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junk, *n.1* and *adj.*

Pronunciation: Brit. /dʒʌŋk/, U.S. /dʒəŋk/

Forms: ME *joncke*, ME *jonke*, ME *jounke*, ME *joynk*, ME– **junk**, 15 **ionk** (*Scottish ...*)

Frequency (in current use):

Origin: Of uncertain origin. Perhaps a variant or alteration of another lexical item. **Etymon:** JUNK *n.2*

Etymology: Origin uncertain, perhaps the same word as JUNK *n.2*...

A. *n.1*

†1. Originally and chiefly *Nautical*.

a. An old or inferior cable or rope; (sometimes) *spec.* one used as a fender. Frequently modified by *old*. *Obsolete*.

- 1410–12 in N. H. Nicolas *Hist. Royal Navy* (1847) II. 475 La hulc..ove lapparail..v. ankres dont un de eux est unstokked, un junk, [etc.].
- 1485 in M. Oppenheim *Naval Accts. & Inventories Henry VII* (1896) 49 Hausers grete and small, iij. Jonkes, iijj.
- 1586 *Edinb. Test.* XV. f. 549^v in *Dict. Older Sc. Tongue* at *Jonk* The..ankeris, saillis, mastis, kabillis, bewaris & ionkis qubilk war recoverit of the flie boitt.
- 1600 R. HAKLUYT *Princ. Navigations* (new ed.) III. 108 The straines of one of our cables were broken, and we only roade by an old iunke.
- 1622 R. HAWKINS *Observ. Voyage South Sea* xliiii. 104 Peeces of a Iunke or Rope, chopped very small.
- 1626 J. SMITH *Accidence Young Sea-men* 16 Cables, hawsers or streame cables..when that way vnseruiceable, they serue for Iunkes, fendors and braded plackets for brests of defence.
- 1627 J. SMITH *Sea Gram*. vii. 30 Fenders are peeces of old Hawsers called Iunkes.
- 1772 C. NEWLAND in *Philos. Trans.* (Royal Soc.) **62** 86 You may make your ship fast with any old junk.

b. A piece *of* old cable or rope, used esp. for making fenders. *Obsolete*.

- 1528 in J. S. Brewer *Lett. & Papers Reign Henry VIII* (1872) (modernized text) IV. II. 2227 Old junkys of cabils for cringils for cressets.
- 1578 G. BEST *True Disc. Passage to Cathaya* III. 14 They..strenghtned the sides of their Ships with iunkes of cables, beds, Mastes, planckes, and such like.
- 1685 N. BOTELER *Six Dialogues Sea-services* IV. 195 *Adm.* What is..a Boun-grace? *Capt.* It is a certain Frame or Composition of old Ropes or Juncks of Cables, which is used to be laid out at the Bows, Stems and Sides of Ships, to preserve them from great Flakes of Ice.