

caveat *n*

SECOND EDITION 1989

Pronunciation

Spellings

Etymology

Quotations

Date chart

[cavalierly](#), *adv.*[cavallard](#)[cavallerice](#)[cavallerize](#)[cavally](#)[cavalry](#)[cavaquinho](#), *n.*[cavated](#), *a.*[cavatina](#)[cavation](#)[cavayard](#), *cavy-yard*[cavazion](#)[cave](#), *n.*¹[cave](#), *n.*²[cave](#), *n.*³[cave](#), *n.*⁴[cave](#), *a.*[cave](#), *v.*¹[cave](#), *v.*²[cave](#), *v.*³[cave](#), *v.*⁴[cave](#), *int.*[cavea](#)[caveach](#), *n.*[caveach](#), *v.*[caveat](#), *n.*[caveat](#), *v.*[caveator](#)[cavel](#), *n.*¹[cavel](#), *n.*²[cavel](#), *v.*[cavelet](#)[cavenard](#)[cavendish](#)[caver](#)[cavern](#), *n.*

1. Law. **a.** A process in court (originally in ecclesiastical courts) to suspend proceedings; a notice given by some party to the proper officer not to take a certain step until the party giving the notice has been heard in opposition. Phrase, *to enter* or *put in a caveat*: also *fig.* see 2b.

1654 [GATAKER](#) *Disc. Apol.* 45 A Caveat they found entred in the Bishops Office, by a Gentleman, one of the Petti-Bag, who pretended a Title. **1656** [BLOUNT](#) *Glossogr.*, *Caveat*, used among the Proctors, when a person is dead, and a competition ariseth for the Executorship, or Administratorship, the party concerned enters a Caveat, to prevent or admonish others from intermedling. **1667** [MARVELL](#) *Corr.* cxiv. Wks. 1872-5 II. 273, I entered caveats both at Mr. Atturney's and Mr. Sollicitor's. **1726** [AYLIFFE](#) *Parerg.* 145 A Caveat in Law..is an Intimation given to some Ordinary or Ecclesiastical Judge..notifying to him that he ought to beware how he acts in such or such an Affair. **1818** [CRUISE](#) *Digest* V. 95 **1884** *Law Rep. 9 Probate Div.* 23 The..defendant, one of the next of kin, entered a caveat.

b. caveat emptor [lit., let the purchaser beware], let the purchaser examine the article he is buying before the bargain is completed, so that in case of disappointment after purchase he may not blame the seller.

1523 [FITZHERBERT](#) *Husb.* f. xxxvi, He [*sc.* the horse] is no chapmans ware yf he be wylde: but and he be tame and haue ben rydden vpon than caueat emptor be ware thou byer. **1629** [T. ADAMS](#) *Pol. Hunting in Wks.* 118 We compell none to buy our Ware; *Caueat emptor*. **1809** [H. MORE](#) *Let.* 14 Aug. (1925) 139 Mr. C. in his last Review..feels it is his duty to say, '*Caveat Emptor*'. **1902** *Economic Jrnl.* XII. 12 *Caveat emptor*. It is the employer on whom the responsibility rests of testing the quality of the article he buys. **1950** [T. H. MARSHALL](#) *Citizenship & Social Class* iv. 133 The principle of *caveat emptor* is at least plausible when you are buying a horse.

2. transf. **a.** A warning, admonition, caution.

1557 [RECORDE](#) *Whetst.* Yijjb, A caueat, to be ware of to moche confidence. **1583** [STANYHURST](#) *Aeneis* III. (Arb.) 85 Such od caueats, as I to the frendlye can vtter. **1646** [S. BOLTON](#) *Arraignm, Err.* 50 A Caveat to you how you live. **1651** [WITTIE](#) tr. *Primrose's Pop. Err.* IV. 248 Those Caveats, whereof Astrologers do every year warn the people. **1712** [BUDGELL](#) *Spect.* No. 365 ¶1, I design this Paper as a Caveat to the Fair Sex. **1791** [BOSWELL](#) *Johnson* (1816) IV. 448 A caveat against ostentatious bounty and favour to negroes.

List by entry

List by date

Entry map

Simple search

Advanced search

Print

Mail

Help

Sign out

Subscriber: Admin. Office, US Courts

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS