

# Oxford English Dictionary | The definitive record of the English language

## standard, *n.*, *adj.*, and *int.*

**Pronunciation:** <sup>2</sup> Brit. /'stændəd/, U.S. /'stændərd/

### Forms:

α. early Middle English— **standard**, Middle English **standarte**, Middle English **standdarde**, Middle English **standderde**, Middle English **standerte**, Middle English **stondard**, Middle English—1500s **standarde**, Middle English—1500s **standerde**, Middle English—1500s **standarde**, Middle English—1500s **stondart**, Middle English—1500s **stondarte**, Middle English—1500s **stondert**, Middle English—1600s **standerd**, Middle English—1700s **standart** (*rare* in later use), 1500s **standarth**, 1500s **standarthe**, 1500s **standert**, 1500s **standred**, 1500s **stonderd** (plural), 1600s **standar'd**; *Scottish* pre-1700 **standdart**, pre-1700 **standert**, pre-1700 **standerte**, pre-1700 **standwart**, pre-1700 1700s **standart**, pre-1700 1700s— **standard**, 1700s 1900s **standirt**, 1800s **stan'art**, 1800s **stannard**, 1900s **stannert**; *English regional (northern)* 1800s **standart**, 1800s **standert**, 1800s **standhard**.

β. late Middle English **estandard**, late Middle English **estandert**, 1500s—1700s **estandard**.

### Frequency (in current use):

**Origin:** A borrowing from French. **Etymons:** French *standarde*, *estandard*.

**Etymology:** < Anglo-Norman *standarde*, Anglo-Norman and Old French *estandard*, Old French *estendart* (Middle French *estandard*, *estendart*, French *étendard*) military flag or banner, also as a (fortified) rallying point in battle (c1100), (figuratively) person worth following (c1170), upright post (a1240), large candle (a1339, only in Anglo-Norman), of uncertain origin, probably either (a) < a West Germanic compound with the literal sense 'something that stands firm' < the Germanic base of **STAND** *v.* + the Germanic base of **HARD** *adv.*, or (b) < classical Latin *extendere* to stretch out (see **EXTEND** *v.*), or (c) < a Romance reflex of classical Latin *stant-*, *stāns*, present participle of *stāre* to stand (see **STAND** *v.*) + Old French *-ard* *-ARD* *suffix*.

Compare post-classical Latin *standardum*, *standardus* candelabrum (8th or 9th cent.; 14th cent. in a British source), military flag, banner (11th cent.; frequently from 12th cent. in British sources), upright piece of timber (from 13th cent. in British sources), legal weight or measure (frequently from 13th cent. in British sources), chest, trunk (from 1300 in British sources), kind of water tower or fountain (1443 and 1451 in British sources). *Parallels in other languages.*

Compare Middle Dutch *standaert* upright post, military flag (Dutch *standaard*, *standerd*), Middle Low German *stanthart*, Middle High German *stanthart*, *stantharte*, *standart*, *standert* (German *Standarte*), both in the sense 'military flag', which either reflect an underlying West Germanic compound or were borrowed < French at a later date (if so, in some forms with folk-etymological alteration after cognates of **STAND** *v.* and **HARD** *adv.*).

Compare (< French) Old Occitan *estandard*, *estendart*, Catalan *estandard* (14th cent.), Spanish *estandarte* (early 14th cent.), Portuguese *estandarte* (15th cent.), Italian *stendardo* (14th cent.), and also Danish *standart* (in early modern Danish as *standar*), Swedish *standar* (17th cent., also as *estandar*), all in the sense 'military flag, banner'. Compare further (in the same sense) Welsh †*ystondardd*, *ystandard*, †*standart*, etc. (13th cent. as *estondardd*; < either Anglo-Norman or Middle English).

Compare (in the same sense, but with different suffix) post-classical Latin *standale* (12th cent.), *standalis* (14th cent.), Old French *estandale* (13th cent.), Italian †*stendale* (1307 as *stentale*).

The senses at branch A. III. developed within Britain (see below) and were subsequently borrowed from English into many other languages in the post-medieval period, typically retaining the English form (even where this differs from an earlier word for a military flag), e.g. French *standard* (1692, earliest with reference to English currency), German *Standard* (late 17th cent., earliest with reference to currency).

#### *Variant forms.*

In the form *standar'd* at  $\alpha$ . forms (which is attested both for the adjective and the noun) apparently reanalysed as an adjective with *-ED suffix2* or as a conversion of the past participle of a verb ending in *-er* (compare the discussion at *STANDER n.*); compare †*standered* in quot. 1606 at *STANDARD v.* 1.

In forms with *o* in the first syllable (e.g. *stondard* at  $\alpha$ . forms) probably influenced by Middle English *stonde*, variant of *STAND v.*

Anglo-Norman forms with *-au-* (such as *staundard* and *estaundart*) do not seem to be reflected in English; this may be due to the high register of many of the earlier senses, especially in branch A. III., which may have led to a stronger influence from forms retaining the continental French vowel, and from Latin.

Compare also the discussion of *STANDER n.*, which has a marked semantic overlap with branch A. II.

#### *Specific senses.*

With *under the standard of* at sense A. 1d compare Middle French *sous l'estandard de* (1418; French *sous l'étandard de*).

With use in ornithology (see sense A. 7) compare *STANDARDWING n.* and the discussion of the taxonomic name at that entry.

The senses of branch A. III. originally arose in Britain. The first of these senses, denoting a legal weight or measure (see A. 15) is attested slightly earlier in Anglo-Norman and Latin than it is in English; compare (in this sense) post-classical Latin *standardus* (frequently from 13th cent. in British sources), Anglo-Norman *estandard* (1280 as *estaundart*); this use may be a development of the sense 'military flag or banner' (see sense A. 1), with the royal standard taken as the symbol of royal authority, e.g. to impose the legal norms (compare also later sense A. 4).

The senses in branches A. II. and A. IV. have been reinforced by association with *STAND v.*

With branch A. II. compare *STANDER n.* 1., from which it is sometimes difficult to distinguish. Several of these senses refer to tall erect structures, which also associates them with the underlying sense of the French etymon and (hence) sense A. 1.

With use with reference to a packing case or chest (see sense A. 8) compare post-classical Latin *standardum* (from 1300 in British sources, in this sense).

With use with reference to a tub or barrel (see sense A. 11) compare Anglo-Norman *estandard* small barrel (late 13th cent. in an isolated attestation) and earlier *STAND n.2*, *STANDER n. 2*, and *STANDEL n.1*

With use with reference to a public water fountain (see sense A. 14) compare post-classical Latin *standardum* (1443 and 1451 in British sources, in this sense).

The senses in branch A. IV. show miscellaneous special developments.

With *old standard* at sense A. 26b compare slightly earlier *old stander* at *STANDER n.* 8.

With use with reference to a suit of clothes (see sense A. 28) compare earlier *STAND* *n.* 1 25.

*Potential earlier evidence.*

Compare the following early examples, although it is unclear whether these should be interpreted as showing the Anglo-Norman or the Middle English word; each of these predates unambiguous evidence of the respective sense in English, and some are not paralleled in unambiguously Anglo-Norman sources.

With use with reference to a legal measure (see sense A. 15a; earlier than branch A. III.):

1327 *Manorial Documents in Mod. Philol.* (1936) **34** 55 j bussellus secundum standard.

With use with reference to an upright post (see sense A. 10a; earlier than branch A. II.):

1331 in J. Raine *Fabric Rolls York Minster* (1859) 355 [For 12 large poles for] standards [for the scaffold, 10s.].

With use with reference to a tree (probably see sense A. 13a; although this sense is not otherwise attested in Anglo-Norman):

1369–70 *Manorial Documents in Mod. Philol.* (1936) **34** 52 Henricus Hare amputavit infra boscum domini ij standard.

With use with reference to a packing chest (see sense A. 8; this sense is not otherwise attested in Anglo-Norman, but it is paralleled in post-classical Latin):

1375 *Accts. Exchequer King's Remembrancer* (P.R.O.: E 101/397) m. 3/2 j. Standard magn[um] ferro ligatum, vj. Ciste magne ferro ligate.

With use with reference to armour (see sense A. 12; although this sense is not otherwise attested in Anglo-Norman):

1375 *Accts. Exchequer King's Remembrancer* (P.R.O.: E 101/397) m. 3/1 Cxliij standard pro loriceis.

With use with reference to a service book (see A. 24; although this sense is not otherwise attested in Anglo-Norman):

c1400 in J. Raine *Fabric Rolls York Minster* (1859) 244 Super librum vocatum standard.

*Related quotation.*

With use with reference to a kind of arrow (see sense A. 19) perhaps compare the following earlier passage, which appears to refer to a standardized length of arrows (compare sense A. 15):

1465–6 in *Statute Rolls Parl. Ireland* (1914) III. 292 Chescunn englois homme..aura vne englois arke..xij. dez fleches del longour de iij. quartours del estandant [‘.twelve arrows three quarters of the standard in length’].

*Evidence from place names.*

Earlier currency with reference to a tree in a coppice (see sense A. 13a) may be implied in field names such as *Standerbuske*, Nottinghamshire (13th cent.) and *le Standard*, Cambridgeshire (13th cent.), although it is difficult to determine the original sense of these names.

**A. n.**

**I. A military, naval, or ceremonial flag or ensign, and related senses.**

**1.**

**a.** A flag, sculptured figure, or other conspicuous object, raised on a pole to indicate the rallying point in battle of an army (or a naval fleet), or of one of its component divisions; the distinctive ensign or emblem of a monarch, noble, or commander, or of a nation or city, esp. displayed in battle or in a ceremonial context as a means of identification.

†**standard-general**: the principal standard of an army.

In English the word appears first with reference to the 'Battle of the Standard' in 1138. A contemporary writer, Richard of Hexham, relating the story of the battle, describes the 'standard' used there as a mast of a ship, with flags at the top, mounted in the middle of a structure which was brought into the field. He quotes a Latin couplet written on the occasion, which says that the standard was so called from 'stand', because 'it was there that valour took its stand to conquer or die'.

Now chiefly used in historical contexts.

See also *eagle standard* n.

- ?a1160 *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Laud) (Peterborough contin.) anno 1138 Him [sc. the king of Scotland] com togænes Willelm eorl of Albamar..& to [read te] other æuez men mid fæu men & fuhten wid heom & flemden þe king æt te Standard.
- c1325 (► c1300) *Chron. Robert of Gloucester* (Calig.) 6175 Edmond diʒte is stondard ware he ssolde him sulue abide.
- c1400 (► ?a1300) *Kyng Alisaunder* (Laud) (1952) 2378 To Ymagu hij turneden pas, Pere þe kynges standarde was.
- c1500 (► ?a1475) *Assembly of Gods* (1896) l. 825 All these seuyne capteynes had standardes of pryce.
- 1588 R. PARKE tr. J. G. de Mendoza *Hist. Kingdome of China* 165 A watch towre..who had discovered our shippe, and knew the standard or flagge to bee the kings.
- 1609 P. HOLLAND tr. Ammianus Marcellinus *Rom. Hist.* xv. vii. 43 An high banke above which stood the maine standerds of Eagles and other ensignes.
- 1630 tr. G. Botero *Relations Famous Kingdomes World* (rev. ed.) 314 Every Citie hath his principall Standard, with their peculiar armes and devices therein, to distinguish one people from another.
- 1656 EARL OF MONMOUTH tr. T. Boccalini *Ragguagli di Parnasso* (1674) i. lxxxv. 112 Francisco Pico..was made Standard-bearer; and, in his Standard-General, bore the famous Ensign of an open Book.
- 1737 A. POPE *Epist. of Horace* II. ii. 5 He..Tore down a Standard, took the Fort and all.
- 1804 *Med. & Physical Jrnl.* 12 46 The late dispute respecting the capture of the standard of the *Invincibles* before Alexandria.
- 1864 E. B. PUSEY *Daniel* (1876) 114 The black eagle is the standard of Prussia.
- 1975 M. A. YONAH & I. SHATZMAN *Illustr. Encycl. Classical World* (U.S. ed.) 422/2 The *aquila* (eagle), made of silver, was the standard of the legion from Marius' time.
- 2006 J. WILSON *Behind the Curtain* (2013) (e-book ed.) That act, redolent..of a general displaying the standard of a vanquished enemy.

**b.** *figurative* and in figurative contexts. Something (e.g. a cause, an idea, etc.) likened to a standard, esp. in being a rallying point for a group of followers, or an object of allegiance.

- c1390 W. HILTON *Mixed Life* (Vernon) in C. Horstmann *Yorkshire Writers* (1895) I. 289 (*MED*) Pi sauter..is euermore a syker standart and wol not fayle; who so wole cleue þerto, he schal not erre.
- 1532 T. MORE *Confut. Tyndales Answere* II. p. cv Some that were heretyques in dede, and wolde..auaunce theyr owne heresydes forwarde vnder the name and standard of his [sc. Origen's] famouse authoryte.
- 1613 S. PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* 87 No crueltie or sacrilege against God, or man, so irreligious..but Religion was pretended to be the cause, and bare the Standard to Destruction.
- 1688 KING JAMES II in J. Gutch *Collectanea Curiosa* (1781) I. 339 I tell you this is a Standard of Rebellion: I never saw such an address!
- 1856 *N. Brit. Rev.* 26 250 [They] if they did not vote against him, at least deserted their standard, and did not vote at all.
- 1888 J. BRYCE *Amer. Commonw.* II. lxx. 566 The gain of even twenty or thirty votes..is so likely to bring fresh recruits to his standard.
- 2001 *Trans. Amer. Philos. Soc.* 91 94 All of the psychologists rallying under his standard look to have had good access to extensive listings of his writings.

### †c. Perhaps: headquarters. *Obsolete.*

- 1481 W. CAXTON tr. *Myrrour of Worlde* II. xviii. sig. g8v There [sc. in hell] deth holdeth his standard [Fr. *son estandart*], whiche sendeth out thurgh all the world for to fetche them that ben his.

**d.** In various phrases in which the standard is taken as typifying an army or its commanders, e.g. ***under the standard of***: serving in the army of; ***under a person's standard***: in a person's army; ***to join the standard of***: to join the army of.

Now chiefly used in historical contexts.

- c1500 *Melusine* (1895) 164 Your vassall & seruaunt shal I euer be vnder the standart of your gouernance.
- 1667 J. MILTON *Paradise Lost* VII. 297 As Armies at the call Of Trumpet..Troop to thir Standard .
- 1737 R. GLOVER *Leonidas* I. 155 They with dread Will shrink before your standards.
- 1840 C. THIRLWALL *Hist. Greece* VII. lvii. 241 In a short time he..had a body of more than 2000 horse under his standard.
- 1902 G. S. WHITMORE *Last Maori War* iii. 31 There was a danger of the whole of the West Coast tribes making common cause against the Government, and joining the standard of Titokowaru.
- 2009 *Cahiers du Monde Russe* 50 477 Khmel'nyts'kyi's army was disintegrating... His Crimean Tatar allies were leaving him—just 300 of them remained under his standard.

### e. Used in the titles of newspapers and periodicals.

‘The American Standard’ (see quot. 1811) was advertised by its founder, William Shelton, as a patriotic American paper, free from the supposed influence of British or French interests.

‘The Standard’ (see quot. 1827), founded in London by Stanley Lees Giffard and Charles Baldwin, was printed with a motto from Valerius Maximus: ‘Signifer statue signum: hic optime manebimus’, translated as ‘Plant here The Standard: Here we shall best remain’.

1811 (*title of newspaper*) The American Standard.

1827 (*title of newspaper*) The Standard.

1903 A. M. BINSTED *Pitcher in Paradise* iii. 79 A fifth document..guaranteeing them the starting-price as returned nightly in *The Evening Standard*.

1992 *World Monitor* Feb. 8/1 A recent article in the Nairobi Standard.

1999 *N.Y. Times* 22 Jan. A7/1 The journalists, who work for The Sunday Standard, said they had been beaten.

### †2. A body of troops kept in reserve in the earlier part of a battle.

*Obsolete.*

c1325 (▶ c1300) *Chron. Robert of Gloucester* (Calig.) 8252 Þes tueye adde þe meste ost þat as standard was þere Vor to helpe hor felawes wanne hii weri were.

### †3. A person (esp. a soldier or officer) who carries a standard, often as a permanent duty; = STANDARD-BEARER *n.* *Obsolete.*

a1425 (▶ ?a1300) *Kyng Alisaunder* (Linc. Inn) (1952) 1987 Sendiþ Ymagu 3oure standard And Archilaus in þe furste ward.

1481 W. CAXTON tr. *Siege & Conqueste Jerusalem* (1893) xcvi. 150 Theyr estandart had ben longe seke by thoccasion of his hurte.

a1616 W. SHAKESPEARE *Tempest* (1623) III. ii. 16 Thou shalt bee my Lieutenant Monster, or my Standard .

1796 *Instr. & Regulations Cavalry* 20 The standard must take care never to oblige the wheeling man to exceed a moderate gallop.

1832 *Proposed Regulations Cavalry* III. 101 The Standard and his Coverer resume their posts.

## 4.

### a. A military, naval, or ceremonial flag of a particular kind (formerly usually one having a long, tapering shape); *esp.* (*British* and *U.S.*) the flag of a cavalry regiment. Also: = *Royal Standard n.*

In heraldry, the *standard* was historically and traditionally understood to be distinguished from a banner by being long and tapering instead of square, and from a pennon by its greater breadth. However the term is now used more widely in general use, and most flags that are now called *standards* are square or rectangular in shape.

In the British army, the flags of a cavalry regiment are called *standards*, while the flags of an infantry regiment are called *colours*.

- ?a1439 J. LYDGATE *Fall of Princes* (Bodl. 263) IX. l. 3144 (*MED*) Afforn destroyed his castellis & his touns..His princis slayn, ther baneres nor penouns Nor brode standardis mihte hem nat auaile; The tras out souht, spoiled of plate & maile.
- 1548 *Hall's Vnion: Henry VII* f. liiiv Barges garnished with standardes, stremers and penons.
- 1589 *Sir T. Smith's Common-welth* (rev. ed.) I. xviii. 33 Knights bannerets are made in the field, with the ceremonie of cutting off the poynt of his standert, and making it as it were a baner.
- 1644 E. WALSINGHAM *Brit. Virtutis Imago* 12 His Majesties Banner Royall, vulgarly called the Standard.
- 1811 *Gen. Regulations & Orders Army* 11 A Field Marshal is to be saluted with the Colours and Standards of all the Forces.
- 1868 *Queen's Regul. Army* §6 The Standards of Regiments of Dragoon Guards are to be of silk damask.
- 1979 M. PEARSON *Tears of Glory* ii. 12 Captain Geyer..had escaped south on a white horse..carrying with him the blue silk standard of the regiment.
- 2001 B. HOEY *Her Majesty: 50 Regal Years* (2002) vi. 87 The moment she [sc. the Queen] leaves the Palace the Standard is lowered, and the very second she takes up residence again, the Standard is hoisted.

#### †b. A company of cavalry. *Obsolete.*

- 1571 *Dict. French & Eng.* sig. H.jv/2 *Vne Cornette des cheuailliers*, a cornet or standard of horsemen, commonly a hundreth.
- 1580 C. HOLLYBAND *Treasurie French Tong* *Vne Cornette de chevalliers*, a cornet or standard of horsemen.
- 1678 *London Gaz.* No. 1313/3 The French have received a reinforcement of 15 Standards.

#### †5. *slang*. The penis. *Obsolete.*

Usually as a double entendre.

- 1608 G. MARKHAM & L. MACHIN *Dumbe Knight* III. sig. F3 *Alp*. Direct me to her bed chamber, my noble firelock of a flesh pistoll. *Co*. Follow thy colours my braue worthy, mount vp thy standard, so enter and prosper.
- 1643 *Mid-wives Just Complaint* 6 We Midwives know that women are not so cold or out of soule, but that they can endure a fight bravely under a Standard, and can use a weapon as well as men if they get it in their handling.
- 1749 J. CLELAND *Mem. Woman of Pleasure* II. 193 He stood with his label of manhood, now lank, unstiffen'd,..his eyes, by turns cast down towards his struck standard, or piteously lifted to Louisa.
- 1762 in 'Pisanus Fraxi' *Bibliogr. Prohibited Bks.* (1885) III. 277 The pleasure the lady's graceful entrance gave him..erected that standard, the peculiar distinction of his sex.

## 6.

**a. Botany.** Any of the three inner perianth segments of an iris flower, which are petal-like and typically erect. Contrasted with  
FALL *n.*<sup>2</sup> 31.

- 1676 J. REA *Flora* (ed. 2) I. xx. 107 *Iris of the Maldives* hath straw falls, pale yellow arches, mixt with blew, and lively blew standards mixt with yellow.
- 1785 T. MARTYN in tr. J. J. Rousseau *Lett. Elements Bot.* xiv. 161 The three outermost of these parts or petals are bent downwards, and thence are called falls; the three inner ones stand erect, and have the name of standards.
- 1881 *Garden* 29 Oct. 442/3 The base of each standard stands out quite distinct from the base of the claw of the fall on each side of it.
- 1970 R. GORER *Devel. Garden Flowers* vii. 124 Varieties with three falls should have these overlapping at the base and slightly concave, while the standards should not be narrow nor too erect.
- 2017 *telegraph.co.uk* (Nexis) 18 Feb. (Gardening section) 'Eyecatcher' lives up to its name, with white falls marked and spotted in blue and yellow and blue-streaked white standards.

**b. Botany.** The large erect upper petal of a papilionaceous flower.

Cf. VEXILLUM *n.* 2.

- 1725 P. BLAIR *Pharmaco-botanologia* III. 103 Some [flowers] have the Vexillum or Standard large, and some less, and other small Flowers seem to want it intirely.
- 1870 J. D. HOOKER *Student's Flora Brit. Islands* 103 *Lathyrus hirsutus*..Flowers ½ in.; standard crimson.
- 1919 A. R. HORWOOD *New Brit. Flora* IV. 23 Insects..insert their proboscis under the vexillum or standard.
- 2020 @KateGold24 19 July in *twitter.com* (accessed 12 Aug. 2021) Two from the pea family: Hop Trefoil and, I think, Tall Melilot. No pods to help with id but the standard, wings and keel of the flower are about the same length.

**7. Ornithology.** Either of the two elongated wing feathers characteristic of certain birds. Cf. STANDARDWING *n.*, STANDARD-WINGED *adj.*

- 1859 G. R. GRAY in *Proc. Zool. Soc. London* 130 It [*sc.* a bird of paradise] has, springing from the lesser coverts of each wing, two long shafts, both of which are webbed on each side at the apex. It is the possession of these peculiar winged standards that induces me to propose for it the subgeneric appellation of *Semioptera*.
- 1903 W. L. SCLATER *Birds S. Afr.* III. 42 The ninth [primary] is prolonged to about three times the length of the first and forms the so-called streamer or standard.
- 1911 J. BLAND-SUTTON *Man & Beast E. Ethiopia* xxx. 384 When wooing, the cock drops noiselessly on the ground in front of the hen and moves the wings in such a way as to wave the standards over his head in front of her.
- 2007 P. FRANCES et al. *Bird* 291/2 Outside the breeding season, the male [Standard-winged Nightjar] moults its standards, which grow longer each year.

**II.** A thing standing or placed upright or vertical.

**8.** A large packing case or chest. Now *historical*.



- 1395 in F. J. Furnivall *Fifty Earliest Eng. Wills* (1882) 5 (MED) I bequethe..a chariot with twey standardes heled with lether, which that serueth for myn harneys.
- 1464 in J. H. Parker *Domest. Archit.* (1859) III. 113 A square standarde, and covered with blaakletheir, and bowden with yrne., with 2 lokys... A grete red standerd, full of stuff... A gret standard of the Chapell bounde wth ierne with 2 lokks.
- 1530 in N. H. Nicolas *Privy Purse Expences Henry VIII* (1827) 43 For ij standardes for to cary plate fro yorke place to hampton courte.
- ?a1562 G. CAVENDISH *Life Wolsey* (1959) 122 The kyng caused to be sent hyme iijre or iijor Cartloodes of stuffe, And most parte thereof was lokked in great standerdes.
- 1663 in E. F. Rimbault *Old Cheque-bk. Chapel Royal* (1872) 83 The Sergeant shall..deliver the Gentlemen their surplices out of the standard.
- 2008 G. SIMPSON in J. McNeill *King's Lynn & Fens* 58 Examples of pine standards do actually survive in the Netherlands and north Germany.

## 9.

**a.** A tall candlestick; (in later use) *spec.* a tall candlestick or gas lamp rising directly from the floor of a church. Also: †a candle (*obsolete*). Now chiefly *historical*.

- 1434–5 in H. E. Salter *Churchwardens' Accts. St. Michael's Oxf.* (1933) 32 (MED) To the standardes, vi lib. of newe wex, pris ii s. ix d.i lib. of the holde wex was lefte of the standards made small Beteres to the Rodelofte.
- c1440 (▷ a1400) *Awntyrs Arthure* (Thornton) l. 451 Sythene he..clathes gune calle, Sanapes and salers..Preketes and broketes, and standertis [c1475 *Taylor stondartis*, a1500 *Douce stondardes*] by-twene.
- 1488 in *Archaeologia* (1877) 45 116 A payre of Candelstyckks, greate standards for grete tapers, of tynne.
- 1552 in *Surrey Archæol. Coll.* (1869) 4 97 Item ij stondardes of lattyn.
- 1605 R. TRESWELL *Relation Journey Earle of Nottingham* 51 The roome was garnished with three hundred and twenty lights of wax, al set in standerds of siluer, of diuers fashions.
- 1611 J. FLORIO *Queen Anna's New World of Words* *Doppione*, a great torch of waxe, which we call a standard or a quarrier.
- 1851 A. W. PUGIN *Chancel Screens* 23 This screen is surmounted by standards for wax tapers.
- 1860 *Ecclesiologist* 21 72 The church is lighted with brass gas standards.
- 1953 P. COWLEY *Eucharistic Church* v. 148 If for festivals more candles are needed, then they should be in standards on the pavement—not on a step—in front of the altar.
- 2002 V. HARDING *Dead & Living in Paris & London, 1500–1670* 195 The number and resulting splendour of candles, tapers, torches, and standards could be multiplied almost indefinitely, and a grand funeral could have hundreds of lights.

**b.** Short for *standard lamp n.*

- 1885 *Decorator & Furnisher* July 112/3 The standards are different according to taste, some solid, others cast in fancy brass. They are very pretty, finished with French globes, and very useful to read by, reaching about four feet from the ground.

- 1910 H. G. WELLS *New Machiavelli* III. iii, in *Eng. Rev.* Sept. 292 The light of the big electric standard in the corner.
- 1939 O. LANCASTER *Homes Sweet Homes* 10 All over Europe the lights are going out..olde Tudor lanthorns, standards and wall-brackets.
- 1993 *Age* (Melbourne) (Nexis) 28 Aug. (Saturday Extra section) 12 Remove the centre light, replacing it with a ceiling fan. Then, add table lamps and standards, using individual fittings for specific highlighting.

## 10.

**a.** An upright or vertical post, stake, bar, or support, used for various purposes; *spec.* †a tall pole erected for display at a festival or celebration (*obsolete*); an upright scaffold pole; a riser in a staircase; an upright bar for a window; an upright support or pedestal in various machines. In later use chiefly: a tall post supporting a street lamp or overhead electric wires.

- 1439 in L. F. Salzman *Building in Eng.* (1952) 513 (MED) John Heywood..to eythir dore of the same chapel..shal do maken a louke..and to the ton dore there a porche of ij standardys archyd and bownden with a beme couplyd.
- ?c1450 *Brut* (Trin. Cambr.) (1908) 487 At the Ledenhall in Cornhill..a standard of tre was set in myddys of the pavement fast in the grounde, nayled with holme and Ive, for disport of Cristmasse to þe peple of the Cite.
- 1477–9 in H. Littlehales *Medieval Rec. London City Church* (1905) 85 (MED) For xxv foote of Elmyrn borde, for steppes and standardis for the same steyre, vj d.
- 1502 in N. H. Nicolas *Privy Purse Expenses Elizabeth of York* (1830) 25 Item..to John Coneway smyth for foure transoms and xij standardes.
- 1587 L. MASCALL *Bk. Cattell* (1596) 72 Their standarts and posts to fasten them [sc. oxen] by, would be round and smooth.
- 1609 P. HOLLAND tr. Ammianus Marcellinus *Rom. Hist.* xxiii. iii. 222 Whereupon the standard [of a ballista: L. *stilus*] being now at libertie with that quicke stroke..hurleth out the stone.
- 1627 in A. Macdonald & J. Dennistoun *Misc. Maitland Club* (1843) III. II. 369 (*note*) For gilting the Cok and thanis and culling of the same yallow with the glob and standart and stanes above the steiple heid.
- 1700 *Moxon's Mech. Exercises: Bricklayers-wks.* 14 Fir Poles, of several lengths for Standards and Ledgers for Scaffolding.
- 1840 F. WHISHAW *Railways Great Brit. & Ireland* 391 The distances are marked from either end of the line on stone standards.
- 1853 *Trans. Highland & Agric. Soc. Scotl. July 1851 – Mar. 1853* 115 The stairs in bruising-house and harness-room to be constructed with steps and standards of sufficient strength.
- 1856 E. T. HURLSTONE & J. GORDON *Exchequer Rep.* XI. 183 The wires..for the..use of the railway company rest upon all the posts or standards in the respondent's township.
- 1869 W. J. M. RANKINE *Cycl. Machine & Hand-tools* Pl.D 5 The same turning table also carries the standard, F, which supports the main gearing.
- 1907 H. WYNDHAM *Flare of Footlights* xxxiii At intervals [along the Embankment] rose the tall standards of the electric lights.
- 2010 C. MCKAY *Big Ben* viii. 112/1 In the belfry, a substantial wrought-iron framework had been built to hang the bells. This was made of 12 cast-iron standards that stood at about 15° from

the vertical, three standards on each of the four sides of the frame.

**b. Shipbuilding.** An inverted knee (*KNEE* *n.* 7a), having the vertical part turned upwards; = *standard-knee n.* Now *historical*.

- c1620 *Treat. Shipbuilding* (modernized text) in W. Salisbury & R. C. Anderson *Treat. Shipbuilding & Treat. Rigging* (1958) 11 Every beam of the orlop must have four side knees and two standards.
- 1748 B. ROBINS & R. WALTER *Voy. round World by Anson* II. iv. 158 Two standards and several clamps were broken.
- 1874 S. J. P. THEARLE *Naval Archit.* (new ed.) I. III. xiii. 222 Standards are knees for connecting the stern posts to the deck beams of screw ships... Standards were fitted in sailing ships connecting the fore side of inner post with the after end of the keelson.
- 2013 W. L. CROTHERS *Amer.-built Packets & Freighters 1850s* xv. 219/1 Outboard ends were kneed to the bilge ceiling with standards on the upper side.

**†c. In a plough:** a bar connecting the beam and sole in front; = *SHEATH n.*<sup>2</sup> *Obsolete*.

- 1652 W. BLITH *Eng. Improver Improved* xxix. 203 By a Standard put into the end of it [*sc.* the plough-beam].
- 1727 R. BRADLEY *Compl. Body Husb.* 43 in *Compl. Farmer* (1766) at *Plough* CC are the sheaths or standards.
- 1895 W. RYE *Gloss. Words E. Anglia* *Sill Iron*, the iron which connects the plough with the standards, jigs, or carriage, of a Norfolk plough.

**d. Carriage-building.** Each of the four corner posts of a coach. Now *historical*.

- 1669 S. PEPYS *Diary* 26 Apr. (1976) IX. 535 I..do resolve upon having the standards of my coach gilt with this new sort of varnish.
- 1669 S. PEPYS *Diary* 1 May (1976) IX. 540 We went alone through the town with our new Liverys..and the standards thus gilt with varnish.
- 1874 W. KEMMIS *Treat. Mil. Carriages* 88 Galvanized iron hoops are jointed to the front and rear standards for hoods, and the front standards are strengthened by jointed stays.
- 2009 *Carriage Jrnl.* May 137/1 There is one low central step and a small tread on the curved stay to each hind standard, level with the footmen's cushion.

**e. Weaving.** In the making of gauze and leno: a special form of heddle, comprised of two doups (*DOUP n.*<sup>1</sup> 5) through one of which a warp is threaded, to allow for the twisting or crossing of the warp threads with each passing of the weft that is characteristic of gauze and leno weave structures. Cf. *LEAF n.*<sup>1</sup> 15a.

- 1807 J. DUNCAN *Pract. & Descriptive Ess. Art of Weaving: Pt. I* iv. 184 In the open shed Fig. 1. the half leaves work in an opposite direction to the standards, and leave room for the warp to

rise and sink in the space between the leaves and standards.

- 1832 G. R. PORTER *Treat. Silk Manuf.* III. vii. 231 That [sc. thread] from above passes through the lower doup of one standard; and the other half leaf, which is attached below, passes through the upper doup of the second standard.
- 1979 S. A. ZIELINSKI *Master Weaver Libr.* IV. 90 It [sc. Leno (gauze)] can be woven either in the traditional set-up with doups and standards, or with doups alone.

†f. The end wall of a pew or bench in a church. *Obsolete.*

- 1843 *Civil Engineer & Architect's Jrnl.* 6 425/2 A set of well-carved oaken standards is a peculiarly appropriate gift to a church.
- 1916 J. C. COX *Bench-ends in Eng. Churches* II. 55 *Marsh Gibbon.*—There are many early seventeenth century pews in the nave, five of which have standards with panelled sides and knob finials.

†11. A standing tub, barrel, or other vessel. *Obsolete (English regional (south-western) in later use).*

- 1454 in J. A. Kingdon *Arch. Worshipful Company of Grocers* (1886) II. 355 Firste ij Aale standardes and iiij Cantelles of tymber for Wyn.
- 1535 *Will of Johane Broke* in F. W. Weaver *Wells Wills* (1890) 116 ij vates, a standerde, a barell and a kole.
- 1712 *Inventory* in A. Jervise *Hist. & Trad. Land of Lindsays* (1853) 342 In ye kitchen..a dropping pan, a standirt.
- 1867 W. F. ROCK *Jim an' Nell* II. 21 A standard, an' four heaters.

12. An upright collar of mail or armour used to protect the throat and neck. Now *historical.*

- 1464 in *Manners & Househ. Expenses Eng.* (1841) 194 My mastyr lent hym a payr of breganderys cueryd wyth blak ledyr and a stondard of mayll.
- 1465 in F. W. Fairholt & H. A. Dillon *Costume in Eng.* (1885) II. 379 (*MED*) A standard of gesserant garneshed with silver.
- 1465 M. PASTON in *Paston Lett. & Papers* (2004) I. 300 Sertyn harnys... In-primis,..a standerd of mayle [etc.].
- ?a1500 in *5th Rep. Royal Comm. Hist. MSS: Pt. 1* (1876) App. 445 in *Parl. Papers* (C. 1432) XL. 1 Fower standardys with two gossetts of mayl.
- 1530 J. PALSGRAVE *Lesclarcissement* 275/2 Standart of mayle, *gorgerin*.
- 1885 H. A. DILLON *Fairholt's Costume in Eng.* (ed. 3) I. 205 [On monuments 1391 and 1412] the camail is replaced by, or covered over with, a standard of plate.
- 2001 P. B. NEWMAN *Daily Life Middle Ages* vi. 206/2 A collar of mail was also worn around the arming doublet's collar. Called a *standard*, the mail collar provided the last line of defense for the knight's throat.

13.

**a. Forestry.** A tree left standing; *esp.* a tree that has not been coppiced left standing in a wood composed primarily of coppiced trees. Also: a shoot from a stump left standing when a coppice is cut down. Cf. *coppice-with-standards n.*

In quot. 1775 in extended use.

- 1473 J. PASTON in *Paston Lett. & Papers* (2004) I. 458 Pat þe standardys off suche mesure as he and I comonyd off maye also be reseruyd; I suppose it was xxx inche abowt a yerde from the grownde.
- 1577 B. GOOGE tr. C. Heresbach *Foure Bks. Husbandry* II. f. 94<sup>v</sup> I set them on the outside of my Orchard, as standares to defend their fellowes from tempest and weather.
- 1669 J. WORLIDGE *Systema Agriculturæ* vi. 94 Felling of Coppices... Trimming up such as you spare for standards, as you go.
- 1677 R. PLOT *Nat. Hist. Oxford-shire* 206 That ancient Standard in the high-Park, known of all by the name of the Kings Oak.
- 1775 W. MARSHALL *Minutes Agric.* 31 July (1778) This pulled up the running weeds; the standards left, were readily drawn by hand.
- 1799 J. ROBERTSON *Gen. View Agric. Perth* 238 If the advantage of the copse alone is attended to, no standard should be left, except such seedlings as appear necessary to renew the stocks.
- 1868 J. GRIGOR *Arboriculture* xiv. 127 Although the larch is not a coppice tree,..it is less objectionable than many kinds as a standard in coppice, as it rises in an upright figure.
- 1981 G. F. PETERKEN *Woodland Conservation & Managem.* ii. 21/2 The standards were generally felled when, by modern estimates, they were still small.
- 2010 P. A. THOMAS in B. G. Bowes *Trees & Forests* x. 199 (caption) The sparse canopy of *Fraxinus excelsior* (ash) and *Tilia* spp. (lime) standards allows abundant light to reach the shrub layer of coppiced *Corylus avellana* (hazel).

**b. Horticulture.** A tree or shrub growing on an erect stem of full height and standing alone without support. Also: a shrub grafted on an upright stem and trained in tree form. Cf. sense B. 6, *half-standard n.*

- 1625 F. BACON *Ess.* (new ed.) 277 Part of which Heapes, to be with Standards, of little Bushes, prickt upon their Top... The Standards to be Roses; Iuniper; Holly [etc.].
- 1690 W. TEMPLE *Ess. Gardens of Epicurus* in *Wks.* (1770) III. 218 [Gardens] part laid out for flowers, others for fruits; some standards, some against walls or palisadoes.
- 1713 A. POPE in *Guardian* 29 Sept. 2/1 The Trees, which were Standards, and suffered to grow to their full height.
- 1787 J. ABERCROMBIE *Every Man his Own Gardener* (ed. 11) 29 For standards, the principal sorts are apples, pears, plums, cherries, with smaller portions of quinces, medlars, mulberries, filberts, services, &c.
- 1830 J. BAXTER *Libr. Agric. & Hort. Knowl.* 187 The fig tree may be grown either as a standard, espalier, or against a wall.
- 1903 *Q. Rev.* Oct. 400 The only material difference between the experiments on dwarfs and standards respectively is that the late summer pruning..., while possibly beneficial to the former, was not so to the latter.

- 1977 tr. M. Schubert *Compl. Home Gardening* III. 272 (*margin*) Space needed for fruit trees. Apples: large standards on wild rootstocks, 96-100 sq yd.
- 2018 *Express* (Nexis) 15 Sept. 60 Treat a medlar just like an apple tree. It's best grown as a standard or half-standard in the lawn.

### †14. A structure containing a public water tap, pump, or fountain.

#### *Obsolete.*

'The Standard in Cornhill' in London continued as the name of a point from which distances were measured, long after the standard had disappeared: see quot. 1853.

- c1475 *Gregory's Chron.* in J. Gairdner *Hist. Coll. Citizen London* (1876) 192 (*MED*) The same day aftyr-non was be-heddyd in Cheppe a-fore the Standard, Syr James Fynes.
- a1525 (▶ 1434) *Coventry Leet Bk.* (1907) I. 157 Þat þe stondard of þe cundyte in þe Smythford-strete..shall not be doon awaye.
- 1580 *Memoriall W. Lumbe* c ij A standart with one cocke at Holborne bridge.
- 1598 J. STOW *Suruay of London* 316 A standard of timber with a cocke or cockes, deliuering fayre spring water to the inhabitants.
- 1631 B. JONSON *Divell is Asse* I. i. 56 in *Wks.* II I will fetch thee a leape From the top of Pauls-steeple, to the Standard in Cheepe.
- 1665 T. HERBERT *Some Years Trav.* (new ed.) 164 Towers, most of which are terrassed near the top like the Standard in Cheap-side.
- 1853 W. M. THACKERAY *Newcomes* (1854) I. ii. 16 This paradise, five miles from the standard at Cornhill.

### III. An exemplar of something.

#### 15.

**a.** The authorized exemplar of a unit of measurement, providing permanent evidence of the legally prescribed magnitude of the unit; a copy or equivalent of such an exemplar; the magnitude of such an exemplar. Also: an artefact, device, instrument, or physical phenomenon which in accordance with an agreed definition serves as a reference for quantitative measurements.

- 1424 in R. R. Sharpe *Cal. Let.-bks. London* (1909) I. 295 (*MED*) That the takynges of alle manere cornes and malt..be mesured..acordyng to the standard striken and not heped.
- 1429–30 *Rolls of Parl.: Henry VI* (Electronic ed.) Parl. Sept. 1429 §36. m. 7 Weiytis..acordant to þe standard of þe chekier.
- a1500 in J. Raine *Vol. Eng. Misc. N. Counties Eng.* (1890) 61 The sayd Burgese schall haffe ye standard, that is to say the buschell, halff a buschell,..the qwhyche mesures schuld agre wt the kynges standard.
- 1588 W. LAMBARDE *Eirenarcha* (new ed.) IV. iv. 456 If they of the towne where the kings Standerd is appointed to remaine, haue not their common weights and measures signed.
- 1622 F. BACON *Hist. Raigne Henry VII* 101 There was also a Statute, for the dispersing of the Standard of the Exchequor, throughout England; thereby to size Weights and Measures.
- 1694 J. SMITH *Horol. Disquis.* 45 A Royal Pendulum already Rectified, for a Standard to Adjust other Clocks by.

- 1728 E. CHAMBERS *Cycl. at Measure* The sealed Gallon at Guildhall, which is the Standard for Wines, Spirits, Oils, &c.
- 1799 *Jrnl. Nat. Philos.* Nov. 368 The standards of weight were a kilogramme of platina intended for the legislative body, and to be preserved with the most scrupulous attention for very important occasions, and several other kilogrammes of brass, made with the same exactness, and intended for civil use.
- 1821 J. Q. ADAMS in C. DAVIES *Mettr. Syst.* (1871) III. 278 To require, under suitable penal sanctions, that the weights and measures used at all the custom-houses, and land surveys, and post-offices,..should be conformable to the national standards.
- 1870 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 2 Sept. 5 The annual report of the Warden of the Standards lately issued.
- 1921 *Power Plant Engin.* 15 Sept. 928/1 Either the Clark or Weston cell may be used as a standard of voltage.
- 1969 *Science* 29 Aug. 868/2 Old standards such those for length and time were defined in terms of atomic properties; thereby the standards were made independently reproducible.
- 2015 Y. CHOQUET-BRUHAT *Introd. Gen. Relativity, Black Holes, & Cosmology* ii. 43 It is likely, however, that in the future, the caesium clock will be replaced as a standard by an optical clock.

†**b.** In abstract sense: the legally prescribed magnitude of a unit of measure or weight. *Obsolete.*

- 1535–6 *Act 27 Henry VIII* c. 6 §1 in *Statutes of Realm* (1963) III. 535 Two Mares being not spayed...eche of them of the altitude or hieght of xiiij handfulls..and every handfull to conteyne foure ynches of the standarde.
- 1609 *Euerie Woman in her Humor* I. C *Citty wife*. I haue a Ruffe is a quarter deepe, measured by the yard. *Hostis*. Indeede by the yard! *Citty wife*. By the standard.

†**c.** A normal uniform size or amount; a prescribed minimum size or amount. *Obsolete.*

- 1625 F. BACON *Ess.* (new ed.) 174 Making Farmes, and houses of Husbandry, of a Standard; That is, maintained with such a Proportion of Land vnto them, as may breed a Subiect, to liue in Conuenient Plenty.
- 1694 P. FALLE *Acct. Isle of Jersey* ii. 68 Almost all our Trees are Pollards;..The Husbandman being obliged to bring his Trees to a Standard, by Lopping of those..Luxuriant branches which..would cover his little Plots.

**d.** A unit of measurement.

- 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseudodoxia Epidemica* VI. iii. 284 As for the divisions of the yeare, and the quartering out this remarkable standard of time, there have passed especially two distinctions.
- 1777 A. BICKNELL *Life Alfred the Great* 349 The principal standard of weight among the Britons was at once borrowed and denominated from the Roman Pondo; signifying, like that, a pound either in weight or in money.
- 1807 A. AIKIN & C. R. AIKIN *Dict. Chem. & Mineral*. II. 554 The new French metrical system is founded on a single standard of length which is called the *Metre*, and is the ten millionth part

of the arc of the meridian which extends from the Equator to the Pole.

- 1830 J. F. W. HERSCHEL *Prelim. Disc. Study Nat. Philos.* 125 As a first preliminary towards effecting this, we fix on convenient standards of weight, dimension, time, &c.
- 1921 *Gas Manuf., Distribution & Use* (Brit. Commerc. Gas Assoc.) II. 92/2 An Act of Parliament, called the Sale of Gas Act, was passed in 1859, and defined the legal standard or unit of gas when sold by measure as the cubic foot.
- 2005 I. R. MORUS *When Physics became King* viii. 256 The British Association's ohm, as the crucial standard of electrical resistance came to be called, was the product of much hard work and negotiation.

**e.** A substance or preparation serving as a reference for quantitative measurements.

- 1748 T. RUTHERFORTH *Syst. Nat. Philos.* II. 542 Thus likewise it will be in all cases whatever, when water is made the standard with which to compare other bodies, and its specific gravity is reduced in this manner to 1.
- 1845 W. GREGORY *Outl. Chem.* I. 31 Now these latter numbers are precisely the atomic weights or equivalents of oxygen and hydrogen, oxygen being made the standard.
- 1944 *Science* 24 Mar. 248/1 2 loopfuls of the undiluted standard (in this case a *P. notatum* filtrate of known potency) were placed upon one disc.
- 1977 W. HEWITT *Microbiol. Assay* i. 2 The two substances are a standard and a sample whose potency is to be determined.
- 2010 J. K. CASPER *Climate Managem.* vi. 118 Carbon is the standard with a GWP [= Global Warming Potential] of 1; all other gases are measured against it.

**†f.** A precisely made solution of a dyestuff that may be used or diluted to achieve a particular colour in printing, dyeing, etc.

*Obsolete. rare.*

- 1808 A. REES *Cycl.* (1819) XI. at *Dipping* For pale blue, reduce the standard with 10, 15, or 20 measures of the solution of copperas.
- 1882 W. CROOKES *Dyeing & Tissue-printing* 379 A set of so-called 'standards'. These are mixtures of colouring matters and mordants not liable to undergo change or decomposition, and which merely require the addition of a thickener..to be ready for printing.
- 1922 *Amer. Dyestuff Reporter* 9 Oct. 265/1 A solution of one dyestuff known as a standard for this type of color is matched against a solution of an unknown by the use of two Nessler tubes..placed side by side.

**†g.** A person's stature or height. *Obsolete. rare.*

Apparently an isolated use.

- 1833 J. NYREN *Young Cricketer's Tutor* 103 John was a stoutly-made man; his standard about five feet ten inches.

**†h.** *Bowls.* A light reed or cane used as a measuring rod to determine which of two bowls is nearest to the jack. *Obsolete.*



- 1862 *Feltham's Guide Archery & Out-door Games* 62 When it is doubtful which is the nearest bowl to the jack, it is decided by a standard if the distance be less than one yard.
- 1876 *Encycl. Brit.* (U.S. reprint ed.) IV. 163/2 They [*sc.* pegs] are used for measuring which of two bowls is nearest the jack; and, if the distance be under a yard, the 'standard'—consisting of a light straw or reed—may be called into requisition.

## 16.

**a.** The legally prescribed weight and composition of a denomination of coin (now chiefly *historical*). Also: a prescribed degree of fineness for gold or silver.

See also *Britannia standard n.*, GOLD STANDARD *n.* 1.

- 1464 in *Statutes Parl. Ireland* (1914) III. 114 Forasmuche as the said moneis of silver may not continually be made according to his right estandert.
- 1551 J. WILLIAMS *Acct. Monastic Treasures* (1836) 91 Golde..coyned into crownes of vs a pece, according to the standerde apperteyninge to the mynte.
- 1569 R. GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 121 At thys tyme was vsed to be coyned that standard and finenesse that was called sterling money.
- a1684 J. EVELYN *Diary* anno 1683 (1955) IV. 340 He said it must be finer than the standard; such as was old Angel gold.
- 1691 J. LOCKE *Considerations Raising Value Money* in *Wks.* (1714) II. 68 That precise Weight and Fineness, by Law appropriated to the Pieces of each Denomination, is called the Standard.
- 1772–3 *Act 13 Geo. III* c. 52 §4 Plate, being of the standard of eleven ounces ten pennyweight of fine silver per pound troy [shall be marked with] the figure of..Britannia.
- 1852 A. RYLAND *Assay of Gold & Silver* iii. 28 The standards for gold are 22 and 18 carats of pure metal in every ounce... The coinage is of the higher standard... The lower standard is used for all manufacturing purposes... The standards for silver are 11 oz. 10 dwt., and 11 oz. 2 dwt. of pure metal in every pound troy... The higher standard is never used.
- 1997 J. WILLIAMS *Money* iv. 90/2 The Byzantine standard of 4.55 grams was now adjusted to 20 Arabic carats—4.25 grams—the weight also known as the *mithqal*.
- 2009 P. MERRIMAN *Silver* iv. 72 Probably the oldest standard still in use today is sterling silver, consisting of silver and copper in the fixed ratio of 92.5 per cent silver to 7.5 per cent copper.

**b.** A commodity, the value of which is treated as invariable so that it can be used as a measure of value for all other commodities (originally more fully †**standard of commerce**). Also: a commodity used as a basis of value in a monetary system.

See also GOLD STANDARD *n.* 2.

- 1683 *Britanniae Speculum* 47 Some one or other Commodity was every where found out to be the Standard of Commerce and Traffick.
- 1757 J. HARRIS *Ess. Money & Coins* 84 In these parts of the world, silver is, and time immemorial hath been, the money standard.
- 1776 A. SMITH *Inq. Wealth of Nations* I. i. v. 43 Labour..is..the only standard by which we can compare the values of different commodities at all times and at all places.

- 1825 J. R. McCULLOCH *Princ. Polit. Econ.* I. 25 Having been used..as standards whereby to measure the relative value of different commodities.
- 1997 C. A. GREGORY *Savage Money* 256 The cowrie can be, and has been, a standard of significant value..throughout history.

## 17.

**a.** A rule, principle, criterion, or measure by which something can be judged or evaluated. In later use also: an accepted norm against which something can be compared. Now frequently in *plural*.

See also *double standard* n.

- c1475 ( ▶ c1445) R. PECOCK *Donet* (1921) 212 (*MED*) Which consideraciouns þou schalt not recchelesly forȝete, but poynt hem in a papir, and þo same reherce in anopir daie iourney, with þe standerdis of þe seid 'book of cristen religioun.'
- 1568 T. HARDING *Detection Sundrie Foule Errors* I. f. 23 By this he maketh the Faith, not a Standerd to measure our opinions, and iudgementes by, as it ought to be, but he maketh the willes and fansies of the Lordes, the Standerd, whereby to measure our Faith.
- 1673 J. DRYDEN *Amboyna* Ep. Ded. sig. A3v You have serv'd Him..: making His Greatness, and the true Interest of your Country, the standard and measure of your actions.
- 1779 *Mirror* No. 30. ¶8 Let them [sc. the inexperienced] not believe that the scale of fortune is the standard of happiness.
- 1790 E. BURKE *Refl. Revol. in France* 61 The degree of estimation in which any profession is held becomes the standard of the estimation in which the professors hold themselves.
- 1888 J. BRYCE *Amer. Commonw.* I. x. 126 The English reader must be cautioned against applying his English standards to the examination of the American system.
- 1946 S. T. FELSTEAD *Stars who made Halls* i. 15 The words of these melodies might have been a trifle maudlin, judged by present-day standards, but the music..has withstood the test of time.
- 2014 J. ELLENBERG *How not to be Wrong* 3 He was drawn to subjects abstract and recondite even by the standards of pure mathematics: set theory and metric spaces.

**b.** A generally accepted exemplar of correctness or perfection, with regard to something; a perfect or representative model of a quality, type, or attribute. In later use also (chiefly with *the*): that which is generally considered to be the most common, usual, or typical.

In early use *figurative* from sense A. 15.

- a1500 ( ▶ c1477) T. NORTON *Ordinal of Alchemy* (BL Add.) (1975) l. 128 This boke, Namyd of Alchymye the ordinale, The crede michi, the standarde perpetuall.
- 1565 J. JEWEL *Replie Hardinges Answere* IV. xxii. 277 What if Rome be become the greate Babylon..? Yet may wee not departe from thence? Yet must that be the Rule, and Standarde of Gods Religion?
- 1665 R. BOYLE *Occas. Refl.* v. v. sig. Ll1v Men will be asham'd to be unlike those, whose Customs and Departments pass for the Standards, by which those of other Men are to be measur'd.
- 1676 M. HALE *Contempl. Moral & Divine* I. 304 He was exhibited, as the common standard and pattern of a Christian's condition.

- 1715 H. FELTON *Diss. reading Classics* (ed. 2) 174 Among the Romans, Horace is the Standard of Lyric, and Virgil of Epic Poetry.
- 1742 R. WEST *Let.* 4 Apr. in T. Gray *Corr.* (1971) I. 190 [Racine's] language is the language of the times, and that of the purest sort; so that his French is reckoned a standard.
- 1839 H. HALLAM *Introd. Lit. Europe* IV. vii. 507 The Academy..rendered this dictionary the most received standard of the French language.
- 1924 *Woman's World (Chicago)* Oct. 3 (*adv.*) Only the highest quality could have established the Victrola as the standard by which all talking-machines are judged.
- 1989 P. HOROWITZ & W. HILL *Art of Electronics* (ed. 2) x. 729/2 Look for 'Hayes-compatible' modems..that are now the de facto standard used by all communications software.
- 2001 *Toronto Star* 7 Apr. C4/1 There's an energy to the Grand Prix of Long Beach. And it's that vitality which makes this annual gathering of race-goers the standard by which all other events on the CART circuit are measured.
- 2011 *N.Y. Times* (National ed.) 2 Nov. B3/1 Among those under 30..Internet TV has become the standard.

**c.** Chiefly in *plural*. In the Presbyterian and some other Protestant churches: the books or documents accepted by a church as the authoritative statement of its creed.

- 1746 A. STEVENSON *De Municipum Juramento* 42 My Reasons for excluding the *Old Confession*, *Books of Discipline*, *Covenants National and Solemn League*, *Form and Order of Church Government* [*sic*], &c. from being any part of the Religion now authorised amongst us..is, that I find none of the foresaid Standards now authorised properly and formally as Religion.
- 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 175/1 All the divisions of the Seceders..agree in adopting as their standards, in addition to the Westminster Confession of Faith [certain works of their founders].
- 1848 G. STRUTHERS *Hist. Relief Ch.* 293 These considerations..induced them simply to proclaim their adherence to the Westminster standards.
- 1881 J. MACPHERSON *Westm. Confess. of Faith* (1882) 1 A Confession of Faith..is accepted by members of churches acknowledging it, simply as a subordinate standard.
- 1994 *Presbyterian Record* July 28/2 The church Doctrine Committee recommended to Assembly that *Living Faith* be added to our subordinate standards which already include the Westminster Confession and the Declaration of Faith Concerning Church and Nation.

**d.** In *plural*. Principles of acceptable conduct or behaviour, informed by ideas of morality, decency, etc. Often in **high standards**, **low standards**.

- 1893 A. H. MORTON *Etiquette* 178 People who have high standards themselves are apt to be intolerant of gross offenders against social rules.
- 1896 M. E. SANGSTER *With my Neighbors* xxxix. 157 Through meretricious reading, or talk with silly young women who have low standards.
- 1921 *New Success* July 19/1 I cannot meet competition and remain true to my standards, and I will not lower my standards.
- 1985 J. B. HILTON *Passion in Peak* ii. 18 I suppose we've got to expect this sort of thing. These people have no standards.

2017 C. ANDERSON *Blue Skies* (new ed.) 78 At least give me credit for having a few standards.

## 18.

†**a.** A fixed numerical quantity, of uncertain size (perhaps a quarter of one hundred, 25). *Obsolete. rare.*

1545 *Rates Custome House* sig. bvj Knyues of collayne the groce xxx.s. Knyues of roue the standerde v.s.

**b.** A particular measure or quantity of timber (varying in different countries). Cf. *standard deal* n.

1811 P. KELLY *Universal Cambist* I. 261 Deals are mostly sold by the Hundred of six score. The standard for Petersburg and East Country deals is 12 Feet long, 11 Inches wide, and 1½ Inch thick.

1864 *Daily Tel.* 17 Aug. A 'Petersburgh Standard'..consists of 120 deals of 12 feet long by 11 inches wide and 1½ inch thick. [This = 165 cubic feet.]

1891 *Law Times* 91 192/2 The vessel contained about 1000 standards... A standard was 165 cubic feet of timber.

1964 R. MILLWARD *Scandinavian Lands* II. xii. 358 The modern sawmill at Veitsiluoto..produced 43,000 standards of timber in 1959.

2013 Z. OLLERENSHAW in L. A. DiMatteo et al. *Commerc. Contract Law* ix. 207 A contract for the supply of timber..included an option for the customer to purchase 100,000 standards of timber.

†**19.** A kind of arrow. *Obsolete.*

The precise kind of arrow is unknown. Perhaps short for *standard arrow*, which occurs in later citations of 16th cent. documents (see quot. 1465-6 in the etymology).

1557 in *Vicary's Anat. Bodie of Man* (1888) App. iii. 177, 178 Who will comme..and take a longe bowe in his hande,—havige the standarde therin therefore prouyded,..shall haue for the best game a Crowne of golde... And for the best game of the bearinge arrowe, he shall haue [etc.]... And for the best game of the flight, he shall haue [etc.]... And..there shalbe a trumpett blowen at euerye shott, aswell of the standarde, as of the arrowe or flight.

1598 J. Stow *Suruay of London* 77 Of old time..the Officers of the Citie..were challengers of all men..to shoote the Standarde, broade arrow, and flight, for games.

[1682 W. M. *Remembr. Show & Shooting 1583* in W. Wood *Bow-mans Glory* 51 Then came the Duke..bearing a Standard Arrow in his hand.]

## 20.

**a.** A level of quality, attainment, excellence, etc. Also: a required or agreed level of quality or attainment, thought to be adequate or proper, esp. for some purpose; a level of quality or attainment regarded as the proper or desirable level to which a person should aim or endeavour.

- 1711 LD. SHAFTESBURY *Characteristicks* III. Misc. III. i. 139 'Twas thus they [*sc.* the Greeks] brought their beautiful and comprehensive Language to a just Standard... The Standard was in the same proportion carry'd into other Arts.
- 1766 J. FORDYCE *Serm. Young Women* I. i. 11 Act up to the best standard of your sex.
- 1780 *Mirror* No. 79. ¶18 We are told that those manners should be painted, not as they are found in nature, but according to an ideal standard of perfection in what is called the golden age.
- c1800 S. PEGGE *Anecd. Eng. Lang.* (1814) 38 During his translation of Quintus Curtius..it [*sc.* the French language] had varied so much that he was obliged to correct the former part of the work to bring it to the standard of the other.
- 1827 E. BULWER-LYTTON *Falkland* I. 45 Neither in person nor in character was he much beneath or above the ordinary standard of men.
- 1894 *Harper's Mag.* Apr. 770/1 He must maintain a certain standard of scholarship or he will be dropped.
- 1981 E. K. BLANKENBAKER *Mod. Plumbing* vi. 76/1 Gas water heaters which have met industry standards bear the American Gas Association (AGA) seal of approval.
- 1997 G. J. W. URWIN *Facing Fearful Odds* xxix. 547 The officers established a high standard of military discipline.
- 2009 P. GLENNIE & N. THRIFT *Shaping Day* iii. 90 The kind of practical knowledge that comes from being involved in installation, maintenance or repair, or in amateur tinkering that have reached the standard of some professionals.

**b.** In elementary schools in some present or former Commonwealth countries and (formerly) in schools in Britain: a form or class in which pupils are prepared for a grade of proficiency tested by examination; (occasionally also) a grade of proficiency. Frequently with postmodifying numeral. Now chiefly *South African, East African, and West African*.

- 1862 W. R. MORRISON *Recent Changes in Revised Code Examined* 16 The reading prescribed for Standard V. is actually more difficult than the reading required a year later, in Standard VI.
- 1867 G. S. A. PILLAY in *Rep. Progress Educ. in India 1866–70* 238 in *Parl. Papers* (1870) (C. 397) LII. 1 Supposing the pay of the teacher of a 2nd Anglo-vernacular standard class to be 25 rupees.
- 1878 F. KILVERT *Jrnl.* 16 Jan. (1977) 300 Gave the upper standards at the school questions on paper on the Catechism.
- 1902 V. JACOB *Sheep-stealers* xv When the village urchins are still wrestling with the fourth 'standard'.
- 1915 D. H. LAWRENCE *Rainbow* xiii. 353 She made friends with the Standard Three teacher.
- 1973 *Express (Trinidad & Tobago)* 17 Mar. 7/1 He left Trinidad a Seventh standard pupil of the St. Helena C.M. School.
- 1988 S. GRAY *Time of our Darkness* iv. 67 If I don't pass Standard Seven I will be out on the streets.
- 1999 T. MAY *Victorian Schoolroom* 29/2 All children in England and Wales were required to attend school until the age of ten, while children aged between ten and thirteen might leave once they had achieved Standard Five.
- 2004 *Guardian (Dar es Salaam)* 3 Apr. 1/3 The two boys were in Standard Seven and Four at Gongo la Mboti and Jeshi primary schools, respectively.

**c. Sport (chiefly Athletics).** A set time or distance in an event or discipline, which a sportsperson must achieve or beat to be entitled to a medal or badge or (now usually) to be eligible to participate in a competition.

- 1882 *Country Gentleman* 8 July 708/3 The only athlete who came out to do battle in the Mile did so more with the intention of gaining the medal for beating the standard of 4 min 32 sec than from any idea of upsetting George.
- 1959 *Amateur Athlete* June 20/2 Our American girl athletes will have to show some marked improvement before the first of August next year to equal many of the qualifying standards set up for the girls' events.
- 2019 *Herald (Glasgow)* (Nexis) 28 Dec. The London Marathon in April is the 'trial race' for the Olympics, with the British Athletics men's standard for Japan 2 hours 11 minutes 30 seconds.

## 21. The market price per ton of copper in the ore. Now *historical*.

- 1778 W. PRYCE *Mineralogia Cornubiensis* IV. ii. 242 Ore buyers..did not, neither would they offer at so high a standard for Copper Regule as they would for Copper Ore.
- 1855 J. R. LEIFCHILD *Cornwall: Mines & Miners* 233 The term 'standard of copper'..denotes the estimated value of the fine copper per ton, considered from the various assays to be in the ores sold; less a fixed sum per ton..deducted for the cost of smelting... When I began this book the standard of copper was £125, 5s., but it has since varied considerably.
- 1913 *Times* 13 Sept. 18/5 London, Sept. 12.—Copper... Standard continued its advance on Monday.
- 1993 R. READ in J. Brown & M. B. Rose *Entrepreneurship, Networks, & Mod. Business* ix. 183 The agreement between Anglesey and Cornwall collapsed in February 1792 and the market reverted to ticketing and a floating Standard.

## 22.

**a.** A book generally accepted as an authority, or regarded as an exemplar of excellence. Cf. sense B. 3a.

- 1837 G. VALE *Compend. Life T. Paine* 17 Mr Paine's work is now a standard, though only an answer to an attack on the French Revolution, while Mr Burke's Reflections are scarcely heard of.
- 1889 *Amer. Publ. Weekly* 30 Mar. 462 The old-fashioned book-store, with its supply of standards on the shelves tempting a customer to increase his library.
- 2003 *Weekend Financial Times* 17 May (FT Weekend section) w3/1 Pamela Redmond Satran, co-author of eight baby naming books, including the best-selling standard, *Beyond Jason and Jennifer, Madison and Montana: What to Name Your Baby Now*.

**b.** Something (esp. a tune or song) of established and long-lasting popularity.

In early use frequently with reference to jazz or blues.

- 1895 G. M. KELSON *Salmon Fly* iv. 109 The Baker... One of the oldest standards, and a favourite on most rivers.
- 1919 *Sheboygan (Wisconsin) Press* 12 Dec. 7/5 It is now time that America should be equally concerned in a public music of something better than a 'ragtime' or 'Jazz' standard.
- 1938 'JELLY ROLL MORTON' in *Downbeat* Aug. 31/1 I also transformed..*After the Ball, Back Home in Indiana*, etc., and all standards that I saw fit.
- 1980 M. BOOTH *Bad Track* v. 84 For an hour or so, the band jammed,..before going into standards that they knew and admired.
- 2015 *N.Y. Times* (National ed.) 8 June A17/1 They performed work songs, union songs and gospel songs, and became known for American folk standards.

**23.** A language variety of a country or other linguistic area which is by convention generally considered the most correct and acceptable form, esp. for written use. Cf. sense B. 3d.

See also *Modified Standard n.*, *Received Standard n.*

- 1904 *Life* 18 Feb. 167/1 Each one of these variations in tone and pronunciation is bound to give us some day a conglomerate which will not be pure in inflection or pronunciation unless we have a single, spoken standard, to which all who call themselves educated will seek to conform.
- 1999 *Language in Society* **28** 118 The failure of the *Samnorsk* (pan-Norwegian) movement to unite the two standards of Bokmål and Nynorsk.
- 2009 *Reading Res. Q.* **44** 381/1 Together, the spoken standard (Mandarin) and written standard (Modern Written Chinese) constitute what is termed *Modern Standard Chinese*.

**IV.** In various other senses (chiefly associated with the verb *STAND v.*).

†**24.** A book intended to be read or sung from during a church service; = *service book n.* *Obsolete.*

- 1466 *Inventory* in *Archaeologia* (1887) **50** 34 (*MED*) Item, a peire of standarts for the hygh auter with Couerynges of Calues leder made ther for to Couer them wt.
- 1568 in W. T. Ritchie *Bannatyne MS* (1928) II. 71 Write we in till our standert stoute Virgo peperit saluatorem.

†**25.** *Coining.* The lower part of a minting apparatus, used to produce the impress on the reverse side of a coin; = *PILE n.*<sup>2</sup> **2.** *Obsolete.*

- c1473 *Durham, Patent Roll* (P.R.O.: DURH 3/49) m. 6 We..haue..licencid..William Omorighe..to make graue and prynte ij dosen Trussellys and j dosen Standerdys for penys and iiij. Standerdys and viij. Trussellys for half penys.
- 1477 *Durham, Patent Roll* (P.R.O.: DURH 3/54) m. 4 To make..iiij. dosen Trussels and .ij. dosen Standerdys for penys, and ij. dosen trussels and j. dosen Standerdys for halfpenys.

**26.**

†**a.** Something permanent; something that has lasted a long time.

In early use in *plural*: permanent or necessary furniture or apparatus (of a household, etc.). *Obsolete*.

One or more of the first three quotes. may alternatively be taken as showing sense A. 11.

- ?1474 in C. L. Kingsford *Stonor Lett. & Papers* (1919) I. 146 Þes byth þe standderdus of Stonore þat schalle abyde yn þe Manor.
- 1492 *Deed* 24 July (P.R.O.: E 40/8331) She shall haue all the goodes, jouelles and catalles movabill and vnmovabill..except the stondardys of howseholde.
- 1506 *Will of J. Cornwallis* (P.R.O.: PROB. 11/15) f. 96v All the brewyng vessell and standardes in the brew house and bake house.
- 1639 T. FULLER *Hist. Holy Warre* I. xxiii. 35 The mountains..are standards too great..for either time or warre to remove.
- 1650 T. FULLER *Pisgah-sight of Palestine* App. 190 So there are certain standards in all visions, being the materiall and corporall ground-work, for a spirituall flourish..to improve it self thereupon.
- 1655 H. L'ESTRANGE *Reign King Charles* 157 The Queen was loath to proscribe so long a standard as Episcopacy, to entertain such an upstart in-mate as Presbytery.

**b.** A person who has been in a position for a long time, esp. an old resident, official, servant, etc. Now chiefly *English regional* and only in *old standard*.

- 1588 W. TRAVERS *Def. Eccl. Discipline* 111 Whiche superiour and olde standardes to displace (sayeth hee) to bring in yonge and inferiour Seignours.
- a1661 T. FULLER *Worthies* (1662) I. 38 The Ficklenesse and Fugitivenesse of such Servants, justly addeth a valuation to their Constancy, who are Standards in a Family.
- 1665 A. WOOD *Life & Times* (1892) II. 45 This Dr. was an old standard..and at leisure times he would entertaine A. W. with old stories relating to the universitie.
- 1768 in *10th Rep. Royal Comm. Hist. MSS* (1885) App. I. 410 How they [*sc.* the new Cabinet] will harmonize is the point. I believe well., the old standards are usefull & I think makes every office better.
- 1877 R. DE B. TROTTER *Galloway Gossip Sixty Years Ago* 379 He was the best landlord out, for he never put ony auld standard out of their farm to give it to an incomer, but always keepit them on if they would bide.
- 1956 W. M. WILLIAMS *Sociol. Eng. Village* (2002) vi. 136 The Wheatsheaf is a place favoured by the 'old standards' and has a reputation for fine singing; it is also the 'young lads' pub.

†**27.** *Cookery*. The main dish in a course of a meal. *Obsolete*.

- a1475 J. RUSSELL *Bk. Nurture* (Harl. 4011) in *Babees Bk.* (2002) I. 165 Two potages, blanger mangere, & Also Iely: For a standard, vensoun rost, kyd, favne, or cony.
- 1508 *Bk. Keruyng* (de Worde) sig. B.iiiiv The seconde course. Gelly whyte and reed..samon dorrey brytte turbot halybut; for standarde base troute [etc.].
- 1526 in J. Croft *Excerpta Ant.* (1797) 80 Item, for a Standart Cranes, two of a Dish.



†**28.** A suit (of clothes): = STAND *n.*<sup>1</sup> 25. *Obsolete.*

- 1631 B. JONSON *New Inne* Arg. II The Lady had commanded a standard of her owne best apparrell to bee brought downe.
- 1631 B. JONSON *New Inne* Arg. II. ii. 44 We ha' brought a standard of apparrell, down, Because this Taylor fayld vs i' the maine.

**B.** *adj.* Chiefly attributive.

**I.** Serving as or conforming to a standard.

**1.**

**a.** Serving as a standard of measurement; conforming to the official standard of a unit of measure. Cf. senses A. 15a and A. 15e.

Frequently qualifying the names of units.

- ?1532 *Anno .XXIII. Henry VIII* sig. B Euery fyrkyn for bere [*sc.* shall conteyne] nyne galons of the kynges standerde galon.
- 1622 G. DE MALYNES *Consuetudo* 306 If it bee appointed of make a Standard peece of tenne ounces fine.
- 1670 J. BEALE in *Philos. Trans. 1669* (Royal Soc.) 4 1113 A measure, taken exactly from the standard-foot of London.
- 1721 G. HOOPER *Inq. State Anc. Meas.* IV. viii. 406 This Oriental Ounce of 10 Dirhems is still the Standard Ounce of England for Gold and Silver.
- 1764 B. FRANKLIN in L. W. Labaree *Papers of Benjamin Franklin* (1967) XI. 13 Were we about to order a true Standard Yard to be made for regulating Long Measure..and a true Standard Peck for other Measure.
- 1830 M. FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* (new ed.) iii. 67 The standard or imperial pint now to be used is larger than the wine pint.
- 1873 J. C. MAXWELL *Treat. Electr. & Magn.* (1881) II. 322 When it is intended to measure a current with the greatest accuracy in terms of standard units, it is called a Standard Galvanometer.
- 1938 *Year Bk. Amer. Assoc. Textile Chemists & Colorists* XV. 138 Within this tank there is a brass and aluminum rotor that carries the twenty standard pint jars in which the tests are made.
- 2006 *Sci. Amer.* (U.K. ed.) Dec. 86/1 The method links the standard kilogram, the meter and the second to highly accurate practical realizations of electrical resistance (in ohms).

**b.** That is a standard by which something can be judged, or against which something can be compared; that is an exemplar or model of something. In later use also: generally accepted or established as a norm; customary, usual, expected, widely used.

In early use frequently *figurative* from sense B. 1a.

- 1626 H. BURTON *Plea to Appeale* 66 This is the marke, which the Councill of Trent, the standard rule of the Romish Church, shoote at.
- 1660 J. TOWERS *Four Serm.* iv. 193 I am content to have faith to my selfe before God..and not to measure another man by my Bushel (in things indifferent, for want of ample Revelation, or large capacity, there is no standard-faith).

- 1724 A. COLLINS *Disc. Grounds Christian Relig.* 103 It seems incredible, that Origen..and other Christians of his time..should receive an Old Testament (and that with the greatest applause for its integrity, and as a standard Text) from enemies.
- 1776 C. BURNEY *Gen. Hist. Music* I. 276 (*note*) We may suppose this sound to be the standard pitch, and fundamental note of the Mercurian lyre.
- 1845 A. DE MORGAN *Globes* 95 One hundred of these [*sc.* the fixed stars] are selected, among which are the *standard* stars, as they are called, being those which are best known and best adapted for the most accurate use.
- 1922 *People's Home Jrnl.* July 25/1 There are two standard methods of making bread—the 'sponge' and the 'straight dough'.
- 1968 H. O. MACKEY & J. P. MACKEY *Handbk. Dis. Skin* (ed. 9) vi. 37 Adrenaline is still one of the standard treatments for acute urticaria.
- 1989 P. VAN DER MERWE *Origins Pop. Style* (1992) xix. 159 This is one variant of the rhythm that has been called 'the African signature tune' or the 'standard pattern' of African rhythm.
- 2017 *New Scientist* 13 May 33/1 It has become standard procedure for companies and governments to put employees through hostile environment awareness training..before sending them to high-risk areas.

**c. Of size, rate, etc.: conforming to prescribed rules or measurements. Of a thing: having the prescribed size, rate, power, concentration, etc.**

- 1723 *Brit. Jrnl.* 9 Feb. 5/1 Several under-siz'd Men being lately discharg'd from the Guards, they are now inlisting Men of the Standard Size to supply that Deficiency.
- 1825 'J. NICHOLSON' *Operative Mechanic* 550 The standard thickness of a brick wall is 1½ brick laid lengthwise... A rod of standard brick-work..will require 4500 bricks.
- 1857 W. A. MILLER *Elements Chem.* III. 60 For the preparation of the standard copper solutions.
- 1889 P. N. HASLUCK *Model Engineer's Handybk.* 43 All the small parts..would be made to some standard measurement.
- 1904 D. J. SHACKLETON *Speech House of Commons* 23 Mar. in *Hansard* 557 That this House is of opinion that the wages paid to the unskilled workers in Government factories..should be not less than the standard rate of wages.
- 2007 *Flora Internat.* July 42/1 Topiary trees can be made in many different sizes, from miniature through to the normal standard size of four to five feet high.

**d. Of bread: having a set weight and composition of flours. Now chiefly *historical*.**

- 1740 (*title*) A table of the assize and price of standard wheaten bread.
- 1772 *Rep. Comm. Several Laws Relative to Assize of Bread* in *Rep. Comm. House of Commons* (1776) III. 58/1 The Wheaten Twelve-Peny Loaf of this Standard Bread would contain 7lb. 7oz. 3dr. of Bread.
- 1851 H. MAYHEW *London Labour* I. 178/2 Previously to 1815 bakers were restricted..to the baking of three kinds of bread—wheaten, standard wheaten, and household. The wheaten was made of the best flour, the standard wheaten of the different kinds of flour mixed together.
- 1996 S. L. KAPLAN *Bakers of Paris & Bread Question, 1700–75* Notes 608 The great unpopularity of a 'trifling admixture' of maize flour (10 percent) to the standard wheaten loaf in England

during the First World War.

**e.** Esp. of the features of a commercial or technical product: as the ordinary or basic specification; not an extra feature or modification. Chiefly in predicative use, frequently in **as standard** (chiefly *British*).

**to come as standard** (chiefly *British*), **to come standard** (chiefly *North American*): (of a feature) to be the ordinary specification for a product; (of a product) to be sold with the specified feature.

- 1915 *Literary Digest* 21 Aug. 387/2 Goodyear Cord Tires... Adopted for the new Locomobile as standard equipment.
- 1968 *Radio Times* 28 Nov. 43/1 Not all cars have reversing lights fitted as standard.
- 1971 *Good Motoring* Sept. 18/2 Rubber mats are standard; carpets are an optional extra at £10.88.
- 1989 *Business Week* 23 Oct. 107/3 Such storage devices come standard only on the Next computer now, but eventually they may replace magnetic disk drives.
- 1991 *Skiing* Mar. 14 (*advt.*) The Trooper comes standard with four-wheel drive and auto-locking hubs.
- 1998 *What Cellphone* Aug. 70/3 A high capacity power pack comes as standard with the phone.
- 2020 *Dominion Post (Wellington, N.Z.)* (Nexis) 31 Oct. (Motoring section) 15 Other standard features include active cruise control, 21-inch alloys,..[etc.]. Buyers can spec on a panoramic sunroof.

**f.** Somewhat *depreciative*. Esp. of the arts, food, etc.: typical, conventional, commonplace; ordinary, average, unexceptional. Chiefly with modifying adverb.

- 1977 *Washington Post* 26 June (Book World) E7/3 This opera's two brief acts are fairly standard romantic melodrama, though well made.
- 1996 *New Scientist* 22 June 42/1 [It] has two or three gems, but is generally a fairly standard and predictable anthology in this most fascinating subgenre of science fiction.
- 1998 *Making Music* Apr. 14/5 Unfortunately, the energy only succeeds in masking some pretty standard Britrock fare.
- 2012 *Time Out N.Y.* 25 Oct. 19/1 Instead of wacky Ital-Mex bar food, those nachos are pretty standard greasy chips with waxy cheese and bland ground meat.

**2.** Of a coin: having the legally prescribed weight and composition; (of a precious metal, etc.) having a prescribed degree of fineness; (of value or fineness) conforming to a prescribed standard.

- 1603 G. DE MALYNES *Englands View* 176 The proportion betweene the gold and siluer, which with vs in England hath continued for many yeares, 11 of fine siluer to one of fine gold, or 11 of Standard siluer to 1 of crowne gold.
- 1677 W. BADCOCK *Touch-stone Gold & Silver Wares* (title page) Discovering..how to know Adulterated Wares from those made of the True Standard Alloy.

- 1706 *Phillips's New World of Words* (new ed.) at *Jacobus* A Gold-coin..of two sorts, viz. the Broad Piece of Twenty Shillings Standard-value..and the 22s. Broad-Piece.
- 1809 R. LANGFORD *Introd. Trade* 38 Standard Gold contains 11 parts of pure Gold, and 1 part of alloy. Standard Silver contains 37 parts of pure Silver, and 3 parts of alloy.
- 1866 A. CRUMP *Pract. Treat. Banking* x. 230 The standard purity of the sovereign underwent many changes.
- 1964 *Content of Silver Coins: Hearings before U.S. Senate Comm. on Banking & Currency* (88th Congr., 2nd Sess.) 57 Any such excess silver may be..used for the coinage of standard silver dollars and subsidiary silver coins.
- 1997 J. WILLIAMS *Money* iv. 101/2 More successful currency reforms were carried out by Ghazan (1295–1304), whereby a standard silver coin weighing half a *mithqal* (about 2.16 grams) was struck all over the empire.

### 3.

**a. Of a book or an author: generally accepted as an authority, or regarded as an exemplar of excellence.**

- 1645 J. MILTON *Tetrachordon* 27 But Erasmus, who for having writ an excellent Treatise of Divorce, was wrote against by som burly standard Divine,..defends his former work.
- 1742 A. POPE *New Dunciad* 119 Let Standard-Authors thus, like Trophies borne, Appear more glorious as more hack'd and torn.
- 1759 O. GOLDSMITH *Bee* 24 Nov. That he [sc. Lestranger] was a standard-writer cannot be disowned, because a great many very eminent authors formed their stile by his.
- 1849 C. BRONTË *Shirley* I. v. 94 One should not be apathetic in studying standard works.
- 1891 *Speaker* 2 May 534/1 A 'History of Chemistry', which..has rapidly won its way into recognition in scientific circles as a standard book on the subject.
- 1969 J. GROSS *Rise & Fall Man of Lett.* iv. 115 He goes on to supply a list of standard works, English and European,..which would certainly keep most ordinary readers tied up for as far ahead as they could plan.
- 2006 J. T. COSTA *Other Insect Societies* ii. 19 Allee and colleagues..authored the tome that was to become the standard reference for students of the fledgling discipline of animal population ecology: *Principles of Animal Ecology*, first published in 1949.


**b. Of a law: that has the chief authority with reference to a particular subject.**

- 1660 W. SOMNER *Treat. Gavelkind* 79 A Standard-law to be currant over all the Kingdome.
- 1752 J. LOUTHIAN *Form of Process* (ed. 2) 162 The Standard-law in England, concerning High Treason, is the Statute of the 25th of Edward III. cap. 2.
- 2001 *Daily Record (Glasgow)* (Nexis) 21 June 21 We cannot differentiate outside the classification that is established by the authorities. It is a standard law throughout the UK.

**c. Of a maxim, saying, etc.: constantly repeated, stock.**

- 1724 J. SWIFT *Drapier's Let.* VI in *Wks.* (1735) IV. 202 If Sir John Holt's Opinion were a Standard Maxim for all Times and Circumstances, any Writer, with a very small Measure of Discretion, might easily be safe.

- 1805 J. FOSTER *Ess.* III. i. 10 A standard expression of contemptuous dispatch.
- 1870 M. ARNOLD *St. Paul & Protestantism* Pref. p. xvi Mr Miall's standard-maxim: The Dissidence of Dissent, and the Protestantism of the Protestant religion.
- 1885 *Spectator* 25 July 977/1 [He] has his oft-repeated little standard jokes.
- 2007 *Amer. Ethnologist* 34 48/1 'Getting out of the head and into the body' is a standard maxim among Satyananda yogis.

**d.** Designating a language variety of a country or other linguistic area which is by convention generally considered the most correct and acceptable form (esp. for written use), as in **Standard English, Standard American English, Modern Standard Arabic n.**, etc. 

A standard language variety is often associated with or prescribed in various ways by formal institutions, including government, language academies, and education and national media.

- 1806 G. CHALMERS in D. Lindsay *Poet. Wks.* I. 141 The Scottish dialect was formed, as the various dialects of England were formed, by retaining antiquated words and old orthography, while the standard English relinquished both, and adopted novelties.
- 1859 *Proposal Publ. New Eng. Dict.* 3 As soon as a standard language has been formed, which in England was the case after the Reformation, the lexicographer is bound to deal with that alone.
- 1951 D. J. LLOYD in *Amer. Scholar* Summer 283 In this sense, standard American English is the sum of the language habits of the millions of educated people in this country.
- 1972 H. KURATH *Stud. Area Ling.* 105 This divergence between Pennsylvania German..and Standard German..would tend to keep the two apart.
- 1975 *Times Lit. Suppl.* 7 Feb. 136/2 Local names pronounced in [Chinese] dialects widely different from 'Mandarin' or, as it must now be called, Standard Speech.
- 2008 *Wired* Sept. 24/2 You..muse that Chinglish and Singlish might one day be considered as proper as..Standard English.

**4. Mathematics.** In mathematical logic: designating a model that is equivalent to the usual model for a given set of axioms; (also) designating an element of such a model. Cf. NONSTANDARD *adj.* 2.

- 1961 A. ROBINSON in *Proc. Koninklijke Nederlandse Akad. van Wetenschappen* A. 64 434 We consider in the first instance functions, relations, sets, etc. which are defined already in  $R_0$  [sc. the set of all real numbers]... Such concepts will be called standard (functions, relations, sets, etc.).
- 1972 *Sci. Amer.* June 86/2 We define the instantaneous velocity not as the ratio of infinitesimal increments, as L'Hôpital did, but rather as the standard part of that ratio; then  $ds$ ,  $dt$  and their ratio  $ds/dt$  are nonstandard real numbers.
- 1973 C. C. CHANG & H. J. KEISLER *Model Theory* i. 42 The *standard model* of number theory is  $\langle \omega, +, \cdot, S, 0 \rangle$ , where  $S$  is the successor function and  $+$ ,  $\cdot$ ,  $0$  have their usual meaning.
- 1994 *Sci. Amer.* Nov. 68/3 Nelson finds nonstandard numbers on the real line by adding three rules, or axioms, to the set of 10 or so statements supporting most mathematical systems. (Zermelo-Fraenkel set theory is one such foundation.) These additions introduce a new term,

standard, and help us to determine which of our old friends in the number system are standard and which are non-standard.

2016 P. A. LOEB *Real Anal.* App. C. 235 For each standard mathematical model there are other mathematical objects, called nonstandard models.

## II. Upright, vertical, and related senses.

### 5. Upright; set up on end or vertically. Also: having or standing on an upright base, support, or supports.

Now chiefly in *standard lamp n.*

Earlier evidence of this sense may be shown in *standard mattress n.*

1538 *Accts. J. Scudamore* in T. Wright *Three Chapters Lett. Suppression Monasteries* (1843) 276 Item, ij. standert candelstyckes.

1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farming* 318 Its Standard Iron Pin is twenty Inches long and one Inch Diameter.

1833 J. C. LOUDON *Encycl. Cottage Archit.* §981 Each fireplace to have..standard grates (kitchen grates supporting themselves by feet in front).

1865 *Morning Star* 27 Feb. The illumination is produced almost entirely by standard gas-burners.

1875 E. H. KNIGHT *Amer. Mech. Dict.* III. 2307/2 *Standard-piles*, in a coffer-dam. Piles placed at regular intervals apart and connected by runners.

1901 J. BLACK *Illustr. Carpenter & Builder Ser.: Scaffolding* 21 Each side of the inner square was divided into two by two upright poles, so that there were thirty-six standard poles on the outside, and sixteen on the inside.

1937 A. D. TAYLOR *Camp Stoves & Fireplaces* 22/2 Three kinds of standard grates often used for picnic purposes... The grate in each of these fireplaces is supported by four legs, each of which may be solidly anchored.

### 6. Of a tree or shrub: that is grown as a standard (see sense A. 13b), not dwarfed or trained on a wall or other structure.

1629 J. PARKINSON *Paradisi in Sole* 539 The standard Cherries are alwaies later then the wall Cherries.

1690 W. TEMPLE *Ess. Gardens of Epicurus* in *Wks.* (1731) I. 185 The Border is set with Standard Laurels.

1798 *Times* 28 June 4/2 Large walled Garden..stocked with standard and wall fruit trees.

1864 S. HIBBERD *Rose Bk.* 217 The Dog rose is largely used in this country in the production of standard roses, for which it is so admirably suited, being of vigorous constitution.

1977 *Pop. Mech.* Apr. 94 (caption) In a 40 by 40-foot plot a standard apple tree would fill, 15 dwarf fruit trees can flourish and produce more fruit.

2010 *Independent* 4 Dec. (Mag.) 91/1 Winter pruning is the way to gradually build up a standard or half standard apple or pear.

## C. int.

*British colloquial.* Used to indicate that the preceding statement is exactly as expected: 'of course', 'naturally', 'as usual'.

- 2004 *Tense* June 88/2 I got crunked every night. Standard.
- 2010 N. SHUKLA *Coconut Unlimited* iii. 66 He'd really liked it. He'd found it 'moving.' 'Yeah man, standard,' I'd said.
- 2018 @wildy412 8 Jan. in *twitter.com* (accessed 23 Jan. 2019) [*In response to Media twisting his words again though.*] Standard mate. I always read media comments in same vein as bedtime stories to my kids.

---

## PHRASES

**P1. to raise one's standard:** to take up arms; to assume a hostile attitude either defensive or offensive; to prepare to fight; cf. sense A.

1.

Now chiefly used in historical contexts.

- 1548 *Hall's Vnion: Edward IV* f. ccxxviii<sup>v</sup> The king of Englande..had passed the seas, rayed his standard, and by dukes procurement entered into the lande of hys enemyes.
- 1845 G. P. R. JAMES *Arrah Neil* I. vi. 125 The king..would raise his standard at once, march to London.
- 2004 D. SCOTT *Politics & War in Three Stuart Kingdoms* ii. 37 By the time Charles raised his standard at Nottingham on 22 August, sporadic fighting had broken out in a number of counties.

**P2.** With *of*, forming noun phrases.

†**a.** In sense A. 4a.

**(a)**

**standard of trade** *n.* *Obsolete rare* a merchant flag or ensign.

- 1653 H. COGAN tr. F. M. Pinto *Voy. & Adventures* xvii. 59 A Standart of Trade hung out..to the end they might be taken for Merchants.

**(b)**

**standard of truce** *n.* *Obsolete rare* a flag signalling a truce, hoisted on a pole.

- 1449 R. WENYNGTON in *Paston Lett. & Papers* (2005) III. 69 Then they lonchyd a bote and sette vppe a stondert of truesse.

**b.**

**standard of comfort** *n.* the level of material comfort regarded as acceptable by a person or group.

- 1808 *Edinb. Rev.* July 353 The effect of such checks would be felt rather in the retardation of the population, than in the adoption of an inferior kind of food, or a different standard of comfort.

- 1879 A. MARSHALL & M. P. MARSHALL *Econ. Industry* II. vii. 102 The Standard of Comfort which young people are prudent enough to secure for themselves before they marry, varies from place to place and from time to time.
- 1907 G. B. SHAW *John Bull's Other Island* II. 41 He guesses Broadbent's standard of comfort a little more accurately than his sister does.
- 2007 K. LEDBETTER *Tennyson & Victorian Periodicals* ii. 45 The machinery of commercial production that gave Tennyson the cash needed to support his standard of comfort.

**c.**  
**(a)**

**standard of living** *n.* the level of material comfort estimated for a person, group, or nation, usually judged in terms of consumption of food, accommodation, clothing, services, etc., and access to health care, education, etc. Cf. *living standard n.*

- 1825 *Morning Chron.* 8 Oct. They must speedily come to perceive that wages must depend on the proportion which the absolute number of hands that can work, bears to the demand for labour; that the former depends on their own habits, their foresight, the standard of living which they have adopted for themselves; the latter on the amount of capital in a country.
- 1903 'A. McNEILL' *Egregious Eng.* (ed. 3) xx. 186 The standard of living in England is an..artificial standard. Practically every Englishman lives, or longs to live, beyond his means.
- 2002 *Times* 4 Apr. II. 4/2 Las Vegans enjoy a high-quality, low-cost standard of living as bounteous as any in the land of the free.

**(b)**

**standard of life** *n.* the level of material comfort estimated for a person, group, or nation, usually judged in terms of consumption of food, accommodation, clothing, services, etc., and access to health care, education, etc.; = *standard of living n.* at Phrases 2c(a).

- 1896 *Times* 21 Dec. 10/1 The plague..is..an indirect product of dirt and bad food..scarcely touching those whose higher standards of life and generous diet enable them to defy it.
- 1936 J. M. KEYNES *Gen. Theory Employment* xvi. 218 The position of equilibrium, under conditions of *laissez-faire*, will be one in which employment is low enough and the standard of life sufficiently miserable to bring savings to zero.
- 1987 W. GREIDER *Secrets of Temple* I. v. 174 The general 'standard of life' was improved dramatically, at least in the industrial world.

**d.**

**standard of proof** *n. Law* the level of proof or amount of evidence required for success in a legal proceeding.

Typically, the standard of proof is based on probability in civil proceedings and reasonable doubt in criminal proceedings.

- 1849 *Boston Courier* 29 Nov. The law intends and demands that they shall bring their defence up to the highest standard of proof, or they shall smart for it.



- 1941 *Columbia Law Rev.* **41** 1076 The United States Supreme Court..[requires] a very rigid standard of proof to establish possession.
- 2019 *Times* (Nexis) 18 Apr. 58 Disciplinary tribunals for solicitors and barristers announced that they were lowering the standard of proof required to convict lawyers of misconduct.

e.

**standard of care** *n.* the level of attention, caution, or prudence expected or required of a person, especially to ensure the safety or well-being of others.

Chiefly in medical or other professional contexts.

- 1852 *Maine Rep.* **32** 574 The standard of care required of travelers upon the highway, is such care as persons of common prudence generally exercise.
- 1906 *Brit. Med. Jrnal.* 4 Aug. 269/1 The standard of care by which a Christian Science healer is to be judged is the care, skill, and knowledge of the ordinary Christian Scientist..and not that of the ordinary physician.
- 2016 *Canad. Govt. News* (Nexis) 8 Mar. There is conflicting evidence as to whether or not he met the standard of care in terms of advocating for his patient.

**P3. up to standard:** reaching a required, agreed, or desirable level of quality or attainment.

- 1865 *North-China Herald* 21 Jan. 11/5 The principal question, was, therefore, whether the muster bale was or was not of a quality up to standard, that is, whether it was best dry Shanghai cotton.
- 1925 E. F. NORTON in E. F. Norton et al. *Fight for Everest: 1924* 31 The dilatory and obstructive methods of the Dzong Pen..were fully up to standard.
- 2007 *Daily Tel.* (Nexis) 31 Mar. (Books section) 26 Thomson is an artful writer, and his prose here is up to standard.

---

## COMPOUNDS

**C1.** Compounds of the noun.

**a.** As a modifier in senses A. 1, A. 4a., as in **standard-flag**, **standard-staff**, etc.

- 1497 in M. Oppenheim *Naval Accts. & Inventories Henry VII* (1896) 89 Standard shaftes.
- a1560 T. PHAER tr. Virgil *Nyne Fyrst Bks. Eneidos* (1562) IX. sig. Eeijv His fyriesmoking bronds on standard-staff Mezentius shooke.
- c1660 J. EVELYN *Diary* anno 1644 (1955) II. 282 The ropes and cables which support the standard-pole.
- 1799 *Instr. & Regulations Cavalry* (ed. 3) 298 The commanding officer in the rear of the standard half squadron.
- 1799 T. CAMPBELL *Pleasures of Hope & Other Poems* II. 180 The stormy showers..Freeze every standard-sheet.

- 1821 *Sporting Mag.* 7 196 When potent nature her standard-flag rears.
- 1848 H. C. HAMILTON in tr. Walter de Hemingburgh *Chronicon* I. 59 The carroccio, or great standard-car, is said to have been invented..in the year 1035.
- 1855 C. KINGSLEY *Westward Ho!* xx His left hand on the standard-staff, his sword pointed in his right.
- 2011 G. SEYMOUR *Deniable Death* xvi. 396 She'd check there were no crumples in the black ribbon she tied with a flourished bow at the top of the standard pole.

**b.** As a modifier in sense A. 15, with the first element in plural form, as in ***standards officer, standards watchdog, etc.***

- 1868 *Jrnl. Statist. Soc.* 31 387 The first report of the Standards Commission which has just been presented, shows the necessity of the establishment of the Standards' Department.
- 1937 A. H. DAVID *Noise* iv. 46 Limitation of the decibel to intensity ratios and the to loudness scales has been adopted by the British Standards Institution.
- 1961 *B.S.I. News* July 14/2 The successful application of standards called for continuous consultation between the standards engineer and his colleagues.
- 1981 *West Lancs. Evening Gaz.* 3 Feb. 11 (*adv.*) We have a vacancy..for a Standards Officer to assist the Standards Engineer.
- 2012 *Independent* 24 May 6/4 Last week, the standards watchdog Ofsted carried out a no-notice inspection of the home following allegations that staffing levels did not meet the minimum requirements at the time of abuse.

**c.** In general use.

**standard high** *adj.* now *rare* of the height of a standard shrub (see sense B. 6), typically 3 feet (approx. 91 cm.).

- 1821 R. SWEET *Bot. Cultivator* 293 Some of the humbler kinds, as C[ytisus] *purpureus*, &c. make a handsome appearance when budded standard high on C[ytisus] *Laburnum* or *alpinus*.
- 1867 E. WATTS *Orchard & Fruit Garden* xxii. 126 If the stock be strong and healthy, the sort vigorous, and the soil good, it will soon grow standard high.
- 1949 *Fruit-grower* 1 Sept. 348/3 Quantities of standards are grafted standard high, as Kent growers prefer this type of tree.

**standard mark** *n.* (*a*) a point of reference; a measure or norm against which something can judged or evaluated; (*b*) an official mark used to certify the quality of a product or manufactured item; *spec.* an official mark or stamp used on items made of gold or silver to certify the fineness of the metal.

- 1676 C. MOLLOY *De Jure Maritimo* I. ii. 15 Though the Art is now become lawful by the Law..of Nations, yet it must have its Standard mark, for the same cannot be done by any private authority, but only by the power of that Prince or Republique.
- 1687 *Let. from Dissenter to Divines Church of Eng.* 3 The Book, I see, has the Standard Mark; 'tis Licens'd by the Archbishop of Canterbury's Chaplain; and so must be suppos'd to contain nothing, but what is agreeable to your Church.

- ?1726 *Reason offered to Legislature by Workers in Small Silver-wares* (single sheet) Not one Quarter of the Small Silver-Wares..do go to the Hall for the Standard-Mark.
- 1881 F. J. BRITTEN *Watch & Clockmakers' Handbk.* (ed. 4) 156 *The Standard Mark* for Sterling Silver is a lion passant.
- 1889 F. E. GRETTON *Memory's Harkback* 73 In stature and in grasp of mind rather below standard-mark.
- 1997 B. C. WEES *Eng., Irish, & Sc. Silver at S. & F. Clark Inst.* 107/3 The thistle was used until 1974, when the Hallmarking Act of 1973 introduced new standard marks.
- 2015 S. ALCORN & W. TURNER *42 Rules engaging Members through Gamification* v. xxvi. 63 With the..move away from the diploma as the standard mark of educational achievement, associations will need to provide a credible way for people to demonstrate their achievement in their chosen specialities.

**standard setter** *n.* a person who or body that sets the standard in a given discipline, industry, area, etc.; a person who or body which sets standards.

- 1899 *N.Y. Times* 16 Dec. 874/4 So the list, as a standard setter, is worth most when it is confined to new books of a like material character.
- 1948 *Amer. Jrnl. Nursing* 48 249/2 These boards, too, are standard setters in nursing education.
- 2018 *Times* (Nexis) 1 Dec. 14 Reddan is a standard-setter in training and in the gym.

**standard setting** *adj.* and *n.* (*a*) *adj.* that establishes a standard in a given discipline, industry, area, etc.; (*b*) *n.* the establishment of a standard in a given discipline, industry, area, etc.

- 1886 *Aberdeen Jrnl.* 14 Oct. 4/3 Not the least of the occasions for laughter is to be found in the silence of our own standard-setting Bulgarian-outrage monger.
- 1911 *Winnipeg Tribune* 4 July 4/2 We prefer, if any standard setting is necessary, to leave it to the men who are in direct and personal contact with the King himself.
- 1993 *Sci. Amer.* Feb. 12/2 Privacy Enhanced Mail (PEM) is the long awaited culmination of years of international standard setting by computer scientists.
- 2012 *Daily Tel.* 24 Feb. 2/4 Doctors and nurses are to be instructed to treat patients with 'dignity, kindness and compassion' in new guidance issued by one of the NHS's standard-setting bodies.

## C2.

**Standard American** *n.* *Bridge* a bidding system widely used in North America, based on five card majors.

Recorded earliest as a modifier.

- 1958 *Newsweek* 17 Feb. 71/3 'Standard American bidding has lost the four world championships,' editor Sheinwold told *Newsweek*. 'We must develop a new system of our own.'
- 1961 A. SHEINWOLD *Short Cut to winning Bridge* 13/1 Most of the hands in this book are bid according to the principles of 'Standard American'.
- 2011 *Times* 23 May (Times2 section) 19/2 Worth 2♥ in Acol but in Standard American a Two-over-one shows rather more.

**standard assessment task** *n.* (also with capital initials) *British Education* each of a set of standardized, graded tasks used as criteria for the assessment of school pupils at specified ages, under the national curriculum for state schools in England and Wales; abbreviated *SAT*; cf. *standard assessment test n.*

- 1988 *National Curriculum: Rep. Task Group Assessm. & Testing* (Dept. Educ. & Sci.) vii. ¶45 The range and scope of standardised assessments that can be used..is far wider than the term 'test' is usually taken to imply. We emphasise this point to draw attention to the fact that our use of the word test will have this broader meaning. Ideally it might be better expressed by the phrase 'standard assessment task'.
- 2003 *Birmingham Post* (Nexis) 17 Dec. 2 Birmingham's head of education..underlined the authority's concern over Standard Assessment Tasks and league tables.

**standard assessment test** *n.* (also with capital initials) *British Education* each of a set of standardized, graded tests used as criteria for the assessment of school pupils at specified ages, under the national curriculum for state schools in England and Wales; abbreviated *SAT*; cf. *standard assessment task n.*

- [1988 *National Curriculum Rep. Task Group Assessm. & Testing: Three Suppl. Rep.* (Dept. Educ. & Sci.) iii. 52 As in the primary phase, the elements of training will cover the programmes of study; the attainment targets; the role and practice of internal assessment and its recording; the place and conduct of the standard assessment tasks (tests).]
- 1988 *Times Educ. Suppl.* 30 Sept. 3/3 My guess is that the standard assessment tests for 14-year-olds will look very different from those for 7-year-olds.
- 1989 *Times* 10 Sept. f9/6 At the end of each key stage, his performance will be judged in standard assessment tests, the first of which will come in summer 1991.
- 2002 *Bath Chron.* (Nexis) 5 Dec. 1 The tables are based on the percentage of 11-year-old pupils achieving the expected level in tests for English, maths and science in the annual standard assessment tests.

**standard atmosphere** *n.* (*a*) a unit of pressure, equal to 760 mm of mercury or 101,325 Pa (symbol *atm*); (*b*) any of various simple models of the atmosphere having a defined surface temperature and pressure and a specified profile of temperature with altitude, used esp. in aeronautics and astronautics.

The unit and the models approximate to typical observed atmospheric conditions.

- 1842 *Philos. Trans.* (Royal Soc.) 132 252 On the hypothesis of uniform opacity, a standard atmosphere of 760mm, or 29.922 English inches of mercurial pressure, and having a mean dampness or ratio to saturation represented by .56 nearly, would transmit 68½ per cent.,...of the incident heating rays.
- 1921 tr. P. Grimault *On Definition of Standard Atmosphere* (U.S. National Advisory Comm. Aeronautics: Techn. Memorandum 15) 1 On April 15, 1920, the under Secretary of State for Aeronautics and Aerial Transport decided to adopt as Standard Atmosphere for official

airplane tests in France, the atmosphere defined by the following law.: From 0 to 11,000 m.  $\theta = 15 - 0.0065 Z$  and above 11,000 m.  $\theta = -56.5^\circ$  being the temperature in centigrade degrees at altitude  $Z$  expressed in meters.

- 1977 I. M. CAMPBELL *Energy & Atmosphere* iii. 47 The origin of the rising temperature from 11 to 50 km in the standard atmosphere is the degradation of a portion of the solar irradiance to thermal energy through the agency of primary absorption by ozone.
- 2000 C. D. WHITEMAN *Mountain Meteorol.* iv. 32 The Standard Atmosphere is representative of average annual conditions in the midlatitudes, although it is not calculated from data at any one location.
- 2009 E. RUDLOFF & K. P. WINKLER in D. C. Silverstein & K. Hopper *Small Animal Crit. Care Med.* cxv. 497/1 This involves delivery of 100% oxygen at 2 to 2.5 standard atmospheres for 90 minutes every 8 hours, then twice daily.

**standard basis** *n. Mathematics* (in a vector space) a basis (BASIS *n.* Additions) consisting of all vectors having a single coordinate equal to 1 and no other non-zero coordinates; (also) a basis of an analogous form in a vector space of matrices, polynomials, etc.

- 1953 *Communications Pure & Appl. Math.* **6** 265 In terms of the standard basis( $e_{ij}$ ) ( $i, j = 1, \dots, 2r$ ) of the ring of square matrices of order  $2r$ , we define  $e$ .
- 1958 L. C. A. CORSTEN *Vectors* i. 5 As this basis will be used frequently, we call it the standard basis of this space.
- 1989 *College Math. Jrnl.* **20** 230 There is a simple expression for the matrix [of rotation] in the standard basis which depends only on the coordinates of  $\mathbf{p}$  and the angle  $\theta$ .
- 2007 T. S. SHORES *Appl. Linear Algebra & Matrix Anal.* iii. 175 It is very easy to write out any other vector..in terms of the standard basis.

**standard cable** *n. Telecommunications* (now *historical*) a cable of a specified design with certain electrical characteristics (see quot. 1924), used as a standard for comparing attenuation of signals transmitted along different cables.

The *mile of standard cable* is a unit of attenuation based upon this design.

- 1905 *Page's Weekly* 17 Nov. 1109/1 The limit of commercial speech having been fixed in miles of standard cable, the limit on all other types of conductors was a simple matter of calculation.
- 1906 J. POOLE *Pract. Telephone Handbk.* (ed. 3) xxvi. 413 Standard Cable and Equivalents.—In the agreement entered into in February 1905 between the British Post Office and the National Telephone Co. certain standards of telephonic transmission were stipulated, and these were to be measured by comparison with the transmission results obtained with standard telephone instruments through certain lengths of standard test cable.
- 1924 K. S. JOHNSON *Transmission Circuits Teleph. Communication* (1925) ii. 10 Standard cable is defined as a cable having uniformly distributed resistance of 88 ohms per loop mile and uniformly distributed shunt capacitance of .054 microfarad per mile.
- 1963 H. G. JERRARD & D. B. MCNEILL *Dict. Sci. Units* 131 The standard cable produced an attenuation of about 20% for a 800 c/s input.
- 2018 D. M. THOMPSON *Understanding Audio* (ed. 2) xiii. 304 In the early days of telephony, gains and losses were not measured in dB but rather in *miles of standard cable*.

**standard candle** *n.* (a) a former unit of luminous intensity, defined as the intensity of the flame of a spermaceti candle of specified properties (see quot. 1937); (also) a candle having these properties (now *historical*); (b) *Astronomy* an astrophysical object of known absolute magnitude whose distance from the observer can then be determined using its apparent magnitude.

The standard candle has been replaced as a unit of luminous intensity by the *candela*.

- 1850 *Jrnl. Gas Lighting* 11 Nov. 314/2 Five cubic feet per hour of this gas giving a light equal to from 22 to 25 standard candles.
- 1937 G. S. MONK *Light* v. 36 The standard candle was originally of sperm wax, weighing  $1/6$  lb.,  $7/8$  in. diameter, and burning 120 grains per hr.
- 1959 *Listener* 2 July 14/2 By studying the period of a Cepheid, we can..find out its real luminosity; its apparent magnitude is easy to measure, and hence its distance may be determined, so that these convenient variables act as our standard candles in space.
- 1976 *New Scientist* 2 Dec. 530/1 The new finding opens the way to calibrate a new standard candle, namely, the absolute brightness of a galaxy by means of an easy measurement in radio astronomy.
- 2005 J. F. HAWLEY & K. A. HOLCOMB *Found. Mod. Cosmol.* (ed. 2) xiii. 384 The apparent brightness of a standard candle is a proxy for distance, since in flat spatial geometry the brightness drops off as the distance squared.
- 2018 S. A. TREESE *Hist. & Measurem. Base & Derived Units* xiii. 928 To determine candlepower of a light source, a standard candle was burned next to the light source of interest, separated by an opaque divider.

**standard cell** *n.* *Physics* any of several forms of voltaic cell designed to produce a constant and reproducible electromotive force when employed under controlled conditions.

Examples include the *Clark cell* and the *Weston cell*.

- 1864 *Telegr. Jrnl.* 23 July 39/2 In the same manner the value of each degree may be increased tenfold by employing fifteen or twenty cells for the larger battery and connecting the standard cell at the tenth division on the scale.
- 1920 *Whittaker's Electr. Engineer's Pocket-bk.* (ed. 4) 100 The original standard cell devised by Latimer Clark is a mercury-zinc cell using zinc and mercurous sulphates as electrolyte and depolarizer respectively.
- 1980 J. P. BROMBERG *Physical Chem.* xvii. 315 The voltage of the unknown cell..can be determined from the calibrated slide wire and the known voltage of the standard cell.
- 2001 B. W. PETLEY in *Proc. Internat. School Physics Enrico Fermi* 146 121 It was possible to alter the voltage of a standard cell by drawing a current from it during the measurement process.

**standard cost** *n.* *Accounting* (in a standard costing system) a predetermined unit cost of a product or service.

- 1895 *Ann. Amer. Acad. Polit. & Social Sci.* 6 212 Mr. Schloss indicates that one of the greatest difficulties is to fix to the satisfaction of both the employer and employed, the standard costs

upon which the calculation of the bonus is based.

- 1917 W. N. POLAKOV in *Trans. Amer. Soc. Mech. Engineers* **38** 587 Carrying out the analysis of the economy limit to its logical conclusion, the standard cost of the product is arrived at.
- 2013 *Accounting Rev.* **88** 1419 The seeded error in the financial statements resulted from management's failure to appropriately adjust standard costs to actual costs incurred during the period.

**standard cost card** *n.* *Accounting* (in a standard costing system) a record showing how the standard cost (*standard cost n.*) of each product is built up.

- 1918 G. C. HARRISON in *Industr. Managem.* **56** 393/2 In the 'Standard Cost Card' shown in Form I it will be seen that the estimated or standard cost of the bolts is \$11-079 per thousand.
- 1935 C. M. GILLESPIE *Accounting Procedure for Standard Costs* iv. 62 The structure of standard cost cards becomes complex.
- 2009 M. N. ARORA *Cost & Managem. Accounting* xii. 93 The standard cost card for one unit of product shows the following costs for material and labour.

**standard costing** *n.* *Accounting* a system of cost ascertainment and control in which predetermined standard costs and income for products and operations are set and periodically compared with actual costs incurred and income generated in order to establish any variances.

Recorded earliest as a modifier.

- 1921 PLYWOOD MANUFACTURERS' ASSOC. (*title*) Standard costing principles and practices for the plywood industry.
- 1959 *Chambers's Encycl.* I. 39/2 Two major developments in cost accounting must be briefly mentioned. Firstly the introduction of standard costing. Standard costs are estimates made in detail for operations, processes of articles on the basis of predetermined standards.
- 2003 M. BENDREY et al. *Essent. Managem. Accounting in Business* xii. 177 Standard costing is linked to budgetary control in a manufacturing company because figures which make up budgets may also be used in standard costing and vice versa.

**standard deal** *n.* now *historical* a piece of timber (usually pine or fir) of a fixed size (varying in different countries); cf. *DEAL n.*<sup>3</sup> 1a.

- 1785 *Gen. Evening Post* 19 Nov. (*advt.*) This Day were published..Sandy's tables, to reduce deals, as imported from the Baltic, to standard deals.
- 1834 J. R. McCULLOCH *Dict. Commerce* (ed. 2) 1150 361/ 3 Russian stand [ard] deals 12 ft. long, 11/ 2 inch thick, 11 inch broad, make 1 load timber.
- 1867 W. H. SMYTH & E. BELCHER *Sailor's Word-bk.* *Standard-Deals*, those planks of the pine or fir above 7 inches wide and 6 feet long.
- 1988 S.-E. ÅSTRÖM *From Tar to Timber* v. 94 In 1826, total exports of St. Petersburg standard deals had declined and only amounted to 130,000 dozens.

**standard definition** *n.* and *adj.* (*a*) *n.* a standard degree of definition (DEFINITION *n.* 5c) in a visual image, *spec.* that provided by a particular number of scanning lines in a televised or digital image; cf. *high definition n.* and *adj.* at HIGH *adj.* and *n.*<sup>2</sup> Compounds 4; (*b*) *adj.* characterized by or making use of a standard degree of definition.

The two most common modes of standard definition television are *576i* and *480i*, in which images have a vertical resolution of 576 and 480 lines respectively.

- 1967 *Photogr. Jrnal.* **107** 144/2 One does not normally view a transparency—or a television screen—at the *print-distance* of 12 in., on which the standard definition is based.
- 1990 *Internat. Broadcasting Convent.* 12/1 The maximum permissible vector magnitude..corresponds to a speed of approximately 5 seconds per picture width, beyond which..the system's resolution becomes comparable to that of standard definition television.
- 2008 *TV Week (Sydney)* 23 Feb. 27/3 If you don't have a high-resolution TV screen to watch HD shows on, you'll still see them in the same standard-definition picture quality.
- 2016 *Post-Standard (Syracuse, N.Y.)* 4 Feb. A14/3 All of the channels..are in standard definition.

**standard deviation** *n.* a quantity expressing the amount of variation or dispersion of a set of values from the mean value for the group, calculated by taking the square root of the mean of the squares of the deviations (i.e. the square root of the variance VARIANCE *n.* 5).

- 1895 K. PEARSON in *Philos. Trans.* 1894 (Royal Soc.) A. **185** 75 Each component normal curve has three variables: (i.) the position of its axis, (ii.) its 'standard-deviation' (Gauss's 'Mean Error', Airy's 'Error of Mean Square'), and (iii.) its area.
- 1925 R. A. FISHER *Statist. Methods* iii. 46 Twice the standard deviation is exceeded only about once in 22 trials.
- 1978 *N.Z. Jrnal. Exper. Agric.* 7 115/1 Suppose a large flock of sheep has weights which are normally distributed with a mean weight of 50 kg and a standard deviation of 5 kg.
- 2008 D. J. HAND *Statistics: Very Short Introd.* ii. 34 If most of the data points are clustered very closely together, with just a few outlying points, this will be recognized by the standard deviation being small.

**standard error** *n.* a measure of the statistical accuracy of an estimate, equal to the standard deviation of the theoretical distribution of a large population of such estimates.

- 1897 G. U. YULE in *Proc. Royal Soc.* 1896–7 **60** 483 We may regard  $\sigma_1\sqrt{1 - r^2}$  as the standard error made in estimating  $x$  from the relation  $x = b_1y$ .
- 1962 J. H. KINOSHITA et al. in A. Pirie *Lens Metabolism* 409 The results are given as the mean  $\pm$  standard error of the mean of 12 determinations.
- 2019 *Amer. Econ. Jrnal.: Appl. Econ.* **11** 395 We define the standard error as the standard deviation of 200 of these bootstrapped estimates.



**standard form** *n.* *Mathematics* a way of writing a number, especially a large or small number, in which only one integer appears before the decimal point, the value being adjusted by multiplying by the appropriate power of 10; cf. *scientific notation n. (b)* at SCIENTIFIC *adj.* and *n.* Compounds 2.

1904 *School World* Dec. 468/1 The characteristic of a logarithm is the index of the power of 10 used to bring the number to 'standard form'.

2013 M. ASKEW & R. EASTAWAY *More Maths Mum & Dads* 222 The whole number can be written in standard form as  $1.768 \times 10^{-1}$ .

**standard form contract** *n.* a contract consisting of standardized and non-negotiable terms, esp. where one party to the contract is in a weaker bargaining position than the other; = *contract of adhesion n.*

1908 *Pharmaceut. Rev.* Oct. 297 Standard form contract.

1953 *Mod. Law Rev.* 16 319 Standard form contracts have a long history in various fields of commerce.

2020 *Mondaq Business Briefing (Nexis)* 21 July The Court indicated that standard form contracts are more likely to be unconscionable. This is because they are written by one party without input from the other.

**standard gauge** *n.* and *adj.* *Railways (a) n.* a railway gauge of 4 ft 8 1/2 in. (approx. 1.435 metres), used as standard in Britain, the United States, and many other countries; *(b) adj.* designating a track or railway of standard gauge; (of a train) that runs on such a railway.

[Compare slightly earlier NARROW GAUGE *n.* and *wide gauge n.* at WIDE *adj.* Compounds 2.]

1840 F. WHISHAW *Railways Great Brit. & Ireland* 11 This railway is laid to the English standard gauge, viz. 4 feet 8 1/2 inches.

1881 *Chicago Times* 12 Mar. A standard-gauge railroad.

1998 *Steam Railway* July 16/1 Among the exhibits is *Gazelle*, the world's smallest standard gauge locomotive.

2001 C. WHITEHEAD *John Henry Days* II. 120 It's all six-foot gauge they have up there, and that's the problem. It's not compatible. Our entire track is standard gauge, it conforms to the American standard.

**Standard Generalized Markup Language** *n.* *Computing* an international system for defining the syntax of specific sets of tags allowed in electronic documents, which constitutes the basis of XML and has been used in the design of markup languages such as HTML; = *SGML n.*

- 1983 *Graphic Arts Monthly* Nov. 83/1 The Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML) is concerned with generic code construction.
- 1999 J. NAUGHTON *Brief Hist. Future* 248/1 [Tim Berners-Lee] proposed Hypertext Mark-up Language or HTML as a subset of the Standard Generalised Mark-up Language (SGML) tagging system which was already established in the electronic publishing business.
- 2019 *Newstex Blogs: Libr. of Congr. – In Custodia Legis* (Nexis) 17 Jan. I was so excited that my Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML) skills could be put to use somewhere.

**Standard grade** *n.* (also **Standard Grade**, **standard grade**)

*Scottish Education* the Standard grade of the Scottish Certificate of Education, an examination taken or qualification gained at the end of compulsory schooling, similar to the GCSE (the Standard grade began to replace the O grade in 1986, a process which was largely complete by 1991; cf. O GRADE *n.*).

- 1983 *Evening Express* (Aberdeen) 30 June 3/8 Scottish Secretary George Younger has announced that O-grades will be replaced by Standard grades in schools from 1986... The Standard grade will be awarded on a seven-point scale covering the range of pupils' abilities.
- 2003 *Evening News* (Glasgow) (Nexis) 9 Sept. 35 If they come in with their standard grades they can go to work towards their highers one day a week.

**standard gravity** *n.* a nominal value for the gravitational acceleration of a body in a vacuum near the earth's surface; cf. G *n.* 14a(b).

Defined by the 1901 General Conference on Weights and Measures as 9.80665 ms<sup>-2</sup>.

- 1885 *Ann. Rep. Board Regents Smithsonian Inst. 1883* 493 in *U.S. Congress. Serial Set* (48th Congr., 1st Sess.: House of Representatives Misc. Doc. 69) XXXIV The annual mean distribution of atmospheric pressure reduced to standard gravity and at sea-level and for all meridians is given for each 5° of latitude.
- 1914 *Standard Methods Gas Testing* (U.S. Dept. Commerce: Bureau of Standards Circular No. 48) 31 The amount of the gas which would occupy a volume of 1 cubic foot at a temperature of 60° F., and under a pressure equivalent to that of 30 inches of mercury at 32° F and under standard gravity.
- 2019 S. S. P. SHEN & R. C. J. SOMERVILLE *Climate Math*. vii. 174 This hydrostatic balance equation depends on the standard gravity  $g_0$ , which is a constant, and does not explicitly depend on the variable gravitational acceleration  $g(\phi, \theta, z)$ .

**standard-knee** *n.* *Shipbuilding* (now chiefly *historical*) *n* type of knee (KNEE *n.* 7a), having the vertical part pointed upwards; = *standing knee n.*; cf. sense A. 10b.

- 1626 J. SMITH *Accidence Young Sea-men* 9 All the beames to be bound with two knees at each ende, and a standard knee at euery beames end vpon the Orlope.
- 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 295 *Standard-knees*.

1997 D. J. SOUZA *Persistence of Sail in Age of Steam* (1998) iv. 98 The wooden carrick-bitts, cheeks, and standard-knees have deteriorated.

**standard lamp** *n.* a lamp with a tall, upright support that stands on the floor; cf. *floor lamp n.*

1794 *Philos. Trans.* (Royal Soc.) **84** 83 The standard lamp may be adjusted with the requisite degree of precision.

1894 *Country Gentlemen's Catal.* 115/1 Wrought Iron Standard Lamp, with copper Oil Container, 70/-.

1932 R. LEHMANN *Invit. Waltz* I. xi. 110 The light was very bright and white, coming from three brass standard lamps with white silk shades.

2012 J. ERDAL *Missing Shade of Blue* xii. 57 Next to the bureau was a standard lamp in the modern style, all thin and bendy like a Giacometti figure.

**standard lens** *n.* *Photography* a camera lens with a focal length approximately equal to the diagonal of the negative, giving a field of view similar to that of the naked eye.

The diagonal is taken as 50 mm for a 35 mm camera.

1917 *Amateur Photographer & Photogr. News* 28 May (Suppl.) 1/1 Fig. 4 was taken with what we have called the 'standard lens', i.e. the six-inch lens on a 5 by 4 plate.

1947 *Pop. Photogr.* June 117/2 While the angle of critical human vision is about 5 to 7°, the angle of conscious vision is about 25°. This approximates the angle covered by standard lenses with which cameras are normally equipped.

2005 H. DREW *Fund. Photogr.* 89 The 50mm standard lens translates into a 75mm on most digital SLRs, which means it is even better for portraits.

† **standard mattress** *n.* *Obsolete* (perhaps) a mattress on a permanent or stationary frame; a tall mattress; a mattress raised on posts; cf. *standing bed*.

1397 *Inquisition Misc.* (P.R.O.: C 145/266/12) Item .xv. materas prec' lxj.s' iijj.d'. Item j. materas standard..xij s iijj.d in manibus Thome Sayuill.

1415 in E. F. Jacob & H. C. Johnson *Reg. Henry Chichele* (1937) II. 46 (*MED*) j standard materas of blew card.

**Standard Model** *n.* *Particle Physics* a mathematical description of the elementary subatomic particles of matter and the electromagnetic, weak, and strong forces by which they interact; frequently with *the*.

The Standard Model of particle physics has been accepted since the late 20th cent. Early 21st cent. discoveries continue to support the validity of the model.

In quot. 1974 describing a simpler version of what would become the accepted Standard Model of particle physics.

- [1974 S. WEINBERG in *Proc. 17th Internat. Conf. High Energy Physics (London)* III. 61/2 The possible solution I would like to suggest is that the standard model is right but the resulting low mass Goldstone boson..behaves like quarks and gluons, and does not appear in collisions of color-neutral particles.]
- 1975 F. A. WILCZEK et al. in *Physical Rev. D.* **12** 2769/1 In the standard model the quarks enter into weak SU(2) doublets only of the left-handed variety.
- 1982 M. K. GAILLARD et al. in *Physics Lett. B.* **116** 279/1 In such models the familiar particles of the standard model are accompanied by supersymmetric partners.
- 2017 *ABC Premium News (Austral.)* (Nexis) 15 July The most obvious flaw in the Standard Model was there from the beginning—it could never account for gravity, the force that rules at the macro scale.

**standard operating procedure** *n.* a set of instructions on how to carry out a particular operation within a company, industry, field, etc.; (also, more loosely) an established method seen as the correct way to do something.

- 1939 *Edwardsville (Illinois) Intelligencer* 21 Dec. The number and size of lamps to be operated shall be as determined by Municipality, subject to the conditions of this contract ordinance and to the reasonable requirements of standard operating procedure for a series systems.
- 1947 *Amer. Archivist* **10** 373 Standard operating procedures are established for each project by the Adjutant General.
- 2008 *Seattle Times* (Nexis) 6 June 1. 5 Frisell's woozy, reverbed sound..and his deft use of digital delay have become standard operating procedure for a whole generation of guitarists.

**standard poodle** *n.* the largest variety of poodle, standing 45 to 62 cm high at the shoulder; a dog of this variety.

- 1933 *N.Y. Herald Tribune* 20 Aug. (Late City ed.) III. 6/1 Best standard poodle—Mrs. W. M. Churchman jr.'s Viki.
- 1981 J. PALMER *Illustr. Guide Dogs* 36/2 Fanciers will confirm that the Standard Poodle is the soundest of the varieties.
- 2009 *N.Y. Times* (National ed.) 10 Feb. B14/1 Standard poodles started out as water retrievers, and their cut was designed by hunters to protect sensitive areas—like their lungs and joints—from icy lakes and ponds.

**standard pronunciation** *n.* a form of pronunciation generally considered the most correct and acceptable; *spec.* the most regionally neutral form of spoken British English, traditionally based on educated speech in southern England; = RECEIVED PRONUNCIATION *n.*

- 1766 J. BUCHANAN *Ess. Standard Pronunc. Eng. Lang.* Pref. p. xi It would turn greatly to the advantage of the British youth..were a Standard Pronunciation taught in all our public schools.
- 1810 B. H. SMART *Pract. Gram. Eng. Pronunc.* i. 8 While it is necessary that there should be a standard pronunciation, and while the courtly and well-bred conform to it, that of the

inhabitants of the metropolis will always claim the preference.

1992 H. AIGNER in C. Blank *Lang. & Civilization* I. 750 The influence of the standard pronunciation as heard from television announcers.

**standard-rated** *adj.* (of a product or service) having a rate of value added tax or other sales tax set at the standard rate.

1972 *VAT: Gen. Guide* (H.M. Customs & Excise) 30 Where an amount payable covers both standard-rated and zero-rated goods or services, the amount must be split in fair proportion.

2011 *Times* 4 Jan. 7/3 Alcoholic beverages are standard-rated, but tea, milk shakes and coffee are zero-rated.

**standard-size** *adj.* of a standard or regular size; = *standard-sized* *adj.*

1861 *Manch. Guardian* 19 Sept. 1/5 (*advt.*) Achromatic Object Glasses, with the standard size screw.

1958 *Spectator* 10 Jan. 40/3 Pubs refusing to serve standard-size bottles of mineral water because they only stock 'babies'.

2008 M. CRUM & M. L. TURNER *Compl. Idiot's Guide to Graphic Design* xxi. 252 The simplest self-mailer uses a standard-size sheet folded once or twice.

**standard-sized** *adj.* of a standard or regular size; *standard-size* *adj.*

1843 J. EGERTON tr. N. P. Lerebours *Treat. Photogr.* Introd. p. xvi. When, on the contrary, it is requisite to operate upon the larger-sized plates; viz. for the quarter, half, normal or standard sized plates [Fr. *plaques..normales*], and the extra-sizes.

1855 *Manch. Guardian* 31 Jan. 1/1 We have standard sized bricks.

2013 *Smith Jrnal.* Winter 140/1 Sydney-based Wilson also turns out lamp, tables and the innovative, award-winning A-joint—a sturdy metal joint that allows DIY-ers to construct benches and tables with standard-sized timber.

**standard temperature and pressure** *n.* *Chemistry* and *Physics* a set of standard conditions under which experiments are performed and which may be used as a basis for calculations involving quantities that vary with temperature and pressure; *spec.* (as defined by IUPAC in 1982) a temperature of 273.15 kelvin (0° Celsius) and a pressure of 100,000 pascals (approx. 1 atmosphere); abbreviated *STP*.

There are a number of different standards, but each one specifies a particular value of temperature lying somewhere in the range of 0 to 25 degrees Celsius, and a particular value of pressure lying somewhere in the region of 1 atmosphere.

1793 R. KERR tr. A. Lavoisier *Elements Chem.* (ed. 2) 114 The gas weighs 0.695 parts of a grain for each cubical inch, in the common standard temperature and pressure mentioned above. [No

corresponding clause in the French original.]

- 1797 *Jrnl. Nat. Philos.* June 115 Even if distilled water were at hand, it would seldom happen that the times of the standard temperature and pressure would agree with those of the experiment.
- 1892 *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia 1891* 24 The sample of gas so obtained reduced to standard temperature and pressure is then driven out of the burette.
- 2018 A. L. DICKS & D. RAND *Fuel Syst. Explained* (ed. 3) 53 According to Avogadro's law, the volume of 1 mol of any gas is  $2.24 \times 10^4$  cm<sup>3</sup> at standard temperature and pressure.

**standard theory** *n.* *Linguistics* a model of generative grammar that distinguishes between two different representations of a sentence: deep structure (see *deep structure n.* at *DEEP adj.* Compounds 2) and surface structure (*surface structure n.* at *SURFACE n.* Compounds 3).

The name was apparently introduced by Noam Chomsky to denote the theory previously described in his book *Aspects of the Theory of Syntax* (1965).

- 1966 *Internat. Jrnl. Amer. Linguistics* **32** 20/1 It is not easy to accommodate these facts in terms of standard theory. A rejection of the assumption of partial overlap of allophones and phonemes results in the setting up of a very high number of allomorphic doublets.
- 1970 P. M. POSTAL in *Linguistic Inq.* **1** 112 This statement..must be based on some terminological equivocation made possible by the introduction of a new term Standard Theory. This term, as far as I can see, distorts the properties of the Classical Theory, which Chomsky purports the term Standard Theory is general enough to characterize.
- 1987 *Multilingua* **6** 310 The description employs as a framework the 'Standard Theory' version of transformative-generative grammar.

**standard time** *n.* a standard system of reckoning time adopted throughout a country or region, now based on the time zone in which it is situated; the time as reckoned by such a system; cf. *zone time n.*

- 1809 *Beau Monde* Nov. 84/1 He might get his watch set to the standard time at Greenwich.
- 1879 S. FLEMING *Papers on Time-reckoning* 13 On a journey from Paris to Vienna..the standard time employed by the railways changes frequently.
- 1917 *Whitaker's Almanack* 90/1 Since the year 1883 the system of Standard Time by Zones has been gradually accepted, and now the majority of the countries of the world use as Standard Time the time of some meridian which differs from that of Greenwich by a multiple of 15°.
- 1974 *Encycl. Brit. Macropædia* XVIII. 415/1 All clocks in the United States were kept one hour ahead of standard time for the interval February 9, 1942–September 30, 1945... Since then, the time in a large part of Europe has been kept one hour ahead of standard zone time without any change during the summer.
- 2004 T. WHEELER *Falklands & S. Georgia* 173/2 The Falklands are four hours behind Greenwich Mean Time... From September to April, Stanley goes on daylight-saving time so it's only three hours behind, but camp remains on standard time.

**standard wire gauge** *n.* a wire gauge showing (or using) a series of standard thicknesses for wire and metal plates; (any of) a series of standard thicknesses for wire and metal plates (abbreviated *s.w.g.*).

- 1842 *Mech. Mag.* 3 Dec. 520 (*heading*) Standard wire-gauges.
- 1884 *Weights & Meas.: Rep. Board of Trade* 3 in *Parl. Papers* (H.C. 322) XXVIII. 851 The new standard wire-gauge has been adopted by the War, Admiralty, and India Departments.
- 1906 T. H. COCKIN *Elem. Class-bk. Pract. Coal-mining* (ed. 2) xxix. 416 A cable composed of seven wires each of No. 16 standard wire gauge (S.W.G.).
- 1950 *Pop. Sci.* Sept. 239/1 Measure the bare wire from both windings, either with a standard wire gauge or with a micrometer.
- 2011 *Times* (Nexis) 8 Oct. 29 The needle used..is measured in Standard Wire Gauge.

---

## DERIVATIVES

'**standardless** *adj.* having no standard or standards; unprincipled.

- 1853 *Hogg's Instructor* Dec. 456/2 The man who looks over the moral world, and discerns that it is an inexplicable chaos, a standardless battle, a sick and fevered dream.
- 1912 J. GALSWORTHY *Inn of Tranquility* 217 How can we help it, seeing that we are undisciplined and standardless, seeing that we started without the backbone that schooling gives?
- 1973 *N.Y. Law Jnl.* 2 Aug. 4/8 Such a subjective determination as is proposed here lacks the necessary standards to insure a nondiscriminatory result. The danger of discrimination which inheres in such a standardless approval is..evidenced by the determination in question here.
- 1993 R. LIMBAUGH *See, I told you So* xv. 190 Feel-good, standardless liberalism has taken the place of substance.

'**standardness** *n.* the quality or fact of conforming to a standard; the degree of this.

- 1887 *Unionville (Missouri) Republican* 16 June Mr Ridpath..is excelled by none in his beauty of style, graphic description and standardness as an author.
- 1972 J. L. DILLARD *Black Eng.* vi. 238 A combination of age-grading, status-grading, and peer group influence causes a special feature to operate among young males at about the age of puberty. At that time, their graph of standardness will actually swing 'downward' a bit.
- 2008 *Hispania* 91 10 We can only speculate about the degree to which writing measures were used to determine the standardness of students' language.

---

This entry has been updated (OED Third Edition, June 2022).

