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succeed, *v.*

Pronunciation: Brit. /sək'si:d/, U.S. /sək'sid/

Forms: ME Sc. **succed**, ME–15 **succede**, 15–16 **succede** (ME, 15 Sc. **succed**, 15 **suceyde**, 17 **suckseed**), 15– **succeed**.

Frequency (in current use):

Etymology: < Old French *succeder* (from 14th cent.) or < Latin *succēdēre*, to go under, go up, come close after, go near, < *suc-* = SUB- *prefix* 3 + *cēdēre* to go. Compare Provençal *succedir*, Italian *succedere*, Spanish *suceder*, Portuguese *succeder*.

1.

a. intr. To come next after and take the place of another, either by descent, election, or appointment, in a position of rule or ownership; to be the immediate successor in an office or in an estate.

c1386 CHAUCER *Clerk's Tale* 576 Whan Walter is agon, Thanne shal the blood of Ianicle succede And been oure lord.

c1475 (†?c1400) *Apol. Lollard Doctr.* (1842) 5 Bi þe slownes of þe pope, and of prelats succedand in his place, and bi her peruerse werkis, moost iuil comiþ to vs.

1489 (†a1380) J. BARBOUR *Bruce* (Adv.) I. 64 Than the neyst cummyn off the seid, Man or woman, suld suceid.

a1538 T. STARKEY *Dial. Pole & Lupset* (1989) 73 You know by the ordur of our law, the eldyst brother succedyth.

1590 SPENSER *Faerie Queene* II. X. sig. Y5^v After him Vther, which Pendragon hight, Succeeding There abruptly it did end.

1608 T. HEYWOOD *Rape of Lucrece* sig. D Barren princes Breed danger in their singularity Hauing none to succeed, their clame dies with them.

1891 E. PEACOCK *Narcissa Brendon* I. 59 When Sir Ralf died, Sir John succeeded.

b. Const. *to* (a person): = 2.

1387 J. TREVISA tr. R. Higden *Polychron.* (Rolls) VII. 119 Pis 3ere deide þe secounde Richard, þe fourþe duke of Normandie, to whom succedid his sone Richard þe þridde.

1456–70 in *Acts Parl. Scotl.* (1875) XII. 27/1 Eftyr the deceiss of this lard of Meldrum succedit tyll hyme ane othir lard.

c1480 (†a1400) *St. Matthias* 71 in W. M. Metcalfe *Legends Saints Sc. Dial.* (1896) I. 224 Gyf þu myn awne ware, & mycht as ayr succed to me.

1529 *Reg. Privy Seal Scotl.* I. 585 The aire or airis maile or femaile..succedand to the said umquhile erle.

- 1613 S. PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* 280 Saracon..was appointed Sultan,..to whom Saladine his Nephew succeeded.
- 1831 SCOTT *Fortunes of Nigel* (new ed.) I. Introd. p. xi A young heir, who has totally altered the establishment of the father to whom he has succeeded.
- 1874 W. MARKBY *Elem. Law* (ed. 2) §564 Neither the heir nor the legatee has a right to claim any portion of the moveable estate;..they do not in any way succeed to the deceased.
- 1908 R. BAGOT *Anthony Cuthbert* vi. 52 It was his duty to marry again, and to have children to succeed to him.

fig.

- ‡a1513 W. DUNBAR *Poems* (1998) I. 159 Evirmair vnto this warldis ioy As nerrest air succeedis noy.

c. To follow in office in order of seniority. *rare*.

- 1764 S. FOOTE *Mayor of Garret* I. 10 We always succeeded of course: No jumping over heads.

d. Const. †(a) *in, into*, (b) *to* (an estate, a position of rule or ownership).

(a)

- c1386 CHAUCER *Clerk's Tale* 1079 His sone succedeth in his heritage..after his fader day.
- 1482 in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* XXV. 123 Alle oyerre yat shalle succede in that office.
- 1520 *Chron. Eng.* I. f. 6^v/1 His sone Heleazarus succeeded in y^e bysshopyrche.
- 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. N. de Nicolay *Nauigations Turkie* II. xix. 53 If shee be brought to bed of a manchild, the same may by order and course succeed in the Empyre.
- 1590 SPENSER *Faerie Queene* II. X. sig. Y^v Next them did Gurgiunt, great Belinus sonne In rule succede.
- 1597 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 303/2 Rob. Scot..and Barbara Scott his spous..ar and hes bene maist kyndlie to succeed in the tak.
- 1643 R. BAKER *Chron. Kings of Eng.* I. 55 Rodulph succeeded in the See of Canterbury.
- 1690 J. LOCKE *Two Treat. Govt.* I. ix, in *Wks.* (1714) II. 135 David by the same title that Saul Reigned..succeeded in his Throne, to the exclusion of Jonathan.

(b)

- 1563 in J. Strype *Ann. Reformation* (1709) xxxviii. 400 The advancement of the Scotch Title to succede to the English Crown.
- a1578 R. LINDSAY *Hist. & Cron. Scotl.* (1899) I. 194 Nor zit succaidand to na grett heretaige.
- 1596 J. DALRYMPLE tr. J. Leslie *Hist. Scotl.* (1888) I. 88 Quhen the peychtis doubted quha suld succid to the kingdome lawfullie.
- 1765 W. BLACKSTONE *Comm. Laws Eng.* I. I. iii. 199 Henry the eighth..succeeded to the crown by clear indisputable hereditary right.
- 1891 *Speaker* 2 May 564/1 When he succeeded..to the family estates, he found them heavily encumbered.
- 1912 *Eng. Hist. Rev.* Jan. 44 There seems to be some ground for surmising that Henry wished him to

succeed to Neville's office.

e. transf. Const. *to* ([†]*into*): To follow another in the enjoyment or exercise of; to be the next to share or take part in.

- a1613 E. BREREWOOD *Enq. Langs. & Relig.* (1614) xx. 145 *Mozal* as I said afore, is either *Seleucia*, or succeeded into the dignity of it.
- 1672 DRYDEN *Conquest Granada* II. III. i. 104 Take breath; my guards shall to the fight succeed.
- 1693 DRYDEN *Disc. Orig. & Progr. Satire in Ess.* (1900) II. 22 Some witty men may perhaps succeed to their designs.
- 1782 J. PRIESTLEY *Hist. Corruptions Christianity* I. IV. 363 The christian saints succeeded to the honours.
- 1866 R. W. DALE *Disc. Special Occasions* v. 156 We have succeeded to the honours and responsibilities of our predecessors.

2.

a. trans. To take the place of, as successor in an office or heir to an estate; to follow (another) in ownership or the occupation of a position or office; to be successor or heir to.

- 1503-4 *Act 19 Hen. VII c. 25 §2* They that soo shall succede them..in the seid Sees & Bisshopprikes.
- a1535 T. MORE *Hist. Richard III in Wks.* (1557) 70/2 So was I to king Edward faithfull chapleyn, & glad wold haue bene y^t his childe had succeeded him.
- 1583 P. STUBBES *Second Pt. Anat. Abuses* sig. M6 Matthias succeeding Iudas the traitour in the administration of the apostleship.
- 1611 *Bible* (King James) Duet. ii. 12 The children of Esau succeeded them when they had destroyed them from before them, & dwelt in their stead.
- 1675 A. WOOD *Life & Times* (1892) II. 310 His brother Ralph succeeds him in the estate.
- 1702 N. BLUNDELL *Diary* (1895) 6 Eliz. Sumner Dary-Maid left my Service and was suckseeded by Mary Formby.
- 1841 M. ELPHINSTONE *Hist. India* II. VI. iii. 63 When they retired, they were succeeded by the Gakkars.
- 1860 R. ROSS *Eng. Hist.* 149 Richard Cromwell succeeded his father.
- 1892 S. R. GARDINER *Student's Hist. Eng.* 13 In 47 Aulus Plautius was succeeded by Ostorius Scapula.
- 1897 J. W. CLARK *Observ. Priory Barnwell* Introd. 13 Prior Geoffrey..was succeeded by Prior Gerard.

[†]**b. fig.** To follow by imitating. *Obs.*

- 1577 M. HANMER tr. Evagrius Scholasticus VI. xi, in *Aunc. Eccl. Hist.* 507 Succede your fathers & auncestors in obedience.
- a1616 SHAKESPEARE *All's Well that ends Well* (1623) I. i. 58 Succeed thy father In manners as in shape.

†**3.** To fall heir to, inherit, come into possession of; = 1d, 1e. *Obs.*

- 1490 *Cov. Leet Bk.* 537 Ye must hastily procede vnto theleccion off an-other personne to succeede the said office.
- 1561 T. NORTON & T. SACKVILLE *Gorboduc* III. i. 73 Egall in degree With him that claimeth to succeede the whole.
- 1606 G. W. tr. *Epit. Liues Emperors* in tr. Justinus *Hist.* sig. Kk 4 Mychaell, the son of Constantinus Ducas, sur-named..Parapinaceus succeedeth the Empire.
- a1616 SHAKESPEARE *Measure for Measure* (1623) II. iv. 124 Else let my brother die, If not a fedarie but onely he Owe, and succeed thy weaknesse.
- 1725 A. RAMSAY *Gentle Shepherd* To C'tess Eglintoun 131 Thrice happy! who succeed their mother's praise, The lovely Eglintouns of other days.

4.

a. intr. To come next or immediately afterwards in an order of individual persons or things; to follow on; also, †to occupy the space vacated by something. (Sometimes const. *to.*)

- c1400 (†1391) CHAUCER *Treat. Astrolabe* (Cambr. Dd.3.53) (1872) II. §12. 24 & next him [sc. Mercury] succedith the Mone; & so forth by ordre, planete aftur planete.
- c1485 *Digby Myst.* II. 344 Go forth yowur way; I wyll succeede In-to what place ye wyll me lede.
- 1548 *Hall's Vnion: Edward IV* f. ccxvii^v This battaill on bothe sides was sore fought & many slain, in whose romes succeeded euer fresh and freshemen.
- 1596 J. DALRYMPLE tr. J. Leslie *Hist. Scotl.* (1888) I. 52 To the Mernes neist suceidid Angus.
- a1684 J. EVELYN *Diary* anno 1651 (1955) III. 29 There was another fat Malefactor to succeede.
- 1690 J. LOCKE *Ess. Humane Understanding* II. xxiii. 144 The ambient fluid, having a full liberty to succeed in each point of Space.
- 1692 J. RAY *Misc. Disc.* v. 131 The Waters rising up out of the subterraneous Abyss, the Sea must needs succeed.
- 1715 J. T. DESAGULIERS tr. N. Gauger *Fires Improv'd* 25 The cold Air all the while coming down and succeeding at D till the whole Air in the Room has pass'd thro'.
- 1798 R. BLOOMFIELD *Spring* in *Farmer's Boy* 179 Sub~ordinate they one by one succeed; And one among them always takes the lead.
- 1908 A. DOBSON *De Libris* Prol. p. v I can't pretend to make you read The pages that to this succeed.

†**b. trans.** To follow, walk after. *Obs.*

- c1485 *Digby Myst.* II. 589 I wyll yow succeede, for better or wors, To the prynces of pristes.
- 1781 W. COWPER *Hope* 14 As in a dance the pair that take the lead Turn downward, and the lowest pair succeed.

†**5.** *intr.* To be continued, go on. *Obs.*

- 1486 *Bk. St. Albans, Her.* a j How bondeage began first in aungell and after succeeded in man kynde.
 1605 R. VERSTEGAN *Restit. Decayed Intelligence* vi. 156 The old grownded opinion, that hath by ancient tradition succeeded from age to age.
 1609 S. ROWLANDS *Whole Crew Kind Gossips* 17 My discontent succeedeth day by day.

6.

a. To follow or come *after* in the course of events, the sequence of things, the order of development, etc.; to take place or come into being subsequently. †**to succeed:** to come; future.

- c1450 *Godstow Reg.* 352 In the which..mese..the Chapelayn.. shold haue a dwellyng to serue by the tymys succedyng.
 a1533 LD. BERNERS tr. A. de Guevara *Golden Bk. M. Aurelius* (1546) sig. B.ijj As the ages hath succeded, so are discourered the sciences.
 1570 in J. Cranstoun *Satirical Poems Reformation* (1891) I. xvii. 117 We se and spyis not our sorrowis to succeid.
 1583 J. FOXE *Actes & Monuments* (ed. 4) II. 1397/2 The Masse Priests succede after Christ, doing the same sacrifice (as they say) which he did before.
 a1616 SHAKESPEARE *Henry VI, Pt. 2* (1623) II. iv. 2 After Summer, euermore succedes Barren Winter.
 1622 H. PEACHAM *Compl. Gentleman* (1906) x. 95 After him [sc. Gower] succeded Lydgate, a Monke of Bury, who wrote that bitter Satyre of Peirs Plow-men.
 1623 SHAKESPEARE & J. FLETCHER *Henry VIII* v. iv. 23 A Patterne to all Princes liuing with her, And all that shall succeed .
 1667 MILTON *Paradise Lost* IV. 535 Enjoy, till I return, Short pleasures, for long woes are to succeed .
 1667 MILTON *Paradise Lost* x. 733 Who of all Ages to succeed, but feeling The evil on him brought by me, will curse My Head.
 1678 in *Loyalty Last Long Parl.* (1681) II. 619 These ill Consequences, which have since succeded both at home and abroad.
 1781 W. COWPER *Hope* 749 And when..This earth shall blaze, and a new world succeed.
 1847 C. BRONTË *Jane Eyre* I. v. 90 Half an hour's recreation succeded, then study.
 1875 B. JOWETT in tr. Plato *Dialogues* (ed. 2) V. 56 The age of reverence is gone, and the age of irreverence and licentiousness has succeded.

†**b.** To follow as a consequence *of* or *upon*; to proceed *from* a source; to ensue, result. *Obs.*

- 1537 STARKEY in J. Strype *Eccl. Mem.* (1721) I. App. lxxxi. 194 Al worldly respects set aside, and al dangerous success, which might succede of the same.

- 1632 W. LITHGOW *Total Disc. Trav.* III. 117 Curing a festered soare with a poysoned playster; whence succeeded a dismall discord.
- 1652 M. NEDHAM tr. J. Selden *Of Dominion of Sea* 7 Any innovation of wrongs succeeding thereupon.
- 1697 DRYDEN tr. Virgil *Georgics* IV, in tr. Virgil *Wks.* 145 The Cause is known, from whence Thy Woe succeeded .
- 1710 H. PRIDEAUX *Orig. & Right Tithes* v. 225 The Normans having conquered this Realm, a thorough abolition of the whole [uniformity of laws, etc.] had like to have succeeded.

c. Const. to: = 9.

- 1687 A. LOVELL tr. J. de Thévenot *Trav. into Levant* I. Pref. Those Exercises, which in the breeding of Youth, commonly succede to their School Education.
- 1700 DRYDEN *Chaucer's Palamon & Arcite* III, in *Fables* 61 While Day to Night, and Night to Day succeeds.
- 1703 N. ROWE *Ulysses* Ded. That this Glorious End may very suddenly succeed to your Lordship's Candor and Generous Endeavours after it.
- 1842 TENNYSON *Two Voices* in *Poems* (new ed.) II. 130 I know that age to age succeeds, Blowing a noise of tongues and deeds.

†7.

a. To follow in, or come into, the place of someone or something. Obs.

- 1551 R. ROBINSON tr. T. More *Vtopia* sig. Qviii They succede into the places of the other at theyre dyinge.
- 1638 F. JUNIUS *Painting of Ancients* 100 Masters..should take the scholars in hand with a fatherly minde, esteeming themselves to succeed in their place that committed the children unto them.
- 1667 MILTON *Paradise Lost* XII. 508 But in thir room..Wolves shall succeed for teachers.
- 1690 J. LOCKE *Ess. Humane Understanding* II. iv. 49 The Idea of the motion of one single Body alone, without any other succeeding immediately into its Place.
- 1701 G. STANHOPE tr. St. Augustine *Pious Breathings* 277 When these Spirits are dispossessed, the Spirit of God will succeed into their place.

b. Const. to: To take the place of.

- 1692 DRYDEN *Cleomenes* IV. i. 44 Revenge succeeds to Love, and Rage to Grief.
- 1807 G. CHALMERS *Caledonia* I. II. vii. 325 Anglo-Saxon..on the subduement of the Romanized Ottadini, succeeded to the British tongue.
- 1819 SHELLEY *Cenci* II. i. 23 What can now Have given you that cold melancholy look, Succeeding to your unaccustomed fear?
- 1883 *Manch. Examiner* 30 Nov. 5/3 Something like consternation succeeded to the benevolent interest with which the earlier movements of the Mahdi had been regarded.

†**c. trans. (causative)** To cause to take the place of another. *Obs. rare.*

1667 DRYDEN *Annus Mirabilis 1666* clxxv. 45 Young Hollis..Impatient to revenge his fatal shot, His right hand doubly to his left succeeds.

†**8. Of an estate, etc.:** To descend in succession; to devolve *upon*, to come down *from*. Chiefly *Sc.*

1536 *Abst. Protocols Town Clerks Glasgow* (1897) IV. 92 That the landis and tenement suld suceyde to hym in heretage.

c1550 *Complaynt Scotl.* (1979) xvii. 122 Considerand that the crop ande rute of our gentreis ande genologie hes succedit fra adam.

1596 J. DALRYMPLE tr. J. Leslie *Hist. Scotl.* (1888) I. 82 Quhais Impire..athir succeeding to thair awne effircumers, or be violence..occupied be strangeris.

a1616 SHAKESPEARE *Othello* (1622) v. ii. 377 Ceaze vpon the fortunes of the Moore: For they succeed to [1623 on] you.

a1616 SHAKESPEARE *All's Well that ends Well* (1623) III. vii. 23 A ring the Countie weares, That downward hath succeeded in his house From sonne to sonne.

9. trans. To come after or follow in the course of time or the sequence of events. (In first quot. ?1526, to live after, be posterior to.)

?1526 J. FISHER *Serm. conc. Heretickes* sig. Bij Tyll vs (that succede the commynge of our sauour) the same thynges be disclosed.

1609 SHAKESPEARE *Pericles* iv. 103 The Curse of heauen and men succeed their euils.

1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseudodoxia Epidemica* v. iv. 238 If..those destructive effects they now discover succeeded the curse, and came in with..thornes and briars.

1647 A. COWLEY *Dialogue in Mistress* i Shame succeeds the short-liv'd pleasure.

a1774 O. GOLDSMITH *Surv. Exper. Philos.* (1776) II. 1 The natural philosophers that just succeeded the ages of obscurity.

1785 W. COWPER *Task* VI. 259 This smiling sky, So soon succeeding such an angry night.

1816 SCOTT *Antiquary* III. ii. 37 These alternate feelings of embarrassment, wonder, and grief, seemed to succeed each other more than once upon her torpid features.

1864 J. BRYCE *Holy Rom. Empire* iii. 35 The rule of the consul Alberic had been succeeded by the wildest confusion.

1913 *Times* 14 May 6/1 An ideal day for manœuvres, clear and cool, succeeded yesterday's rain.

†**10.**

a. intr. To happen, fall out, come to pass, take place. *Obs.*

1537 T. CROMWELL in R. B. Merriman *Life & Lett. T. Cromwell* (1902) II. 63 Nothing is succeeded

sythens my last writing.

- 1548 *Hall's Vnion: Henry VI* f. clxj From thensefurth daily succeeded, murder, slaughter, & discencion.
- 1606 G. W. tr. Justinus *Hist.* XVI. 68 By force whereof, it succeeded that..they died and their Countrey not deliuered.
- 1653 tr. F. Carmeni *Nissena* 78 She desired to be inform'd of..what had succeeded since the Prince Doralbo's expedition.

†**b.** To happen *to*, fall as a portion *to* a person.

- a1533 LD. BERNERS tr. A. de Guevara *Golden Bk. M. Aurelius* (1546) sig. N.v If y^l succede to him..it is by reason of the ignoraunce of him selfe.
- 1622 J. MABBE tr. M. Alemán *Rogue* II. 259 Lest that succeed vnto them, which happened vnto Don Quixote de la Mancha.
- 1669 W. PENN in *Extracts State Papers* (Friends' Hist. Soc.) (1912) 3rd Ser. 280 The honner which will redownd to thee, exceeds farr the advantage that Can succeed to me.

†**11.**

a. Of an enterprise, etc.: To have a certain issue; to turn out (one way or another, well or ill).

- 1541 T. ELYOT *Image of Gouvernance* xi. f. 20^v But it succeeded all other wise.
- 1560 *Bible* (Geneva) Tobit iv. 6 If y^u deale truely, thy doings shal prosperously succede to thee.
- a1586 SIR P. SIDNEY tr. *Psalmes David* (1823) XXXVII. i Though ill deedes well succeeding be.
- 1595 S. DANIEL *First Fowre Bks. Ciuile Warres* I. xliv. sig. C4^v But euery day things now succeeded worse.
- 1600 E. FAIRFAX tr. Tasso *Godfrey of Bulloigne* IV. lxxxii. 71 Yours be the thanks, for yours the danger is, If ought succeed (as much I feare) amis.
- 1608 SHAKESPEARE *King Lear* ii. 138 I promise you the effects he writ of, succeed vnhappily.
- 1684 R. WALLER tr. *Ess. Nat. Exper. Acad. del Cimento* 40 Whether the manner of their operation would succeed contrary, or any way different to what they appear.

†**b.** To turn out *to* one's advantage or disadvantage. *Sc. Obs.*

- 1533 J. BELLENDEN tr. Livy *Hist. Rome* (1901) I. II. xvi. 191 Bot his tary and Inobedience succedit to his hevy dammage.
- c1550 *Complaynt Scotl.* (1979) viii. 57 The proditiōne of ane realme succedis to the hurt of the public veil.

12.

a. To have the desired or a fortunate issue or conclusion; to turn out

successfully.

- c1450 [implied in: tr. Thomas à Kempis *De Imitatione Christi* III. xxxv. 104 Lest þou be lifte up in succedyng of þi desire [L. *in bono successu*]. (at SUCCEEDING *n.* 1)].
- 1595 [implied in: S. DANIEL *First Fowre Bks. Ciuile Warres* v. lxxvii. sig. Dd2 Friends, opinion, & succeeding chaunce, Which wrought the weak to yeld. (at SUCCEEDING *adj.* 5b)].
- 1617 F. MORYSON *Itinerary* I. 161 Since..this our meeting hath not succeeded,..there is no other remedie but to make our peace at leasure by exchange of letters.
- 1667 MILTON *Paradise Lost* I. 166 Our labour must be..out of good still to find means of evil; Which oft times may succeed .
- 1685 DRYDEN *Sylvæ* Pref. sig. a6 This was impossible for Virgil to imitate; because the severity of the Roman Language denied him that advantage. Spencer endeavour'd it in his Sheperds Calendar; but neither will it succeed in English.
- 1738 J. WESLEY *Coll. Psalms & Hymns* (new ed.) I. iv His happy Toil shall all succeed Whom God himself delights to bless.
- 1808 *Med. & Physical Jrnl.* 19 331 I only used it in two instances, in both of which it succeeded.
- 1856 J. A. FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* (1858) I. v. 464 There was no reason why an attempt which had succeeded once might not succeed again.
- 1861 H. T. BUCKLE *Hist. Civilisation Eng.* (1873) II. viii. 577 When the spirit of the age is against those remedies, they can at least only succeed for a moment.

b. Of growing plants: To meet with success, do well, thrive.

- 1812 S. EDWARDS *New Bot. Garden* I. 4 Layers and cuttings likewise sometimes succeed.
- 1816 J. K. TUCKEY *Narr. Exped. River Zaire* (1818) i. 28 We..were told that wheat succeeds perfectly when sown in the dry plains in the rainy season.
- 1880 C. R. MARKHAM *Peruvian Bark* 468 There the North American cottons succeed.

13.

a. Of persons: To attain a desired end or object; to be successful in an endeavour; to bring one's labours to a happy issue. Also formerly, with *adv.*, to have 'good' or 'ill success'. Also in proverbial *phr.*

- 1509 S. HAWES *Pastime of Pleasure* (1845) XIV. 55 Above al other he did so excell, None sith his time in arte wolde succede, After their death to have fame for their mede.
- 1692 DRYDEN *All for Love* (new ed.) Pref. sig. b3 Thus the case is hard with Writers: if they succeed not, they must starve.
- 1734 POPE *Epist. to Arbuthnot* 351 Alike my scorn, if he succeed or fail.
- 1738 SWIFT *Compl. Coll. Genteel Conversat.* p. xxiv Nor did the late D. of R— and E. of E— succeed much better.
- 1765 *Museum Rusticum* IV. 368 In this I was told it was impossible to succeed, because a very sensible farmer..had tried the experiment, and failed.
- 1866 G. MACDONALD *Ann. Quiet Neighb.* (1878) vii. 124 I have succeeded very badly.

1884 *Manch. Examiner* 16 May 4/7 If he had studiously endeavoured to be unjust he could not have succeeded more completely.

Prov.

1840 T. H. PALMER *Teacher's Man.* 223 'T is a lesson you should heed, Try, try again; If at first you do n't succeed, Try, try again.

1857 W. E. HICKSON *Try Again* in *Moral Songs* 8 'Tis a lesson you should heed, Try, try, try again. If at first you don't succeed, Try, try, try again.

1915 E. B. HOLT *Freudian Wish* iii. 103 The child is frustrated, but not instructed; and it is in the situation where, later on in life, we say to ourselves, 'If at first you don't succeed, try, try again!'

1960 I. JEFFERIES *Dignity & Purity* v. 91 Not to worry... If at first you don't succeed, try, try, try again.

a1976 A. CHRISTIE *Miss Marple's Final Cases* (1979) 39 You musn't give up, Mr. Rossiter. 'If at first you don't succeed, try, try, try again.'

b. Const. *in* with gerund. (Also *transf.* of things.)

1839 T. KEIGHTLEY *Hist. Eng.* II. 67 Cranmer succeeded in obtaining a mitigation of the provisions.

1869 H. F. TOZER *Res. Highlands of Turkey* II. 232 Bold touches..succeed in leaving a distinct impression on the mind.

1898 F. MONTGOMERY *Tony* 11 She succeeded in finding an empty carriage.

†14. *trans.* (*causative*) To give success to; to prosper, further. *Obs.*

1613 C. TOURNEUR *Griefe on Death Prince Henrie* 135 Whose influence makes that His own virtues are succeeded justly.

1639 J. SHIRLEY *Maides Revenge* v. sig. I2^v Good Ansilva giv't her, And heavens succeede the operation.

1651 R. BAXTER *Plain Script. Proof* 193 I leave that which I have written to God to succeed as he please.

1654 J. OWEN *Doctr. Saints Perseverance* ii. §20. 44 This way of Disputing will scarce succeed you, in this great undertaking.

1717 POPE tr. Homer *Iliad* III. x. 352 Pallas..succeeds their Enterprize.

1770 H. BROOKE *Fool of Quality* V. xvii. 67 May heaven succeed your..wish.

1825 E. IRVING *Word God* ii, in *Wks.* (1864) I. 18 God, being ever willing and ever ready to second and succeed His word.

1843 J. PERKINS *8 Years Resid. Persia* 219 in J. R. Bartlett *Dict. Americanisms* Sincerely praying and desiring..the Smiles of Heaven to succeed your..embassy.

†15. *intr.* To come up or near *to*, approach. *Obs. rare.*

1596 SPENSER *Second Pt. Faerie Queene* VI. IV. sig. Cc2 Who euer, as he saw him nigh succeed, Gan cry aloud with horrible affright.

1697 DRYDEN tr. Virgil *Pastorals* v, in tr. Virgil *Wks.* 20 Will you to the cooler Cave succeed..?

1697 DRYDEN tr. Virgil *Georgics* III, in tr. Virgil *Wks.* 632 Snakes, familiar, to the Hearth
succeed .

1697 DRYDEN tr. Virgil *Georgics* III, in tr. Virgil *Wks.* 758 To his rough Palat, his dry Tongue
succeeds .

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