

## loan, n.1

Text size: A AView as: [Outline](#) | [Full entry](#)Quotations: [Show all](#) | [Hide all](#) | [Keywords: On](#) | [Off](#)**Pronunciation:** Brit.  /ləʊn/, U.S.  /loʊn/**Forms:** ME **lan(e)**, ME–15 *Scottish lan(e)*, **layne**, ME–17 **lone**, (ME **lon**, ME **lonne**, 16 **loyane**), ME–15 **loon(e)**, (ME **lowne**, 15 **londe**), 15–16 **loane**, 15– **loan**. ([Show Less](#))**Frequency (in current use):** ●●●●●●●●●●**Origin:** A borrowing from early Scandinavian. **Etymon:** Norse *lán*.**Etymology:** < Old Norse *lán* neuter (Danish *laan*, Swedish *lán*) = Old English *lén* (feminine), Middle Dutch *lène* (Dutch *leen*), Old High German *léhan* (Middle High German *lēhen*, modern German *lehn*) neuter < Old Germanic *\*laihwniz-*, *oz-*, neuter < Old Aryan *\*loiqnes-*, *-os-* (Sanskrit *rēknas* inheritance, wealth), < root *\*loiq-* (: *leiq-*: *lq-*) represented in Greek *λείπειν* to leave, Gothic *leihwan*, Old High German *lihan* (modern German *leihen*), Old English *léon* to lend.The Old English *lén* did not survive into Middle English, being superseded by the Scandinavian form; but its derivative verb *lénan* is the source of [LEND](#) v.2

### †1. A gift or grant from a superior. *Obsolete.*

[Thesaurus »](#)a1240 *Sawles Warde* in *Cott. Hom.* 257 Wiit..þonkeð god ʒeorne..of se riche [lane](#) [*MS. T. leane*]. þat he haued ileanet him.a1250 *Prov. Ælfred* 186 in *Old Eng. Misc.* 114 Ayhte nys non ildre istreon; ac hit is godes [lone](#).a1375 *Lay Folks Mass Bk.* App. iv. 640 Vr lord lene vs þat [lon](#).c1386 G. CHAUCER *Summoner's Tale* 153 God be thanked of his [loone](#).a1400 *Evang. Nicod.* 1530 in *Archiv f. das Studium der Neueren Sprachen* 53 419 Pus all þa saintes þanked him ryght þat slyke [lane](#) wald þam len.a1400 ( a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Vesp.) l. 10179 In thrin his godes did he dele, þat godd had lent him of his [lane](#).c1440 *Bone Flor.* 1916 The lady..Dwellyd as nonne..Loveing god of hys [loone](#).a1500 ( a1460) *Towneley Plays* (1994) I. xix. 226 Thou leyne vs lyffying on thi [lone](#).?a1500 R. HENRYSON tr. *Æsop Fables: Wolf & Lamb* l. 2743 in *Poems* (1981) 101 Lordis that hes land be Goddis [lane](#) [*rhymes tane, gane*].[\(Hide quotations\)](#)

### 2.

**a.** A thing lent; something the use of which is allowed for a time, on the understanding that it shall be returned or an equivalent given; *esp.* a sum of money lent on these conditions, and usually at interest. † **to loan:** as a loan.

[Thesaurus »](#)  
[Categories »](#)a1400 ( a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Vesp.) l. 14036 Tua men..asked him penis to [lan](#).a1425 ( c1395) *Bible* (Wycliffite, L.V.) (Royal) (1850) Exod. xxii. 25 If thou ʒyuest money to [loone](#) to my pore puple.c1449 R. PECKOCK *Repressor* (1860) 16 ʒeve ʒe [loone](#), hoping no thing ther of. 1467 in J. T. Smith & L. T. Smith *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 387 Euery man that payeth to such a yefte or [lone](#) aboute specified.

**This entry has not yet been fully updated (first published 1903).**

[Entry history](#)  
[Entry profile](#)

Previous version:  
[OED2 \(1989\)](#)

#### In this entry:

at, †by, †in, on or upon loan  
loan-account  
loan-act  
loan-bank  
loan-bill  
loan-blend  
loan capital  
loan-certificate  
loan-chest  
loan-collection  
loan-contractor  
loan-farm  
loan-form  
loan-fund  
loan-god  
loan-holder  
loan-house  
loan-jobber  
loan-jobbing  
loan-market  
loan-monger  
loan-mongering  
loan-mongery  
loan-myth  
loan-note  
loan-place  
loan-recusant  
loan-shark  
loan-sharking  
loan-shift  
loan-shop  
loan-society  
loan, to  
loan-translation  
loan-word  
put to loan, to

#### In other dictionaries:

[lōn\(e, n.\(1\) in Middle English Dictionary](#)

My entries (1) ▾

My searches (0)

Jump to:

Entry ▾	Date ▾
<a href="#">loaisis, n.</a>	1913
<a href="#">loa loa, n.</a>	1923
<a href="#">loam, n.</a>	c725
<a href="#">loam, v.</a>	1600
<a href="#">loamed, adj.</a>	1820
<a href="#">loamless, adj.</a>	1872
<a href="#">loam-pit, n.</a>	990
<a href="#">Loamshire, n.</a>	1859
<a href="#">loamy, adj.</a>	c1230
<b><a href="#">loan, n.1</a></b>	<b>a1240</b>
<a href="#">loan, n.2</a>	1362
<a href="#">loan, n.3</a>	a1578
<a href="#">loan, v.</a>	c1200
<a href="#">loanable, adj.</a>	1848
<a href="#">loaned, adj.</a>	1556
<a href="#">loanee, n.</a>	1832
<a href="#">loaner, n.</a>	1884
<a href="#">loange, n.</a>	1390
<a href="#">loaning, n.1</a>	1324
<a href="#">loaning, n.2</a>	1740

- c1480 ( a1400) *St. Nicholas* 810 in W. M. Metcalfe *Legends Saints Sc. Dial.* (1896) I. 504 Þe Iow..gert cal hyme in Iugment, to prowē his lane þat he lent.
- 1502 tr. *Ordynarye of Crysten Men* (de Worde) iv. xxi. sig. y.vi<sup>v</sup> He the whiche receyueth that londe of money.
- 1533 J. GAU tr. C. Pedersen *Richt Vay* 17 Our saluioir sais in the vi chaiptr of S. Luc. len þour layne traistand no thing thairfor.
- 1611 *Bible* (King James) 1 Sam. ii. 20 The Lord giue thee seed of this woman, for the loane which is lent to the Lord. 
- 1740 W. DOUGLASS *Disc. Currencies Brit. Plantations in Amer.* 11 Their Money being Loans of Paper Credit called Bills, from their Government to private Persons upon Land Security.
- 1846 H. H. WILSON *Hist. Brit. India 1805–35* II. x. 409 Dhar ceded to the British government..as security for a pecuniary loan, the province of Bairsia for five years.
- 1863 H. FAWCETT *Man. Polit. Econ.* i. iv. 42 Indian railways have been constructed by loans subscribed almost entirely in England.

(Hide quotations)

**b. figurative.** Said, in recent use, of something (as a word, a custom) 'borrowed' or adopted by one people from another.

Thesaurus »

- 1891 T. K. CHEYNE *Origin & Relig. Contents Psalter* viii. 405 To regard the conceptions of Isa. lxxv. 17, and still more, of Isa. lxxvi. 15 as mere loans from Mazdeism is uncritical.
- 1892 E. P. BARROW *Regni Evangelium* iv. 78 Inward graces and outward opportunities are loans which may be enlarged by use and must be accounted for.

(Hide quotations)

## 3.

**a.** The action of lending; an instance of this; also in †**at**, †**by**, †**in**, **on or upon loan**; and †**to put to loan**, in quot.*figurative*.

Thesaurus »

- c1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 244/136 'Leneth me', he sede, 'Ane hondret quarters of þat corn..þis schipmen seiden ne dorre we make no lone'.
- c1386 G. CHAUCER *Shipman's Tale* 295 No wight in al this world wiste of this loone.
- 1393 W. LANGLAND *Piers Plowman* C. v. 194 Lumbardes of lukes þat lyuen by lone as Iewes.
- 1454 *Rolls of Parl.* V. 245 2 Ther shal be severally leveide and had by wey of lonne and preste to hym.
- 1463 in *Manners & Househ. Expenses Eng.* (1841) 220 Item, delyveryd to the sayd Straton, by lone, xijd.
- a1513 R. FABYAN *New Cronycles Eng. & Fraunce* (1516) II. f. cxxvii<sup>v</sup> Any bargeyn or lowne of money by way of vsury.
- 1548 *Hall's Vnion: Edward IV* f. ccxliiii Money..prested out in lone.
- 1646 in *Rec. Mass. Bay* 4 Nov. (1853) II. 164 The Corte..formerly granted Maior Nehemia Bourne the loane of sixe great guns.
- 1712 T. HEARNE *Remarks & Coll.* (1889) III. 319 I am promis'd the loan of it [a book].
- 1721 *Rec. Colony Rhode Island* (1859) IV. 297 To permit and suffer the said Richard Ward to have and take upon loan as much of said bills..as by them shall be thought needful.
- 1729 in N. Bouton *Provinc. Papers New-Hampsh.* (1870) IV. 553 The vote of the House..for re-emitting some bills at loan.

- 1753 G. WASHINGTON *Jrnl.* (1754) 6 The Waters were quite impassable, without swimming our Horses; which obliged us to get the Loan of a Canoe.
- 1813 J. ADAMS *Wks.* (1856) X. 36 I am much obliged to you..for the loan of this precious collection of memorials.
- 1817 W. SELWYN *Abridgem. Law Nisi Prius* (ed. 4) II. 972 If the loan is not upon the vessel, but upon the goods and merchandize.
- 1845 S. AUSTIN tr. L. von Ranke *Hist. Reformation in Germany* III. 605 He incessantly pressed for a 'brave sum of money' on loan.
- 1858 W. H. SUMNER in *New-Eng. Historical & Geneal. Reg.* XII. 226 I obtained the loan of that Order Book.
- 1900 M. C. WILSON *Irene Petrie* Pref. 12 I am indebted..to many friends for loan of letters, etc.

*figurative and in extended use (rare).*

- 1538 T. ELYOT *Dict. Addicion Animam debet*..he hath not his lyfe but in lone.
- 1609 T. HEYWOOD *Troia Britanica* v. xlix. 118 The blow was put to loane.
- 1854 W. M. THACKERAY *Newcomes* I. xxx. 297 She gratified Clive by a momentary loan of two knucky old fingers.

(Hide quotations)

#### †b. *occasionally* The action of hiring or letting.

[Thesaurus »](#)  
[Categories »](#)

- 1601 *Exp. Judges riding West. & Oxford Circuit* 49 in *Camden Misc.* (1859) IV It. the loane of vessells vs. *iiijd*.
- 1790 *Weston Rec.* (Massach.) 5 Apr. (1893) 414 The proceeds of the Sale or Loan of the Same [pews] to Discharge the Debts of the Town.

(Hide quotations)

#### 4. *National finance.*

**a.** A contribution of money, formerly often a forced one, from private individuals or public bodies, towards the expenses of the state, the amount of which is acknowledged by the government as a debt; sometimes, the sum of money so contributed.

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- 1439 *Rolls of Parl.* V. 8/2 Ye gret loones and presttes, ye which yei have afore this tyme made unto our said Soverain Lord.
- 1495 *Act 11 Hen. VII* c. 8 At the tyme of the same lone or taking of the seid money.
- 1542–3 *Act 34 & 35 Hen. VIII* c. 2 §1 Euery high collectour of any .xv. subsidie or other taxe or lone.
- 1548 *Hall's Vnion: Henry VIII* f. cii<sup>v</sup> At the last loane some lent the fifth part.
- 1603 *North's Plutarch, Seneca* (1612) 1217 He..ransacked all Italie with impositions and excessiue lones.
- 1626 J. MEAD *Let.* 8 July in R. F. Williams *Birch's Court & Times Charles I* (1848) (modernized text) I. 126 The money which the aldermen gave the king, they neither presented in the name of a loan nor of their own proper gift.
- 1772 'JUNIUS' *Stat Nominis Umbra* II. lxxviii. 330 Several persons..refused to contribute to a loan exacted by Charles the first.
- 1833 H. MARTINEAU *French Wines & Politics* vi. 82 Loans of almost every kind, and under every species of pretence had been raised upon the suffering nation.
- 1845 S. AUSTIN tr. L. von Ranke *Hist. Reformation in Germany* (ed. 2) II. 143 They..obstinately refused to grant a loan which they were called upon to advance, and which was to be repaid out of the proceeds of the tax for the Turkish war.
- 1868 M. E. GRANT DUFF *Polit. Surv.* 162 Since Juarez triumphed, there have been no forced loans, no exactions.

(Hide quotations)

**b.** An arrangement or contract by which a government receives upon its own credit advances of money on specified conditions, esp. the payment of a stipulated interest.

[Thesaurus »](#)  
[Categories »](#)

- 1765 W. BLACKSTONE *Comm. Laws Eng.* I. i. viii. 324 The frequent opportunities of conferring particular obligations, by preference in loans [etc.].
- 1837 J. R. McCULLOCH *Statist. Acct. Brit. Empire* II. v. ii. 533 To reduce the charge on account of the loan to 3 or 3½ per cent.
- 1845 H. H. WILSON *Hist. Brit. India 1805–35* I. ii. 109 It had been thought necessary to offer..ten per cent. per annum, on a loan.
- 1853 *Parl. Deb.* 3rd Ser. **127** 1187 The Company [has] contracted loans to the extent of 16,000,000*l.*

[\(Hide quotations\)](#)

## COMPOUNDS

**C1.** *attributive* and in other combinations.

**a.** Simple attributive.

### loan-account *n.*

- 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 22 Aug. 6/3 The customer..is informed that a loan-account..has been opened in his name.

[\(Hide quotations\)](#)

### loan-act *n.*

- 1743 in N. Bouton *Provinc. Papers New-Hampsh.* (1871) V. 668 The Loan Act for emitting £25,000 which his Majesty has condescended to approve.

[\(Hide quotations\)](#)

### loan-chest *n.*

- 1886 R. WILLIS & J. W. CLARK *Archit. Hist. Univ. Cambr.* III. 473 There were special loan-chests, the borrower deposited some object of value as a pledge in the chest out of which his loan had been taken.

[\(Hide quotations\)](#)

### loan-fund *n.*

[Thesaurus »](#)  
[Categories »](#)

- 1835 *Act 5 & 6 William IV* c. 23 §1 Certain Institutions for establishing Loan funds have been..established..for the Benefit..of the Labouring Classes.
- 1893 DUKE OF ARGYLL *Unseen Found. Society* xvi. 521 A loan-fund had been opened.

[\(Hide quotations\)](#)

### loan-market *n.*

- 1844 J. S. MILL in *Westm. Rev.* **41** 593 The already existing pressure upon the loan market.
- 1870 J. K. MEDBERY *Men & Myst. Wall St.* 11 Its loan market holds the keys of trade.

[\(Hide quotations\)](#)**loan-shop** *n.*[Thesaurus »](#)  
[Categories »](#)

1849 *Notes & Queries* 1st Ser. 1 5 The Lombard merchants..were the first to open loan-shops in England.

[\(Hide quotations\)](#)**b. Objective.****loan-contractor** *n.*[Thesaurus »](#)  
[Categories »](#)

1834 *Tait's Edinb. Mag.* New Ser. 1 390/1 The vitals are eaten out of Old England by subsidies, loan-contractors, and Jew-jobbers.

[\(Hide quotations\)](#)**loan-jobber** *n.*[Thesaurus »](#)  
[Categories »](#)

1797 in *Spirit of Public Jrnls.* (1799) I. 84 Loan-jobbers and Contractors are quarrelling who shall rob us.

1822 W. COBBETT *Rural Rides* in *Cobbett's Weekly Polit. Reg.* 5 Oct. 45 Loan-jobbers, stock-jobbers, Jews.

[\(Hide quotations\)](#)**loan-jobbing** *adj.*[Thesaurus »](#)  
[Categories »](#)

1831 T. L. PEACOCK *Crotchet Castle* i. 10 A junior partner in the eminent loan-jobbing firm of Catchflat and Company.

[\(Hide quotations\)](#)**C2.** Also [LOAN-MONEY](#) *n.*, [LOAN-OFFICE](#) *n.*

† **loan-bank** *n.* *Obsolete* an establishment from which poor people could borrow money at a low rate.

[Thesaurus »](#)  
[Categories »](#)

1662 W. PETTY *Treat. Taxes* 11 If publick loan-banks, lombards, or banks of credit..were erected.

1746 *Public Rec. Colony of Connecticut* (1876) IX. 250 A certificate..for letting out the loan bank made by this Colony.

1872 J. YEATS *Growth Commerce* 63 Loan banks lent money.

[\(Hide quotations\)](#)

† **loan-bill** *n.* *Obsolete* = *exchequer-bill* *n.* at [EXCHEQUER](#) *n.*  
**Compounds 2.**

[Thesaurus »](#)  
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1722 *London Gaz.* No. 6078/2 The Exchequer Bills, called Loan Bills.

[\(Hide quotations\)](#)

**loan-blend** *n.* a compound word consisting of both native and foreign elements; a hybrid (see [HYBRID](#) *n.* 2).

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[Categories »](#)

1950 *Language* 26 215 Loanblends show morphemic substitution as well as importation.

1974 R. A. HALL *External Hist. Romance Lang.* 9 On occasion, a newly formed

word may consist, in part, of a native term..and, in part, of a borrowing. The result is a *loan-blend*, as in Fr[ench] *bar-serveuse* 'bar-maid', with the first part of the loan-compound kept and with the second part replaced by Fr. *serveuse* 'maid, waitress'.

(Hide quotations)

**loan capital** *n.* the part of the capital of a company or the like that is borrowed for a specified period.

Thesaurus »  
Categories »

1848 *Bradshaw's Railway Almanack* (ed. 2) 57 The guarantee is extended to the payment of interest on £1,000,000 (the authorized Loan Capital) at whatever rate it may be borrowed.

1964 *Financial Times* 31 Jan. 19/5 No share or loan capital of the Company or any of its subsidiaries has within two years preceding the date hereof been issued or is proposed to be issued for cash or otherwise.

(Hide quotations)

**loan-certificate** *n.*

1777 *Boston Town Meeting* 26 May 285 If this could be accomplished, and the Money redeemed by Loan-Certificates, it would operate doubly in favor of the States.

(Hide quotations)

**loan-collection** *n.* a collection of works of art, curiosities, or the like, lent by their owners for exhibition.

Thesaurus »  
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1895 H. F. BROWN *Biogr. J. A. Symonds* I. 100 Symonds saw the first loan collection of old masters [at Manchester].

(Hide quotations)

**loan-farm** *n.* *South African* land loaned to a farmer by the government.

Thesaurus »  
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1804 J. BARROW *Acc. Trav. Interior S. Afr. 1797–98* II. 380 The number of these loan farms registered in the office of the receiver of the land revenue, on closing the books in 1798, were..1832.

1955 J. H. WELLINGTON *S. Afr.* II. III. xiv. 208 To create a stable border farming population in the place of the cattle farmers trekking from loan farm to loan farm, land was offered to settlers on a quit-rent basis.

1966 E. PALMER *Plains of Camdeboo* ii. 21 Probably in the 1770's the land was issued as a loan place and became the temporary property of one farmer. Loan farms were apportioned in the simplest possible way and were held at a nominal rent.

(Hide quotations)

**loan-form** *n.* a form adopted by one language from another.

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1902 *Amer. Anthropologist* 4 31 Penobscot *nachigadonkak* is a Passamaquoddy loan-form.

(Hide quotations)

**loan-god** *n.* a god borrowed from another religion.

1901 A. LANG *Magic & Relig.* ii. 15 The Theory of Loan-Gods; or borrowed Religion.

(Hide quotations)

**loan-holder** *n.* one who holds debentures or other acknowledgements of a loan; a mortgagee.

Thesaurus »  
Categories »

1823 LD. BYRON *Let.* 10 Oct. (1981) XI. 73 It will be requisite for the Loan holders to set apart at least £50-000 Sterling—for that particular purpose.

1883 *Manch. Examiner* 6 Nov. 5/1 The shareholders and loanholders would have confidence.

(Hide quotations)

† **loan-house** *n.* *Obsolete* = LOAN-OFFICE *n.* 1.

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1622 T. SCOTT *Belgicke Pismire* 79 Their Loane-houses, are principally for the benefit of the poore.

(Hide quotations)

**loan-monger** *n.* a contemptuous name for a loan-contractor.

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1837 B. DISRAELI *Venetia* I. 28 He..turned up his nose at the Walpolian loanmongers.

1898 *Spectator* 8 Jan. 39 The plunder of conquered States for the benefit of the victor through the agency of the loan-monger.

(Hide quotations)

**loan-mongering** *n.*

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1826 W. COBBETT *Rural Rides in Cobbett's Weekly Polit. Reg.* 4 Nov. 347 Till excises and loanmongering began, these vermin [*sc.* the Quakers] were never heard of in England.

(Hide quotations)

**loan-mongery** *n.*

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1822 *Examiner* 419/2 This must be the case..even if loan-mongery goes on.

(Hide quotations)

**loan-myth** *n.* a myth borrowed from a foreign mythology.

1887 A. LANG *Myth, Ritual & Relig.* I. 322 Many Greek myths are 'loan-myths'.

(Hide quotations)

**loan-note** *n.* an acknowledgement of indebtedness signed by an officer of a borrowing society on its behalf.

Thesaurus »  
Categories »

1883 *Law Rep.: Queen's Bench Div.* 11 564 The loan-notes of the Cherry Tree Building Society.

[\(Hide quotations\)](#)**loan-place** *n.* *South African* = *loan-farm n.*[Thesaurus »](#)  
[Categories »](#)

- 1844 J. BACKHOUSE *Narr. Visit Mauritius & S. Afr.* 585 A *loan place* which is a place obtained from the Government, that has not yet been surveyed, is half-an-hour's walk in every direction from the house or centre.
- 1939 J. S. MARAIS *Cape Coloured People* iv. 140 During the previous twenty years land had been granted to farmers as 'loan places'.

[\(Hide quotations\)](#)† **loan-recusant** *n.* *Obsolete* one who refused to contribute to a loan.

- 1655 H. L'ESTRANGE *Reign King Charles* 75 The *Loan-Recusants* appeared the only men in the peoples affections.

[\(Hide quotations\)](#)**loan-shark** *n.* originally *U.S.* (see quot. 1928 and SHARK *n.*<sup>1</sup> 2).[Thesaurus »](#)  
[Categories »](#)

- 1905 B. L. TAYLOR & W. C. GIBSON *Log of Water Wagon* 41 *Loan sharks* have been following the Lithia all day.
- 1911 *Collier's* 4 Feb. 8/1 Mr. Ham became interested in the 'World's' lucrative and lengthy list of *loan-shark* advertisements.
- 1913 *Munsey's Mag.* Nov. 218/1 In New York the *loan-sharks* were doing a business of twenty million dollars per annum.
- 1913 *Munsey's Mag.* Nov. 221/1 At the convention of the Legal Aid Society in Pittsburgh..the *loan-shark* evil was discussed.
- 1928 *Daily Tel.* 5 May 9/5 It is hoped by this plan virtually to put out of business the 'loan shark', who exacts usurious rates of interest from the person of small means.
- 1972 *Sunday Sun* (Brisbane) 27 Aug. 22/1 He was a *loan-shark* extortionist, and he had a very cute way of making sure customers paid up.

[\(Hide quotations\)](#)**loan-sharking** *n.* lending money at exorbitant rates of interest.[Thesaurus »](#)  
[Categories »](#)

- 1970 *New Yorker* 15 Aug. 24/1 Other illicit activities engaged in by Cosa Nostra..included..hijacking, *loan-sharking*.
- 1971 *Daily Colonist* (Victoria, Brit. Columbia) 10 Sept. 25/5 We are all aware that narcotics, prostitution, gambling and *loansharking* make up the bankroll of organized and syndicated crime.

[\(Hide quotations\)](#)**loan-shift** *n.* a change in the meaning of a word resulting from the influence of a foreign language; a word so affected.[Thesaurus »](#)  
[Categories »](#)

- 1950 *Language* 26 220 *Loanshifts* in general occur most readily when there is both phonetic and semantic resemblance between foreign and native terms.
- 1964 *Language* 40 95 The problems of translators and their role in introducing neologisms and *loanshifts*.
- 1974 R. A. HALL *External Hist. Romance Lang.* 9 French *réaliser* 'to bring into

existence' has..undergone a shift of meaning to 'become aware', under the influence of Eng[lish] *realise*. Such a process of reinterpretation is known as a *loan-shift*, and its result as a *calque*.

(Hide quotations)

**loan-society** *n.* an association of persons who pay a periodical subscription in order to form a fund from which loans may be made to members or others.

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Categories »

1835 *Act 5 & 6 William IV* c. 23 An Act for the Establishment of *Loan Societies* in England and Wales.

(Hide quotations)

**loan-translation** *n.* [= German *lehnübersetzung*] an expression adopted by one language from another in more or less literally translated form; a *CALQUE* *n.*

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1933 L. BLOOMFIELD *Language* xxv. 456 The Slavic languages translate the term [sc. *conscientia*] by 'with' and 'knowledge', as in Russian ['so-vest'] 'conscience'. This process, called *loan-translation*, involves a semantic change: the native terms or the components which are united to create native terms, evidently undergo an extension of meaning.

1958 C. RABIN in *Aspects of Translation* 140 *Loan-translation* (calque)..is very common [in modern Hebrew]. We find, for example, *gan yeladim* 'garden of children', which (except for the difference in the..order of elements) reproduces G. *Kindergarten* even to the pl. of *Kinder*.

1964 C. BARBER *Ling. Change Present-day Eng.* iv. 101 Another type of loan from a foreign language is the *calque* or *loan-translation*.

1965 *Ulster Dialect Archive Bull.* (Ulster Folk Museum) iv. 11 Fairy lore appears in *fergorta*..occurring also as a *loan-translation* *hungry-grass*.

1974 *Verbatim* Dec. 2/1 Hebrew..has a little series, mostly *loan translations*..on a semantically similar pattern.

(Hide quotations)

**loan-word** *n.* [= German *lehnwort*] a word adopted or borrowed from another language.

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Categories »

1874 A. H. SAYCE *Princ. Compar. Philol.* v. 171 *Loan-words* are common to all dialects.

1900 MARGOLIOUTH in *Expositor* Apr. 248 Isaiah's oracles were full of Aramaic *loan-words*.

(Hide quotations)

[Back to top](#)