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force, *n.*¹

Pronunciation: Brit. /fɔːs/, U.S. /fɔ(ə)rs/

Forms: ME–15 **fors, forse**, (ME **foors, forze**), ME– **force**.

Frequency (in current use):

Etymology: < French *force* (= Provençal *forsa, forza*, Spanish *fuerza*, Portuguese *força*, Italian *forza*) < popular Latin **fortia*, noun of quality < Latin *fortis* strong.

I. Strength, power.

†**1.**

a. Physical strength, might, or vigour, as an attribute of living beings (occasionally of liquor). Rarely in *plural* (= French *forces*). *Obsolete*.

a1375 *William of Palerne* (1867) l. 3598 Þouȝ he hade fors of foure swiche oþer.

a1400 (†a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Vesp.) l. 7244 Thoru his fax his force was tint.

a1400–50 *Alexander* 1006 And now vs failis all oure force & oure flesch waykis.

?1507 W. DUNBAR *Tua Mariit Wemen* (Rouen) in *Poems* (1998) l. 46 He has a forme without force.

1576 A. FLEMING tr. Solon in *Panoplie Epist.* 194 Chosen men, hugest in stature, and fullest of force.

1610 S. RID *Martin Mark-all* 22 Their Beere is of that force, and so mightie, that it serueth them in steade of meate, drinke, fire, and apparrell.

1611 *Bible (King James)* Deut. xxxiv. 7 His eye was not dimme, nor his naturall force abated.

1697 DRYDEN tr. Virgil *Georgics* I, in tr. Virgil *Wks.* 56 Young Elms with early force in Copses bow.

1715 POPE tr. Homer *Iliad* I. III. 89 Thy Force like Steel a temper'd Hardness shows.

1816 M. KEATING *Trav.* (1817) l. 245 The great hero of antiquity, in the thieving line, was eminent by his physical forces.

†**b.** *of force*: full of strength, vigorous. *Obsolete*.

1577 B. GOOGE tr. C. Heresbach *Foure Bks. Husbandry* II. f. 75 The Wyllowes must be holpen with often watringes, that the nature of the tree may be of force [L. *ut natura ligni vigeat*].

c. †*with (one's) force*: with energy, with exertion of one's strength. *with all one's force*: putting forth all one's strength.

- c1380 *Sir Ferumbras* (1879) l. 3036 'Leggeþ on, Lordes,' said he, 'wiþ force & smyteþ strokes smerte.'
- c1400 *Ywaine & Gaw.* 2897 With hir force sho hasted so fast That sho over~toke him at the last.
- a1500 (þ?c1400) *Sir Triamour* (Cambr.) (1937) l. 829 He prekyd to þe kyng wyth fors.
- 1582 N. LICHEFIELD tr. F. L. de Castanheda *1st Bk. Hist. Discouerie E. Indias* xxxiii. 80 b And rowing with force tooke two of the Pledges.
- 1677 N. COX *Gentleman's Recreation* (ed. 2) I. 95 The Hounds..running with all their force.
- 1841 E. W. LANE tr. *Thousand & One Nights* I. 86 Strike the ball.. with all thy force.

†**d. to make great force:** to exert oneself. **to do one's force:** to do one's utmost. *Obsolete.*

- ?c1450 *Life St. Cuthbert* (1891) l. 6904 To wirschip it he did his fors.
- ?c1450 *Life St. Cuthbert* (1891) l. 6182 Forto witt he made grete force.

2.

a. As an attribute of physical action or movement: Strength, impetus, violence, or intensity of effect. Also with reference to the force of wind described by numbers in the Beaufort scale.

- c1320 *Sir Beues* 3405 (MS. A.) With a dent of gret fors A-bar him doun of his hors.
- c1400 *Ywaine & Gaw.* 2452 With grete force he lete it fall.
- 1582 N. LICHEFIELD tr. F. L. de Castanheda *1st Bk. Hist. Discouerie E. Indias* xxix. 73 b The tackling..of the Shippes, with the great force of the winde, made such a terrible noyse.
- 1609 S. ROWLANDS *Famous Hist. Guy Earle of Warwick* 35 And makes them curse that e're they felt the force of Christian blows.
- 1680 J. MOXON *Mech. Exercises* I. XII. 205 By the force and strength of the Wedge.
- 1697 W. DAMPIER *New Voy. around World* ix. 247 The Sea falls with such force on the shore.
- 1774 O. GOLDSMITH *Hist. Earth* III. 67 They break the force of the fall.
- 1781 GIBBON *Decline & Fall* III. 80 The force of the strongest and sharpest tools had been tried without effect.
- a1796 R. BURNS *Poems & Songs* (1968) I. 376 The snowy ruin smokes along, With doubling speed and gathering force.
- 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* I. 347 The force of a stream.
- 1867 W. H. SMYTH & E. BELCHER *Sailor's Word-bk.* (at cited word) *Force of wind*, now described by numbers, 0 being calm, 12 the heaviest gale.
- 1933 *Jane's Fighting Ships* 22 *Trials*..151,000 S.H.P. = 32·07 kts. (run in bad weather, wind force 6 Beaufort scale).
- 1961 *Times* 5 Aug. 3/1 South-westerly winds between force 5 and force 6 on the Beaufort scale meant rigorous yachting conditions.

1963 *Listener* 21 Mar. 528/3 The wind is not only there, but assuming the proportions of a force-ten hurricane.

†**b.** said of the violent onset of combatants in battle. *Obsolete.*

a1400 (▶a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Vesp.) l. 7760 O þis batail þat was sa snell, þe force a-pon þe king it fell.

1489 (▶a1380) J. BARBOUR *Bruce* (Adv.) II. 429 Yat war sa few yat yai na mycht Endur ye fors mar off ye fycht.

c1515 LD. BERNERS tr. *Bk. Duke Huon of Burdeux* (1882–7) lix. 206 The forse of the paynymys was so gret that at length they coude not abyde it.

1582 N. LICHEFIELD tr. F. L. de Castanheda *1st Bk. Hist. Discouerie E. Indias* lxxix. 162 Heere..was all the force of the battaile.

†**c.** *within one's force*: within the range of his attack or defence.

(Cf. DINT *n.* 2d.)

1680 T. OTWAY *Orphan* I. 3 When on the brink the foaming Boar I met, And in his side thought to have lodg'd my spear, The desperate savage rusht within my Force, And bore me headlong with him down the Rock.

†**d.** Violence or 'stress' of weather. *in the force of weather*:

exposed to the brunt of its attack. *Obsolete.*

1614 W. RALEIGH *Hist. World* I. III. viii. §4. 90 A creeke, which is a good harbour for ships, the force of weather being borne off by the head-Land and Isle.

a1640 T. RISDON *Chorogr. Surv. Devon* (1811) (modernized text) §215 223 A high rock, called Crocken-Torr..where is a table and seats of moorstone..lying in the force of all weather, no house or refuge being near it.

3.

a. Power or might (of a ruler, realm, or the like); *esp.* military strength or power.

1303 R. MANNYNG *Handlyng Synne* 3685 Ȝyf þou any man manasse þurghe force or power þat þou hasse.

c1330 R. MANNYNG *Chron.* (1810) 191 Þe Sarazin force doun his, Jhesu we þank þe.

a1500 (▶a1460) *Towneley Plays* (1994) I. viii. 73 If any were..That wold my fors downe fell.

▶?a1513 W. DUNBAR *Poems* (1998) I. 100 Quhois force all France in fame did magnifie.

a1616 SHAKESPEARE *Henry VI, Pt. 3* (1623) v. i. 77 And loe, where George of Clarence sweepes along, Of force enough to bid his Brother Battaile.

- 1756 E. BURKE *Vindic. Nat. Society* 18 In the same Place where his Predecessors had..wasted the Force of so extensive an Empire.
- 1796 E. BURKE *Two Lett. Peace Regicide Directory France* ii, in *Wks.* (1808) VIII. 245 From her aiming through commerce at naval force which she never could attain.
- 1888 *Fortn. Rev.* Nov. 564 A navy actually inferior in fighting force to that of France.

b. In early use, the strength (of a fortress, defensive work, etc.). Subsequently, the fighting strength (of a ship), as measured by number of guns or men. †**of (good) force:** (well) armed or fortified.

- 1577 W. HARRISON *Hist. Descr. Islande Brit.* I. ix. f. 24/2, in R. Holinshed *Chron.* I At this Poulruan is a tower of force.
- 1578 T. NICHOLAS tr. F. Lopez de Gómara *Pleasant Hist. Conquest W. India* 102 The estate and force of the sayde Shippes.
- 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. N. de Nicolay *Nauigations Turkie* I. vii. 7 The foundation, force, and situation of the citie of Alger.
- 1615 G. SANDYS *Relation of Journey* 210 The wals neither faire nor of force.
- 1669 J. NARBOROUGH *Jrnl. in Acct. Several Late Voy.* (1711) I. 7 The Castle..hath but four Guns, and is of no force.
- 1697 W. DAMPIER *New Voy. around World* iii. 46 Sending from Holland Ships of good force.
- 1779 in *L'pool Munic. Rec.* (1886) II. 183 Several ships of force..are now on the coast.
- 1867 W. H. SMYTH & E. BELCHER *Sailor's Word-bk.* *Force*..Also, the force of each ship stated agreeably to the old usage in the navy, according to the number of guns actually carried.

†**c. with force:** with, or by the employment of, military strength or numbers. Cf. 5b. Sometimes apparently = *in force* at sense 17. *Obsolete.*

- 1303 R. MANNYNG *Handlyng Synne* 3366 Wyþ fors þey gun wyþ hym fyghte.
- c1400 *Mandeville's Trav.* (1839) xxvii. 279 Thei assembled hem with force, and assayleden his Castelle.
- a1500 (▷?a1400) *Sir Torrent of Portyngale* (1887) l. 2109 [He] sent letters on euery side, With fforce theder to hye.
- 1548 *Hall's Vnion: Henry VI* f. cvj The Englishemen, whiche with greate force, them receiued and manfully defended.
- 1548 *Hall's Vnion: Edward IV* f. cxcj Suche Castles..as his enemies there held, and with force defended.
- [1884 *Graphic* 21 June 595/2 The numerous private members..came down with such force that a count out was plainly impossible.]

4. concrete.

a. A body of armed men, an army. In *plural* the troops or soldiers composing the fighting strength of a kingdom or of a commander in the field; also in *attributive* use or in the possessive, esp. during the war of 1939–1945.

- 1487 (▶a1380) J. BARBOUR *Bruce* (St. John's Cambr.) XIX. 632 We may nocht with Iuperdis Our felloune fais fors assale.
- 1548 *Hall's Vnion: Henry IV* f. xiiij^v The duke..seyng the force of the townes men more & more encrease.
- 1597 SHAKESPEARE *Richard III* v. v. 62 Looke on my forces with a gracious eie.
- 1611 *Bible (King James)* 1 Macc. xii. 42 When Tryphon saw that Ionathan came with so great a force .
- 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* I. II. vi. 110 The Valour and Atchievements of our Forces by Sea and Land.
- 1796 E. BURKE *Corr.* (1844) IV. 422 A naval force is a very unsure defence.
- 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* I. 575 The only standing force should be the militia.
- 1851 W. H. DIXON *W. Penn* iv. 120 One of the leaders of the Parliamentary forces.
- 1874 W. STUBBS *Constit. Hist.* (1875) II. xiv. 14 A force of seven thousand men landed in Suffolk.
- 1942 *New Statesman* 3 Jan. I see that a new version of this feature is now to begin in the new year on the Forces Programme.
- 1943 E. OLIVIER *Night Thoughts of Country Landlady* iii. 25 The very inferior music often produced in the B.B.C. Forces' Programme.
- 1945 *News Rev.* 10 May If you're a Forces bride you will be given a travelling warrant for the whole journey from your British home to your new home in America.
- 1945 *Manch. Guardian* 18 July A statement in a 'forces' newspaper.
- 1952 W. GRANVILLE *Dict. Theatr. Terms* 80 *The Forces' sweetheart.* Vera Lynn, the British vaudeville and radio singer, was a great favourite with the troops in the second world war, hence the sobriquet.
- 1959 *Times Lit. Suppl.* 2 Oct. 556/4 The man and the girl,..whom we observe listening intently to Forces Favourites.

in extended use.

- 1841 MACAULAY in G. O. Trevelyan *Life & Lett. Macaulay* (1876) II. ix. 147 The force which will be arrayed against a Bill.

b. A body of police; the whole body of police on service in a town or district; often absol. **the force** = policemen collectively.

- 1851 H. MAYHEW *London Labour* I. 16/1 One boy..vowed vengeance against a member of the force.
- 1861 M. E. BRADDON *Trail Serpent* IV. vi. 226 I was nobody in the Gardenford force.
- 1875 P. G. HAMERTON *Intellect. Life* (ed. 2) VII. vi. 259 She will protect your tranquility better than a force of policemen.

†c. ? A fort. *Obsolete. rare*⁻¹.

a1552 J. LELAND *Itinerary* (1711) III. 15 About a Myle by West of Penare is a Force nere the shore.

d. U.S. (See quotes.)

1807 C. W. JANSON *Stranger in Amer.* 309 Force, is here employed when speaking of the number of slaves employed in field labour on each plantation.

1834 W. G. SIMMS *Guy Rivers* II. viii. 97 The force of the traveller—for such is the term by which the number of his slaves is understood—was small.

1837 H. MARTINEAU *Society in Amer.* I. II. 344 All the ‘force’ that could be collected on a hasty summons,—that is, almost every able-bodied man in the city and neighbourhood, was sent out with axes to build us a bridge.

1871 M. SCHELE DE VERE *Americanisms* (1872) 475 *Force* is a common name for a gang of laborers, whether they are Irishmen at work on a railway, or negroes employed on a plantation.

1899 *Monthly S. Dakotan* 1 138 A high wind..showered down hundreds of bushels of apples, [and] one is confronted by the alternative of sending for the ‘force’ to pick them up on Sunday or letting the sun scald and ruin them.

5.

a. Physical strength or power exerted upon an object; *esp.* the use of physical strength to constrain the action of persons; violence or physical coercion. †**to make force:** to use violence *to*.

a1340 R. ROLLE *Psalter* Comm. Cant. 497 Lord .i. suffire force [L. *vim patior*].

1382 *Bible* (Wycliffite, E.V.) Gen. xix. 9 And foors thei maden [L. *vim faciebant*] to Loth moost hidowsly.

1413 *Pilgr. Soule* (1483) IV. xii. 63 Force is noutheryght ne reson.

1582 N. LICHEFIELD tr. F. L. de Castanheda *1st Bk. Hist. Discouerie E. Indias* ii. 7 b Deeming..that those blacke men meant him no harme, nor would offer anye force.

1667 MILTON *Paradise Lost* I. 647 To work in close design, by fraud or guile What force effected not.

1687 R. BOYLE *Martyrdom Theodora* (1703) i. 6 Such cruel methods being apt to make the world suspect that our best argument is force.

1789 J. BENTHAM *Introd. Princ. Morals & Legisl.* xiii. §2 Force can accomplish many things which would be beyond the reach of cunning.

1840 H. ROGERS *Introd. Burke's Wks.* 82 Nothing will justify force while any other means remain untried.

1889 A. LANG *Prince Prigio* ii. 10 The prince, after having his ears boxed, said that ‘force was no argument’.

b. esp. in *by force* = by employing violence, by violent means, also †under compulsion. †Formerly also ***through, with, of force***; also, ***par force, by perforce, force perforce*** (see *PERFORCE v.*). Also, †***by fine force*** or ***with fine force, a-force fine***: see *by (also with, by) fine force* at *FINE adj.* 1b. Often implying the use of armed force or strength of numbers: cf. 3c.

- c1320 *Seuyn Sag.* (W.) 488 Par force he hadde me forht i nome.
 c1380 *Sir Ferumbras* (1879) l. 972 Panne þay asayllede Scot Gwylmer & toke him a-force fyne.
 1484 CAXTON tr. *Subtyl Historyes & Fables Esope* II. xi The thyngge which is promysed by force & for drede is not to be hold.
 1487 (▶a1380) J. BARBOUR *Bruce* (St. John's Cambr.) XII. 524 Mony worthy men and wicht, Throu fors, wes fellit in that ficht.
 1594 SHAKESPEARE *Henry VI, Pt. 2* I. i. 210 Which Warwicke by maine force did win.
 1611 *Bible* (King James) John vi. 15 When Iesus therefore perceiued that they would come and take him by force, to make him a King.
 1701 D. DEFOE *True-born Englishman* ii. 40 The Bad with Force they eagerly subdue.
 1754 D. HUME *Hist. Eng.* (1812) I. iii. 163 One of his train..attempted to make his way by force.
 1875 B. JOWETT tr. Plato *Dialogues* (ed. 2) V. 241 The common people..can only be made to sing and step in rhythm by sheer force.

c. spec. in Law: Unlawful violence offered to persons or things. ***by force and arms***: translation of Law Latin *vi et armis*. ***a force***: a particular act or instance of unlawful violence.

- [a1481 T. LITTLETON *Tenures* (1482) II. sig. cviii Le tenaunt..luy forstalla le voye ouesque force en armes.]
 a1481 T. LITTLETON *Tenures* (1482) II. sig. ciii^v Il defendera forsque tort & force [1528–30 *transl.* he..shall defende but the wronge and the force].
 1594 W. WEST *Symbolæogr.: 2nd Pt.* §65 Force is either simple or mixt.
 1618 M. DALTON *Countrey Justice* 196 Also women, and children, may commit a force.
 1628 E. COKE *1st Pt. Inst. Lawes Eng.* §240. 161 b Force, *vis*, in the Common Law is most commonly taken in ill part, and taken for unlawful violence.
 1768 W. BLACKSTONE *Comm. Laws Eng.* III. viii. 119 This distinction of private wrongs, into injuries with and without force.
 1818 W. CRUISE *Digest Laws Eng. Real Prop.* (ed. 2) I. 102 Where a person is prevented from barring an estate tail by force and management.
 1826 *Act 7 Geo. IV c. 64 §20* That no Judgment..shall be stayed or reversed..for the Omission..of the Words 'with Force and Arms'.
 1842 TENNYSON *Edwin Morris* 131 It seems I broke a close with force and arms.

†**d.** In non-material sense: Constraint or compulsion exerted *upon* a person. Also, **a force**, as **to put a force upon**: to put compulsion or constraint upon, to constrain; to strain or wrest the meaning of. **to be upon the force**: ? to act under self-constraint and against one's natural impulses. **under a force**: under compulsion. *Obsolete.*

- 1387 J. TREVISA tr. R. Higden *Polychron.* (Rolls) VII. 141 Godwyne..swore þat he didde nevere suche þinges, bot constreyned by þe force of kyng Harold.
- 1576 A. FLEMING tr. C. Plinius Novocomensis in *Panoplie Epist.* 261 The monie which you sent us, upon the force of our commaundement.
- 1662 A. MERVYN *Speech to Duke of Ormond* 4 We come not to criminate, or to force a ball into the Dedan, but if any brick-wall expressions happen, that cannot be designed otherwise, it is rather a force upon us.
- 1667 MILTON *Paradise Lost* IX. 1173 Beyond this had bin force, And force upon free Will hath here no place.
- 1681 BP. G. BURNET *Hist. Reformation: 2nd Pt.* 252 In many places..Men were chosen by Force and Threats..upon which reasons he concludes that it was no Parliament, since it was under a Force.
- 1690 WOLSELY in *London Gaz.* No. 2536/2 It was a very unfortunate Force, which the Soldiers..put upon me, to burn the Town.
- 1697 DRYDEN tr. Virgil *Georgics* III, in tr. Virgil *Wks.* 108 Nor cou'd his Kindred; nor the kindly Force Of weeping Parents, change his fatal Course.
- 1707 J. NORRIS *Pract. Treat. Humility* v. 203 A Man can't be always upon the force, the Actor will sometimes tire.
- 1729 BP. J. BUTLER *Serm.* xiii, in *Wks.* (1874) II. 173 They may all be understood to be implied in these words of our Saviour, without putting any force upon them.
- 1774 J. BRYANT *New Syst.* I. 136 The whole is effected with a great strain and force upon history.
- 1805 H. K. WHITE *Let.* 19 Dec. in *Remains* (1807) I. 196 I have very little society, and that is quite a force upon my friends.

6. Mental or moral strength. Now only (influenced by sense 2), power of vigorous and effective action, or of overcoming resistance. In early use also, power of endurance or resistance, fortitude.

- c1340 R. ROLLE *Prose Treat.* 10 Þey erre with-owtten charyte and vertue and force of sawle to stand agayne all ill styrrynges.
- 1502 tr. *Ordynarye of Crysten Men* (de Worde) II. viii. sig. l.i Force is an other vertue by the whiche a man undertaketh to do or suffre for the loue of god these thynges stronge & harde.
- 1534 R. WHITTINGTON tr. Cicero *Thre Bks. Tullyes Offyces* I. sig. A.4 He can not be acompted a man of force that iudgeth payne and grefe to be moste mysery.
- 1576 A. FLEMING tr. Sulpicius in *Panoplie Epist.* 26 Bend the powers of your spirite, and the force of your minde, that, [etc.].

- 1679 W. PENN *Addr. Protestants* (1692) II. iv. 124 What before we were Unable, this gives us Force to do.
- 1711 J. DENNIS *Refl. Ess. Crit.* 1 He..hath rashly undertaken a Task which is infinitely above his Force.
- 1871 R. H. HUTTON *Ess.* II. 322 Real men of any force have a free sphere of their own.
- 1876 G. O. TREVELYAN *Life & Lett. Macaulay* I. i. 9 There was another Son who in force of character stood out among his brothers.

7.

a. Of things (in non-material or moral relations): Power to influence, affect, or control (*esp.* men in their actions, sentiments, etc.). **to have force (to do)**: to avail.

- 1582 LYLY in *T. Watson's Centurie of Loue* (Arb.) 29 Mine appetite of lesse force then mine affection.
- 1605 BACON *Of Aduancem. Learning* I. sig. C2^v It [sc. learning] teacheth men the force of Circumstances.
- 1713 J. ADDISON *Cato* IV. ii Let not her cries or tears have force to move you.
- 1751 J. JORTIN *Serm.* (1771) IV. vi. 117 Such prejudices arise from the prevailing force of education.
- 1816 M. KEATING *Trav.* (1817) I. 276 The force of habit is certainly very strong, and prejudices the mind throughout.
- 1823 C. LAMB *Old Benchers* in *Elia* 197 S. was thought..a fit person to be consulted..from force of manner entirely.
- 1845 B. DISRAELI *Sybil* III. VI. iii. 175 I never heard that moral force won the battle of Waterloo.
- 1890 F. W. ROBINSON *Very Strange Family* 2 The force of circumstances had thrust me upon him.

b. Peculiar power resident in a thing to produce special effects; virtue, efficacy.

- 1600 SHAKESPEARE *Midsummer Night's Dream* II. ii. 75 On whose eyes I might approue This flowers force in stirring loue.
- 1671 MILTON *Paradise Regain'd* I. 347 Think'st thou such force in Bread?
- 1709 R. STEELE *Tatler* No. 34. ¶4 Beauty loses its force, if not accompanied with modesty.

c. *esp.* Power to convince or persuade the reason or judgement; convincing or appealing power. Often in **of (great, etc.) force**; †formerly also **of force** simply.

- 1551 T. WILSON *Rule of Reason* sig. Iiiij This [argument] that foloweth, is of as good force.
- 1616 SHAKESPEARE *Henry VI, Pt. 1* (1623) III. i. 161 Those occasions, Vnckle, were of force .

- 1685 R. BAXTER *Paraphr. New Test.* Matt. xvi. 28 Nor is Dr. H. his reason against it..of any force.
- 1729 BP. J. BUTLER *15 Serm.* (ed. 2) Pref. p. xiii The Force of this Conviction is felt by almost every one.
- 1748 J. MASON *Ess. Elocution* 31 You can never convey the Force and Fulness of his Ideas to another till you feel them yourself.
- 1818 W. CRUISE *Digest Laws Eng. Real Prop.* (ed. 2) II. 514 The argument of long enjoyment was of no force.
- 1849 G. GROTE *Hist. Greece* VI. II. l. 308 In both these two reasons there is force.
- 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* II. 23 They harangued..with some force on the great superiority of a regular army to a militia.

d. Of discourse, style, artistic creations, etc.: Strength or vividness of effect.

- 1842 H. ROGERS *Introd. Burke's Wks.* 85 The passage already quoted..is full of force and splendour.
- 1863 C. C. CLARKE *Shakespeare-characters* vi. 152 Slender comes out in this play with extraordinary force.
- 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educator* (new ed.) IV. 24/1 The introduction of a considerable amount of black..gives great force to the pattern.

e. *Australian and New Zealand.* (See quotes.)

- 1933 *Press (Christchurch, N.Z.)* 21 Oct. 15/7 *Force*, the power of dogs to move sheep... Huntaways are sometimes spoken of as *forcing dogs*; but the term *f[orce]* is also applied to the ability of a heading dog to pull sheep.
- 1959 S. J. BAKER *Drum* (1960) 110 *Force*, the ability of a sheepdog to control a mob of sheep, esp. without legging, i.e., leg-biting. A good dog is said to have a lot of force.

8.

a. Of a law, etc.: Binding power, validity.

- 1593 R. HOOKER *Of Lawes Eccl. Politie* I. x. 74 Hath not his edict the force of a law?
- 1623 SHAKESPEARE & J. FLETCHER *Henry VIII* I. ii. 102 Free pardon to each man that has deny'de The force of this Commission.
- 1786 E. BURKE *Articles of Charge against W. Hastings* in *Wks.* (1842) II. 177 A country..in which the native authority had no force whatever.
- 1863 H. COX *Inst. Eng. Govt.* I. v. 25 Proclamations which..should have the force of statutes.

†**b. of force:** of binding power, valid. *Obsolete.*

- 1451 in R. Arnold *Chron.* (c1503) f. lxxvij^v/2 That alle Lettres patentis or grauntis by you..be voyde and of noo fors.
- 1611 *Bible (King James)* Heb. ix. 17 For a Testament is of force after men are dead.
- 1679 W. PENN *Addr. Protestants* (1692) II. v. 163 Whatsoever they shall decree, ought to be of Force.

c. in force: operative or binding at the time. Also, **in full force**, †**in his force**. So **to put in force**, to enforce; **to come into force** (also †**to take force**), to come into operation, take effect.

- 1491 *Act 7 Hen. VII* c. 10 The foreseid statute..shuld be in his force and virtue fro thens perpetually to endure.
- 1553 T. WILSON *Arte Rhetorique* (1580) 159 By an order realmes stande, and Lawes take force.
- 1603 R. KNOLLES *Gen. Hist. Turkes* 100 Without respect vnto the league yet in force.
- 1611 *Bible (King James)* 2 Esdras ix. 37 Notwithstanding the law perisheth not, but remaineth in his force .
- 1724 *Act in London Gaz.* No. 6270/7 The Officer..is..to limit the Time..for such Permit..to continue in Force.
- 1797 T. HOLCROFT tr. F. Galiani in tr. F. L. Stolberg *Trav.* II. lxxxviii. 260 In the south, however, this ancient custom still remains in full force.
- 1856 C. KNIGHT *Pop. Hist. Eng.* I. xvii. 234 He engaged to put in force the laws of Edward the Confessor.
- 1891 MATTHEWS in *Law Times* 92 96/1 The..Act..came into force immediately on its passing.

9. The real import or significance (of a document, statement, or the like); the precise meaning or ‘value’ (of a word, sentence, etc.) as affecting its context or interpretation; the power or value of a symbol or character.

- 1555 E. BONNER *Profitable & Necessary Doctryne* M iij Thyrd is to be considered, the vertue, force, and effecte of the sayd Sacrament.
- 1690 J. LOCKE *Two Treat. Govt.* I. v. §44 We will..consider the Force of the Text in hand.
- 1709 R. STEELE *Tatler* No. 58. ¶2 The Examination of the Force of the Particle *For*.
- 1728 E. CHAMBERS *Cycl.* (at cited word) In our Language, the s between two Vowels has the Force of a z... In Hebrew, the Dagesch; and in Arabic, the Tesdid, have the Force of a Letter suppress'd. A Figure before a Cypher has the Force of ten.
- 1732 G. BERKELEY *Alciphron* II. VII. v. 135 I comprehend the Force and Meaning of this Proposition.
- 1759 E. BURKE *Philos. Enq. Sublime & Beautiful* (ed. 2) III. §2. 164 Several who make use of that word [proportion], do not always seem to understand very clearly the force of the term.
- 1767 W. BLACKSTONE *Comm. Laws Eng.* II. 353 We are next to consider the force and effect of a fine.

10.

†**a.** (Without article prefixed): A large quantity or number, plenty; const. *of*, which is omitted in quot. **a1400** (cf. French *force gens* and the like). **most force**: the greater part (*obsolete*).

a1400 *Coer de L.* 1383 Two hundred schyppys ben wel vytailid With force hawberks, swerdes and knyvys.

1487 (►a1380) J. BARBOUR *Bruce* (St. John's Cambr.) VIII. 11 The men mast fors com till his pes.

a1500 *Liber Pluscardensis* (Marchm.) (1877) I. 397 Of thi detturis maist force ar lukkin in clay.

?a1600 (►1584) R. SEMPILL *Legend Bischop St. Androis* in J. Cranstoun *Satirical Poems Reformation* (1891) I. xlv. 385 The vther having force of freindis.

b. a force: a large number or quantity, a great deal. **the force**: ? the majority. *Obsolete* exc. *dialect*.

1723 D. DEFOE *Hist. Col. Jack* (ed. 2) 301 Her Maid with a force of crying..said her Master was dead.

1842 C. SUMNER *Let.* 16 Sept. in S. Longfellow *Life of H. W. Longfellow* (1886) I. 414 The force of my acquaintance was among lawyers, judges, and politicians.

1876 F. K. ROBINSON *Gloss. Words Whitby* "There was a foorce o' folks', great numbers were present.

11. Physics, etc. Used in various senses developed from the older popular uses, and corresponding to modern scientific uses of Latin *vis*.

a. (=Newton's *vis impressa*: cf. sense 5). An influence (measurable with regard to its intensity and determinable with regard to its direction) operating on a body so as to produce an alteration or tendency to alteration of its state of rest or of uniform motion in a straight line; the intensity of such an influence as a measurable quantity.

Recent physicists mostly retain the word merely as the name for a measure of change of motion, not as denoting anything objectively existing as a cause.

1665 T. SALUSBURY tr. Galileo *Mech.* in *Math. Coll. & Transl.* II. 294 It willbe..better, the Force that moveth the Weight upwards perpendicularly,..being given, to seek the Force that moveth it along the Elevated Plane.

1686 I. NEWTON *Let.* 20 June in *Corr.* (1960) II. 436 In one of my papers writ (..above fifteen years ago) the proportion of ye forces of ye Planets from ye Sun reciprocally duplicate to their distances from him is exprest.

1803 J. WOOD *Princ. Mech.* (ed. 3) i. 15 Whatever changes, or tends to change, the state of rest or uniform rectilinear motion of a body, is called force.

- 1866 DUKE OF ARGYLL *Reign of Law* ii. 72 All the particles of matter exert an attractive force upon each other.
- 1871 B. STEWART *Heat* (ed. 2) §21 The force of gravity..is somewhat greater in London than at Paris.
- 1876 P. G. TAIT *Lect. Recent Adv. in Physical Sci.* (ed. 2) xiv. 352 Unit force is..that force which, whatever be its source, produces unit momentum in unit of time.

b. (cf. sense 2). Formerly used for what Leibniz called *vis viva*, now known as kinetic energy, and often extended to include potential energy: see ENERGY *n.* 6 *conservation of force*: see CONSERVATION *n.*

3.

- 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 307/1 The high tide at Chepstow is accounted for on 'the principle of the conservation of force'.
- 1870 W. S. JEVONS *Elem. Lessons Logic* xxiv. 209 Force cannot be created or destroyed by any of the processes of nature.

c. The cause of any one of the classes of physical phenomena, e.g. of motion, heat, electricity, etc., conceived as consisting in principle or power inherent in, or coexisting with, matter; such principles or powers regarded generically.

According to the now prevailing view that all physical changes are modes of motion, *force* in its generic sense comes to denote the one principle of which the separate *forces* are specific forms. But sense 11c is no longer recognized as belonging to the technical language of physics.

- [1732 G. BERKELEY *Alciphron* II. VII. ix. 146 Force is that in Bodies which produceth Motion and other sensible Effects.]
- 1846 W. R. GROVE *On Correlation Physical Forces* 8 I therefore use the term Force..as meaning that active principle inseparable from matter, which induces its various changes.
- 1846 W. R. GROVE *On Correlation Physical Forces* 21 If Heat be a force capable of producing motion, and motion be capable of producing the other modes of force.
- 1851 W. B. CARPENTER *Man. Physiol.* (ed. 2) 10 A large number of phenomena..resulting from the agency of forces as distinct from those of Physics and Chemistry, as they are from each other..the forces from whose operation we assume them to result, are termed vital forces.

d. *transferred* and *figurative*. An agency, influence, or source of power likened to a physical force.

- 1785 C. WILKINS tr. *Bhāgvat-Gēētā* iii. 49 He was impelled by some secret force.
- 1868 J. T. NETTLESHIP *Ess. Browning's Poetry* i. 18 The passion..whose existence as a force in the world..he recognises.

1891 *Law Times* **90** 443/1 The Nisi Prius advocate who has a fair knowledge of law is still a great force in the Profession.

II. Senses derived from FORCE *v.*¹

†12. The plunger of a force-pump. *Obsolete.*

- 1596 J. HARINGTON *Anat. Metamorph. Aiax* sig. Liiij You may with a force of twentie shillings, and a pype of eighteen pence the yard, force it from the lowest part of your house to the highest.
- 1659 J. LEAK tr. I. de Caus *New Inventions Water-works* 34 This manner of force-Pump..the forces do Rise and Fall Perpendicularly in their Barrels.
- 1747 W. HOOSON *Miners Dict.* sig. I2 *Force*, a kind of Pump often used in the Mines, that throws the Water a good height.. 'tis now worn out of Use.

13. The upper die in a metal-stamping machine.

- 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educator* (new ed.) IV. 263/2 The final strokes are given by a 'force' cast in brass.
- 1886 *Jrnl. Franklin Inst.* **122** 327 The upper die was the cameo, technically the male die, punch or 'force'.

14. *Cards.* An act of forcing.

- 1862 'CAVENDISH' *Princ. Whist* (1879) 111 You may assume that he is strong in trumps, and you should take the force willingly.
- 1886 *Academy* 10 Apr. 251/2 The young player will naturally be startled by the instruction to lead trumps to an adversary who has just refused a force.

15.

a. *Billiards.* A kind of stroke (see quot. 1881); a 'screw-back'. *U.S.*

- 1881 H. W. COLLENDER *Mod. Billiards* 23 *Draw, or Force.*—Striking the cue ball one-half or more below its centre, causing it, if played full at the object-ball, to recoil or return toward the player.

b. *Real Tennis.* (See quot. 1890².)

- 1662 [see sense 5d].

- 1890 J. M. HEATHCOTE et al. *Tennis* (Badminton Libr. of Sports & Pastimes) 50 The Force is the usual resource of a player who must try to win at very 'close chase', or who returns a ball which comes 'fair-off' from the end-wall.
- 1890 J. M. HEATHCOTE et al. 124 *Force*, a stroke played, either direct or boasted, for the dedans with some strength.
- 1927 *Daily Tel.* 26 Apr. 17/1 Some admirable tennis was seen, with good returns, short chases, and accurate forces.
- 1955 *Times* 2 May 4/1 Dear went all out for winning openings, making a severe attack on the *dedans*—he scored with 11 forces during the two sets.

III. Phrases (see also senses 1 – 10).

16. *by force of*: by dint of, by virtue of; by means of (properly with the implication of strength inherent in the means). Also (later), ***by the force of***. [< French *à force de*.]

- 1411 *Rolls of Parl.* III. 650/2 The forsaid Archebisshop, and Chamberleyn..by force of the submission that the said Robert in hem hath maad, haven ordeyned.
- a1500 (♯?c1450) *Merlin* ii. 27 Thei can knowe many thinges be force of clergie that we can no skyle on.
- 1512 *Act 4 Hen. VIII* c. 10 Fynes..levyed..by reason or force of the same Indentures.
- 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. N. de Nicolay *Nauigations Turkie* I. ii. 2 The ankers being weied, by force of oares [Fr. *à force de rames*] we went to the yle of If.
- 1611 *Bible (King James)* 2 Macc. x. 24 Timotheus..came as though hee would take Iewrie by force of armes.
- 1633 G. HERBERT *Priesthood* in *Temple* iii By cunning hand And force of fire, what curious things are made.
- 1639 T. FULLER *Hist. Holy Warre* IV. xii. 188 Two hundred and fourty Gentlemen of note died by force of the infection.
- 1697 *Countess D'Aunoy's Trav.* (1706) 32 Don Lewis was no sooner come to himself, by the force of Remedies.
- 1757 E. BURKE *Philos. Enq. Sublime & Beautiful* III. §2. 74 It is not by the force of long attention and enquiry that we find any object to be beautiful.
- 1879 *Daily Tel.* 17 June Being by force of genius no less than by virtue of office at the head of the noble profession to which he belongs.

17. *in force*:

a. (see 8c).

b. *Military*. Of a host, enemy, etc.: (Collected) in great military strength and large numbers (cf. sense 3). Also, ***in great force***. [< French *en force*.]

- c1315 SHOREHAM 156 Ryȝt develen for screawedhede Ever ine force scholle brede.
 1793 E. BURKE *Remarks Policy Allies in Wks.* (1823) VII. 119 When the army of some sovereign enters into the enemy's country in great force.
 1810 C. JAMES *New Mil. Dict.* (ed. 3) at *Force* As the enemy were in force behind the mountains.
 1835 A. ALISON *Hist. Europe during French Revol.* IV. xxx. 257 The Republicans were unable to drive back their opponents from the..heights, which they had occupied in force.
 1885 *Times* (Weekly ed.) 23 Jan. 3/2 The enemy is reported to be in force at Metamneh.

c. of persons (usually *in great force*): In full command of one's powers, energies, or abilities; *esp.* Displaying readiness and vivacity in conversation or oratory (*colloquial*).

- 1849 R. G. A. LEVINGE *Cromwell Doolan* II. vi. 130 The young ladies..were in the greatest possible 'force', as Filagree termed it, and full of fun.
 1851 T. CARLYLE *Life J. Sterling* II. vii. 212 Latterly Calvert was better..He was in force again.
 1857 A. H. ELTON *Below Surface* I. vi. 120 Sir Eliot Prichard, quite at his ease, and in high force.
 1857 LD. HOUGHTON *Let.* 27 Aug. in T. W. Reid *Life Ld. Houghton* (1890) II. xii. 18 M. Guizot is in great force, and full of political and literary gossip.

†**18. *of force*:** with *infinitive*, strong or powerful enough, able *to do* something. Cf. 1b, 3b, 7c, 8b.

- 1597 J. GERARD *Herball* II. 182 Lyons Turnep is of force to digest.
 1613 J. HAYWARD *Liues III. Normans* 90 After his death, the inhabitants were of force to expell the strangers.
 1632 R. LE GRYS tr. Velleius Paterculus *Romane Hist.* Ep. Ded. sig. A 3^v I did not beleeve there had beene any power..of force to make me [etc.].
 1677 N. COX *Gentleman's Recreation* (ed. 2) I. 95 Young Hares are neither of force nor capacity to use such subtleties.

†**19.**

a. *of (or on) force*: of necessity, on compulsion, whether one will or no, unavoidably, necessarily, perforce. (Cf. *PERFORCE v.*, †*AFFORCE v.*) Also, ***of fine force*** (see *FINE adj.* 1a), ***of very force***. *Obsolete.*

- c1400 *Rom. Rose* 1796 In wele and wo Of force togidre they must go.
 ?1507 W. DUNBAR *Poems* (1998) I. 97 On forse I man his nyxt pray be.
 1587 G. TURBERVILLE *Tragicall Tales* f. 66 There laye he close in wayte within the cops, whereas Full well he wist that Guardastan of very force must passe.

- 1605 BACON *Of Advancement of Learning* II. sig. Ff1 Their inquiries must of force haue beene of a farre other kinde then they are.
- a1641 T. HEYWOOD & W. ROWLEY *Fortune by Land & Sea* II, in *Wks.* (1874) VI. 381 Since you must hire one on force, as good him as another.
- 1703 N. ROWE *Ulysses* IV. i. 1477 You must of Force delay it.

†**b. it is (of) force:** it is necessary or inevitable. Const. *that..*, or (*for a person*) *to do*. *Obsolete*.

- 1483 CAXTON tr. *Caton* F iv It was force that he shold retourne into the worlde.
- 1535 W. STEWART tr. H. Boethius *Bk. Cron. Scotl.* (1858) II. 566 For euirilk falt quhilk force is to fulfill.
- 1563 N. WINSET *Certain Tractates* (1888) I. 60 Gif we sal begin to mixt noueltie with antiquitie..force it is that this maner spring vp vniuersalie.
- c1565 R. LINDSAY *Hist. & Cron. Scotl.* 104 It was force for the said Sir Patrick Hamilton to light on Foot.
- 1802 H. MARTIN *Helen of Glenross* III. 272 Is it of force you must render yourself contemptible?

†**20.**

a. it is force: it is of consequence or importance; usually neg. **it is no force** (also, **it maketh no force**), it does not matter. So (without verb) **what force?**, **no force** = ‘what matter?’, ‘no matter’. Const. *though..*, *if..*, *whether..*, or relative clause; also *absol.* and parenthetic. [So in Old French] *Obsolete*.

- c1369 CHAUCER *Bk. Duchesse* 522 ‘A! goode sir, no fors’ quod I.
- c1386 CHAUCER *Merchant's Tale* 591 It is no fors how longe that we pleye.
- a1400 (►a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Vesp.) l. 13044 Of hir nam es na force to tell.
- a1400 (►a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Trin. Cambr.) l. 20683 I shal 3ou telle for hit is fors where þenne bicomme hir cors.
- a1400–50 *Alexander* 471 Þofe þou haue forfet, na force, so has fele othire.
- a1450 *Knt. de la Tour* (1868) 33 He is but a tromper and a iaper, no fors, late us sende for hym.
- a1513 R. FABYAN *New Cronycles Eng. & Fraunce* (1516) II. f. clxxiii^v What force though sathan..Do hym rewarde.
- 1530 *Myroure Oure Ladye* (Fawkes) (1873) III. 325 *Trino* or *terno*, no force whether.
- 1540 SIR R. SADLER in *St. Papers* (1809) I. 25 ‘Well’, quoth he, ‘it is no force’.
- 1551 R. RECORD *Pathway to Knowl.* I. xxvi Parte that arche line into two partes, equall other vnequall, it maketh no force.
- 1581 T. HOWELL *His Deuises* sig. F.ij^v Imbrace the good, as for the rest, no force how they thee take.

- 1612 J. DAVIES *Muses Sacrifice* sig. V8^v She neuer yet so much as smiled on me; No force, sith I my selfe the better know.
- 1669 S. STURMY *Mariners Mag.* I. 19 They are Dutch Colours: no force, the worst of Enemies.

†**b.** Const. *of* or *for* (a thing) = it does not matter about, no need to care for. *Obsolete.*

- c1330 R. MANNYNG *Chron.* (1810) 20 Of his body was no force, non for him wild murne.
- c1374 CHAUCER *Compl. Mars* 197 But were she sauf, hit were no fors of me.
- 1486 *Bk. St. Albans* C j a Bot therof it is no force iff she be hole.
- 1529 T. MORE *Dialogue Heresyas* I, in *Wks.* 131/2 It was of lyklyhode the same night, or some other time sone after..No force for the time quod he.
- 1578 G. WHETSTONE *Promos & Cassandra: 1st Pt.* II. iv. sig. Cj^v No force for that, each shyft for one.

†**21.** *to make (do, give, take, have, let, kythe, set) force:* to make account (of), attach importance (to), give heed (to), care (for). Const. *of* (rarely *for, at, by, in*); also with infinitive or subordinate clause, and *absol.* *Obsolete.*

- 1303 R. MANNYNG *Handlyng Synne* 10286 Lytel fors of hym þou 3yues.
- c1325 *Metr. Hom.* 43 Elles forze wald he nan mak Quether his clething war quit or blac.
- c1369 CHAUCER *Bk. Duchesse* 542 'I do no fors therof' quod he.
- a1375 *William of Palerne* (1867) l. 3651 Of here fon no fors þei ne leten.
- c1430 LYDGATE *Minor Poems* 160 Som yeve no fors for to be forsworn.
- ?c1450 *Life St. Cuthbert* (1891) l. 5392 Monkes hors to gest he had na fors In a hyrne of his Innes.
- 1470–85 MALORY *Morte d'Arthur* II. iii. 79 I take no force though I haue bothe their hedes.
- 1483 *Cron. Englande* (1510) R j a Kynge Edwardes sone set by the Scottes no force.
- 1509 A. BARCLAY *Brant's Shyp of Folys* (Pynson) f. lxxi Thou ought to be asshamyd To set so great fors for syluer or for golde.
- 1523 LD. BERNERS tr. J. Froissart *Chron.* (1812) I. 770 Sir Hugh Caurell made no force at his wordes.
- 1523 LD. BERNERS tr. J. Froissart *Chron.* (1812) I. 419 With the whiche the prince was sore displeased, and set lesse force in y^e men of the churche, in whom before he hadde great trust.
- 1581 J. BELL tr. W. Haddon & J. Foxe *Against Jerome Osorius* 512 b I make no force whether any medicine be applied.
- 1664 *Floddan Field* III. 26 And of their lives took little force.

†**22.**

a. Hunting. *to hunt (etc.) at force (also of or by force)*: to run (the game) down with dogs; to hunt in the open with the hounds in full cry. *Obsolete.*

[Compare Old French *courir les cerfs a force* (15th cent. in Littré; French *par force* remains in German *parforcejagd*, the ordinary term for a formal 'hunt' in the English sense.]

- 1575 G. GASCOIGNE *Noble Arte Venerie* i. 3 In hunting the Raynedeare at force.
 ?1578 W. PATTEN *Let. Entertainm. Killingwoorth* 17 Too ryde foorth intoo the Chase too hunt the Hart of fors.
 a1637 B. JONSON *Sad Shepherd* I. vi. 22 in *Wks.* (1640) III *Rob.* And hunted yee at force? *Mar.* In a full cry.
 1674 N. COX *Gentleman's Recreation* I. 12 If..you should run him at force out of a Toil.
 1677 N. COX *Gentleman's Recreation* (ed. 2) I. 55 The King of Poland makes use of them in his hunting of great Beasts by force.

†b. *to make force at, to, upon*: to rush violently at, attack, assail. *Obsolete.*

- 1607 E. TOPSELL *Hist. Foure-footed Beastes* 145 [A dog] made force vpon him and the Lyon likewise at the Dogge.
 1607 E. TOPSELL *Hist. Foure-footed Beastes* 158 Vpon signes giuen them, to which of the stragling beastes they ought to make force.
 1612 T. BEARD *Theatre Gods Judgem.* (ed. 2) 297 The dog..instantly made force at him..as a man would doe at his mortall enemye.
 1677 N. COX *Gentleman's Recreation* (ed. 2) I. 62 Their manner is..to make force at him with their Horns.

COMPOUNDS

In combinations (? of the noun or the verb-stem). Also FORCE-PUMP *n.*

force cup *n.* a rubber cup attached to a handle which by creating a vacuum in a blocked drain is used to clear it.

- 1907 *Yesterday's Shopping* (1969) 118/3 Force Cup. For cleansing stopped pipes, drains, &c.
 1951 *Good Housek. Home Encycl.* 257/1 Try using a rubber force cup with a vigorous up-and-down movement.
 1960 D. V. DAVIS *Domest. Encycl.* i. 54 An emergency force cup can be made by cutting a piece out of an old rubber ball, placing the pole over the sink outlet and squeezing the ball several times.

force field *n.* (also **force-field**) a field of force (see **FIELD** *n.*¹ 15); esp. in *Science Fiction*, one that acts as an invisible barrier.

- 1920 *Rep. Brit. Assoc.* 1920 236 Each atom must form the centre of an electromagnetic field of force. These force fields were first dealt with by Humphreys.
- 1926 *Bull. Nat. Res. Council.* 54 294 A clear understanding of the form of the orbit and quantum conditions for central force fields is often essential in the theoretical interpretation of spectra.
- 1944 F. BROWN in B. W. Aldiss *Introd. SF* (1964) 74 'There is a barrier.' A force-field, of course.
- 1962 F. I. ORDWAY et al. *Basic Astronautics* iv. 120 There are four groups of phenomena: (1) interstellar and interplanetary particulate matter, (2) energetic particles, (3) electromagnetic radiations, and (4) force fields.
- 1964 *Observer* 13 Dec. 34/7 An electronic bird-repeller..that will send out a science-fiction type 'force field' to keep birds away.

force-land *v.* (see **FORCED** *adj.* 2d).

force-out *n.* in *Baseball*, the obligatory retirement of a base runner at the base he is forced to run to by a following base runner.

- 1896 H. CHADWICK *Spalding's Base Ball Guide* 76 The result being a force-out play to second, if not a double play.
- 1926 *N.Y. Times* 11 Oct. 24/1 His grounder to Bell was turned into a forceout of Ruth at second while Combs dashed on to third.
- 1968 *Washington Post* 4 July C2/4 Wills..took third on Gene Alley's single and scored on Roberto Clemente's force out.

force-piece *n.* (see quot.).

- 1882 *Ogilvie's Imperial Dict.* (new ed.) *Force-piece* in *mining*, a piece of timber placed in a level shaft to keep the ground open.

force-pipe *n.* the pipe of a force-pump in which the piston works.

- 1842 J. GWILT *Encycl. Archit.* II. iii. 585 When the height of the force pipe is greater or less than the length of the suction pipe.

DRAFT ADDITIONS OCTOBER 2009

force protection *n.* *U.S. Military* the safeguarding of personnel or installations against attack, esp. as a strategic principle.

- 1969 R. D. GASTIL in J. J. Holst & W. Schneider *Why ABM?* iii. 41 (*note*) For discussion of the role of BMD in force protection see Chapter 6.
- 1981 *Aviation Week & Space Technol.* 1 June 23 During the European phase of the program, aircrews flew more than 700 missions to evaluate point area defense, force protection, air superiority, [etc.].
- 1995 *N.Y. Times* 24 Dec. 6/2 'The principal guiding tenet of this operation is force protection,' Col. Bob Gaylord of the Army said.
- 2003 *Foreign Affairs* May 61 After costly experiences in Beirut and Saudi Arabia, force protection has become a much higher priority for the United States, making its units less vulnerable than before.

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