restitution, n.

Pronunciation: Brit. /ˌrɛstɪˈtjuːʃn/, /ˌrɛstəˈtʃuːʃn/, U.S. /ˌrɛstəˈt(j)uʃ (ə)n/

Forms: ME restitucon, ME restitucon, ME restitucon, ME restitucon, ME restitucon, ME–16 restitucon, ME–15 restitucon, ME–16 restitucon, ME– restitution, 15 restitucon, 15 restitucon, 15 restitucon, 15 restitucon, 15 restitucon, 15 restitucon, 16–17 restitution (transmission error), 15–16 restitucon, 16–17 restitution (transmission error); Scottish pre-17 restitucon, pre-17 restitucon, pre-17 restitucon, pre-17 restitucon, pre-17 restitucon, pre-17 restitucon, pre-17 restitucon, pre-17 restitucon, pre-17 restitucon, pre-17 restitucon, 15–16 restitucon.

Frequency (in current use):


Etymology: < Anglo-Norman restitucon, restitucon, restitucon, Anglo-Norman and Middle French restitution, restitucon (French restitution) action of restoring or giving back something to its proper owner, or of making reparation to a person for loss or injury previously inflicted (1251 in Old French), action or act of restoring a person or people to a previous status or position (a1365 or earlier) and its etymon classical Latin restitūtiōn-, restitūtiō re-establishment, renewal, reinstatement in a former position, restoration (of property) to the rightful owner, in post-classical Latin also in specific theological sense (Vulgate (in restituatio omnium : Acts 3:21, after Hellenistic Greek ἀποκαταστάσις πάντων )) < restitūti-, past participle stem of restituere RESTITUE v. + -iō -ION suffix. Compare Old Occitan restitutio (13th cent.), Catalan restitució (14th cent.), Spanish restitución (second half of the 13th cent.; c1250 as †restitución), Portuguese restituição (15th cent.; 1274 as †restituição, 1324 as †restituição), Italian restituzione (beginning of the 14th cent.; also †restitutione). The Latin word was also borrowed into other Germanic languages; compare Middle Dutch restitutie, restitucie (Dutch restitutie), Middle Low German restitūtie, restitūtiōn, German Restitution (15th cent.), Swedish restitution (1559).

Senses 2a and 5b are apparently not paralleled in French until later (1542 and 1765 (in mouvement de restitution ), respectively).

In sense 5c after French restitution (1829 or earlier).

In sense 6(a) probably after French restitution (1721 in this sense); on the origin of this use compare quot. 1901 at Compounds 1. Senses 6(b) and 6(c) represent extended uses of sense 6(a).

1.

a. The action of restoring or giving back something to its proper owner, or of making reparation to a person for loss or injury previously inflicted; restoration of a thing lost, taken, damaged, etc.

a1325 Statutes of Realm (2011) vii. 46 Perfore ne sal nošt þe assise ben bileued, ne þe iguement ope restitucon of the tenement ant of damages.

a1398 J. TREVISA tr. Bartholomaeus Anglicus De Proprietatibus Rerum (BL Add.) f. 128 þe nombre of fifty...tokeneþ for ðe iugement ope restitucon [L. restitutionem] of heritage þat was I-lost.

a1400 (a1325) Cursor Mundi (Vesp.) l. 27279 (MED) Vsand oþer weght or mette Again þe lagh in land es sett..For slikin sulde men make restitucon [Fairf. sulde men make restitucon].
Restitution, n.: Oxford English Dictionary

b. An act of restoring something taken from another person.

1442 Rolls of Parl.: Henry VI (Electronic ed.) Parl. Jan. 1442 §29. m. 4 Alle restitucions of londez...made by yow.

c1450 Alphabet of Tales (1904) I. 32 (MED) He was delyverd of þat horrible vision & liffid after many day & made a restitucion & become a gude ma[n].

a1500 (• c1425) ANDREW OF WYNTOUN Orygg. Cron. Scotl. (Nero) VII. l. 2601 [They] Sulde haf..ful restitutionyns Off landis and al possessionnys, Þat þaris was befor þan. 

a1616 SHAKESPEARE Othello (1622) V. i. 15 He calls me to a restitution large, For Gold and Iewells, that I bobd from him, As gifts to Desdemona.

1662 W. PETTY Treat. Taxes 58 It will be asked with how manifold restitutions should picking a pocket (for example) be punished?

1726 Br. J. BUTLER 15 Serm. x. 180 David passes Sentence...that there should be a four-fold Restitution made.

a1781 R. WATSON Hist. Reign Philip III (1783) I. 40 To procure a restitution of some towns on the German frontier.

1884 A. T. BROOK tr. A. Gindely Hist. Thirty Years War II. x. 380 It was provided that the various restitutions of land and people should take place within three periods which had been fixed for the discharge of soldiers.

1910 Encycl. Brit. I. 450/2 Of the provisions of the treaty...the most important were those stipulating for (1) a general restitution of conquests, [etc.].
1987  D. HALL  *Seasons at Eagle Pond* i. 5  By March it will only bring the grumps, but November snow is
revenance, a dreamy restitution of childhood or even infancy.

2007  J. PRIBAN in P. De Greiff & A. Mayer-Rieckh  *Justice as Prevention* viii. 323  Restitutions of Jewish
property (of both physical and moral persons) confiscated during the 1939-45 Nazi occupation were
implemented by a special set of laws.

2.

**a.** The action or an act of restoring a thing or institution to its original state
or form; *(Theology)* God's final restoration of the world to its original
perfection (esp. in *restitution of all things*, with reference to Acts 3:21).

- c1384  *Bible* (Wycliffite, E.V.) (Douce 369(2)) (1850) Deeds iii. 21  Jhes Crist..it bihoueth heuene for to
resceyue, til into the tyme of restituciou[n of alle thingis] [L. *restitutionis omnium*].
- ↵1439  *LYDGATE  *Fall of Princes* (Bodl. 263) II. 1522 (MED)  Off his arm, afftir this vengaunce, Ther was
anon maad restitucioun.

1475  (↵1430)  *LYDGATE tr. G. Deguileville  *Pilgrimage Life Man* (Vitell.) 6902 (MED)  Folk dyde hyr
peyne..To make Restytucyoun, By ther dyllygent labour [Fr. *De toutes ces erreurs oster Et la beaulte
restituer*], Off that was broke by ther Errour.

1549  T. HOBY tr. M. Bucer  *Gratulation* (title page)  The Gratulation of the mooste famous Clerke M. Martin
Bucer..vnto the churche of Englande for the restitucion of Christes religion.

1585  ABP. E. SANDYS  *Serm.* iii. 44  Nehemias,..gaue thankes vnto the Lord..for restitution of religion.

1605  R. VERSTEGAN  *Restit. Decayed Intelligence* Pref. Ep.  A new woork vnder the name of *A restitution of
decayed intelligence, in antiquities concerning our nation*.

1659  J. HARRINGTON  *Art of Law-giving* III. i. 52  We finde in the restitution of the Sanhedrim by
Jehoshapht, that there was Amariah, chief in all matters of the Lord.

1687  *Kirkudbright Sheriff Court Test*. 10 May  At the great day of the restitution of all things in and
through..Jesus Christ.

1771  *Encycl. Brit.* II. 479/1  It will not be at rest,,till it be restored to its original equality; and this restitution
cannot be made through the substance of the glass.

1781  E. WINCHESTER  *Seed of Woman* 35  Proving to a Demonstration the Doctrine of the Restitution of all
Things to their first State of Perfection.

1860  J. BROWN  *Let.* 15 Aug. in J. Cairns *Mem. J. Brown* 415  They two saw her open her..true eyes,,
and..close them till the time of the restitution of all things.

1867  A. J. JUKES  *Second Death* (1869) 106  I have thus noticed what Reason is supposed to say against the
document of final restitution.

1922  A. L. GUÉRARD  *Short Hist. Internat. Lang. Movement* II. vi. 139  The restitution of international c
wherever it had replaced by s or k greatly improved the appearance of the language.

1989  A. BROOKNER  *Lewis Percy* xi. 171  Miserably, he longed for his wife, and the restitution of their life
together.

1992  *Raritan* Summer 123  Nature was conceived as originally human, inextricably bound up thereby with
the Fall of Man and consequently in need of the divine restitution promised by the Gospels.

†**b.** Correction of an error. *Obsolete. rare*⁻¹.

1636  J. MELLIS  *Record's Ground of Artes* 330  I will give you a Table for the restitution of those errours, as
may suffice for this present time.
3. The action or an act of restoring a person or people to a previous status or position; the fact of being restored or reinstated in this way; (also) a document authorizing such restoration.

- a1387 J. Trevisa tr. R. Higden Polychron. (St. John's Cambr.) (1876) VI. 163 (MED) He hadde lettres of þe pope to þe kynges of Engelond to his restitucon.

c1475 Mankind (Folg.) (1669) 17 (MED) I haue be þe very mene for yowr restytucyon.

1485–6 Rolls of Parl.: Henry VII (Electronic ed.) Parl. Nov. 1485 1st Roll §35. m. 27 The acte of restitucion of the seid late viscount, made or to be made in this present parliament.

1503–4 Act 19 Hen. VII c. 28 §1 The restitucions and enballements of the seid persone.

1576 W. Lambarde Perambulation of Kent 278 The restitution of the Englishe bloude to the crowne.

1610 A. Willet Hexapla in Danielem 138 The effect of this his restitution to his reason.

1661 T. Fuller Worthies (1662) Westm. 238 His piety and Patience were rewarded by God, with a happy restitucion to his undoubted Dominions.

1703 D. Defoe Poor Man's Plea Misc. 291 After the Restitution of King Charles the Second.

1797 Encycl. Brit. IX. 637/1 A peremptory mandamus, or writ of restitution.

1808 E. W. Brayley Beauties of Eng. & Wales VIII. 802 60,000 of the 100,000 marks which John had agreed to pay in restitution of the injuries sustained by ecclesiastics, were remitted.

4. Reparation of hurt, loss, injury, etc.

- 1395 Remonstr. against Romish Corruptions (Titus) (1851) 146 (MED) It semeth it wolde lette moche restitucon of extorcions, theftis, and othere wrongis.

1425 Lydgate Troyes Bk. (Augustus A.iv) IV. 5260 Þe wil make restitucon Of þe harmys and þe violencis..By Paris wrouȝt.

1458 in J. Raine Testamenta Eboracensia (1855) II. 223 (MED) Of alle the mevable goodes..non legat..to make playn restitucon and dieu satisfaccon of any extorcion or injuriez doone by the said Sir Thomas.

1540 G. Sandys Relation of Journey (1637) 85 The English consull of Aleppo is absolute of himselfe..whose chiefe employment is..to labour a revenge of wrongs, and a restitution of losses.

1615 Br. J. Taylor Rule & Exercises Holy Living III. iv. §9 An adulterous person is tyed to restitution of the injury, so far as it is reparable.
1875 Good Words 16 851/2 That mystery of love..requires full restitution of every injury, and has faith to receive its dead again.

1913 Pedagogical Seminary Sept. 346 The suffering of the guilty conscience is intense. Peace comes back only after strenuous efforts for the restitution of the wrong.

2000 M. Leifer Asian Nationalism ii. 28 By placing the emphasis on how China had been victimised., and on its entitlement to restitution of past wrongs,..these leaders also hoped to build a sense of national unity.

5. 
†a. Restoration or return of something to its normal position; an instance of this. Obsolete.

1578 J. Banister Hist. Man ii. f. 40 (margin) The Luxation of the shoulder hath difficulte restitution.

1658 Sir T. Browne Garden of Cyrus i, in Hydriotaphia: Urne-buriall 2 If Adam were made out of an extract of the Earth, all parts might challenge a restitution.

?1788 New Royal Cyc. I Anaplasia, in surgery, the complete restitution of a bone, by causing the two ends to meet, and close exactly together.

1849 Charleston Med. Jrnл. & Rev. 4 589 The application of the cupping instruments two or three times..completely and easily effected entire restitution of the bone to its natural position.

b. The action of resuming or tendency to resume a previous shape or position by virtue of elasticity or resilience. Now chiefly in coefficient of restitution (see COEFFICIENT n. 2b).

1656 tr. T. Hobbes Elements Philos. iv. xxviii. 356 When any thing is bent (as a plate of steel), and..restores it self again, it is evident that the cause of its restitution cannot be referred to the ambient aire.

1669 R. Boyle Contin. New Exper. Physico-mechanicall: 1st Pt. xvi. 50 The cause of the Motion of Restitution in Bodies, and consequently of that which makes some of them Springy.

1701 N. Grew Cosmol. Sacra i. iv. §2 That so their Roots may yield to Stones, and their Trunks to the Wind, or other force, with a power of Restitution.

1728 E. Chambers Cyc. (at cited word) Contraction being the proper and natural Action of muscular Fibres, some Authors ascribe Dilatation to a Motion of Restitution.

1865 Tait & Steele Dynamics of Particle (ed. 2) x. §271. 288 The coefficient of proportionality..may be conveniently termed the Coefficient of Restitution.

1884 A. Daniell Text-bk. Princ. Physics 237 At the moment of complete restitution the energy possessed by the body (if perfectly elastic) has wholly assumed the kinetic form.

1935 A. H. G. Palmer & K. S. Snell Mechanics x. 215 If $e$ is the coefficient of restitution, what further time elapses before the next impact?

1995 Nature 2 Mar. 11/3 The results are quite different when collisions between the particles are elastic (or the coefficient of restitution is equal to unity).

c. Obstetrics. The rotation of the head of the fetus that occurs immediately after it passes through the mother’s vulva, restoring the normal (forward-facing) alignment of the fetal head and shoulders.
In one word, the occiput turns towards the left groin, while the chin is directed towards the opposite sub-iliac space, and the title of act of restitution has been given to this rotation.

The mechanism of the different cranial positions...is divided, after the manner of the French, into a series movements of the foetal head, viz. flexion, rotation, extension, and restitution.

The head is kept in this constant state of twist until after delivery, when untwisting or 'restitution' takes place.

The baby's head slips out and then it starts to turn to come into line with the shoulders which are still inside... This is called ‘external rotation’ or ‘restitution’.

Restitution takes place and the occiput turns one-eighth of a circle to the right.

External rotation occurs after delivery of the head as the head rotates to 'face forward' relative to its shoulders. This is known as restitution, followed rapidly by delivery of the body, expulsion.

6. Numismatics. (a) A commemorative coin issued by a Roman emperor in the name of a previous emperor. (b) A papal medal issued in the name of a previous pope to fill a gap in the series. (c) A medal imitated with slight alterations from a previous medal to portray or commemorate a different person or event.

These medals, formerly supposed to be later restitutions, are here proved to be of the time, and to be, therefore, the earliest Italian medals.

The long-continued dispute as to whether these medals..were original and contemporary strikings, or merely restitutions—that is, pieces made at a later time but after the earlier style—has lately been finally decided.

Hill called the medal a restitution..but G. Boccolari..dates it ca. 1460.

7. Genetics. The rejoining of the two parts of a broken chromosome or chromatid, esp. as a means of chromosomal repair. Also: the resulting chromosome or chromatid.

When a chromosome is broken, the two parts may rejoin as they were before. This is the principle of restitution now generally accepted.

On this view it appears likely that lethals not apparently associated with any chromosome change are restitutions.

When a chromosome breaks, the two broken ends usually undergo restitution.

The progress of postirradiation structural restitution at the sites of radiation-induced chromatin instabilities.
Phrases

P1. In sense 1.

a. to make restitution.

[After Anglo-Norman and Middle French faire restitution (1268 or earlier).]

a1400 (• a1325) Cursor Mundi (Fairf. 14) 27279 For suche kin þing with gode resoun sulde men make restitucioun.

c1400 (• c1378) Langland Piers Plowman (Laud 581) (1869) B. v. 277 (MED) I can þe nouȝte assoille Til þow make restitucioun and rekne with hem alle.

c1460 (• a1449) Lydgate Legend St. Austin (Harl. 2255) l. 229 in Minor Poems (1911) l. 200 (MED) My dewteyes I did alwey delaye..Made in my liff no restitucioun.

a1513 R. Fabyan New Cronycles Eng. & Fraunce (1516) I. clx. f. lxxxix° He shulde..make restitucyon of all thynge that he before had takyn from the Churche.

1542 H. Brinkelow Lamentacion sig. Dv Thou must..make restitucyon to thy power.

1611 Bible (King James) Exod. xxii. 5 Of the best of his owne vineyard shall he make restitution .

a1616 Shakespeare Merry Wives of Windsor (1623) v. v. 28 Why, now is Cupid a child of conscience, he makes restitucion .


a1720 W. Sewel Hist. Quakers (1795) I. 39 They had wronged her.., therefore they ought to make her restitucion.

1754 J. Erskine Princ. Law Scotl. II. iv. 428 It is a relevant defence, that the defender..made voluntary restitution..of the goods spuilzied.

1835 C. Thirlwall Hist. Greece I. ix. 345 The Spartan, instead of making restitution, took away the life of his companion.

1871 E. A. Freeman Hist. Norman Conquest IV. xvii. 56 Though their tenure might be changed and the restitution not made without a price paid to the new lord.

1914 Z. Grey Rustlers of Pecos County xiv. 225 Sampson had made restitution in every case where he had personally gained at the loss of farmer or rancher.

1987 M. Flanagan Trust xxv. 238 For this act of vandalism you will make restitution.

2005 N.Y. Times (National ed.) 20 Nov. III. 5/1 Google is reluctant to make restitucion to [Internet] advertisers who claim to have been victimized by fraudulent and often malicious clickers.

b. Law. restitution of conjugal rights: judicial restoration of conjugal rights in a suit brought by one party in a marriage against the other.

1720 T. Wood Inst. Laws Eng. II. 861 Jactitation of Marriage, Divorces, Alimony, Restitution of Conjugal Rights, Subtraction of Tithes, Right of Tithes or of a Modus Decimandi.

1768 W. Blackstone Comm. Laws Eng. III. 94 The suit for restitution of conjugal rights is..another species of matrimonial causes: which is brought whenever either the husband or wife is guilty of the injury of subtraction, or lives separate from the other without any sufficient reason.

1858 Ld. St. Leonards Handy Bk. Prop. Law xii. 73 Restitution of conjugal rights may be granted by the Court.

1940 Jrnl. Compar. Legislation & Internat. Law 22 34 A further provision abolishes the remedy of attachment in the case of a decree for restitution of conjugal rights.
The British had imported into India the English legal practice of recognizing claims for the restitution of conjugal rights.

P2. In sense 3.

**restitution in blood**: the readmission of an attainted person to forfeited privileges of birth and rank, civil rights, etc. Cf. **BLOOD n.** Phrases 2d. Now hist.

1583 J. Foxe *Actes & Monuments* (ed. 4) II. 1475/2 Cardinall Poole landed at Douer vpon the Wednesday being the xxi. day of Nouember, on which day one Act passed in the parliment for his restitution in bloud.

1633 E. Coke *1st Pt. Inst. Lawes Eng.* (1648) III. 240 Of restitutions by Parliament some be in blood onely... And some be generall restitutions.

1666 in J. Strype *Eccl. Mem.* (1721) III. 103 A bill was ordered..for the restitution in blood of Edward Seimour, son and heir of the late duke, attainted.

1675 W. Dugdale *Baronage Eng.* I. 171/1 But, after execution thus done upon this Duke..though there then passed an Act for his Attainder; yet there was likewise an Act for the restitution in blood of Henry his eldest Son.

1751 *Parl. Hist. Eng.* III. 293 Two private Bills were also passed in this Session; the one, for the Restitution, in Blood, of the Lady Gertrude Courtney, Widow to Henry Courtney, late Marquess of Exeter.

1769 W. Blackstone *Comm. Lawes Eng.* IV. xxx. 385 Sometimes..the merits of the criminal's family shall after his death obtain a restitution in blood, honours, and estate, or some, or one of them, by act of parliament.


1891 R. W. Dixon *Hist. Church Eng.* IV. 267 The first bill was for the restitution in blood of Cardinal Pole: which was passed with convenient speed.

1922 C. C. Stopes *Life of Henry* xviii. 266 On the 16th James granted Southampton a special pardon, with restitution in blood to him and his heirs, and restitution of titles, lands and property of all kinds.

1991 *Eng. Hist. Rev.* 106 397 Most of Sir Geoffrey's study is therefore devoted to the legislative process and its results..ranging from the safety and government of the realm to the private concerns of restitution in blood.

**COMPOUNDS**

C1. General attributive (in sense 6) as **restitution coin, restitution medal**.

1901 *Spink & Son's Numismatic Circ.* Dec. 5016 Restitution coins are those which, after a more or less considerable interval alter their first issue, were restruck by another Emperor who, reproducing more or less faithfully the prototype, added to it his own name followed by the abbreviation REST', or more rarely the whole word RESTITVTR.

1906 *Spink & Son's Numismatic Circ.* Dec. 9521 The puncheon of the bust of Henry II. (1558) was used for a restitution medal.

1973 *Art Bull.* 55 391/2 A restitution medal of Giuliano was being cast about the very time that Michelangelo was carving his statue.
There are many other indicators which tell us that coins were ‘collected’ in ancient times. One of the more obvious of these are so-called ‘restitution’ coins.

**C2.**

**restitution nucleus n.** [after German *Restitutionskern* (O. Rosenberg 1927, in *Hereditas* 8 321)] *Genetics* a cell nucleus having twice the regular chromosome number, formed by an uncompleted mitotic or meiotic cell division.

1927 *Hereditas* 8 336 The semiheterotypic meta- and anaphase very often are not completed, but are interrupted by a premature homotypic division, whereby *Restitution-nuclei* are formed.

1950 *Adv. Genetics* 3 197 The zygoid chromosome number is restored through the fusion of two azygoid nuclei, the formation of a restitution nucleus or endomitosis.

1974 *Euphytica* 23 631 The diploid chromosome numbers may result either from first or second division restitution nuclei of meiosis.

1993 *Cell Biol. Internat.* 17 945 In these cells the diplochromosomes were shown to originate from restitution nuclei.

2008 T. F. Stuessy *Plant Taxon.* (ed. 2) xvii. 220/1 The broad differences between diplospory (unreduced embryo sac coming from a generative cell by mitosis or modified meiosis to yield an unreduced restitution nucleus) and apospory.

**restitution suit n.** *Law* a suit for restitution of conjugal rights.

1863 M. C. M. Swabey & T. H. Tristram *Rep. Court Probate & Court for Divorce* II. 677 *Naylor v. Naylor*, which was a restitution suit brought by the wife, in which her adultery was relied on by the husband.

1894 *Westm. Gaz.* 6 Dec. 1/2 Whatever is an answer to a restitution suit is also a ground for judicial separation.

1999 *Past & Present* May 174 To prove just cause for leaving was no defence in a restitution suit.

This entry has been updated (OED Third Edition, March 2010).