

money, n.

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Pronunciation: Brit. ▶ /ˈmʌni/, U.S. ▶ /ˈmɑːni/
Inflections: Plural *moneys, monies*.

Forms: ME *meneye* (transmission error), ME *mon* (transmission error), ME *monnoy*, ME ... (Show More)

Frequency (in current use): ●●●●●●●●

Origin: A borrowing from French. **Etymons:** French *monai, monie*.

Etyymology: < Anglo-Norman *monai, moné, monce, monieie, monioe, munce, muneie*... (Show More)

1. Any generally accepted medium of exchange which enables a society to trade goods without the need for barter; any objects or tokens regarded as a store of value and used as a medium of exchange.

a. Coins and banknotes collectively as a medium of exchange. Later also more widely: any written, printed, or electronic record of ownership of the values represented by coins and notes which is generally accepted as equivalent to or exchangeable for these.

Thesaurus
Categories

After the introduction of banknotes, money was apparently sometimes used of coins as opposed to paper money: see quot. 1777. In recent use no such distinction is made, although contextually the word may refer to one or the other.

- 01325 (ˈ?c1300) *Northern Passion* (Cambr. Gg. 1.1) 160 (MED). Pei iyef him. Prythi plates of god mone.
- 1340 *Agenbite* (1866) 26 (MED). Of good metal by makeþ ualse moneye.
- 14100 (ˈa1338) R. MARSHALL *Chron.* (Petyt) ii. 238 (MED). Edward. wille wite certeyn who schent has his mone.
- 14100 (ˈc1378) *Lancelot Piers Plouman* (Laud 581) (1869) B. xv. 343 (MED). De merke of þat mone is good. ac þe metal is fieble.
- 01500 *Mandeville's Trav.* (Rawl.) (1953) 83 (MED). He asked for to have alwoyful his pors of mone of gold.
- 01500 (ˈc1477) T. NORRIS *Ordinal of Alchemy* (BL Add.) (1975) 116 (MED). Fals plate þei make as thei can. Or monay to begile som good trew man.
- 1567 *Protocol Bks. T. Johnson* (1920) 156 The money was offered in a lynnynng clout.
- 1611 *Bible* (King James) 1 Kings xxi. 2. I will giue thee the worth of it in money.
- 1651 T. HOBBES *Leviathan* i. iv. 15 Words are wise mens counters, they do but reckon by them: but they are the mony of foolles.
- 1711 J. ADDISON *Spectator* No. 3. 45 Behind the Throne was a prodigious Heap of Bags of Mony.
- 1777 *Johnson Let.* 20 Sept. (1992) III. 71 Beg Master to send me. a note of ten pounds. which I will. return. in money or Bankpaper.
- 1819 *Noble's Instr. Emigr. U.S.* 107 The best money to take to the United States, is either guineas or Spanish milled dollars;.. Bank of England notes will not do.
- 1859 G. ELIOT *Adam Bede* l. i. ix. 180 It's no use filling your pocket full o' money if you've got a hole in the corner.
- 1864 *Chambers's Encycl.* VI. 529/2 No one hesitates in counting a £5 Bank of England note as money.
- 1880 *Fraser's Mag.* May 675 Only 3l. in each 100l. were cash—that is, coin and bank notes, true money.
- 1903 *Westm. Gaz.* 18 June 2/1 In international commerce the form of money most used is a bill of exchange, and a good bill is good money.
- 1939 J. B. PRINGLE *Let People Sing* x. 256 Knocker brought out some money and examined it... 'A nicker, half a bar, a caser an' a hole.'
- 1969 R. C. BULL *Board & Table Games* (ed. 2) II. x. 138 Many of these casting-counters, or *jetons*, simulated coins, and cause difficulty to collectors of medieval money.
- 1990 B. BRIDGES & J. HALL *Barbarians at Gate* xiv. 386 Finn's plan called for First Boston to acquire RJR food businesses for a bundle of securities known as installment notes... First Boston could take those notes to a major bank and receive money for them.

(Hide quotations)

b. Any other objects or materials which serve the same purpose as coins or banknotes. Cf. *TOKEN* n. 11a. Chiefly *hist.*

Thesaurus
Categories

- 14125 (ˈc1400) *Mandeville's Trav.* (Titus Cxvi) (1919) 157 He [sc. the great Khan]. maketh no money but of leather. printed or of papye.
- 1553 R. ESEN tr. S. Münster *Treat. Neue India* sig. Fijj. The monie which they vse, is made of a certayne paper.. with y^e kinges ymage printed thereon.
- 1600 J. FORST tr. J. Leo Africanus *Geogr. Hist. Afr.* Intro. 22 Salt is the principall thing which runneth currant for money throughout all the emperours dominions.
- 1807 J. ROBINSON *Archaeol. Græca* ii. xix. 177 In cases of emergency.. the Spartans were allowed the use of money made from the skins of beasts.
- 1878 L. JEWETT *Ceramic Art* II. 141 One peculiarity connected with the Pinxton China Works.. is the issuing of china tokens, i.e., tokens representing different values of money, made of china, and payable as money among the workpeople.
- 1997 J. WILLIAMS *Money* viii. 208 Mary Douglas spent time living among the Lele people.. and in 1958 published an account of their use of cloth money in a country dominated by the coin-using Belgian colonial authorities.

(Hide quotations)

2.

a. Means of payment considered as representing value or purchasing power; the power of purchase or means of exchange represented by coins, banknotes, cheques, etc. Hence: property, possessions, resources, etc., viewed as having exchangeable value or a value expressible in terms of monetary units; liquid assets, funds.

Thesaurus

- 01325 *St. Mary of Egypt* (Corpus Cambr.) 41 in C. D'Evelyn & A. J. Mill S. *Eng. Legendary* (1956) 138 (MED). Nabbe ich..oþer moneie bote mi sulue her.
- ˈc1387–95 CHAUCER *Canterbury Tales Prolog.* 703 Vpon a day he gat hym moore moneye Than that the persun gat in monthes tweye.
- 01400 (ˈc1378) *Lancelot Piers Plouman* (Laud 581) (1869) B. xiii. 394 To marchauden with monoye [v. r. moneie] and maken her eschaunges.
- 14175 *Lulus Coventriae* 252 (MED). Mony malyth schapman.
- 1529 T. MORE *Supplic. Souls* ii. f. xxxiii. Then were he very cruell in that he deluyeyth theym not wythout mony.
- 1584 W. AVERELL *Dyall for Dainty Darlings* sig. Cii. There was.. a certaine Knight, who.. thought that such a masse of money, as he possessed, would counterpayse the simplicitie of his stocke, and beare out the base ignobilite of his byrth.
- 1613 J. CRAMER *Blair in R. F. Williams Birch's Court & Times James I* (1848) (modernized text) I. 264 But you had not need meet with many such poor moths as Master Pory, who must have both meat and money.
- 1651 T. HOBBES *Leviathan* ii. xxii. 122 Sometimes.. Justice cannot be had without mony.

This entry has been updated (OED Third Edition, September 2002).

Publication history
Entry profile
Previous version

In this entry:

- at the money
- at the money
- be good (bad, etc.)
- money, to
- be (only) in it for the money, to
- best that money can buy, the
- dead on the money
- everybody's (also every man's, occas. one's) money
- fool and his money are soon parted, a for money
- for my money
- for the money
- have money to throw about, to
- in (also out of) the money
- in the money
- make money, to
- money act
- money advice
- money affairs
- money bank
- money-banker
- money-batterer
- money-bawd
- money-biased
- money bond
- money borrower
- money-breeding
- money broker
- money-broking
- money bug
- money burns (a hole) (in) one's pocket
- money capital
- money-catcher
- money-catching
- money chest
- money claim
- money clause
- money clip
- money-clipper
- money clipping
- money-codger
- money coffer
- money coiner
- money-conscious
- money controversy
- money cowrie
- money creature
- money crop
- money-dealer
- money dealing
- money-debt
- money-digger
- money-directed
- money-distressed
- money dog
- money-doubler
- money draft
- money drawer
- money-dropper
- money-dropping
- money-earner
- money earning
- money economy
- money-fear
- money-fear
- money fine
- money flow
- money flower
- money for jam (also for old rope, etc.)
- money fund
- money-gentleman
- money-getter
- money getting
- money god
- money-gold
- money-grabber
- money-grabbing
- money-grasping
- money grip
- money-hoarder
- money-holder
- money hunger
- money-hunter
- money hunting
- money illusion
- money isn't everything
- money is power
- money is the sinews (also nerve or nerves) of war
- money-jobber
- money-jobbing
- money king
- money launderer
- money laundering
- money letter
- money loser
- money-loser
- money-losing
- money-lover
- money-loving
- money-lust
- money-mad
- money makes (also gets, etc.) money

My entries (1)

My searches (0)

Jump to:

Entry	Date
monetarization, n.	1087
monetarize, v.	1952
monetary, adj.	1953
monetism, n.	1707
monetist, n.	1707
monnaie, n.	1882
monnetization, n.	1887
monnetize, v.	1887
monnetized, adj.	1893
money, n.	1325
money, v.	1450
moneyage, n.	1747
money-back, adj.	1914
money bag, n.	1502
moneybelt, n.	1846
money bill, n.	1607
money-bound, adj.	1710
money box, n.	1588
money bush, n.	1924
money centre, money...	1838

- 1753 J. HANWAY *Hist. Acct. Brit. Trade Caspian Sea* II. i. iii. 15 They have introduced the custom of giving money to servants.
- 1776 A. SMITH *Inq. Wealth of Nations* II. iv. i. 2 Wealth and money, are in common language considered as in every respect synonymous.
- 1838 *Congress. Globe* June 470/2 App., The amount of money, is a very high and heaping price.
- 1879 J. A. FROUDE *Cesar* xviii. 304 He already owed half a million of money.
- 1890 *Murray's Mag.* June 764 He'll come into a lot of money some fine day.
- 1929 M. LEE *Hangover* xviii. 281 That damn fool took all his money out of the savings bank and put it in some crappy oil stock in Wall Street.
- 1962 L. NASH *Crossroads of Power* xvi. 178 The result, can be summed up by saying that his fortune in money was at least £35,000 better than he found it.
- 1987 W. RAEBES *George MacDonald* xi. 103 Money was still short, and would become shorter as Louisa was expecting another baby.

(Hide quotations)

b. With demonstrative or possessive adjective, or *the*. A monetary amount or sum applied to a particular purpose or in the possession of a particular person.

Thesaurus »
Categories »

- 1390 CHAUCER *Shipman's Tale* 1478 Ye knowe, Of chapmen, that hir money is hir plow.
- 1400 (c.1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Vesp.) 16475 Here i yeld yow yur mona, ges me a-gain mi war.
- 1463 in S. Tymms *Wills & Inventories Bury St. Edmunds* (1850) 27 This money not to be delivred to noon of hem.
- 1524 in W. Fraser *Douglas Bl.* (1885) IV. 91 The money se gaif the Qweyne that sche has spendyt it.
- 1588 R. GEESE *Perimedes* sig. e4. Whether shall we estimate the money that king Pyrrhus sent to Fabbritus, or els the continencie of Fabritius which made deniall of the same.
- 1616 SHAKESPEARE *Comedy of Errors* (1623) iv. i. 63 The monie that you owe me for the Chaine.
- 1684 J. BOURNE *Pilgrim's Progress 2nd Pt.* 203 Then said one of them, I will pay you when I take my Money.
- 1710 SWIFT *Jrnl. to Stella* vii. You lose all your money at cards, sirrah Stella.
- 1776 *Trial Maha Rajah Nundocomar for Forgery* 68/1 You have for a long time had my money; it shall remain no longer with you.
- 1810 *Sporting Mag.* 36 160 The whole of the money must be made good that night week.
- 1891 R. KIPPLING *Light that Failed* iii. 36 Come back when your money's spent.
- 1954 I. MURDOCH *Under Net* iv. 61 You pay your money, and you get an absolutely momentary pleasure with no nonsense about it.
- 1988 *Bella* 4 Apr. 7/5. I asked her for the money back, but she laughed and told me that there was nothing I could do.

(Hide quotations)

c. spec. Money treated as a marketable commodity that can be bought, borrowed, etc.

Thesaurus »
Categories »

- 1687 W. PERRY *Polit. Arithm.* (1691) vi. 100 It is certain that money which payeth those Rents, and driveth on Trade, must have increased also.
- 1691 D. NORTH *Disc. Trade* Pref. sig. B2. Money is a Merchandize, whereof there may be a glut, as well as a scarcity.
- 1776 A. SMITH *Inq. Wealth of Nations* II. iv. i. 13 It is not any scarcity of gold and silver, but the difficulty which such people find in borrowing, and which their creditors find in getting payment, that occasions the general complaint of the scarcity of money.
- 1797 E. BURKE *Lett. Peace Regie. France* iii. in *Sel. Wks.* III. 208 The value of money must be judged, like every thing else, from its rate at market.
- 1878 *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 721/1 In mercantile phraseology the value of money means the interest charged for the use of loanable capital. Thus, when the market rate of interest is high money is said to be dear, when it is low money is regarded as cheap.
- 1972 *Daily Tel.* 4 Nov. 28/4 By lending those funds on mortgage, the (building) societies, which are mutual and non profit-making, pass on the benefit of the short-term cost of money to long-term borrowers.
- 1992 *Independent* 8 Apr. 29/4 Cheap money and rampant speculation pushed the Nikkei up to nearly 39,000.

(Hide quotations)

d. Wealth, esp. inherited wealth; a person or class possessing wealth. Cf. also NEW MONEY *n.*, OLD MONEY *adj.* and *n.*

Thesaurus »

- 1848 *Amer. Whig Rev.* Apr. 392/1 The stronger an article smells of money, the more distinction its use will confer.
- 1891 T. HARVEY *Tess* I. v. 68 Everything on this snug property was bright, thriving, and well kept... Everything looked like money.
- 1925 E. J. P. BENT *Confessions of Capitalist* i. 21 Women over- or under-dressed, oozing money, and giving from their conversation no trace of education or of finer feeling.
- 1987 R. GEE *And I heard Bird Sing* vii. 66 Because he was white, looked like money, and claimed rights to property. That put him on the right side of the law.
- 1992 *News of World* 15 Nov. (Suppl.) 44/3 Wearing a thick gold chain round his neck, and a diamond and gold ring on his finger, he reeked of money.

(Hide quotations)

e. Chiefly *Horse Racing and Gambling* (orig. *U.S.*). With preceding ordinal number: the prize or prize money associated with finishing in the placing denoted by the number in a competitive event; thus placing itself. Cf. *in the money* at Phrases 1b(b). Cf. also *place money n.* at PLACE *n.* 'Compounds 2, SHOW *n.*' 29.

Categories »

- 1877 *Spirit of Times* 24 Nov. 440/1 It seems to be the opinion of our party that he sold us all out in the interest of Barker & Co. I am informed he collected second money and 'lit out for Brighton.
- 1894 *14th Rep. Vermont State Board Agric.* 96 He trotted in seventeen races...; won nine first moneys.
- 1935 W. FAULKNER *Pylon* 44 This guy Shumann that took second money this afternoon, that come up from fourth in a crate that all the guys...said couldn't even show.
- 1968 *Globe & Mail* (Toronto) 15 Jan. 17/9 Hill Tracer...took second money by a neck.
- 1999 *Racing Post* (Electronic ed.) 23 Jan. He's in good form although, realistically, we're probably talking about third or fourth money.

(Hide quotations)

f. Wages, salary; a person's pay or remuneration; profit.

Thesaurus »
Categories »

- 1887 W. D. PARLER & W. F. SHAW *Diet. Kentish Dial.* 103 He's getting good money, I reckon.
- 1920 E. O'NEILL *Beyond Horizon* II. i. 85 If that's the case, you can go to the devil... You'll get your money tomorrow when I get back from town.
- 1963 H. GARDNER in R. WEAVER *Canad. Short Stories* (1968) 2nd Ser. 45 Nobody really liked working for Malloy-Harrison, but the money was better than most places.
- 1987 *Grimsby Evening Tel.* 30 Nov. 14 Manager Shaughan Farrow is very sorry to see him go... 'He's been offered more money.'

(Hide quotations)

g. *In dl.* (now chiefly in legal and quasi-legal parlance). Sums or

Categories »

money means one more (also horse) to go
money makes the world (also wheels) go round (also around)
money man
money management
money manager
money mart
money-master
money-means
money-meditating
money-merchant
money-minded
money-mindedness
money-miser
money-mouthed
money-mulct
money of account
money out of pocket
money-paper
money-payment
money-player
money-politics
money-pot
money-power
money-price
money-purchase
money-purse
money-quake
money-raiser
money-raising
money-rent
money-sack
money-safe
money-saving
money-scrivener
money-sense
money-shark
money-shop
money-shot
money-slave
money-spelled
money-spender
money-spending
money-standard
money-stock
money-sucker
money-sucking
money-supply
money-system
money-taker
money-taking
money-talks
money-teller
money-thirster
money-tilt
money-tobian
money-trader
money-trail
money-transaction
money-transfer
money-valuation
money-value
money-wages
money-winner
moneywise
on the money
put (also get) one's money where one's mouth is, to
right on the money
(the love, covetousness, desire, etc., of) money is the root of all evil
there is money in — throw good money after bad, to
throw money at, to
throw (one's) money about, to
(to be) money in the bank
turn money away, to
you pays your money and you takes your choice
your money or your life

In other dictionaries:



money: view definition in Oxford Dictionaries (?)

money(e, n. in Middle English Dictionary

quantities of money. Also (occas.) with *sing.* concord: a sum or quantity of money (now *rare*, perh. *obs.*).

The use of the plural for the singular was formerly attributed to Jewish speakers (see esp. quot. 1600, 1794, and 1839); cf. *MONIES* n.

- 1384 *Bible* (Wycliffite, E.V.) (Donce 369(2)) 2 Macc. iii. 6 Toldre to hym the tresorie in Jerusalem for to be ful with monyes [L. *pecuniis*] vnunoumbeable.
- 1593 *Acet. Bk. W. Morton* f. 69. Reseuet. iiii scoraane stane of tolonge ane pound les, of monyes is sum I' honderis xxxiiii lib. 4s.
- 1600 SHAKESPEARE *Merchant of Venice* i. iii. 115 You come to me, and you say, Shyllocke, we would haue monyes.
- 1625 BACON *Ess.* (new ed.) 246 No Man will Lend his Monyes farre off, nor put them into Vnknown Hands.
- 1632 W. LITHGOW *Total Disc. Trans.* iv. 140 [He] furnished him with great monyes, and other necessaries.
- 1739 tr. C. Rollin *Anc. Hist.* (ed. 2) VIII. 220 To make him a present of the monies arising from that sale.
- 1794 R. COMBERLAND *Jew* ii. ii. 24. Why truly, monies is a good thing.
- 1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* l. x^o. 208 'O,' said the Jew, 'you are come to pay monies... And from whom dost thou bring it?'
- 1825 BROWN *Werner* ii. ii. But to steal the monyes of a slumbering man!
- 1865 *Morning Star* 3 Feb. 3/5 A young woman, was charged..with stealing from the person of Robert Tharston...7s. 6d., his monyes.
- 1871 R. ELLIS tr. Catullus *Poems* xxix. 22 Is not all his act To swallow monies, empty purses heep on heep?
- 1927 A. H. McNAUL *Introd. New Test.* 132 Schmirdel objects that it would have been quite irrational to convey monies from South Galatia to Jerusalem by way of Macedonia.
- 1959 *Times Rev. Industry* Mar. 4/3 There is an ambivalence in the claims on promotional monyes, for the furtherance of distribution on the one hand and for the extension of advertising on the other.
- 1990 J. M. GARDNER *Amongst Women* 55 He..started to tot up all the monies he presently held against the expenses he had.

(Hide quotations)

4. A particular coin; a coinage (now *rare*). Also (more fully **money of account**): a denomination or unit of value used in records and for accounting purposes, sometimes representing a particular (current or obsolete) coin or other means of payment.

The Saurus = Categories =

- 1475 (?-?1430) LYONS tr. G. Deguileville *Pilgrimage Life Man* (Vitell.) 17614 Thys hand in frenshe. Ys callyd 'Poitevyneresse' fforyt forgoeth..A monye callyd Poytevyen.
- 1481 *Myrrour of Worlde* (Caxton) iii. xiv. 165 The monoyes were established first; for as moche as they had not of all thinges necessarye to gyde.
- 1588 J. READ tr. F. Arcaeus *Compend. Method* f. 69. I made an office with the Trepan, to the greatmeas of a siluer mony called a Roiall.
- 1617 F. MORRISON *Itinerary* i. 285 Now I will set downe the divers monyes of Germany with the severall values of them.
- 1637 B. JOHNSON *Timber* 1927 in *Wks.* (1640) III Custome is the most certaine Mistresse of Language, as the publicke stampe makes the current money.
- 1641 T. MUR *England's Treasure* (1664) 4 He ought to know the Measures, Weights, and Monies of all forraign Countries.
- 1648 C. WALLER *Relations & Observ.* i. 169 Francis Allen a poor Goldsmith... In honour of whom Clipped monyes are now called (Alliens).
- 1691 J. LOCKE *Money* in *Wks.* (1727) II. 72. I have spoke of Silver Coin alone, because that makes the Money of Account.
- 1749 T. NOUVEST *Grand Tour* II. 104 At Cologne, the most remarkable money is the Rixdollar.
- 1837 *Penny Cycl.* VIII. 328/1 Constantine I. introduced the milliarensis, worth somewhere about a shilling of our money.
- 1839 *Penny Cycl.* XV. 322/1 The denominations..of the different monyes current among the chief nations of antiquity.
- 1845 J. LINGGARD *Hist. & Antiq. Anglo-Saxon Church* (ed. 3) II. App. o. 433 From the coinage we now proceed to monies of account.
- 1885 *Athenæum* 30 May 690/1 The reasons for these changes in coinage, the intentions of those who issued monyes..are often almost unknown.
- 1936 *Encycl. Islam* III. 1162/3 The modern Persian riyāl is a money of account; originally (1930) 20 riyāls = £1 stg. but by the system finally adopted in 1933, 100 dinārs = 1 riyāl = 1 pahlāvi = £1 stg.
- 1997 J. WILLIAMS *Money* iv. 105 Monetary standards were expressed in terms of the *roman*, derived from the Mongol word meaning 10,000, which was a money of account originally indicating 10,000 dinars.

(Hide quotations)

5. One of the four suits used in some packs of tarot cards, bearing a representation of one or more coins, and corresponding to the suit of pentacles in others (and diamonds in packs of ordinary playing cards). Also called *coins*.

The Saurus = Categories =

The suit is also found in packs of playing cards traditionally used in Italy, Spain, and Spanish-speaking countries.

- 1593 A. MUNDAY *Def. Contraries* 49 The inuenter of the Italian Cardes..put the Deniers or monyes, and the Bastons or clubs in combate together.
- 1848 W. A. CHATTO *Facts Hist. Playing Cards* iv. 191 The earliest writers who mention Tarocchi as a kind of cards, always speak of them as consisting of four suits,—Swords, Cups, Batons, and Money.
- 1912 M. K. VAN REISELAER *Prophetic, Educ. & Playing Cards* i. 54 A gazelle under a palm tree is placed on the knave of Money.
- 1966 S. MANN *Collecting Playing Cards* i. 1. 45 The ace of money..shows a single-headed, crowned eagle... The king of money holds an axe.
- 1989 *Encycl. Brit.* XI. 565/2 The Lesser Arcana [in Tarot] comprises four suits of 14 cards each: Bastoni (Batons or Clubs); Coppes (cups, later hearts); Spade (swords); and Denari (money, later diamonds), symbolizing business undertakings, journeys, and messages.

(Hide quotations)

6. *U.S. colloq.* (chiefly in African-American usage). A friend. Usually as a form of address, esp. to a male friend. Also more fully **money dog**, **money grip**.

The Saurus = Categories =

- 1982 in 'Grandmaster Flash & Furious Five' *Message* (MS transcript of song) Yo, whassup, money?
- 1989 'BIZ MARRIE' *Biz never Sleeps* (song) in www.ohhla.com (O.E.D. Archive) So I hurried out and left, she said, 'Please stay' I said, 'Sorry money grip, I don't go that way'.
- 1994 G. SUTHERLAND *Black Talk* 162 *Money*, a form of address for any male, as in 'Yo, Money! Sup?'
- 1995 L. SLAVSKY et al. *A Z Z 69* 1 *Money, money dog, money grip*, friend: Yo, money dog, let's break out!
- 2000 P. BEATTY *Tuff* i. 13 Naw, money, I'm serious.

(Hide quotations)