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generate, *v.*

Pronunciation: Brit. /'dʒɛnəreɪt/ , U.S. /'dʒɛnə, reɪt/

Forms: 15– **generate**, 16 **generat**.

Etymology: < classical Latin *generāt-*, past participial stem (see *-ATE suffix*³) of *generāre*...

1.

a. trans. To bring into being by procreation; *esp.* to engender or conceive (offspring). Now *hist.* and *rare*.

1552 [implied in: R. HULOET *Abcedarium Anglico Latinum*, Generated, *generatus*, *genitus*. (at GENERATED *adj.*)].

?1585 W. C. *Aduentures Ladie Egeria* sig. G3^v, These two Children, generated by your royal seed, formed and fashioned in Egeriaes wombe.

1618 G. CHAPMAN tr. Hesiod *Georgicks* 75 The nineteenth day..Auspicious both to plant, and generate Both sons and daughters.

1660 R. COKE *Elements Power & Subjection* 76 in *Justice Vindicated*, The person of the Son being only generated, the Fathers power can extend no further.

1697 tr. F. Burgersdijck *Monitio Logica* i. xxxii. 126 Every mortal is generated, and therefore that which is not generated is not mortal.

1758 N. ROBINSON *Christian Philosopher* II. 118 It was his Duty to comply with his Maker, and to generate an Offspring in the Image of God.

1788 J. ST. JOHN *Lett. from France* II. li. 191 The Englishmen are generally stronger bodied than the French..and therefore one would think, should generate their offspring with more success.

1803 W. TAPLIN *Sporting Dict.* I. 290 Doubts have arisen..upon the question whether the fox and dog will generate an offspring.

1848 *Cultivator* Apr. 120/1 All domestic varieties of pigeon, breed readily with each other and generate a fertile offspring.

1994 *Aquinas Rev.* 1 11 As man generates, not just any haphazard thing, but man.

b. intr. To breed, reproduce. Also *occas.:* to engage in reproductive activity, copulate. Now *hist.* and *rare*.

In quot. 1670 *fig.*: to proliferate.

1605 tr. Marcilius Ficinus in T. Tymme tr. J. Du Chesne *Pract. Chymicall & Hermeticall Physicke* xvii. sig. N, If the elements and liuing things doe generate and beget, why doe not stones and mettalls beget?

1626 BACON *Sylua Syluarum* §758 Some Liuing Creatures generate but at certaine Seasons of the Yeare.

1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseudodoxia Epidemica* 189 An Horse or Bull may generate after castration, that is,

from the stock..of seminall matter, already prepared and stored up in the Prostates or glandules of generation.

- 1656 J. SMITH *Compl. Pract. Physick* 160 Living Creatures which are said to generate, not when they generate their young, but their Seed.
- 1660 R. COKE *Elem. Power & Subj.* 30 The parents must be supposed to generate, before they can have a power or right of command.
- 1670 EARL OF CLARENDON *Contempl. Psalms in Tracts* (1727) 673 The good man..leaves an ample progeny of just and charitable actions which generate when he is dead.
- 1726 P. DUDLEY in *Philos. Trans.* 1725 (Royal Soc.) **33** 260 They [*sc.* whales] generate much like to our neat Cattle, and therefore they are termed Bull, Cow, and Calf.
- 1774 O. GOLDSMITH *Hist. Earth* VI. 252 These fish generate in March and April.
- 1810 W. HOOPER tr. C. A. Helvétius *Treat. Man* (new ed.) I. II. i. 93 Have we constantly seen animals generate by the coupling of the males with the females?
- 1847 R. W. EMERSON *Poems* 198 Blood is blood which circulates, Life is life which generates.
- 1954 T. H. WHITE tr. *Bk. Beasts* II. 109 The females conceive without any assistance from the males and generate without conjunction.

2. *trans.*

a. To bring into existence (objects, substances, etc.). Usu. in *pass.*

- 1556 T. HILL tr. B. Cocles *Brief Epitomye Phisiognomie* xxvi. sig. D.i^v, Cocles neuer saw a bearde in coloure lyke to Juorye, because the phlegmaticke humour is not mightye to generate heares in coloure lyke.
- 1648 BP. J. WILKINS *Math. Magick* II. xii. 253 This cannot be said to foment or preserve the same fire, but onely to generate new.
- 1738 tr. C. Rollin *Anc. Hist.* (ed. 2) I. Pref. p. xiii, Monsters generated from the agitation of the sea.
- 1771 *Philos. Trans.* 1770 (Royal Soc.) **60** 304 The certain consequence..will be, that maggots will be generated in such uncured parts [of stuffed birds].
- 1834 T. MEDWIN *Angler in Wales* I. 238 A six-pound trout is a mere minnow to what the Rhone generates.
- 1862 J. TYNDALL *Mountaineering in 1861* 36 Beyond the boundaries of his knowledge lay a region where rain was generated he knew not how.
- 1878 G. G. SCOTT *Lect. Mediæval Archit.* I. iii. 126 We were far less liberal in the use of sculpture, and we generated a purely moulded capital, which the French can scarcely be said to possess.
- 1984 M. DITTRICK & D. DITTRICK *No Uncertain Terms* 83 Such a cyclone, called a tropical cyclone, can generate 130-mile-per-hour winds.
- 2000 *NewsScan Daily* (Electronic text) 30 June, I read about..abiogenesis, the belief that animals and insects can be spontaneously generated from dew, piles of old clothes, the slime in wells, and mud.

b. To produce from other substances or as the result of some process or action; to evolve (heat, gas, etc.); (in later use) *spec.* to produce (electric current) for practical use (cf. *generating company n.*, *generating station n.* at GENERATING *adj.* Special uses).

- 1563 W. FULKE *Goodle Gallerye Causes Meteors* v. f. 65, All agree, that all metalles are generated of

sulphur.

- 1664 G. HAVERS tr. T. Renaudot et al. *Gen. Coll. Disc. Virtuosi France* lvii. 343 So by friction attenuating the parts it generates heat, and by the meeting of two bodies it makes sound.
- 1691 E. TAYLOR *J. Böhme's Theosophick Philos.* ii. 3 Heat the true beginner of life,..It kindleth all the qualities, generating the Light in them.
- 1705 H. DITTON *Gen. Laws Nature & Motion* II. 121 The accelerating Quantity of the Vis Centripeta, is the Measure of it, with respect to the Velocity which it generates in a given Time.
- a1727 I. NEWTON in E. Chambers *Cycl.* (1728) at *Air*, Gunpowder generates Air by Explosion.
- 1791 W. HAMILTON tr. C.-L. Berthollet *Elements Art of Dyeing* I. iii. 59 They [sc. vegetable substances] undergo the effects of a slight combustion, which may generate an acid.
- 1825 'J. NICHOLSON' *Operative Mechanic* 202 The steam generated is carried to the place intended by means of pipes.
- 1838 W. W. GREENER *Sci. Gunnery* 378 Generating 300 per cent. less friction than in the Whitworth rifle.
- 1895 *Westm. Gaz.* 4 Sept. 3/3 It is intended to supply a large proportion of power from a great power-house where electricity is generated.
- 1956 A. H. COMPTON *Atomic Quest* 89 The average number of 'daughters' that each neutron generates.
- 1971 *Sci. Amer.* June 21/3 A laser is a device for generating or amplifying a beam of light whose waves are both monochromatic..and coherent.
- 2008 *N.Y. Times Mag.* 20 Apr. 73 The roof-mounted solar photovoltaic panels generate electricity.

3. trans.

a. To cause, give rise to (an action, a condition, a feeling, etc.).

- 1607 G. CHAPMAN *Bussy d'Ambois* v. i. 57 O good my Lord forbear In wreake of great sins, to engender greater, And make my loues corruption generate murder.
- 1649 W. CHARLETON in tr. J. B. van Helmont *Ternary of Paradoxes* Proleg. sig. f3^v, Reason doth not generate, in the understanding, any more, then a Caliginous or spurious Cognition.
- 1692 C. GILDON *Nuncijs Infernalis* i. 7 Pride and Rapacious Desire, generates continual Feuds.
- 1711 LD. SHAFTESBURY *Characteristicks* III. Misc. II. i. 30 The very reading of Treatises..of Melancholy has been apt to generate that Passion in the over-diligent and attentive Reader.
- 1796 BP. R. WATSON *Apol. for Bible* 279 The belief of that miracle did not generate conviction that Jesus was the Christ.
- 1800 P. COLQUHOUN *Treat. Commerce & Police R. Thames* viii. 256 Offences were generated in consequence of the imperfections of the Law.
- 1821 J. Q. ADAMS in C. Davies *Metr. Syst.* (1871) III. 124 The same inconsistency of the statutes..generated a lawsuit between commerce and revenue.
- 1829 I. TAYLOR *Nat. Hist. Enthusiasm* (1867) i. 14 There are among us enthusiastic principles and practices..generated in a period of greater excitement than our own.
- 1863 A. W. KINGLAKE *Invasion of Crimea* I. iv. 66 The love of killing game generates a sincere wish to preserve it.
- 1900 *Times* 9 June 9/4 Insight is often taken to generate emotion, just as emotion is often taken to generate insight.
- 1951 R. FIRTH *Elements Social Organization* vi. 213 It is in the capacity to generate and adapt moral force that man derives one of the most potent springs to social action.
- 2007 *Guardian* 22 Oct. (Media section) 2/3 The first phase of the digital revolution..generated demand

for more programmes to fill the new digital channels' schedules.

b. To produce (income or profit).

- 1819 *Mass. Agric. Repository* 1 Jan. 307 The profit of the system becomes so incorporated with the soil..as both to last long, and annually to generate profit upon profit, in a ratio outstripping the fecundity of compound interest.
- 1852 *Times* 11 Sept. 4/5 Property generating income with infallible certainty while its owner is asleep..is clearly more than equivalent to property which can only generate a like income under the anxious application of its possessor.
- 1943 *Helena (Montana) Independent* 21 Oct. 5/4 Many of the government corporations have the power to generate income.
- 1965 *Jrnl. Royal Statist. Soc.* **28** 82 It is thus fairly certain that revenues..would be generated by imposing congestion charges on roads.
- 2006 *Review* (Rio Tinto) June 9/2 Miners bring into production marginal or subeconomic discoveries that generate sufficient cash to cover mining costs in the short term.

4. *trans. Math.* To form (a figure); *spec.* (of a point, line, or surface) to give rise to (a line, surface, or solid) by its notional motion. Cf.

GENERATING *adj.* 2, GENERATOR *n.* 2a.

- 1656 T. HOBBS *Elements Philos.* II. xiv. 132 The straight Line which generated the Circle, is the Semi-diameter or Radius.
- 1699 J. KEILL *Refl. Theory Earth* 117 If both the Ellipse and Circle were turned round the Axis AB there would also be a Spheroid and a Sphere generated.
- 1709 G. BERKELEY *Ess. New Theory of Vision* §154. 181 The Properties of Lines generated by the Section of a Solid.
- 1788 T. TAYLOR tr. Proclus *Philos. & Math. Comm.* I. 134 Conic, or spirical sections are generated from a particular section of solids.
- 1831 D. BREWSTER *Treat. Optics* vi. 57 When these properties of the ellipse and hyperbola, and of the solids generated by their revolution, were first discovered.
- 1866 R. A. PROCTOR *Handbk. Stars* 12 If the figure were to revolve about SP it would generate a sphere.
- 1949 A. K. HAMILTON *Castings* 25 Although there are many variations of loam moulding, it is confined in general to those shapes that may be generated by the revolution of a plane surface about an axis.
- 2003 P. A. FOERSTER *Precalculus with Trigonom.* xii. 508 Rotating a hyperbola about one of its axes generates a hyperboloid.

5. *trans.*

a. *Math.* To produce (a set or sequence of items) by specified operations or by the repeated application of rules to some initial items.

- 1795 C. HUTTON *Math. & Philos. Dict.* II. 272/1 Thus, to generate the series of cubes, or 3d powers, adding always 6, the common 3d difference gives the 2d differences 12, 18, 24, &c.; and these added to the 1st of the 1st differences 7, gives the rest of the said 1st differences.

- 1896 *Bull. Amer. Math. Soc.* **3** 115 If G is generated by substitutions of order p^a it is self-conjugate.
- 1903 B. RUSSELL *Princ. Math.* xxiv. 200 The simplest method of generating a series is as follows.
- 1947 G. BIRKHOFF & S. MACLANE *Surv. Mod. Algebra* vi. 138 The group G is cyclic if it contains some one element x whose powers exhaust G ; this element is said to generate the group.
- 2002 E. NUWERE & D. CHANOFF *Hacker Cracker* viii. 111 Each card company then has its own unique formula, or algorithm, that takes these three groups of numbers and performs a set of calculations on them, which generates an additional sequence of numbers.

b. Linguistics. Of a grammar or grammatical rule: to produce (a sentence or other unit, especially a well-formed one).

- 1956 N. CHOMSKY in *IRE Trans. Information Theory* **2** 113/1 We investigate several conceptions of linguistic structure to determine whether or not they can provide simple and 'revealing' grammars that generate all of the sentences of English and only these.
- 1968 J. LYONS *Introd. Theoret. Linguistics* iv. 156 When we say that a grammar generates the sentences of a language we imply that it constitutes a system of rules..which..yield..a decision-procedure for any combination.
- 2001 T. A. HARLEY *Psychol. Lang.* (ed. 2) ii. 43 In his early work, Chomsky argued that sentences are generated by the operation of transformational rules on a deep-structure representation generated by phrase-structure rules.

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