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## spare part, *n.*

**Frequency (in current use):**

**Etymology:** < SPARE *adj.* and *adv.* + PART *n.*<sup>2</sup>

**1.** A duplicate of a part of a machine kept or available in readiness to replace a loss, failure, or breakage. Freq. *pl.*

- 1888 *Lockwood's Dict. Mech. Engin.* 336 It is customary to include spare parts with work which is despatched to the colonies and with sea-going engines.
- 1904 *C. B. Fry's Mag.* June 294/2 In addition to the actual trying of the racing car..there is a great deal of detail work in connection with supplies of..spare parts.
- 1931 *Proc. Inst. Automobile Engineers* 25 106 In some cases spare-part lists hardly exist, very largely due no doubt to rapid change of design.
- 1936 E. WAUGH *Waugh in Abyssinia* v. 182 We would not take the lorry until it was fully equipped... He could not get the spare parts on credit.
- 1971 *Engineering* Apr. 31/1 Quick and easy over-haul and spare-part replacement.
- 1972 *Guardian* 18 Oct. 14/2 Some agent for British cars abroad is heard complaining..that he can make no profit because he sells no spare parts.

**2. *transf.*** A visceral organ or other bodily part from a donor, or a prosthetic device, which is to be used to replace a defective organ, etc., in a person. Freq. *attrib.*, as ***spare-part(s) surgery***. *colloq.*

- 1944 *Reader's Digest* XLV. 25 (*title*) Banks for Human 'Spare Parts'.
- 1960 S. PLATH *Colossus* 87 The storerooms are full of hearts. This is the city of spare parts.
- 1963 *Daily Tel.* 21 Sept. 9/5 Spare part surgery is still in its infancy.
- 1967 *New Scientist* 25 May 449/1 With the technique of kidney transplantation now firmly established..spare-part surgeons are now turning their attention to other organs in the body.
- 1968 *Guardian* 6 May 8/1 Spare parts surgery is too important to be left to the surgeons alone.
- 1970 D. J. MARLOWE in *Mystery Writers' Choice 1977* (1977) 4 'Well, what about your body?' I still didn't care for the idea about being used for spare parts.
- 1977 B. PYM *Quartet in Autumn* ii. 20 She could donate certain organs to assist in research or spare-part surgery.

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