

The Oxford English Dictionary

SECOND EDITION

Volume IV

Creel–Duzepere

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THE OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY

SECOND EDITION

Prepared by

J. A. SIMPSON *and* E. S. C. WEINER

VOLUME IV

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KEY TO THE PRONUNCIATION

THE pronunciations given are those in use in the educated speech of southern England (the so-called 'Received Standard'), and the keywords given are to be understood as pronounced in such speech.

I. Consonants

b, d, f, k, l, m, n, p, t, v, z have their usual English values

g as in *go* (gəʊ)
h ... *ho!* (həʊ)
r ... *run* (rʌn), *terrier* ('teriə(r))
(r) ... *her* (hɜ:(r))
s ... *see* (si:), *success* (sək'ses)
w ... *wear* (weə(r))
hw ... *when* (hwen)
j ... *yes* (jes)

θ as in *thin* (θɪn), *bath* (bɑ:θ)
ð ... *then* (ðen), *bathe* (beɪð)
ʃ ... *shop* (ʃɒp), *dish* (dɪʃ)
tʃ ... *chop* (tʃɒp), *ditch* (dɪtʃ)
ʒ ... *vision* ('vɪʒən), *déjeuner* (deʒəne)
dʒ ... *judge* (dʒʌdʒ)
ŋ ... *singing* ('sɪŋŋ), *think* (θɪŋk)
ŋɡ ... *finger* ('fɪŋɡə(r))

(FOREIGN AND NON-SOUTHERN)
ʎ as in It. *serraglio* (ser'raʎo)
ɲ ... Fr. *cognac* (kɔɲak)
x ... Ger. *ach* (ax), Sc. *loch* (lox), Sp. *frijoles* (fri'xoles)
ç ... Ger. *ich* (ɪç), Sc. *nicht* (nɪçt)
ʏ ... North Ger. *sagen* ('za:ʏən)
c ... Afrikaans *baardmannetjie* ('ba:rtmanəci)
q ... Fr. *cuisine* (kɥizin)

Symbols in parentheses are used to denote elements that may be omitted either by individual speakers or in particular phonetic contexts: e.g. *bottle* ('bɒt(ə)l), *Mercian* ('mɜ:f(i)ən), *suit* (s(j)u:t), *impromptu* (ɪm'prɒm(p)tju:), *father* ('fa:ðə(r)).

II. Vowels and Diphthongs

SHORT

ɪ as in *pit* (pɪt), *-ness*, *(-nte)*
ɛ ... *pet* (pɛt), Fr. *sept* (sɛt)
æ ... *pæt* (pæt)
ʌ ... *putt* (pʌt)
ɒ ... *pot* (pɒt)
ʊ ... *put* (pʊt)
ə ... *another* (ə'nʌðə(r))
(ə) ... *beaten* ('bi:t(ə)n)
i ... Fr. *si* (si)
e ... Fr. *bébé* (bebe)
a ... Fr. *mari* (mari)
ɑ ... Fr. *bâtiment* (batimɑ̃)
ɔ ... Fr. *homme* (ɔm)
o ... Fr. *eau* (o)
ø ... Fr. *peu* (pø)
œ ... Fr. *boeuf* (bœf) *cœur* (kœr)
u ... Fr. *douce* (dus)
ʏ ... Ger. *Müller* ('mʏlɐr)
y ... Fr. *du* (dy)

LONG

i: as in *bean* (bi:n)
ɑ: ... *barn* (bɑ:n)
ɔ: ... *born* (bɔ:n)
u: ... *boon* (bu:n)
ɜ: ... *burn* (bɜ:n)
e: ... Ger. *Schnee* (ʃne:)
ɛ: ... Ger. *Föhre* ('fɛ:rə)
a: ... Ger. *Tag* (tak)
o: ... Ger. *Sohn* (zo:n)
ø: ... Ger. *Goethe* ('gø:te)
y: ... Ger. *grün* (gryn)

NASAL

ɛ̃, æ̃ as in Fr. *fin* (fɛ̃, fæ̃)
ɑ̃ ... Fr. *franc* (frɑ̃)
ɔ̃ ... Fr. *bon* (bɔ̃)
œ̃ ... Fr. *un* (œ̃)

DIPHTHONGS, etc.

eɪ as in *bay* (beɪ)
aɪ ... *buy* (baɪ)
ɔɪ ... *boy* (bɔɪ)
əʊ ... *no* (nəʊ)
aʊ ... *now* (naʊ)
ɪə ... *peer* (piə(r))
eə ... *pair* (peə(r))
ʊə ... *tour* (tuə(r))
ɔə ... *boar* (boə(r))
aɪə as in *fiery* ('fɛəri)
aʊə ... *sour* (saʊə(r))

The incidence of main stress is shown by a superior stress mark (') preceding the stressed syllable, and a secondary stress by an inferior stress mark (ˌ), e.g. *pronunciation* (prɒˌnʌnsi'eɪʃ(ə)n).

For further explanation of the transcription used, see *General Explanations*, Volume I.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS, SIGNS, ETC.

Some abbreviations listed here in italics are also in certain cases printed in roman type, and vice versa.

a. (in Etym.) a (as a 1850) a. abbrev. abl. <i>absol.</i> <i>Abstr.</i> acc. <i>Acct.</i> A.D. ad. (in Etym.) Add. <i>adj.</i> <i>Adv.</i> <i>adv.</i> <i>advb.</i> Advt. <i>Aeronaut.</i>	adoption of, adopted from <i>ante</i> , 'before', 'not later than' adjective abbreviation (of) ablative absolute, -ly (in titles) <i>Abstract</i> , -s accusative (in titles) <i>Account</i> <i>Anno Domini</i> adaptation of Addenda adjective (in titles) <i>Advance</i> , -d, -s adverb adverbial, -ly advertisement (as label) in Aeronautics; (in titles) <i>Aeronautic</i> , -al, -s Anglo-French Africa, -n (as label) in Agriculture; (in titles) <i>Agriculture</i> , -al Albanian American American Indian (as label) in Anatomy; (in titles) <i>Anatomy</i> , -ical (in titles) <i>Ancient</i> Anglo-Indian Anglo-Irish Annals (as label) in Anthropology; (in titles) <i>Anthropology</i> , -ical (as label) in Antiquities; (in titles) <i>Antiquity</i> aphetic, aphetized apparently (in titles) <i>Applied</i> (in titles) <i>Application</i> , -s appositive, -ly Arabic Aramaic in Architecture archaic in Archæology (as label) in Architecture; (in titles) <i>Architecture</i> , -al Armenian association in Astronomy in Astrology (in titles) <i>Astronomy</i> , -ical (in titles) <i>Astronautic</i> , -s attributive, -ly Australian (in titles) <i>Autobiography</i> , -ical Authorized Version	<i>Bull.</i> c (as c 1700) c. (as 19th c.) <i>Cal.</i> <i>Cambr.</i> <i>Canad.</i> Cat. <i>catachr.</i> <i>Catal.</i> Celt. <i>Cent.</i> <i>Cent. Dict.</i> Cf., cf. Ch. <i>Chem.</i> <i>Chr.</i> <i>Chron.</i> <i>Chronol.</i> <i>Cinemat.</i> , <i>Cinematogr.</i> <i>Clin.</i> cl. L. cogn. w. <i>Col.</i> <i>Coll.</i> <i>collect.</i> <i>colloq.</i> comb. <i>Comb.</i> <i>Comm.</i> <i>Communic.</i> comp. <i>Compan.</i> compar. compl. <i>Compl.</i> <i>Conc.</i> <i>Conch.</i> <i>concr.</i> <i>Conf.</i> <i>Congr.</i> <i>conj.</i> cons. const. contr. <i>Contrib.</i> <i>Corr.</i> corresp. Cotgr. cpd. <i>Crit.</i> <i>Cryst.</i> <i>Cycl.</i> <i>Cytol.</i> Da. D.A. D.A.E. dat. D.C. <i>Deb.</i> def. dem. deriv. derog. <i>Descr.</i> <i>Devel.</i> <i>Diagn.</i> <i>dial.</i>	(in titles) <i>Bulletin</i> <i>circa</i> , 'about' century (in titles) <i>Calendar</i> (in titles) <i>Cambridge</i> Canadian Catalan catachrestically (in titles) <i>Catalogue</i> Celtic (in titles) <i>Century</i> , <i>Central</i> <i>Century Dictionary</i> <i>confer</i> , 'compare' Church (as label) in Chemistry; (in titles) <i>Chemistry</i> , -ical (in titles) <i>Christian</i> (in titles) <i>Chronicle</i> (in titles) <i>Chronology</i> , -ical in Cinematography (in titles) <i>Clinical</i> classical Latin cognate with (in titles) <i>Colonel</i> , <i>Colony</i> (in titles) <i>Collection</i> collective, -ly colloquial, -ly combined, -ing Combinations in Commercial usage in Communications compound, composition (in titles) <i>Companion</i> comparative complement (in titles) <i>Complete</i> (in titles) <i>Concise</i> in Conchology concrete, -ly (in titles) <i>Conference</i> (in titles) <i>Congress</i> conjunction consonant construction, construed with contrast (with) (in titles) <i>Contribution</i> (in titles) <i>Correspondence</i> corresponding (to) R. Cotgrave, <i>Dictionarie of</i> <i>the French and English</i> <i>Tongues</i> compound (in titles) <i>Criticism</i> , <i>Critical</i> in Crystallography (in titles) <i>Cyclopædia</i> , -ic (in titles) <i>Cytology</i> , -ical Danish <i>Dictionary of Americanisms</i> <i>Dictionary of American</i> <i>English</i> dative District of Columbia (in titles) <i>Debate</i> , -s definite, -ition demonstrative derivative, -ation derogatory (in titles) <i>Description</i> , -tive (in titles) <i>Development</i> , -al (in titles) <i>Diagnosis</i> , <i>Diagnostic</i> dialect, -al	Dict. dim. <i>Dis.</i> <i>Diss.</i> D.O.S.T. Du. E. <i>Eccl.</i> <i>Ecol.</i> <i>Econ.</i> ed. E.D.D. <i>Edin.</i> <i>Educ.</i> EE. e.g. <i>Electr.</i> <i>Electron.</i> <i>Elem.</i> ellipt. <i>Embryol.</i> e.midl. <i>Encycl.</i> <i>Eng.</i> <i>Engin.</i> <i>Ent.</i> <i>Entomol.</i> erron. <i>esp.</i> <i>Ess.</i> et al. etc. <i>Ethnol.</i> etym. <i>euphem.</i> <i>Exam.</i> exc. <i>Exerc.</i> <i>Exper.</i> <i>Explor.</i> f. f. (in Etym.) f. (in subordinate entries) F. <i>fem.</i> (rarely f) <i>fig.</i> Finn. fl. <i>Found.</i> Fr. freq. Fris. <i>Fund.</i> <i>Funk</i> or <i>Funk's Stand.</i> <i>Dict.</i> G. Gael. <i>Gaz.</i> gen. gen. <i>Geogr.</i>	Dictionary; <i>spec.</i> , the <i>Oxford English Dictionary</i> diminutive (in titles) <i>Disease</i> (in titles) <i>Dissertation</i> <i>Dictionary of the Older</i> <i>Scottish Tongue</i> Dutch East (as label) in Ecclesiastical usage; (in titles) <i>Ecclesiastical</i> in Ecology (as label) in Economics; (in titles) <i>Economy</i> , -ics edition <i>English Dialect Dictionary</i> (in titles) <i>Edinburgh</i> (as label) in Education; (in titles) <i>Education</i> , -al Early English <i>exempli gratia</i> , 'for example' (as label) in Electricity; (in titles) <i>Electricity</i> , -ical (in titles) <i>Electronic</i> , -s (in titles) <i>Element</i> , -ary elliptical, -ly in Embryology east midland (dialect) (in titles) <i>Encyclopædia</i> , -ic England, English in Engineering in Entomology (in titles) <i>Entomology</i> , -logical erroneous, -ly especially (in titles) <i>Essay</i> , -s <i>et alii</i> , 'and others' et cetera in Ethnology etymology euphemistically (in titles) <i>Examination</i> except (in titles) <i>Exercise</i> , -s (in titles) <i>Experiment</i> , -al (in titles) <i>Experimentation</i> , -s feminine formed on form of French feminine figurative, -ly Finnish <i>floruit</i> , 'flourished' (in titles) <i>Foundation</i> , -s French frequent, -ly Frisian (in titles) <i>Fundamental</i> , -s <i>Funk</i> and Wagnalls <i>Standard Dictionary</i> German Gaelic (in titles) <i>Gazette</i> genitive general, -ly (as label) in Geography; (in titles) <i>Geography</i> , -ical
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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS, SIGNS, ETC.

<i>Geol.</i>	(as label) in Geology; (in titles) <i>Geology</i> , -ical	masc. (<i>rarely</i> ; m.)	masculine	<i>Palæont.</i>	(as label) in Palæontology; (in titles) <i>Palæontology</i> , -ical
<i>Geom.</i>	in Geometry	<i>Math.</i>	(as label) in Mathematics; -al	pa. pple.	passive participle, past
<i>Geomorphol.</i>	in Geomorphology	MDu.	Middle Dutch		participle
<i>Ger.</i>	German	ME.	Middle English	(Partridge),	(quoted from) E.
<i>Gloss.</i>	Glossary	<i>Mech.</i>	(as label) in Mechanics; (in titles) <i>Mechanics</i> , -al		Partridge's <i>Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English</i>
<i>Gmc.</i>	Germanic	<i>Med.</i>	(as label) in Medicine; (in titles) <i>Medicine</i> , -ical	<i>pass.</i>	passive, -ly
<i>Godef.</i>	F. Godefroy, <i>Dictionnaire de l'ancienne langue française</i>	med.L.	medieval Latin	pa.t.	past tense
<i>Goth.</i>	Gothic	<i>Mem.</i>	(in titles) <i>Memoir</i> , -s	<i>Path.</i>	(as label) in Pathology; (in titles) <i>Pathology</i> , -ical
<i>Govt.</i>	(in titles) <i>Government</i>	<i>Metaph.</i>	in Metaphysics	perh.	perhaps
<i>Gr.</i>	Greek	<i>Meteorol.</i>	(as label) in Meteorology; (in titles) <i>Meteorology</i> , -ical	Pers.	Persian
<i>Gram.</i>	(as label) in Grammar; (in titles) <i>Grammar</i> , -tical	MHG.	Middle High German	pers.	person, -al
<i>Gt.</i>	Great	midl.	midland (dialect)	<i>Petrogr.</i>	in Petrography
<i>Heb.</i>	Hebrew	<i>Mil.</i>	in military usage	<i>Petrol.</i>	(as label) in Petrology; (in titles) <i>Petrology</i> , -ical
<i>Her.</i>	in Heraldry	<i>Min.</i>	(as label) in Mineralogy; (in titles) <i>Ministry</i>	(Pettman),	(quoted from) C. Pettman's <i>Africanisms</i>
<i>Herb.</i>	among herbalists	<i>Mineral.</i>	(in titles) <i>Mineralogy</i> , -ical	pf.	perfect
<i>Hind.</i>	Hindustani	MLG.	Middle Low German	Pg.	Portuguese
<i>Hist.</i>	(as label) in History; (in titles) <i>History</i> , -ical	<i>Misc.</i>	(in titles) <i>Miscellany</i> , -eous	<i>Pharm.</i>	in Pharmacology
<i>hist.</i>	historical	mod.	modern	<i>Philol.</i>	(as label) in Philology; (in titles) <i>Philology</i> , -ical
<i>Histol.</i>	(in titles) <i>Histology</i> , -ical	mod.L.	modern Latin	<i>Philos.</i>	(as label) in Philosophy; (in titles) <i>Philosophy</i> , -ic
<i>Hort.</i>	in Horticulture	(Morris),	(quoted from) E. E. Morris's <i>Austral English</i>	phonet.	phonetic, -ally
<i>Househ.</i>	(in titles) <i>Household</i>	<i>Mus.</i>	(as label) in Music; (in titles) <i>Music</i> , -al;	<i>Photogr.</i>	(as label) in Photography; (in titles) <i>Photography</i> , -ical
<i>Housek.</i>	(in titles) <i>Housekeeping</i>	<i>Myst.</i>	<i>Museum</i> (in titles) <i>Mystery</i>	phr.	phrase
<i>Ibid.</i>	<i>Ibidem</i> , 'in the same book or passage'	<i>Mythol.</i>	in Mythology	<i>Phys.</i>	physical; (<i>rarely</i>) in
<i>Icel.</i>	Icelandic	N.	North	<i>Physiol.</i>	Physiology
<i>Ichthyol.</i>	in Ichthyology	n.	neuter		(as label) in Physiology; (in titles) <i>Physiology</i> , -ical
<i>id.</i>	<i>idem</i> , 'the same'	<i>N. Amer.</i>	North America, -n	<i>Pict.</i>	(in titles) <i>Picture</i> , <i>Pictorial</i>
<i>i.e.</i>	<i>id est</i> , 'that is'	<i>N. & Q.</i>	<i>Notes and Queries</i>	pl., plur.	plural
<i>IE.</i>	Indo-European	<i>Narr.</i>	(in titles) <i>Narrative</i>	poet.	poetic, -al
<i>Illustr.</i>	(in titles) <i>Illustration</i> , -ted	<i>Nat.</i>	(in titles) <i>Natural</i>	Pol.	Polish
<i>imit.</i>	imitative	<i>Nat. Hist.</i>	in Natural History	<i>Pol.</i>	(as label) in Politics; (in titles) <i>Politics</i> , -al
<i>Immunol.</i>	in Immunology	<i>Naut.</i>	in nautical language		in Political Economy
<i>imp.</i>	imperative	N.E.	North East	<i>Pol. Econ.</i>	popular, -ly
<i>impers.</i>	impersonal	<i>N.E.D.</i>	<i>New English Dictionary</i> , original title of the <i>Oxford English Dictionary</i> (first edition)	<i>Port.</i>	(in titles) <i>Porcelain</i>
<i>imperf.</i>	imperfect	<i>Neurol.</i>	in Neurology	poss.	possessive
<i>ind.</i>	indicative	neut. (<i>rarely</i> n.)	neuter	<i>Pott.</i>	(in titles) <i>Pottery</i>
<i>indef.</i>	indefinite	NF., NFr.	Northern French	ppl. a., pple. adj.	participial adjective
<i>Industr.</i>	(in titles) <i>Industry</i> , -ial	No.	Number	pple.	participle
<i>inf.</i>	infinitive	nom.	nominative	Pr.	Provençal
<i>infl.</i>	influenced	north.	northern (dialect)	pr.	present
<i>Inorg.</i>	(in titles) <i>Inorganic</i>	Norw.	Norwegian	<i>Pract.</i>	(in titles) <i>Practice</i> , -al
<i>Ins.</i>	(in titles) <i>Insurance</i>	n.q.	no quotations	prec.	preceding (word or article)
<i>Inst.</i>	(in titles) <i>Institute</i> , -tion	N.T.	New Testament	<i>pred.</i>	predicative
<i>int.</i>	interjection	<i>Nucl.</i>	Nuclear	<i>pref.</i>	prefix
<i>intr.</i>	intransitive	<i>Numism.</i>	in Numismatics	<i>pref., Pref.</i>	preface
<i>Introd.</i>	(in titles) <i>Introduction</i>	N.W.	North West	<i>prep.</i>	preposition
<i>Ir.</i>	Irish	N.Z.	New Zealand	<i>pres.</i>	present
<i>irreg.</i>	irregular, -ly	obj.	object	(in titles) <i>Principle</i> , -s	privative
<i>It.</i>	Italian	obl.	oblique	priv.	probably
<i>J., (J.)</i>	(quoted from) Johnson's <i>Dictionary</i>	<i>Obs., obs.</i>	obsolete	<i>Probl.</i>	(in titles) <i>Problem</i>
<i>(Jam.)</i>	Jamieson, <i>Scottish Dict.</i>	<i>Obstetr.</i>	(in titles) <i>Obstetrics</i>	<i>Proc.</i>	(in titles) <i>Proceedings</i>
<i>Jap.</i>	Japanese	occas.	occasionally	<i>pron.</i>	pronoun
<i>joc.</i>	jocular, -ly	OE.	Old English (= Anglo-Saxon)	pronunc.	pronunciation
<i>Jrnl.</i>	(in titles) <i>Journal</i>	OF., OFr.	Old French	prop.	properly
<i>Jun.</i>	(in titles) <i>Junior</i>	OFris.	Old Frisian	<i>Pros.</i>	in Prosody
<i>Knowl.</i>	(in titles) <i>Knowledge</i>	OHG.	Old High German	Prov.	Provençal
<i>l.</i>	line	OIr.	Old Irish	pr. pple.	present participle
<i>L.</i>	Latin	ON.	Old Norse	<i>Psych.</i>	in Psychology
<i>lang.</i>	language	ONF.	Old Northern French	<i>Psychol.</i>	(as label) in Psychology; (in titles) <i>Psychology</i> , -ical
<i>Lect.</i>	(in titles) <i>Lecture</i> , -s	<i>Ophthalm.</i>	in Ophthalmology	<i>Publ.</i>	(in titles) <i>Publications</i>
<i>Less.</i>	(in titles) <i>Lesson</i> , -s	opp.	opposed (to), the opposite (of)	<i>Q.</i>	(in titles) <i>Quarterly</i>
<i>Let., Lett.</i>	letter, letters	<i>Opt.</i>	in Optics	quot(s).	quotation(s)
<i>LG.</i>	Low German	<i>Org.</i>	(in titles) <i>Organic</i>	q.v.	<i>quod vide</i> , 'which see'
<i>lit.</i>	literal, -ly	orig.	origin, -al, -ally	<i>R.</i>	(in titles) <i>Royal</i>
<i>Lit.</i>	Literary	<i>Ornith.</i>	(as label) in Ornithology; (in titles) <i>Ornithology</i> , -ical	<i>Radiol.</i>	in Radiology
<i>Lith.</i>	Lithuanian	OS.	Old Saxon	R.C.Ch.	Roman Catholic Church
<i>LXX</i>	Septuagint	OSl.	Old (Church) Slavonic	<i>Rec.</i>	(in titles) <i>Record</i>
<i>m.</i>	masculine	O.T.	Old Testament	redupl.	reduplicating
<i>Mag.</i>	(in titles) <i>Magazine</i>	<i>Outl.</i>	(in titles) <i>Outline</i>	<i>Ref.</i>	(in titles) <i>Reference</i>
<i>Magn.</i>	(in titles) <i>Magnetic</i> , -ism	<i>Oxf.</i>	(in titles) <i>Oxford</i>	refash.	refashioned, -ing
<i>Mal.</i>	Malay, Malayan	p.	page	refl.	reflexive
<i>Man.</i>	(in titles) <i>Manual</i>	<i>Palæogr.</i>	in Palæography	<i>Reg.</i>	(in titles) <i>Register</i>
<i>Managem.</i>	(in titles) <i>Management</i>				
<i>Manch.</i>	(in titles) <i>Manchester</i>				
<i>Manuf.</i>	in Manufacture, -ing				
<i>Mar.</i>	(in titles) <i>Marine</i>				

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS, SIGNS, ETC.

reg.	regular	str.	strong	Trop.	(in titles) <i>Tropical</i>
rel.	related to	Struct.	(in titles) <i>Structure</i> , -al	Turk.	Turkish
Reminisc.	(in titles) <i>Reminiscence</i> , -s	Stud.	(in titles) <i>Studies</i>	Typogr.	in Typography
Rep.	(in titles) <i>Report</i> , -s	subj.	subject	ult.	ultimately
repr.	representative, representing	subord. cl.	subordinate clause	Univ.	(in titles) <i>University</i>
Res.	(in titles) <i>Research</i>	subseq.	subsequent, -ly	unkn.	unknown
Rev.	(in titles) <i>Review</i>	subst.	substantively	U.S.	United States
rev.	revised	suff.	suffix	U.S.S.R.	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Rhet.	in Rhetoric	superl.	superlative	usu.	usually
Rom.	Roman, -ce, -ic	Suppl.	Supplement	v., vb.	verb
Rum.	Rumanian	Surg.	(as label) in Surgery; (in titles) <i>Surgery</i> , <i>Surgical</i>	var(r)., vars.	variant(s) of
Russ.	Russian	s.v.	<i>sub voce</i> , 'under the word'	vbl. sb.	verbal substantive
S.	South	Sw.	Swedish	Vertebr.	(in titles) <i>Vertebrate</i> , -s
S.Afr.	South Africa, -n	s.w.	south-western (dialect)	Vet.	(as label) in Veterinary Science;
sb.	substantive	Syd. Soc. Lex.	Sydenham Society, <i>Lexicon of Medicine & Allied Sciences</i>	Vet. Sci.	(in titles) <i>Veterinary</i>
sc.	<i>scilicet</i> , 'understand' or 'supply'	syll.	syllable	viz.	in Veterinary Science
Sc., Scot.	Scottish	Syr.	Syrian	Voy.	<i>videlicet</i> , 'namely'
Scand.	(in titles) <i>Scandinavia</i> , -n	Syst.	(in titles) <i>System</i> , -atic	v.str.	(in titles) <i>Voyage</i> , -s
Sch.	(in titles) <i>School</i>	Taxon.	(in titles) <i>Taxonomy</i> , -ical	vulg.	strong verb
Sc. Nat. Dict.	<i>Scottish National Dictionary</i>	techn.	technical, -ly	v.w.	vulgar
Scotl.	(in titles) <i>Scotland</i>	Technol.	(in titles) <i>Technology</i> , -ical	W.	weak verb
Sel.	(in titles) <i>Selection</i> , -s	Telegr.	in Telegraphy	wd.	Welsh; West word
Ser.	Series	Teleph.	in Telephony	Webster	<i>Webster's (New International) Dictionary</i>
sing.	singular	(Th.),	(quoted from) Thornton's <i>American Glossary</i>	Westm.	(in titles) <i>Westminster</i>
Sk.	(in titles) <i>Sketch</i>	Theatr.	in the Theatre, theatrical	WGmc.	West Germanic
Skr.	Sanskrit	Theol.	(as label) in Theology;	Wks.	(in titles) <i>Works</i>
Slav.	Slavonic	Theoret.	(in titles) <i>Theology</i> , -ical	w.midl.	west midland (dialect)
S.N.D.	<i>Scottish National Dictionary</i>	Tokh.	(in titles) <i>Theoretical</i>	WS.	West Saxon
Soc.	(in titles) <i>Society</i>	Trans.	Tokharian	(Y.),	(quoted from) Yule & Burnell's <i>Hobson-Jobson</i>
Sociol.	(as label) in Sociology; (in titles) <i>Sociology</i> , -ical	tr., transl.	translated, translation	Yrs.	(in titles) <i>Years</i>
Sp.	Spanish	Trans.	(in titles) <i>Transactions</i>	Zoogeogr.	in Zoogeography
Sp.	(in titles) <i>Speech</i> , -es	trans.	transitive	Zool.	(as label) in Zoology;
sp.	spelling	transf.	transferred sense		(in titles) <i>Zoology</i> , -ical
spec.	specifically	Trav.	(in titles) <i>Travel(s)</i>		
Spec.	(in titles) <i>Specimen</i>	Treas.	(in titles) <i>Treasure</i>		
St.	Saint	Treat.	(in titles) <i>Treatise</i>		
Stand.	(in titles) <i>Standard</i>	Treatm.	(in titles) <i>Treatment</i>		
Stanf.	(quoted from) <i>Stanford Dictionary of Anglicised Words & Phrases</i>	Trig.	in Trigonometry		

Signs and Other Conventions

Before a word or sense

- † = obsolete
- || = not naturalized, alien
- ¶ = catachrestic and erroneous uses

In the listing of Forms

- 1 = before 1100
- 2 = 12th c. (1100 to 1200)
- 3 = 13th c. (1200 to 1300), etc.
- 5-7 = 15th to 17th century
- 20 = 20th century

In the etymologies

- * indicates a word or form not actually found, but of which the existence is inferred
- = normal development of

The printing of a word in SMALL CAPITALS indicates that further information will be found under the word so referred to.

... indicates an omitted part of a quotation.

- (in a quotation) indicates a hyphen doubtfully present in the original; (in other text) indicates a hyphen inserted only for the sake of a line-break.

PROPRIETARY NAMES

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creel (kri:l), *sb.*¹ Forms: 5-6 crele, creill(e, 5 crele, 6 creil, krele, kreil, 7 creele, (8 craill), 8-creel. [Originally northern, and chiefly Scotch; etymology uncertain.]

The OIr. *crial* chest, coffer, has been compared; but the vowel of *creel* appears to be not *i*, but *e* or *ai*, cf. OF. *greille* = L. *crānicula* fine hurdle-work, may have had a variant **creille*.]

1. A large wicker basket; formerly applied to the large deep baskets, coupled in pairs across the backs of horses, for the transport of goods; now applied to a basket used for the transport of fish and borne upon the back, to a potato-basket, and the like.

c1425 WYNTOUN Cron. viii. xxxviii. 51 A payt of Coil Creis. c1440 Promp. Parv. 101 Crele, basket or lepe, cartallus, sporta. c1475 Raus Colliers 367 He kest two Creillis on ene Capill, with Coillis anew. 1508 DUNBAR Flying w. Kennedy 220 Cager aviris castis bayth coillis and creilis. 1560 ROLLAND Crt. Venus iii. 595 3e him hang our 3our wallis in a creill. 1564 Will & Imo. N.C. (Surtees) 224 A basket and ij creiles. 1610 HEALEY St. Aug. Cite of God 251 There was also the Vanne which is otherwise called the Crele. c1730 BURT Lett. N. Scott. (1818) I. 330 The horse laden with creels, or small panniers. 1806 Gassettier Scot. (ed. 2) 194 Fishermen, whose wives carry the fish in wicker-baskets, or creels to Edinburgh. 1811 WILLIAM W. RIDING Gloss. (E.D.S.). Creel, two semi-circular wicker baskets joined by cords which admit of their closing to hold hay. A man having the creel strapped over his shoulders, conveys provender to sheep. 1860 G. H. K. Vac. Tour 121 When the father of the last Lord Reay... changed his residence... his son was put into a creel on one side of a pony, and counterbalanced by his younger brother, the admiral, in another. 1869-78 in Dial. Glossaries of Cumberland, Lancashire, Westmorland, Wharfedale, Holderness, N.W. Line. 1884 Q. Victoria More Leaves 206 An old fishwife, with her creel on her back.

b. A modern term for an angler's fishing-basket.

1842 Proc. Berw. Nat. Club II. 4 Ere the Creel was half stoked. 1874 C. S. KEENE Let. in Life (1892) 150, I hope you had a good time with rod and creel. 1884 W. C. SMITH Kildronan I. i. 227 It is not every fish you hook that comes to the creel.

2. A contrivance made of wickerwork used as a trap for catching fish, lobsters, etc.

1457 Sc. Acts Jas. II (1597) 887 That na man in smolt time set veschelles, creilles, weires, or ony vther ingine to let the smoltes to goe to the Sea. 1533-4 Act 25 Hen. VIII. c. 7 No person shal take in any lake, hie, crele... fier, or any engine... the young frye... of any kind of salmon. 1536 BELLENDEN Cron. Scot. (1841) I. p. xxxiv. The people makis ene lang mand, narrow halist, and wyid mouthit... all some as the see ebbis, the fische ar tane dry in the creilis. 1566 DALRYMPLE Tr. Leslie's Hist. Scot. 42 Nocht sa mekle fische that with nettis, as with skepis, or long kreilis win with wickers in the form of a hose. 1758 BINNELL Descr. Thames I. i. With any Nets, Trammel, Keep, Wore, Creel, or other Device. 1775 ADAIR Amer. Ind. 403 Catching fish in long crails, made with canes and hickory splinters, tapering to a point.

3. To *couple the creels*: in various fig. uses; to fall or tumble over; to tumble heels over head, to die (Jamieson); to meet with a mishap. in a creel: in a state of temporary mental aberration.

1715 RAMSAY Christ's Kirk G. II. xvii. When he was strute two sturdy chieft... Held up frae coupling o' the creels The liquid logic scholar. 1785 BURNS To William Simpson iii. My senses wad be in a creel, Should I but dare a hope to speel. W. Allan, or w. Gilbertfield. 1816 SCOTT Old Mort. vi. 'The laddie's in a creel!' exclaimed his uncle. 1818 Rob Roy xx. If folk... wad needs be coupling the creels over through-stanes. a1835 Hogg Tales & Sk. III. 206 If you should... couple the creels just now... it would be out of the power of man to get you to a Christian burial. 1871 C. GIBSON Lack of Gold xvii. 'The lassie's head's in a creel', cried Susan.

4. attrib. and Comb., as *creel-hawking*, *-pig*, *creel-like* adv.; *creel-house*, a house or hut with the walls made of wickerwork covered with clay; *creel-man*, a man who transports goods in creels.

1865 J. G. BERTRAM Harvest of Sea (1873) 310 The system... followed by the fishwives in the old days of 'creel-hawking. 1876 ROBINSON Whitty Gloss. 'Creel-house, a wicker hut with a soddled roof. 1878 MACKINTOSH Hist. Civiliz. Scot. I. Intro. 134 Till recently creel houses were used in some parts of the Highlands. 1878-9 in Maidment Sc. Pasquils (1868) 66 He... 'creel lyke livers in the fyre of contention. 1883 J. BEATH Bishopshire Lills 14 Strideleags on the 'creelman's ass. 1880 Antrim & Down Gloss. 'Creel-pig, a young pig, such as is taken to market in a creel or basket.

creel (kri:l), *sb.*² [Perh. the same word as preceding; but evidence is wanting.]

1. A framework, varying in form according to its purpose (see quot.). (Cf. CRATCH, 4.)

1788 W. MARSHALL Yorksh. (1796) II. 222 The feet of the sheep being bound, it is laid upon a bier—provincially, a 'creel'. Ibid. Gloss. Creel, a kind of bier, used for slaughtering and salting sheep upon. 1821 J. HUNTER MS. Gloss. in Addy Sheffield Gloss. Creel, a light frame-work placed overhead in the kitchen or other room of an ordinary farmhouse, on which outstakes are placed. [So 1883 in Huddersf. Gloss.] 1866 Lonsdale Gloss. Creel, a barred stool on which sheep are salved and clipped, pigs are killed, etc. 1877 Holderness Gloss., Creel, a plate-rack, a food-rack for sheep; a butcher's hand-barrow. 1877 N.W. Line. Gloss., Creel, a wooden rack in which plates are put to dry. A frame in which glaziers carry glass.

2. *Spinning*. A frame for holding the paying-off bobbins in the process of converting the

'sliver' into 'roving', or the latter into yarn. Hence also *creel-frame*.

1835 URE Philos. Manuf. 225 The roller-pair... receives the fine rovings from bobbins placed on skewers or upright pins in the creel behind. 1851 Art Jnl. Catal. Gt. Exhib. p. viii**/1 The bobbins... are placed in a wooden frame called a 'creel', so that they will revolve. 1879 Cassell's Techn. Educ. IV. 200/1 The rove creels... stand about six or seven feet high.

b. (See quot.) north. dial. 1869 Lonsdale Gloss., Creel, a frame to wind yarn upon.

creel (kri:l), *v.* [f. CREEL *sb.*¹]

1. Sc. To put into a creel; also fig. 1513 DOUGLAS Æneis IV. Prol. 32 Men sayis thow bridillit Aristotle as ane hors, And creilit wip the flour of poetry. 1808-79 JAMIESON, Creil, to put into a basket... 'He's no gude to creel eggs wi', i.e. not easy, or safe, to deal with.

2. *Angling*. To get (a fish) into the basket; to succeed in catching. Cf. 'to bag game'.

1844 J. T. HEWLETT Parsons & W. v. I. creeled him, and tried again. 1892 Field 18 June 922/3 My friend... creeled nearly twice as many trout.

3. Sc. In certain marriage customs: To make (a newly married man) go through some ceremony with a creel; esp. to make him carry a creel filled with stones, till his wife releases him. Cf. Brand Pop. Antiq. (1870) II. 55.

1792 Statist. Acc. Scot. II. 80 The second day after the Marriage a Creeling, as it is called, takes place. 1845 New Statist. Acc. Scot., Berwicksh. 59 All the men who have been married within the last 12 months are creeled. Ibid. 263 An ancient... local usage called creeling is still kept up here. 1890 Glasgow Times 3 Nov. 3/4 A miner... having got married... his fellow-colliers... went through the process of creeling him.

creeler ('kri:lə(r)) [f. CREEL *sb.*² + -ER¹.] A young person who attends to the care of a spinning machine.

1864 R. A. ARNOLD Cotton Fam. 32 A minder and a creeler engaged in manufacturing with a self-acting mule. 1882 Manchester Guardian 19 May. The relationship between spinners and their creelers and picers.

'creelful. As much as fills a creel.

1824 SCOTT Redgauntlet ch. vii. A creelful of coals. 1873 G. C. DAVIES Mountain & Mere xviii. 157 The creelfuls of trout I have caught.

creem (kri:m), *v.* dial. Also *cream*, *crim*. [Of obscure etymology; possibly two or even three distinct words are here included. The various senses belong to distinct parts of English.]

The variant *crim* has suggested identity with OE. *crimman* to squeeze, press (cf. sense 2); but the evidence does not show that *crim* is the earlier form, rather the contrary; and it is not easy to see how *creem* with its long vowel could arise from the ablaut series *krim*-, *kram*-, *krum*-.]

1. *trans*. To put, place, or deposit secretly or surreptitiously. (northern.)

1674 RAY N.C. Words 12 *Creem* it into my hand: Put it in slyly or secretly. Chesh. a1700 B. E. Dict. Cant. Creem, to slip or slide anything into another's hand. 1746 COLLIER (Tim Bobbin) View Lanc. Dial. Wks. (1862) 53, I creemt nip new on then o Lunshun. 1887 S. Cheshire Gloss., Creem, to hide. 'Creem it up', put it out of sight, hide it in your dress or pocket. It is a rare word, and rapidly becoming obsolete.

2. To squeeze; to hug. (Devon and Cornw.)

1760 Exmoor Courtship (E.D.S.) 326 Tha hast a creem'd ma Yearms and a most host ma neck. 1864 CAPERN Devon Provinc., He creemed my hand. 1880 W. Cornwall Gloss., Creem, to squeeze, to mash... To hug in wrestling. 1880 E. Cornwall Gloss., Creem, to squeeze.

3. *intr*. To shiver. *trans*. To cause to shiver, to chill. Hence *'creemed ppl.* a., chilled and shivering. (south-western.)

1847-78 HALLIWELL, *Crim*, to shiver. I. Wight. 1880 E. Cornwall Gloss., Creem... is metaphorically used to describe that sensation of rigor or creeping of the flesh, known as goose flesh, *cutis anserina*. 'Creemed wi' the cold'. 1880 Mrs. PARR Adam & Eve iv. 44 Do 'ee go near to the fire... you looks all creemed with the cold, and as wisht as can be. 1888 W. Somerset Word-bk., Creamv., to shiver, to shudder.

creem, *sb.* dial. [f. prec.] A shiver proceeding from cold, indisposition, etc.

1847-78 HALLIWELL, *Creem*... a cold shivering. Somerset. 1880 W. Cornwall Gloss., Creem, *Crim*, a shiver; a creeping of the flesh. 'I feel'd a crim coom o'er me'. 1888 W. Somerset Word-bk., Cream, a shiver, a shivering state.

Hence *creemy a. dial.*, shivering, shuddering.

creem, obs. f. CREAM *sb.*²

creen, obs. form of CAREEN. *on the creen*: ready to turn either way on receiving an impulse.

1798 T. JEFFERSON Writ. (1859) IV. 234 [To] decide the future turn of things, which are at this moment on the creen. Ibid. 236 Stopping the movement in the Eastern Steens, which were on the creen.

crengle, obs. f. CRINGLE.

creep (kri:p), *v.* Pa. t. and pa. pple. crept (krept). Forms: see below. [A common Teutonic strong vb.: OE. *créopan* = OS. *criopan*, OFris. *kriapa* (Nfris. *krepen*, Sati. *kriope*), ON. *kriþpa* (Sw. *krypa*, Da. *krybe*).—O'Et. **krepān*. As with some other verbs of the same class (cf. BOW, BROOK, LOU), the present has in some of the langs. *ú* for *eu*, as

OLG. *krúpan*, MDu. *crúpen*, Du. *kruipen*, MLG., LG. and Efris. *krápen*, MG. *kráfen*, *kraufen*. In OHG. replaced by *criohhan*, MHG. and mod. Ger. *kriechen*, repr. a type *kreakan*, the relation of which to *krepān* is uncertain.

The O'Et. conjugation was, pres. *krepān*, pa. t. *kraup*, pl. *krapun*, pa. pple. *krapun*; whence OE. pres. *créopan* (3rd sing. *criepþ*), pa. t. *créap*, pl. *crupon*, pa. pple. *cropen*. The OE. pres. *créopan*, ME. *crépen* (close *ē*), has regularly given the modern creep; occasional ME. instances of *crope* are app. errors. The pa. t. sing. *créap* regularly gave ME. *crép* (open *ē*), spelt also *crepe*, *creep*, which was in general use to the 15th c., and survives with short vowel in the dialectal *crep*. The plural *crupon*, *crupen*, became in the 13th c. *cropen*, *crope*, after the pa. pple.; and this passed also into the sing. as *crope*, the prevailing type of the tense to the 16th c., after which it gradually dropped out of literary use, though still widely used in English and U.S. dialects. In the northern dial., the form adopted in the 13th c. was *crap* (after the pa. t. of other classes), which is still Scotch. But already before 1400, weak forms *creep*- and *crep*-I, began to take the place of all these, the second of which has since 16th c. gradually attained to be the standard form, leaving *crep*, *crope*, *crope*, *crap*, as only dialectal. The pa. pple. *cropen* continued till the 17th c. in literary use, and to the 19th c. in the northern dial. where the vowel is still short *crupen*, *crupen* in the south it became in 13th c. *crope*, also literary Eng. to the 18th c.; but a weak form *crepid*, *creped* began to appear in the 14th c., and in the form *crept*, identical with the pa. t., has been the dominant form since the 16th c.]

A. Illustration of Forms.

1. Pres. tense. 1 *créopan*, *criopan*, (*crýpan*), 1-3 3rd sing. *criep(e)þ*; 2-4 *creope(n)*, (*kreope(n)*); 2-6 *crepe(n)*, (3-6 *crope*, 4 *crype*); 4-5 *krepe*, 4-7 *crepe*, (6 *creape*), 7- *creep*, (Sc. 5- *kreip*).

c1000 ÆLFRIC Gram. xxviii. (Z.) 170 *Repo* ic *creope*. c1175 Lamb. Hom. 23 Hwa *creoþeþ* þer-in? c1200 Trin. Coll. Hom. 109 þe *neddre*... *criepes*... *puþe* *nerwe* *hole*. a1250 Owl & Night. 819 þe fox can *crepe* (v.r. *crope*) bi þe heie. c1305 Edmund Conf. 107 in E.E.P. (1862) 73 Makede hire redi to *kreopen* in. 1393 LANGL. P. Pl. C. xxi. 475 Arys and *creop* on kneos to þe *croys*. 1483 Cath. Angl. 81 To *Crepe*, *repre*. 1570 LEVINS Manuf. 10 To *creepe*, *repre*. 1583 HOLLYBAND Campo di Fior 137 Why *creape* you on the grounde? 1667 MILTON P.L. II. 950 And swims or sinks, or wades, or *creeps*, or flies.

2. Past tense. a. sing. 1-3 *créap*, 3 (*creop*), 3-5 *crep*, *crepe*, 4-5 *creep(e)*, 9 *dial.* *crep*; pl. 1 *crupon*, 2-3 *crupen*.

c1000 ÆLFRIC Hom. II. 394 (Bosw.) Heo *crep* betwux þam mannum. a1100 O.E. Chron. an. 1083 Sume *crupon* under. a1225 Leg. Kath. 908 [He] com ant *creap* in ure. c1250 Gen. & Ex. 2924 *Qor* *crep* ar *dragun*. 1340-70 *Alisoun* 1009 þer *crep* oute an *addre*. c1386 CHAUCER Reeve's T. 306 She *crepe* (v.r. *crepe*) in to the clerk. 1435-75 *Crepe*, *crep*, *crept* in to the clerk. 1881 Leicester Gloss., *Crep*, pt. and p.p., *crept*.

b. pl. 3-4 *crupen*, 3- *crope*; sing. 4 *crope*, *croup*, 5- *crope* (*sing.* & pl. 6 *croape*, *dial.* 7-9 *crop*, 9 *crup*).

c1275 LAY. 18472 Somme hii *crope* [c1205 *crupen*] to þan wode. c1290 S. Eng. Leg. 170/2217 Heo... *cropen* al-so ase amenele al aboute. a1300 Cursor M. 2303 (Cott.) þaa *crupes* *croupe* þe *warlau* in. c1420 Avow. Arth. lxx. The *cayfte* *crope* in-to a *tunne*. 1535 COVERDALE 1 Sam. xii. 6 They *crope* in to caues and denes. 1572 R. H. tr. *Lauatuer's* *Ghostes* (1596) 207 Divers *erroure* *crope* into the Church. 1606 BIRNIE Kirk-Buriall (1833) 14 Before the Kirk-buriall *crope* in. 1672 SIR C. WYVILL Triple Crown 160 He *crope* quietly on again. a1734 North Exam. i. iii. §144 (1740) 217 Another Witness *crope* out against the Lord Stafford. 1831 LANDOR Fra Rupert Wks. 1846 II. 577 His dog soon *crope* betwixt us. 1883 C. F. SMITH Southernism in Trans. Amer. Philol. Soc. 47 *Cröpe*, preterit and past participle of *creep*, is common among the negroes and poorer whites.

γ. north. 3-9 *crap*, (4-5 *crep*).

c1205 LAY. 29282 þe *sparwe* *innene* *crap*. c1450 HENRYSON Mor. Fab. 44 To an *Cau* he *crap*. 1513 DOUGLAS Æneis II. v. (iv.) 48 And *crap* in wnder the feet of the goddess. a1605 MONTGOMERIE 'Since that the *Hevins* 41 With my kling in credit once I *crap*. 1795 MACNEILL Will & Jean III. Gloamin... *crap* over distant hill and plain.

δ. 4-5 *creped*, *id.* *crepped*, (*kreppet*), 7-9 *creeped*, (4- *Sc. creipit*).

c1300 K. Alis. 390 On hire bed myne he leped. The thriddie tyme yn he *creped*. 14... Chaucer M.S. [see B1]. 1634 MASSINGER Very Woman IV. iii. How the devil *creped* he into my head? 1807 [see B1]. Mod. Sc. A fox *creipit* [or *crap*] through the hole.

ε. 4- *crept(e)*.

c1350 Cursor M. 13388 (Fairf.) *Crepped* in him Sathanas [Trin. MS. *crepte*, Cott. *crep*, Götting. *croupe*]. c1350 Will. Palerne 2235 And *crepten* into a *caue*. 1548 HALL Chron. 169 Whereunto... [this] tended and *crept* up. 1632 LITHGOW Trav. iv. (1682) 141 He *crept* in favour with Christians. 1860 TYNDALL Glac. i. xi. 69 We crossed crevasses and *crept* round slippery ridges.

3. Pa. pple. a. 1-7 (north. dial. -9) *cropen*, 5-6 *Sc. croppin*, *croipin*, (6 *crepen*, 9 *north. dial.* *croppen*, *cruppen*, Yorksh. *creppen*).

c1205 LAY. 5671 þa ilke þe anith weoren at *crope*. c1386 CHAUCER Frankl. T. 886 As thou... were *cropen* out of the ground. 1423 Jas. I. Kingis Cr. cxxxiii. Quho that from hell war *croppin* onys in hevyn. 1481 AKTON Reynard (Arb.) 17 He had *croppin* therein. a1553 PHILPOT Wks. (1842) 336 Corruptions have *crepen* into the people. 1563 WINNET Four Scoir Thre Quest. Wks. 1888 I. 132 Abūas... *croipin* in the Kirk. a1572 KNOX Hist. Ref. Wks. 1846 I. 401 Frensche men ar *croppin* in of lait. 1621 MARKHAM Prev. Hunger (1655) 32 *Crope* away and hidden. 1668 LISTER in Phil. Trans. XX. 247 [They] would have *crope* away. 1790 MRS. WHEELER Westmird. Dial. (1821) 23 Sic *pride* *croppen* intul Storth an Arnside. 1855 ROBINSON Whitty Gloss., *Croppen* or *Crope*, *crept*. 'Where hae ye gitten *croppen* to?'

β. 3-4 ycrope, ycrop, 3-8 crope, (4-5 crepe).
 c. 1275 LAY. 5671 bat weren awei crope. c. 1325 Coer de L.
 3473 In the erthe they wolde have crope. c. 1330 Arth. &
 Merl. 7229 Whider were ye y-crope. c. 1440 CAPGRAVE
 Life St. Kath. iii. 404 If he were Crope thorow yate. 1595
 MARKHAM Sir R. Grimole. To the fayrest i. A Heauenlie fier
 is crope into my braine. 1642 ROGERS Naaman 71 The Lord
 speaks of those, despised men, crope out of captivity.
 a. 1734 NORTH Examen 273 (D.) The Captain was just crope
 out of Newgate.

γ. 4-5 crepid, 7-9 creeped.
 c. 1430 CHAUCER Reeve's T. 330 (Camb. MS.) He wende a
 crepid by hese felawe I on f. MSS. cropen, Harl. crope).
 1761 HUME Hist. Eng. I. xvi. 396 Intestine faction had
 creeped into the Government of France. Mod. Sc. It has
 creeped out.

δ. 6-crept.
 1535 COVERDALE I Mac. vi. 11 Some y^e were crepte in to
 demes. 1611 BIBLE Jude 4 There are certayne men crept in
 vnwares. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT Trau. 105 Mahomet has a
 little crept among them. 1855 TENNYSON Maud iii. vi. i. My
 life has crept so long on a broken wing.

4. The Perfect Tense was formerly, as in go, come, etc., formed with be to express result: he is crepen or crept in.

c. 1205-1423 [see 3 a above]. 1534 TINDALE Jude 4 For ther
 are certayne craftely crept in. 1545 JOYE Exp. Dan. vii. iij. b.
 Oute of poore scoles & cloysters are these beggers cropen vp.
 1650 EARL. MONM. Senault's Man. be. Gulliv. 338 As soon as
 as they are crope out from their Spring-head. 1796 A.
 BEDFORD Temple Mus. vii. 151 No Errors are crept into the
 . Text. 1711 ADDISON Spect. No. 57 P. 4 That Party-Rage
 which is very much crept into their Conversation. a. 1734
 [see 38].

B. Signification.

1. a. intr. To move with the body prone and close to the ground, as a short-legged reptile, an insect, a quadruped moving stealthily, a human being on hands and feet, or in a crouching posture.

Formerly said of snakes, worms, and other creatures without limbs, for which *crawl* is now more usual, though in some cases either may be used: see CRAWL v.

c. 888 K. ÆLFRED Boeth. xxvii. §4 Oper næfþ his fota
 gewæld pæd he mæge gan . . . and onginþ cropan (Bodl. MS.
 crypan) on ðone lican weg. c. 1000 ÆLFRED Hom. II. 488
 (Bosw.) Him comon to creopende fela naddran. c. 1205 LAY.
 20313 he king him gon crepen an heoden and a futen.
 c. 1386 CHAUCER Reeve's T. 330 He wende haue cropen (MS.
 Camb. crepid, Harl. crope) by his felawe Iohn, and by the
 Millere he crepe (v. r. creep, crape, crepe, crept) anon.
 1413 LYDG. Pilgr. Soule iv. xxxiii. (1483) 82 The
 serpent . . . shold . . . crepe upon his breste. 1598 SHAKS. Merry
 W. iv. ii. 59 Crepe into the Kill-hole. 1611 FLORIO,
 Carponare, to crepe on all foure. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT
 Trau. 213 Land Tortoyse so great that they will crepe with
 two mens burthens. 1705 BERKELEY Cave of Dunmore Wks.
 IV. 509 We were forced to stoop, and soon after creep on our
 knees. 1735 SOMERVILLE Chase iii. 146 See there he (the fox)
 creeps along; his Brush he drags. 1807 ROBINSON Archæol.
 Græcia iii. vi. 227 A person accused crept on his hands
 through the fire. 1864 TENNYSON Aymer's F. 852 [There]
 the slow-worm creeps.

†b. Proverbially contrasted with go (= 'walk').

c. 888 K. ÆLFRED Boeth. xxvii. §4 Se biþ mihtiga se ðe
 gæp þonne se be creipþ (Bodl. MS. crypþ). c. 1400 SONDRON
 Bab. 267 The Dikes were so develope ðe . . . Quer cowde that
 nothir goo nor crepe. c. 1460 TOWSELEY Mynt. 114 Kynde
 will crepe Where it may not go. c. 1562 J. HEYWOOD Prov. &
 Epigr. (1867) 135 Children must learne to crepe ere they can
 go. 1663 BP. PATRICK Parab. Pilgr. 304 The cret they
 most imperfect souls, who are not as yet able to go, but only to
 creep in the way to heaven. 1741 RICHARDSON Pamela III.
 352 And besides, as the vulgar saying is, One must creep
 before one goes! 1836 BACKWoods of Canada 57, I used to
 hear when I was a boy, 'first creep and then go!'

†c. To creep to the cross (also to creep the cross): spec. used of the Adoration of the Cross, in the Roman Service for Good Friday. Obs.

c. 1200 Trin. Coll. Hom. 95 Crepe to cruche on lraide fridai.
 1377 LANGE. P. Pl. B. xviii. 428 Ariseth. . . And crepeth to pe
 crosse on knees. c. 1449 PECCOCK Repr. 269 Not as thou3t thei
 crepiden thanne & there to noon other thing saue to the
 Ymage, but that thei afir he ymaginaciounn crepiden to the
 persoun of Crist. a. 1500 Ratis Raving II. 129 Nought our oft
 creip the coss on knees. 15 . . . in Boorde Introd. Knowl.
 (1870) Introd. 92 The Usher to lay a Carpet for the Kinge
 to Crepe to the Crosse upon. 1554 BALE Decl. Bonner's
 Articles Divb. To creape to the Crosse on Good Friday
 fealty. 1586-92 WARNER Alb. Eng. 115 (N.) We kiss the pix,
 we crepe the crosse, our beades we over-runne. 1606
 SHAKS. Tr. & Cr. iii. iii. 73 To come as humbly as they vs'd
 to crepe. To holy Altar. 1630 J. TAYLOR Wks. (N.),
 Because they would not creepe unto the crosse, And change
 Gods sacred Word for humane drosse.

2. a. To move softly, cautiously, timorously, or slowly; to move quietly and stealthily so as to elude observation; to steal (into, away, etc.).

c. 1175 Lamb. Hom. 23 And per beo analþi holþ pat an mon
 mei crepan in. 1393 GOWER Conf. I. 198 This lady tho was
 crope a side As she, that wolde her selven hide. c. 1470
 HENRY WALLACE vi. 667 Full law thei creep, quhill that war out
 of sight. 1577 B. GOODE Herebath's Husb. i. (1580) 6 The
 Fathers forsaking the Plough, began to crepe into the
 Tounne. 1600 SHAKS. A.Y.L. ii. vii. 146 The whining
 Schoole-boy . . . creeping like snail vnnwillingly to schoole.
 1705 ADDISON Italy o We here took a little Boat to creep
 along the Sea-shore as far as Genoa. 1850 TENNYSON In
 Mem. vii. 7 Like a guilty thing I creep At earliest morning
 to the door. 1873 BLACK P. Tru. xxv. 421 If this wind
 continues, we can creep up to-morrow to Loch Roag.

b. Of things: To move slowly.
 1650 FULLER Pisgah II. x. 214 Where the brook Zorek
 creeps faintly out of the Tribe of Judah. 1752 YOUNG
 Brothers II. i. Go, fool, and teach a cataract to creep! 1867

WHITTIER Tent on Beach xxiv. The mists crept upward chill
 and damp. 1878 HUXLEY Physiogr. 178 The sea-bottom over
 which the cold water creeps.

c. trans. To introduce gradually; slowly to increase (an amount of light, volume of music, etc.). Const. in. Cf. FADE v. 1. 9.

1949 T. RATTIGAN Harlequinade in Playbill 57 They've
 crept in numbers two and three [sic. spotlights] too early.
 1960 N. KNEALE Quatermass & Pit iii. 97 Creep in music.

3. fig. (of persons and things). a. To advance or come on slowly, stealthily, or by imperceptible degrees; to insinuate oneself into; to come in or up unobserved; to steal insensibly upon or over.

c. 1340 Cursor M. 14147 (Trin.) bat sekene crepte to
 heued & fote. c. 1380 WYCLIF Wks. (1880) 296 þise newe
 ordris, bat ben crspon in wiþ-oute grounde. c. 1430 Hymus
 Virg. (1867) 84 Now age is cropen on me ful stille. c. 1430
 LYDG. Chron. Troy. i. 1. So ferre he was cropen into age. 1533
 C. CATY, PARVAT. Examen. Commune Crede 74 b. By unlawfull
 pleasure crope in the death and destruction of mankynde.
 1565 GOLDING Ovid's Met. vi. (1595) 172 Sleepe upon my
 carefull carcasse crope. 1647-8 COTTERELL Davila's Hist.
 Fr. (1678) 19 These opinions . . . crept up, till they were
 universally embraced. 1702 DE FOE Shortest Way w.
 Dissenters in Arb. Garner Vill. 593 How they crope into all
 Places of Trust and Profit. 1709 STEELE Teller No. 61 P. 1
 Among many Phrases which have crept into Conversation.
 1837 W. IRVING Capt. Bonneville I. 250 Despondency began
 to creep over their hearts. 1869 TROLLOPE He Knew iii.
 (1878) 293 When these sad weeks had slowly crept over her
 head. 1875 JOWETT Plato (ed. 2) III. 301 The licence of
 which you speak very easily creeps upon us.

b. To move timidly or diffidently; to proceed humbly, abjectly, or servilely, to cringe; to move on a low level, without soaring or aspiring. Cf. CREEPING ppl. a.

1581 MARBECK Bk. of Notes 623 So lowe crope they on the
 ground, that when they heare the name of the Sabbath, they
 remember nothing but the seauenth day. 1596 SPENSER
 State Ireld. Wks. (Globe) 614/1 When they are weary of
 warres . . . then they crepe a little perhaps, and sue for grace.
 16 . . . DRYDEN (J.). It is evident he [Milton] creeps along
 sometimes for above an hundred lines together. 1709 POPE
 Ess. Crit. 347 And ten low words oft creep in one dull line.
 1735 ——— Procl. Sat. 333 Wit that in creep, and pride that
 licks the dust. 1782 COWPER Conversation 145 Where men of
 judgment creep, and feel their way. The positive pronounce
 without dismay. 1856 EMERSON Eng. Traits, Manners Wks.
 (Bohn) II. 46 Don't creep about diffidently. 1874 BLACKIE
 Self-cult. 89 Where aspiration is wanting, the soul creeps.

4. a. Of plants: To grow with the stem and branches extending along the ground, a wall, or other surface, and throwing out roots or claspers at intervals. b. Of roots or subterranean stems: To extend horizontally under ground.

1530 TINDALE Pract. Prelates Wks. 1849 II. 270 [Ivy]
 crepeth along by the ground till it find a great tree. 1580
 BARLET Alv. C. 1507 To creep, to run as roots do in the
 ground, repo. 1672-3 GREW Anat. Plants II. i. 1. §9 The
 Motions of Roots are . . . sometimes Level, as are those of
 tops . . . and all such as properly Creep. 1697 DRYDEN Virg.
 Georg. iv. 182 Cucumers along the Surface creep. 1717 Pope
 Eloisa 243 Where round some mould'ring tow' pale ivy
 creeps. 1837 DICKENS Pickw. vi. Oh, a dainty plant is the
 Ivy green, That creepeth o'er ruins old!

†c. Said of the ramification of blood-vessels, etc. Obs. Cf. CRAWL v. 4.

1668 CULPEPPER & COLE Barthol. Anat. i. xxviii. 67 Those
 [blood-vessels] which come from the do. do creep all the
 womb over. 1774 GOLDSM. Nat. Hist. (1776) III. 97 they [the
 [blood-vessels] creep along the side of the branches [of the
 horns].

d. fig. To extend like a creeping plant.

1856 STANLEY Sinai & Pal. ii. (1858) 138 Vineyards creep
 along the ancient terraces. 1859 JEPHSON Brittany iii. 24 Up
 this cliff creeps the town, capped by the fine old church.

e. Of a liquid: to spread over or cover a surface as a thin film; esp. (of a salt solution) to rise on the sides of the containing vessel, depositing crystals of the salt; (of the dissolved salt) to be deposited in this way.

1888 J. A. FLEMING Short Lect. Electr. Artisans (ed. 2) 208
 Difficulty sometimes occurs from the gradual 'creeping' up
 of the salts around the stopper. 1900 Nature 4 Oct. 562/1
 Dr. Trouton gave a short account of his experiments on the
 creeping of liquids, and on the surface tensions of mixtures.
 He has found that the tendency of certain liquids to creep up
 the sides of their containing vessels is due to such liquids
 being mixtures. 1902 W. R. COOPER Prim. Batteries 195
 When evaporation of a salt takes place in a glass vessel,
 crystals form on the vessel near the surface of the solution;
 and . . . the crystals grow upwards and finally grow over the
 top of the vessel. This 'creeping', as it is termed, is avoided
 in Leclanché cells by dipping the tops of the glass pots into
 ozokerite or paraffin wax. 1909 Cent. Dict. Suppl. s.v. Oil-
 thrower, Oil creeping along the shaft from the journal is
 thrown off. 1957 Encycl. Brit. XIV. 186/2 If an open vessel
 containing helium II is suspended inside the vacuum flask,
 . . . the liquid creeps over the edge, and drops off the bottom
 of the vessel. 1958 J. J. BIKERMAN Surface Chem. (ed. 2) i.
 89 The well-known phenomenon of creeping of solutions or
 crystal climbing probably involves the relation between surface
 tension and concentration.

5. a. trans. = creep along or over. rare. (Cf. also creep the cross in 1 c.)

1667 MILTON P.L. vii. 523 And every creeping thing that
 creeps the ground. 1727 DYER Grongor Hill 78 Whose
 ragged walls the ivy creeps. 1738 WESLEY Hymns, O Thou
 whose Wisdom iiii. The meaneest Worm that creeps the Earth.
 1821 CLARE Vill. Minstr. I. 130 Black clouds crept the
 southern hill.

b. trans. and intr. To rob (stealthily); to use stealth. Criminals' slang (orig. U.S.).

1914 in JACKSON & HELLIER Vocab. Criminal Slang. 1928
 M. C. SHARPE Chicago May (1929) xxxi. 259 Panelling, or
 creeping, only carries eighteen months, because the John
 went to the room of his own accord. 1955 P. WILDEBEAD
 Against Law III. 119 You could creep that drum six-handed,
 with jelly and all, and she'd think it was mice. 1958 [see
 CREEP sb. 1 c].

6. intr. Of the skin or flesh, less usually of the person himself: To have a sensation as of things creeping over the skin; to be affected with a nervous shrinking or shiver (as a result of fear, horror, or repugnance).

a. 1300 Cursor M. 3567 (Cott.) Quen þat [he] sua bicums
 ald . . . It crepes crouland in his bak. c. 1400 Rom. Rose 2558
 Whanne thou weneest for to slepe, So fulle of peyne shalt
 thou crepe. 1727 SWIFT Gulliver III. vii. 223 Something in
 their countenances that made my flesh creep with a horror. I
 cannot express. 1840 DICKENS Barn. Rudge xvii. You make
 my hair stand on end, and my flesh creep. 1879 G.
 MEREDITH Egmont xxviii. (1880) 266 He had such an air of
 saying 'Tom's a-cold', that her skin crept in sympathy. 1882
 Mrs. Raven's Tempt. I. 310 It makes me quite creep.

7. Naut., etc. To drag with a creeper for anything at the bottom of the water.

1813-14 Act 54 Geo. III. c. 159 §10 No person . . . shall . . .
 creep or sweep for anchors [etc.] . . . supposed to be lost in any
 of the ports. 1830 MARRIAT King's Own ix. There the cargo
 is left, until they have an opportunity of going off in boats to
 creep for it, which is by dragging large hooks at the bottom
 until they catch the hawser. 1888 T. HARDY Wessex Tales
 II. 143.

8. Of metal rails, etc.: To move gradually forward under the continuous pressure of heavy traffic in the same direction, or as a result of periodical expansion and contraction on a gradient. Also, to increase very gradually in length under excessive stress.

1872 W. S. HUNTINGTON Road-Master's Assistant (ed. 2)
 29 The rails in creeping have a tendency to move towards
 the foot of the grade. 1885 Science V. 344/2 In some places
 the rails move longitudinally or 'creep'. On long inclines or
 grades the track may creep down hill. 1887 ENCYCLOP. LXIV.
 9 Now I have the fish bolts loosened I am threatened with a
 creeping of the line. 1890 Daily News 3 Dec. 2/5 The very
 curious 'creeping' action of lead upon a roof was also shown
 by means of a model . . . In the experiment the lead, first
 heated and then cooled, was made to creep a perceptible
 space. 1899 J. A. EWING Strength Mater. 24 When a load
 exceeding the elastic limit is applied the strain which occurs
 at once is followed by a continued 'creeping' or
 supplementary deformation. 1911 ——— in Encycl. Brit.
 XXV. 1014/1 The elastic limit is the point . . . at which a
 tendency to creep is first seen. 1924 F. C. LEA in Proc. Inst.
 Mech. Engin. II. 1053 The problem is to find the safe stress
 at which the material will not change form or creep. Ibid.
 1972 At 11.40 a.m. on the 11th the specimen had crept 0.2
 millimetre, but at 11.40 a.m. on the 14th the creeping had
 ceased. 1955 Oxf. Jun. Encycl. VIII. 286/2 Under this
 smaller but continuous burden the metal gradually deforms
 or 'creeps', and eventually breaks.

9. Coal-mining. To suffer a 'creep'.

1851 GREENWELL Coal-trade Terms Northumb. & Durh.
 19 The softer the thill, the greater the liability to creep. 1861
 Trans. N. Eng. Inst. Min. Engineers IX. 24 [It] had evidently
 brought on a heavy creep as shown on the section of crept
 bords.

10. Of soil, talus, etc.: to undergo creep (sense 7a); to move imperceptibly en masse.

1880 Geol. Mag. VI. 257 The whole outer layer of the
 soilcap will creep slightly downwards. Ibid. 260 The
 creeping of the soilcap through the action of frost. 1918
 Econ. Geol. XIII. 609 In many places hillside surficial
 material seems to be creeping up instead of down—perhaps
 due to swelling by weathering of the surface portions of
 certain underlying beds. 1965 HATCH & RASTALL Petrol.
 Sedim. Rocks (ed. 4) II. v. 77 If a rock fragment on a slope
 is moved by its own expansion or that of the pore-water it
 may be exposed to the pull of gravity. It will then creep
 slightly downhill.

11. Of a rubber tyre. (Cf. CREEP sb. 9.)

1903 Motoring Ann. 300 It is claimed for the Collier tyre
 that it cannot possibly creep. 1908 Westm. Gaz. 25 Feb. 4/2,
 I understand that they have a great tendency to creep.

12. Of a belt or rope: to slip or slide backwards on the pulley. (Cf. CREEP sb. 8.)

1922 F. V. HETZEL Belt Conveyors 124 A poorly made belt
 . . . will creep more and cause more wear than a good belt.

creep (krip), sb. [f. the verb.]

1. a. The action of creeping; slow or stealthy motion. (lit. and fig.)

1518 BATS Endym. i. 679 Until a gentle creep, A careful
 moving caught my waking ears. 1842 WORDSW. Lyre!—
 though such power. Or watch. The current as it plays the
 flashing leaps and stealthy creeps Adown a rocky maze. 1862
 THORNBURY Turner I. 264 There is a fine sense of terror and
 danger and adventure in Jason's stealthy creep.

†b. Hawking. See quot. Obs.

1486 Bk. St. Albans Djb. Yowre hawke fleeth at or to the
 Creepe when ye haue yowre hawke on yowre fyst and crepe
 softly to the Ryuer or to the pit, and stelfh softly to the
 byrnye therof, and then cry huff, and bi that meane Nym a
 fowle.

c. †(a) A creeping fellow; a sneak. dial. Obs. (b) slang (orig. U.S.). A despicable, worthless, stupid, or tiresome person. Cf. CREEPER I b.

a. 1876 E. LEIGH Gloss. Cheshire (1877) 52 A Creep . . . a
 creeping fellow. 1886 BRIERLEY Cast upon World xxvii. 218
 His whole get-up so suggestive of what in those days was
 called a 'creep', that I could not help regarding him with
 additional loathing. 1935 Jnl. Abnormal Psychol. XXX. 362
 Creep, a worthless person. 1938 New Republic 7 Sept. 129/1
 The man . . . is nothing but a creep. 1951 [see CHARGE sb. 3 d].
 1954 WODEHOUSE Jeeves & Feudal Spirit i. 7 They were . . .
 creeps of the first water and would bore the pants off me.

1958 *Spectator* 9 May 588/3 A pathetic fat city creep comes making eyes at the daughter. 1960 H. PINTER *Room* 117. I get these creeps come in, smelling up my room. 1966 *Punch* 16 Feb. 241 'Maurice Thew School of Body-building? That'll be that phoney creep upstairs.

d. A stealthy robber; a sneak thief; esp. one who works in a brothel. *Criminals' slang* (orig. U.S.). Cf. *creep joint* (6).

1914 in JACKSON & HELLVER *Vocab. Criminal Slang*. 1928 M. C. SHARPE *Chicago May* (1929) xxxi. 255. I have been a badger, pay-off, note-layer, creep, panel, and blackmailer. 1960 *Observer* 25 Dec. 7/6 A creep is a highly expert thief. ... He is so quiet that he can move about a house for hours without waking anybody.

e. Stealthy robbery; petty thieving; esp. in a brothel. So at or on the creep: engaged in stealthy robbery. Also attrib. *Criminals' slang* (orig. U.S.).

1928 M. C. SHARPE *Chicago May* (1929) xxxi. 257 She may decide to shift to the creep or panel game. 1931 C. RIMINGTON *Bon Voyage* bk. 80/3 At the creep, picking lady's skirt pocket while walking. 1938 F. D. SHARPE *Flying Squad* i. 15 Billy's at the 'Creep' means that Billy earns his living stealing by stealth from tills whilst a shop is momentarily unwatched, or from a warehouse. 1958 F. NORMAN *Bang to Rights* iii. 121 A geezer who got captured while he was out on the creep, he used to go out and creep about all over the place trying to find things to knock off. One of his favourite stokes was creep offices [sic] in the city... during the lunch hour.

2. A sensation as of things creeping upon one's body; a nervous shrinking or shiver of dread or horror. Usually in pl., the creeps or cold creeps (colloq.).

1849 DICKENS *Dau. Copp.* iii. 29 She was constantly complaining of the cold, and of its occasioning a visitation in her back which she called 'the creeps'. 1862 LYTTON *Haunted & Haunters in Str.* (1866) II. 391. I felt a creep of undefinable horror. 1879 A. FORBES in *Daily News* 21 Aug. 5/3 It gives you the creeps all down the small of the back. 1884 *Athenaeum* 15 Mar. 340/1.

3. Coal-mining. The slow continuous bulging or rising up of the floor of a gallery owing to the superincumbent pressure upon the pillars. 'Also any slow movement of mining ground' (Raymond *Mining Gloss.* 1881).

1813 *Ann. Philos.* II. 285 The pitmen were proceeding... through the old workings... the proper road being obstructed by a creep. 1867 W. W. SMYTH *Coal & Coal-mining* 132 The creep... arises when the thill or underclay is soft, and the proportion of pillars to bords such that after a time a downward movement takes place; the pillars then force the clay to rise upwards in the bords. 1867 *Ann. Reg.* 176 He advised that it should be buried in some of the creeps or crevices of some old pit-workings.

4. A low arch under a railway embankment; an opening in a hedge or other enclosure, for an animal to creep or pass through. Cf. *creep-hole*. Also, an enclosure in which young animals may feed, with an entrance too small to admit the mother. So *creep-feed*, *-feeding*; *creep-feed v.*

1819 *Sporting Mag.* IV. 209. I have heard that they [sic pheasants] of late have snared in creeps, like hares. 1875 W. McILWRAITH *Guide Wigwag*. 37 A creep for cattle, on the Wigwag Railway. 1884 R. JEFFERIES *Red Deer* x. 188 Through this hedge [poachers] leave holes, or 'creeps', for the pheasants to run through. 1886 C. SCOTT *Sheep-Farming* 92 To fatten lambs rapidly, the utmost care must be given to their feeding. When folded on green crops they should feed in advance of the ewes, by having 'creeps' provided. 1924 *Chambers's Jnl.* Jan. 49/2 The rabbits have their chosen creeps through the greenery below. 1950 N. Z. *Jnl. Agric.* Jan. 63/1 Creep feeding. From the earliest age piglets will take extra feed. *Ibid.* Apr. 37/1 A creep in which the suckers can feed away from the sow is a necessity. 1960 *Farmer & Stockbreeder* 16 Feb. 50 The piglets... will already be creep-feeding. *Ibid.* 22 Mar. 136/2 A suitable creep-feed mixture would be 2 parts cracked beans, 1 part crushed wheat, 3 parts crushed oats, 2 parts ground barley. 1964 R. JEFFERIES *Embarrassing Death* ii. 18 He could see sheep creep-feeding in one field.

5. = CREEPER 5.

1829 *Chamb. Jnl.* Jan. 28/2 Boatmen went to work with creeps or drags to search for the body.

6. attrib. and Comb., as *creep-window* (cf. sense 4); (sense 10) *creep-rate*, *-resistance*, *-resistant* adj., *-strain*, *-stress*, *-test*, *-testing*; *creep curve*, a curve showing the rate, circumstances, etc. of creep (sense 10); *creep joint* U.S. slang, (a) a brothel or unwholesome apartment-house, esp. one where patrons are robbed; (b) a gambling-game operating in a different location each night; *creep limit*, *strength*, the maximum stress to which material, esp. metal, can be subjected without 'creep' (see sense 10). Also *CREEP-HOLE*, *CREEP-MOUSE*.

1931 H. J. TAPSELL *Creep of Metals* iii. 31 The form of the creep curve for materials at normal service temperature. 1928 M. C. SHARPE *Chicago May* (1929) ii. New York was full of creep joints at that time [c. 1896]. 1930 *Amer. Mercury* Dec. 455/1 *Creep-joint*, a gambling house that moves to a different apartment each night. 1946 MEZZROW & WOLFE *Really Blues* i. 3 Earned my Ph.D. in more creep joints and speakeasies and dancehalls than the law allows. 1950 A. LOMAX *Mr. Jelly Roll* (1952) 50 Creep joints where they'd put the feelers on a guy's clothes. 1940 *Chambers's Techn. Dict.* 208/1 Creep limit. 1931 H. J. TAPSELL *Creep of Metals* iii. 31 Ultimate failure of a material would result however small the initial creep rate may be. 1937 *Jnl. R. Aeronaut. Soc.* XL. 378 Cast alloys have better creep resistance than

forged. 1947 *Mech. Engin.* LXIX. 273 The scarcity of creep-resistant materials for blades and rotors working at high temperature. 1960 *Times* 16 Mar. (Canberra Suppl.) p. vii/1 The use of high-strength alloy creep-resistant steels for the tubes and supports. 1948 *Jnl. R. Aeronaut. Soc.* LII. 1/2 Strain deviations... are regarded as 'creep strains'. 1929 TAPSELL & REMFRY (title) The 'creep' strength of a 'high nickel-high chromium steel', between 600° and 800° C. 1957 *Times Surv. Brit. Aviation* Sept. 27/4 American writers have claimed an increase in creep strength of 20 per cent. by vacuum-melting. 1934 *Jnl. R. Aeronaut. Soc.* XXXVIII. 205 When selecting a light alloy material for aero engine design... it is important to consider the creep stress of the material concerned. *Ibid.* 408 Magnesium alloys under creep test. 1931 H. J. TAPSELL *Creep of Metals* i. 3 The experimental refinements now found necessary in creep-testing. 1964 ATKINS *Orig. Printing* Ded. B. The least Creep-window robs the whole House; the least Error in War is not to be redeemed.

7. Geol. (Cf. 3.) a. A slow, imperceptible movement en masse of soil, talus, etc., usu. downhill under the influence of gravity but freq. with other processes (such as successive freezing and thawing) contributing to the effect.

1889 *Geol. Mag.* VI. 260 The normal rise of the surface particles was about 4 ft. of the depth of the frozen soil, and their creep about 4 ft. of the same depth. 1897 W. B. SCOTT *Introd. Geol.* iv. 82 Each freezing causes the fragments to rise slightly... and each thawing produces a reverse movement; hence the slow creep down the slope. 1897 [see soil-creep, soil sb. 10]. 1938 C. F. S. SHARPE *Landslides* iii. 21 The general term creep may be defined as the slow down-slope movement of superficial soil or rock debris, usually imperceptible except to observations of long duration. 1942 C. A. CORTON *Geomorphol.* (ed. 3) iii. 29 Evidence of creep may be seen where trees and posts have been tilted from the vertical. 1950 B. W. SPANGLER *Geomorphol.* iv. 47 Rock creep is a movement of jointed blocks, partly as the result of soil creep and partly as a result of sliding. 1966 R. COMMON in G. H. DURY *Ess. Geomorphol.* 53 Shearing stresses in the material of a slope cause creep when they exceed the 'fundamental' shearing resistance.

b. A slow displacement of strata or the earth's crust by expansion or contraction or under compressive forces.

1900 [see crust-creep s.v. CRUST sb. 13b]. 1903 T. M. READE *Ess. Earth Struct.* ix. 134 The horizontal expansion... will produce, by small increments and minor alterations... a creep, ending in an antinodal fold. 1906 CHAMBERLIN & SALISBURY *Geol.* III. 312 Continental creep along the steep slope between the continental platforms and the oceanic basins. 1942 E. M. ANDERSON *Dynamics of Faulting* viii. 182 A general 'creep' of the surface towards the mountain axis is supposed by others to be an essential part of the process of orogeny. 1964 L. U. DE SITTER *Struct. Geol.* (ed. 2) xi. 149 Very accurate geodetic surface measurements across the San Andreas fault... have shown that slow creep at an annual rate of 1 cm does take place along the fault line.

8. The slip of the belt on the pulley drum, or wheel over which it runs.

[1888 Lockwood's *Dict. Mech. Engin.* 95 Creeping, the very slight loss of speed which results when drums are driven by rope gearing, due to the slipping of the rope.] 1909 W. C. UNWIN *Machine Design* i. 448 (heading) Creep of belt.

9. A creeping motion between the rim of a wheel and a rubber tyre. Cf. *CREEP v.* 11.

1908 *Westm. Gaz.* 5 Mar. 4/3 The rims of the R.W. wheel allow no creep with a properly inflated tyre.

10. The continuous deformation of a material (esp. a metal) under stress, esp. at high temperatures. Cf. *CREEP v.* 8.

1924 F. C. LEA in *Proc. Inst. Mech. Engin.* II. 1066 At stresses slightly above this the creep was continuous and the bar broke. *Ibid.* 1072 It will thus stand a higher stress without creep. 1931 H. J. TAPSELL *Creep of Metals* iii. 31 Creep may be defined as the deformation of a material occurring with time under and due to an externally applied stress whether the deformation be of the nature of plastic or of viscous flow. 1943 E. G. COUZENS in R. S. MORRELL *Synthetic Resins* (ed. 2) xvii. 544 Flow takes place in two stages—creep, which is greatest following elastic deformation, and cold flow. 1952 *Jnl. Iron & Steel Inst.* CLXXI. 333/2 In these materials creep was found to be primarily a process of slip in the austenite crystals. 1956 *Gloss. Terms Concrete* (B.S.I.) 16 Creep, a slow inelastic deformation or movement of concrete under stress. 1957 *Brit. Commun. Forest Terminol.* II. 51 Creep, the increase in strain with time due to elastic after-effect and plastic deformation. 1970 *Fremdsprachen* 44 An uncertainty about the effect of creep and shrinkage.

creepage ('kri:pidʒ). [f. *CREEP v.* + -AGE.]

Gradual movement; spec. leakage of electricity. 1903 *Electr. World & Engin.* 7 Nov. 777 (Cent. D. Suppl. s.v. Oil-thruster). Special oil thrusters are provided to prevent the creepage of oil along the shaft. 1958 *Which?* 1. II. 22/1 We tested the motor for safety... This included brush, creepage and wiring compliance. 1966 *McGraw-Hill Encycl. Sci. & Technol.* VII. 158/2 These [insulators] are made of glazed porcelain, with a series of skirts to lengthen the creepage paths and provide maximum resistance to flash-over.

creeper ('kri:pə(r)). Forms: 1 *créopere*, 4-6 *creper(e)*, 6 *crepar*, 6- *creeper*. [f. *CREEP v.* + -ER.]

1. a. One who creeps. (In quot. 1883, a child too young to walk.)

1700 *Gloss. Frag.* 12. 17 (Bosw.) See also *cyree* was call behangen mid cricuun and mid creopere scamelum. c. 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 101 Crepere, or he pat crepythe, reptor. 1356 J. HEYWOOD *Spider & F.* ix. 35 A creper with spiders, and a fier with flise. 1824 *Orway Vener Pres. v.* ii. All us little creepers in 't, called men. 1883 J. PARKER *Apost. Life* II. 256 The door must not be shut... until the last little creper has been brought in and sat at the Father's table.

b. fig. One who moves stealthily, timidly, or abjectly, or proceeds in a mean and servile way. 1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poetic* III. xxiv. (Arb.) 299 Sometimes a creeper, and a curry-faull with his superiours. 1598 FLORIO, *Inuolutores*, a craftie sly creeper into ones bosome, fauor or minde. c. 1605 ROWLEY *Birth Merl.* III. vi. A gilded rascal, A low-bred despicable creeper. 1631 BRATHWAITE *Eng. Gentlew.* (1641) 360 They were... no strutters in the streets, but despicable creepers. 1811 LAMB *Trag. Shaks.*... The servilest creeper after nature that ever consulted the palate of an audience.

† c. slang. A 'penny-a-liner'; see quot.

1824 W. IRVING *T. Trau.* I. 241 A Creeper is one who furnishes the newspapers with paragraphs at so much a line. 1825 T. LISTER *Granby* ix. (1836) 425 Persons, called, in the slang of the trade, 'creepers', whose business it is to prowl about, collecting incidents for the newspapers.

d. pl. (a) The feet; (b) shoes with soft soles. Also attrib. (in sing.). Cf. *brothel-creeper*, *slang* (orig. U.S.).

1889 BARRÈRE & LELAND *Dict. Slang* I. 280/1 *Creepers*... (American), the feet. 1904 'No. 1500' *Life in Sing* Sing 247 *Creepers*, soft shoes worn by burglars, sneak-thieves and prison guards. 1924 G. C. HENDERSON *Keys to Crookdom* 402 *Creepers*, rubber-soled shoes. Also called *sneaks*. 1951 *Sunday Pictorial* 29 Oct. Fancy shoes with thick crepe-rubber wedge soles which are known to connoisseurs as 'creepers'. 1955 E. BLISHEN *Roaring Boys* iv. 210 He pointed to my shoes, which were new and crepe-soled. They're creepers... Real up-to-the-minute yobo's thick-soled creepers. 1961 M. DICKENS *Heart of London* i. 67 The two-inch soles of their 'creeper' shoes.

2. a. An animal that creeps, a creeping thing, an insect or reptile; spec. (in vulgar speech) a louse.

1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* III. (1586) 147b. You shall be sure to have neither Mite nor Creeper in your Cheese. 1609 BIBLE (Douay) *Gen.* vii. 21 All creepers, that creep upon the earth. 1651 *Miller of Mansf.* 8 Hast any Creepers within thy gay House? 1673 S. C. *Rules of Civility* 61 'Tis unbecoming... to scratch... as if there were Creepers upon our backs. 1840 *Hood Up the Rhine* 200 A mounted gendarme would probably disdain to pursue a creeper.

b. Angling. The larva of the Stone-fly.

1867 F. FRANCIS *Angling* (1876) 264 The crab or creeper is the larva of the stone fly.

c. Poultry-rearing. 'One of a breed of fowls with legs so short that they jump rather than walk'.

1847 W. B. DICKSON *Poultry* 15 The Dwarf Fowl, or Creeper (*Gallus Bankiva*, S. *pumilio*, Temminck, *La Coq Nain*, Buffon). 1885 in ANNANDALE.

3. A name given to many small birds, of different families, which run or climb up and down the branches of trees and bushes; esp. the common Brown Creeper or Tree-creeper, *Certhia familiaris*.

1661 LOVELL *Arch. Anim. & Min. Introd.*, Birds... not melodious, as the... wital, creeper, wren. 1674 RAY *Eng. Birds* 84 The Creeper or Ox-eye Creeper. 1766 PENNANT *Zool.* (1768) I. 193 The Creeper... next to the crested wren is the least of the British birds. 1863 BATES *Nat. Amazon* vii. (1864) 203 Many pretty little blue and green creepers of the Dacnidae group were daily seen feeding on berries. 1882 *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* IX. 553 No Gold-crests or Creepers, and rarely any Wrens were seen.

4. a. A plant that creeps along the ground, or (more usually) one that ascends a supporting surface, as ivy and the Virginian Creeper (*Ampelopsis hederacea*); a climber.

1626 BACON *Sylva* 536 They are Winders and Creepers; as Ivy, Briony, Hops, Woodbine. 1712 *tr. Pomel's Hist. Drugs* I. 31 This Plant is a Creeper, and twines or lashes itself round any Tree that is near it. 1721 BRADLEY *Wks. Nature* 37 The Ivy, and Virginia Creeper. 1818 KEATS *Endym.* II. 416 The creeper, mellowing for an autumn blush. 1860 GOSSE *Rom. Nat. Hist.* 60 Primeval labyrinths of giant trees, tangled with ten thousand creepers.

b. (pl.) Arch. 'Leaves or clusters of foliage used in Gothic edifices to ornament the angles of spires, pinnacles, and other parts; crochets.'

1864 in WEBSTER.

5. A kind of grapnel used for dragging the bottom of the sea or other body of water.

In first quot. app. used of a grappling-iron.

1400 *Morte Arth.* 3667 Cogge apone cogge, krayers and oger, Castys creepers one crosse als to be craffe langes. 1536 BELLENDEN *Cron. Scot.* (1821) II. 176 He perist in Loch Tay... His body was used to be creparis. 1730 CAPT. W. WRIGLESWORTH *MS. Log-bk. of the 'Lyle'* 24 July. We swamped with a Creeper for the Hawser, which we got hold of. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780), Creeper, an instrument of iron resembling a grappling, having a shank and four hooks or claws... It is used to throw into the bottom of any river or harbour... to hook and draw up any thing... lost. a. 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia*, Creepers... 2. Grapnels to bring up any thing from the bottom of a well or pond. 1875 HILLOCK *Sea-Fisherman* (ed. 3) 40 The Grapnel or Creeper Sinker is much used off Dartmouth... on account of the strength of the tidal currents... These creepers have five claws. 1888 T. HARDY *Wessex Tales* II. 143.

† 6. A small iron 'dog', of which a pair were placed on a hearth between the andirons. *Obs.*

1556 *Inv. Goods* in *Archaeol.* XXXVI. 289 A payre of creepers. 1505 Richmond, *Wills* (Surtees) 178, j. olde breadth... iron creeper. 1629 *Inv. in Trans. Essex Archaeol. Soc.* III. 11. 167, i. p. creepers, fire shovell and tonges. 1661 PAVING *Exam. Eud.* Com. Prayer 106 The little Creepers, not the great Brass shining Andirons, bear up all the wood, and heat of the fire. 1833 J. HOLLAND *Manuf. Metal* II. 162 The andirons proper... and what were denominated creepers, a smaller sort, with short necks or none at all.

7. *local*. a. A kind of patten or clog worn by women. b. A piece of iron with points or spikes, worn under the feet to prevent slipping on ice, etc.

1721 BAILEY, *Creepers*, a sort of Galoshes, between Clogs and Pattens, worn by Women. a. 1825 FORRY *Voc. E. Anglia*, *Creepers*, 1. Low pattens mounted on short iron stumps, instead of rings. 1860 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.*, *Creepers*, pieces of iron, furnished with sharp points and strapped under the feet, to prevent one falling when walking upon ice. 1887 *Newcastle Wkly. Chron.* 1 Jan. 4 Ice-creepers are now on sale in certain shops of Newcastle.

8. = CREEP sb. 4.

1845 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* VI. 1. 189 That... lambs may... have more liberty, and pick out the shortest and sweetest of the keep, I have 'creepers' placed to enable them to do so.

9. a. An apparatus for conveying grain in corn-mills, a conveyor. b. An endless moving feeding-apron, in a...ding-machine.

1847 *Engineer & Mach. Assistant (Descr. Plates)* 92 The creeper, constructed by Mr. Fairbairn. 1865 *Sir W. FAIRBAIRN Mills & Mill-work* II. 140 The creeper consists of a long enclosed screw with a wide pitch and projecting thin threads enclosed in a wooden box or trough.

10. A small iron frying-pan with three legs; also called a spider. (U.S. *local*.)

1880 in WEBSTER *Supp.*

11. A pupil in the tea-planting trade, esp. in Ceylon.

1893 *Field* 8 Apr. 310/3 'Creepers', as they are called, are constantly coming out to learn tea. 1894 *Standard* 2 Jan. 5 A 'creeper', it seems, is the technical term for a pupil whose parents pay a high premium to have him taught the art and mystery of tea-planting in Ceylon. 1921 L. F. HAMILTON *Here, There & Everywhere* II. 48 [In Ceylon] Planters are divided locally into three categories: the managers, the assistants, and the premium-pupils, known as 'creepers'. 1931 E. SUTTON tr. *Fauconier's Soul of Malaya* I. iii. 30 The conceit of these blasted little creepers!

12. *Cricket*. A ball which keeps low after pitching.

1848 *Punch Almanack* May-June, Till some 'ripper' or 'creeper' gives the great wicket-keeper A chance. 1927 *Daily Tel.* 14 June 6/1 A 'creeper' from Larwood got rid of Twining. 1963 *Times* 17 May 4/5 Ormrod had to deal with three astonishing creepers from the lively Arnold.

13. *Comb.*, as (sense 4) *creeper-clad*, *creeper-covered* adjs.

1884 G. ALLEN *Philistia* I. 292 His pretty latticed creeper-clad window. 1888 *Daily News* 25 June 6/3 The cool woods and creeper-covered rocks.

b. *creeper bridge*, *rope*, a bridge or rope of twisted creepers stretched across a tropical river; *creeper chain* *Mining*, an endless chain fitted with grips or hooks for traction of mine-cars, etc.

1892 H. W. HUGHES *Coal-mining* 383 No better appliance has been introduced for minimising the cost of conveying tubs about the heapstead than that known as the 'finger' or 'creeper' chain... It consists of an endless chain travelling under the tubs, provided at intervals with vertical projecting pieces of iron fastened to the links. 1894 *Westm. Gaz.* 16 Jan. 3/3 A creeper rope tied from bank to bank. 1909 *Ibid.* 30 Dec. 3/4 We find it managed to get another creeper bridge between the island and the opposite bank, and hauled the women and children to a place of safety.

Hence 'creepered ppl. a., having (Virginia) creeper growing on the walls; 'creeperless a., without such a creeper.

1894 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 20 July 3/3 Down in the hollow is a glimpse of the creepered farmhouse. 1938 L. MACNEICE *Earth Compels* 21 A chart of tropic Swamp and twilight Of creepered curtains. 1904 H. G. WELLS *Food of Gods* I. ii. 31 The little house was creeperless.

creep-hole ('kri:p(h)əul). [f. CREEP v. or sb. + HOLE.] A hole by which one creeps in or out; 'a hole into which any animal may creep to escape danger' (J.). Also fig. (cf. *loop-hole*).

1646 *Game of Scotch & Eng.* 20 How willing our brethren are to get a creep-hole, and how they shuffle and cut to struggle themselves out of the Bryers. 1681 W. ROBERTSON *Phrasol. Gen.* (1693) 560 A poor shifting excuse, a miserable come-off, a very creep-hole. 1876 T. HARDY *Hand Ethelb.* I. 53 A screen of ivy... across the front of the recess... a small creep-hole being left for entrance and exit.

creepie ('kri:pi). *Sc.* and *dial.* Also *creepy*. [f. CREEP v. + -y or -ie, denominative.]

1. a. A low stool. Also *creepie-stool*, *creepy stool*.

1661 *Mercurius Caledonius*, To assemble all her Creels, Basquets, Creepies, Furnes. a. 1756 *Sc. Song, Logie o' Buchan*, I sit on my creepie and spin at my wheel. 1859 DICKENS *Haunted House* VII. 34 He sat between his parents... and Bessy on the old creepie-stool. 1865 *Reader* 18 Nov. 579/3 Carrying her creepie in one hand and her milking-pail in the other. 1892 JANE BARLOW *Irish Idylls* vii. 178 Pat, set the old creepie stool for Mrs. Doynne. 1903 W. B. YEATS *Hour-Glass* (1904) 3 A creepie stool near it. 1922 JOYCE *Ulysses* 43 Fiacre and Scutous on their creepstools in heaven.

b. 'It sometimes denotes the stool of repentance' (Jamieson). Also *creepie-chair*.

1718 RAMSAY *Christ's Kirk* Gr. III. viii. It's a wise wife that kens her weird. What tho' ye mount the creepie? 1794 BURNS *Rantin Dog* iii. When I mount the creepie-chair, Wha will sit beside me there?

2. A small speckled fowl. (U.S. *local*.)

1854 *Trans. Penns. Agric. Soc.* 163 The variety of poultry exhibited... comprising, in the tribe of barn-yard fowls... the Frizzle; the Creely and the Creepy.

creeping ('kri:piŋ), *vbl. sb.* [-ING¹]

1. a. The action of moving on the ground, as a reptile, or a human being on hands and knees.

a. 700 *Epinal Gloss.* 696 Ob-optione, criopungens. c. 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 101 Creyngne, repcio, reptura. 1580 HOLLYBAND *Treas. Fr. Tong.* Rampement... sur terre, a ramping or creeping on the ground. 1813 L. HUNT in *Examiner* 19 Apr. 242/2 Creepings in dust and wadings through mire.

b. *creeping to the cross*: see CREEP v. 1 C.

15... in Boorde *Introd. Knowl.* (1870) *Introd.* 92 The Order of the Kings, on Good Friday, touchinge the... creeping to the Crosse. 1511 *Will of Osborn* (Somerset Ho.), At the tyme of the creeping of the crosse. 1583 BABINGTON *Commandm.* II. (1637) 23 With crossings and creepings, Paxes and Beads. 1924 C. MACKENZIE *Heavenly Ladder* x. 145 The only thing he regretted about this Good Friday was his cowardice over the ceremony of creeping to the Cross. 1957 *Oxf. Dict. Chr. Ch.* 1411/2 *Veneration of the Cross*, a ceremony of the Latin Rite for Good Friday, sometimes also called Creeping to the Cross.

2. *transf.* and *fig.* The action of moving slowly, stealthily, or in a servile manner.

1565 T. STAPLETON *Fortr. Faith* 153 The creeping in of these cankered heresies. 1665 BOYLE *Occas. Refl.* *Introd.* Pref. (1675) 22 A Writer in some cases may be allowed to forbear Soaring, as well as avoid Creeping. 1736 NEAL *Hist. Purit.* III. 463 After great creepings and cringings to Archbishop Laud, he became his creature. 1840 THACKERAY *Catherine* xi. The man was well fitted for the creeping and niggling of his dastardly trade.

3. The sensation as of something creeping on the skin; cf. FORMICATION.

1799 MAD. D'ARBLAY *Lett.* 25 July. Your creepings are surely the effect of overlabour of the brain. 1855 ROBINSON *Whitby Gloss.*, *Creeping*, cold shivery sensations. 1879 B. TAYLOR *Stud. Germ. Lit.* 362 We feel a creeping of the nerves.

4. Dragging with creepers or grapnels.

1886 *Pall Mall G.* 7 Sept. 2/1 When they [ironclads] attempted to follow up the clearance effected by creeping and countermining, and to make the passage of the channel.

5. In Canada: Stalking the Moose-deer, etc.

1869 C. HARDY *Forest Life Acadie* vi. 134 At the present day the animal [Caribou] is shot by stalking or 'creeping' as it is locally termed, that is, advancing stealthily and in the footsteps of the Indian. 1879 L. DUNRAVEN in *19th Cent.* July 60 Creeping or 'still hunting' as it would be termed in the States is as nearly as possible equivalent to the ordinary deer-stalking.

6. *Comb.* *creeping-hole* = CREEP-HOLE; *creeping-sheet* (see *quot.*).

1665 J. WEBB *Stone-Heng* (1725) 204 The Works of greatest Magnificence... this Doctor talks of, extended to no more than... a creeping Hole at best. 1849 *Sk. Nat. Hist.*, *Mammalia* IV. 72 Each burrow [of the hamster] has at least two openings, one descends obliquely, the other perpendicularly. The former is termed the 'creeping-hole'. 1874 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, *Creeping-sheet*, the feeding-apron of a carding-machine.

creeping ('kri:piŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. as prec. + -ING³.]

1. That creeps (as a reptile).
c. 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gen.* I. 25 And eall creopende cynn on heora cygne. a. 1300 *Cursor M.* 19849 (Cott.) All maner crepand beste. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 81 A Creyngne beste, reptile. 1611 BIBLE *Gen.* viii. 19 Eury estate, eury creeping thing, and eury fowle. 1667 MILTON *P.L.* vii. 452 Cattel and creeping things, and Beast of the Earth. 1784 COWPER *Task* VI. 568 The creeping vermin, loathsome to the sight.

2. *transf.* and *fig.* a. Moving slowly, stealthily, or by imperceptible degrees. Also applied to a flaw or crack in steel.

c. 1340 *Cursor M.* 3567 (Fairf.) Wip creyngne croulis in his bake. 1590 SPENSER *F.Q.* I. v. 12 The creeping deadly cold. 1600 SHAKS. *A.Y.L.* II. vii. 112 The creeping hours of time. 1700 DRYDEN *Sigism.* & *Guic.* 748 The creeping death Benumbed her senses first, then stopped her breath. 1870 EMERSON *Soc. & Solit.*, *Farming Wks.* (Bohn) III. 59 The invisible and creeping air. 1882 *Syd. Soc. Lex.*, *Creeping sickness*, a form of chronic Erysipelas. 1902 *Daily Chron.* 1 May 6/3 From an examination of the broken parts a 'creeping' flaw was found in the cross-section. 1914 H. BREARLY *Case-hardening Steel* 110 Such cracks, generally spoken of as 'creeping cracks', are not often found in brittle material.

b. Moving timidly or abjectly; acting meanly or servilely; cringing. *creeping Jesus*, a person who slinks about or hides himself from fear of being ill-treated; an abject, sycophantic, or servile person; one who is hypocritically pious. *slang.*

a. 1618 RALEIGH *Instruct. Sonne* iii. in *Rem.* (1661) 89 Flatterers... are ever base, creeping, cowardly persons. 1706 JER. COLLIER *Refl. Ridic.* 112 Others of a mean and creeping Soul. 1769 GRAY *Ode for Music* 9 Nor Envy base nor creeping Gain. c. 1818 BLAKE *Everlasting Gospel* in *Wks.* (1927) 137 If he [sc. Christ] had been Antichrist, Creeping Jesus, He'd have done any thing to please us. 1827... *Lett.* in *Wks.* (1927) 1138 God keep you and me from the divinity of yes and no to... the yea, nay, creeping Jesus. 1854 H. MILLER *Sch. & Schm.* xv. (1860) 159/1 The mean voices... such as theft, and the grosser and more creeping forms of untruthfulness and dishonesty. 1871 G. P. R. PULMAN *Rustic Sketches* (ed. 3) 88 Creeping-jesus, applied to a person who seeks to hide himself in pursuit of sport or otherwise. 'Jack crawled aäder the weeld ducks lik' a creeping-jesus'. 1934 R. CAMPBELL *Broken Record* 56 The Zulus naturally despise the creeping Jesus type who sucks up to them. 1937 'G. ORWELL' *Road to Wigan Pier* x. 194 The outer-suburban creeping Jesus. 1945 A. HUXLEY *Time must have Stop* xxiv. 226 That fool who believed in Gaseous Vertebrates, that creeping Jesus who tried to convert people to his own idiocies! 1966 'L. LANE' *ABZ of Scouse* 23 *Creepin' Jesus*, applied to a person who enjoys bad health or

constant misfortune; somebody who solicits sympathy by wearing an air of patient martyrdom.

c. *creeping barrage* (Mil.). see BARRAGE sb. and add examples.

1916 H. W. YOKALL *Lett.* 22 Sept. in *Fashion of Life* (1966) iv. 32 The creeping barrage which went in front of our assaulting lines was almost geometrically straight, and lifted each time to the second. 1919 G. K. ROSE *24th Oxf. & Bucks. Ltt.* 1919 Our methods of attack... consisted, broadly speaking, in the advance of lines of infantry behind a creeping barrage. 1957 *Encycl. Brit.* VI. 663/2 The limitation of the standing barrage was that the curtain of shells did not move with the troops; and while a creeping barrage made short bounds of 50 to 100 yards, a jumping barrage made longer ones.

d. *creeping paralysis*: locomotor ataxia. Also fig.

1913 in DORLAND *Med. Dict.* (ed. 7) s.v. *Paralysis*. 1925 W. DREPPING *Sorrell & Son* i. 10 He remembered that he had won his M.C. by 'doing something' as a protest against the creeping paralysis of intense fear. 1926 H. J. LASKI *Lett.* 30 May (1953) II. 843 The miners are still out, and industry, as a result, is afflicted with a kind of creeping paralysis. 1932 *Discovery* Apr. 112/1 A single glance at the film gives information concerning creeping paralysis (disseminated sclerosis). 1964 G. DURRELL *Menagerie Manor* v. 103 The creeping paralysis, a terrible complaint that attacks principally the New World monkeys.

3. Having the sensation of a nervous shiver. [Cf. 1340 in 2a.] 1814 BYRON *Corsair* III. x. So thrill'd—so shudder'd every creeping vein. 1815—*Hebrew Mel.*, 'A Spirit pass'd' 5 Along my bones the creeping flesh did quake. 1881 G. M. BEARD *Sea-sickness* 24 Creeping chills up and down the spine.

4. a. Of plants: Having a stem or stems which extend themselves horizontally along the surface of the ground, and throw out roots at intervals. It is often popularly applied, instead of 'climbing' or 'clinging', to plants that cling to and ascend trees, walls, or hedges: cf. CREEPER 4. *'creeping root'*, a popular name for a rhizome or subterranean stem that grows horizontally and throws out shoots and roots at the joints, as in *Wild Convulvulus*. [1552 HULST. *Creeping herb*, they were like a vine, errans.] 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Past.* ix. 57 With... creeping Vines on Arbours weav'd around. 1784 COWPER *Task* iv. 762 The casements lined with creeping herbs. 1807 J. E. SMITH *Phys. Bot.* 111 [*Fris*] *florentina* and *I. germanica*... have more properly creeping roots. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* I. xi, Creeping shrubs of thousand dyes. 1882 VINES *Sachs' Bot.* 156 The underground creeping shoots of *Pteris aquilina*.

b. In the names of many plants with aerial creeping stems, as *creeping ivy* (the procumbent form of *Hedera Helix*), *creeping Jack*, a local name of *Sedum acre*, *creeping Jenny* (*Lysimachia Nummularia*, and other plants), *creeping sailor* (*Saxifraga sarmentosa* and *Sedum acre*), *creeping wheat* (*Triticum repens*), etc.; *creeping willow*, a shrub, *Salix repens*, native to Europe and Asia.

1776 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (1796) III. 683 Creeping Mouse-ear. Mouse-ear Hawkweed. 1816 KATHI *Phys. Bot.* I. 45 The common Creeping Cincofoe. (1819) W. C. WENTWORTH *Descr. N.S.W.* 91 The creeping wheat, however, may be sown in the commencement of February. *Ibid.* 92 To the farmer... who keeps large flocks of sheep, the cultivation of the creeping wheat is highly advantageous; since in addition to its yielding as great a crop as any other species of wheat, it supercedes the necessity of growing... food for the support of his stock. 1861 MISS PRATT *Flower Pl.* VI. 124 Creeping Wheat, or Couch-grass. 1882 *Garden* 12 Aug. 138/2 The common Money-wort, or Creeping Jenny as it is called. 1894 W. ROBINSON *Wild Garden* (ed. 4) xvi. 262 Dwarf willows... such as the Creeping Willow in its various forms, and the Woolly Willow, a dwarf silvery shrub. 1952 A. G. L. HILLARY *Sanders' Encycl. Gardening* (ed. 22) 434 [*Salix*] *repens*, 'Creeping Willow', to 3 ft., Britain, Europe, Asia.

creepingly ('kri:piŋli), *adv.* [f. prec. + -LY⁴.] In a creeping manner. *lit.* and *fig.*

1548 *Twoo Ital. Dict.*, *Carbone*, creepingly, as he that goeth on all fower. 1573 TUSSEN *Huub.* (1819) 17 Age coming on so creepingly. 1675 PHILLIPS *Theatr. Poet.* Pref. (T.), That the poem be not... creepingly low and insipid. 1816 L. HUNT *Rimini* III. 460 Pretending not to see The latter [satire] in the brakes come creepingly.

creepie, obs. f. CRIPPLE.

'creep-mouse. [f. stem of CREEP v. + MOUSE.] A sb.

1. A creeping mouse: a term of endearment. 1540 PALGRAVE tr. *Fullonius' Acolastus* R 13 a, I con the thaim my lyttell sparowe, or my pretty creepmouse.

2. A nursery play with a child.

1689 J. CARLILE *Fortune-hunters* 25 Not so old but I can play at creep Mouse yet; creep, Mouse, creep, catch her.

B. *adj.* [Cf. *break-neck*.] That creeps like a mouse so as to escape notice; furtive, timid, shy. 1766 GOODY *Two-Shoes* (1882) 58 Not seeing such a little creep-mouse Girl as Two-Shoes. 1814 JANE AUSTEN *Mansfield Park* (1816) I. xv. 304 You may be as creepmouse as you like, but we must have you to look at. 1860 EMERSON *Cond. Life, Behaviour Wks.* (Bohn) II. 387 Here are creep-mouse manners, and thievish manners.

creepy ('kri:pi), *a.* [f. CREEP v. or sb. + -Y.] 1. Characterized by creeping or moving slowly.

1794 SULLIVAN *View Nat.* II. 95 It is a creepy fly. 1860 *All Year Round* No. 49. 538 She is rarely still, though I am bound to say she is creepy gentleness itself. 1889 J.

ABERCROMBIE *E. Caucasus* 180 An artistically embroidered coverlet tenanted by countless swarms of creepy insects.

2. Having a creeping of the flesh, or chill shuddering feeling, caused by horror or repugnance.

1831 *Cat's Tail* 30. I feel somehow quite creepy at the thought of what's coming. 1863 *LD. LYTTON Ring Amasis* II. 38 There comes over him, all at once, a sort of cold, creepy shudder. 1882 *Macm. Mag.* 444 To confess that he has felt 'creepy' on account of certain inexplicable sounds.

b. *transf.* Tending to produce such sensations.

1883 G. LLOYD *Ebb & Flow* II. 236 The whole place seemed lonely, and, as Mildred whispered to Pauline, 'creepy'. 1892 *Spectator* 2 Apr. 470/1 A really effective romance of the creepy order.

creepy-crawly, *a.* That creeps and crawls. Also *transf.* and *fig.*, sneaking, servile; (of feelings, etc.) full of eerie or uncanny suggestion; of or pertaining to creeping or crawling insects. Also as *sb.* (chiefly *pl.*), such an insect, animal, etc.; a creepy-crawly feeling.

1898 C. M. YONGE *Christmas Mummings* iv. 37 The pink scarf came back in his mind, as clear, as if the silver creepy-crawlies and long-barbed flowers had all arranged themselves into the letters *thief*. 1861 J. PYCROFT *Agony Point* ix. (1862) 99 Ride and drive! yes, --creepy crawly! creepy crawly! 1890 F. W. ROBINSON *Very Strange Family* 85 'You and that creepy-crawly lawyer.' 1892 'L. MALET' *Wages of Sin* vii. iii. I'm ever so hungry, and there's cold creepy-crawlies running up my legs. 1893 *Mod.* A creepy-crawly feeling came over me. 1902 *Daily Chron.* 5 Dec. 4/5 The creepy-crawly atmosphere of 'Wuthering Heights'. 1907 *Ibid.* 1 Apr. 4/4 His way is mostly the creepy-crawly way... There's nothing heroic, or splendid, or even dignified, about his methods. 1909 G. B. SHAW *Let. 14 Apr.* (1906) 152 We... are back again in Algeria, but under creepy-crawly circumstances... We are in a frightful place. 1923 D. H. LAWRENCE *Kangaroo* vi. 133 She had puppies -- four darling queer little things -- tiny little creepy-crawlies. 1960 *Woman* 5 Mar. 29/2 Mice, spiders, moths and other creepy-crawlies. 1966 *AUDEN About House* 24 The lair, maybe, Of creepy-crawlies or a ghost.

creer, *var.* of **CRAYER**.

crees, *var.* **CREST**³ *Obs.*, a kind of linen cloth.

creese, crease, *varr.* **KRIS**, Malay dagger.

creese, crease, kris, *v.* Forms: see *prec.* [f. *prec.*] *trans.* To stab or kill with a creese. Hence 'creasing *ppl.* *a.* and *vbl.* *sb.*

1602-5 E. SCOT *Disc. Java* in *Purchas Pilgrims* (1625) I. 175 This Boyhooy we tortured not, because of his confession, but cryed him. 1727 A. HAMILTON *New Acc. E. Ind.* II. xlv. 158 One (Malay) of them runs to the King, and creast him to the heart. 1857 S. OSBORN *Quedah* vi. 79 They... constantly saw their countrymen creased before their eyes. 1883 G. M. FENN *Middy & Ensign* xix. 181 They having been krisased and their bodies thrown into the river.

creeses, *obs.* and *dial.* *pl.* of **CRESS**.

creesh, creish (*kri:ʃ*), *sb.* *Sc.* 6 creische, creesche, 7-9 creish, 8 creisch, kreish, 9 creesh, *cresh*: [a. OF. *crasse*, *crese* = *graisse*, *gresse* fat, grease:—*L. crassa*, fem. of *crassus* thick, fat, gross, in late *L.* also *grassus* (see *Du Cange*). In Gael. *creis* (*kri:ʃ*), *s* with a 'small' vowel being always (*j*): several instances of a similar change occur in Lowland *Sc.*; cf. also *gresche* = *GREASE*.]

1. Grease, fat.

a 1400 *Burgh Lawis* lxviii, Woll, nowte creesche or swyneayne. 1500-20 *DUNBAR Dance Syntys* 90 In creische that did creies. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* vii. xi. 61 Fat creesche or same. 1862 *HISLOP Proverbs* Sc. 41 Butter's king o' a creesh.

2. A 'lick', a stroke. Cf. **ANOINT** v. 5.

a 1774 *FERGUSON Poems* (1789) II. 93 (Jam.) Now some for this, wi' satire's leech, Has gien auld Edinburgh a creesh. 1833 *MOIR Manie Wauch* xxii. (1849) 172 Give the beast a good creesh.

creesh (*kri:ʃ*), *v.* *Sc.* Forms: see *prec.* [f. *CREESH sb.*; cf. *F. graisser*.] *trans.* To grease. to *creesh* the loof (*fig.*): 'to grease the palm', i.e. with a douceur. Cf. *to grease (a person) in the hand* (see *GREASE* v.).

1721 *KELLY Scot. Prov.* 237 (Jam.) Like the Orkney butter, neither good to eat, nor to creish wool. a 1774 *FERGUSON Hallowfair Poems* (1845) 13 He'll take the hint and creish her loof wi' what will buy her fairin. 1816 *SCOTT Antiq.* x. 'Would ye creesh his bonny brown hair wi' your nasty olive?' 1843 *BETHUNE Sc. Fireside Stor.* 48 If he was only able to creish the clerk's loof.

creeshy (*kri:ʃi*), *a.* *Sc.* [f. *CREESH sb.* + *-y*.] In Gael. *creisidh* (*kri:ʃi*).] I keen.

1535 *LYNDESAI Satyre* 140, I ken weill, be his creischie now. He bes bene at ane feast. a 1605 *FOLWART Flying w.* *Montgomery* 747 Creischie souter, shoe cloutter, minch moutter. 1786 *BURNS Ordination* i. Wabsters... pour your creeshie nations... Swith to the Leigh Kirk. 1891 *Pall Mall G.* 28 Dec. 2/2 But filthy lucre is the name For Scotland's creeshy pounds.

b. *subst.*

1890 *Scot. N. & Q.* Aug. 53 Creeshie was the name given to boys and girls who worked in the carding and spinning departments [of woollen mills].

creesome, *obs.* form of **CHRISOM**.

creest (*e. creete*, *obs.* ff. **CREST**, **CREAGHT**.

creevish, crefish, -fysasse, *obs.* ff. **CRAYFISH sb.**

creeze, *var.* **KRIS**, Malay dagger.

creft, crefti, -y, *obs.* ff. **CRAFT**, **CRAFTY**.

creil, -en, *early var.* of **CRY**.

creil (*le. obs.* f. **CREEL**, and *var.* **CRILE Obs.**

† **creis**, *v.* *Sc. Obs.* To curl. (Jamieson.)

[Only in the following passage, the sense of which is doubtful.]

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* xii. ii. 125 Hys crysp and yallow hayr, That are mayd creis, and curls now sa weill.

creitzer, *obs.* form of **KREUTZER**.

creke, *obs.* f. **CRATCH**, **CREAK**, **CREEK**.

creket (*t, -kytt*, *obs.* ff. **CRICKET**.

crele, crelle, *obs.* ff. **CREEL**.

crem, *obs.* form of **CREAM sb.**¹

|| **crémaillère** (*kremajer*). [Fr.; formerly *cramailière* a crook with a rack or notches for hanging pots over a fire, a toothed rack, any indented piece, deriv. of *cramail*:—late *L. cramaculum* (Capit. Charlemagne *De Villis* 42) in the first of these senses. Perh. f. *Du. kram* hook, or some cognate word. The two following technical applications of the Fr. word appear in Eng.]

1. *Field-fortif.* An indented or zigzag form of the inside line of a parapet, giving opportunity for bringing a greater fire to bear upon the defile. (Stocqueler.)

1828 J. M. SPEARMAN *Brit. Gunner* 264 These hurdles... are very useful in forming the teeth of the crémaillères in the salient angles of fieldworks. 1859 F. A. GRIFFITHS *Artif. Man.* (ed. 9) 273 Lengthen the lines by crémaillères.

2. *Watch-making.* (See *quot.*)

1884 F. J. BRITTEN *Watch & Clockm.* 69 Crémaillère... [is] the winding rack of a repeating watch.

cremar (*e. obs.* f. **CRAMER**, *Sc.*, pedlar, etc.

cremaster (*kri:mæstə(r)*). *Pl.* -ers, also || -eres. [a. Gr. κρεμαστήρ suspender (or spec. in Anatomy, as in sense 1), f. κρεμα- to hang.]

1. *Anat.* The muscle of the spermatic cord, by which the testicle is suspended.

1678 PHILLIPS, *Cremaster*, the Muscle, that holds up the Stones. a 1693 *URQUHART Rabelais* iii. xxvi. 218. 1842 E. WILSON *Anat. Vole* M. 187 The Cremaster, considered as a distinct muscle, arises from the middle of Poupart's ligament. 1881 *MIVART Cat* 243 One delicate layer... forming what is known as the cremaster muscle.

2. *Entom.* A name given by Kirby to the hook-like processes on the posterior extremity, by which many lepidopterous chrysalids suspend themselves; extended to the dorsal process or tip of the abdomen of the pupa of any insect that undergoes complete metamorphosis.

1888 *ROLLSTON & JACKSON Anim. Life* 123 Pupa of Privet Hawk Moth... The tenth somite... bears... the cremaster... covered with spines which vary much in different specimens.

† **cre'masteral**, *a.* *Obs.* *rare*—¹. [f. *prec.* + *-AL*.] = *next*.

1681 *tr. Willis' Rem. Med. Wks.* Vocab., *Cremasteral*, muscles belonging to the testicles.

cremasteric (*kremæstærɪk*), *a.* [f. as *prec.* + *-ic*.] Of or pertaining to the cremaster.

1882 *Syd. Soc. Lex.*, *Cremasteric artery*, a thin branch of the deep epigastric artery.

cremate (*kri:'meit, kri-*), *v.* [f. *L. cremāt-* *ppl.* stem of *cremare* to burn, consume by fire, cremate.] To consume by fire, to burn; *spec.* to reduce (a corpse) to ashes. Hence *cre'mated ppl.* *a.*; *cre'mating vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1784 F. HALL in *Nation* (N.Y.) XIX. 425/1 *Sati*, or a woman who is cremated with her husband. 1878 *Ann. Reg.* 127 The construction of a cremating apparatus. 1889 *Ibid.* 18 The body of the Marquess of Ely was cremated at Woking. 1899 *Pall Mall G.* 26 Dec. 6/2 Mortuary urns containing cremated Greeks' ashes.

cremation (*kri:'meiʃən, kri-*). [ad. *L. crematiō-em*, *n.* of action f. *cremare* (see *prec.*.)]

1. The action of burning or cremating; *spec.* the reduction of a corpse to ashes as a way of disposing of it in lieu of interment; an instance of this practice.

1623 *COCKERAM, Cremation*, Burning. 1658 *STR T. BROWNE Hydiot.* ii. 4 The Solemnities, Ceremonies, Rites of their Cremation or enterrment, so solemnly delivered by Authors. 1758 *JOHNSON Idler* No. 87 ¶ 4 The custom of voluntary cremation is not yet lost among the ladies of India. 1851 D. WILSON *Preh. Ann.* II. iii. vi. 160 When cremation was abandoned for inhumation. 1882 *Pall Mall G.* 6 June 1/2 The cremation of Garibaldi... is to be carried out in accordance with his last will and testament. 1884 *Pall Mall G.* 7 Mar. 3/2 Mr. Justice Stephen's recent decision that cremation is a legal proceeding has... stirred the Cremation Society of England to be up and doing.

2. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as **cremation-burial, -cemetery, grave**.

1913 E. T. LEEDS *Archaeol. Anglo-Saxon Settlements* iii. 58 The number of cremation burials occurring at Frilford is uncertain. 1934 *Essays & Studies* XIX. 150 The description of the last rites paid to Beowulf shows that his was a cremation-burial. 1955 *WOOLLEY Alalakh* vi. 211 Cremation burial in Sq. M. 13. 1907 H. M. CHADWICK *Origin Eng. Nation* iv. 74 The cremation cemeteries at Croydon and Beddington are also perhaps inconclusive. 1906 P. H. REANEY *Orig. Eng. Place-Names* 102 Repton... situated above the high bank of the Trent in a district where cremation-cemeteries have been found. 1950 H. L. LORIMER *Flower & Monum.* vi. 345 Of two Early Geometric cremation graves found... in the Agora one contained a pair of large fibulae.

Hence **cre'mationalism**, *nonce-wd.*, the advocacy or 'cause' of cremation. **cre'mationalist**, one who advocates cremation as a means of disposing of the bodies of the dead.

1884 *Fargo* (Minnesota) *Argus* Feb., Cremationism is on the increase. 1875 F. S. HADEN *Earth to Earth* 6 The Cremationists, whose position I... think untenable. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 22 June 5/3 The revelations made... excited the cremationists immensely.

cremator (*kri:'meitə(r), kri-*). [a. *L. cremātor* (Tertullian), agent-noun f. *cremare*; see **CREMATE**.]

1. One who cremates or practises cremation of corpses.

1831 *London Post Off. Direct.* 1553 (Trades Division) Cremators. 1884 *Pall Mall G.* 1 May 2/1 It is the boast of the skilful cremator that under his supervision the contents of the barrel are never exposed to view. 1885 *Academy* 16 May 342/3 It is... erroneous to describe the aborigines of British Columbia as 'cremators'. Only a few of the Northern tribes burn their dead.

2. *A crematory furnace: a. for the combustion of rubbish; b. for the cremation of dead bodies.*

1877 *Chr. World* 12 Oct. 1/2 Models of hospitals, sewer works, and... cremators. 1881 *Scribn. Mag.* XXII. 799 To enable the housekeeper... to dispose of the refuse in a quick and cleanly manner, a small cremator, or destructor, has been introduced. 1883 *Pall Mall G.* 5 Dec. 10/2 The furnace, or 'cremator', built close to the deceased's house, was on the banks of the River Stour.

crema'torial, *a.* [f. *next* + *-AL*.] Of or pertaining to a crematory or to cremation.

1887 *Chicago Advance* 17 Feb. 112 The Crematorial Association of Philadelphia is about to erect the largest crematory in the world.

crematorium (*kremætɔəriəm*). [mod.*L.*, in form f. *cremāt-us, crematōr-*, derivs. of *cremare* to burn.] = **CREMATORY sb.**

1880 *Times* 9 Oct., In the cemetery of Milan, near the Crematorium erected a few years ago, a Cinerarium is to be erected for the preservation of the ashes of the dead. 1884 *St. James's Gaz.* 8 Feb. 4/2 The new building will be the second public crematorium in the United States.

crematory (*kremətəri*), *a.* and *sb.* [f. *L.* type **cremātōri-us*, f. *crematōr*: see *above*.]

A. adj. Of or pertaining to cremation.

1884 *Manch. Guard* 26 Sept. 5/4 Belief in the crematory process as a sanitary measure. 1886 *MORLEY Life Geo. Eliot* Crit. Misc. III. 94 Leaving as little work, to the literary executor, except of the purely crematory sort, as did, etc. 1889 *Chambers' Encycl.* III. 556 Crematory furnaces... have been erected.

B. sb. A place or establishment for cremation; *spec.* an erection for the incineration of corpses.

1876 L. TOLLEMACHE in *Forin. Rev.* Jan. 118 The aspect of death might be a little softened, if cemeteries gave place to crematories. 1885 *Times* 27 Mar. 10 Yesterday morning the crematory erected at St. John's, Woking, Surrey, was made use of for the first time.

crème (*krem, krem*), *sb.* Also **crême**. [Fr., = *CREAM sb.*² 1. A cream (*CREAM sb.*² 2a) or custard. So *crème brûlée*, one topped with caramelized sugar; *crème caramel*, a custard coated with caramel; *crème Chantilly* [cf. *CHANTILLY* 3], whipped cream sweetened and flavoured with vanilla; *crème renversée*, a custard turned out of a mould.

1845 E. ACTON *Mod. Cookery* xx. 442 Crème à la Comtesse... is a very delicate kind of sweet dish, which... may be rendered more recherché by a flavouring of maraschino. 1846 A. SOVER *Gastronomic Regenerator* 528 *Crème au Caramel*... Have three quarters of a pint of milk in which you have boiled an ounce of isinglass, pour it upon the caramel. 1865 M. B. CHESNUT *Diary* 4 Apr. (1905) xx. 376 We keep a cookery book on the mantelpiece, and when the dinner is deficient we just read off a pudding or a *crème*. 1868 E. ACTON *Mod. Cookery* xxiii. 484 The French make their custards, which they call *crèmes*, also in small china cups. 1886 M. CLARK *tr. Brisse's* 366 *Menus* 163 *Crème brûlée*. *Burnt cream*. [Ibid. 324 *Crème à la Chantilly*. *Cream à la Chantilly*. 1888 MRS. BEETON *Bk. Househ. Managem.* xxxi. 828 *Caramel Pudding*. (Fr.—*Crème Renversée*.)] 1906 *Ibid.* lxxv. 1730 *Crème Caramel renversée*. *Caramel Pudding*. 1908 C. H. SENN *Menu Book* 273 [*Crème*] *Chantilly*, whipped double cream, with vanilla flavour. 1909 *Cent. Dict. Suppl.*, *Crème brûlée*, caramel or browned sugar with cream. 1912 H. H. MUNRO *Unbearable Basingstoke* xv. 271 Jerome and the girls don't want to eat any more *crème renversée*. 1914 C. MACKENZIE *Smister* St. II. iii. v. 592 Our *crème caramel* is a much showier sweet than anything they've got at the House. 1930 A. BENNETT *Imperial Palace* lx. 478 Evelyn heard the order: *vermicelli soup... cutlets... crème caramel*. 1935 *Punch* 9 Jan. 13/1 Oh, many a *crème* have I consumed. 1949 'C. HARE' *When Wind Blows* 153

Spooning into his mouth the last of the tasteless crème caramel which the club almost invariably provided by way of a sweet. 1958 R. GODDEN *Greengate Summer* ix. 95 Meringues with crème chantilly. 1959 *Listener* 6 Aug. 227/2 To make the crème brûlée take 1 pint of double cream, 6 oz. of caster sugar, 4 egg yolks, and vanilla essence. 1970 SIMON & HOWE *Dict. Gastronomy* 143 Crème pâtissière, also known as confectioner's custard or baker's custard, this is a thick French custard or cream used to fill tarts, cream horns or puff creams.

b. A name for various syrupy liqueurs, as *crème de menthe* (peppermint), *crème de vanille*, *crème de noyau*, *crème de cacao*. (Cf. CREAM sb.² 2.e.)

a 1821 KEATS *Cap & Bells*, in *Post. Whs.* (1907) 472 The least drop of *crème de citron*, crystal clear. c 1870 in H. W. ALLEN 3 *Saint James's St.* (1906) viii. 186/2 Liqueurs... Crème de Noyau—10/- 1877 *Castell's Dict. Cookery* 382/2 Noyau, or Crème de Noyau, is a sweet cordial flavoured with bitter almonds. 1892 T. F. GARRETT *Enyclop. Pract. Cookery* i. 477/1 Crèmes, a French term applied to certain cordials and liqueurs, to indicate the cream-like smoothness of these manufactures. 1903 *Daily Mail* 11 Sept. 3/3 Crème de menthe, with its strong peppermint flavour, is the one almost exclusively favoured by ladies. 1930 E. WAUGH *Labels* 26 Shady young men in Charvet shirts sit round the bar repairing with powder-puff and lipstick the ravages of grenadine and *crème de cacao*. 1930, 1958 [see ALEXANDER sb.³] 1961 I. FLEMING *Thunderball* x. 112 A tall glass of his favourite drink—crème de menthe frappé with a maraschino cherry on top.

c. *crème de riz*, a fine rice-flour; ground rice. 1896 Mrs. A. B. MARSHALL *Cookery Bk.* (ed. 2) 15 (Advnt.), Marshall's Crème de Riz... highly prized for Cakes, Puddings, Blancmanges. 1960 E. DAVID *Fr. Prov. Cooking* 97 Crème de Riz, Ground Rice.

2. Phr. *crème de la crème*, the élite, the very pick of society.

1848 F. A. KEMBLE *Let. 22 Jan. in Rec. Later Life* (1882) 336 The... pretensions of an Austrian *crème de la crème* are comprehensible and consistent. 1860 *Once a Week* 28 July 119/2 The élites—the *crème de la crème*, or those initiated into the highest mysteries of the sect. 1867 S. W. BAKER *Nile Tribut.* xvii. 451 The society in this district was not *crème de la crème*. 1898 B. L. FARJEON *Miriam Rozella* xi. Need I say that he and Lady Laverock move in the best society, and are *crème de la crème*? 1920 D. H. LAWRENCE *Lost Girl* i. 8 In his palmy days, James Houghton was *crème de la crème* of Woodhouse society. 1967 R. SHAW *Man in Glass Booth* vi. 70, I love you all for you are the finest of your kind, the *crème de la crème* Américaine.

† *crème*, v. Obs. [f. *crème*, CREAM sb.¹] = CHRISM v.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P.R.* ix. xxxi. (1495) 367 Crisma... with the whyche chylde ben crenyd and cnynted.

crème, obs. form of CRAME, CREAM.

cremesin(e), -yn(e), -ye, obs. ff. CRIMSON, CRAMOISY.

† *cremetous*, *cremeuse*, a. Obs. rare. [a. OF. *cremetous* and *cremeus* fearful, timid, f. root of OF. *cremer*, *cremir*, now *craindre* to fear.] Fearful, timid.

c 1477 CAXTON *Jason* 26 b. As cremetous and doubting the recourtes of refuse. *Ibid.* 14 b. They of Olfierne were so cremeuse... and durst not come out.

[*cremett*, -it(t). Error for EREMITTE, inmate of a hospital.

1624 *Will in Ripon Ch. Acts* (Surtees) 363, I give sixteen crements here, in Wh. flower marks. Note, This word occurs occasionally in the older registers at Well, applied to the inmates of the hospital, 'cremits' once. 1799 in *Thorpe's Corr.* II. 221 The word Cremits in your old deed relating to the Hospital at Well, is doubtless, or should be, Eremits. 1736 DRAKE *Eboracum* 284 The Eremits, or Hermits, in the north were corruptly called Cremitts; and there is an annual rent... called Cremitt-money at this day.]

† *cremeur*. Obs. [OF. *cremeur* 'feare, drede' (Cotgr.), f. OF. *cremer*: see CREMETOUS, CREMEUSE, a.] Dread.

1485 CAXTON *Chas. Gt.* 46 Kyng of Fraunce and lord of so grete cremeur.

† *cremify*, v. Obs. [f. F. *crème* or med.L. *crema*, CREAM + -FY.] *trans.* To make creamy, cause to turn cream.

1638 NABBES *Tottenham Crt.* iv. 7 Isinglasse and other ingredients to cremify the soure milke.

† *cremil*, sb. Obs. Forms: 4 *cremyle*, -ell, 4-5 *cremyll*, 5 *crymell*, -yll. [Connexion with 'cummle to plait' (Halliwell), and *crimble*, has been suggested. Cf. next word.]

A word used in connexion with certain textile fabrics; often applied *attrib.* to their borders; 'meaning, apparently, open work or lace, or perhaps a fringe' (W. H. Stevenson, in *Nottingham Borough Records* II. Gloss. s.v.).

1393 *Will of Kent* (Somerset Ho.), Flameolium de Cremyle. 1408 in *Nottingham Rec.* II. 52 Pro ij plices de coton cremyll, ijs. vjd. 1428 *Will of Lyte*, Flameolium vocatum crymell. 1448 *Will of Stapilton*, j crymyll kyrychief. 1483 *Act i Rich. III.* c. 8 § 18 The making of any cloths called Florences, with Cremil Lists. 1511-2 *Act 3 Hen. VIII.* c. 6 § 13 Wollen clothes called Bastards made with cremyll Lystes. 1885 FAIRHOLT *Costume* II. 136 Cremyll, cotton open work, or lace.]

† *cremil*, *crimil*, v. Obs. [cf. prec.] *trans.* ? To plait, to crimp.

1377 LANGE. P. Pl. B. xv. 232 Ac in riche robes rather he walketh, Ycalled and ycrimled [v.r. i-crymeled, y-crymled, ycrymaylid, crymailed] and his crowne shaue.

† *cremitoried*, ppl. a. Obs. (Meaning obscure.) 1608 MIDDLETON *Trick to catch iv. v.* Out, you babliaminy, you unfeathered cremitoried quean, you culliance of scabiosity.

cremmyn, obs. form of CRAM v.

Cremnitz ('kremnits). Also *Kremnitz*. [f. *Kremnitz* (formerly also *Cremnitz*), the German name of Kremnica, a town of eastern Czechoslovakia (formerly Körmöczbánya, Hungary).] Used *attrib.* to designate a white lead pigment used as a paint base.

1874 A. A. FESQUET *tr. Riffault's Manuf. Colors* ii. 56 The Clichy or chemical white lead is less dense and possesses less body than the Kremnitz white. 1880 W. J. MUCKLEY *Char. & Use Colours* 28 *Cremnitz White*, is sometimes known as Vienna White. It is very bright in appearance, even surpassing Flake White, but not so dense in body. It is a preparation of lead. 1934 H. HILIER *Technique of Painting* ii. 99 *White lead*, the most important pigment in general use in the fine arts at the present time. It is also called... *Cremnitz White*.

cremnophobia (kremnəu'fəubiə). Path. [mod.L., f. Gr. *κρημνός* overhanging cliff: see -PHOBIA.] A morbid dread of precipices or steep places.

1903 in DORLAND *Med. Dict.* (ed. 3). 1908 G. B. SHAW *Sanity of Art* 97 [Nordau] is started off by the termination 'phobia' with a string of Agoraphobia..., Belenophobia, Cremnophobia.

cremocarp ('kreməukə:p). Bot. [irreg. f. Gr. *κρεμα-* to hang, *κρεμαστός* suspended, hanging + *καρπός* fruit.] A species of fructification, occurring in the Umbelliferae, in which the simple inferior fruit divides into two indehiscent one-seeded mericarps, which remain for some time suspended by their summits from the central axis.

1866 in *Treas. Bot.* 345. 1870 BENTLEY *Bot.* 312 The Cremocarp is an inferior, dry, indehiscent, two-celled, two-seeded fruit. 1885 BENNETT & DYER *Sachs' Bot.* II. v. 537 A Cremocarp, where the fruit breaks up into two one-seeded halves or mericarps by the splitting of the dissepiment or 'carphophore' along its length.

*Cremona*¹ ('kri:məunə). Name of a town in Lombardy, where the art of violin-making reached its highest perfection in the 17th and early 18th century. *attrib.* Pertaining to or made at Cremona, as in *Cremona fiddle*, *school*, *violin*; *absol.* A violin made there. Also (from Fr.) † *Cremonese*. Hence *Cremonese* a.

1762 STERNE *Tr. Shandy* v. xv. 68 I'll stake my Cremona to a Jew's trumpet. 1784 SHERIDAN *Life of Swift* (T.). A lady whisking about her long train... threw down and broke a fine Cremona fiddle. 1798 HARRINGTON *Retort Courteous*, 'Twas thieving Pindar, 'tis well known, Swindled his Godship's old Cremona. 1875 EMBESON *Let. & Soc. Aims* Quot. 87 *Orig. Wks.* (Bohn) III. 214 The Bible... is like an old Cremona; it has been played upon by the devotion of thousands of years. 1880 P. DAVID in *Grove Dict. Mus.* I. 416 'A Cremona', or 'a Cremonese violin' is often incorrectly used for an old Italian instrument of any make.

*cremona*². [Corruption of KRUMMHORN, CROMORNE.] An organ reed-stop of 8-foot tone.

1660 *Specif. of Organ*, Whitehall in Grove *Dict. Mus.* II. 501 Choir Organ... 14. Cremona. 1880 P. DAVID in *Grove Dict. Mus.* I. 416 'Cremona', as applied to an organ stop, is a mere ignorant corruption of 'Krumhorn'. 1880 E. J. HOPKINS *ibid.* II. 74 Krumhorn (i.e. crooked-horn), Cromorne, Cremona. The Cremonas in the organs built by Father Smith (1660)... were doubtless 'voiced' to imitate the... now obsolete crooked-horn.

|| *cremor*. In 7 *cremour*. [a. L. *cremor* thick juice obtained by steeping, pressure, or decoction, broth, pap (f. related to *cremare* to burn), and obs. F. *cremeur* 'a creamie or milkie disposition or humor' (Cotgr.), where the sense is app. influenced by *crème* cream.]

a. A thick juice or decoction; a liquid of this consistency: a broth, pap. b. By erroneous association with F. *crème*, CREAM sb.², a scum gathering on the top of a liquid.

1657 TOMLINSON *Renou's Disp.* 163 Of their cremour may be made a certain sorbice. 1657 *Phys. Dict.*, *Cremor*, the top or flower of any liquor or cream of milk, yeast, the juice of steeped barley, &c. 1691 RAY *Creation* (1714) 27 The food is swallowed into the stomach, where, mingled with dissolvent juices, it is reduced into a Chyle or Cremor. 1757 WALKER in *Phil. Trans.* L. 128 When the water was exposed for some days to the air, there was a cremor separated from it of a shining chalybeate colour. 1851-60 MAYNE *Expos. Lex.*, *Cremor*, cream; also, any substance floating on, and skimmed from the surface of a fluid; also, a thick decoction of barley.

c. *cremor of tartar* (= *cremor tartari*): cream of tartar; see CREAM sb.² 4.

1656 RIDGLEY *Pract. Physick* 201, Cremor Tartar dissolved in steed Wine. 1756 NUGENT *Gr. Tour, France* IV. 16 The chief commodities of this country... verdigrease, cremor tartari, &c.

cremorine (organ-stop): see CROMORNE.

cremosin, -oysin, *cremsin*, -ysyn, *cremussy*, obs. ff. CRIMSON, CRAMOISY.

† *cremp*, v. Obs. rare. [Only known in early ME.; prob. a. MDu. or LG. *kremp-en* (:-*kramp-jan*), causal of *krimp-en*; cf. CRAMP.] *trans.* To contract, restrain.

a 1290 *Owl & Night*. 1785 3ef the thynch that ich mcrempre, Thou stond ayein and do me cremenpe. [*Ibid.* 509 A sumere chorles awedeth, And vorcrempeth, and vorbredeth.]

cren, obs. Sc. form of CRANE.

|| *crena* ('krina). Bot., Zool., etc. [mod.L. *crēna* incision, notch, corresp. to It. *crena* notch, nocke (Florio, 1598), F. *crene*, *crenne* (16th c.); R. Estienne *Petit Dict.* 1543 has 'un cren ou crenne, crena'.

The history of this word is very obscure; *L. crēna* incision, notch, was formerly read in Pliny, H. N. xi. 37. 68 § 180; but it is now held to be an error, so that the word remains without ancient support. But the word, with its derivative *crēnātus*, has been used freely in mod.L. since the 16th c. From same date F. has also *cren*, *cran* sb., and *crener* v., *créné* pa. pple. An earlier date for the vb. is implied by the sb. *crēde* (:-*crēnāta*) = 'crenel', and *creneure* (:-*crēnātura*) creature, 12th c. in Godef. For *cren* a still higher antiquity is implied by the diminutives *crenet* and *crenel* (12th c. in Littré); see CRENEL. Herewith Diez associates also Rumanach *crema*, Lombardian *crena*, Piedm. *cran*. But the origin of *crena* remains uncertain.]

1. An indentation, a notch; *spec.* in Bot. one of the notches on a toothed or crenated leaf; *Anat.* the depression or groove between the buttocks; the longitudinal groove on the anterior and posterior surface of the heart (*Syd. Soc. Lex.*).

2. A crenated tooth, a scallop; *spec.* in Bot. a round or convex tooth on the margin of a leaf, etc., = CRENATURE, CRENEL; *Entom.* a rounded raised mark resembling a wrinkle on a surface or margin; *Anat.* each of the serrations on the edge of the external table of the cranial bones by which these fit together in the sutures (*Syd. Soc. Lex.*).

crenate ('krinət), sb. Chem. [f. CREN-IC + -ATE.] A salt of crenic acid.

1838 T. THOMSON *Chem. Org. Bodies* 152 Crenate of manganese. 1863-72 WATTS *Dict. Chem.* II. 103 The apocrenates of the alkalis resemble the crenates, excepting that they are black.

So 'crenated a.

1838 T. THOMSON *Chem. Org. Bodies* 152 Crenated peroxide of iron. Obtained when crenic acid is mixed with a neutral sulphated peroxide or chloride of iron.

crenate ('krinēt), a. Bot., Zool., etc. [ad. mod.L. *crēnātus*, f. CRENA. Junius *Nomenclator* 1577 has 'Folium crenatum, pinnatum, feuille crenée'.] Having the edge notched or toothed with rounded teeth; finely scalloped.

1794 MARTYN *Roussau's Bot.* xxii. 307 Cat-mint has the middle division of the lower lip [of the corolla] crenate. 1836 TODD *Cycl. Anat.* I. 711/2 When these projections and notches are very fine, the shell is said to be crenate. 1870 BENTLEY *Bot.* 152 When the teeth are rounded the leaf is crenate.

b. In comb. = CRENATO-.

1870 HOOKER *Stud. Flora* 129 Leaves... crenate-dentate. *Ibid.* 330 Leaves... shining, crenate-serrate, ciliate.

Hence 'crenately adv.

1864 T. MOORE *Brit. Ferns* 47 Lobes of the pinnae... with... a crenately toothed margin.

'*crenate*, v. rare. [f. CRENATE a.; cf. 16th c. F. *crénér*.] To produce crenations; to 'mill' the edge of (coin).

1868 SEYD *Bullion* 270 The stamping and crenating are done at one stroke.

crenated ('krinētid), ppl. a.

1. Bot., Zool., etc. = CRENATE a.

1688 R. HOLME *Armoury* II. 115/1 Crenated Leaves [are] such as are jagged and notched. 1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* (1828) IV. xxxviii. 39 The margin of the lips is crenated. 1857 BIRCH *Anc. Pottery* (1858) I. 83 Flat plate beads... which occasionally are crenated.

† 2. = CRENELLATED. Obs. rare.

1822 J. HODGSON in J. Raine *Mem.* (1857) I. 401 Crenated battlements.

crenation ('kri:nēʃən). Bot., Zool., etc. [f. CRENATE: see -ATION.] A crenated formation; a rounded toothing, e.g. on the margin of a leaf or shell; scalloping; a crenature.

1846 DANA *Zooph.* (1848) 490 The polyps... have twelve short tentacles... In some species they are mere crenations to the disk. 1875 H. C. WOOD *Therap.* (1879) 317 A well-marked stellar crenation. 1884 BOWER & SCOTT *De Bary's Phaner.* 376 In many teeth and crenations of the leaf.

crenato- ('kri:nētəu), combining form of mod.L. *crēnātus* CRENATE; crenately, crenate-.

1845 LINDLEY *Sch. Bot.* vii. (1858) 124 Leaves... doubly and evenly crenato-serrate. 1846 DANA *Zooph.* (1848) 304 It is represented as crenato-denticulate [= crenately-toothed]. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 346 *Crenato-serrate*, when serratures are convex, and not straight.

crenate ('krenat(r), 'kri:n-). *Bot. & Zool.* [f. mod.L. *crēnāt-us* + -URE: cf. OF. *creneure*.] A rounded tooth or denticulation on the margin of a leaf, etc. Also sometimes applied to the notches or indentations between the teeth.

1816 Kirby & Sp. *Entomol.* (1843) I. 380 Mining into the very crenations between the two surfaces of the leaf. 1845 LINDLEY *Sch. Bot.* iv. (1858) 26 Leaves 3-lobed, with ovate, rounded crenatures. 1872 OLIVER *Elem. Bot.* II. 177 The leaves... produce young plants from buds originating in the notches (crenatures) of the margin.

crenel, **crenelle** ('krenal, kri:'nel), *sb.* Forms: 5 (*pl.* *creneaux*, *creneaux*), 8-9 crenel, 9 crenel, -ell(e). [a. OF. (12th c.) *crenel*, *pl.* *creneaux* (mod.F. *crēneau*, -*eaux*). OF. variants were *kernel*, *karnel*, whence also Eng. CARNEL, KERNEL q.v. The Fr. word is app. dim. of *cren*, *cran* notch (of which however Littré has no example before 15th c.); see CRENA and cf. CRANNY.]

1. One of the open spaces or indentations alternating with the merlons or cops of an embattled parapet, used for shooting or launching projectiles upon the enemy; an embrasure: see BATTLEMENT. In *pl.* = Battlements, embattled parapet.

1481 CAXTON *Godfrey* 179 It should be fasted to the creneaux of the wall, with good and stronge crochets of yron. *Ibid.* cxx. 181 Thence cam to the creneaux, and put out his heede and called his people. 1774 T. WEST *Antiq. Furness* (1805) 371 The walls... in most castles, were topped by a parapet, and a kind of embrasures called crenels. 1813 SCOTT *Triumf.* III. ix, Crenell and parapet appear. 1819 Leg. *Montrose* 2. The... palisades should be artificially framed with re-entering angles and loop-holes, or crenels, for musketry. 1877 DIXON *Diana* II. vii. 1. 174 A high curtain of masonry, pierced by many windows, some mere crenels of defence, others embayed and mullioned.

2. *Bot.* = CRENATION, CRENEURE. 1835 LINDLEY *Introd. Bot.* (1848) I. 271 When the... teeth are rounded, they become crenels.

crenel ('krenal), *v.* *rare.* Also **crennel**. [a. F. *crēnel*, *r.* OF. *crenel*: see prec. Cf. the parallel forms CARNEL, KERNEL.] *trans.* a. To embattle, to crenellate; also *fig.* See also CRENNELLED. †b. To indent the edge of (a coin), *obs.*

[1330, 1377, see CRENNELLED. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* I. 753 Licence to fortify and kernel his mansion house.] 1697 Evelyn *Numism.* vii. 225 Crenelling of the small and thinner [monies]. 1840 BROWNING *Sordello* I. 284 The rannel slipped, Elate with rains... He... yet trod... on the stubs of living rock Ages ago it crenelled. 1883 H. E. JERNINGHAM *Norham Castle* 170 A special licence... for the towers to be crenelled.

crenelet ('krenilet), *rare.* [f. CRENEL *sb.* + -ET¹.] A small crenel or embrasure.

1860 READE *Cloister & H.* xliii. II. 278 With far more freedom... than they could shoot... through the sloping crenelets of the higher towers.

crenellate, -elate ('krenslait), *v.* [f. F. *crēnel-er* + -ATE. The *l* has been doubled partly after *crennellad*; partly perh. after assumed L. **crenella*, dim. of *crēna*.] *trans.* To furnish with battlements, to embattle; to furnish with embrasures or loopholes.

1841 TURNER *Dom. Archit.* 157 note, Laurence de Ludlow had licence to crenellate his mansion of Stoke-Say. 1877 CLERY *Min. Tact.* xvii. 261 Walls that have been loopholed or crenellated afford material aid.

Hence **crenellated**, **crenellated** *ppl. a.*, **embattled**.

1823 CRABB *Technol. Dict.*, *Crenellated parapet* (Fort.). 1848 LYTTON *Harold* IV. vii, Crenellated castles. 1869 tr. *Leomont's Anc. Hist. East I.* iv. 459 The roofs of Assyrian edifices were flat and terraced, surrounded by a crenellated battlement. *transf.* 1881 *Athenaeum* 4 June 754 Crenellated mountain tops half clad in snow.

crenellation, -elation ('krenslaitən). *sb.*

1. The action of crenellating or providing with battlements; the condition of being crenellated.

1874 STUBBS *Const. Hist.* (1875) III. xxi. 536 The fortification or crenellation of these houses or castles.

2. *concr.* Embattled work; a battlement. 1849 LYTTON *Caxtons* XII. vi. (D.), Octavo ramparts flanked with quarto crenellations. 1864 BURTON *Scot. Abr.* I. v. 294 The Scots laird... perched projecting crenellations or bastions on the top corners of his tower.

3. A notch or indentation.

In mod. Dicts.

|| **crenellé**, -elée, *a.* *Her. Obs.* [a. F. *crenelé* CRENNELLED.] Having the edge indented like a battlement; EMBATTLED.

1586 FERNÉ *Blaz. Gentrie* 179 These bendes... are notched or nicked which thing the French worde Crenelle doth very aptlye signifie. 1610 GUILLIM *Heraldry* II. v. (1632) 65 Hee beareth Gules, a Cheefe Crenelle, Argent.

crennelled, **orennelled** ('krenneld), *ppl. a.* [f. CRENEL *v.* + -ED. Cf. F. *crēnelé* (12th c. in Littré).]

1. Embattled, crenellated; having embrasures. [1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 14646 Castels... breteux and crenelled. 1377 LANGL. P. Pl. B. vi. 78 See KERNELED.] 1832 *Blackw. Mag.* XXXI. 787 Crenelled

battlements. 1863 KINGLAKE *Crimea* (1877) IV. xiii. 355 with a crenelled wall for muskets.

2. Having a notched or indented edge; in *Bot.* = CRENATE *a.*

1727 BRADLEY *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Elder Tree*, Leaves... sticking to short stalks, and crenell'd on the Edges. 1769 Char. in *Ann. Reg.* 361 An instrument with a crenelled edge. 1836 Penny *Cycl.* V. 242 The calyx is five lobed... the disk a fleshy crenelled cup.

crengle, *obs. form of CRINGLE.*

crenic ('kri:nik), *a.* *Chem.* [f. Gr. *κρήνη* spring, fountain + -IC.] In *crenic acid*, an organic acid, existing, according to Berzelius, in vegetable mould, and in ochreous deposits of ferruginous waters. (Watts.)

1838 T. THOMSON *Chem. Org. Bodies* 147 Crenic Acid was discovered by Berzelius in the year 1832. 1863-72 WATTS *Dict. Chem.* II. 103 Mulder represents crenic acid by the formula C₁₂H₁₂O₈.

crenitic ('kri:nitik), *a.* *Geol.* [f. Gr. *κρήνη* spring of water + -ITE + -IC.] (See quot.)

1884 T. STERRY HUNT in *Trans. R. Soc. Canada* II. III. 35 This newly proposed explanation of the origin of crystalline rocks, through the action of springs bringing up mineral matters from below, might be called the *crenitic* hypothesis, from the Greek *κρήνη*, a fountain or spring. 1886 *Ibid.* IV. III. 21 As a result of this continued process, the crenitic products themselves will naturally show a diminution in the proportion of silica and potash. *Ibid.* 35 The enormous thickness of crenitic rocks which... make up the pre-Cambrian terranes.

crenkled, *obs. form of CRINKLED.*

crennel, *var. of CRENEL.*

crenulatus, *f. crenula*, dim. of *crēna* (see CRENA) + -ATE¹. In mod.F. *crēnulé*.] 1. *Zool. and Bot.* Having the edge divided into minute rounded teeth; finely notched or scalloped: said of a leaf, a shell, etc.

1794 MARTYIN *Rousseau's Bot.* xxvii. 414 The second has the lip of the nectary crenulate. 1846 DANA *Zooph.* (1848) 136 Margin of base crenulate. 1872 OLIVER *Elem. Bot.* App. 309 Lower petal... 3-lobed... lateral lobes usually... crenulate.

2. *Geogr.* Of a shoreline: having many small irregular bays formed by the action of waves on softer rock.

1910 D. W. JOHNSON *Shore Processes* vi. 278 Early in the youth of the shoreline the curves will be changed to sharply and irregularly crenulate lines by differential wave erosion. We may call a shoreline of this character a crenulate shoreline. 1937 WOODBRIDGE & MORGAN *Physical Basis Geogr.* xxi. 249 All variations in rock hardness, and divisional planes, are picked out by the waves, and the line of the exposed portions of the shore becomes complex or crenulate. 1967 D. G. FRY tr. *Zenkovich's Processes Coastal Devel.* viii. 492 A crenulate coastline often develops in igneous rocks, where there is alternation of veins and dykes of different compositions, and of zones of jointing.

crenulated ('krenju:letid), *ppl. a.* *Zool. and Bot.* [f. as prec. + -ED.] = prec.

1807 ROXBURGH in *Asiatic Res.* IX. 380 A fleshy crenulated cup. 1870 BENTLEY *Bot.* 152 When the leaf is minutely crenated it is said to be crenulated.

crenulation ('krenju:'leifən), *Zool. and Bot.* [f. as prec. + -ATION.] A crenulated formation; a minute rounded marginal tooth or crenation.

1846 DANA *Zooph.* (1848) 391 The lamellæ are marginal crenulations. 1881 R. B. WATSON in *Jrnl. Linn. Soc.* XV. 452 Forming on the upper whorls infrastatural crenulations.

crenulato-, combining form of mod.L. *crēnulātus* CRENNELLED; cf. CRENATO-

1846 DANA *Zooph.* (1848) 247 Lamellæ crenulato-dentate. 1852 — *Crust.* I. 300 Carapax transversely crenulato-lineolate.

creodont ('kri:ədont), *Palæont.* [f. mod.L. *Creodonta* (E. D. Cope 1875, in *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia* 1875, 446), f. Gr. *κρέας* flesh + *δόντις*, *δόντις* tooth.] A member of the Creodonta, a sub-order of extinct carnivorous mammals, which lived during the Palæocene, Eocene, and Oligocene epochs. Also *attrib.* or *as adj.*

1891 FLOWER & LYDEKKER *Mammals* 607 The more typical Creodonts appear... to be... closely related to the true Carnivora. 1903 H. JOHNSTON *Brit. Mammals* 115 No Creodont... has ever been discovered which possessed more than three true molars. *Ibid.* 188 The Creodont Carnivores. 1968 A. S. ROMER *Procession of Life* xv. 245 The Palæocene and Eocene epochs... saw the rise of a variety of archaic flesh-eaters, often grouped (there were several families of them) as the creodonts.

creoice, -oise, -oix, -oiz: see CROISE *v.*, CROSS.

creoicerie, *var. CROISERIE Obs.*, crusade.

Creole ('kri:əul), *sb., a.* Also 7-8 *criole*. [a. F. *créole*, ad. Sp. *criollo*, native to the locality, 'country'; believed to be a colonial corruption of **criadillo*, dim. of *criado* 'bred, brought up, reared, domestic', pa. pple. of *criar* to breed, etc.:—L. *creare* to CREATE. According to some 18th c. writers originally applied by S.

American negroes to their own children born in America as distinguished from negroes freshly imported from Africa; but D'Acosta, 1590, applies it to Spaniards born in the W. Indies.]

A. *sb.* In the West Indies and other parts of America, Mauritius, etc.: *orig.* A person born and naturalized in the country, but of European (usually Spanish or French) or of African Negro race: the name having no connotation of colour, and in its reference to origin being distinguished on the one hand from born in Europe (or Africa), and on the other hand from aboriginal.

a. But now, usually, = *creole white*, a descendant of European settlers, born and naturalized in those colonies or regions, and more or less modified in type by the climate and surroundings.

The local use varies: in the European colonies of the W. Indies it is usually applied to the descendants of any Europeans there naturalized; in Mauritius to the naturalized French population. It is not now used of the people of Spanish race in the independent South American states, though sometimes of the corresponding natives of Mexico, and in the U.S. it is applied only to the French-speaking descendants of the early French settlers in Louisiana, etc.

1604 E. GRIMSTONE tr. *D'Acosta's Hist. W. Indies* IV. xxv. 278 Some Crollos (for so they call the Spaniards borne at the Indies). 1697 DAMPIER *Voy.* (1698) I. iv. 68 An English Native of St. Christophers, a Crole, as we call all born of European Parents in the West Indies. 1737 *Common Sense* (1738) I. 280 As to his Birth and Parentage, I cannot say whether he is a Native American or a Crole, nor is it material. 1760-72 tr. *Juan & Ulloa's Voy.* (ed. 3) I. i. iv. 27 The Whites may be divided into two classes, the Europeans, and Creoles, or Whites born in the Country. *Ibid.* II. ix. vii. 375 (Nova Scotia) French families, some Europeans, and others Creoles of the place itself and from... Newfoundland. 1832 MARRYAT N. *Forster* xx. [She] was a Creole—that is, born in the West Indies, of French parents. 1836 W. IRVING *Astoria* (1849) 199 A French Creole; one of those haphazard wights of Gallic origin, who abound upon our frontier, living among the Indians like one of their own race. 1864 *Sat. Rev.* 21 May, [In Mexico] there are about a million... Creoles: that is, whites of pure Spanish extraction.

b. Now less usually = *creole negro*: A negro born in the West Indies or America, as distinguished from one freshly imported from Africa.

1748 *Earthquake of Peru* iii. 240 Criellos signifies one born in the Country; a Word made by the Negroes, who give it to their own Children born in those Parts. 1760-72 tr. *Juan & Ulloa's Voy.* (ed. 3) I. i. iv. 31 The class of Negroes is... again subdivided into Creoles and Bozars. 1863 BATES *Nat. Amazon* i. (1864) 19 The term 'Creole' is confined to negroes born in the country.

2. A creolized language.

1879 L. HEARN *Creole Sk.* (1924) 54, I explicate myself to her, and she tell me in Creole—[etc.]. 1958 C. F. HOCKETT *Course Mod. Ling.* xlix. 423 There are several examples of creoles in the Caribbean area, spoken largely by the descendants of escaped Negro slaves. 1962 *Listener* 22 Nov. 868/3 A number of people working on Creoles met in Jamaica in 1959, and agreed to adopt Robert Hall's distinction between Creoles and Pidgins: a Pidgin is a first-generation *lingua franca*, spoken by everybody as a second language; when in subsequent generations it becomes the first language of a community, it is a Creole. 1965 *Tablet* 22 May 587/2 Haiti, it appears, may soon have its vernacular, Creole, in the Mass. They already have a Creole missal... Chants, responses, and readings in Creole are to be found in it.

B. *attrib. or adj.*

1. a. Of persons: Born and naturalized in the West Indies, etc., but of European (or negro) descent; see A. Now chiefly applied to the native whites in the West Indies, the native French population in Louisiana, Mauritius, etc.

1748 *Earthquake of Peru* iii. 230 A Crole Negro-Woman. 1771 SMOLLETT *Humph. Cl.* (1815) 34 Two negroes, belonging to a Creole gentleman, who... began to practise upon the French-horn. 1827 O. W. ROBERTS *Centr. Amer.* 28 Creole descendants of Spanish adventurers. 1862 J. M. LUDLOW *Hist. U.S.* 316 note, There are creole whites, creole negroes, creole horses, &c.; and creole whites are, of all persons, the most anxious to be deemed of pure white blood.

b. Of animals and plants: Bred or grown in the West Indies, etc., but not of indigenous origin.

1760-72 tr. *Juan & Ulloa's Voy.* (ed. 3) I. i. iv. vii. 162 The criollo or natural bread being unripe plantains... roasted.] *Ibid.* II. vii. 17 Fruits... of the Creole kind, being European fruits planted there, but which have undergone considerable alterations from the climate. 1836 MACGILLIVRAY tr. *Humboldt's Trav.* xiv. 168 Three species of sugar-cane, the old Creole, the Oratehan, and the Batavian. 1885 LADY BRASSEY *The Trades* 263 The active little animals known as 'creole' horses.

2. Belonging to or characteristic of a Creole.

1828 G. W. BRIDGES *Ann. Jamaica* II. x. 9 A trait in the Creole character. 1839-40 W. IRVING *Wolfer's R.* (1855) 27 In an old French creole village. 1884 W. H. BISHOP in *Harper's Mag.* Mar. 516/2 The people speak creole French.

3. *Comb.*, as **creole-crab**, a West Indian species of crab.

1756 P. BROWNE *Jamaica* (1779) 422 The larger hairy Creole-Crab with prickly claws.

Creolian ('kri:əliən), *sb. and a. ? Obs.* Also 8 **criolian**, 9 **creolian**. [f. CREOLE + -IAN.]

†A. *sb.* = CREOLE A. *Obs.*

1702 *Paradoxes of State* 13 The American Creolians. 1748 *Earthquake of Peru* iii. 239 The Spaniards... born in America of white Parents, who are called Crioli or Criolians. 1766

GOLDSM. *Vic. W. xx*. The moment... a Creolian arrives from Jamaica. I strike for a subscription. 1827 SCOTT Napoleon II. This lady was a Creolian.

B. adj. = CREOLE B. ? Obs.

1726 SHELVOCKE *Voy. round World* 66 A mixed breed of Creolian Spaniards. 1793 GODWIN *Polit. Just.* (1796) II. 94 Born a manorial serf or a Creolian negro. 1848 ANDERSON *Creoleana* Pref. The customs... of Creolian society.

'creolism. [f. CREOLE + -ISM.] The fact of being a Creole; Creole descent.

1788 J. RAMSAY *Object. Abol. Slave Tr. Answ.* (ed. 2) 49 The farther back the negro could trace his Creolism, the more he valued himself. 1812 *Ann. Reg.* (1810) 596 They [negroes] feel pride and consequence in being born in a new hemisphere, and conceive that to Creolism is attached a degree of dignity. 1893 *Athenaeum* 7 Oct. 484/1 Though he had been born in Misiones (Paraguay), yet, as the son of a lieutenant-governor of a department and removed to Spain at an early age, he did not suffer from the disabilities of creolism.

creolization. (kri:əlaɪzəʃən). [f. next + -ATION.] a. The production of a Creole race; racial modification in the case of Creole animals or plants.

1890 Harper's *Mag.* Feb. 416/1 Those extraordinary influences of climate and environment which produce the phenomena of creolization.

b. The fact or process of being creolized.

1934 PRIESCH & COLLINSON *German Lang.* I. ii. 35 The complete Creolization of Afrikaans has been prevented by contact with the Dutch of the Bible and literature. 1958 P. GAMMOND et al. *Decca Bk. Jazz* xxi. 262 Lytell... recorded three brilliant Creole-styled versions of Tin Pan Alley songs... all... of which, by a process of 'Creolization', became better jazz than many a so-called New Orleans tune recorded... by revivalists. 1969 *Language* XLV. 659 Its incipient creolization provides scholars with a unique opportunity to observe the dynamics of linguistic change.

'creolize. v. [f. CREOLE + -IZE.]

1. *intr.* 'To do' the Creole: see quot.
1818 J. M'LEOD *Voy. of Alcides* 280 The ladies... generally creolized the whole day in a delectable state of apathy... Creolizing is an easy and elegant mode of lounging in a warm climate.

2. a. *trans.* To render Creole; to naturalize in the West Indies or adjacent regions.

1834 T. WENTWORTH *West India Sketch Bk.* II. 219 Those... have become creolized, or removed from the physical characteristics of the African.

b. *Philol.* To make into a creolized language.
1958 C. F. HOCKETT *Course Mod. Ling.* xlix. 423 An artificial language... can be creolized. 1964 *English Studies* XLV. 383 The English dialects were never creolized.

creolized (kri:əlaɪzd), *ppl. a.* [-ED.] 1. Naturalized in the West Indies or Louisiana.

1880 G. W. CABLE *Grandissimes* iii. 20 The most thoroughly Creolized American.

2. **creolized language:** a language which has developed from that of a dominant group, first being used as a second language, then becoming the usual language of a subject group, its sounds, grammar, and vocabulary being modified in the process.

1932 W. L. GRAFF *Lang. p.* xxxiv. *Creolized language*, a language of a civilized people, especially European, mixed with that of one or more savage tribes. 1933 BLOOMFIELD *Language* xxvi. 474 In some cases... a subject group gives up its native language in favour of a jargon... When the jargon has become the only language of the subject group, it is a creolized language. 1949 *Archivum Linguisticum* I. ii. 155 It is likewise undeniable... in the formation of pidginized languages and of their developments into creolized languages.

creop. obs. form of CREEP.

creophagous (kri:'bʌgəs), *a.* Also *kreo-*. [f. Gr. *kreophāgōs* (f. *kreos*, *kreo-* flesh + *-phagōs* eating) + -OUS.] Flesh-eating; carnivorous. So **creophagist** (-dʒɪst), one who uses flesh as food; **creophagism** (-dʒɪz(ə)m), **creophagy** (-dʒɪ) [Gr. *kreophagia*], the eating of flesh.

1881 *Sat. Rev.* LII. 560 The average creophagist is by no means convinced that creophagy is the perfect way in diet. *Ibid.* 570 Kreophagism leads to alcoholism. *Ibid.* The ruling tribes and castes of Europe have invariably been creophagous. 1885 RAY LANKESTER in *Encycl. Brit.* XIX. 831/2 Exceptional creophagous Prototypes, parallel at a lower level of structure to the insectivorous Phanerogams.

creosol (kri:əsɒl). *Chem.* Also *creasol*. [f. CREOS(OTE) + -OL.] A colourless highly refracting liquid (C₈H₁₀O₂) with aromatic odour and burning taste, forming the chief constituent of creosote.

1863-72 WATTS *Dict. Chem.* II. 103 *Creosol*, the principal constituent of wood-creosote. 1873 — *Foynes' Chem.* 806 *Creosol* is a diatomic phenol from guaiacum.
Hence **'creosyl** (-YL), the radical of creosol, as in **creosyl chloride** C₈H₉OCl.

1872-9 WATTS *Dict. Chem.* VI. 595 *Creosyl chloride*... is a limpid strongly refracting oily liquid.

creosote (kri:əsəʊt), *sb.* Also *creasote*, *kreo-*, *krea-*. [mod. f. Gr. *kreos*, comb. form of *kréas* flesh + *σώζειν* to save: cf. *σωτήρ* saviour; the formation was intended to mean 'flesh-saving';

but the Gr. for this would have been *kreos(o)saōs*.]

1. A colourless oily liquid, of complex composition, with odour like that of smoked meat, and burning taste, obtained from the distillation of wood-tar, and having powerful antiseptic properties; discovered by Reichenbach in 1832.

1835 ELLIOTSON in *Trans. Med.-Chirurg. Soc.* 235 It is now a year since I began my trials of Creosote. 1860 G. H. K. *Vac. Tourist* 164 The creosote distilled from the peat soon rendered the fish safe from decay.

b. Sometimes commercially applied to CARBOLIC ACID, also distinguished as *coal-tar creosote*.

1863-72 WATTS *Dict. Chem.* IV. 389 Commercial creosote often consists almost entirely of phenol, but the true creosote, obtained by the distillation of wood, is a totally different substance.

2. *attrib. and Comb.*, as *creosote-oil*, *-tank*, *creosote-like* adj.; *creosote-bush*, *-plant*, a Mexican shrub (*Larrea mexicana*, N.O. *Zygophyllaceae*) having a strong smell of creosote.

1851 MAYNE REID *Scalp Hunt*. xxvi. We passed... thickets of creosote bushes. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 660 *Larrea mexicana*, the Creosote plant of the Americans... its strong creosote-like odour renders it so repulsive that no animal will touch it. 1889 G. FINDLAY *Eng. Railway* 46 Timber, into which creosote oil has been forced under pressure.

'creosote. v. [f. prec. sb.] *trans.* To impregnate with creosote, as a preservative.

1846 A. SUCKLING *Hist. Suffolk* 75 The timber being creosoted... to keep out the worm. 1881 WHITEHEAD *Hops* 37 The practice of creosoting the butt ends preserves them from decay.

Hence creosoted *ppl. a.*, *creosoting vbl. sb.*; **'creosoter**, one engaged in creosoting timber.

1862 *Rep. Directors E. Ind. Railw. Comp.* 16 Creosoted sleepers. 1863 *Reader* 14 Feb. If the method of creosoting were introduced in India. 1889 *East. Morning News* 12 Apr. 2/9 W. F. W. of Grimsby, late creosoter. 1892 *Daily News* 24 Feb. 6/3 The line... is laid upon piles of creosoted American pitch-pine.

creosotic, erroneous form of CRESOTIC.

crep. obs. pa. t. of CREEP.

crepan. error. f. TREPAN *sb.* and *v.*

crepance. *Farriery.* ? Obs. Also 7 pl. *crepanches*, 8 (*mispr.*) *crepane*. [In 17th c. *crepanches*, *crepances*, ad. It. *crepacci* pl., 'the scratches, cratches, or rats-tails in a horse... little chaps or rifts about the cronet of the horses' hoofs' (Florio, 1598), f. *crepare* to crack, chap:—L. *crepāre* to crack, etc.] A sore or wound on a horse's foot; see quot.

1610 MARKHAM *Masterp.* II. lxxxvi. 366 The Scratches, *Crepanches*, or *Rats-tails*... are long, scabby, dry chaps, or rifts... on the hinder legges, just from the fetlocke vnto the place of the Curbe. 1727 BRADLEY *Fam. Dict.* *Crepances*. Ulcers in the Fore-part of a Horse's foot... caused by a Hurt receiv'd in leaping over a Bar, or the like. 1755 JOHNSON, *Crepane* [a misprint copied in later Dicts.]. 1823 CRABBS *Techn. Dict.*, *Crepane* (Vet.), a chop, or scratch in a horse's leg... which often degenerates into an ulcer.

[**crepane.** Error for CREPANCE.]

1755 JOHNSON [citing *Farrier's Dict.*; but *The Farrier's and Horseman's Dictionary* by N.B., 1726, has *crepance*]. Hence in later Dicts.

†**'crepature.** Obs. [ad. L. *crepātura* fissure, crack, f. *crepāre* to crack, creak: see -URE.]

1. *Med.* a. A rupture, hernia; b. A wound, crack, or chap in the skin.

1400 *Lafranc's Cirurg.* 170 After þe tyme þat þe wounde were souted þere wolde leue a crepature. *Ibid.* 292 Cure cancris & festris & al maner crepaturis. 1582 HESTER *Secr. Phiorav.* II. xxi. 100 To helpe the crepature or chappes make this Unguent.

2. (See quot. App. some error.)

[1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Crepatura* (Lat.), a Term used by Apothecaries, for the boiling of Barley or any other thing 'till it crack. 1721 BAILEY, *Crepature* (in Physics) is when any thing is boiled till it cracks.]

crepaud (e-, -awnde, var. CRAPAUD, Obs.

|| **crêpe** (krep). [F. *crêpe*, in 16th c. *crêpe*:—L. *crispa* curled.] 1. The French word for CRAPE (used in that language in the early wider sense, and including *crêpe anglais*, which is called *crêpe* in English), often borrowed as a term for all crapy fabrics other than ordinary black mourning crêpe.

crêpe de chine (China crêpe), a white or other coloured crapy made of raw silk. *crêpe tisse*, smooth or glossy crêpe, which is not *crêpe* or wrinkled. Also *attrib.*

1797 Wynne *Diaries* 13 Jan. (1937) II. 151 After having equipped ourselves, the Bride and me, in a Nuptial garment, (white crêpe), we went to Lady Hamilton's. 1825 *Ladies Pocket Mag.* I. 140 Dress of white *crêpe-tisse*, trimmed at the border with an ornament of puckered tulle. 1872 *Young Englishwoman* Oct. 540/1 These tunics are also made of white crêpe de chine. 1881 *Truth* 10 May 686/2 A dress... of white crêpe, with silk embroidery of jasmine and honeysuckle. 1887 *Daily News* 11 May 5/8 This blossom-dress was lightly veiled with crêpe of wale rose-pink. 1887

Times (Weekly Ed.) 23 Sept. 15/4 A costume of pearl satin and crêpe de chine. 1907 *Daily Chron.* 15 July 8/4 The crêpe de soie... is of the plainer kind, without a printed border. 1909 *Westm. Gaz.* 6 Mar. 15/1 Crêpe éclair is a silken fabric. 1923 *Weekly Dispatch* 11 Feb. 15 This dinner gown of amber crêpe Romain. 1923 *Daily Mail* 14 Feb. 6 A very pretty gown of blue crêpe Romaine. *Ibid.* 19 Apr. 8 The bride's gown was of white crêpe perle. 1925 *Good Housekeeping* Apr. 124/1 The crêpe twist [of acetate silk]. 1925 E. SITWELL *Poor Young People* 3 Wear crêpe de Siam, bareges Isabelle. 1928 *Sunday Express* 8 July 3 Crêpe malika, a lovely material... is one of the few innovations which are finding favour with the most important dress artists. 1951 *Good Housek. Home Encycl.* 231/2 Dull-finished fabrics, such as crêpe suede.

2. In full **crêpe rubber**. India-rubber rolled into thin sheets with a corrugated surface.

1907 *Brit. Trade Jnl.* 1 Sept. in W. H. JOHNSON *Para Rubber* (ed. 2, 1909) 117 After the crêpe rubber has left the vacuum drier. *Ibid.* 118 The first packing of the crêpe in the box. 1909 W. H. JOHNSON *Para Rubber* (ed. 2) 114 The manufacture of crêpe rubber... consists in passing the freshly coagulated rubber through a washing machine. 1914 H. BROWN *Rubber* 75 The corrugated sheet known as crêpe... The crêpe rubber, after drying, is sometimes converted into blocks by submitting it to pressure in steel moulds. 1926 *Blackw. Mag.* Apr. 575/2 Coarser qualities of rubber are always made into crêpe. 1937 H. BARNON *Mod. Rubber Chem.* v. 55 Since the beginning of this century smoked sheet and pale crêpe have virtually monopolised the field of raw rubber as raw materials for manufacture. 1963 A. S. CRAIG *Rubber Technol.* iii. For crêpe rubber production the slabs are given much more severe treatment, being passed... through a series of mills the rolls of which are grooved and are turning at slightly different speeds.

3. A small, thin pancake. (Cf. CRISP *sb.* 3.) So **crêpe Suzette** (usu. in pl.), a pancake served in a hot sauce, often containing a liqueur.

1877 E. S. DALLAS *Kettner's Bk. of Table* 143 Crêpe.—The French for pancake. 1907 A. ESCOFFIER *Mod. Cookery* xx. 723 *Suzette Pancakes*. Make these from preparation A [basic recipe], flavoured with curaçao and tangerine juice. Coat them... with softened butter, flavoured with curaçao and tangerine juice. 1923 C. H. SENN *Luncheon & Dinner Sweets* 63 Pancakes à la Suzette. (Crêpes Suzette.) 1924 A. E. M. FOSTER *London Restaurants* 87 Crêpe Suzette is another special dish. 1928 *Vanity Fair* Sept. 31/1 Crêpes Suzettes are pancakes raised by Cunard to a remarkable point of perfection. 1931 *Good Housek. Cookery Bk.* (1957) 304/2 Add the liqueur and brandy to the sauce, and replace the folded crêpes in the pan. 1962 *Guardian* 27 Dec. 2/4 Henri Charpentier, creator of Crêpes Suzette... died at Redondo Beach, California, on Sunday, aged 81.

4. *Comb.*: **crêpe-hanger** U.S. slang = *cræpe-hanger* (CRAPE *sb.* 3b); **crêpe paper**, a thin crinkled paper resembling crêpe; **crêpe ring** *Astr.* = *cræpe ring* (CRAPE *sb.* 3b); **crêpe sole** [SOLE *sb.* 2], the underside of a shoe covered with crêpe rubber; so **crêpe-soled a.**

1930 N. & Q. CLIX. 119/1 In an American novel, the writer refers to a man as a mere 'crêpe-hanger'. *Ibid.* 232/1 A crêpe-hanger is the ultimate in depressing persons... The expression derives from the lugubrious undertaker's assistants who put up black decorations for a funeral. 1895 *Montgomery Ward Catal.* 123/3 Crêpe tissue paper. 1897 *Sears, Roebuck Catal.* 333/1 Assorted imported tissue, 2 pieces crêpe paper. 1903 K. D. WIGGIN *Rebecca* (1904) xiii. 140 The [lamp] shade... was of crinkled crêpe paper. 1915 *Chemists' Windows* 27 Crêpe paper or plain stiff materials have enough 'body' to remain in place. 1959 I. & P. ORIS *Lore & Lang. Schoolchildren* xiii. 258 The Maypoles consisted of a pram wheel decorated with crêpe paper and streamers. 1959 *Listener* 17 Sept. 420/1 The innermost ring, C, is more generally known as the Crêpe or Dusky Ring. 1926-7 *Armvy & Navy Stores Catal.* 654/1 The 'Glastonbury' Slipper Boot in buff sheepskins... thin crêpe sole. 1936 G. GREENE *Journey without Maps* III. iv. 267 A pair of gym shoes with crêpe soles. 1941 V. WOOLF *Between Acts* 232 Crêpe soles? They last much longer and protect the feet. 1935 *Hemingway Green Hills Afr.* (1936) I. i. 22 We went quietly. I had on these crêpe-soled boots. 1953 H. CLEVELY *Public Enemy* x. 62 He... put on... a pair of crêpe-soled sandals.

Hence **crêpe v.** [F. *crêper*], to frizz, to put up in curl-papers. **crêpe a.** [F.], frizzed. **crêpy a.** (also **crêpey**, **crêpey**), of the nature of crêpe; resembling crêpe.

1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xl. It was a pity to waste so much paper, which might crepe hair, pin up bonnets, and serve many other useful purposes. 1828 LYTTON *Pelham* I. xvi. 113 Her own grey hair crêpe, and surmounted by a high cap of the most dazzling blonde. 1862 H. MARRYAT *Year in Sweden* II. 41 Grayish hair, frizzed, in short curly curls. 1892 *Pall Mall G.* 23 June 1/3 A full vest of white crêpy stuff. 1941 C. McCULLERS in *55 Short Stories* fr. N. Yorker (1952) 320 The jockey... scrutinized the room with pinched, crêpy eyes. 1946 E. TAYLOR *Palladian* vii. 69 The inside of her arm showed grey and crêpy. 1959 P. H. JOSEPH *Humble Creation* xlii. 281 The skin of her throat seemed to her a little crêpy, so she massaged it with cold cream.

crepe, crepel, -ill, obs. ff. CREEP, CRIPPLE.

crêpeline (k'reipəlin). Also *crêpoline*. [Fr., dim. of *crêpe* CRÊPE.] A light thin material of silk, or silk and wool, used for women's dresses.

1873 *Young Englishwoman* Apr. 202/2 Crêpeline, a material only to be found at the Halle des Indes [in Paris]. 1882 CAULFIELD & SAWARD *Dict. Needlework* 93/2 *Crêpeline*, *Crêpon*, or *Crêpe Cloth*, a dress material, having a silken surface, much resembling crêpe, but considerably thicker. 1898 *Daily News* 10 Dec. 6/3 Another novelty is crêpeline cloth... as soft as cashmere. 1909 *Westm. Gaz.* 9 Oct. 15/1 Crêpelines, silk combined with wool.

crepidarian (krepi'deərian), *a.* *nonce-wd.* [f. *L. crepidari-us* shoemaker + *-AN-*.] Of or pertaining to a shoemaker.

1819 *L. HUNT Indicator* No. 8 (1822) I. 64 His crepidarian sculptures indeed are not so well.

† **crepine**, **crepin(e)**. *Obs.* Also 6 crispynne, krippin, creppin, 6-7 cripin. [a. OF. *crepine*, mod. F. *crépine* (Pr. *crépine*). f. *crépe*, *crêpe*: see CRÊPE, CRAPE.]

1. *a.* A net or caul (of gold or silver thread, silk lace, etc.) for the hair, formerly worn by ladies. *b.* A part of a hood. *c.* A fringe of lace or network for a dais, baldachin, bed, etc.

1532 *Dewes Invid. Pr. in Paisgr.* 907 The crispynnes, les crepines. 1596 *ADOLPHUS Apuleius* II. ix. (1596) 25 Divers (... to show their grace and feature) will cast off their pericles, collars, habiliments, frontes, cornets and krippins. 1578 *Gifts to Queen in Nicholas Progr.* II. 73 By the Lady Ratclif, five creppins of lawne. 1594 *LYLY Mydas* I. ii. Earrings, borders, cripins, shadows. 1611 *COTGR.* Crepine, the Crepine of a French hood. 1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Mandello's Trav. E. Ind.* 64 On their heads they [Guzuratta women] have only a thin cap, or cover them with a crepine of Lawn wrought with Gold. 1708 *MORTHEUX Rabelais* IV. iii. (1737) 214 The Creppins of their Hoods, their Ruffles. 1721 C. KING *Brit. Merch.* II. 230 Beds, Matresses, Hangings, Coverlets, Quilts, Creppins, Fringes, and Molets of Silk. 1860 *FAIRHOLT Costume Gloss.* Crepine, the golden net-caul worn by ladies in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. The crepine still exists in name and fact in Italy.

2. *Cookery.* See quot. [Cf. F. *crépine* the caul enveloping the viscera of an animal.]

1726 *Dict. Rust.* (ed. 3) *Crepine*, a sort of farce wrapp'd up in a Veal caul.

crépinette (kreip'ni:t). [Fr., dim. of *crépine*: see CREPINE 2.] Minced meat with sauce or farce, wrapped in pieces of pork caul.

1877 E. S. DALLAS *Kettner's Bk. Table* 143 *Crépinette*, a flat sausage enveloped in pig's caul. 1889 *Mrs. A. B. Marshall's Cookery Book* 121 *Crépinettes* à la Ferdinand. 1907 A. ESCOFFIER *Cookery Gloss.* *Crépine*, the golden net-caul formed rectangularly. 1911 *FRANCATELLI Mod. Cook* 331 *Crépinettes* of Partridge à la d'Estant. 1911 *Good Househ. Home Encycl.* 426/2 Meat and Ham *Crépinettes*.

créping ('kreipin), *vbl. sb.*

1. The crimping or frizzing of the hair. 1889 *Daily News* 30 Dec. 6/6 The mistake of too tightly crimping—or, to use the new word, *créping*—the hair. 1966 J. S. COX *Dict. Hairdressing* 41/3 *Créping* 1. Weaving and boiling hair to transform it into *crêpe* hair. 2. Crimping. 2. The production of *crêpe* rubber. 1909 W. H. JOHNSON *Para Rubber* (ed. 2) 123 A large size pair of breaking-up and *créping* machines.

crepis ('kri:ps). 1. *Bot.* [mod. L. (Linnaeus *Genera Plantarum* (1737) 240), ad. Gr. *κρηπίς*, Theophrastus's name for another plant.] A plant of the large genus of herbs so called, belonging to the family Compositæ and including a few cultivated species.

1822 *LOUDON Encycl. Gardening Index* 1383/2 *Crepis*, ... of easy culture. 1904 R. J. FARRER *Garden Asia* 246 Twinkling gold of *crepis*. 1919 — *Eng. Rock-Garden* I. 243 No *Crepis* is worthy of admission to the rock-garden ... except the following: *C. incisa*, *C. rubra*, ... and *C. lagotis*. 1948 A. G. L. HELLYER *Antarctic Gardens* viii. 299 Most species of *crepis* are weeds and all have flowers like small dandelions.

2. *Biol.* [ad. Gr. *κρηπίς* base.] A spongespicle forming the central axis of a desma.

1909 E. A. MINCHIN in *Lancaster Treat. Zool.* II. 134 Each desma is formed typically by secondary deposits of silica upon a true spicule termed the *crepis* or foundation. 1940 L. H. HYMAN *Invertebrates* I. vi. 299 The deposited silica at first follows the shape of the *crepis*. 1963 I. F. & W. D. HENDERSON *Dict. Biol.* (ed. 8) 124/1 *Crepis*, the fundamental spicule by deposition of silica upon which a desma is formed.

|| **crepitaculum**. *Zool.* [L. a rattle.] (With American Zoologists) The rattle of the rattlesnake.

crepitant ('krepi:tənt), *a.* [ad. L. *crepitānt-em*, pr. pple. of *crepitare* to crackle; also in mod. F.]

1. Making a crackling noise: crackling, crackling. 1853 *BROWNING Master Hugues* xvi. One is incisive, corrosive. Two retorts, nettled, crot, crepitant. 1862 H. W. FULLER *Dis. Lunges* 159 The inflamed lung ... is heavier and less crepitant under the finger. 1873 *HOLMES A. Bonnie*. 192 There came close to my ear a curious crepitant rustle.

2. *Entom.* That crepitates (see CREPITATE 2).

1826 *KIRBY & Sp. Entomol.* xlviii. (1828) IV. 401 That [subtribe] to which the crepitant Eutectina belong.

crepitare ('krepi:təre), *v.* [f. L. *crepitāt-*, ppl. stem of *crepitare* to crackle, frequentative of *crepare* to crack, creak: see -ATE.]

† 1. *intr.* To break wind. *Obs.*

1623 *COCKERAM, Crepitare*, to wind or fart. 1768 *Life & Adv. Sir B. Sapihull* I. 149.

2. *Entom.* Of certain beetles: To eject a pungent fluid suddenly with a sharp report. (Cf. *BOMBARDIER* 4.)

1826 *KIRBY & Sp. Entomol.* xli. (1828) IV. 149 The substance which they emit when they crepitare.

3. To make a crackling sound, to crackle: *spec.* of the tissue of the lungs (also used of the action

accompanying or producing this sound; cf. CREPITATION 2).

1853 *Fraser's Mag.* XLVII. 559 That [salt] ... bears the heat of the fire without crepitating. 1877 *ROBERTS Handbk. Med.* (ed. 3) I. 378 The part affected is enlarged; crepitates imperfectly. 1888 *Harper's Mag.* Apr. 741 The immense hall rises, oscillates, ... crepitates, ... crumbles into ruin.

4. To rattle: said of the sound made by the *crepitaculum* of the rattle-snake. (Cf. CREPITATION 3.)

Hence **crepitating** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1852-9 *Todd Cycl. Anat.* IV. 595/1 The crepitating sensation caused by the friction of the head of the humerus against the under surface of the acromion. 1853 *KANE Grinnell Exp.* xxvii. (1856) 307, I felt a something move. The something had a crepitating, insectine wriggle. 1883 *Knowledge* 13 July 18/2 Starch ... on being pressed between the fingers, produces a peculiar sound known as 'crepitating'.

crepitation (krepi'teɪʃən). [*n.* of action f. L. *crepitare*: see *prec.* and -ATION. So F. *crépitation* (Paré 16th c.).]

1. A crackling noise; crackling.

1656 *BLOUNT Glossogr.* *Crepitation*, ... a creaking, crashing, or rattling noise. 1676 *Grew Luctation* i. §6 in *Anat. Plants* i. (1682) 239 *Crepitation*, when they make a kind of hissing and sometimes a crackling noise. 1711 J. GREENWOOD *Eng. Gram.* 103 *Spatter* ... implies a more clear crepitation or crackling. 1864 R. F. BURTON *Dahome* II. 329 Rattling, crackling thunder, with prolonged electric crepitations. 1879 G. P. PRUSSOTT *Sp. Telephone* 127 We hear a dry noise, a crepitation similar to that of the spark.

fig. 1805 *SOUTHEY* in *Roberts Mem. W. Taylor* II. 7 The Anti-jacobin crepitations never reach me.

2. *Med. and Path.* The slight sound and accompanying sensation caused by pressure on any portion of cellular tissue in which air is collected, or by the entrance of air into the lungs in a certain stage of inflammation; also, the noise and sensation observed in the grating together of the ends of fractured bones; the crackling noise sometimes observed in gangrenous parts when examined with the fingers; the cracking of a joint when pulled. (*Syst. Soc. Lex.*)

1834 J. FORBES *Laennec's Dis. Chest* 11 Sometimes in cases of emphysema of the lungs ... a species of dry crepitation is felt by the hand. 1836 *Todd Cycl. Anat.* I. 157/1 His right leg presented all the signs of fracture of the fibula ... such as ... depression and crepitation above the outer ankle. 1878 T. BRYANT *Pract. Surg.* I. 47 When suppurative or sloughing of the cellular tissue has taken place, fluctuation or crepitation will be detected, or the parts feel boggy.

3. The action of rattling: see CREPITATE 4.

1878 *COUES Bull. U.S. Geol. Surv.* IV. 263 The rattle of the *Crotalus* cannot be distinguished from the crepitation of the large Western grasshopper.

4. The breaking of wind; *crepitus ventris*. *rare.* 1822 *Blackw. Mag.* XII. 599 Openly venting their crepitations and eructations at table.

crepitous ('krepi:təs), *a.* *Med. and Path.* [f. L. *crepitus* (see next) + *-OUS-*.] Of the nature of, or such as to produce, crepitus.

1822-34 *Good Study Med.* (ed. 4) II. 122 That crepitous dilatation of the pulmonary cells, so strongly marked in infancy. 1836 *Todd Cycl. Anat.* I. 604/1 The structure of the lungs is more flabby and less crepitous than natural.

|| **crepitus** ('krepi:təs). [L., verbal sb. f. *crepare* to crack, rattle, creak, etc.]

1. *Med. and Path.* = CREPITATION 2.

1807-26 S. COOPER *First Lines Surg.* (ed. 5) 275 Great unnecessary pain [has] frequently been occasioned by the custom of feeling for a crepitus, and moving the [fractured] limb about ... in order to produce it. 1878 A. HAMILTON *Nerv. Dis.* 115 There is crepitus or rattling in the breathing. 1882 *Syd. Soc. Lex.* *Crepitus*, the crackling noise occasioned by pressing a part of the body when air is collected in the cellular tissue.

2. The breaking of wind: usually *crepitus ventris*.

1882 *Syd. Soc. Lex.* *Crepitus*, term for the discharge upwards, or rejection downwards, of gas or flatus from the stomach and bowels.

creple, **creppell**, -le, *obs.* ff. CRIPPLE.

|| **crépon** ('kreipɔ̃, 'krepon). [F. *crépon*, in 16th c. *crepon*, deriv. of *crepe*, *crêpe* CRAPE.] A stuff resembling crape, but of firmer substance, made of fine worsted, silk, or a combination of the two.

1887 *Pall Mall G.* 19 Dec. 8/2 The bridesmaids ... wore dresses of Liberty silk and crépon. 1890 *Daily News* 13 Sept. 3/1 Such a girl wore lately a pale blue crépon dress.

crept (krept), *ppl. a.* Pa. pple. of CREEP *v.*; *spec.* in *Coal-mining*, that has been subjected to a 'creep'.

1628 J. DOUGHTY *Sermon* 25 A crept in falsehood. 1861 *Trans. N. Eng. Inst. Min. Engineers* IX. 24 [This] had evidently brought on a heavy creep as shown in the section of crept borders. 1867 W. W. SMYTH *Coal & Coal-mining* 132 The workings are closely filled with rubbish, and there remain the isolated crept pillars, only accessible by fresh and dangerous workings.

crept, pa. t. and pa. pple. of CREEP *v.*

crepul, *obs.* form of CRIPPLE.

† **cre'pundian**. *Obs.* *rare.* Also *crepundio* [2-on]. [f. L. *crepundia* a rattle, a child's toy.]

1. ? A rattler or empty talker. 2. A childish toy. 1589 *NASHE Greene's Menaphon* (Arb.) 8 Our quadrant crepundios [1616 -oon], that spit egge in the mouth of euerie one they meete. 1655 G. EMMOT *North. Blast* 4 Arrayed with Cope and Vestment, and many other feat Crepundians.

crepuscle (kri'pas(ə)l, 'krepas(ə)l). [mod. ad. L. *crepuscul-um* twilight: see below.] Twilight.

1663 *Phil. Trans.* I. 122 The reputed Citizens of the Moon might see our Crepuscle. 1860 *Mrs. BYRNES Undercurrent* I. 207 At early dawn or dusty noon, in foggy crepuscle or gloomy midnight.

crepuscular (kri'paskju:l(ə)r), *a.* [f. L. *crepuscul-um* + *-AR-*. Cf. F. *crépusculaire*.]

1. Of or pertaining to twilight.

1755 B. MARTIN *Mag. Arts & Sc.* I. i. 3 The Difference ... between the crepuscular and the Noon-tide Light. 1791 E. DARWIN *Bot. Gard.* I. Notes 12 The crepuscular atmosphere, or the region where the light of the sun ceases to be refracted to us, is estimated ... to be between 40 and 50 miles high. 1876 G. F. CHAMBERS *Astron.* 67 A faint crepuscular light extending beyond the cusps of the planet.

2. *fig.* Resembling or likened to twilight; dim, indistinct.

1668 *Phil. Trans.* III. 730 And perhaps I might have lost the crepuscular remains of my Sight. 1860 J. P. KENNEDY *W. Wirt* II. ix. 157 [The law is] at best, a crepuscular labyrinth. 1879 H. JAMES *Hawthorne* 132 The crepuscular realm of the writer's own reveries.

b. *esp.* Resembling or likened to the morning twilight as preceding the full light of day; characterized by (as yet) imperfect enlightenment.

1879 *PULLER Moder. Ch. Eng.* (1843) 254 Proportionable to the first crepuscular and dusky light of those times. 1797 W. TAYLOR in *Monthly Rev.* XXIV. 509 The favourable influence even of a partial and crepuscular day on the morals ... and the happiness of the people. 1842 *MOTLEY Lett.* (1889) I. 96 The state of crepuscular civilization to which they have reached. 1854 *Fraser's Mag.* XLVI. 679 That crepuscular period, when the historical sense was scarcely brought to a full state of activity.

3. *Zool.* Appearing or active in the twilight.

1826 *KIRBY & Sp. Entomol.* xlix. (1828) IV. 525 *Crepuscular insects*. 1877 *COUES & ALLEN N. Amer. Rodentia* 653 Animals ... of crepuscular or nocturnal habits.

crepuscule (kri'paskju:l, 'krepaskju:l). *Now rare.* [a. F. *crépuscule*, ad. L. *crepusculum*: see below.] Twilight.

1392 *CHAUCER Astrol.* II. §6 The spring of the dawnyng and the ende of the euenyng, the which ben called the two crepusculi. *Ibid.* §9 Knowe the quantite of the crepusculi. 1789 *Mrs. Pio: 2 Journ. France* II. 202 The crepuscule [is] less abrupt in its departure. 1810 H. BUSK *Banquet* II. 41 Coeval with the crepuscule of morn. 1866 J. B. ROSE tr. *Ovid's Fasti* v. 183 And when the doubtful crepuscule is gone The Hyades appear.

crepusculine (kri'paskju:lɪn, -lɪn), *a.* and *sb.* *rare.* [a. F. *crépulin*, -ine, ad. med. L. *crepusculin-us*, f. *crepuscul-um*: cf. L. *matutinus*, *vespertinus*: see -INE.]

A. *adj.* Pertaining to twilight; illuminated by twilight, dim, dusky.

1549 *Compl. Scot.* vi. 38 Aurora ... hed persit the crepusculyne lyne matutine of the north north est orizone. 16 ... in Sprat Hist. R. Soc. 314 (T.) To take in more or less light ... to fit glasses to crepusculine observations. 1876 G. MASENTH *Beauch. Career* (1889) 309 The line of downs ran luminously, edged against the pearly morning sky, with its dark landward face crepusculine yet clear in everycombe.

† B. *sb.* The (morning) twilight. *Obs.*

1549 *Compl. Scot.* 53 In the mornynge ... it callit lucifer, be cause it auunces the day before the crepusculine.

crepusculous (kri'paskju:ləs), *a.* [f. L. *crepuscul-um* + *-OUS-*.] Of the nature of twilight; dim, dusky, indistinct. (*lit.* and *fig.*)

1646 *SIR T. BROWNE Pseud. Ep.* 343 A close apprehension of the one, might perhaps afford a glimmering light and crepusculous glance of the other. 1665 *GLANVILLE Seeps. Sci.* xxii. 140 The beginnings of Philosophy were in a crepusculous obscurity; and its yet scarce past the Dawn.

1822 *ELIZA NATHAN Langreath* II. 268.

|| **crepusculum** (kri'paskju:ləm). [L. = twilight, a diminutive formation, related to *creper* dusky, dark, *creperum* darkness.] Twilight, dusk.

1398 *TREVISA Barth. De P.R.* ix. xxiv. 361 The euentydye highte Crepusculum ... whanne it is not certaynly knowe bytwene lyght and derknesse. 1430 *LYDO Chron. Troy* iii. xxiii. The same time. That clerkes call Crepusculum at the height of that Air which couereth the Crepusculum, or Twilight. 1840 *DE QUINCY Rhet. Wks.* X. 34 Which interval we regard as the common crepusculum between ancient and modern history. 1853 *KANE Grinnell Exp.* xxv. (1856) 313 The twilight too, that long Arctic crepusculum, seemed ... disproportionately increased in its duration.

crese, **cresc.**, *Music*, abbrev. of CRESCENDO *sb.*

cresce, *var.* of CREASE *v.* 1 and *sb.* 1 *Obs.*, increase.

† **crēscence**. *Obs.* [ad. L. *crēscēntia*, f. *crēscēnt-em*: see CRESCENT and -ENCE. Cf. OF. *creissance*, mod. F. *croissance*.] Growth, increase.

1602 *FULBECKE 2nd Pt. Parall.* 60 In their crescence in the wombe, there be but one operation of nature. 1660 *tr.*

Paracelsus' Archidoxis I. ix. 129 There are found to be many superfluous Crescences. 1736 BROOKE *Univ. Beauty* III. 322 And towards the morn's attractive crescence bend.

|| **crescendo** (kres'fendo, kri'sendos); *sb.* *Mus.* [It. *crescendo* increasing, *pr.* *ppl.* of *crescere* to increase.—L. *crēscere* (cf. CRESCENT *sb.*)]

1. A musical direction indicating that the tone is to be gradually increased in force or loudness (abbrev. *cres.*, *cresc.*). As *sb.*: A gradual increase of volume of tone in a passage of a piece of music; a passage of this description.

1776 'J. COLLIER' *Mus. Trav.* 60, I stood still some time to observe the diminuendo and crescendo. 1789 BURNBY *Hist. Mus.* III. 530 Domenico Mazzocchi [1626-40]... first... invented characters of *crescendo*, *diminuendo*, etc. 1812 W. CROFTES *Elem. Mus.* comp. 112 The peculiar characteristic of the piano forte is its power of varying degrees of loudness and softness, either suddenly or by *crescendo*, *diminuendo*, *rinforzando*, etc. 1826 R. A. R. in *Hone Every-day Bk.* II. 1171 Let these notes be played... with perfect *crescendos* and *diminuendos*. 1889 *Chambers' Cycl.* III. 557 The swell of a good organ produces a most perfect *crescendo*.

b. *transf.* A gradual increase in loudness of voice.

1865 *Pall Mall G.* 22 Apr. 11 He has not the force... to represent the climbing crescendo of unjust anger and despairing sarcasm. 1882 MRS. RIDDELL *Pr. Wales' Garden-Party* 45 'Do you mean that Sir Henry is dead?' interposed Susan, in a gradual *crescendo*.

c. *fig.* A progressive increase in force or effect. 1785 in *Sel. Papers Tuning Family* (1887) 123 The crescendo of mountains, as we went up the lake, pleased me as much, I think, as any crescendo of sound can have pleased you. 1884 SYMONDS *Shaks. Predecessors* v. 205 Its chief merit as a play is the crescendo of its interest. 1886 F. HARRISON *Choice Bks.* (1888) 30 The intense crescendo of the catastrophe, the absolute concentration of interest.

d. *attrib.* or as *adj.*

1859 *Sat. Rev.* VII. 430/2 A crescendo series of appeals to the Chairman to call the Commission together. 1870 MISS BRIDGMAN *R. Lynne* II. iii. 70 'Borrow one!' said Dicky in a crescendo tone of amazement.

e. *colloq.* (orig. U.S.). The peak of an increase in volume, force, or intensity; a climax. Esp. in *phr.* to reach a *crescendo*.

1925 F. SCOTT FITZGERALD *Great Gatsby* iii. 68 The caterwauling horns had reached a crescendo and I turned away and cut across the lawn toward home. 1939 WODEHOUSE *Uncle Fred in Springtime* iv. 54 The babble at the bar had risen to a sudden crescendo. 1946 *R.A.F. Jnl.* May 170 The crescendo came when more than sixteen hundred bombers battered the coastal defences. 1958 L. URIS *Exodus* (1959) I. xxvii. 169 At the end of the second week the Jews were still holding fast and the clamour in the press was reaching a crescendo. 1961 E. E. COLEY *Organizing Local Church* v. 57 The total process of evangelism reaches the crescendo when the group of new members stands before the congregation to declare publicly their faith. 1975 *Economist* 16 Aug. 8/1 It was in relation to the annual increment arrangements of the civil service pay system that your attack reached its crescendo of unfairness.

crescendo, *v.* [f. the *sb.*] *intr.* To increase gradually in loudness or intensity.

1900 *Westm. Gaz.* 2 July 2/1 A faint whine crescendoes rapidly into the shrill whoop of a steam-siren. 1901 *Ibid.* 12 Nov. 2/1 The trolly-cars, with their booming note which crescendoes up the scale with increasing speed and diminuendoes with the slackening of it. 1903 R. LANGBRIDGE *Flame & Flood* xvi. A bubbling torrent of vituperation that crescendoed as she leapt in air... and decrescendoed, as... she turned away. 1927 *Daily Express* 24 Oct. 10/3 'The season'... starts in November, crescendoes to its height in January and February, to die away in April. 1969 *Daily Tel.* 3 Feb. 12/3 As well as the nudity story which crescendoed up from Italy to swamp much of the Paris after-dark fashion, there is real news.

crescent ('kresənt), *sb.* Forms: a. 4-7 *cressant*, 5 *cressant*, 5-7 *cressant*, (8 *crescent*); b. 6-7 *croissant*, 7 *croy*, *croissant*; y. 7- *crescent*. [ME. *cressant*, in 16th c. also *croissant*, a. OF. *cressant*, mod. F. *croissant* (—L. *crēscēt-em*), *pr.* *ppl.* of OF. *creistre*, mod. *croître*—L. *crēscere* to grow. In 17th c. assimilated to the L. spelling, already used in the *adj.*: see next.]

L. *crescent* meant simply 'growing, waxing'; Columella has *luna crescent*, the waxing moon, *luna decrescent*, the waning moon; but these words had no reference to shape; sense 2 was a medieval development, *app.* in French.]

1. The waxing moon, during the period between new moon and full. [Cf. OF. *croissant* the waxing of the moon, the first half of the month.] Also *fig.*

1530 PALSGR. 210/2 *Cressant*, the newe mone as long as it is nat rounde, *cressant*.

1620 FELTHAM *Resolves* xxviii. 88 Thus while he sinnes, he is a Decrescant; when he repents, a Cressant. 1640 FULLER *Joseph's Coat* viii. (1867) 192 They are crescents in their waxing, full seas in their flowing. 1649 G. DANIEL *Trinarch.*, *Hem. IV.*, cccxvii. A worke 'bove Nature's power, To make his Crescent Orbed in an Howler.

2. The convex-concave figure of the waxing or the waning moon, during the first or last quarter, especially when very new or very old. The crescent of the waxing moon has its horns to the spectator's left, that of the waning moon has them to his right.

1578 LYTE *Dudoens* iv. xxxi. 489 Turned rounde like a *croissant* or newe moone. 1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N. v.* i. 246 Hee is no crescent, and his hornes are inuisible. 1611 COTGR., *Croissant*, the halfe-moone; in Blazon, a Cressant. 1616 STRFL. & MARKH. *Country Farme* 24 If the higher

horne of the said *croissant* be more obscure and darke than the lower. 1726 AMHERST *Terræ Fil.* xlv. 232 Phæbe's pale crescent. 1824 W. IRVING *T. Trav.* II. 147 The bright crescent of the moon. 1842 TENNYSON *Audley C.*, Amoon, that, just in crescent, dimly rain'd about the leaf 'Twilights of airy silver.

3. A representation or figure of this phase of the moon: a. as an ornament or embellishment. (*App.* the earliest sense in English.)

1399 *Mem. Ripon* (Surtees) III. 132 Super feretrum Sancti Wilfridi de diversis ornamentis per dictum Johannem deauratis viz. j. curc et j. anulio et j. crescant ex dono Willelmi Bedell. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 81/1 A Cressant a bowte pe nek, torques, lunula. 1548 HALL *Chron.* 74 b. This cresant was couered with frettes and knottes made of lue bushes. 1647 R. STAPYLTON *Juvenal* 127 In his black shoe a silver crescent's worn. 1885 BIBLE (R.V.) *Judg.* viii. 21 Gideon... took the crescents that were on their camels' necks.

b. *Her.* as a charge: see quot. 1882.

1486 Bk. St. Alban's. *Her.* Biiij. b. The ix. baage is Cressantis that is to say halfe the moone. c. 1500 Sc. *Poem Heraldry* 44 in *O. Elis. Acad.*, etc. 95 The fader the hole (arms), the eldast son deffer[ent], quiche a labele; a crescent the second; third a molet, etc. 1603 DRAYTON *Bar. Wars* II. xxiv. The Noble Percy... With a bright Cressant in his Guide-home came. 1882 CUSANS *Her.* 102 A Half-Moon, with the horns directed upwards, is a crescent. A Cressant with the horns directed towards the Dexter, is said to be Increscent; and if towards the Sinister, Decrescent.

c. Adopted as a badge or emblem by the Turkish sultans, and used within their dominions as a military and religious symbol; hence *fig.* the Turkish power, and, as this has been to Christendom in recent times the most formidable and aggressive Mohammedan power, used rhetorically to symbolize the Mohammedan religion as a political force, and so opposed to the Cross as the symbol of Christianity.

The attribution of the crescent by modern writers to the Saracens of Crusading times and the Moors of Spain is a historical and chronological error.

1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poetie* II. (Arb.) 117 Selim Emperour of Turkie gaue for his deuice a croissant or new moone, promising to himself increase of glory and enlargement of empire. 1614 SELDEN *Titles Hon.* 162 With the Mahumedan Turks, the Croissant, as a Religious symbole, is... commonly set on the top of their Meschits, Seraglias, Turrets and such like. 16... MARVELL *Britannia & Raleigh*, Her true Crusada shall at last pull down The Turkish crescent and the Persian sun. 1684 SCANDERBERG *Rediv.* iv. 90 The Crescent gave way to the Cross, the Turks were broken to pieces. 1789 MRS. PIOZZI *Journ. France* II. 43 Why do you dress up one... with a turban and crescent? 1811 SCOTT *Viz. Don Roderick* i. xxvii. Before the Cross has waned the Crescent's ray. 1843 LOCKHART *Ans. Sp. Ball.*, *Flight fr. Granada* ii. Down from the Alhambra's minarets were all the crescents flung. 1855 H. REED *Lect. Eng. Hist.* iv. 120 To raise the Christian banner, over the crescent of the Saracens. 1886 F. HARRISON *Choice Bks.* (1888) 331 The Crescent was advancing steadily upon Europe.

d. used as the badge of an order of knighthood or as a decorative order.

An order of the Crescent was instituted by Charles I of Naples and Sicily in 1268, and revived or reestablished by René of Anjou in 1464. A Turkish decoration or order of the Crescent for foreigners was instituted by Sultan Selim after the Battle of Boukir in 1799, being first conferred on Nelson.

4. A figure or outline of anything of this shape.

[1572 GASCOIGNE *Flowers* (R.), The Christian crew came on in fashio of battayle pight, And like a crescent cast themselves preparing for to fight. 1653 H. COGAN tr. *Pinto's Trav.* xxiv. 88 A very fair Port... extending it self in the form of a Crescent. 1672 *Descr. Lake of Geneva* in *Phil. Trans.* VII. 5043 This Lake hath the figure of a Croissant... This Croissant where 'tis largest, which is from Morges to Thonon, is about Five good Leagues over. 1797 BRICKW. *Brit. Birds* (1847) I. 130 The breast is distinguished by a crescent of pure white. 1797 DISABILL *Westia* i. 1. The centre of a crescent of woods. 1838 THIRLWALL *Grece* II. 281 As they came near they bent their line into a crescent.

5. A row of houses built in the form of the inner bow of a crescent moon or arc of a circle.

First used in the name of 'the Royal Crescent' at Bath, afterwards used elsewhere, and hence as a generic name. 1766 ANSTREY *Bath Guide* 45 Old Stucco has just sent A plan for a house to be built in the Crescent. 1788 *Birm. Gaz.* 17 Nov. A plan, elevation and section of the intended building to be called the Crescent. 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* II. xxxv. 163 There were blown into the Crescent a sedan-chair, with Mrs. Dowler inside. 1868 *Lessons Mid. Age* 299 The handsome streets, crescents and terraces which form the west end of Glasgow.

6. A small crescent-shaped roll of bread. (U.S.) More fully, *crescent roll*. (Cf. CRESCIAINT.)

1886 *Century Mag.* XXXII. 939 At noon I bought two crisp 'crescents', which I ate sometimes at a shop counter. 1899 *Daily News* 23 Sept. 3/1 Crescent rolls and hot milk. 1951 E. PAUL *Springtime in Paris* v. 106 Coffee cups, saucers and crisp crescent rolls in our hands.

7. A Turkish musical instrument consisting of a staff with arms, ornamented with a crescent on the top, and bearing bells or jingles.

In mod. Dicts.

8. A disease in a horse's foot (see quots.).

1725 BRADLEY *Fam. Dict.* s.v., Crescents... are really nothing but the Bones of the little Foot that has left its Place, and fallen downwards, and the Sole at the Toe appears round, and the Hoof above shrinks in. 1823 CRABB *Techn. Dict.*, *Crescent*, a defect in the foot of a horse when the coffin-bone falls down, and presses the sole outwards.

9. *Lace-making*. (See quot.)

1882 CAULFIELD *Dict. Needlework* s.v., These crescents are raised Cordonnets that enclose the flat stitches of needle point laces or join the separate pieces of work together.

10. *Comb.*, as *crescent-formed*, *-lit*, *-pointed*, *-shaped* *adjs.*; *crescent-like*, *-wise* *advs.*

a. 1631 DRAYTON *Wks.* II. 761 (Jod.) As, crescentlike, the land her breadth here inward bends. 1776 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (1796) I. 316 Keel crescent-shaped, compressed. 1801 SOUTHHEY *Thalaba* III. xxxviii. The Sun, Whose crescent-pointed horns Now momentarily decrease.

crescent ('kresənt), *a.* [ad. L. *crēscēt-em*, *pr.* *ppl.* of *crēscere* to grow, increased: see -ENT. In II mostly attrib. use of *prec.*]

I. 1. Growing, increasing, developing. (Often with some allusion to the moon.)

1574 HULL *Conject. Weather* i. When all crescent things do bud forth. 1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* II. i. 10 My powers are Crescent, and my Auguring hope Says it will come to th' full. a. 1624 CRAWKANTHORP *Vigil. Dormitans* 188 In the first the Pope was but Antichrist nascent, in the second Antichrist crescent, in the third Antichrist regnant. 1834 WORDSW. *Lines on Portrait* 47 Childhood here, a moon Crescent in simple loveliness serene. 1845 DE QUINCEY *Coleridge & Opium Wks.* 1890 V. 196 The wrath of Andrew, previously in a crescent state, actually dilated to a plenilunar orb. 1899 TENNYSON *Elaine* 447 There is many a youth Now crescent, who will come to all I am And overcome it.

II. 2. Shaped like the new or old moon; convex-concave, lunulate.

1603 HOLLAND *Plutarche's Rom. Quest.* (1892) 33 The moone... beginneth to show herself croissant in the evening. 1635 FAGITT *Christianogr.* 100 Marked with the Moone Crescent, which is the Turkish Ensigne. 1667 MILTON *P.L.* I. 439 With these in troop Came... Astarte, Queen of Heaven, with crescent Horns. 1725 TURNER in *Phil. Trans.* XXXIII. 411 An Insect... with... a crescent or forked Tail. 1831 BREWSTER *Newton* (1855) I. xi. 273 Galileo discovered that Venus had the same crescent phases as the waxing and the waning moon. 1860 RUSSELL *Diary India* I. 359 New Orleans is called the 'crescent city' in consequence of its being built on a curve of the river.

'crescent, *v.* *nonce-wd.* [f. CRESCENT *sb.*]

1. *trans.* To form into a crescent: see CRESCENTED.

2. To border or surround crescent-wise.

a. 1809 MISS SEWARD *Lett.* VI. 195 (T.) A dark wood crescents more than half the lawn.

crescentade ('kresənt'ed), [f. CRESCENT *sb.* 3 c. + -ADE, after *crusade*.] *properly*, A religious war waged under the Turkish flag; *rhetorically*, a *jihad* or holy war for Islam.

1868 G. DUFF *Pol. Surv.* 65 The further advance of the White Czar may yet be met by a crescentade, preached from the Caspian far away into the least known regions of China. 1884 *Standard* 14 Nov. 5/4 He would then lead a crescentade to drive the English out of Egypt. 1888 M. MACCOLL in *Contemp. Rev.* Apr. 541 This reactionary crescentade against every attempt at intellectual or moral progress beyond the Koran.

Hence *crescent-lader*.

1880 *Blackw. Mag.* Mar. 368 Carried on a litter in rear of his crescent-laders.

crescented ('kresəntid), *ppl. a.* [f. CRESCENT *sb.* + -ED.]

1. Formed as a crescent or new moon.

1818 KEATS *Endym.* iv. 432 'Tis Dian's: lo! She rises crescented. 1835 WILLIS *Pencilings* I. iii. 25 The crescented shore of this lovely bay. 1876 G. F. CHAMBERS *Astron.* I. iv. 60 Becoming more and more crescented, it approaches the inferior conjunction.

2. Ornamented, or charged, with crescents.

1818 TODD *Dict.* s.v. *Crescent v.* The old heraldick adjective *crescented*, i.e. having a crescent.

3. Adorned with the crescent moon. *nonce-use*.

c. 1825 BEDDOES *Apotheosis* Poems 98 Crescented night, and amethystine stars. And day, thou god and glory of the heavens, Flow on for ever!

crescentic ('kresəntik), *a.* [f. L. *crēscēt-em*, taken in sense of CRESCENT *sb.* + -IC.] Having the form of a crescent or new moon; crescent-shaped.

1836 TODD *Cycl. Anat.* iv. 308/1 A large crescentic membranous flap, or valve. 1885 H. O. FORBES *Nat. Wand.* iv. App. 364 Feathers... tipped with crescentic spots of white.

crescentically ('kresəntikəli), *adv.* [f. *prec.* + -AL¹ + -LY.] Crescent-wise.

1873 *Trans. Amer. Philos. Soc.* XIII. 113 Fifth segment truncate, sixth crescentically emarginate.

crescentiform ('kresəntifɔrm), *a.* [f. L. *crēscēt-em* + -(i)FORM.] Shaped like a crescent; crescent-shaped.

In mod. Dicts.

crescentoid ('kresəntɔid), *a.* [f. CRESCENT + -OID.] = *prec.*

1887 E. D. COPE *Origin of Fittest* 250 Neither kind of tubercles crescentoid, but united in pairs.

crescentric ('kresəntrik), *a. rare*. [f. L. *crēscēt-em* with second element after CENTRIC *a.*] = CRESCENTIC *a.*

1851 H. MELVILLE *Moby Dick* III. i. 6 And swimming on, in one solid, but still crescentric centre. 1896 *Naturalist* Oct. 338 The beautiful crescentric mounds around York.