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## restrain, *v.*<sup>1</sup>

**Pronunciation:** Brit. /rɪ'streɪn/, U.S. /rə'streɪn/

, /ri'streɪn/

### Forms:

α. ME **resstrayne**, ME **restrane**, ME **restren**, ME **restryne**, ME–16 **restraine**, ME–16 **restrayn**, ME–16 **restrayne**, ME–16 **restreign**, ME–16 **restreigne**, ME–16 **restreine**, ME–16 **restreyn**, ME–16 **restreyne**, 15 **restraygne**, 15 **restrean**, 15 **restrene**, 15 **restreygne**, 15 **restrine**, 15–17 **restrein**, 15–**restrain**; also *Scottish* pre-17 **rastrenȝe**, pre-17 **restrane**, pre-17 **restreane**, pre-17 **restren**, pre-17 **restrenȝe**, pre-17 **restrenȝhe**, pre-17 **restrenyhe**, pre-17 **restreygne**, pre-17 **restreygnhe**, 19– **restreen** (*south-western*).

β. (Perhaps transmission errors) LME **resteine**, 15 **restain**, 15 **restayned**, 15–16 **restaine**.

### Frequency (in current use):

**Origin:** A borrowing from French. **Etymons:** French *restreindre*, *restrain-*.

**Etymology:** < Anglo-Norman *restreindre*, Anglo-Norman and Middle French *restraindre* (stressed stem *restrain-*, *restrein-*, *restreign-*, *restraign-*; in Anglo-Norman also, with change of conjugation, *restreigner*; French *restreindre*) to fasten armour (mid 12th cent. in Old French), to grip, to press, compress (c1155), to bind, tie, bandage (second half of the 12th cent.), to control (a horse with the reins) (c1177), to check, control (c1225), to control the flow (of a body fluid) (1240 or earlier in Anglo-Norman with reference to tears, 1256 with reference to dysentery, 1314 with reference to blood), to limit (1283), to limit (a person's range of movement) (c1370), to withhold (food or resources) (late 14th cent.), to arrest, detain (a1397), (reflexively) to refrain or hold back (late 12th cent.) < classical Latin *restringere* RESTRINGE *v.* Compare Old Occitan *restrenher* (c1300), Catalan *restrenyer* (13th cent.), Spanish †*restrenir* †*restrennir* (c1250), also Portuguese *restringir* and Italian *ristringere* (for both see RESTRINGE *v.*). Compare REFRAIN *v.*

The β. forms may all show transmission errors for α. forms, but it is notable that they are found with some frequency in the early modern period.

### 1.

**a. transitive.** To restrict, limit, confine.

a1325 *Statutes of Realm* (2011) ix. 63 Ant te lord king ne attendez noȝt þoru þis statut to restreinen þe laste Statut of Westmunestre.

▶ a1398 J. TREVISA tr. Bartholomaeus Anglicus *De Proprietatibus Rerum* (BL Add.) f. 130 Mater is I-clepid endeles..by cause þat his appetites beþ nouȝt restreyned neiþir I-lymytid in certeyne.

a1425 (▶a1400) *Prick of Conscience* (Galba & Harl.) (1863) 3873 (MED) Bischopes here of lagher state..For-why þair dignite here is les And þarfor þair powere restreyned es.

▶ a1475 J. FORTESCUE *Governance of Eng.* (Laud) (1885) 121 (MED) Be reason hereoff he will þe more restrayn his yeftis off oþer off his livelod.

- c1500 (‡?a1475) *Assembly of Gods* (1896) 1013 (MED) He seyde he wold nat restrayne hys lyberte.
- 1576 A. FLEMING tr. Cicero in *Panoplie Epist.* 150 I restraine this accusation from being universall.
- 1654 J. BRAMHALL *Just Vindic. Church of Eng.* i. 2 That they did use in all ages..to limit and restrain the Exercise of Papal power.
- 1699 N. LUTTRELL *Diary in Brief Hist. Relation State Affairs* (1857) IV. 497 The bill for restraining the number of officers sitting in the house of commons.
- 1738 tr. S. Guazzo *Art of Conversat.* 136 The Denomination of Gentry was much more restrained by Diogenes.
- 1748 B. ROBINS & R. WALTER *Voy. round World by Anson* II. x. 237 This trade..is confined by very particular regulations, somewhat analogous to those by which the trade of the register ships from Cadiz to the West-Indies is restrained.
- 1804 W. CRUISE *Digest Laws Eng. Real Prop.* IV. 501 Conditions to restrain these powers generally are void, as being repugnant to the estate limited.
- 1876 *Ann. Reg.* 51 The cross on the cheque did not restrain its negotiability.
- 1938 H. A. MURRAY *Explor. in Personality* iii. 226 Radicalism is usually opposed to authority, to any force that restrains liberty.
- 1989 *Japan Times* 16 May 5/2 Is your lifestyle restrained by the layout or utility of your home?
- 2003 *Eastern Eye* 14 Feb. 18/5 We continue to urge both India and Pakistan to take steps to restrain their nuclear and missile programs.

**b. transitive.** To restrict or limit *to* (also †*unto*).

- ?a1425 tr. Guy de Chauliac *Grande Chirurgie* (N.Y. Acad. Med.) f. 21<sup>v</sup> (MED) Causez..of reume..Haly Abbas..restreynded þam vnto 6 þinges.
- 1509 J. FISHER *Mornyng Remembraunce Countesse of Rychemonde* (de Worde) sig. Aiv She restrayned her appetyte tyl one mele & tyl one fysshe on y<sup>e</sup> day.
- 1529 T. MORE *Supplyc. Soulyc.* f. xviii<sup>v</sup> Therefore ys moste comenly thys word hell restayned to the specyall sygnifycacyon of that low place byneth.
- 1581 R. MULCASTER *Positions* xxxix. 199 The tearme of nobilitie amongest vs, is restrained to one order.
- 1644 C. JESSOP *Angel Church of Ephesus* 50 When the title of Bishop was restrained unto one of the Presbyters.
- 1696 R. BENTLEY *Of Revel. & Messias* 20 The conditions of Salvation..are..restrain'd to those times and countries alone.
- 1712 J. ADDISON *Spectator* No. 418. ¶7 His Soil is not restrained to any particular Sett of Plants.
- 1785 W. PALEY *Princ. Moral & Polit. Philos.* III. I. xvii. 167 He swears 'to speak the whole truth', without restraining it, as before, to the questions that shall be asked.
- 1850 R. C. TRENCH *Notes Miracles* (ed. 3) xxvii. 365 The language shows that the rebuke is not restrained to him, but intended to pass on to many more.
- 1864 H. JAMES in *N. Amer. Rev.* Oct. 583 Mr. Senior has restrained the partiality of blood to decent limits.

- 1958 E. U. CONDON & H. ODISHAW *Handbk. Physics* IX. ix. 154/2 To make this device practical, it is necessary only to restrain the beam to a closed path around the flux.
- 1973 E. WILSON *Embroidery Bk.* (1975) ix. 363 Making designs with cutouts of colored paper can help you restrain your drawing to the silhouette shapes ideal for stylized needlework.
- 2002 D. GOY-BLANQUET in M. Hattaway *Cambr. Compan. Shakespeare's Hist. Plays* (2003) iv. 63 A team of writers formed..to continue the project, but decided to restrain it to the British Isles.

**c. transitive.** Chiefly in legal contexts: to prohibit or forbid (a thing or action).

- 1491 in *Acts Lords of Council Civil Causes* (1839) I. 169/1 All þe saidis giftis..Ar derogate adnullit restrenzeit & defendit quhill þe kingis age of xxj 3eris.
- 1526 W. BONDE *Pylgrimage of Perfection* III. sig. PPPiiii In the which god restrayneth or forbyddeth man any thyng.
- c1533 in H. Ellis *Orig. Lett. Eng. Hist.* (1827) 2nd Ser. II. 53 The said blake rentes whiche by parliament is restrayned to be any further payd by any of the Kinges subjectes.
- 1628 *Bucleuch MSS* (Hist. MSS Comm.) (1899) I. 268 The doubt..you may well understand to go only to the trees and timber—the coppice woods are not meant to be restrained.
- 1720 J. COCKBURN *Hist. & Exam. Duels* iv. 97 There was good reson to forbid and restrain these Meetings of Persons and People to fight.
- 1785 *Acts & Laws Mass.* (1890) 429 Assign some certain places for the exercising of any of the trades or employments..and forbid and restrain the exercise of either of them in other places.
- 1840 R. GODSON *Pract. Treat. Law Patents* (ed. 2) II. viii. 255 The Court will grant an injunction to restrain the sale of articles.
- 1898 R. B. MICHELL *Law of Easements* (ed. 2) App. vi. 320 B may obtain an injunction to restrain the piracy.
- 1930 *Federal Reporter* 2nd Ser. **38** 470 This action was begun June 5, 1909..to restrain the proving up of homestead entries..upon tracts of land.
- 1999 K. SCOTT *Gareth Evans* xi. 132 The court..upheld the Commonwealth's right to restrain publication of the book.

†**d. intransitive** with reflexive meaning. To limit or confine oneself to something. *Obsolete. rare.*

- 1629 E. SANDYS *Europæ Speculum* 13 Not to enlarge in Moderne graunts; but to restraine to one Pope of renowned fresh memorie.
- 1649 BP. J. HALL *Resol. & Decisions* IV. v. 4350 Cornelius à Lapide..would seeme to restraine to the ensuing particularities onely.

**2. transitive.**

**a.** To check, hold back, or prevent (a person or thing) *from* some course of action. Also with †*of*, †*for to* do something.

In quot. 1795, with object implied.

- 1384 *Proclam. Sir Nicholas Brembre* in R. W. Chambers & M. Daunt *Bk. London Eng.* (1931) 32 (MED) That vitailers foreins..shulde be restrained and ylet of hire comyngge to the citee.
- c1405 (►c1390) CHAUCER *Melibeus* (Hengwrt) (2003) §522 Ther be ful manye thynges þ<sup>t</sup> shul restreyne yow of vengeance takyngge.
- c1440 in G. G. Perry *Eng. Prose Treat.* (1921) 7 (MED) Till þat my herte heldede mare, and bowghede, Thane to restreyne me fra all thoghtes þat I knewe agaynes Goddes will.
- c1450 (►c1375) CHAUCER *Anelida & Arcite* (Digby) (1878) l. 235 I ne can my hert not restreyne For to love hym alwey.
- 1483 (►1413) tr. G. Deguileville *Pilgrimage of Soul* (Caxton) IV. xx. f. lxxj<sup>v</sup> How may ye now fro wepyngge you restreyne.
- 1577 B. GOOGE tr. C. Heresbach *Foure Bks. Husbandry* II. f. 55<sup>v</sup> The sweeter also they wyll be, the more you restrayne the stalke from shooting vp.
- 1617 F. MORYSON *Itinerary* I. 171 I..restrained my curiositie from attempting to view this Castle.
- 1654 E. WOLLEY tr. 'G. de Scudéry' *Curia Politia* 123 The multitudes could not be restrained from calling me the Restaurator of his Empire.
- 1726 BP. J. BUTLER *15 Serm.* i. 14 This Principle in Man..tends to restrain Men from doing Mischief to each other.
- 1788 GIBBON *Decline & Fall* V. l. 245 The weakness of their Arabian brethren had restrained them from opposing his ambition.
- 1795 M. EDGEWORTH *Lett. for Lit. Ladies* 62 The motives which restrain from vice must be encreased, by the clear conviction that vice and wretchedness are inseparably united.
- 1818 W. CRUISE *Digest Laws Eng. Real Prop.* (ed. 2) I. 147 The Court of Chancery will also restrain a tenant for life..from cutting down timber.
- 1880 L. STEPHEN *Alexander Pope* iii. 77 This independence did not restrain him from writing poetry.
- 1913 W. CATHER *O Pioneers!* II. x. 172 Ask your lawyers what you can do to restrain me from disposing of my own property.
- 1991 *Daily Tel.* 5 Jan. 1/2 Aziz will be seeking a commitment from America to restrain Israel from launching a pre-emptive strike.

†**b.** To forbid (a person) *to* do something. *Obsolete.*

- 1544 P. BETHAM tr. Earl of Purlilia *Precepts War* II. xxii. sig. Kiiij Forbydde and restrayne, thy souldyours to bye theyr vitayles, in those places where they kepe warre.
- 1579 T. NORTH tr. Plutarch *Liues* 7 Restrayingn all manner of people to beare sayle in any vessell or bottome.
- 1649 G. LANGBAIN *Answer Vniv. Oxford* 10 Restrained all Bakers and Brewers..to bake or brew within the Citty, except [etc.].

### 3. *transitive*.

**a.** To keep (a person or animal) in check or under control.

Frequently *reflexive*.

In quot. 1733 *intransitive*.

- ▶ a1387 J. TREVISA tr. R. Higden *Polychron.* (St. John's Cambr.) (1871) III. 187 (*MED*) Þere were i-made tweye consuls, þat 3if þat oon wolde outrage, þe oþer my3te hym restreyne [*v.r.* refreyne].
- ▶ a1393 GOWER *Confessio Amantis* (Fairf.) VII. 5413 (*MED*) I mai miselve noght restreigne, That I nam evere in loves peine.
- 1425 in *Rec. Parl. Scotl. to 1707* (2007) 1425/3/15 He sall..do his besynace to restrenyhe sic trespassouris and misdoaris.
- a1500 tr. Thomas à Kempis *De Imitatione Christi* (Trin. Dublin) (1893) 18 (*MED*) We wol haue oþir restreynd by statutes, & we wol suffre us in no wyse to be more restreynd.
- 1535 W. STEWART tr. H. Boethius *Bk. Cron. Scotl.* (1858) II. 102 Without..that oure wnworthines Restren3e ws, we ma..Baith land and law, and libertie agane..reskew.
- 1591 SPENSER *Prosopopoia* in *Complaints* 1073 Hardly..were they restrayned so, Till that the Foxe [etc.].
- a1667 A. COWLEY *Several Disc. by Way of Ess., Verse & Prose* 85 in *Wks.* (1668) If I want skill or force to restrain the Beast that I ride upon.
- 1678 J. BUNYAN *Pilgrim's Progress* (ed. 2) 2 In this plight therefore he went home, and restrained himself as long as he could.
- 1715 D. DEFOE *Family Instructor* I. i. iii. 75 Because I have not restrain'd them, and show'd them their Duty.
- 1733 POPE *Ess. Man* II. 44 Two Principles in Human Nature reign; Self-Love, to urge; and Reason, to restrain.
- 1761 F. SHERIDAN *Mem. Miss Sidney Bidulph* II. 170 Our present state will not suffer us to keep pace with you...: restrain yourself a little.
- 1827 R. SOUTHEY *Hist. Peninsular War* II. 67 The officers made not the slightest attempt at restraining the wretches under their command.
- 1883 J. A. FROUDE *Short Stud.* 4th Ser. I. vii. 82 Alexander told him that, unless peace was made, he could not restrain the archbishop longer.
- 1930 A. P. HERBERT *Water Gipsies* xxi. 318 He had caught sight of Jane, able to restrain herself no more, clapping, laughing, crying.
- 1963 P. WHITE *Let.* 10 Feb. (1994) vii. 218 There seem to have been wild scenes in N.Z. with police dogs brought in to restrain the crowds.
- 2005 *New Yorker* 11 July 70/2 Interrogators encountering resistance begin to lose the ability to restrain themselves.

**b.** To deprive (a person or animal) *of* liberty or rights. Also with †*from*. Now *rare*.

- 1397–8 *Rolls of Parl.: Richard II* (Electronic ed.) Parl. Sept. 1397 Pleas §7. m. 4 In the which commissioun I..restreynd my lord of his fredom.
- 1530 J. PALSgrave *Lesclarcissement* 689/1 It is a sore thyng to restrayne a man of his libertye.
- 1583 LD. BURGHLEY *Execution of Iustice* sig. B.i.<sup>v</sup> Yet was he not restrayned of his libertie.
- 1655 W. GOUGE & T. GOUGE *Learned Comm. Hebrewes* (xiii. 3) IV. 22 At another time we may be bound and restrained of liberty.
- 1661 W. CATON tr. Eusebius *Abridgem. Eccl. Hist.* App. 223 The Christian-Quakers have bene much more restrained of their Lybertie then other Sects.
- 1719 W. WOOD *Surv. Trade* (ed. 2) 297 To curb or restrain our own Subjects from their natural Rights.
- 1785 W. PALEY *Princ. Moral & Polit. Philos.* II. xi. 83 The pain..which we occasion to brutes by restraining them of their liberty.
- 1824 J. DUNCAN *Treat. Slavery* iii. 31 The question is..whether all masters..have a power according to the laws and regulations of slave states, to restrain them [sc. slaves] of these natural rights and privileges.
- 1882 *Times* 2 Oct. 8/2 I was not discharged until nearly midnight,..having been restrained of my liberty for about ten hours.
- 1931 J. P. CLARK *Deportation of Aliens from U.S. to Europe* viii. 315 Being unlawfully restrained of his liberty he is entitled to a writ of *habeas corpus*.

**c.** To confine or imprison (a person or thing); to restrict freedom of movement or action using some means of restraint. In early use also:  
 †to embargo (cf. *restraint of princes* at RESTRAINT *n.* 1b) (*obsolete*).

- 1491 tr. Peter of Blois *XIJ. Proffites of Tribulacyon* v. sig. Ciiij<sup>v</sup>, in *Bk. Diuerse Ghostly Maters* (Caxton) If thou wylte haue god to the merciabe, suffre the to be restreynd with thyse bondis of tribulacyon.
- 1542 *Chronicle of Fabyan* II. 487 This yere corn was verie dere & had ben dearer if marchuntes of y<sup>e</sup> styliarde had not been, & dutche shippes restrined.
- 1548 *Hall's Vnion: Henry VIII* f. clxxij<sup>v</sup> [She] caused all the Englishemen and their goodes and Shippes to bee restrained.
- 1587 SIR P. SIDNEY & A. GOLDING tr. P. de Mornay *Trewnesse Christian Relig.* i. 11 Nature and conscience (which they would haue restreined and imprisoned).
- 1612 I. M. tr. *Most Famous Hist. Meruine* I. xv. 100 He was neither restrained nor imprisoned, but suffered to goe and dispose himselfe round about the towne at his own pleasure.
- a1652 I. JONES *Most Notable Antiq. called Stone-Heng* (1655) 11 They thought it not fit to restrain their Deities within compacted walls.
- 1708 J. CHAMBERLAYNE *Magnæ Britanniae Notitia* (1710) I. III. iv. 194 No Freeman of England ought to be imprison'd, or otherwise restrain'd, without Cause shewn.
- 1766 O. GOLDSMITH *Vicar of Wakefield* xxviii. 235 I shall soon be free, in spite of all his bolts to restrain me.

- 1838 *Proc. Lincoln Asylum* (1847) 30 Number of Patients Restrained or Secluded, and of the Instances and Hours of Restraint or Seclusion.
- 1876 S. MOSSMAN *Mandarin's Daughter* iv. 25 I found the horses..in front of the trooper's tents, their movements restrained by ropes round their fetlocks.
- 1901 *Daily News* 1 Feb. 7/5 The illegal use..of belts, anklets, and wristlets, in restraining violent lunatics.
- 1993 E. BLOOM & L. BLOOM *Piozzi Lett.* III. 455 Once again the king was restrained in a straightcoat. And again there was talk of a regency bill.

#### 4. transitive.

**a.** To check, keep back, or control (a natural force or agent). Also in figurative contexts.

- ▶ a1393 GOWER *Confessio Amantis* (Fairf.) VII. 1286 (MED) The water mai the fyr restreigne.
- c1405 (▶c1375) CHAUCER *Monk's Tale* (Hengwrt) (2003) l. 501 He wende he myghte..alle the floodes of the See restrayne.
- c1450 LYDGATE *Minor Poems* (1934) II. 440 (MED) What man may the wynde restreyne?
- c1480 (▶a1400) *St. Margaret* 7 in W. M. Metcalfe *Legends Saints Sc. Dial.* (1896) II. 47 Vertu It is blud to restrenȝe, & flux of wame refrenȝe.
- a1500 in A. Zettersten *Middle Eng. Lapidary* (1968) 28 (MED) Cornelines..restraynyth moche all bloody veynys.
- a1596 G. PEELE *Loue King David & Fair Bethsabe* (1599) sig. H<sup>v</sup> Take but your Lute, and..Retriue the sunnes sphere, and restraine the clouds.
- a1600 (▶?c1535) tr. H. Boece *Hist. Scotl.* (Mar Lodge) f. 586, in *Dict. Older Sc. Tongue* at *Restrenȝe* Attempting with dikis to stop the mouth of the watter passing fra the louch quhilke being restrenȝeite be invndacioun and gorging of the watter the castell suld be drownit.
- 1611 *Bible (King James)* Gen. viii. 2 The windowes of heauen were stopped, and the raine from heauen was restrained .
- 1697 DRYDEN tr. Virgil *Pastorals* III, in tr. Virgil *Wks.* 16 Now dam the Ditches, and the Floods restrain.
- 1780 B. FRANKLIN *Let.* 19 May in *Papers* (1996) XXXII. 398 All well-bred People..forcibly restrain the Efforts of Nature to discharge that Wind.
- 1848 J. S. MILL *Princ. Polit. Econ.* I. 227 The necessity of restraining population.
- 1861 *Jrnl. Hort.* 30 July 345/2 Much might..be done by planting in pots to restrain growth.
- 1912 J. W. WHITE *Flora of Bristol* 645 The great importance of the Marram as a means of restraining drifting sands may be recognized among the sand-hills near Berrow and Brean.
- 1975 R. GRAVES *Coll. Poems* vi. 132 The room lay open to a visiting sea Which no door could restrain.
- 2004 P. B. BEDIANT et al. in J. Norwine et al. *Water for Texas* viii. 120/1 Previous efforts..were..ineffective in their attempts to restrain the floods.

**b.** To check, repress, or keep back (a desire, emotion, etc.).

- c1405 (►c1390) CHAUCER *Melibeus* (Ellesmere) (1872) §2282 If ye wole werken wikkednesse and youre wif restreyneth thilke wikked purpos..yours wyf oghte..to be preised.
- ?a1425 *Mandeville's Trav.* (Egerton) (1889) 116 He sendez his oste þider to restreyne þe malice of his enmys.
- a1500 (►c1340) R. ROLLE *Psalter* (Univ. Oxf. 64) (1884) xvii. 43 All my vile desires þou restreynde with vertu of luf.
- 1542 N. UDALL tr. Erasmus *Apophthegmes* f. 295 He grauely restreigned and staid the heddie vndiscretenessse of the oratours.
- 1560 J. DAUS tr. J. Sleidane *Commentaries* f. cxxxiiiij Yet hathe God hetherto restrayned the force and violence of Sathan.
- 1638 T. HERBERT *Some Yeares Trav.* (rev. ed.) 91 Ganges..a whiles forbad them, restraying eithers fury.
- 1697 DRYDEN tr. Virgil *Georgics* III, in tr. Virgil *Wks.* 108 Nor Bits nor Bridles can his Rage restrain .
- 1725 D. DEFOE *New Voy. round World* II. 110 It would have been impossible for me to have restrained my Curiosity.
- 1743 W. PITT in J. Almon *Anecd. Life W. Pitt* (1792) I. v. 124 The ardour of our British troops was restrained by the cowardice of the Hanoverian.
- 1838–9 F. A. KEMBLE *Jrnl. Resid. Georgian Plantation* (1863) 41 I could hardly restrain my feelings.
- 1874 J. R. GREEN *Short Hist. Eng. People* vii. §6. 400 As Elizabeth passed..from suspicion to terror, she no longer chose to restrain the bigotry around her.
- 1948 'N. SHUTE' *No Highway* x. 257 He with difficulty restrained a crazy impulse to turn and kiss her in the doorway.
- 1984 J. FRAME *Angel at my Table* (1987) xiv. 102 And although Dad treasured his flowers.., he restrained his anger each time Siggy scratched among the dahlias.
- 2002 D. LUNDY *Way of Ship* (2003) v. 185 He looked forward down the length of the deck and barely restrained his fear.

## 5. transitive.

**a.** To withhold or keep back (something) from someone. Also with *from*, †*of*. Also *intransitive*. Now *rare*.

- a1393 GOWER *Confessio Amantis* (Fairf.) II. 1168 (*MED*) Alle othre thinges sche restreigneth, That a word more sche no tolde.
- 1433 *Rolls of Parl.: Henry VI* (Electronic ed.) Parl. July 1433 §12. m. 17 Þat the tresorer..have power and auctorite..to restreigne of alle maner of assignementz..to the somme of .mm. libras.
- 1439–40 *Rolls of Parl.: Henry VI* (Electronic ed.) Parl. Nov. 1439 §19. m. 13 Yef the saide surplus be not employed to þe kings houshold..then it be leefull to þe said feffes, to restreyne þe said warantz.
- 1480 in S. Tymms *Wills & Inventories Bury St. Edmunds* (1850) 59 [I] charge myne executourez that they..kepe and restrayn from hym or them there legatis and byquestis.

- a1525 *Coventry Leet Bk.* 417 The Master of the Trinite Gilde shall restrene of the fee of euery suche meire to þe valowe of all suche mercymentes beyng vnpunnysshed in his fawt.
- a1538 T. STARKEY *Dial. Pole & Lupset* (1989) 69 Bettur hyt ys..to restreyne from the prynce such hye authoryte.
- 1594 W. WEST *Symbolæogr.: 2nd Pt.* II. Chancerie §144 The rents, issues, and profites therof [they] have wrongfully restreynd, perceyved, and taken to their owne use.
- 1663 R. TWYSDEN *Hist. Vindic. Church Eng.* (new ed.) vi. 122 The Parliament..restrained the profits of Rome, as in the payments of Annates, Peter-pence.
- a1860 H. ANGUS *Serm.* (1861) v. 82 For his [sc. Christ's] completing of that work..may not the Spirit have been restrained from him..to the extent of making him feel as if his former prop had been removed.
- 1909 J. R. HARRIS tr. *Odes & Psalms Solomon* 113 Do not remove thy word from me! Neither for the sake of their works do thou restrain from me thy perfection!

**b.** To save or keep free *from*. Now *rare*.

- a1425 (►a1349) R. ROLLE *Commandm. of Love* (Rawl.) in C. Horstmann *Yorkshire Writers* (1895) I. 64 (*MED*) Restreyne þi wille a while fro al lust and likyng of synne.
- c1475 (►a1449) LYDGATE *Minor Poems* (1911) I. 311 (*MED*) O Welle of swetnesse..That all mankynde preseruyd hast from dethe, And all oure ioy fro langour dydest restreyne At thy Natiuite.
- 1484 CAXTON tr. G. de la Tour-Landry *Bk. Knight of Tower* (1971) ix. 23 Fastyng..restreyneth the flesshe from euyll desyres.
- a1500 (►a1450) *Partonope of Blois* (BL Add.) (1912) 5549 (*MED*) Þus shall I my body pyne, Fro myrthe and Ioye my hert restreyne [*v.r.* resstrayne].
- 1630 J. EVANS *Sacrifice Contrite Heart* 7 O soules sole cleanser, Sauour deare, our hearts from sinne restraine.
- 1662 C. BONDE *Salmasius* 50 What Puritan, Independent, Anabaptist, Presbyterian, Quaker, &c. Or Red-coat as bad, though not worse than any of them, can restrain his Adamantine heart from grief?
- 1790 *Constantia* II. i, in A. Hughes *Moral Drama's* 138 Should I restrain my heart from tenderness.
- 1868 J. M. CRAMP *Baptist Hist.* iii. 73 To relinquish the world, to restrain the flesh from concupiscence.
- 1974 M. A. SHERIF *Ghazili's Theory of Virtue* (1975) ii. 54 Avicenna regards it [sc. humility] as a subdivision of wisdom which restrains the soul from arrogance.

†**c.** To hold back (a person) *from* something desired. *Obsolete*.

- 1611 *Bible (King James)* Gen. xvi. 2 Behold now, the Lord hath restrained me from bearing.
- 1715 *Gentleman's Libr.* 305 We may..keep up to all the Offices and Commands of Obedience impos'd, yet not be restrain'd from any Pleasures innocent.

1791 E. INCHBALD *Simple Story* I. i. 8 He still restrained him from all authority.

**6. intransitive.** To refrain or hold back (*from* something; also with *to*).

a1425 (▶?a1400) CHAUCER *Romaunt Rose* (Hunterian) (1891) l. 4955 Eelde gan ageyn restreyne  
From sich foly and refreyne And sette men..In good Reule.

1578 R. ROBINSON tr. *Dyall of Dayly Contemplacion* sig. N.i Should not man than restraine from  
all peruersitie?

1598 A. M. tr. J. Guillemeau *Frenche Chirurg.* VII. vi. f. 39/2 We muste suffer it to bleede..till it of  
it selfe restraygneth & stoppeth.

1619 M. DRAYTON *Idea* in *Poems* (rev. ed.) 261 O, Why should Nature niggardly restraine!

1623 P. MASSINGER *Duke of Millaine* v. ii. sig. L4 Thrice his desperat hand was on his sword To  
haue killd 'em both, but he restrayn'd.

1640 *Petit. Lond.* in J. Rushworth *Hist. Coll.: Third Pt.* (1692) I. 94 Hence it is that the Prelates  
here in England..have restrained to pray for the Conversion of our Sovereign Lady the Queen.

1736 BP. J. BUTLER *Analogy of Relig.* (ed. 2) I. iii. 73 The natural Fear..which restrains from such  
Crimes, is a Declaration of Nature against them.

1848 THACKERAY *Vanity Fair* lx. 541 It was impossible to restrain from laughter.

1866 A. HORT *Hena* II. ix. 200 He restrained to even reproach her by a look.

1896 D. BINGHAM *Recoll. Paris* II. ii. 41 Here were the most disreputable-looking scamps in the  
midst of boundless riches..and they restrained from pillage.

1913 'V. NIKTO' *Mere Woman* xxxv. 168 Each time I felt his fat red lips..I could not restrain from a  
nervous shudder.

1990 *Times* 8 Nov. 25/7 Kevin Hull's film commendably restrained from any commentary.

2007 C. STRUBE *Planet Reese* 255 He managed to restrain from ranting at the air conditioner  
repairman about the need for renewable alternative energies.

**7. transitive.**

**a.** To hold tightly; to pull or draw upon (esp. a rein or bridle). Now *rare* (in later use only in figurative contexts).

c1425 LYDGATE *Troyyes Bk.* (Augustus A.iv) IV. 3630 (*MED*) To þe cors sodeynly she sterte, And  
clappid it in hir armys tweyne, And pitously enbrace it and restreyne, Like as she wolde with  
hym dye anoon.

a1450 *Generides* (Pierpont Morgan) (1865) 5817 (*MED*) His bridel thoo he gan restreyn.

a1616 SHAKESPEARE *Taming of Shrew* (1623) III. ii. 57 A headstall of sheepes leather, which being  
restrain'd to keepe him from stumbling, hath been often burst.

1763 A. GREY *Deb. House of Commons* II. 167 If a Coachman can neither restrain his reins, nor  
slacken them, and be tied to the box, he would drive scurvily.

1828 H. W. TYTLER tr. Silius Italicus *Punics* I. iv. 146 To stand the charge restrain the flowing  
reins And hold th' impatient coursers on the plains.

1996 M. COMANS tr. Totakacarya *Extracting Essence of Śruti* 58 There are statements in the [Vedic] tradition such as:..‘Restraining the reins of the senses’.

**b.** To hold, bind, or secure (something). *rare* before 19th cent.

- a1475 *Bk. Quinte Essence* 7 (MED) Þe philosophore seiþ þat wryn hath also þe propirtee to restreyne in it þe influence and vertues of gold.
- 1598 A. M. tr. J. Guillemeau *Frenche Chirurg.* II. iii. f. 10<sup>v</sup>/1 Those vaynes..which..there doe restrayne that membrane fast vnto the sculle.
- 1871 J. MOODY *Sci. of Evil* ii. 34 There is a good illustration of human freedom in the flying of the kite... You restrain it with a string and it soars aloft.
- 1900 J. HAYNES tr. M. von Kaisenberg *Mem. Baroness de Courtot* xxiii. 219 The balloon must inevitably have flown up into the sky had it not been restrained with ropes held by at least a hundred people.
- 1969 *Jane's Freight Containers 1968–9* 10/1 The freight container should be restrained horizontally.
- 1986 A. LIMON in A. Limon et al. *Home Owner Man.* (ed. 2) I. iii. 61 The bottom of the frame is restrained by being screwed to the wall at about 1 m centres.
- 2006 W. H. SMITH *Crossbow Hunting* i. 3 All that remains are the drilling of a hole and the use of a pin to restrain the string.

**c.** Of a seat belt or other safety restraint: to hold (a person or part of the body) in place in a vehicle seat in case of an accident, emergency stop, etc.

- 1933 *Aviation Engin.* June 17/2 In many light planes the pilot is separated from the passenger cockpit by perhaps just a diagonal tube brace... Crash impact can be reduced if the body is restrained from its inertia movement.
- 1946 *Science* 29 Nov. 513/2 Studies of controlled aircraft crashes have shown the duration of deceleration of dummies restrained with the restraining harness to vary from 55 to 90 milliseconds.
- 1976 *National Observer (U.S.)* 5 June 9/1 The study recommended that children be restrained by a seat belt.
- 1980 *Know about your Car (A.A.)* 232/1 All front seats on cars made after June 30 1964 must be equipped with seat belts which restrain the upper part of the body.
- 1990 *Times* 9 Feb. 33 Drivers must ensure that children aged under 14 travelling in the rear seat are restrained where seatbelts are available.
- 1991 *Motor Boat & Yachting* Jan. 121/1 In addition to safety canopies, the UIM wants to see all multihull crew members seated and restrained by harnesses.

†**8.** *transitive.* To compel or force (*to* do something). *Obsolete.*

- c1425 LYDGATE *Troyyes Bk.* (Augustus A.iv) l. 1. 2382 (*MED*) I thanke þow..Whom þat ȝe may hooly..To liue or dye, at ȝour lust restreynne.
- c1450 *Alphabet of Tales* (1904) l. 253 (*MED*) Vnnethis his felows myght restren hym to spare it.
- a1456 tr. *Secreta Secret.* (Marmaduke, Ashm. 59) (1977) 221 Do þou þy peyne to with-drawe al þy reaume frome alle thing in-honeste, and þat þou resteine [*perh. read* restreine] hem offt for to swere.
- ?1531 J. FRITH *Disput. Purgatorye* l. sig. b8 If thou obiecte þ' god were then restreyned and compelled, I answeare naye.
- 1621 H. ELSYNGE *Notes Deb. House of Lords* (1870) 103 The Subjecte is restreyned by *præmunire* to receive, though the Kinge be not restreyned to gyve.
- 1655 T. FULLER *Church-hist. Brit.* IX. 185 By antient custome no Vestal Virgin or Flamen of Jupiter was restrained to swear.
- 1730 W. BOHUN *Law of Tithes* v. 172 It was lawful for every Man to dispose of his Tithes to any Church he pleased, and he was not restrained to pay them to any one Parish or Parson in particular.
- 1794 T. WEDGE *Gen. View Agric. Chester* 53 The tenant shall be confined to pursue a scheme of husbandry..by which he is restrained to fallow one third part of the tillage.
- 1870 *Galaxy* Feb. 203 Living under a ban, which forbids converse on politics and religion, the society of Rome is restrained to be musical, or literary, or artistic.

**9. transitive.** *Photography.* To slow (the action of a developer) by the addition of a restrainer (*RESTRAINER* *n.* 2a); to inhibit the formation of fog on a negative or film by using a restrainer. Also *intransitive.*

- 1855 *Jrnl. Photogr. Soc. London* 217/2 The action of pyrogallic acid mixed with acetic acid is so energetic, that there is scarcely time to restrain the development of the image.
- 1889 *Internat. Ann. Anthonys Photogr. Bull.* 417 If too long an exposure is found to have been given, restrain with..potassium bromide.
- 1901 *Pharmaceut. Jrnl.* 46 (Suppl.) 15/1 Borax restrains this developer better than KBr.
- 1969 *Focal Encycl. Photogr.* (rev. ed.) 1286/1 Anti-fogging agents..do not..restrain the activity of the developer to the same extent as potassium bromide.
- 2000 R. E. JACOBSON et al. *Man. Photogr.* (ed. 9) xvii. 227/2 Organic restrainers are capable of restraining fog without affecting film speed.

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