heat, too, at the upper portion of the roof; how unnatural, how wasteful!.. Ten per cent of the fuel is wasted in this angle, especially in high houses with a smart incline.

1918 J. CLARKE *Japan at First Hand* xvi. 237 It is a winding fairy-like walk up a smart incline to the foot of the falls.

6.

a. Of words, etc.: sharp, severe; cutting, acrimonious.

c1330 (þ?c1300) *Guy of Warwick* (Auch.) l. 1365 (MED) With þat ich word wel smert, Gij him smot vn-to þe hert.

a1400 (þa1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Vesp.) l. 3034 Abraham..thought þis wordes war to smert.

1550 J. HEYWOOD *Hundred Epigrammes* xxxiv. sig. Biiii^v To whiche smart mocke, and wyly begylyng, He..saied [etc.].

1639 T. FULLER *Hist. Holy Warre* II. xxiv. 74 He would often give a smart jest, which would make the

- place both blush and bleed where it lighted.
- 1675 tr. W. Camden *Hist. Princess Elizabeth* (rev. ed.) III. 269 A Book which was written..against the Marriage in a smart and stinging Style.
- 1735 SWIFT *Gulliver* in *Wks.* III. 128 He seldom failed of a smart Word or two upon my Littleness.
- 1751 *Affecting Narr. H.M.S. Wager* 128 This smart Remonstrance touch'd the Lieutenant to the very Heart.
- 1825 *Gentleman's Mag.* 95 I. 397 'To start' is to apply a smart word to an idle or forgetful person.
- 1884 C. H. D. STOCKER *Between Acts* I. iv. 89 He..had come in it to-day without eliciting a single sneer or smart word from anybody.
- 1918 W. H. HODGSON *Captain Gault* ii. 48 I gave him a smart word or two before all the saloon-full; and I fancy they agreed with me.
- 1999 R. MAXWELL *Queen's Bastard* 59 The midwife knew she could afford a smart word or two, for in this room it was she and she alone who stood between life and death for the Queen and her child.

†b. Of a person: sharp in criticism or comment *upon* or *with* another.

Obs.

- 1665 J. SERGEANT *Let. from Author of Sure-footing* 5 in *Discov. Groundlessness & Insincerity Ld. Down's Dissuasive* If you advance this Civil piece of Atheistry, you must pardon me if I be smart with you.
- 1669 DRYDEN *Wild Gallant* II. ii. 15 You are very smart upon one another Gentlemen.
- 1692 J. WASHINGTON tr. Milton *Def. People Eng.* iii. 59 The Lawyer, whoever he be, that you are so smart upon, was not so much out of the way.
- 1699 R. BENTLEY *Diss. Epist. Phalaris* (new ed.) 390 He fancies, he was very smart upon me; but as it generally happens with him, he lashes himself.
- 1713 C. JOHNSON *Successful Pyrate* I. i. 6 *Bor.* Spare thy Compliments, and thy Chine, thou worthy Son of Musk and Civet—*Tul.* Ha! Tart as a Barberry; ever smart upon your Friends, but 'tis the Token of your Esteem.

†7. Distinct, sharp, clearly outlined. *Obs.*

- 1644 K. DIGBY *Two Treat.* I. xxxi. 271 [A] blacke carpet to limit both endes of it (which serueth to make the colours the smarter).
- 1753 W. HOGARTH *Anal. Beauty* xiii. 182 These objects which..come forwardest to the view, must have large, strong, and smart oppositions.
- a1806 J. BARRY in R. N. Wornum *Lect. on Painting* (1848) 187 The cast and manner of their several foldings, some more smart and frequently interrupted, others more flowing.
- 1870 G. M. HOPKINS *Jrnl. & Papers* (1959) 201 The day had been very bright and clear, distances smart.

II. Senses relating to qualities of speed, intelligence, neatness, and similar qualities.

8.

a. Of an action, movement, etc.: quickly or deftly executed; fast, rapid;

(of pace) briskly maintained.

In quot. a1325: (of a legal right) quickly effective, immediate.

Sometimes with connotations of skill or cleverness of execution: cf. sense 10a.

- a1325 tr. *Statute Westminster* 11 c. 26 in *MS Rawl. B.520* f. 20^v Per nis no writ..wareþoru þe plaintiffs habbez smarttere riȝt þane þoru þe writ of nouele disseisine.
- a1425 *Liber Uricrisiarum* (Wellcome 225) 369 Ȝif þe spatle appere gros in begynnyng, & son efter þat turn to thyk, god takyn for hys smart changyng.
- ?c1450 (▶a1388) tr. Richard of Wallingford *Exafrenon* (Digby) in J. D. North *Wks. Richard of Wallingford* (1976) 211 The Mone..is evermore of more vertue when she is of smert movyng.
- 1519 W. HORMAN *Vulgaria* xxxii. f. 283^v Geue a smarte lose with thyn arowe and thy stryng.
- 1664 H. POWER *Exper. Philos.* II. 143 You shall see the water spontaneously arise to a competent height in the Tube, with a quick and smart ascent.
- 1682 C. NESS *Astrol. & Theol. Disc.* 13 Jupiter hath a smarter Motion, finishing his Revolution in about 12. Years, whereas Saturn doth require about 30.
- 1748 D. HUME *True Acct. Behaviour & Conduct A. Stewart* 17 Before they reached Edinburgh, they had come to a pretty smart Gallop.
- 1788 *Gentleman's Mag.* Aug. 445/1 It proceeded slowly up William-street.; after which it set off with a smart pace for Powers-court.
- 1818 *Sporting Mag.* 3 29 Newton by a smart left-handed flip, drew the claret in profusion from his mouth.
- 1895 *Daily News* 17 May 3/7 Chatterton being out to a very smart catch at mid-on.
- 1935 D. L. SAYERS *Gaudy Night* xii. 257 The Proctor's bull-dogs..had come through the archway at a smart trot.
- 1940 M. DICKENS *Mariana* v. 147 When she wanted to execute a smart tacking movement she would shout excitedly, 'Look out, I'm going to turn!'
- 2006 *Western Daily Press* (Nexis) 26 July 13 The local RSPB official who dared to turn up to watch came near to being lynched before beating a smart retreat.

b. Of a person or (occasionally) a thing: quick in action or response; lively, active; prompt. Frequently in predicative use. Cf. *to look smart* at Phrases 1. Chiefly *regional* in later use.

- c1380 *Sir Ferumbras* (1879) l. 5575 Þe Sarzyn, þat was fers & smert, howel oppon þe helm he gert.
- a1400 (▶c1303) R. MANNYNG *Handlyng Synne* (Harl.) l. 4816 Man þat wel spedyþ hym yn dede And messenger smart at nede.
- c1500 *How Good Wife taught her Daughter* (Ashm.) l. 194 (MED) When þi seruantes haue do þer werke, To pay þer hyre loke þou be smerte.
- 1530 J. PALSGRAVE *Lesclarcissement* 324/2 Smarte, swyfte, soudayn.
- 1655 T. FULLER *Church-hist. Brit.* IV. 177 This year began the smart and active Council of Basil.
- 1658 SIR T. BROWNE *Garden of Cyrus* i, in *Hydriotaphia: Urne-buriall* 3 Water hath proved the smartest grave; which in forty dayes swallowed almost mankinde.
- 1687 tr. Sallust *Wks.* 96 All the while Catiline, with the most active and smartest of his followers kept

still in the head of his Men.

- 1795 J. O'KEEFFE *Life's Vagaries* II. i. 23 Ah my dear hubby, I wish you were as good a sportsman as your 'prentice Tony Dickins, ah he's the smart fellow.
- 1808 *Med. & Physical Jrnl.* 19 106 Leaving for him two smart purges of calomel and jalap.
- 1847 C. BRONTË *Jane Eyre* I. iv. 45 Bessie Lee..was smart in all she did.
- 1899 F. T. BULLEN *Log of Sea-waif* 342 We were mighty smart getting under way.
- 1907 F. HUME *Silent House* xxx. 273 As a rule, he is always smart in replying... I'm sure he will be over soon.
- 1987 *Sydney Morning Herald* (Nexis) 15 Sept. 4 Probably the same beauty had caught the eye of a dozen others so you had to be smart off the mark.

c. Chiefly *Horse Racing* (later also in coursing and greyhound racing).

Of a horse or dog: fast, quick.

- 1760 G. BARETTI *Dict. Eng. & Ital. Lang.* I *Puledrino*.., a little smart colt.
- 1823 *New-Hampshire Statesman* 4 Aug. 1/2 The rogues..having a smart horse, which put to his utmost speed,..could not be easily passed.
- 1831 *New Sporting Mag.* Sept. 348/1 Nor, despite her winning the Drawing-room Stakes.., do I consider old Sadler's very smart mare Delight to stand much of a chance.
- 1862 *Manch. Guardian* 17 Mar. 4/5 Dirt Cheap..is a smart filly over short courses.
- 1892 H. COX *Coursing* in H. Cox & G. Lascelles *Coursing & Falconry* (Badminton Libr. of Sports & Pastimes) 13 [He] had backed his nomination to win a good round sum, having an idea that a bitch called Wild Geranium (believed to be very smart) would fill it.
- 1900 W. S. DIXON *In North Countree* ii. 83 Captain Christie's speedy mare Miss Julia..used to be exceedingly smart over half-a-mile.
- 1987 *Racing Monthly* Apr. 60/2 If one of the horses turns out to be something really smart, you would..share in the vast profits.
- 2012 *Advocate* (Burnie, Austral.) (Nexis) 15 May 34 [They] will be chasing the spoils with their smart middle distance greyhound Wynburn Jet in Thursday night's..final.

d. Chiefly *N. Amer. colloq.* (orig. *U.S.*). Of a person: healthy, well. Now *rare*.

- 1788 J. MAY *Jrnl.* 31 Aug. (1873) (modernized text) 116 Didn't feel smart enough to go to meeting.
- 1832 J. J. STRANG *Diary* 23 Aug. in M. M. Quaipe *Kingdom of St. James* (1930) 205 This commenced the sickest day I ever suffered since my remembrance but now (evening) I am again smart for a sick person.
- 1839 G. C. LEWIS *Gloss. Words Herefordshire* 95 *Smart*.., in good health.
- 1884 J. GAY *Canada's Poet* 94 Young men rise smart and healthy, rosy cheeks so Clear and bright, see those cheeks again to-morrow Cut down like grass a withered sight.
- 1956 'B. HOLIDAY' & W. DUFTY *Lady sings Blues* i. 10 By the time she worked her way out of hock in the hospital and took me home to her folks, I was so big and smart I could sit up in a carriage.

9. Forward, impudent; cheeky, pert. Now frequently in *to be (also get) smart* (with another) (colloq.).

In quot. c1400 probably: glib.

- c1400 (þ?a1300) *Kyng Alisaunder* (Laud) l. 4153 Darrie was wel sore anoyede..And seide: 'Of tale þou art smart!'
- þc1449 R. PECOCK *Repressor* (1860) 5 In this trowing and holding thei ben so kete and so smert and so wantoun.
- ?1567 M. PARKER *Whole Psalter* cxlix. 422 To be a rod: to chastise smart, straunge peoples froward hart.
- 1607 E. TOPSELL *Hist. Foure-footed Beastes* 144 The curst, sharp, smart,..implacable and wanton-rowling-eyed Women.
- 1736 S. WESLEY *Poems Several Occasions* 392 Moll thought she safely might be smart, With Priviledge of a Sweet-heart.
- 1765 G. KEATE *Temple-student* 13 Ask for my Letters..Or, if I have already had 'em, Lounge at the Bar, be smart with Madam.
- 1824 *Examiner* 756/1 Never being smart, ironical, or what we will venture to call imputative.
- 1877 *Louisiana in 1876* (44th U.S. Congr. 2nd Sess. Senate Rep. No. 701) II. 1583 I don't want none of your damn smart tongue.
- 1933 E. O'NEILL *Ah, Wilderness!* II. 60 *Tommy*..Uncle Sid's soused again. *Mrs. Miller*..You be quiet! Did I ever! You're getting too smart!
- 1956 'B. HOLIDAY' & W. DUFTY *Lady sings Blues* i. 12 This time Cousin Ida beat me for being smart with her.
- 1983 *N.Y. Times* 21 Dec. A26/2 My kids started making smart remarks about how old-fashioned tee-shirts look.
- 1998 T. MCHALE *Casualty* (BBC TV post-production script) 13th Ser. Episode 1. 50 Don't get smart with me.

10.

a. Clever, intelligent, knowledgeable; capable, adept; quick at learning, responding intelligently to a situation, etc.; astute, shrewd; (of an action) characterized by cleverness or astuteness.

Also as the second element in compounds, in the sense 'clever in respect of', 'wise to', as *street-smart adj.* at STREET *n.* and *adj.* Compounds 4.

Now the most common sense in *N. Amer.*

- 1571 R. SEMPILL in J. Cranstoun *Satirical Poems Reformation* (1891) I. 195 Smart in my schuitting & singular in my Science.
- 1628 R. LE GRYS tr. J. Barclay *Argenis* II. 81 For he, a smart young man, and of great iudgement,..held vp the Kings side.
- 1658 tr. J. Ussher *Ann. World* 525 Being..loath to engage in fight with Fimbria, who was both a smart fellow, and a Conqueror to boot.
- 1709 R. STEELE *Tatler* No. 26. ¶5 [He] is what we most justly call, a Smart Fellow.

- 1786 M. CUTLER *Let.* 20 Apr. in W. P. Cutler & J. P. Cutler *Life, Jrnls. & Corr. M. Cutler* (1888) I. 189 Those of my subscribers who are smart, able men, I have told shall have an equal chance with other proprietors.
- 1844 MRS. HOUSTON *Texas & Gulf of Mexico* II. 215 The Opossum is held in great respect by the Yankees, as a particularly 'smart' animal.
- 1850 A. JONES *Memorandum* 4 June in *Memoranda & Official Corr. Republic of Texas* 89 He has succeeded for fourteen years in *humbugging* an intelligent people into the belief that it was a 'smart' move on his part.
- 1879 TROLLOPE *John Caldigate* II. vii. 90 He had been singularly lucky as to the circumstances and time of the sale. But there had been nothing 'smart' about it.
- 1888 J. BRYCE *Amer. Commonw.* II. lxxv. 484 In America every smart man is expected to be able to do anything he turns his hand to.
- 1908 L. M. MONTGOMERY *Anne of Green Gables* xvii. 192 Mr. Phillips says I'm the worst dunce he ever saw at it. And Gil—I mean some of the others are so smart at it.
- 1943 H. L. MENCKEN *Diary* 13 Mar. (1989) 242 Cairns is a smart fellow and writes very well, but he wastes too much time on philosophy.
- 1988 P. WAYBURN *Adventuring in Alaska* (rev. ed.) I. 48 It is not smart to try stream crossings wearing a long rain poncho or cagoule.
- 1991 H. KUREISHI *London kills Me* 58 You're smart, girlie. What you doing with these bad boys? You're above them.
- 2002 *BusinessWeek* 4 Nov. 122/3 For all but the largest producers, the smartest choice may be to go 'fables', avoiding the manufacturing rat race.

b. Of a device or machine: appearing to have a degree of intelligence; able to react or respond to differing requirements, varying situations, or past events; programmed so as to be capable of some independent action; (in later use) *spec.* containing a microprocessor (opposed to DUMB *adj.* 7c). Of a material, medicine, etc.: designed to act or respond to conditions in a more sophisticated way than is typical.

See also Special uses 2b.

- 1948 *Sci. News Let.* 21 Aug. 123/2 The earlier ENIAC was pretty smart but the UNIVAC is even smarter.
- 1972 *Proc. IEEE* **60** 1282/1 The term 'smart terminal' is used here to identify an interactive terminal in which part of the processing is accomplished by a small computer or processor contained within the terminal itself.
- 1979 *Sci. News* **116** 232/1 Targeting drugs to the site of their desired action is a continuing challenge to medicinal chemists... 'Smart' drugs may be in the offing for a variety of diseases.
- 1986 W. L. SCHWEBER *Integrated Circuits for Computers* i. 9 The intelligent controller (often called 'smart' in the electronics field) uses a program rather than a hard-wire approach.
- 1990 *N.Y. Times* 25 Jan. C6/6 The ultimate manifestation of the 'smart' house..was the Smart Seat, a microprocessor-controlled bidet attachment for the toilet.
- 1996 *Times* 22 Apr. 11/8 Technical matters discussed include 'smart mines', which deactivate or self-destruct 30 days after they have been laid.
- 1998 *New Jersey Monthly* Jan. 56/2 We've added smart lamps with data ports to enable business

travelers to link up to their computer modems.

2011 *Tampa (Florida) Tribune* (Nexis) 22 May 4 Peak-hour traffic can still overwhelm smart signals, according to the Florida Department of Transportation.

c. Designating a (real or hypothetical) substance, esp. a drug, that (supposedly) increases intelligence or enhances other aspects of cognitive performance; (of a foodstuff or drink) containing such a substance; (of a bar) providing such items.

Recorded earliest (in *fig.* use) in SMART PILL *n.* 1.

1954 *San Mateo (Calif.) Times* 24 July 12/5 Some one of these days Don Levinson is going to get hold of a handful of smart pills and forget about road racing.

1966 *Sci. News* 89 187/1 Many biologists believe this would explain the mysterious memory-enhancing qualities of RNA and the new 'smart' drug.

1991 *Courier-Mail* (Brisbane) 30 Dec. 4/2 'Smart drinks'..are popping up at trendy nightclubs and private parties.

1992 *Independent* 6 Aug. 6/5 In California, 'smart bars' have opened where people can drop in and consume cocktails containing 'cognition enhancers'.

2009 P. HOLFORD *Optimum Nutrition for Mind* xxxviii. 212 My recommendation under any circumstance is to start with no more than one smart drug or hormone, at the lower dose..and build up gradually.

d. Of a building: incorporating technology that allows a high degree of central computer control of services such as heating, lighting, and communications, typically with the aim of ensuring the most efficient use of resources. Cf. *intelligent building n.* at INTELLIGENT *n., adj.*, and *adv.* Special uses 2.

1984 *Christian Sci. Monitor* 28 Feb. 6/4 One Financial Place will be the smartest of his smart buildings, he says. It will offer an information network as well as a message service.

1993 *Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gaz.* 25 Apr. 3 E I have heard that one of the new smart home total automation systems can cut my utility bills by 25 percent.

2001 *Smarthouse* Feb. 10/2 The company's conversion of the existing old office building into 120 smart-apartments took the silver award in the 'Best Apartment' category.

2012 *Daily Tel. (Austral.)* (Nexis) 18 May 24 The Taylor family were chosen from more than 100 applicants to live rent-free in the smart home and test it out.

11.

a. Of a remark, saying, etc.: clever, pointed; witty and apposite.

See also *smart talk n.* (a) at Special uses 2a.

1585 T. BILSON *True Difference Christian Subiection* iv. 697 If all the Preachers in England would haue laide their heades together..they could not haue done it in quicker and smarter speech.

- 1656 EARL OF MONMOUTH tr. T. Boccalini *Ragguagli di Parnasso* I. lv. 110 We find some Histories..abounding in smart politick precepts.
- 1673 *S'too him Bayes* 19 I acknowledge this Expression to be nice and smart.
- 1739 tr. C. Rollin *Anc. Hist.* (ed. 2) VI. 105 Cicero, who ascribes this saying to Timæus, declares it a very smart one.
- 1752 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 194. ¶11 He mistakes the question, that he may return a smart answer.
- 1824 T. F. DIBDIN *Libr. Compan.* 539 A short, but smart notice of him.
- 1879 L. STEPHEN *Hours in Libr.* 3rd Ser. ii. 65 Mandeville..passes off his smart sayings upon the public as serious.
- 1901 *Munsey's Mag.* Oct. 129/2 While it lacks the abundance of 'smart' speeches that lent such sparkle to Captain Marshall's other military comedy, 'His Excellency the Governor', it contains more of real human nature.
- 1937 *Life* 12 Apr. 6/1 (*adv.*) This gay gaballero is, by his own admission, pretty hot stuff with smart quips and witty sayings.
- 1964 *Jet* 7 May 17 A few had smart quips for the demonstrators.
- 1997 J. DAUGHARTY *Earl in Yellow Shirt* (1998) 47 Always picking his teeth with a broomstraw, popping my bra, yanking my hair, trying to come up with some smart saying. He's dumb!

b. Of a person: clever in talk or argument; capable of making witty remarks, quick-witted; adept at repartee.

See also *smart talker* *n.* at Special uses 2a.

- 1639 P. MASSINGER *Unnaturall Combat* IV. ii. sig. I2^v A smart queane.
- 1695 J. EDWARDS *Disc. conc. Old & New-Test.* III. xii. 514 The younger Vossius is a smart Advocate for the Septuagint.
- 1727 POPE et al. *Περὶ Βαθουῶς: Art of Sinking* 65 in Swift et al. *Misc.: Last Vol.* It is by Virtue of this Stile that..Tully is as short and smart as Seneca.
- 1753 J. COLLIER *Ess. Art Tormenting* Rules 199 This, I have been told, is what they call being smart in company.
- 1779 F. BURNEY *Evelina* (ed. 2) II. xix. 167 You're so smart, there is no speaking to you.
- 1829 *London Literary Gaz.* 26 Dec. 847/1 They are smart in their remarks, and very excellent mimics and imitators.
- 1895 *19th Cent.* Aug. 324 He is decidedly smarter as an all-round talker.
- 1942 *Billboard* 17 Jan. 24/3 The girl is a smart Gracie Allen-type with a good line of chatter and an engaging personality.
- 2004 *Diva* Mar. 60/3 The smart and sassy ensemble exchange quick-witted repartee which reveals..many lesbian clichés and touches of nostalgia for the 70s.

12. Alert, energetic; *spec.* (chiefly *Mil.*) having a brisk and orderly bearing, esp. combined with a neatness of appearance (cf. sense 13c). Also in extended use.

- 1602 J. MARSTON *Hist. Antonio & Mellida* III. sig. E4 I..Strook a faire wench, with a smart speaking

- eye.
- 1683 A. WOOD *Life* 9 Sept. The smart lads of the city march'd downe the streets with cudgells in their hands.
- 1777 *Selector* 2 Jan. 310 Garrick was too smart and dapper in it [sc. the part of Romeo], and always looked as if nothing ailed him.
- 1785 W. COWPER *Task* IV. 648 He hates the field,..And sighs for the smart comrades he has left.
- 1827 O. W. ROBERTS *Narr. Voy. Central Amer.* 80 Sufficient [room] for a smart vessel to work in or out.
- 1884 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 29 Aug. 1/2 The Egyptian soldier is..smart, clean, and cheap.
- 1920 *Infantry Jrnal.* Apr. 914/2 If he is a smart soldier, he will take pride in the way he salutes.
- 1994 J. BIGGINS *Tomorrow the World* (2007) 263 The Americans were very smart about their work: even swabbed the decks down for us afterwards.

13.

a. Of an item of clothing, etc.: attractively neat and stylish; relatively formal.

- 1704 R. STEELE *Lying Lover* IV. 40 What shall I do for Powder for this smart Bob.
- 1712 W. DARRELL *Gentleman Instructed: 3rd Pt.* i. 13 Nothing would please his Worship, but Smart Shoes, Smart Hats, and Smart Cravats... The truth is he had been bred up with the Groom, and transplanted the Stable dialect into the Dressing-Room.
- 1743 H. FIELDING *Jonathan Wild* I. x, in *Misc.* III. 59 A blue Plush coat,..a smart Sleeve, and a cape.
- 1823 SCOTT *Quentin Durward* I. ii. 20 The smart blue bonnet..was already recognized as the Scottish head-gear.
- 1859 W. COLLINS *Queen of Hearts* I. 69 The man..had a collection of smart little boots and shoes.
- 1900 *Daily News* 8 Sept. 6/3 Two-thirds of the smart dresses are now made with an Eton or bolero over a more or less ornamental front.
- 1960 A. WAUGH *Foxglove Saga* xii. 223 Martin had donned the Pig's Full Dress Mess Kit..and in its smart red monkey-jacket, narrow blue overalls with a broad red stripe..he really did look most striking.
- 1989 *Times* 27 May 35/1 (advt.) Good food, fine wine & live entertainment... Smart dress only.
- 2006 *Guardian* 17 Apr. I. 26/3 They are well-dressed young persons with clean linen, smart neckties, gorgeous 'belchers' round their throats, and brightly polished boots.

b. Of a building, vehicle, etc.: neat and pleasing in appearance; clean, bright, well presented or maintained.

- 1762 S. FOOTE *Orators* I. i. 21 His eyes are constantly caught by the appearance of a smart house, prefac'd with white rails and prologu'd by a red door.
- 1823 COUNT DE SOLIGNY *Lett. Eng.* II. lxxviii. 281 Looking out on the smart shops, the nicely paved streets.
- 1851 N. HAWTHORNE *Twice-told Tales* I. xvi. 252 There, in a smart chaise, a dashingly dressed gentleman and lady.

- 1894 J. D. ASTLEY *Fifty Years of my Life* I. 94 We put up at a very smart hotel.
- 1915 *Munsey's Mag.* Dec. 435/1 Your eyes caress this smart machine,..I know you love my limousine.
- 1970 *Illustr. London News* 18 July 13/4 The smart Georgian building.
- 2006 *Daily Mail* (Nexis) 18 Nov. 26 Reg drives a smart new van.

c. Of a person: neatly or (relatively) formally dressed; appearing neat and stylish; tidy, well turned-out.

- c1778 C. BURNEY in F. Burney *Early Diary* (1907) II. 287 Dr. Johnson was immensely smart, for him,—for he had not only a very decent tidy suit of cloathes on, but his hands, face, and linnen were clean.
- 1789 H. L. PIOZZI *Observ. Journey France* II. 204 We observed..how the town was become neater, the ordinary people smarter.
- 1806 J. BERESFORD *Miseries Human Life* I. ii. 34 Walking out to dinner, clean and smart.
- 1888 *Poor Nellie* 127 Adela had noticed how smart he looked.
- 1933 A. M. LINDBERGH *Let.* 29 Sept. in *Locked Rooms & Open Doors* (1974) 120 The grand old-style hotel. All employees well dressed, lipsticked women on each floor, smart maids.
- 1999 M. T. MYAMBO in Y. Vera *Opening Spaces* 16 I was looking very smart in a flowing lemon-yellow dress with matching shoes.
- 2005 *Daily Tel.* 26 Sept. 18/7 He never managed to be smart, his waistcoat..generally unbuttoned and showing his braces, his sleeves rolled up.

d. Of a fabric, design, etc.: attractive, neat, stylish; richly or daintily decorative.

- 1860 *Harper's Mag* Feb. 343/1 First, after the clergyman and the bearers, come Mrs. Spooner and Hannah Maria, the former in a smart black silk, the latter in yellow barége.
- 1888 *Poor Nellie* 8 I will make a cover for them,..a smart one of blue velvet.
- 1937 *Amer. Home* Apr. 101/1 (*adv.*) In your bedroom, smart new cushions, bedspreads—even deep-pile rugs.
- 1952 *Van Nuys (California) News* 21 Feb. 1 B (*adv.*) Jumbo Size Pilsner Glass. Beautifully etched in smart floral patterns.
- 1996 *M&S Mag.* Winter 69/3 Christmas chocolates this year come in smart gold paper with a red ribbon, wrapped and hand-tied in Belgium.
- 2004 *N.Y. Times* (National ed.) 1 Feb. IX. 3/3 A dog collar in smart dark red leather comes in three sizes and costs \$52 (bichon frisé not included).

14. Fashionable, elegant, sophisticated; belonging to or associated with fashionable or high society. See also *smart set n.* at Special uses 2a.

- 1719 *Free-thinker* No. 158. 2 A Cluster of smart Men, in tawdry Dresses, with little Rapiers.

- 1793 A. SEWARD *Lett.* (1811) III. 275 This beach..covered with smart people, and with equipages.
- 1811 J. AUSTEN *Sense & Sensibility* I. xix. 239 I always preferred the church as I still do. But that was not smart enough for my family. They recommended the army. That was a great deal too smart for me.
- 1845 M. J. HIGGINS in *New Monthly Mag.* Aug. 574 They..got my wife invited to several very smart balls.
- 1881 W. H. MALLOCK *Romance 19th Cent.* II. 254 Many smart people were shy of Mrs. Crane.
- 1899 *Echo* 1 Nov. 1/4 Artlessly protestant against the vicious vanities of smart society.
- 1926 J. GALSWORTHY *Silver Spoon* II. viii. 183 'Don't know why he keeps on an amateur like that.' 'Box office, dear boy; she brings the smart people.'
- 1953 A. HOSAIN *Phoenix Fled* 150 With his charm and his means he soon became a favourite of the smart social set.
- 1969 V. BARTLETT *Past of Pastimes* x. 134 Modern ski-ing—the kind of ski-ing which in winter..links smart hotels to remote peaks by ski-lifts and *téléférriques*.
- 2008 *Daily Tel.* 25 Aug. 20/2 On returning to England, the scamsters would go to the smart shops in Manchester and buy items identical in design, size and colour to those they had brought back from China.

III. Substantial, considerable.

15. *colloq.* and *regional* (now chiefly *N. Amer.*). Considerable in number, amount, extent, etc.; substantial, large. See also RIGHT SMART *adj.*

smart chance: see CHANCE *n.* 4b.

[The semantic development of this sense is unclear, and may owe something to several of the earlier senses.]

- 1750 C. SMITH *Antient & Present State Cork* I. II. iv. 289 The Kingsale fishermen also come hither and build huts, where they cure their fish, and for this they pay a smart rent.
- a1777 S. FOOTE *Devil upon Two Sticks* (1778) II. 44 [Scotsman] Ah! for the mater of that, it is a praty smart little income.
- 1819 D. THOMAS *Trav. Western Country* 230 A *considerable number* is expressed by a *smart chance*; and our hostess at Madison said, there was 'a smart chance of yankees' in that village.
- 1839 G. C. LEWIS *Gloss. Words Herefordshire* 95 'A smart few' means a considerable number.
- 1855 THACKERAY *Newcomes* II. xlii. 374 Madame..left a smart legacy to the..children.
- 1882 *Mrs. Raven's Temptation* I. 276 Hope you will get a smart fee with it.
- 1901 E. G. HAYDEN *Trav. round Village* ii. 38 The neighbours..noticed that he 'broke a smart deal' that autumn.
- 1991 R. A. COUTO *Ain't gonna let Nobody turn me Round* I. i. 32 Spent a smart amount of our personal cash money because we didn't know how to go at it.

PHRASES

P1. colloq. (chiefly Brit.). to look smart: to move or act quickly or energetically. Frequently in *imper.*: 'be quick', 'hurry up'. Cf. *to look lively* at *LIVELY adj.* and *n.* Phrases, *to look sharp* at *SHARP adv.* Phrases.

In earlier use frequently in nautical contexts.

- 1823 *Manch. Iris* 13 Dec. 401/3 Look smart, and I'll turn the spit till somebody comes.
- 1862 F. MOORE *Rebellion Rec.* IV. 62/1 His mates and crew were restricted to one bag of clothing each, and he was advised to 'look smart' about it.
- 1893 G. A. HENTY *In Greek Waters* xv. 257 All hands get off sail! Look smart, my lads; there is a..squall coming.
- 1917 A. G. EMPEY *Over Top* 311 '*Toots Sweet*'. Tommy's French for 'hurry up', 'look smart'.
- 1974 *New Scientist* 7 Mar. 629/1 Some..put out their hands to touch him.., but they have to look smart about it, or he is gone before they can pay tribute.
- 2010 *Daily Record (Glasgow)* (Nexis) 5 Aug. (Sport section) 70 Zaluska had to look smart to stop Cesar drilling home a quick-fire second goal.

P2.

a. colloq. (chiefly U.S.). smart as a whip: very sharp or lively; *spec.* extremely intelligent or clever. Cf. *WHIP-SMART adj.*

- 1821 *Supporter, & Scioto Gaz. (Chillicothe, Ohio)* 7 Nov. 1/2 His daughters are as lively and as smart as a whip.
- 1860 *Republican Jrnl. (Columbus, Wisconsin)* 9 Feb. 1/7 Mr. A— was a prompt and successful business man, 'smart as a whip', as the Yankees say.
- 1909 *Out West* June 556 Miss June and I grew up together, went to school together; she's about five years the younger, but smart as a whip.
- 1958 J. L. HERLIHY & W. NOBLE *Blue Denim* (1986) I. 18 But don't get it into your head that kid's not as smart as a whip... Some day he's going to be a big executive for the Detroit Edison company.
- 1988 *Chicago Tribune* 28 Oct. 23 Paul Pryde is the same man I have known all these years: smart as a whip, an astute economic and political analyst, with a keen eye for opportunity disguised as disadvantage.
- 2010 *Good Housek.* (Nexis) 1 Apr. 66 My little dog Karoo is smart as a whip. She knows where the craft-services [food] tables are.

b. smart as a steel trap: see *steel trap n.* (b) at *STEEL n.*¹ Compounds 8.

SPECIAL USES

S1.

smart-looking *adj.*

- 1760 G. BARETTI *Dict. Eng. & Ital. Lang.* I. *Servitorino*, a smart-looking little man-servant; a foot-boy.
- 1865 *Once a Week* 15 July 108/2 Grunter was talking to..the old lady—a clean, smart-looking widow, who kept a preparatory school next door.
- 1955 'A. ALDRICH' *We walk Alone* i. 13 The pair of smart-looking, urbane women executives at a table in a corner getting high on Rob Roys.
- 2002 *Best of Brit.* Nov. 37/1 A smart-looking police officer with shiny boots and white over-sleeves waits for the approaching van.

smart-suited *adj.*

- 1922 J. JOYCE *Ulysses* II. x. [Wandering Rocks] 243 James's wax smart-suited freshcheeked models.
- 1994 *N.Y. Rev. Bks.* 23 June 18/1 The smart suited head of the Polish Scientific Publishers.
- 2002 *Mirror* 27 Mar. 17/4 Stay at any LA hotel and you'll see the divide before your eyes. The smart-suited ladies behind reception desks are white, the ladies who clean your rooms are not.

smart-tongued *adj.*

- 1602 B. JONSON *Poetaster* IV. v. sig. H2^v A good smart-tongu'd Goddess.
- 1868 *Quiver* 24 Oct. 34/2 That quick witted, smart tongued, bright eyed little person.
- 1902 *Athenæum* 20 Sept. 370/3 She is self-willed, perverse, smart-tongued and full of resource.
- 1998 *Los Angeles Mag.* Aug. 42 Zeta-Jones and Hopkins are together again, he as the master bandit and she as his daughter, a sword-wielding, smart-tongued stunner.

smart-witted *adj.*

- 1838 H. W. TORRENS tr. *Bk. Thousand Nights & One Night* I. 78 Now you be three, and you require a fourth, and here am I, a man, sensible, a prudent fellow, smart-witted, and one that can keep counsel.
- 1897 *Daily News* 28 Sept. 2/1 That friendly, but smart-witted Power.
- 1948 C. E. ROBINSON *Hellas* ix, 149 Among the characters appear the gay young spendthrift and his fast young mistress, the unscrupulous go-between, the smart-witted slave and the stingy tyrannical father.
- 2011 J. C. NAIDOO *Celebrating Cuentos* iii. 50 Children who read these stories encounter indigenous cultures and peoples along with smart-witted Mexican children who provide for their families.

S2.**a.**

smart apple *n.* *U.S. colloq.* (*a*) a person who is or wishes to appear

clever or knowledgeable, but is regarded as smug and annoying; = SMART
ALEC *n.*; (*b*) a shrewd or intelligent person; a smart cookie (cf. COOKIE *n.*
2b).

- 1940 *Big Spring (Texas) Daily Herald* 19 Sept. 9/4 His confession surprised practically nobody in the literary world except, possibly, the smart apple who reviewed the book.
- 1946 T. BELL *There comes Time* ix. 57 Here's a smart apple like you working your ass off for a lousy forty bucks a week.
- 1980 L. SANDERS *Caper* (1987) 168 I realized what a smart apple this Black Jack Donohue was... He was shrewd enough to know that I wouldn't endanger Dick.
- 2004 *Houston Chron.* (Nexis) 2 May (Sports section) 1 Jones showed all the doubters and smart apples that a champion doesn't need to be a majestic figure or born of blue blood.

smart growth *n.* *U.S. Town Planning* planned growth of new buildings in accordance with social and environmental considerations or priorities; *spec.* development which aims to enhance the quality of life of inhabitants by providing improved infrastructure, facilities, etc., esp. in a compact urban area, and seeks to be environmentally sustainable; frequently *attrib.*

- 1990 *PR Newswire* (Nexis) 9 Nov. Citizens' groups collected more than 1,000 signatures on petitions calling for a public referendum on a 'smart-growth' initiative which would limit new housing to three percent per year.
- 1991 *Frederick (Maryland) News-Post* 8 Mar. A7 I went to this..neighbourhood, and took along some legislators, because it was a good example of 'smart growth'.
- 2000 A. CUOMO *State of Cities, 2000* 74 One approach to smart growth is to achieve higher densities by clustering houses around a transportation hub.
- 2004 *Herald-Times* (Bloomington, Indiana) 9 June A8/2 A..smart growth project that promises to make Bloomingtonians proud and serve as an excellent model for future infill projects in the city.

smart mouth *n.* *U.S. slang (chiefly depreciative)* a person who makes witty comments at another's expense; an impudent or cheeky person.

- 1966 M. TERRY *Keep tightly Closed* in *Tulane Drama Rev.* 10 197 Since when did you get to be such a smart mouth?
- 1968 *Sun* (Baltimore) 13 Oct. (Mag.) 19/1 I was a smart mouth, a troublemaker in school.
- 1985 O. S. CARD *Ender's Game* v. 45 What are you, a smartmouth?
- 2001 *N.Y. Mag.* 19 Mar. 67/1 Bill Nunn plays his henpecked partner, 'Pip', and Diane Farr is the workplace smart-mouth.

smart-mouth *v. trans.* to be cheeky or impudent to; to be witty at the

expense of.

- 1970 M. SPILLANE *Survival...Zero!* i. 10 This time he didn't try smart-mouthing me.
- 1976 R. B. PARKER *Promised Land* (1977) xii. 65 Don't smart-mouth me, man. You wising off at me?
- 2005 P. F. HAMILTON *Judas Unchained* ix. 424 You want to smartmouth me again, or do you want to survive the next twenty four hours?

smart-mouthed *adj.* characterized by impudence or (esp. barbed) wit.

- 1967 *Life* 4 Aug. 8/4 The dialogue is smart-mouthed and the action is unpredictably explosive.
- 1978 J. IRVING *World according to Garp* xii. 229 Some smart-mouthed motorist..will..ask.., 'What are you in training for?'
- 2008 S. ARMITAGE *Gig* (2009) 199 I've come to think that aspirant poets could do a whole lot worse than listen to smart-mouthed entertainers and deadpan comics like Lehrer and Newhart.

smart sanction *n. Polit.* a sanction against a nation or state that targets specific persons (esp. members of the ruling elite) or particular imported (esp. military) goods, in order to minimize the adverse effects on the general civilian population; frequently in *pl.*

- 1995 *Associated Press Worldstream* (Nexis) 18 Jan. The United Nations 'should not be seduced by "smart sanctions" which are partially and narrowly targeted', said British Ambassador David Hannay. 'They are notoriously hard to enforce and therefore unlikely to have the desired effect.'
- 2002 *Village Voice* (N.Y.) 22 Jan. 35/1 They proposed..'smart sanctions', which would allow the Iraqi citizenry access to a far greater range of goods while clamping down more firmly on 'dual use' items with potential military applications.
- 2009 D. P. FORSYTHE *Encycl. Human Rights* I. 84/1 A smart sanction might freeze financial assets of varied types and might restrict or deny aviation and travel.

smart set *n. colloq.* (sometimes *depreciative*, with connotations of decadence) the extremely fashionable portion of society; fashionable people considered as a group; also in extended use.

- 1851 C. E. S. NORTON *Stuart of Dunleath* I. xiii. 215 He did not belong to the 'smart set' of London society; he had not cared to belong to it.
- 1885 E. W. HAMILTON *Diary* 20 May (1972) II. 867 Dined at Brook House... This is a house at which one meets the 'grand set' as distinct from the 'smart set'—two totally different sections of the best London Society.
- 1900 *Smart Set* Apr. 137 The Smart Set of London has for the last ten or fifteen years..been the chief influence of our English playwrights, plays and players.
- 1949 P. HASTINGS *Cases in Court* v. 265 Mrs Barney's family were well-known in Mayfair and both Mrs

Barney and the dead man were notorious members of the so-called young 'smart set'.

- 1974 P. DICKINSON *Poison Oracle* ii. 66 Dinah [sc. an ape]..had indeed left the slums to join the evolutionary smart set, Man.
- 2004 *Sunday Times Trav.* Feb. 69/2 This is Green Spain—the Costa Verde—where Madrid's smart set comes to escape the furnace heat of the Castilian summer.

smart talk *n.* (a) clever, witty, or persuasive talk, esp. of an insincere nature; (b) impertinent or rude remarks or replies; backchat.

- 1731 Z. MUDGE *Liberty* 28 Where there is..any undue Motive, not all the smart Talk in the World for Liberty will go farther.
- 1826 *London & Paris Observer* 16 Apr. 248/1 I had some smart talk with a Mr. Hollins, constable..; in short, I made him as mad as a wasp.
- 1903 S. J. A. FITZ-GERALD *Love-thirst of Elaine* xii. 101 That idiotic love foolishness that..might sway Elaine if exercised by a man like Cates, with his light ways and smart talk.
- 1988 *Washington Post* (Nexis) 15 Apr. B1 Unflappable as a Borsch Belter fending off hecklers, he plays hard to get when the kids start with the smart talk and spitballs.
- 2001 S. L. LANEHART *Sociocultural & Hist. Contexts of Afr. Amer. Eng.* ii. 222 *Smart talk*..is reserved for all other communicants as a put-down, reflecting a combative style of language.
- 2012 *Scotsman* (Nexis) 10 May 6 A lavish costume drama full of the kind of theatrical smart talk..that makes audiences laugh.

smart-talk *v. trans.* (a) to engage (a person) in clever, witty, or persuasive conversation, esp. of an insincere nature; (also) to make (one's way) by means of such talk; cf. SMOOTH-TALK *v.*; (b) to talk to or answer (a person) in an impertinent or rude way; cf. *smart-mouth vb.*

- 1930 *Blytheville* (Arkansas) *Courier News* 8 Nov. 8/7 On Broadway, they 'smart talk' them into thinking they are the most scintillatingly brilliant..creatures that the world ever produced.
- 1936 *San Antonio* (Texas) *Express* 12 Jan. (Comic section) Don't smart talk me!
- 1988 *Mother Jones* Apr. 26/1 [He] uses grim unemployment statistics to push the students who smart-talk him.
- 1994 *N.Y. Times Bk. Rev.* 27 Nov. 29/1 [He] smart-talked his way through life and love in New York City.
- 2002 T. LOTT *Rumours of Hurricane* (2003) ii. 44 Don't you smart-talk me. We put a roof over your head.

smart talker *n.* a person who engages in clever, witty, or persuasive talk, esp. of an insincere kind.

- 1823 BYRON *Don Juan: Canto XIII* xcvi. 104 They must..never flinch When some smart talker puts them to the test, But seize the last word, which no doubt's the best.

- 1901 *Outlook* 22 June 453/2 He is a smart talker, full of plausible argument, and can make white appear black.
- 1961 *Washington Post* 20 June A13/1 The wise guy in many groups establishes himself as a glib and smart talker by just this sort of conversation.
- 2011 *Sunday Independent (Ireland)* (Nexis) 19 June The party's imperative is to acquire clever thinkers rather than smart talkers.

smart-talking *adj.* given to or characterized by clever, witty, or persuasive talk, esp. of an insincere nature.

- 1822 *Blackwood's Edinb. Mag.* Oct. 452/1 A smart-talking, slim-bodied young Cockney, whose courage had..completely forsaken him.
- 1908 *Graettinger (Iowa) Times* 24 Dec. 5/3 A number..were hit by a smart talking advertising fakir..and now..can only regret that they did not spend their money with the local printer.
- 1978 *Jet* 30 Mar. 30/1 All the other Black actors on regular series portray pimps, prostitutes, butlers, unemployed people, cops or smart-talking kids.
- 2002 T. GATES *Scenario* 24 This film—bettered only perhaps by the later *Night at the Opera*—was one of the founders of American smart-talking comedy.

b. (In sense 10b; see also SMARTPHONE *n.*, SMART PILL *n.* 2.)

smart antenna *n.* any of various antennae in which computer technology is used to improve performance; *esp.* a directional antenna in which the beam is automatically focused on the receiver.

- 1977 *Microwaves* May 46/1 'Smart' antennas will be controlled by microprocessors in spatial scanning applications.
- 2002 *InfoWorld* 11 Nov. 28/3 Dozens of antenna elements..form a smart antenna that focuses the RF signal in a point-to-point architecture instead of broadcasting the signal.
- 2012 *N.Y. Times* (Nexis) 18 Apr. B1 The smart antenna would direct energy straight at the phones, and..current spectrum would be put to more efficient use.

smart bomb *n.* a bomb that is guided to its target with a high degree of precision (cf. GUIDED *adj.* b); frequently *fig.*

- 1970 *Aviation Week & Space Technol.* 13 July 55/3 Loran applications..from a simple, low-cost expendable 100 kc. Loran repeater to a complete Loran receiver in a 'smart', or guided, bomb are under investigation by USAF.
- 1986 T. CLANCY *Red Storm Rising* (1988) xvii. 207 Half were F-111F Aardvarks, the other half 'GR.1' Tornados, their wings heavy with fuel tanks and smart bombs.
- 1996 *Time* (Special Issue) Fall 29/1 In gene therapy, most of the current 'smart bombs'..are viruses.
- 1999 *Star-Ledger* (Newark, New Jersey) 19 Nov. 11/1 Chronic pain..may be controlled by a 'smart bomb' drug that brings relief without the dulling side effects of narcotics.

2003 *Time Out N.Y.* 15 May 66/4 The style of fighting that paintballers reenact..is becoming increasingly irrelevant in the age of smart bombs and Predator drones.

smart box *n.* any of various compact, box-like electronic devices that need little or no human input.

1985 *Flying* Aug. 101/2 The TI 9200 is a smart box, so there is no need to enter north-south designations or leading or trailing zeros if the waypoint is in the northern hemisphere west of the prime meridian.

1990 *Sphere* July 35/2 The modern carillonneur, however, can ring the changes simply by keying in a few commands to one of Clock-O-Matic's smart boxes.

1994 *New Scientist* 8 Jan. 7/1 'Smart boxes', which route calls by the cheapest network depending on codes, will also need to be modified.

2006 *New Yorker* 19 June 56/1 Other high-tech security proposals, such as 'smart boxes'—containers fitted with sensors that will track their location, temperature, and radiation and carbon monoxide levels—are all good in theory.

smart card *n.* orig. *U.S.* a type of plastic card containing an embedded microchip or integrated circuit, and used for any of a variety of processes carried out electronically, such as financial transactions, authorizing access to a particular area, etc.

1980 *N.Y. Times* 14 Dec. III. 4/3 They preferred to write checks, knowing these would not clear until the next pay check had arrived. 'Smart card' holders could react the same way.

1983 *Electronics* 10 Mar. 52 The Army started to explore the smart card in January 1982 as a complete records-keeping vehicle.

1994 A. KENT & J. G. WILLIAMS *Encycl. Microcomputers* XIII. 187 The main advantage of the smart card over magnetic cards is that it can record transactions in its own memory.

2005 *Daily Tel.* 6 June 4/2 Tag and beacon..requires all motorists to have a machine readable smart card which is read by overhead gantries.

smart chip *n.* a microchip; *esp.* (in later use) one embedded in a smart card.

1977 *Electronics* 8 Dec. 96/1 (*heading*) Smart chip peripherals.

1999 *Billboard* 2 Oct. 89/2 American Express' new Blue card, which has a smart chip.

2012 *N.Y. Times* (Nexis) 10 June American credit cards..are not always accepted now that most of the world has shifted to cards that use a smart chip.

smart dust *n.* *Telecomm.* a (hypothetical) collection of many minute sensors or other devices capable of wireless communication, designed to

perform a task, esp. monitoring or detection, while dispersed over a certain area.

- 1998 V. S. HSU et al. in *Univ. Calif., Berkeley: Electronics Res. Lab. Memo. M98/2 (title)* Wireless communications for smart dust.
- 2000 *N.Y. Times* 31 Dec. IV. 4/3 Clouds of 'smart dust'—tiny computers and sensors each a cubic millimeter in size—will course through the skies monitoring the weather or the traffic below.
- 2010 *Sci. Amer.* (U.K. ed.) July 40/2 These machines might be used for roles that range from 'smart dust' that detects the enemy to cellular-level machines.

smart fabric *n.* a synthetic fabric designed to respond in a particular way to some external stimulus, such as heat or particular chemicals; cf. *smart material n.*

- 1991 *Toronto Star* 17 Nov. E2/3 Skiers who crave functional sport gear will find that more and more skiwear is made up of temperature-sensitive 'smart' fabrics that transform the rays of the sun into body-wrapping warmth.
- 1998 L. YAMADA *Market Magic* vii. 120 Smart fabrics may soon detect chemical warfare molecules and snare and lock them in.
- 2006 J. BYRNES *Adv. in Sensing with Security Applic.* 143 Examples already emerging include smart fabrics for monitoring personal health indicators such as breathing.

smart grid *n.* a grid, esp. an electricity or water grid (GRID *n.* 8), that has the ability to detect and react to local changes in use or demand with the aid of digital electronics.

- 1993 *Washington Times* 2 Apr. G6/6 Eventually, it [sc. Project Prometheus] hopes to link the entire continental road system into a smart grid.
- 2003 *Wisconsin State Jrnal.* (Nexis) 15 Aug. A10 A 'smart grid' for electricity transmission.
- 2009 *Austin (Texas) Amer.-Statesman* (Nexis) 25 Nov. B7 The proposal includes... 200 in-home smart grid water systems and 200 residential smart grid sprinkler systems.
- 2012 *Press & Jrnal.* (Aberdeen) (Nexis) 21 May 18 The transition to this 'smart grid' will cost billions of pounds, but will result in a more efficient and flexible grid.

smart gun *n.* a gun incorporating technology that renders it capable of seemingly intelligent action; *spec.* one that can be fired only by an authorized user.

- 1986 *Los Angeles Times* 13 July (Calendar) 24/4 Director Cameron had worked hard to create the 'Smart-gun' that Weaver and others used so frequently.
- 1998 *Guardian* 23 Oct. I. 17/2 Several other companies are pursuing different smart gun technologies, including one that depends on recognising a gun owner's fingerprints.

- 2002 *Philadelphia Inquirer* 22 Dec. D2/1 A bill awaiting Gov. McGreevey's signature would make New Jersey the first state to require 'smart gun' technology.
- 2010 K. M. BREVARD *Story of Guns* viii. 64 Inventor Michael Recce demonstrated an early model of his 'smart gun' with grip recognition technology.

smart highway *n.* a road for which a central computer uses information from traffic flow or individual vehicles to ensure the most efficient movement of traffic, or to enable some form of road pricing to be implemented; *spec.* (hypothetically) one that provides for driverless vehicles.

- 1980 *Business Week* 10 Nov. 96 The coming impact of microelectronics... 1990–2000... 'Smart' highways for semi-automated driving enter early development.
- 1993 *Fortune* 8 Feb. 96/2 Perhaps the most attractive of the new ideas is smart highways.
- 2011 *Austral. Financial Rev.* (Nexis) 5 Sept. 43 Hold-ups in crucial government infrastructure projects to build smart highways are causing delays.

smart material *n.* any of various artificial materials designed to respond in a particular way when exposed to some external environmental stimulus, such as heat.

- 1989 C. A. ROGERS (*title*) *Smart materials, structures, and mathematical issues.*
- 1999 G. STIX & M. LACOB *Who gives Gigabyte?* viii. 199 The smart materials that have found their way into the widest range of devices are piezoelectric ceramics.
- 2000 *Cutting Edge: Encycl. Adv. Technol.* 259/1 Chromogenic materials are smart materials that vary in transparency according to the degree of illumination, temperature, or electric voltage to which they are exposed.
- 2012 *Toronto Star* (Nexis) 1 Mar. v. 6 Khan discovered he could embed several memories in the same smart material, enabling it to remember a series of shapes when exposed to different temperatures.

smart meter *n.* any of various meters capable of some independent action or which incorporate a microprocessor; *esp.* an electricity or (less commonly) gas meter capable of transmitting readings to a utility company at regular intervals.

- 1974 L. JACOBS *How to take Great Pictures with your SLR* v. 80/1 This type of smart meter is called *center-weighted* because it assigns more 'weight' to center brightnesses when figuring exposure settings.
- 1993 *CIO* Aug. 94/2 The utility will be able to install smart meters with microchips that will inform customers how much electricity each appliance uses.
- 2011 *Times* (Nexis) 30 June 43 Smart meters give realtime digital information on how much electricity

and gas is being used.

smart mob *n.* a large group of people organized by means of mobile phones or other wireless devices who assemble together or act collectively, typically for political purposes; cf. FLASH MOB *n.*²

A term coined by U.S. critic Howard Rheingold (b. 1947).

Although a distinction is usually made between *smart mob* and *flash mob*, the two terms are sometimes used interchangeably.

- 2002 H. RHEINGOLD *Smart Mobs* p. xii Smart mobs consist of people who are able to act in concert even if they don't know each other.
- 2003 *Time* 10 Mar. 53/1 (*heading*) Day of the Smart Mobs... They toppled a President..and now have their sights on stopping a war.
- 2011 E. MOROZOV *Net Delusion* ix. 254 Jefferson..was not persuaded by the absolute goodness of the 'smart mobs,' a fancy term to describe social groups that have been organized spontaneously, usually with the help of technology.

smart quotes *n.* Computing quotation marks in text which are automatically interpreted and displayed as opening or closing marks rather than as identical straight quotation marks, despite being keyed in the same way; (also) a software feature enabling this; also in *sing.*, esp. with reference to an apostrophe automatically displayed in a form resembling a closing quotation mark.

- 1987 *MacUser* June 128/1 MiniWriter even has a feature called 'Smart Quotes' that inserts a proper left or right typographer's quote into your text when you key in a 'neuter' quote.
- 2002 P. BAINES & A. HASLAM *Type & Typogr.* vi. 163/2 *Apostrophe...* The correct character (sometimes known as a 'smart quote') should always be used, not a prime.
- 2010 *TECHWEB* (Nexis) 18 Aug. The company added the ability to convert default smart quotes into straight quotes using a key command.

smart road *n.* = *smart highway n.*

- 1987 *Business Wire* (Nexis) 2 June Progress will be slow, but what can help is 'smart cars and smart roads'. Rothery explained that auto companies now have the technology to convert cars into extremely intelligent vehicles with the use of computers and Geo-satellite systems.
- 1990 *Sci. Amer.* (U.K. ed.) May 65/1 Much of the added computing power will probably get plowed into new technology for smart cars and smart roads.
- 2012 *Sydney Morning Herald* (Nexis) 6 Apr. 1 In the cities they will run on smart roads also embedded with sensors which keep them a safe distance apart at a safe speed.

smart tag *n.* a tag with an embedded radio-frequency identification

device, which is attached to or inserted in something for the purpose of tracking it remotely or for storing data about it; cf. *RFID n.* at *R n.*

Initialisms 1.

- 1991 *Age* (Melbourne) 31 Jan. 19/8 'Smart' tags that identify cargo containers and their contents both in storage and in transit.
- 2002 *CIO* 15 Oct. 92/3 Grocery retailers are eyeing radio frequency identification, or RFID, a 'smart tag' technology that could replace 30-year-old bar codes.
- 2011 *Times of India* (Nexis) 6 June The Maharashtra Livestock Development Board..plans to take up the work of implanting microchips (smart tags) on the ear or suitable body parts of the cattle.

smartwatch *n.* (originally) any of various watches equipped with a microchip that extends its functionality beyond timekeeping; (now usually) a mobile telecommunications device designed to be worn on the wrist, typically with a touch screen display and the ability to connect to a smartphone.

- 1996 *Age* (Melbourne) (Nexis) 2 July (Computers section) 6 Most people have heard of smart cards, but smart watches? Using a new smart watch developed by Swatch and SkiData, visitors to 18 ski resorts in Europe and the United States can book tourist services.
- 2003 *Associated Press Newswire* (Nexis) 8 Jan. Touting an array of 'smart' watches and portable video players, Microsoft chairman Bill Gates is offering further evidence that the world's largest software company sees slick consumer gadgets as computing's future.
- 2013 *Chron. Telegram* (Elyria, Ohio) 8 Mar. c9/4 One of the smartwatch's biggest selling points is that it can alert you to calls, texts and emails you otherwise might have missed.
- 2014 *Daily Tel.* 7 July (Business section) 3/1 Heavy users of smartwatches can develop a 'phantom watch' mentality, frequently checking their bare wrist even when they are not wearing the device.

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