

"convenient"

# THE OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY

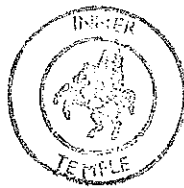
SECOND EDITION

*Prepared by*

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**venience**. *rare*. One who accommodates conveniences.  
TEELE *Tailer* No. 199 P2 Honest Coupler the pier. [But some later edd. read *conveyancer*, in the sense.]

**venience** (kən'vi:niənsi). [f. as CONVENIENCE a later suffix -ENCY. Formerly more than *convenience*, but now little used.]  
CONVENIENCE 1. *Obs*.

ABYAN *Chron*. I. xxi. (R.), More to the convenience and agreement of other conveyers. 1581 SIDNEY *trie* (Arb.) 41 That imitation whereof Poetry is, hath convenience to Nature of all other. 1668 HOWE *ghetour* (1825) 42 The things spoken... have a real and convenience in nature with one another. 1708 BERLAYNE *St. Gt. Bri.* II. i. ii. (1743) 329 If this was not a sufficient testimony, the inscriptions would put it beyond all dispute.

CONVENIENCE 3. *Obs*.

*Uigr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 143b, By this... the convenience how our exercise... may be to a buylding. 1541 *Act 33 Hen. VIII.* c. 37 Such... ought of all convenience in reason to be and set forth with the name and title of an honour. 1601 *Def. Amsw.* iii. Wks. 1851 I. 369 The [equity, reasonableness, and convenience of this] 1661 FULLER *Worthies* (1840) III. 320 Moved [this marriage]... by the convenience of her years. 1708 *SLIDGE Syst. Agric.* vii. §5 (1681) 124 This way is convenience to be used when the Stock is too big.

**venience** of: what is accordant to or in accordance with. *Obs*.

NORTON *Calvin's Inst.* II. xvi. 243 It was against nature of reason, that he should be fearful for the of his soule. 1624 LD. KENSINGTON in *Ellis Orig.* III. 174 No further to oblige himself... then it stand with the... convenience of his state.

CONVENIENCE 4. *Obs*.

ABINGTON *Commandm.* vii. (1637) 58 Tricking and our selves above convenience, is a dangerous just. 1656 FINETT *For. Ambass.* 2 His Majesty... to perform all things with convenience.

CONVENIENCE 5.

BRAYTON *Poly-obj.* xi. Notes 181 Convenience of 1683 TRYON *Way to Health* 309 If convenience it, go to Bed and keep your self warm for an hour. 1683 *Journ. thro' Eng.* I. 230 What adds to the well as Convenience of these Offices, is, that they into St. James's Park. 1772 HUTTON *Bridges* 3 The ncy of the passage to and from the bridge. 1816 *E Trav.* II. 30 It is probable that such convenience presenting itself first suggested the idea. 1816 *E Trav.* II. 30 It is probable that such convenience presenting itself first suggested the idea. 1816 *E Trav.* II. 30 It is probable that such convenience presenting itself first suggested the idea. 1816 *E Trav.* II. 30 It is probable that such convenience presenting itself first suggested the idea.

ith qualifying words expressing the in or purpose for which a thing is lent.

JOHNSON *Kingd. & Commw.* (1603) 7 The plaine by reason of the fruitfulness, doth minister... to joyne their forces. 1625 K. LONG tr. *Argenis* III. x. 183 They should returne... to the one for the more convenience of lodging. 1669 *ESYD. Agric.* xi. §2 (1681) 232 The Forewheels are a Waggon... for its convenience in turning. 1721 *Daggenh. Breach* 122 Water enough for the ncy of Ships to lie afloat. 1817 COLENDRE *Biog.* 71 I. 270 The convenience of the scholastic phrase push the kind from all degrees.

venience occasion, opportunity. *Obs*.

HOWELL *Lett.* I. xxvi. 51 There will be convenience tek of receiving and sending. 1659 B. HARRIS *Iron Age* 61 Their sudden submission, gave the convenience to hasten to the relief of the Duke. 1677 *MATT City & C. Build.* 10 If they should want a ncy of communicating the same to their urs. 1834 LAMB *Lett. to Manning* in *Talford Life* have no convenience of doing it by this.

CONVENIENCE 6. *Obs*.

F. GREVILLE *Sidney* (1652) 64 To weigh the wisdom in even scales with mortal convenience or ncy. 1654 SLDEN *Table-T.* (Arb.) 40 Churches part for the convenience of men to Worship in. 1657 *AL Sp.* 13 Apr. (1871) V. 19, I cannot, with ncy to myself, speak out. 1728 MORGAN *Algiers* I. consulting the Convenience of the worst of Infidels. 1758 *AMER. Geog.* II. 425 Narrow causeways... for ncy of foot passengers.

me or occasion convenient to a person.

ALCORAN 28 You shall do well to stay their ncy. 1693 LUTTRELL *Brief Lett.* (1857) III. 144 The it their first convenience intend to make a descent and. 1739 tr. *Duhamel's Husb.* I. ix. (1762) 52 As convenience invites you, 1831 SCOTT *Nigel v.* [He] wait his royal convenience for payment.

venience thing; = CONVENIENCE 7.

venience state or condition of matters; advantage. *Obs*.

WILKINS *New World* I. (1684) 8 Neither are there Rivers, or any other convenience for Habitation. 1693 *Pol. Arith.* i. (1691) 17 Wherefore to have the of abounding in Seamen, is a vast Convenience. 1708 *AGULIERS Fires Impr.* 53 Another convenience will you will hinder the Smoak... from being beaten to your Room. 1779 J. MOORE *View Soc. Fr.* (1789) 3 A stranger may fairly avail himself of every ncy arising from their obliging manners.

ith defining words connected by of. *Obs*.

BLOUNT *Boscobel* II. (1680) 24 [To] stay there some pre the convenience of a transportation could be 676 RAY *Corr.* (1848) 123 Wanting the convenience to assist me in such an undertaking. 1749 FIELDING *et* (1775) 194 This room wanted the convenience of 1798 PENNANT *Hindoostan* I. 8 The Chinese is... got the convenience of the river Ilak for part of ncy.

c. pl. Material arrangements or appliances advantageous to life, personal comfort, ease of work, saving of trouble, etc.

1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 441 P3 The Blessings and Conveniences of Life. 1751 JOHNSON *Rambling* No. 177 P2, I furnished a large room with all conveniences for study. 1781 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* III. 202 The ancients were destitute of many of the conveniences of life, which have been invented or improved by the progress of industry.

d. A particular convenient appliance or article; a utensil; formerly, esp. a conveyance or vehicle; = CONVENIENCE 7 d. *arch*.

1660 *Trial Regic.* 109 Having a convenience out of my house into a Gallery. 1679-88 *Serv. Money Chas. & Jas.* (Camden) 16 For providing ships and conveniences to transport horses to Tanger. 1703 J. SAVAGE *Lett. Antients* liv. 138 Thy Helmet I believe thou wear'st... for a convenience to drink out of in a Tavern. 1717 Mrs. CENTILVRE *Bold Stroke for Wife v.* (D.), I remember thou didst come up in the leatheren convenience with me. 1725 *Land. Gaz.* No. 6423/3 A large Diamond Ring, with another Convenience set with Diamonds. 1756 NUGENT *Gr. Tour* IV. 36 The next thing is, to get you a convenience to carry you abroad. 1875 EMERSON *Lett. & Soc. Aims* i. 10 This magnificent hotel and convenience we call Nature.

e. *transf.* of a person. *arch*.

1728-9 MRS. DELANY in *Life* (1861) I. iii. 192, I did make a convenience of him, for by his means I found my Lady Carteret. 1841-4 EMERSON *Ess.* Ser. II. viii. (1876) 191 The uninspired man certainly finds persons a convenience in household matters.

7. Means of living conveniently, a competence.

1628 PRESTON *Effect. Faith* (1631) 155 He will leave a convenience for his posterity if he can.

**convenient** (kən'vi:niənt), a. and sb. [ad. L. *convenient-em* agreeing, consistent, accordant, fitting, suitable, becoming, pr. pple. of *convenire* to come together, meet, unite, agree, fit, suit, etc. (There was also an OF. *convenient* in 15-16th c.)]

†1. Agreeing (in opinion); in accord. *Obs*.

1485 *Sc. Acts Jas.* III (1814) 178 (Jam.) Sa that... the princez that suld be the party, be greable and convenient.

†2. Accordant, congruous, consonant (to). *Obs*.

1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 45b, Eche of these petitions be convenient and agreeynge to some gyfte of y' holy goost. 1552 ABP. HAMILTON *Catech.* (1884) 3 To our office mair convenient and consonant. 1654 BURTON *Diary* (1828) I. 55 It may seem not altogether so equitable and convenient to reason.

†3. Agreeing with or consonant to the nature or character of; in accordance with; in keeping with; befitting, becoming (to or for a thing or person).

c 1480 MAUNDEV. (1839) xi. 230 It is convenient to a god, to ete no mete. c 1450 *Crt. of Love* 786 Her nose directed straight... With form and shape thereto convenient. 1538 STARKEY *England* I. i. 8 The best kynd of lyfe and most convenient to the nature of man. 1542 UDALL *Eram.* *Apoph.* 144 Of apparell and of demeanure nothing comely ne convenient for one that should bee a manne. 1631 WEEVER *Anc. Fin.* Mon. 250 Interred in... a place of Saint Maries Church convenient for so worthy a person.

†b. Of befitting size or extent; commensurate, proportionate (to). *Obs*.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Frankl. T.* 550 Hise proporcioneles convenientz flor his equacions in every thing. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* v. xxiv. 581 The roote is long, and of a convenient thicknesse. 1588 A. KING tr. *Canisius' Catech.* 186b, The reward of eternal lyf convenient to the merit. 1677 HALE *Prim. Orig. Man.* I. i. 3 Suitable at least in a convenient degree to the worth of the Faculty.

†4. Suitable, appropriate; a. to or for a purpose, etc. *Obs*.

c 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* III. xi. 97 Nature yeueth to every thing what pat is convenient to hym. 1548 HALL *Chron.* 124 A place most mete and convenient for to abide battail. 1577 B. GOOGE *Herebach's Husb.* iv. (1586) 184b, Shut them [bees] up with foode convenient for them. 1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* III. i. 2 Here's a marvailous convenient place for our rehearsall. 1611 BIBLE *Prov.* xxx. 8. 1703 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* 169 Pieces of Wood, of a Substance convenient to the light or heavy work they intend to Turn. 1790 ANNA M. JOHNSON *Monmouth* I. 186 [A place] convenient to the purpose of holding our secret consultations.

†b. Suitable to the conditions or circumstances; befitting the case; appropriate, proper, due. *Obs*.

c 1391 CHAUCER *Astrol.* II. §4 Wherfore me semith convenient... to make of it special declaracioun. 1450-1530 *Myrr.* our Ladye do Sett in trew and convenyente termes, without erreure or darkenes. 1547 *Act i Edu.* VI. c. 3 §16 To punish... with chaining, beating, or otherwise, as shall seeme to them convenient. 1593 H. SMITH *Term.* (1866) II. 139 It was convenient Christ should visit sinners for their speedy conversion. 1653 WALTON *Angler* 59 Put them into a convenient quantity of the best butter. 1670 DK. RICHMOND in *Marvell's Corr.* Wks. 1872-5 II. 299, I thought convenient to advise you, that I intend to prosecute this business. 1703 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* 106 When the piece Q, is set to its convenient height. 1741 WESLEY *Wks.* (1830) I. 309 Many were destitute of convenient clothing.

†c. Of time: Due, proper. *Obs*.

1415 in *Yrk Myst.* Intro. (1885) 34 And that every player... be yedy in his pagiaunt at convenient tyme. 1549 LATIMER *Ploughers* (Arb.) 20 So must he at all times convenient preache diligencie. 1552 ABP. HAMILTON *Catech.* (1884) 35, I sal gif yow rayne in tyme convenient.

†5. Morally or ethically suitable or becoming; proper. *Obs*.

a 1400 *Cov. Myst.* (Shaks. Soc.) 149 It is not convenient a man to be Ther women gon in travalyng. 1497 BP. ALCOCK *Mon. Perfect.* Diiij, All other of them lyved in a convenyent chastyte. 1511-2 *Act 3 Hen. VIII.* c. 23 §5 It is not convenient nor standing with good and indifferent ordre that the said sir Robert should be Auditeur and Juge of hymself. 1611 BIBLE *Eph.* v. 4 Neither fithnesse, nor foolish talking, nor testing, which are not convenient. 1684 tr. *Agrippa's Van. Artes* xviii. 62 She sang and danc'd more exquisitely than was convenient for an honest woman. 1727 SWIFT *Gulliver* I. iv. 56 And which is the convenient end, seems... to be left to every man's conscience.

6. Personally suitable or well-adapted to one's easy action or performance of functions; favourable to one's comfort, easy condition, or the saving of trouble; commodious. (The current sense.)

1477 EARL RIVERS (Caxton) *Dietes* 2 Take therwith gretter acquyetaunce at som other convenyent tyme. 1535 COVERDALE *Ps.* lxxiv. 2 When I maye get a convenient tyme I shall iudge accordynge vnto righte. 1548 HALL *Chron.* 247 And so by conveniente journeyes came to the towne of Edenborough. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* I. 258 Delve of convenient Depth your thrashing Floor. 1721 *Col. Rec. Pennsylv.* III. 120 To come with all convenient speed. 1732 BERKELEY *Alciph.* I. §1 A convenient house with a hundred acres of land. 1749 F. SMITH *Voy. Disc. N.-W. Pass.* II. 277 It would be very ill convenient to his Men, to be out all Night in the Frost, upon a cold Beach. 1828 SCOTT *F. M. Perth* vii, A very convenient arrangement for mutual support. 1868 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1876) II. viii. 205 It had once been convenient to forget, it was now equally convenient to remember.

7. *colloq.* and *dial.* a. Within easy reach; easily accessible; 'handy'.

1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* iii, Heretics used to be brought thither convenient for burning hard by.

b. Conveniently near; near in place or time to. (Ireland and U.S.)

1849 POLK cited in *Bartlett Dict. Amer.* 1865 *Dublin Even. Mail* Feb., It was convenient to five o'clock when I got home. 1880 *Antrim & Down Gloss.*, Convenient, near. 'His house is convenient to the church'. 1883 *Daily News* 22 Jan. (*Dublin Conspiracy*), At the College rail, convenient to Clarendon's Riding School.

†Formerly often compared by -er, -est.

1644 NYE *Gunnery* (1670) 37 If you find it more convenient to use the plumb line then the Index. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* iv. 201 Although it is the nearest way, it is not the convenientest way for Seamen. 1741 RICHARDSON *Pamela* (1824) I. i. 233 He will have larger panes of glass, and convenienter casements.

B. sb. †1. ? Agreement, accord. *Obs*.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P.R.* II. x. (1495) 37 The joynture and convenyente of domes of god. *Ibid.* viii. xxviii. 340 A body that is blisful and a nother that is not blisful may be togdyers in the same stede and place without convenyent.

†2. pl. ? Proprieties; formalities. *Obs*.

1649 G. DANIEL *Trinarch.* *Hen. V.* cccxviii, A Prince is Synew-Shrunke, And Cramp't, betwixt a Title, to keepe warme And Cold Convenienses.

†3. A mistress, concubine. *Obs*.

1676 ETHEREDGE *Man of Mode* III. iii, Dorimant's Convenient, Madam Lovett. 1688 SHADWELL *Sqr. Alsatia* II. i. 1708 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* (1737) V. 217 Concubines, Convenienses, Cracks.

**conveniently** (kən'vi:niəntli), adv. [f. prec. + -LY<sup>2</sup>.] In a convenient manner, in accordance with convenience.

†1. Congruously, harmoniously. *Obs*.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P.R.* II. x. (1495) 37 Sadde setes ben conuenable and convenyently joyined. 1477 NORTON *Ord. Alch.* v. in Ashm. (1652) 59 Conjoyne your Elements... With all their Concord conveniently.

2. In accordance, in harmony; in accord with premises or facts, accordantly. *rare*.

1509 HAWES *Past. Pleas.* XI. xxxii, It shall hym prouffyt yf he wyll apply. To doo thereafter ful conveniently. 1530 RASTELL *Bk. Purgat.* II. xii, The soule conveniently maye be infynyte. 1827 C. BRIDGES *Exp. Ps.* cix. (1830) 184 [God] acts conveniently with his own nature.

†3. Fittingly, suitably, appropriately. *Obs*.

1447 BOKENHAM *Seyntys* (Roxb.) 8 Conveniently this virgine glorious May to a margaryte comparyd be. 1495 *Act 11 Hen. VII.* c. 39 Revenues to maynteyn honorably and conveniently the astate of a Duke. 1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* II. viii. 45 Such faire ostents of loue As shall conveniently become you there. 1653 WALTON *Angler* 49 My Hostis... is both cleanly and conveniently handsome. 1663 GERBIER *Counsell* 9 That the Staires may stand conveniently to the Stories.

†4. With ethical or moral propriety. *Obs*.

1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 205 And they concluded, y<sup>e</sup> the king might conveniently ayde her with Golde and Sylver.

5. In a way that affords ease or comfort, or obviates difficulty; commodiously.

1633 J. DONE *Hist. Septuagint* 62 With a Chimney, very properly and conveniently built. 1798 SOUTHEY *Elog.* i, A carriage road That sweeps conveniently from gate to gate. 1837 HALLAM *Hist. Lit.* IV. ii. §4 They could not conveniently be wanting. 1871 RUSKIN *Munera P.* Pref. (1880) 26, I have now, more conveniently, divided the whole into six chapters.

b. In a way that fits one's purpose or desire.

1685 STILLING. *Orig. Brit.* I. 47 So very conveniently [he] finds him in Britain when St. Paul wrote his Epistle to the Romans.

6. With personal ease, facility, or comfort; readily; without trouble or difficulty.

1509 FISHER *Fun. Sermon* C'tess Richmond Wks. (1876) 297 Vysytynge them as often as he conveniently myght. 1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* §22 An housband can not convenyently

"suitable"

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*Gd. Society* iv. 174 The shawl is affronted with the gown; the bonnet is made to suit with both.

†b. to suit to: = 13, 14, 17 a. *Obs.*

1632 Sir T. HAWKINS tr. *Mathieu's Unhappy Pros.* 241 Time coopereth with his industry, and fortune sutes to his vigilance. 1634 Sir T. HERBERT *Trav.* 211 Her [sc. the dodo's] legs suting to her body. 1653 H. MORE *Antid. Ath.* ii. xii. §1 If I should pursue all that suits to my purpose it would amount to an intire Volume. 1690 T. BURNER *Review Theory Earth* 29 note, A Text, that does not suit to their own Notions. 1790 DRYDEN *Sigism. & Guisc.* 44 She cast her Eyes around the Court, to find A worthy Subject suting to her Mind. 1802-12 BENTHAM *Ration. Judic. Evid.* (1827) II. 136 Such solicitations as it suited not to him to make.

†c. To be fitted or adapted for. *Obs.*

1793 [EARL DUNDONALD] *Descr. Estate Culross* 5 The bands of Iron Stone are numerous, ..suting partly for Forge and partly for Melting Iron.

†d. To act in accordance with, conform to. *Obs. rare.*

1647 N. BACON *Disc. Govt. Eng.* i. xvi. (1739) 32 In matters of Action, [they] would suit with the occasion. *Ibid.* xiv. 136 Two Ordiances made by the King, and such Lordes as suted to the King's way. a 1660 *Contemp. Hist. Irel.* (Ir. Archæol. Soc.) i. 176 Taffie was comanded by the Council, (as ..suting to their factious principles) to marche with his armie.

e. To dress oneself up in clothing designed for a specific task or purpose.

1959 J. BLISH *Clash of Cymbals* viii. 191 We should suit up at the half-hour. 1967 *Boston Sunday Herald* 30 Apr. 1. 22/2 Jim Lyle headed for the flight line to suit up for a routine mission aboard one of the giant radar picket planes. 1975 'A. HALL' *Mandarin Cypher* xi. 170 'Time to suit up, isn't it?' I got into the wet-suit. 1978 G. A. SHEEHAN *Running & Being* xv. 206 He will suit up and get out on the roads.

**suitability** (s(j)u:tə'biliti). [*f. next + -ITY.*] The quality or condition of being suitable; an instance of this. *Const. to, for, or inf.*

1681-6 J. SCOTT *Chr. Life* II. iv. §2 Wks. 1718 I. 273 If... we can discover a World of mutual Suitabilities of this to that, ..it will be a sufficient Argument that they all proceed from some wise Cause. 1718 DE FOE *Fam. Instruct.* (1841) II. 2. i. 15 What suitability can there be in two tempers so extremely opposite? 1853 F. W. NEWMAN *Odes of Horace* I Its suitability as a first piece is our excuse for presenting it quite out of chronological order. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* II. xvi. It was a marriage of pure inclination and suitability. 1867 MILL *Subj. Women* (1869) 170 The suitability of the individuals to give each other a happy life. 1912 *Times* 19 Dec. 19/2 The suitability of the greater proportion of Rhodesia for the breeding of stock.

**suitable** (s(j)u:təb(ə)l), *a. (adv.)* Also 6-8 **sut(e)able**, 7-8 **suiteable**. [*f. SUIT v. + -ABLE, after agreeable.* Earlier synonyms were *suit-like*, *suitly*.

In the following passage *suitable* may be an early example of this word, or may have arisen from a misreading of *seable* as *suitable*:

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* I. Prol. 394 Rycht so, by about speche oft in tymes, And seuitable [Camb. MS. *seamill*] wordis we compile our rymes.]

†1. Of furniture, dress, features, etc.: Conforming or agreeing in shape, colour, pattern, or style; matching, to match. *Const. to, with. Obs.*

1582 N. LICHFIELD tr. *Castanheda's Conq. E. Ind.* i. lxxvi. 155 His Shoes, ..were all beset with Aglets of golde, and his Cap covered over with Buttons suitable to the same. 1584 in *Scott's Kenilw.* Note K, A crymon satin curtain-pointe, ..A chaise of crymon satin, suiteable. 1594 PLAT *Jewell.* I. 21. I had an old wainescot window, that was peeced out with new wainscot by a good workman, and both became verie suiteable and of one colour. 1614 MARKHAM *Beep. Husb.* II. 110 The colour being suitable with the colour of the feathers on his head. 1625 in *Rymer's Fædera* (1726) XVIII. 237/2 The Bason enamelled, ..and the Layer [sc. ewer] suitable, having forty eight small Diamonds in the Bason. 1634-5 BREKTON *Trav.* (Chetham Soc.) 49 Four dainty suitable quarters in the court. 1635 STAFFORD *Fam. Glory* 3 Her visage long, and her nose suitable. 1656 HEYLIN *Surv. France* 98 The beds are all suitable one to the other. c 1710 CELIA FIENNES *Diary* (1888) 300 The doores to them [sc. cupboards] made suitable to ye wainscote.

†2. Of persons, actions, qualities, conditions, institutions: Conforming or agreeing in nature, condition, or action; accordant; corresponding; analogous; *occas. congenial. Obs.*

1592 GREENE *Upst. Courtier* Dj. Every servile drudge must ruffle in his silkes, or else hee is not suiteable. 1617 MORVSON *Itin.* II. 88 This is a pleasant towne for seate if the inhabitants were suitable. 1647 N. BACON *Disc. Govt. Eng.* i. viii. 25 Had not Bishops been somewhat suitable the Roman Clergy had not been like it self. 1649 Bp. REYNOLDS *Hosea* iii. 19 God sets every blessing upon our score, and expects an answer and returne suitable. 1667 MILTON *P.L.* III. 639 In his face Youth smil'd Celestial, and to every Limb Suitable grace diffus'd. 1718 STEELE *Fish-pool* 193 The... painful way, in which fish...are conveyed in Well-boats, must have suitable unmelancholly effects. 1748 MELMOTH *Fitzosb. Lett.* xlvii. Certain suitable feelings which the objects that present themselves to his consideration instantly occasion in his mind.

†b. *Const. to, with. Obs.*

1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* III. xi. §5 The matter of your letters so fit for a worthy minde, and the manner so suitable to the nobleness of the matter. 1597 HOOKER *Ecl. Pol.* v. xlix. §1 A worke most suitable with his purpose—who gaue himself to be the price of redemption for all. 1620 T. GRANGER *Div. Logike* 4 Quid describunt the figure of mans body suitable to his reasonable soule. 1638 SLINGSBY *Diary* (1836) 6 His disposition is not suitable with y<sup>e</sup> rest of his fellow servants. 1646 Sir T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* i. viii. §1. 33 They have left us relations suitable to those of Ehan. 1711 SHAFESB. *Charac.* I. 33 Those Measures of Offence

and Indignation, which we vulgarly suppose in God, are suitable to those original Ideas of Goodness which [He]...has implanted in us.

†c. Of two or more things: That are in agreement or accord. *Obs.*

1605 CAMDEN *Rem.*, *Names* (1623) 45 Destinies were superstitiously by *Onomantia* desciphered out of names, as though the names and natures of men were suitable. 1640 F. ROBERTS *Clavis Bibl.* 303 The suitable wickedness of Priests and people. 1684 BUNYAN *Pilgr.* II. 135 Gaius and they were such suitable Company, that they could not tell how to part.

3. That is fitted for, adapted or appropriate to a person's character, condition, needs, etc., a purpose, object, occasion, or the like. *Const. to, for.*

1607 SHAKS. *Timon* III. vi. 92 What is amisse in them, you Gods, make suitable for destruction. 1621 SANDERSON *Serm.*, *Ad Pop.* iv. (1632) 364 Worthy of all...civill respects suitable to his place and person. 1653 HOLCROFT *Procopius. Goth. Wars* I. 10 Senseless fears not suitable to the occasion. 1672 PETTY *Pol. Anat.* (1691) 78 There are 750,000 in Ireland who could earn 2s. a week...if they had suitable employment. 1711 STEELE *Spect.* No. 113 P4 As soon as I thought my Retinue suitable to the Character of my Fortune and Youth. 1798 S. & H. LEE *Canterb.* T. II. 120 A suitable match for their daughter. 1812 *New Botanic Gard.* I. 59 The most suitable season for transplanting the roots. 1815 ELPHINSTONE *Acc. Canbul* (1842) II. 215 As it was always a distinct government, ..it seemed more suitable to treat of it separately. 1822 SCOTT *Nigel* vi. A dress...more suitable to his age and quality than he had formerly worn. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* II. iii. 246 A suitable atmosphere enveloping the most distant planet might render it...perfectly habitable. 1893 J. A. HODGES *Elem. Photogr.* vii. 54 To make several experimental exposures on suitable subjects.

†4. = SUABLE *a. Obs. rare.*

1555 BROADFORD in FOXE *A. & M.* (1570) III. 183/1 The wife is no suitable person but the husband.

5. *Comb., as suitable-sized adj.*

1892 E. REEVES *Homeward Bound* 337 A fixed price for five years for all the suitable-sized mutton they can grow.

B. as *adv.* = SUITABLY. *Const. to.*

1584 in *Scott's Kenilw.* Note K, A square stoole and a foote stoole, of crimson velvet, fringed and garnished suiteable. 1631 MAY tr. *Barclay's Mirr. Mirides* I. 189 Italy...is now bounded, (more suitable farre to the intention of Nature,) by the enclosure of those lofty Alpes. 1655 THEOPHANI 16 He...ever framed his discourse suitable to his company. 1664 in *Extr. State Papers* rel. *Friends* (1912) III. 224 That soc wee may steare our course suitable to your Commands. 1748 HARTLEY *Observ.* Man I. ii. §5. 235 Where a Person mis-spells suitable to a Mispronunciation. 1796 Mrs. E. PARSONS *Myst. Warning* I. 31 To see her dear children clothed, and attended suitable to their father's birth.

**'suitableness.** [-NESS.] The quality or condition of being suitable; suitability; †conformity.

1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 425 That suitableness of their Law to their lawlesse lusts of Rapine and Poligamie. 1668 WILKINS *Real Char.* IV. i. 388 These Grammatical Particles are here contrived to such a kind of distinct suitableness, so as each of the several kinds of them, hath a several kind of Character assigned to them. 1748 HARTLEY *Observ.* Man I. iv. §6. 496 The great Suitableness of all the Virtues to each other. 1839 HALLAM *Hist. Lit.* III. vi. §95. 614 The superiority of the original, except in suitableness for representation, has long been acknowledged. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) III. 691 The suitableness of its pastures to every sort of animal.

b. With *a* and *pl.*

a 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* III. xxix. P5 For a testimonie of constancie, and a suitableness to his word. 1658 BAXTER *Saving Faith* 12 The men...trie not their acts by a suitableness to the object. 1664 SOUTH *Twelve Serms.* II. (1697) II. 91 He, who creates those Sympathies, and suitablenesses of Nature, ..and brings Persons so affected together. 1709 T. ROBINSON *Vindict. Mosack System* 55 Bearing such a Suitableness and Harmony with the more refined Sense, ..of the Soul of Man. 1880 Mrs. WHITNEY *Odd or Even?* II. 17 It was no use to try to carry out a fancy or a suitableness.

**suitably** (s(j)u:təb(ə)l), *adv.* Also 6 **sutetably**, 7 **suitablely**. [*f. SUITABLE a. + -LY.*]

†1. Chiefly *const. to*: In agreement, conformity, or correspondence; agreeably, correspondingly, according. *Obs.*

1577 STANYHURST *Descr. Irel.* 1/2 in *Holinshed*, My course pack threede could not have benee sutetably knit with his fine silke. 1654 WHITLOCK *Zootomia* 9 In Life Hie is a true Actor...that lives his part Suitably, to strut in Rags, or Crawl in Robes, equally transgress. Decorum. 1686 HORNECK *Crucif. Jenu* xxiii. 785 They should perform the task suitably to their leisure. 1729 BUTLER *Serm.* Wks. 1874 II. Pref. 14 Brutes, ..act suitably to their whole nature. 1749 *Power Numbers in Poet. Compar.* 52 note, Diversifying the Harmony of the Numbers, by a judicious Mixture of them, suitably to the Nature of the Subject.

2. In a suitable or fitting manner; appropriately, fitly.

1681 S. FELL in *Jrnl. Friends' Hist. Soc.* (1912) July 136 Words will rise most suitably to answer the matter in hand. 1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 4 P2 These different Perfections are suitably represented by the last great Painter Italy has sent us. 1770 *Boston Gaz.* 26 Nov. 3/1 These...may suitably employ our minds at the approaching solemnity. 1828 SCOTT *F.M. Perth* v. Never was kiss so well bestowed, and meet it is that it should be suitably returned. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) V. 241 Every melody is right when suitably accompanied.

†'suitage. *Obs.* [*f. SUIT sb. or v. + -AGE.*] The performance of suit by a tenant.

1610 W. FOLKINGHAM *Art of Survey* III. v. 72/2 Confinage shewes to what Lord, ..&c. the Service of Suitage...is due.

**suitcase** (s(j)u:tkeɪs). [*f. SUIT sb. + CASE sb.*]

1. A small portmanteau designed to contain suit of clothes. Hence more generally, a piece of luggage in the form of an oblong case, usu. with a hinged side and a handle, for carrying cloth and other belongings.

1902 *Times* 8 May 15/1 Captain Clive...sent on his suitcase and other luggage by another train. 1942 W. FAULKNER *Go Down, Moses* 235 The boy waked him at last and got him and the suitcase off the train. 1981 D. M. THOMAS *W.H. Hotel* IV. I. 133 She realized they were travellers, for the were weighed down by rucksacks and suitcases.

2. Phr. to live out of (or from) a suitcase (*to suitcases*): to move between temporary accommodation, esp. hotels and boarding houses; to be a wanderer, to have no fixed abode. 1946 L. DURRELL *Let.* 25 Sept. in Durrell & Miller *Prison Corr.* (1963) 229, I can't tell you what wonderful peace and quiet it is, having a house of your own after so many years living from suitcases in hotels. 1960 J. WRIGHTMAN tr. *Montherlant's Sel. Essays* 181 To live for years on end out of a small suitcase...seemed so much part and parcel of my everyday life. 1969 *Photoplay* Jan. 69/1 'It never occurred to me it would take ten years to settle down', Audrey said recently, after ten years of living out of suitcases. 1975 G. EGLETON *Shirish* xiii. 132 He had spent the greater part of his life living out of a suitcase.

3. *a. attrib.* Designating devices small and compact enough to be fitted into a suitcase, usu. in connection with secret or criminal activities as *suitcase bomb*, *radio*, etc.

1954 *Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch* 25 Mar. 16 (heading) Now the 'suitcase A-bomb'. *Ibid.* 16/2 All of which mean that a 'suitcase atom bomb' is no longer a figment of the imagination. 1972 T. ANDIES *This Suitcase is going to Explode* xiii. 134 Suitcase bombs have been discussed in public. *Ibid.* xvii. 188 Very damning stuff—such as the plan for constructing a suitcase nuclear bomb. 1974 L. DEIGHTON *Spy Story* xix. 207 Our boy with the suitcase radio set came in five by five. A powerful signal.

b. *Comb., as suitcase farmer* *N. Amer.* a farmer who is resident on his farm for only a small part of the year (see *quots.*).

1941 R. DILLER *Farm Ownership, Tenancy, & Land Use* 'Suitcase farmer' is a term used of farmers on the Great Plains who put in a crop of wheat in the fall and come back to harvest it the next summer, after having spent the winter in their permanent homes elsewhere. 1956 *Saturday Night (Toronto)* 13 Oct. 15/1 The wheat-marketing problem means the end of the 'suitcase farmer', who has been accustomed to spend only a few weeks on his land each spring and summer for seeding and harvesting. 1970 DUCKHAM & MANSFIELD *Farming Syst. World* II. ii. 117 'suit-case' farmer moves seasonally between his several farms.

**'suitcaseful.** [*f. prec. + -FUL.*] As much as a suitcase will hold.

1928 *Daily Express* 11 Aug. 5/1 Sand tray with which the little ones can play by an open window. If it is possible to persuade a friend to bring back a suitcaseful of shore sand, so much the better. 1965 J. FLEMING *Nothing is Number* I. v. 83 Hec...brought back a suitcaseful of these books. 1971 SHERWOOD *Hour of Hyenas* xvi. 189 If you'll let me have that suitcaseful of guns that madam lent you.

**suite** (swi:t). Also 7 **suitee**. [*a. F. suite: see SUITE sb.*]

1. A train of followers, attendants, or servants; a retinue. Also *ellipt. (colloq.)* = members of a suite.

1673 DRYDEN *Marr. à la Mode* v. i. A person who make so grand a figure in the Court, without the Suite of Princes. 1752 CHESTERF. *Let.* (1792) III. 261, I have secured a place in the Suite of the King's eldest Ambassador. 1766 G. WILLIAMS in Jesse *Seleyn's Contemp.* (1843) II. 32 Lord Lincoln...set out immediately with his whole suite for Jack Shelley's. 1788 PASQUET *Childr. Thepis* (1792) 80 Like the suite of the morning which Guido drew dancing. 1817 M. CUTLER in *Life* (1888) II. 353 Breakfasted...in company with the President and suite. 1897 FROUDE *Short Stud.* (1893) IV. i. ix. 189 Turning...to the young lords in the archbishop's suite. 1941 LADY DUFFERIN *Viceregal Life India* I. 205 He and his wife and two 'suite' came to breakfast.

2. *a.* A succession or series; in earlier use often applied to a series of publications; now chiefly said of series of specimens.

1722 RICHARDSON *Statues in Italy* 151 Here is a Suite of Emperors; Busts, Antique. 1761 T. WARTON *Life Baines* 94 The following suite of letters, written by himself, Vice-chancellor. 1770 EARL MALMESBURY *Diaries* & *Contemp.* I. 53 A continued suite of childish amusements. 1771 GIBBON in *Life & Lett.* (1880) 262 Another reason, which must...pin me to Bentinck-street, is the Decline and Fall have resolved to bring out the suite in the course of next. 1805-17 R. JAMESON *Charac. Min.* (ed. 3) 127 The suite of crystals of a mineral species. 1824 W. IRVING in *Life & Lett.* (1862) II. 152 Mr. Galignani calls...about my editing of English authors. 1833 LVELL *Princ. Geol.* III. Pref. 20 Suites of shells common to the Sub-apennine beds and the Mediterranean. 1845 S. JUD *Margaret* i. ii. 111 laughter exposed a suite of fair white teeth. 1846 THACKERAY *Virgin* xxx. There is nothing so flattering in the world as a good suite of trumps. 1864 J. C. ATKINS *Stanton Grange* 295 A suite of tree-parrow's eggs; not less than 20 in number. 1874 WESTROP *Proc. Stone* 3 The colour suite [of diamonds] is, however, extensive.