

# deliver

VERB<sup>1</sup>

## MEANING & USE

### i. To rescue, liberate, or set free, and related senses.

**i.1.a.** *transitive*. To liberate or save (a person, country, etc.) *from* (also †*of*) a state of evil, danger, oppression, etc. Also in weakened use: to free (a person, etc.) *from* something unpleasant or undesirable. Frequently with reference to God conceived as liberating humankind from evil or danger; cf. **deliverer** *n.* 1. ?c1225-

**?c1225**    Nolde ha neuer eanes bisechen ure lauere þet he allunge deliuerede hire þerof.  
**(?a1200)**    *Ancrene Riwe* (Cleopatra MS. C.vi) (1972) 173

...

**2018**    Our consistent reflection upon our ultimate redemption is precisely what imbues us with an appreciation that Hashem will deliver us from our ordeals.  
*Jerusalem Post* (Nexis) 30 March 17

**i.1.b.** *transitive*. Without construction. To save, rescue, release, or liberate (a person or thing); *spec.* to release (a prisoner) from prison. Now only with reference to God conceived as liberating humankind from evil or danger; cf. sense **i.1.a** and **deliverer** *n.* 1. a1275-

**a1275**    Wen wimon bet scal be.. deliure hire myd menske.  
*St. Margaret* (Trinity Cambridge MS.) l. 283 in A. S. M. Clark, *Saint Margaret & Body & Soul* (Ph.D. diss., Univ. of Michigan) (1972) 101

...

**2011**    If we can remain constant during the ever-changing tides of life and the unwanted circumstances life brings, we will please God and find that he always delivers us.  
J. Meyer, *Living Beyond Feelings* vii. 73

**i.1.c.** *transitive (reflexive)*. To free (oneself) *from* (also †*of*, †*out of*) a place, trouble, danger, etc.; to rid (oneself) *of* a person or prejudice. Also in weakened use. Now *rare*. c1405-

**c1405** Euery man Wol helpe hym self..And eek **deliuered** hym self out of prison.

**(c1385)** G. Chaucer, *Knight's Tale* (Hengwrt MS.) (1868) l. 1769

...

**1990** He meant only to **deliver** himself from the streets, not life; he didn't count on murder.

S. Morgan, *Homeboy* ii. 27

**I.1.d.** *transitive*. To release (a person) *from* a place; to rescue (a person) *out of* a place. In early use also: *spec.* to release (a prisoner) from prison. Now chiefly *archaic* or with reference to God conceived as liberating humankind from evil or danger; cf. **deliverer** *n.* 1.

In later use influenced by or merging with sense **I.1.a.**

**?a1425** Scho **delyuered** þe lordes oute of þe toure.

*Mandeville's Travels* (Egerton MS.) (1889) 45

...

**2007** They [*sc.* the Israelites] were not too interested in finding out about their amazing God who had **delivered** them out of Egypt.

A. Hill, *To live is Christ* 225

archaic

**I.2.a.** *transitive*. To assist (a woman or other female mammal) to give birth, or in the birth of a child or offspring. Frequently in *passive*. Now chiefly *archaic*.

In early use, perhaps with the implication of freeing a woman or other female mammal from a burden. *figurative* in quot. **1634**.

**c1300** þe Quen a-non.. **deliuered** was of childe.

*St. Leonard* (Laud MS.) l. 49 in C. Horstmann, *Early South-English Legendary* (1887) 458

...

**1634** My brain's in labour, and must be **deliuered** Of some new mischeife.

T. Heywood, *Maidenhead Lost* i, in *Works* (1874) vol. IV. 108

...

**2014** I was with Lucy Pierce when she was in travail... I **delivered** her of a stillborn child.

S. Thomas, *Witch Hunter's Tale* 130

obstetrics

archaic

**I.2.b.** *transitive*. Chiefly in *passive*. To bring forth (a child or offspring) *from* its mother; to assist in the birth of (a child or offspring). Also *figurative* and in figurative contexts.

**?c1450** For to **diliuerin** a deed chyld from a woman.  
in G. Müller, *Aus mittelenglischen Medizintexten* (1929) 46 (Middle English Dictionary)

**2012** On more than one occasion Dr Knight and Dr Renshaw have **delivered** the baby from a woman they actually saw born decades earlier.  
*Daily Advertiser* (Nexis) 12 January 5

**I.2.c.** *transitive*. To give birth to (a child or offspring). Also *figurative* and in figurative contexts. *rare* in the 17th and 18th centuries. **?a1518-**

**?a1518** Or euer I was retourned the noble lady had **delyuered** two fayre sonnes.  
H. Watson, *Ualentyne & Orson* (1555) xxv. sig. X.i<sup>v</sup>

**2014** Her only request is for her husband to be by her side on the day she **delivers** their baby.  
*Filipino Reporter* (New York) 17 January 42

obstetrics

**I.3.a.** *transitive*. To rid or relieve (a person) of (also †from) something, esp. pain or discomfort; to rid (a thing) of (also †from) something undesirable. Now *rare*. **c1325-**  
In quot. **1562**: to divest (oneself).

**c1325** **(c1300)** **Deliuery** we ssolle it of pis folc þat her Inne is, & of folc velle it vol of ure kunde.  
*Chronicle of Robert of Gloucester* (Caligula MS.) l. 2067

**1562** It pleased him [Christ] to **deliver** himself of all His godly honour.  
*Homilies* (1859) ii. Good Friday 411

**2008** He's **delivered** it [*i.e.* tearfulness] of its triviality, dissolving away my lack of discretion.  
A. Hunter, translation of A. Desarthe, *Chez Moi* 40

**I.3.b.** † *transitive*. To relieve or dispel (pain, emotion, etc.). *Obsolete*. **a1413-1632**

**a1413** **(c1385)** lalousye..causeles is copen in-to yow, The harm of which I wolde fayn **delyuere**.  
G. Chaucer, *Troilus & Criseyde* (Pierpont Morgan MS.) (1882) iii. l. 1012

**1632** That so his momentary passion..might by some like intermission of time be **deliuered** and so languish away.

medicine

- I.4.** *transitive (reflexive)*. To express oneself in words; to give a speech, sermon, or utterance. **a1400-**  
Also with *of*. Cf. sense [III.14](#).

In this sense probably influenced by sense [I.2](#).

**a1400** I delyuered me of my sermoun.  
**(a1325)** *Cursor Mundi* (Trinity Cambridge MS.) l. 20391

...

**2012** There were those who had felt moved..to deliver themselves of wild, unanswerable orations, complete with hand gestures and table-poundings.  
M. Chabon in *New Yorker* 13 February 90/3

- I.5.** † *transitive*. To expel (something) from the body; to vomit or defecate (something). **?a1425-1851**  
Also in **to deliver one's stomach**: to vomit. *Obsolete. rare*. In early use also occasionally *intransitive*.

**?a1425** Flours delise is a souerayne worcher for the dropsy; as þis, kyt the rote drounwarde [*read*  
**(?1373)** dounwarde], and he shall delyuer be nethe.  
*Lelamour Herbal* (1938) f. 25 (Middle English Dictionary)

...

**1851** The brace of revellers went staggering over the azotea, delivering their stomachs.  
M. Reid, *Scalp Hunters* vol. II. xi. 196

anatomy

pathology

- I.6.** † *transitive*. To fight or joust with (a person); to agree to fight a duel with (a person), esp. as a means of solving a personal quarrel or deciding a point of honour. *Obsolete*.  
Perhaps implying that the winner will be released from a state of dishonour. **1440-1523**

Last viewed by the First Circuit Library on 8/25/2023

**1440** The qwych knyght wyl renne a cours wyth a sharpe spere for his souereyn lady sake; qwom othyr Ser Richard Woodvyle or Ser Cristofore Talbot shall delyuer, to the wyrchip of Englund and of hem selff.

R. Repps in *Paston Letters & Papers* (2004) vol. II. 22

...

**1523** Then it was sayd to all the knyghtes there about, Sirs, is there any of you that will delyuer this knight?.. Sir Wylliam of Fermyton..sayd..if it pleases him a lytell to rest hym, he shall anone be delyuered, for I shall arme me agaynst hym.

Lord Berners, translation of J. Froissart, *Cronycles* vol. I. cclxxiii. 617

**I.7.** † *transitive*. To remove goods from (a ship); to unload (a ship) of cargo. Cf. [liver v. lb.](#) **1486–1805**  
*Obsolete.*

In quot. 1486–7 *delyuyrd* is apparently elliptical for 'was being delivered'.

**1486–7** My costys at London whyle the shyp delyuyrd.

*Cely Papers in English Studies* (1961) vol. 42 149

...

**1805** Delivered the Spaniard, and sunk her.

in A. Duncan, *Nelson* 231, 26th.

nautical

**I.8.** *transitive*. To empty (a prison) of prisoners in order to bring them to trial at an assize court. **1523–**  
*Also occasionally extended to other courts. Now historical.*

Assizes were held once a year in each county of England and Wales to administer civil and criminal law, and typically heard the most serious of cases. In 1972 the civil jurisdiction of assizes was transferred to the High Court, and the criminal jurisdiction to the Crown Court.

**1523** To deliver any gayole w<sup>th</sup> in the towne.

in W. H. Turner, *Selections Records Oxford* (1880) 34

...

**2015** The justices who were sent to deliver the jail were remarkable in their leniency. One hundred and ninety eight people, not yet tried, were released outright.

W. C. Jordan, *From France to Eng.* Notes 158

law

historical

**I.9.** *Brickmaking, Ceramics, Founding, etc.*

**I.9.a.** † *intransitive*. Of a mould or cast: to release bricks, glass, pottery, etc. Also of bricks, glass, pottery, etc.: to come out of a mould or cast. *Obsolete*.

**1783–1888**

**1783** To make the clay **deliver** easily, it will be necessary to oil the mould.

J. Wedgwood in *Philosophical Transactions 1782* (Royal Society) vol. 72 310

...

**1888** A pattern hangs to the sand when it **delivers** with difficulty.

*Lockwood's Dictionary Mechanical Engineering 172*

ceramics

brickmaking

metal industry

**I.9.b.** *transitive*. To remove (bricks, glass, pottery, etc.) *from* a mould. Also of a mould: to release (a brick, glass, pottery, etc.).

**1809–**

**1809** The bricks are **delivered** from the mould and ranged on the ground.

W. Nicholson, *British Encyclopædia* vol. I. at *Brick*

...

**2011** The higher rigidity of the PUR material in combination with the backed up walls leads to a mold that **delivers** much more precise wax patterns than could be made by a soft silicon mold.

A. Gebhardt, *Understanding Additive Manufacturing* i. 21

ceramics

brickmaking

glass-making

metal industry

## ii. To surrender or hand over, and related senses.

**II.10.a.** *transitive*. To give up (also *over*) possession of (a person or thing); to surrender (a castle, town, hostage, etc.). Also formerly: †*spec.* to hand over (a person or thing) to a specified fate, ruin, destruction, etc. (*obsolete*). **c1300–**

**c1300** The Kinges baillyf **delyvri** him to anhonge other to drawe.

*Life & Martyrdom of Thomas Becket* (Harley MS. 2277) (1845) I. 724

...

**1998** In Scotland employers can request a court order obliging the employee to **deliver** up the relevant property, and can ask that a search warrant be granted to Sheriff Officers, enabling them to search the employee's premises.

I. Hunter, *Which? Guide to Employment* vii. 146

**II.10.b.** *transitive (reflexive).* To devote or commit (oneself) to something, esp. study or the gaining of knowledge. *rare.* **a1533-**

**a1533** I delyvered my selfe with greate desyre to knowe thynges.

Lord Berners in translation of A. de Guevara, *Golden Boke of Marcus Aurelius* (1535) Prologue sig. A.iv

...

**1995** I delivered myself to yama in the year nineteen hundred and eleven, or in the english way, eighteen hundred and eighty nine after christ.

V. Chandra, *Red Earth & Pouring Rain* (1996) 11

**II.11.a.** *transitive.* To convey and hand over (something, esp. letters, parcels, or goods); to take (something) to (also †unto) a specified recipient or address. Also with double object (now *rare*). **c1300-**

**c1300** Schewe us þat tresour..and de-liuere it þe Aumperour!

*St. Laurence* (Laud MS.) l. 67 in C. Horstmann, *Early South-English Legendary* (1887) 342

...

**2009** I cleaned my apartment so the guys delivering my new furniture wouldn't get the right idea about my normal housekeeping habits. I am my mom.

@ThoreauPillow 16 June in *twitter.com* (accessed 23 Apr. 2020)

**II.11.b.** *intransitive, chiefly with object implied.* To convey and hand over something, esp. letters, parcels, or goods. *rare* before 19th cent. **1530-**

**1530** I Delyuer I gyue a thyng in to ones handes to kepe, *le liure.*

J. Palsgrave, *Lesclarcissement* iii. f. ccvii/2

...

**2005** That sofa-table in the window. When would you be able to deliver?

C. Allcott, *Not that Kind of Girl* vii. 121

**II.11.c.** *transitive. figurative.* To hand over or present (a person or thing). Chiefly in **to deliver (a person or thing) to the world:** to present (a person or thing) to the public. *rare* after 17th cent. **a1616-**

**a1616** O that I..might not be deliuered to the world Till I had made mine owne occasion mellow.

W. Shakespeare, *Twelfth Night* (1623) i. ii. 38

...  
**1996** The internet..not only **delivers** the world to us, but also **delivers** us to the world.  
*American Enterprise* March 48

**II.11.d.** † *transitive*. With *out*. To distribute (something) among a group of people; to give out, share out. *Obsolete*. **1626–1908**

**1626** The Steward is to **deliuer** out the victuall, according to the Captaines directions.  
J. Smith, *Accidence Young Sea-men* 5

...  
**1908** The conductor..took twopenny fares from each passenger..but **delivered** out no tickets whatever.  
*Southern Daily Echo* (Southampton) 24 January 2/6

**II.12.a.** *transitive, figurative*. To impart or provide (something, esp. knowledge or a service). **c1300–**  
Also in later use: to provide (something that is promised or expected). Formerly also with †*down*.

**c1300** þe beste seruiz þat þou wolt choose, man schal **deliueri** [c1300 *Harley MS.* delyurie] þe.  
*St. Christopher* (Laud MS.) l. 42 in C. Horstmann, *Early South-English Legendary* (1887) 272

...  
**2020** He..set the tone of the new government, focusing on **delivering** Brexit.  
*Financial Times* 18 January 16

**II.12.b.** *intransitive*. To provide something that is promised or expected; do something well; to perform. Cf. *to deliver the goods at good* *adj., n., adv., & int. Phrases P.7a*. **1959–**

**1959** I have a horror of not **delivering**—making good, so to speak; and I can't stand the thought of letting everybody down—studio and public as well as myself.  
F. Astaire, *Steps in Time* xxi. 244

...  
**2001** Corporate Development..was staffed by young thrusters, many of them business school graduates, who were paid £60,000 a year and expected to **deliver**.  
R. Cellan-Jones, *Dot.bomb* iii. 28

**II.13.** In legal contexts.



**II.13.a.** *transitive*. To hand over (goods, notices, etc.) to another person legally or formally; **1414-**  
*esp.* to put (property) into the legal possession of another person. In early use chiefly  
in **to deliver seisin**; now frequently in **to deliver possession**.

Cf. **delivery** *n.* 1.1a.

**1414-15** John shall deliuer fully & cleerly to the forsaide Thomas..all his right, state, and  
terme comyng in alle the forsayde tenementz.

in R. W. Chambers & M. Daunt, *Book of London English* (1931) 120

...

**1965** While the plaintiff was temporarily absent from Calcutta..he asked the defendant to  
carry it on, delivering possession of the business and its premises.

*Journal Indian Law Inst.* vol. 7 214

**II.13.b.** *transitive*. Of the maker of a deed or his or her attorney: to hand over (a deed), either **1528-**  
actually or notionally, as an acknowledgement of intent to be bound by it.

Cf. **delivery** *n.* 1.1b.

**1528-30** If a man make a dede of fe[o]ffemente vnto another..and delyuereth to hym the  
deed but no lyuery of seysyn.

translation of T. Littleton, *Tenures* (new edition) f. vi

...

**2015** If the property involved is not a principal residence, it will attract federal capital  
gains tax either when the deed is delivered or when it is registered, and tax advice  
should be sought in these circumstances.

*Toronto Star* (Nexis) 21 March (NH section) h6

law

### III. To emit, discharge, or project, and related senses.

**III.14.a.** † *intransitive*. To utter or enunciate words; to speak *on* a subject; to pronounce a **c1400-1911**  
judgement, verdict, or opinion. *Obsolete*.

In quot. 1530 with reference to sung notes.

**c1400** Schir Williame of Dalyhel, knyght, Alexander of Ogilvy, schirraf of Angus, Wat of Ogilvy,  
and Williame of Fentoun, sworn to delyuer and ordane evinly for bath the partis eftir  
thair knowlage and cunnyng.

in W. Fraser, *Memorials of Family of Wemyss* (1888) vol. II. 37

**1530** I **delyver** quickly, as one dothe in syngynge..I never herde boye in my lyfe **delyver** more quyckely.

J. Palsgrave, *Lesclarcissement* 510/2

...

**1911** It must require much effort on the part of the young and inexperienced girl to rise in the center of a vast audience, make her way to a platform and there, before seven or eight hundred people, most of them strangers, **deliver** clearly and distinctly.

*Big Sandy News* (Louisa, Kentucky) 27 January 1/1

music

**III.14.b.** *transitive.* To report or state (something); to communicate or relate (something) in words.

**c1454-**

**c1454** If to a man in þe bigynnyng þe causis and whies schulden be **delyuerid**, to her resoun and to her examynacioun, her witt schulde be perbi oppressid.

R. Pecock, *Folewer to Donet* 13 (Middle English Dictionary)

...

**2020** These outlets do a great job of **delivering** the facts of what is going on in our country.

*University Wire* (Carlsbad) 26 March

**III.14.c.** *transitive.* To utter or enunciate (words); to make (a speech); to pronounce (a judgement, verdict, or opinion). Cf. sense [I.4](#).

**1576-**

**1576** To a question by him propounded, this answeare was **deliuered**.

A. Fleming, translation of Cicero in *Panoplie of Epistles* 56

...

**2010** Obama **delivered** a speech from the Oval Office on the oil spill in the Gulf.

*Vanity Fair* September 211/2

**III.14.d.** † *transitive.* With clause as object. To report or state (that something is the case).  
Obsolete.

**1586-1698**

**1586** It was **deliuered** he hong himself for grieve.

A. Day, *English Secreterie* i. sig. F2<sup>v</sup>

...

**1698** Who founded these, their Annals nor their Sanscript **deliver** not.

J. Fryer, *New Account of East-India & Persia* 161

**III.14.e.** † *transitive*. With a person or thing as object and a clause as complement. To report or state that (a person or thing) is what is expressed by the complement. *Obsolete*. **1617-1711**

**1617** Foure thousand Spaniards (for so the prisoner that we tooke deliuered them to be upon his saluation).

F. Moryson, *Itinerary* ii. ii. ii. 154

...

**1711** This Pseudo-Ambrose doth not deliver it to be the Catholick and uninterrupted Belief and Practise of the Church; but only gives his opinion.

G. Cary, *Physician's Phylactic* 248

**III.14.f.** *transitive*. To perform (a musical rendition, dance, etc.); to execute (a part in a piece of music, dance, etc.) in a specified manner. **1809-**

**1809** The beautiful passages allotted to the hautboy,...being so very exquisitely delivered, commanded our admiration as much of the performer as of the music.

W. Nicholson, *British Encyclopedia* vol. IV. at *Musical Instruments*

...

**2012** He immersed himself in the second movement of Beethoven's 2nd Piano Concerto, delivering the piece with elegance and precision.

*Nelson (New Zealand) Mail* (Nexis) 16 July 2

arts

**III.15.a.** *transitive*. To aim or strike (a blow); to make or begin (an assault, attack, offensive). **to deliver battle**: to give battle; to make or begin an attack (now rare). **1433-**

**1433** My said lorde of Bedford hath..many and diverse dayes kept þe felde, redy to have foghtyn and delivered bataille to þe kynges enemyys.

*Rolls of Parliament: Henry VI* (Electronic edition) Parl. July 1433 §17. m. 16

...

**2005** Syria test-fired the three Scud missiles equipped with airburst warheads, reinforcing Israeli worries about Syria's ability to deliver a missile-borne chemical attack against Israeli civilian targets.

*New York Times* (National edition) 5 June i. 13/1

military

**III.15.b.** *transitive.* To discharge or release (ammunition, a missile, etc.). Also of a person: to throw or project (something held, esp. a ball).

1574-

**1574** For wante of Gunnes, the men of the valleys had made them crossebowes of wood, which would **deliuer** stones with great force.

T. Tymme, translation of J. de Serres, *Three Parties Comm. Ciuill Warres Fraunce* ii. sig. U.ijj

...

**2013** The deception of the sidewinder is that he is upright and then makes a drastic posture change, **delivering** the ball from a very odd and low angle.

D. Johnson, *Complete Guide Pitching* 106

weaponry

**III.15.c.** *transitive.* Of a pipe, valve, or other opening: to emit (a substance, esp. water); to discharge (a substance) into a receptacle.

1579-

**1579** Springes and watery places of the earth, from whence the fountaines come, which haue no meeting of hidden waters, nor hollowe places capable, readily to **deliuer** water from them.

T. North, translation of Plutarch, *Liues* 270

...

**2014** When the Mediterranean broke into the Black Sea, it **delivered** water into the Black Sea basin at a rate of ten, fifteen cubic miles a day.

R. Farr, *Fire Seekers* v. 78

**III.15.d.** *transitive.* Mining. Of a mine: to produce or yield (a commodity).

1605-

**1605** The mynes..do **deliuer** Gold, Siluer, Copper.

R. Verstegan, *Restitution of Decayed Intelligence* ii. 51

...

**2011** Today, after a long but slow decline the basin **delivers** each year ~300 t gold, 3000 t uranium and 1000 kg osmiridium.

W. L. Pohl, *Econ. Geology* ii. 219/1

mining

**III.15.e.** *transitive.* Of a road: To discharge (traffic) to, into, or onto another road. In early use also occasionally *intransitive*.

1895-

**1895** The Committee thinking it desirable that the new thoroughfare shall **deliver** directly into and on a level with the Strand.

*Daily News* 1 October 3/1

...

**2014** Local roads **deliver** traffic to collector roads, which **deliver** traffic to arterials, which **deliver** traffic to limited-access highways.

V. Dover & J. Massengale, *Street Design* i. 27/1

**III.16.** † *transitive*. To move (a part of the body) readily and quickly; to use (physical strength) with nimbleness or agility. Cf. **deliver** *adj.* 2, **delivery** *n.* III.9. *Obsolete. rare.* **1590–1845**

**1590** Not Musidorus, no nor any man living (I thinke) could performe any action..more strongly, or **deliver** that Strength more nimbly.

Sir P. Sidney, *Covntesse of Pembrokes Arcadia* ii. vii. f. 130<sup>v</sup>

**1845** He [a horse] must..be taught to raise his knee and **deliver** his leg with freedom.

*Journal of Royal Agricultural Society* vol. 5 ii. 530

**iv.** † To get rid of or dispatch.

**IV.17.** *transitive*. To finish or dispose of (something) rapidly; to kill (a person) quickly. **c1400–50**  
*Obsolete.*

**c1400**  
**(?c1380)** Me forpyneȝ ful much þat euer I mon made; Bot I schal **delyuer** and do away þat doten on þis molde.

*Cleanness* (1977) l. 286

...

**c1450**  
**(?a1400)** Þis breme best..Aȝt & tuenti men of armes onone scho **delyuird**.

*Wars of Alexander* (Ashmole MS.) l. 3930

**IV.18.a.** *intransitive*. To hurry, make haste. *Obsolete. rare.* **a1450–1530**

**a1450** I am douty to þis dede; **delyuer**! haue done!

*York Plays* (1885) 279 (Middle English Dictionary)

**1530** I **delyver**, I rydde or dispatche thynges shortly out of handes, *Je despeche*.

J. Palsgrave, *Lesclarcissement* 510/2

**a1475** And **delyuer** the [a1460 *anon. tr.* that ye make diligence] to ponische eville doers also  
**(1450)** soone as to the schalle appere there delite.

S. Scrope, translation of *Dicts & Sayings of Philosophers* (Bodleian MS. 943) (1999) 30 (Middle English Dictionary)

...

**1572** **Deliuer** the..and mak na delay.  
**(a1500)** *Taill of Rauf Coilgear* (1882) 302

## Phrases

**P.1.** *to deliver (on) the goods*: see **good** *adj., n., adv., & int.* Phrases P.7a.

**P.2.** **to deliver on one's promise** and variants: to provide what one has promised; to keep one's word. **1912-**

**1912** I guess it looked to us for several days as though he was going to be able to **deliver on his promise**.

*Bradford (Pennsylvania) Era* 30 July 8/2

...

**2011** We remained laser-focused on the construction of Marina Bay Sands and on **delivering our promise** to the Singapore government and to her people.

*Sphere* Spring 56/1

## ETYMOLOGY

### Summary

A borrowing from French.

**Etymon:** French *delivrer*.

< **Anglo-Norman** *diliverer, dilivrer*, **Anglo-Norman** and **Old French, Middle French** *deliverer, delivrer* (**French** *délivrer*) to free, liberate (c1050 implied in the deverbal adjective *delivre* **deliver** *adj.*; late 12th cent. used reflexively in the specific sense ‘to set oneself free, to escape’), to assist

(a woman) to give birth to a child (beginning of the 12th cent.), to clear, empty (a room) (1139), to rid (a place) of (a person, something evil) (second half of the 12th cent.), (of a woman) to give birth to (a child) (mid 13th cent.), to hand (a person or thing) over, to surrender (a person or thing) (end of the 13th cent. or earlier), to get rid of (something) (beginning of the 14th cent. or earlier), in **Anglo-Norman** also to acquit (a person) of an obligation (14th cent. or earlier), to recover (goods distrained) (a1421 or earlier) < **post-classical Latin** *deliberare* to set free, liberate (6th cent.; frequently from 10th cent. in British sources), to hand over, entrust (frequently from 11th cent. in British and continental sources), to clear (a jail) by removing the prisoners for trial (frequently from early 12th cent. in British sources), (passive, of a woman) to give birth to a child (14th cent. in a British source) < **classical Latin** *dē-* **de-** prefix + *liberāre* **liberate** v. Compare later **liver** v.

## Notes

Compare **Old Occitan** *delivrar*, *deslivrar*, **Catalan** *deslliurar* (13th cent.), **Spanish** †*delibrar* (c1200), **Italian** *deliberare* (mid 13th cent.).

In **classical Latin** *dēliberāre* had a different sense: see **deliber** v.

*Specific forms.*

In **Middle English** prefixed and unprefixed forms of the past participle are attested (see **y-** prefix).

With the forms in *des-* compare **de-** prefix 1f.

Most **β forms** reflect assignment to the weak Class II conjugation (see **-y suffix**<sup>2</sup>); these are typically forms from the west midlands and the south. Occasional similar forms from other regions (e.g. Lincolnshire, Ireland), where one would not expect to find the reflex of the weak Class II suffix, are probably influenced by **delivery** n.

## PRONUNCIATION

### BRITISH ENGLISH

/dɪˈlɪvə/ 

dil-livuh

### U.S. ENGLISH

/dəˈlɪvər/ 

duh-LIV-ur

/diˈlɪvər/ 

dee-LIV-ur

## FORMS

## Variant forms

α.

Middle English	<b>deleuyr, delevere, deliuyr, deluerd</b> (past tense, transmission error), <b>delyfere, delyuir, delyuire, delyuyr, delyvir, delyvyr, dilifere, diliver, dilyuere, dyliuere, dyliver</b>
Middle English–1500s	<b>delivre, delyuere, delyure, delyvre, diliuere, dilyuer, dyluer</b>
Middle English–1600s	<b>deliuer, deliuere, deliure, delivere, delyuer, delyver, delyvere, diliuer</b>
Middle English–	<b>deliver</b>
1500s	<b>deleuere, dyliuer</b>
1500s–1700s	<b>diliver</b>

Scottish

pre-1700	<b>delayver, deleuer, delever, deliuer, deliuere, deliuir, delivir, delyuer, delyuere, delyuir, delyuyr, delyver, delyvere, delyvir, delyvre, delyvyr, delywer, delywring</b> (present participle), <b>diliuer, dilyuer, dyllywir, dylwer</b>
pre-1700; 1700s–	<b>deliver</b>

β. Chiefly *southern* and *south-west midlands*

Middle English	<b>deliueri, deliuary, deliuri, delivery, delyuery, delyuri, delyurie, delyvri</b>
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## FREQUENCY

*deliver* is one of the 2,000 most common words in modern written English. It is similar in frequency to words like *d*, *evaluate*, *global*, and *transfer*.

It typically occurs about 50 times per million words in modern written English.

*deliver* is in frequency band 6, which contains words occurring between 10 and 100 times per million words in modern written English. [More about OED's frequency bands](#)

Frequency of *deliver*, v.<sup>1</sup>, 1750–2010



\* Occurrences per million words in written English

Historical frequency series are derived from Google Books Ngrams (version 2), a data set based on a corpus of several million books printed in English between 1500 and 2010. The Ngrams data has been cross-checked against frequency measures from other corpora, and re-analysed in order to handle homographs and other ambiguities.

The overall frequency for a given word is calculated by summing frequencies for the main form of the word, any plural or inflected forms, and any major spelling variations.

## Frequency of *deliver*, v.<sup>1</sup>, 2017–2023

\* Occurrences per million words in written English

Modern frequency series are derived from a corpus of 20 billion words, covering the period from 2017 to the present. The corpus is mainly compiled from online news sources, and covers all major varieties of World English.

## COMPOUNDS & DERIVED WORDS

Sort by

### **deliverance**, n. c1300–

The condition of being delivered (from, †of, or †out of confinement, evil, oppression, trouble, etc.); the action of delivering; liberation, rescue...

### **delivering**, n. c1330–

The action of deliver, v.<sup>1</sup> (in various senses); delivery, deliverance. Also: an instance of this; a delivery.

### **liver**, v. c1330–

transitive. To unload (goods) from a ship or other vehicle; to discharge cargo from (a ship). Also intransitive.

### **deliverer**, n. c1350–

A person who sets free, rescues, or releases; a liberator, rescuer, saviour. Also: spec. God or (more usually) Christ, conceived as liberating a...

### **delivered**, adj.<sup>1</sup> 1440–

That has been delivered (in various senses of deliver, v.<sup>1</sup>).

**undelivered, adj.<sup>1</sup>** 1472-

Not handed over or transferred to another's possession; not delivered or distributed.

**redeliver, v.** 1490-

transitive. To give back, return, restore.

**delivery, n.** 1509-

The action of delivering or setting free someone (from or †for confinement, oppression, trouble, etc.); the condition of having been set free...

**delivering, adj.** 1550-

That delivers (in various senses of deliver, v.<sup>1</sup>); in early use esp. that sets free or releases a person or people from harm or danger.

**deliveress, n.** 1608-

A female deliverer (in various senses of the noun); in early use esp. a woman who sets free or releases someone from harm or danger.

**jail-deliver, v.** ?1632

transitive. To rescue, save, or set (a prisoner) free; to deliver from jail.

**deliverable, adj. & n.** 1646-

That can or may be delivered (in various senses of the verb).

**misdeliver, v.** 1800-

transitive. To deliver to the wrong person or at the wrong place.

**deliveree, n.** 1805-

The person to whom something is delivered (in various senses of deliver, v.<sup>1</sup>).

**deliverment, n.** 1819-1916

Deliverance from danger, evil, etc.; a liberation, rescue.

**self-delivering, adj.** 1847-

Designating a machine which automatically puts the product of a process into the desired state. Cf. self-delivery, n. 2.

**deliveror, n.** 1860-

A person who makes legal delivery of goods or property. Cf. delivery, n. I.1a.

**hand deliver, v.** 1921-

**over-deliver, v.** 1928-

intransitive. To deliver more than is required or expected. Also (occasionally) transitive.

**home-deliver, v.** 1931-

transitive and intransitive. Of a company: to deliver (goods) to a person's home.

**deliverology, n.** 2007-

A target-driven process designed to ensure the successful implementation of reforms or achievement of policy goals within government or the public...

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