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**restraint, n.**

**Pronunciation:** Brit. /rɪˈstreɪnt/, U.S. /rəˈstreɪnt/

Forms: lME restrancte, lME restreyngt, lME–16 restraynt, lME–16 restraynte, lME–16 restreint, lME–16 restreinte, lME–16 restreynt, lME–16 restreynte, lME–16 restraint, 15 restraincte, 15 restrent, 15–16 restraint, 15–16 restrainte; also Scottish pre-17 restrante, pre-17 restraint, pre-17 restreincte, pre-17 restreinte, pre-17 restraint, pre-17 17 restrent.

Frequency (in current use):


Etymology: < Anglo-Norman restrint, restraynt and Middle French restrainte, restraincte (French †restrainte, †restraincte) act of binding, constricting (1240 in Old French in medical use), restraining order (1306), restriction, limitation (14th cent.) < restraindre RESTRAIN v.

1.

†a. An ordinance or injunction which imposes a restriction; such a prohibition itself. Obsolete.

1439–40 Rolls of Parl.: Henry VI (Electronic ed.) Parl. Nov. 1439 §57. m. 2 Ther was maad a restreint that noon schulde passe out of this land.

1464 in Manners & Househ. Expenses Eng. (1841) 187 Any restraynt or ordenaunce made to the contrary nat wythstandyng.

1483 Rolls of Parl.: Edward IV (Electronic ed.) Parl. Jan. 1483 §27. m. 2 A restreint was made, that certein thynges of silkewerk..shuld not be brought into this reame redy wrought.

1526 W. Bonde Pylgrimage of Perfection III. sig. PPiii  The seventh commaundement..& the last of the .x. in maner also doubleth the restraynt of theft.

1594 H. Plat Diuerse Sorts of Soyle 55 in Jewell House To force the sopeboilers (after they had procured a generall restrainte) to groe to composition with them.

1610 B. Rich New Descr. Ireland 62 There is a generall restraint to all Inne-keepers, Tauerners..to shut vp their doores, & not..to serue either Wine, Beere, or Ale.

1648 in J. Stuart Extracts Presbytery Bk. Strathbogie (1843) 87 Concerning restraint of kirk burialis.

1713 in A. Morgan Univ. Edinb. Charters (1937) 169 Considering that former professors was not under the forsaid restrent..they..take off and rescind the former restrent.

1786 T. Jefferson Let. 8 Feb. in Papers (1993) IX. 265 I gave out a few copies only, and to confidential persons, writing in every copy a restraint against it's publication.
b. An embargo, esp. one prohibiting a ship or its cargo from leaving a port. In later use more fully *restraint of princes*.

1449 *Rolls of Parl.: Henry VI* (Electronic ed.) Parl. Feb. 1449 §19. m. 6  By diverse restreintes of merchandise in Calais..the customes and subsidies..passe not yerely .xij. m.

1480 CAXTON *Chron. Eng.* cxxviii. 317  This same yere was a restryant of the wullys of Caleys made by the Soudyours.

a1585 in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* (1914) 29 517  This porte sawes when we have a Restrainte betwene Spaine and us.


1622 G. DE MALYNES *Consuetudo* I. xxv. 150  Arrest, Restraints and Detainements of Kings and Princes.


1751 W. BEAWES *Lex Mercatoria Rediviva* 244 (heading)  Of Embargoes, or Restraint of Princes.

1769 *Molloy's De Jure Marit.* (ed. 9) II. ii. vii. §7. 50  A Policy against Restraint of Princes, will not extend to Practices against the Laws of Countries.

1827 G. F. JONES *Treat. Law conc. Liabilities Rights Common Carriers* II. iii. 124  The restraint of princes has caused a temporary interruption of the voyage.

1848 J. ARNOULD *Law Marine Insurance* II. iii. 788  When the further prosecution of the voyage is rendered hopeless..by blockade..and the voyage is accordingly wholly abandoned, that is a loss, by restraint of princes, within the policy.

1910 *Encycl. Brit.* I. 304/2  The list of excepted perils..usually included perils of the seas, robbers and pirates, restraint of princes and rulers, [etc.].

1977 *Times* 25 May 12/1  A clause in a charterparty excluding liability for failure to ship a cargo of oil owing to restraint of princes.

2007 K. NOUSSIA *Princ. Indemnity in Marine Insurance Contracts* iii. 103  It was held that the order of the Iraqi government was a restraint of princes.

2.

a. The action or an act of restraining, checking, or stopping something. Frequently with of.

Recorded earliest in without restraint at Phrases 1.

1443 in H. Nicolas *Proc. & Ordinances Privy Council* (1835) V. 300 (MED)  All suche assignementes..may be content as gode shall growe wherof withoute restraint or delay.

a1470   MALORY *Morte Darthur* (Winch. Coll.) 780  Than he made a restryant of his angir.

a1513   R. FABYAN *New Cronycles Eng. & Fraunce* (1516) I. cxxxix. f. cxiii  In conclucyon a restreynt of warre was graunted.

1561 *X Commandementes of Loue* in *Chaucer’s Wks.* f. cccxliij/1  There let your pitie spred without restreinte.
restraint, n. : Oxford English Dictionary

b. The action or a means of restraining a natural force or agent, as a flood, etc. Obsolete.

3. (a) Self-control; moderation; cf. SELF-RESTRAINT n. (b) Coolness or distance of manner; constraint; (also) an instance of this.
restraint, n. : Oxford English Dictionary

visited on 7/18/2019

1819 SHELLEY Cenci I. i. 5 One thing, I pray you, recollect henceforth, And so we shall converse with less restraint.

1877 'RITA' Vivienne I. ii. 25 We are reconciled again, but there is a restraint between us now.

1929 L. D. BELL Public Speaker's Dict. 13 A love of display and a lack of taste and restraint.

1968 M. JONES Survivor i. 22 She had dressed with restraint in a 'useful' black dress.

2004 Gramophone Aug. 26/3 She seemed so emotional and so had none of the restraint that one associates with British people.

4. gen.

a. A restraining force or influence; a means of restraining a person from a course of action, or of keeping a person under control.

1523 J. SKELTON Goodly Garlande of Laurell sig. Dii/1 What though my penne, wax faynt & hath smale lust to paint yet shall there no restraynt Cause me to cese Amonge this prese For to encresse yowre goodly name.

1565 in J. Strype Ann. Reformation (1709) I. xlvii. 476 To have some greater Restraint put upon the Lady Lenox and some harder Sequestration than she now hath.

1605 T. HOCCLEVE Dialogus (Durh.: Stowe) l. 207 in Minor Poems (1892) I. 117 In latyn have I sene a small tretis..a bettar restreynte know I none fro vice.

1680 W. TEMPLE Ess. Orig. & Nature Govt. in Wks. (1720) I. 97 All Government is a Restraint upon Liberty.

1765 W. BLACKSTONE Comm. Laws Eng. I. 144 Where the laws of our country have laid them under necessary restraints.

1785 W. COWPER Task VI. 49 He could now endure,..And feel a parent's presence no restraint.

1844 C. THIRLWALL Hist. Greece VIII. lxvi. 427 The insolence of Charops now began to break through every restraint.

1890 Spectator 11 Jan. Subjected to the strong restraints of officers in a Queen's ship at sea.

1924 Amer. Mercury Nov. 261/2 The vast majority of mankind would at once begin to thieve and murder..if the restraints of law and authority were removed.

1985 P. ROAZEN Helene Deutsch II. xiii. 232 Cultural restraints, which bind us all and set limits on what we can accomplish, also make possible a measure of civility.

2004 H. KENNEDY Just Law (2005) v. 121 Rights are indispensable because they act as a restraint on the state.

b. As a mass noun: restraining force or influence.

moral restraint: see the first element.

1567 Triall of Treasure sig. Ciii' So sharpe is this snaffell called restraine, That it maketh me sweate.

1611 Bible (King James) Lev. xxiii. 36 It is a solemn assembly [margin. day of restraint].

1667 MILTON Paradise Lost III. 87 Now Through all restraint broke loose he wings his way.
Neither is Restraint by any means peculiar to one Course of Life.

To the happiness of our first years nothing more seems necessary than freedom from restraint.

Moral restraint I see has no effect.

Still less restraint was imposed by the government.

The individual rebelled against restraint; society wanted to do what it pleased.

Complexes can exercise great restraint on our ability to live our lives as freely as we might wish.

5.

a. Deprivation or restriction of a person's liberty; confinement, imprisonment. Frequently under restraint.

b. A means of restricting the movement of the body or part of the body; a restraining device.

head, passive restraint: see the first element.
1683 H. Hammond *Paraphr. & Annot.* 10 first Chapters Prov. (vii. 22), in *Paraphr. & Annot. Psalms* (ed. 2) 446 This is thought to signify a fetter, or some other punitive restraint belonging to the feet, which our English renders the Stocks.

1775 W. Perry *Royal Standard Eng. Dict.* 377/2 Tether, a restraint for horses at pasture.

1841 in *Westm. Rev.* (1842) Apr. 168/2 In the course of the year several patients have been admitted in restraints.

1890 *N.Y. Med. Jrnl.* 18 Oct. 448/1 The use of mechanical restraints, such as straps, ropes, chains, hand-cuffs, etc.

1915 *Survey* 3 Apr. 29 The abolition of mechanical restraint and the establishment of after-care for patients.

1958 *Times* 2 Dec. 6/1 He was trapped in the cockpit by his leg restraint.

1988 T. Harris *Silence of Lambs* (1991) 9 Lecter is never outside his cell without wearing full restraints and a mouthpiece.

1999 *Guardian* 21 Oct. 8/8 Prison officers denied he was held in a neckhold, an unlawful restraint.

c. The action or an act of restraining someone (esp. a violent criminal or mentally ill person) using such means; the state of being so restrained.

1829 in *Proc. Lincoln Asylum* (1847) 22 The Governors have particularly directed their views to the subject of Coercion and Restraints.

1859 G. Robinson *On Prevention & Treatm. Mental Disorders* III. iii. 217 The employment of physical restraint in the treatment of mental disorders, is...a relic of barbarism.

1915 *Survey* 3 Apr. 29 The abolition of mechanical restraint and the establishment of after-care for patients.

1961 D. Trouton & H. J. Eysenck in H. J. Eysenck *Handbk. Abnormal Psychol.* xvii. 682 Excited or aggressive psychotics...can thus be subjected to chemical rather than physical restraint.

2006 T. Neuman in D. L. Ross & T. C. Chan *Sudden Deaths in Police Custody* iv. 43 A number of deaths have certainly occurred in individuals who have been placed in restraint positions.

6. Restriction, limitation. Also: an instance of this.

*pay, wage restraint:* see the first element.

1566 R. Horne *Answeare M. J. Fekenham* f. 11’’ Ye haue restreigned the proufe for your contentation...and your cause...nothyng holpen by this your poore shift of restreynt.

1593 R. Hooker *Of Lawes Eccl. Politie* III. xi. 156 The positie lawes which Moses gaue, they were giuen for the greatest parte with restraint to the land of Iury.

1597 R. Hooker *Of Lawes Eccl. Politie* V. lxxi. 196 This restraint of Easter to a certaine number of dayes.

1626 L. Androwes *Patterne Catechisticall Doctr.* (1630) i. 131 The rules of interpretation...are two: 1 Extension, for the bredhth of the Commandement. 2. Limitation or restraint, for the narrownesse.
1656 EARL OF MONMOUTH tr. T. Boccalini *Polit. Touch-stone* (1674) 281 The Lord High Chancellor of the Court sent to the Count the Patent..with a restraint..that he should not by any means presume to stir out of dores.

1746 J. WESLEY *Princ. Methodist farther Explain’d* 33 Before those Words which you suppose to imply such a Restraint—were those spoken without any Restraint or Limitation at all.

?1795 W. WINTERBOTHAM *Hist. View Amer. U.S.* II. 194 This restraint of the American commerce to one port, not only affects its domestic state, but limits its foreign operations.

1825 J. S. MILL in *Westm. Rev.* Apr. 286 To what extent restraints upon the freedom of the press can be considered as warranted.

1899 L. A. STIMSON *Pract. Treat. Fractures & Dislocations* xxix. 402 A traumatic dislocation consists in the forcible overcoming of the normal restraints upon the motion of the joint.

1944 L. MUMFORD *Condition of Man* viii. 268 By removing restraints on trade a multitude of individual efforts would..create a larger quantity of wealth.

1992 *New Republic* 30 Nov. 6/1 International markets will reward evidence of genuine commitment to deficit restraint with lower interest rates.

2002 *Police Rev.* 2 Aug. 14/2 We have progressively loosened the restraints on the sale and consumption of alcohol.

**PHRASES**

P1. *without restraint*: freely, copiously; without restriction.

1443 [see sense 2a].

1556 J. STANDISH *Triall Supremacy* sig. A.iii’ To mayntayne and defende errours, & Herysies wythoute reystraynt.

1595 SPENSER *Epithalamion* in *Amoretti & Epithalamion* xiv. sig. H2’ Poure out the wine without restraint or stay.

1607 E. TOPSELL *Hist. Foure-footed Beastes* 62 Let them come together without restraint.

1667 MILTON *Paradise Lost* IX. 791 Greedily she ingorg’d without restraint .

1713 F. BRAGGE *Undissembled & Persevering Relig.* xiii. 417 Conscience is then generally at Liberty and Acts without Restraint.

1791 A. RADCLIFFE *Romance of Forest* I. ii. 53 Her tears flowed silently and fast. That she might indulge them without restraint, she went to a window.

1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* I. i. 89 The government was able..to fine, imprison, pillory and mutilate without restraint.

1957 A. C. CLARKE *Deep Range* iii. 33 He felt he could talk freely and without restraint.

1993 *Washington Post National Weekly* 12 Apr. 27/2 Russia’s Central Bank..has been lending without restraint to all comers.
**restraint of trade** *n.* Law interference with free-market conditions; action aimed at or resulting in this.

1622 E. Misselden *Free Trade* iii. 54 Some thinke that the reducing of trade into Order and Government, is a kind of Monopolizing and restraint of trade.

1695 *Reasons Humbly offered for Export Woollen Manufactures to Germany* (single sheet) There can be no Restraint of Trade, or Want of Buyers, by passing the Bill now depending.

1753 J. Hanway *Hist. Acct. Brit. Trade Caspian Sea* i. i. viii. 56 The company's charter does not warrant them in such a prohibition or restraint of trade.

1783 J. Scott *Two Lett. Right Honourable Edmund Burke* 54 The Ruin of the Revenues, either by the Freedom or the Restraint of Trade.

1821 C. Barton *Elements Conveyancing* (ed. 2) IV. I. i. 59 An agreement for restraint of trade.

1890 *Statutes at Large U.S.A.* XXVI. 209 Every contract in restraint of trade or commerce is hereby declared to be illegal.

1933 *Sutton & Shannon on Contracts* xi. 164 A contract in restraint of trade is not contrary to public policy.


2001 *FourFourTwo* Sept. 46/4 He decided to challenge the Spanish federation's decision in court for restraint of trade.

**COMPOUNDS**

**C1.** General *attributive* (in sense 5).

**restraint jacket** *n.*

1853 *Daily News* 14 Sept. 5/6 Did the words 'punishment jacket' which occur so frequently in the books strike you as being something more than a mere restraint jacket?

1897 'E. L. Prescott' *Scarlet & Steel* xxxvii Restraint jacket. Made of No. 3 sail canvas, doubled and quilted with Dutch twine in squares of about four inches.

1998 D. G. Stein in L. B. Goldstein *Restorative Neurology* i. 28 By creating special restraint jackets for the rats, Shallert and Jones were able to restrict the use of affected or normal limbs.

**restraint room** *n.*

1834 in R. G. Hill *Total Abolition Personal Restraint* (1839) 89 The wristlocks...should be...made so as to be locked by one key throughout, of which a duplicate should be hung up in each restraint room.

1950 *Charleston (W. Virginia) Gaz.* 5 May 36/3 Numerous violent patients, confined to restraint rooms, become sane in ten minutes.
The older man was in restraints. Hieu came to the
door of the restraint room and tried to talk to him.

**C2.**

**restraint order n. Law** = **restraining order n.** (a) at RESTRAINING

**adj.** Special uses; spec. an order prohibiting a party from disposing of
specified assets.

1883 *Daily Nebraska State Jnl.* 5 Oct. 7/3 Judge Wakeley ordered a temporary restraint order, returnable Saturday morning.

1977 *Stanford Law Rev.* 29 505 A newspaper was held in contempt for disobeying a temporary restraining order... According to that case, only reversal of a prior restraint order on appeal before the order was disobeyed would justify the disobedience in most cases.

1983 *Bankruptcy Reporter (U.S.)* (Lexis) 30 481 The Second Circuit reversed the restraint order because the Bankruptcy Court's exclusive jurisdiction over the bankrupt debtor and its property did not extend to 'a solvent independent subsidiary of the debtor'.

2003 P. Allbridge *Money Laundering Law* vii. 156 The court may then make a restraint order, which prohibits any specified person from dealing with any realisable property held by him.

**restraint summons n. rare** (apparently) a court summons by
which a person's freedom of action is restricted.

1910 *Daily Chron.* 11 Mar. 5/3 The restraint summons was served on the town clerk. yesterday forenoon.

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