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of, prep.

Pronunciation: ² Brit. /ɒv/, /əv/, /ə/, U.S. /əv/, /ə/

Forms: Old English (*rare*)–1600s **off**, Old English– **of**, Middle English **op** ...

Frequency (in current use):

Origin: A variant or alteration of another lexical item. **Etymon:** English *æf*.

Etymology: Originally a low-stress variant of Old English *æf* (see below), cognate with Old Frisian...

The primary sense was 'away', 'away from', a sense now obsolete, except in so far as it is retained under the spelling *off* (see *OFF* *adv.*, *prep.*, *n.*, and *adj.*). All the existing uses of *of* are derivative; many so remote as to retain no trace of the original sense, and so weakened as to be in themselves the expression of relatively indefinable syntactic relationships. For example, an 'appositional' interpretation has been proposed for a number of senses such as 23, 28c, 32, and 49b (see O. Jespersen *On Some Disputed Points in English Grammar* (S.P.E. Tract No. XXV, 1926)). The sense-history is exceedingly complicated by reason of the introduction of senses or uses derived from other sources, the mingling of these with the main stream, and the subsequent weakening, which often renders it difficult to assign a particular modern use to its actual source or sources. From its original sense, *of* was naturally used in the expression of the notions of removal, separation, privation, derivation, origin or source, starting-point, spring of action, cause, agent, instrument, material, and other senses, which involve the notion of 'taking, coming, arising, or resulting from'. But, even in Old English, this internal development was affected by the translational character of the literature, and the employment of *of* to render Latin *ab*, *dē*, or *ex*, in constructions where non-literary discourse would not have used it. Of greater significance was its employment from the 11th cent. as the equivalent of French *de*, itself of composite origin, since it not merely represented Latin *dē* in its various prepositional uses, but had come to be the substitute in French for the Latin genitive case. Whether *of* might have come independently in English to be a substitute for the genitive has been much debated. In the expression of ethnic or national origin, we find *of* and the genitive to some extent interchangeable already in early Old English, cf. the following:

eOE tr. Bede *Eccl. Hist.* (Tanner) III. xv. 222 Se wæs eac Scotta cynnes [L. *de natione Scottorum*].

eOE tr. Bede *Eccl. Hist.* (Tanner) III. xv. 222 Se nyhsta wæs Scyððiscas cynnes [L. *natione Scottus*].

eOE tr. Bede *Eccl. Hist.* (Tanner) III. xiv. 210 Wæs þes wer .of þæm æbelastan cynne Scotta [L. *de nobilissimo genere Scottorum*].

This may well have extended in time to other uses; but the influence of French *de* was probably a major factor in the replacement of the Old English genitive after adjectives, verbs, and even nouns by the *of* construction in early Middle English. The evidence, however, also suggests that an internal change in English, the loss of inflection in the definite article and strong adjective (by the end of the 13th cent. at the latest), triggered the advance in the use of the *of* construction as a periphrastic genitive. Beside this (a far-reaching fact in the functional history of *of*) the same influence is also manifest in numerous phraseological uses, and esp. in the use of *of* as the equivalent of French *de*, in the construction of many verbs and adjectives. Many of these can be clearly distinguished; but, in other cases, the uses derived from French *de* have so blended with those derived from Old English *of*, giving rise again to later uses related to both, that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to separate the two streams, with their many ramifications. The present entry seeks to exhibit the main uses of the preposition, and to show generally how far back each of these is exemplified. It has not been attempted to classify or even mention all the verbs and adjectives which are or have been construed with *of*; examples occur under the chief senses and uses, but the construction of any individual verb or adjective is dealt with under that word itself, where also it is shown what other prepositions share or have shared the same function with *of*.

I. Of motion, direction, distance.

1.

a. Indicating the thing, place, or direction from which something goes, comes, or is driven or moved: from, away from, out of. Now *regional* except as *off* (see *OFF* *adv.* 1).

eOE *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Parker) anno 823 Þa sende he Æþlwulf his sunu of þære fierde..to Cent.

eOE *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Parker) anno 658 Þis wæs gefohten siþþan he of Eastenglum com.

eOE tr. Orosius *Hist.* (BL Add.) (1980) III. xi. 82 Hie þa Demetrias of þæm rice adrifon.

- OE *ÆLFRIC Catholic Homilies: 1st Ser.* (Royal) (1997) i. 180 Se ælmihtiga scyppend..hi ealle adræfde of heofonan rices myrihðe.
- OE *Blickling Homilies* 5 Crist of heofona heanessum..on þinne innoþ astigeþ.
- OE *Old Eng. Hexateuch: Exod.* (Claud.) xxxiv. 18 Soðlice on lenctenmonþes tide ðu fore off [OE *Hatton* of] Egypta lande.
- IOE *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Laud) (Peterborough interpolation) anno 963 He..draf ut þa clerca of þe biscoprice.
- a1250 in C. Brown *Eng. Lyrics 13th Cent.* (1932) 3 (MED) Þu me hauest..ibrouht of helle in-to paradise.
- a1300 *Seven Sins* 36 in F. J. Furnivall *Early Eng. Poems & Lives Saints* (1862) 19 Þat he sal of þis world wend.
- c1325 (► c1300) *Chron. Robert of Gloucester* (Calig.) 11508 (MED) A certein day hom was iset, of londe vor to fle.
- a1400 (► a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Gött.) 11596 (MED) Wit naghtertale he went of toune.
- ?a1400 (► a1338) R. MANNING *Chron.* (Petyt) (1996) I. 8430 Þe sparkes fleh as fire of flyntes.
- a1450 (► c1410) H. LOVELICH *Hist. Holy Grail* xiii. 543 (MED) Owt he sprang As fyr Offe brond.
- 1542–3 *Act 34 & 35 Hen. VIII* c. 4 If anie suche person..do withdrawe him selfe of this realme.
- a1572 J. KNOX *Hist. Reformation Scotl.* in *Wks.* (1846) I. 346 [They] did secreidlie convey thame selfis and thair cumpanyeis of the town.
- 1613 S. PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* 541 With the least drawing bloud of another.
- 1692 in J. D. Marwick *Rec. Convent. Royal Burghs Scotl.* (1880) IV. 663 The heaue burdenes..made sixteen families..remove of the place..being brock.
- 1781 J. WOODFORDE *Diary* 10 Nov. (1924) I. 330 We had nineteen Bottles and a Pint of the Tub.
- 1896 'G. SETOUN' *Robert Urquhart* iv The air came breathing in of the fields.

†b. Indicating the place or source from which action, (as shooting, calling, writing) is directed: from. *Obsolete.*

In quot. 1570¹ probably after Latin *ex*.

- eOE tr. Orosius *Hist.* (BL Add.) (1980) III. vii. 65 On ðæm dæge plegedon hie of horsum.
- OE KING ÆLFRED tr. *Psalms* (Paris) (2001) xiii. 3 Drihten locað of heofenum ofer manna bearn.
- c1225 (► ?c1200) *Hali Meidhad* (Bodl.) (1940) 6 Of þet syon ha bihalt al þe worlt under hire.
- a1500 (► c1340) R. ROLLE *Psalter* (Univ. Oxf. 64) (1884) xiii. 3 Lord lokyd of heuen on the sonnes of men.
- 1570 J. KNOX *Let.* 2 Jan. in *Wks.* (1864) VI. 568 In haiste, of Edinburgh, the 2 of Januar... Youres,..John Knox.
- 1570 in J. Cranstoun *Satirical Poems Reformation* (1891) I. xv. 77 Quha schot him of the bischoppis stair In Lythgow.
- a1722 J. LAUDER *Jrnls.* (1900) 190 Saw of the linkes wheir Pinky field was fought.

c. Following and closely connected to an adverb, as †**down of**, †**up of**.
Now usually in OUT OF *prep.*

See also *forth of prep.* at FORTH *adv.* 9a; OFF *adv.* 13b.

- OE *ÆLFRIC Gram.* (St. John's Oxf.) 272 Se wyll astah up of ðære eorðan.
- IOE *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Laud) (Peterborough contin.) anno 1123 Se kyng alihte dune of his hors.
- ?a1200 (► ?OE) *Peri Didaxeon* (1896) 39 Ad acidia, þæt hys, þæt hæte wæter, þe scet upp of þan breostan.

- a1225 (▶ OE) *Ælfric's Homily In Die Sancto Pentecosten* (Lamb. 487) in R. Morris *Old Eng. Homilies* (1868) 1st Ser. 87 þa þe heo comen on midden þere se, þa wes þet godes foelc [read folc] up of þere se agan.
- c1300 *St. Thomas Becket* (Laud) 1799 in C. Horstmann *Early S.-Eng. Legendary* (1887) 158 As he come op of þe se.
- a1375 (▶ c1350) *William of Palerne* (1867) 686 (MED) þan brayde he vp of his bed.
- a1400 (▶ a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Fairf. 14) 2842 (MED) Our lorde rayned..doun of þe lift fyre and brimstane.
- ▶ a1470 T. MALORY *Morte Darthur* (Winch. Coll.) 608 Whan he sawe sir Trystram, he alyght adowne of his horse.
- 1548 *Hall's Vnion: Henry VIII* f. xxvj^v He a lighted downe of his horse.

2. Indicating a point of time (or stage of life, etc.) from which something begins or proceeds: from, since. Now only in *as of* (see *AS adv.* and *conj.* Phrases 3d), and *of late*, *of recent years*, etc. (which have gradually come to have the sense 'during' or 'in the course of' the time indicated: see sense 53).

- OE *West Saxon Gospels: Mark* (Corpus Cambr.) x. 20 Eall ðis ic geheold of minre geoguðe.
- OE tr. Bede *Ecccl. Hist.* (Cambr. Univ. Libr.) i. xii. 52 Of þære tide þe hi ðanon gewiton oð to dæge.
- c1175 (▶ OE) *Homily: Hist. Holy Rood-tree* (Bodl. 343) (1894) 22. Dauid leofedæ seofen hund wintra of ðam dæge ðe he þa 3yrdæn on ðone put asetten het.
- c1225 (▶ ?c1200) *St. Katherine* (1973) 79 Þis meiden wes..faederles & moderles of hire childhade.
- c1395 G. CHAUCER *Clerk's Tale* 834 Ther I was fostred of a child ful smal, Til I be deed my lyf ther wol I lede.
- c1450 *Alphabet of Tales* (1904) I. 126 (MED) Þer was a yong preste þat sho had broght vp of barn little hur self.
- 1484 W. CAXTON tr. G. de la Tour-Landry *Bk. Knight of Tower* (1971) xciii. 125 One his chamberlayne whiche he had nourysshed and brought vp of his yongthe.
- c1500 (▶ ?a1475) *Assembly of Gods* (1896) 457 (MED) Thus haue I dewly, with all my dilygence, Executyd the offyce of olde antiquyte.
- 1526 *Bible* (Tyndale) Mark ix. f. liij^v Howe longe is it a goo..? And he sayde, of a chylde.
- 1551 R. ROBINSON tr. T. More *Vtopia* sig. Riiv^v The newe yeaere..whyche they doo begynne of that same hollye daye.
- 1613 S. PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* 534 Of auncient time they were subject to the Chinois, untill [etc.].
- a1616 W. SHAKESPEARE *Two Gentlemen of Verona* (1623) iv. iv. 3 One that I brought vp of a puppy.
- a1625 in J. Gutch *Collectanea Curiosa* (1781) I. 186 I bred him of a Child.

†3. Indicating a situation, condition, or state out of or away from which something moves, or is figured as moving: from, out of. *Obsolete*.

- OE ÆLFRIC *Catholic Homilies: 1st Ser.* (Royal) (1997) iv. 211 Þæt ðu of deaðe arise.
- IOE *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Laud) (Peterborough interpolation) anno 656 Min broðer is faren of þisse liue swa swa Crist wolde.
- a1200 *MS Trin. Cambr.* in R. Morris *Old Eng. Homilies* (1873) 2nd Ser. 23 He aros of deaðe and wunede mid his apostles.

- c1275 (▶ ?a1200) LA3AMON *Brut* (Calig.) (1963) 5855 Fiftene þusende þer weoren i-slaȝen & idon of lif-dæȝen.
- c1300 *St. Brendan* (Harl.) (1844) 21 As hi awoke of slepe.
- c1380 *Sir Ferumbras* (1879) 2143 (MED) Many was þe cristene mon þat he had broȝt of dawē.
- a1450 (▶ c1410) H. LOVELICH *Hist. Holy Grail* xix. 63 (MED) Sche Aros Of hire Swowneng.
- a1500 (▶ ?a1400) *Morte Arthur* (1903) 2006 Off swounynge whan he myght A-wake.
- a1522 G. DOUGLAS in tr. Virgil *Aeneid* (1959) VIII. Prol. 38 The thrall to be of thirllage Langis ful sayr.
- a1586 SIR P. SIDNEY *Arcadia* (1590) I. x. sig. F8^v To be thus banished of thy counsels.
- a1670 in J. Scot *Staggering State Sc. Statesmen* 90 That both the King and Queen behoved to be killed and put off the way.

4. Expressing position which is (or is treated as) the result of departure, and is defined with reference to the starting point.

†a. Away from, out of. *of life*: see LIFE *n.* Phrases 3. *Obsolete*.

- OE ÆLFRIC *De Temporibus Anni* (Cambr. Gg.3.28) x. §8. 72 Fixas cwelað gif hi of wætere beoð.
- c1275 (▶ ?a1200) LA3AMON *Brut* (Calig.) (1978) 9057 Þeo cudden Kinbeline þat his fader wes of liue.
- c1300 (▶ ?c1225) *King Horn* (Cambr.) (1901) 652 (MED) Heo saȝ Rymenild sitte Also he were of witte.
- a1375 (▶ c1350) *William of Palerne* (1867) 420 (MED) Sone of his seȝt þe bestes seȝþen ware.
- ?a1400 (▶ a1338) R. MANNYNG *Chron.* (Petyt) (1996) I. 2424 Þan wald Leyr haf ben of lyue.
- 1453 in *Hist. MSS Comm.: 14th Rep.: App. Pt. III: MSS Duke of Roxburghe* (1894) 9 in *Parl. Papers* (C. 7570) XLVI. 471 Gyf ony of thaim happins to be off the cuntre.
- 1570 G. BUCHANAN *Chamaeleon* in *Vernac. Writings* (1892) 45 Lying not far of the town.

b. Following a compass point, as *north of*, *south of*, etc.; (also) following a specified distance (*U.S. regional*). Also in *within a mile* (or *an hour*, *an ace*, etc.) *of*, *wide of*, *back of* (chiefly *North American*), *backward of* (now *archaic*), *upward(s) of* (a number or amount): see also the first elements.

- OE *Blickling Homilies* 209 Wæron norð of ðæm stane awexene swiðe hrimige bearwas.
- c1384 *Bible* (Wycliffite, E.V.) (Douce 369(2)) 1 Macc. iii. 57 Thei moueden castels or oostis of armed men, and thei settiden to gidre at the south of Ammaum.
- 1494 *Act 11 Hen. VII* c. 23 Every such Fish should be splatted down to an Handful of the Tail.
- 1537 in T. Wright *Three Chapters Lett. Suppression Monasteries* (1843) 157 Within x. or xij. mylles of hit.
- c1540 (▶ ?a1400) *Gest Historiale Destr. Troy* 7488 Philoc with felle angur frusshet to Remo, Till bothe welt backward of hor bare saddles.
- 1598 W. SHAKESPEARE *Love's Labour's Lost* I. i. 120 That no woman shall come within a myle of my Court.
- 1600 W. SHAKESPEARE *Henry IV, Pt. 2* IV. i. 19 West of this forrest, scarcely off a mile,...comes on the enemy.
- a1628 F. GREVILLE *Life of Sidney* (1651) xvi. 218 The builders of any ships upward of so many hundred Tuns.
- 1763 *Ann. Reg. 1762* 104/2 Upwards of 15,000 lb. weight.
- 1778 W. ROBERTSON *Hist. Amer.* (ed. 2) I. 431 Countries..situate to the east of those [etc.].
- 1794 in *Kentucky Hist. Soc. Reg.* (1936) XXXIV. 384 I was informed that on his place, about one fourth of a mile of his house, there was a family murdered.

- 1843 *Blackwood's Edinb. Mag.* **54** 160 Bill was generally pretty wide of his mark.
- 1884–5 *Riverside Nat. Hist.* (1888) III. 257 On the Californian coast is a Gobiid (*Gillichthys mirabilis*) remarkable for the great extension backward of the jaws.
- 1885 *Law Rep.: Chancery Div.* **29** 453 Commenced within a few days of each other.
- 1939 *Hall Coll. in Dict. Amer. Regional Eng.* (1996) (at cited word) [He] heard something holler and thought it was a man. But in a few minutes it hollered about fifty yards of him.
- 1948 E. POUND *Pisan Cantos* lxxx. 84 In the shade back of the jo-house.
- 1993 *Spy* (N.Y.) Sept. 37/1 Americans spend upwards of 5 per cent of their GNP on dry cleaning, hemming, lapel-harrowing, shoe repair [etc.].

c. North American, Scottish, and Irish English (northern). In expressing the time: from or before (a specified hour); = *to prep.* 6b. Also with the numeral expressing the hour understood.

- 1817 T. DEAN *Jrnl.* 31 May in *Indiana Hist. Soc. Publ.* (1918) VI. 278 At 15 minutes of 10 A.M. Paul Dick arrived.
- 1857 M. J. HOLMES *Meadow-Brook* v. 64 Five minutes of nine, and round the corner at the foot of the hill appeared a group of children.
- 1912 *Northern Whig* 18 May–14 June It is a quarter of twelve.
- 1956 P. HIGHSMITH *Blunderer* xiv. 102 His watch said twenty of six.
- 1976 I. LEVIN *Boys from Brazil* iv. 135 'Can I go with you?' 'Sure... I leave at five of.'
- 1994 T. C. BOYLE *Without Hero* (1995) 230 The R.A. would flash the lights and it was a quarter of one and they would fling themselves at each other.

II. Expressing separation or removal of something from an owner, or an affected person or thing.

In Old English expressed by *of*, *from*, or the genitive case.

5.

a. Following transitive verbs. (*a*) *to cure, heal, etc.; cleanse, clear, purge, etc.; bring to bed, deliver, ease, empty, free, rid, etc.* (*b*) *to deprive, divest, drain, oust, rob, spoil, strip, etc.*

In the constructions in sense 5a(b), by a kind of transposition, *of* introduces that which is removed, the person or thing whence it is removed being made the grammatical object: thus, a prisoner is said to be stripped *of his clothes*, when in reality the clothes are stripped *off* or *from the prisoner*.

- OE *West Saxon Gospels: Matt.* (Corpus Cambr.) vi. 13 Alys us of yfele.
- OE *West Saxon Gospels: Luke* (Corpus Cambr.) vii. 21 He gehælde manega of adlum, ge of witum & of yfelum gastum.
- IOE *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Laud) (Peterborough contin.) anno 1124 Six men spilde of here ægon & of here stanes.
- IOE KING ÆLFRED tr. St. Augustine *Soliloquies* (Vitell.) (1922) i.8 Þu þe..us geclensast of æallum urum synnum.
- a1200 *MS Trin. Cambr.* in R. Morris *Old Eng. Homilies* (1873) 2nd Ser. 169 (*MED*) Ared me, louerd, of eche deaðe.
- a1325 (► c1280) *Southern Passion* (Pepys 2344) (1927) 2350 (*MED*) Hi hadde power To hele men of poysoun.

- 1395 *Remonstr. against Romish Corruptions* (Titus) (1851) 75 (MED) After a thousand yeer Satanas shal be vnbounde of his prisoun.
- ?c1430 J. WYCLIF *Sel. Eng. Wks.* (1871) III. 453 (MED) A man most first be purged of dedly bifore þat ony venyal ben forȝoven.
- 1451–1500 (► c1400) *Vision of Tundale* 10 ȝyf he..clense hym here of his mysdede.
- 1526 W. BONDE *Pylgrimage of Perfection* I. sig. Biiii As the iewes spoyled Egipt of their richesse.
- 1616 W. HAIG in J. Russell *Haigs of Bemersyde* (1881) vii. 163 I humbly beseech your sacred Majesty..to free me of this close prison.
- 1632 J. HAYWARD tr. G. F. Biondi *Eromena* 22 Without stripping himselfe of his cloathes.
- 1670 R. MONTAGU in *Buccleuch MSS* (Hist. MSS Comm.) (1899) I. 473 The King..would release his Christian Majesty of his word.
- 1697 J. DRYDEN tr. Virgil *Georgics* III, in tr. Virgil *Wks.* 110 The Pastor..eases of their Hair, the loaden Herds.
- 1711 J. ADDISON *Spectator* No. 1. ¶2 She dreamt that she was brought to Bed of a Judge.
- 1742 H. FIELDING *Joseph Andrews* 183 Who feeds your Souls with the Milk of brotherly Love,..which at once cleanses them of all impure carnal Affections?
- 1820 J. KEATS *Ode on Grecian Urn* in *Lamia & Other Poems* 115 What little town..Is emptied of this folk, this pious morn?
- 1847 C. G. ADDISON *Treat. Law Contracts* (1883) II. iii. §3 635 A recovery by one party ousts the other of his right to recover.
- 1878 T. HARDY *Return of Native* I. II. ii. 16 He was clothed..in a tight-fitting suit of corduroy, excellent in quality, not much worn..but deprived of its original colour by his trade.
- 1920 R. MACAULAY *Potterism* I. iii. 37 You'll have to marry him, and cure him of biting his nails when he's cross.
- 1968 H. HARRIS *Nucleus & Cytoplasm* iv. 81 Nuclei which were divested of virtually all their cytoplasm by microsurgical procedures none the less retained their ability to produce specific puffing patterns.
- 1995 *Village Voice* (N.Y.) 7 Mar. 24/3 Whatever did happen to those predaceous *maquilladores* hell-bent on robbing honest Americans of jobs?

†b. Following intransitive verbs.

(a) *to cease, fail, lack, stint, etc. Obsolete.*

- c1330 (► ?c1300) *Guy of Warwick* (Auch.) 849 (MED) Of rideing wil þai neuer stint.
- a1375 (► c1350) *William of Palerne* (1867) 55 (MED) Þe cherl..bad him blinne of his berking.
- a1425 (► ?a1400) *Cloud of Unknowing* (Harl. 674) (1944) 27 (MED) Sekirly he schal erre & faile of his purpos.
- ?c1450 *Life St. Cuthbert* (1891) 5130 (MED) Þe se of flowyng in abade.
- a1500 (► ?c1450) *Merlin* 39 Neuer to entermete of that arte.
- a1500 (► a1460) *Towneley Plays* (1897–1973) 309 Centurio, sese of sich saw.
- 1533 J. BELLENDEN tr. Livy *Hist. Rome* (1901) I. 164/19 The faderis..ceissit of thare gude dedis done to the smal pepill.
- 1603 W. SHAKESPEARE *Hamlet* I. iv. 4 I think it lacks of twelue.

(b) *to recover. Obsolete.*

- a1387 J. TREVISA tr. R. Higden *Polychron.* (St. John's Cambr.) (1879) VII. 445 He recoveredde [?a1475 anon. tr. recured] of his siknesse.
- a1450–1509 (▸ ?a1300) *Richard Coer de Lyon* (A-version) (1913) 425 (MED) Tho he recouered of his swowe To his palays he hym drowe.
- c1500 *Blowbols Test.* in W. C. Hazlitt *Remains Early Pop. Poetry Eng.* (1864) I. 93 Whan his angwyssh some what gan apese, He recovered of his dronken dessese.
- 1581 W. AVERELL *Life & Death Charles & Iulia* sig. C.ij Recouering of her former force, with trembling tongue she spake.
- 1611 *Bible* (King James) 2 Kings viii. 8 Goe meete the man of God, and enquire of the Lord by him, saying, Shall I recouer of this disease?
- 1726 J. BARKER *Lining of Patch-work Screen* 58 The Gentleman recovered of his Dangerous Wound.
- 1766 O. GOLDSMITH *Elegy Mad Dog* in *Vicar of Wakefield* I. 176 The man recovered of the bite, The dog it was that dy'd.
- 1844 J. T. J. HEWLETT *Parsons & Widows* I. xiii. 246 He recovered of his wounds.
- a1879 F. F. COOPER *Hard Times* III. vi. 22 If you recover of your wounds, I'll make you some amends.

†6. Following verbal nouns and nouns of action. *Obsolete.*

In modern use usually replaced by *from*.

- OE KING ÆLFRED tr. *Psalms* (Paris) (2001) xliii. Introd. He þancað Gode his alysnesse of his earfoðum.
- a1225 (▸ ?OE) *MS Lamb.* in R. Morris *Old Eng. Homilies* (1868) 1st Ser. 79 (MED) Ierusalem bitacneð griþes sihþe, and ierico truinge of lihte.
- a1350 in R. H. Robbins *Hist. Poems 14th & 15th Cent.* (1959) 29 (MED) For faute of ship, hy drouneþ hem-selue.
- 1426 in J. Raine *Vol. Eng. Misc. N. Counties Eng.* (1890) 8 To pray..for ease of þe said John Lylllyng...He besoght ye Maire and ye gude men of ease of his paymentz.
- a1450 (▸ c1410) H. LOVELICH *Hist. Holy Grail* I. 450 3e han don Me A gret leigaunce Of my peynes.
- c1500 *Melusine* (1895) 151 (MED) The rescue of the daunger..is worth & ynough for a conquete.
- 1534 R. WHITTINGTON tr. Cicero *Thre Bks. Tullyes Offyces* I. sig. K.3 The rest of eares.
- a1647 T. HABINGTON *Surv. Worcs.* (Worcs. Hist. Soc.) (1895) I. I. 121 For hys salvation and redemption of hys synnes.
- 1761 F. SHERIDAN *Mem. Miss Sidney Bidulph* I. 12 He..had been ordered by the physicians to Spa for the recovery of a lingering disorder.
- 1842 R. W. EMERSON *Uncoll. Prose* 1196 The reality of spirit..as the essence of God..is supposed both in the fact of sin, and the possibility of redemption of sin.

7. Following adjectives. (Some of these, e.g. *clean*, *empty*, *free*, *naked*, etc., were in Old English followed by the genitive (cf. branch XI.). In some cases *of* has now been replaced by *from*: see the adjectives.)

a. *whole of* (a wound), *better of* (an illness); *clean*, *free*, *pure*, *rid*, etc.

- OE *West Saxon Gospels: Mark* (Corpus Cambr.) v. 34 Beo of ðisum [wite] [L. *a plaga tua*] hal.
- a1225 *MS Lamb.* in R. Morris *Old Eng. Homilies* (1868) 1st Ser. 63 (MED) God..of ure sunne make us clene.
- a1250 in C. Brown *Eng. Lyrics 13th Cent.* (1932) 5 (MED) Moder þu ert & meiden cleane of alle laste.
- a1375 (▸ c1350) *William of Palerne* (1867) 868 (MED) He was al sauf & sound of alle his sor greues.

- a1400 (▶ a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Fairf. 14) 24647 Lauedi of sorou þou mai be liȝt.
 ▶ a1470 T. MALORY *Morte Darthur* (Winch. Coll.) 393 Sir Trystrames was..hole of his woundis.
 a1500 (▶ a1450) *Generides* (Trin. Cambr.) 3575 (MED) Good surgeons..hym vndertoke to make hym hoole
 and sounde Of euery hurt.
 1697 J. DRYDEN tr. Virgil *Georgics* I, in tr. Virgil *Wks.* 62 The Farmer, now secure of Fear.
 1819 W. SCOTT *Ivanhoe* III. viii. 199 If Rebecca live, or if Rebecca die, she liveth or dieth wholly free of the
 guilt she is charged withal.
 1876 M. POTTER in P. Dougherty *Mother Mary Potter* (1961) vii. 83 Then, seemingly, followed an attack of
 fever, but I am better of that.
 1885 R. L. STEVENSON & F. STEVENSON *Dynamiter* Pref. Whatever elements of greed..dishonour both parties
 in this inhuman contest;—your side..is at least pure of doubt.
 1939 *Amer. Midland Naturalist* 22 741 A necropsy of the squirrels failed to indicate any major ailment and
 the viscera were free of inflammations.
 2001 J. MURPHY *Kings of Kilburn High Road* 1, in *Two Plays* 14 Isn't he well rid of this poxy town once an'
 for all?

b. bare, barren, destitute, devoid, empty, naked, void, etc.

- 1574 A. GOLDING tr. A. Marlorat *Catholike Expos. Reuelation* 6 Their disputing of vertue, is voyde of the
 holye Ghost.
 a1616 W. SHAKESPEARE *Cymbeline* (1623) II. iii. 87 I am poore of thankes.
 1678 J. BUNYAN *Pilgrim's Progress* 106 His house is as empty of Religion, as the white of an Egg is of
 savour.
 1749 H. FIELDING *Tom Jones* I. i. x. 57 He was not ungentle, nor entirely devoid of Wit.
 1786 R. BURNS *Poems* 32 Picking her pouch as bare as Winter, Of a' kind coin.
 1853 C. BRONTË *Villette* III. xxxvii. 165 You see me void of affection and religion,..unpiloted by principle or
 faith.
 1915 V. WOOLF *Voy. Out* ix. 122 When naked of all but his shirt..Mr. Hirst no longer impressed one with the
 majesty of his intellect.
 1960 D. C. BRAUNGART & R. BUDDEKE *Introd. Animal Biol.* (ed. 5) xii. 192 The larva..is a wormlike grub
 destitute of eyes, antennae, wings, and legs.
 1990 *Christianity Today* 5 Feb. 68/2 All is presented with professional objectivity, void of scorn or ridicule.

III. Of origin or source. Indicating the thing, place, or person from which or whom something originates, comes, or is acquired or sought.

8.

a. Expressing ancestral or local origin, descent, etc.: following *arise, be, come, descend, spring*, etc.; *be born, be bred, be derived, be propagated*, etc.

- eOE KING ÆLFRED tr. Gregory *Pastoral Care* (Tiber.) (Junius transcript) (1871) xxxv. 240 Of hwæm hit ærest
 com.
 eOE tr. Bede *Eccl. Hist.* (Tanner) iv. xxvi. 350 Sum wer of Scotta þeode.
 OE *West Saxon Gospels: John* (Corpus Cambr.) iii. 6 Þæt þe of gaste is acenned, þæt is gast.
 IOE *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Laud) (Peterborough contin.) anno 1129 He wæs..boren of þa ricceste men of
 Rome.

- c1175 *Ormulum* (Burchfield transcript) l. 490 Talde laʒhess preste flocc Comm all off þa twa prestess.
- c1175 *Ormulum* (Burchfield transcript) l. 4097 Amang þatt iudewisshe folc þatt crist wass borenn offe.
- c1275 (▶ ?a1200) LAʒAMON *Brut* (Calig.) (1963) 227 Þat Dardanisc kun, þe we beoð of [c1300 *Otho* oue] icomene.
- a1300 (▶ c1250) *Floris & Blauncheflur* (Vitell.) (1966) 73 (MED) Þou were ibore of gode cunne.
- a1375 (▶ c1350) *William of Palerne* (1867) 504 (MED) Eche creature may know he was kome of gode.
- a1400 (▶ a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Vesp.) 10670 (MED) To godd þan was i giuen ar Mi moder me of bodi bare.
- c1425 (▶ c1400) *Prymer* (Cambr.) (1895) 6 (MED) Of þee is risun þe sunne of riȝtwisnesse, oure lord ihesu crist.
- a1500 (▶ a1460) *Towneley Plays* (1897–1973) 109 Ihesus onazorus.
- a1500 (▶ ?a1400) *Sir Torrent of Portyngale* (1887) 1068 ‘Sir’, quod the kyng, ‘of whens are ye?’ ‘Of Portyngale, sir,’ said he.
- 1548 *Hall's Vnion: Edward V* f. j Ye muste first considere of whom he and his brother dessended.
- 1590 E. SPENSER *Faerie Queene* II. VII. sig. S3 Infinite mischiefes of them do arize.
- a1616 W. SHAKESPEARE *Tempest* (1623) II. i. 87 She was of Carthage, not of Tunis.
- c1620 A. HUME *Of Orthogr. Britan Tongue* (1870) I. ii. §15 Af this voual ryseth tuæ diphthonges.
- 1626 F. BACON *Sylua Syluarum* §696 Fleas breed principally Of Straw or Mats.
- 1660 F. BROOKE tr. V. Le Blanc *World Surveyed* 5 The houses are built of the Moresco modell, with galleries.
- 1669 J. WORLIDGE *Systema Agriculturæ* vi. 80 The Maple..is propagated of the Keys, as the Ash.
- 1742 H. FIELDING *Joseph Andrews* II. IV. vi. 208 He's born of a Family as old as the Flood.
- 1751 J. WESLEY *Wks.* (1872) XIV. 48 A Participle is an Adjective derived of a Verb.
- 1827 B. DISRAELI *Vivian Grey* III. v. vi. 116 Are you of Dorsetshire?
- 1853 W. M. THACKERAY *Eng. Humourists* i. 2 Of English parents, and of a good English family of clergymen, Swift was born in Dublin.
- 1888 *Athenæum* 3 Nov. 588/3 The force born of strong womanly instinct.
- 1969 *Nature* 27 Dec. 1250/1 The technology bred of science has catalysed stupendous economic growth.
- 1991 R. BROOKHISER *Way of WASP* (1992) v. 64 Nothing much came of Agrarianism, but the manifest exemplified a new mood for self-made others.

†b. Expressing the origin or derivation of a name. *Obsolete.*

Now replaced by *from* or *after*.

- OE ÆLFRIC *Gram.* (Cambr. Univ. Libr.) 93 Ða oðre seofon syndon DIRIVATIVA, þæt is, þæt hi cumað of þam oðrum.
- a1225 (▶ OE) *Ælfric's Homily De Duodecim Abusivis* (Lamb. 487) in R. Morris *Old Eng. Homilies* (1868) 1st Ser. 113 Of cristes noman is cristianus icweðen.
- a1325 (▶ c1250) *Gen. & Exod.* (1968) l. 1838 Ðat newe burg, was..cald of is owen name.
- ▶ a1387 J. TREVISA tr. R. Higden *Polychron.* (St. John's Cambr.) (1865) I. 93 Assyria hap þe name of Asur Sem his sone.
- ?c1450 *Life St. Cuthbert* (1891) 6675 (MED) It takes name of a watir strynde.
- c1480 (▶ a1400) *St. Margaret* 21 in W. M. Metcalfe *Legends Saints Sc. Dial.* (1896) II. 47 Of þis margarit þe name of margaret ma wele be tane.
- 1559 W. CUNNINGHAM *Cosmogr. Glasse* 18 Horizont..is said of ὀριζῶ, whiche signifieth to decerne, or ende.
- 1569 R. GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 83 Named Portgreues..the which is deriued of two Saxon wordes.

- 1596 W. LAMBARDE *Perambulation of Kent* (rev. ed.) 171 Hee called it (of the sandie place where it is pitched) Sandgate castle.
- 1605 W. CAMDEN *Remaines* I. 109 Names also have beene taken of honours, dignities, or estate, as King, Duke, Prince, Lord, Baron, Knight,..Squire, Castellan.
- 1615 W. BEDWELL *Arabian Trudgman* in tr. *Mohammedis Imposturæ* sig. N3 *Sarraceni*..are those people which otherwise..were called..Arabians. Neither were they so named of Sara, Abrahams wife.
- 1736 R. AINSWORTH *Thes. Linguae Latinæ* (new ed.) v. at *Denominativus* *Denominative*, that is, derived of a noun, as from *dens* comes *dentatus*.

9. Following certain verbs and verbal derivatives.

a. With *borrow*, *buy*, *gain*, *get*, *have*, *receive*, *steal*, *take*, *win*, etc. Now replaced by *from*, or *archaic* and *regional*, except in *take advantage* (see *ADVANTAGE n.* Phrases 2a), *take leave* (see *LEAVE n.*¹ Phrases 2a(a)), etc. See also *OFF adv.* 3.

- OE ÆLFRIC *Catholic Homilies: 2nd Ser.* (Cambr. Gg.3.28) xxx. 264 Gif we god underfengon of godes handa.
- IOE *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Laud) anno 1105 He gewann of his broðer Capum & Barus.
- IOE *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Laud) (Peterborough contin.) anno 1127 For to hauene sibbe of se eorl of Angeow.
- ?a1160 *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Laud) (Peterborough contin.) anno 1140 Hi nan helpe ne hæfden of þe kinge.
- c1275 (► ?a1200) LA3AMON *Brut* (Calig.) (1963) 1048 Of [c1300 *Otho* bi] Ignogen his quene he hefde þreo sunen scene.
- c1300 *St. Michael* (Laud) 450 in C. Horstmann *Early S.-Eng. Legendary* (1887) 312 (*MED*) Alle habbez lijȝt of hire.
- a1375 (► c1350) *William of Palerne* (1867) 1260 (*MED*) William..receyued of þat riche duk realy his swerde.
- a1400 (► a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Gött.) 460 Seruise of me sal he non gette.
- c1400 (► c1378) W. LANGLAND *Piers Plowman* (Laud 581) (1869) B. vi. 151 (*MED*) Ne posteles, but þey preche conne and haue powere of þe bisschop.
- c1450 *Jacob's Well* (1900) 208 (*MED*) Takyth exaample of hym!
- a1500 (► a1460) *Towneley Plays* (1897–1973) 12 (*MED*) Yit boroed I neuer a farthyng of hym.
- a1578 R. LINDSAY *Hist. & Cron. Scotl.* (1899) I. 27/10 He punischit..bot for ane licht suspitioun that he tuik of thame.
- 1640 J. YORKE *Union of Honour* 154 Joan, wife to Gilbert..of whom hee begot one daughter.
- 1642 tr. J. Perkins *Profitable Bk.* viii. § 533. 233 He shall hold off him of whom his feoffor held.
- 1697–8 J. EVELYN *Mem.* 8 Feb. The use which may be derived of such a collection.
- 1720 D. DEFOE *Mem. Cavalier* 198 The King's Enemies made all the Advantages of it that was possible.
- 1740 S. RICHARDSON *Pamela* I. 92 I would not take them of her.
- 1755 T. AMORY *Mem. Ladies* 212 I hope you will not take it ill of me, that I offer my advice.
- 1833 H. MARTINEAU *Loom & Luggen* II. iii. 45 She would have had much more comfort of her son if he had lived.
- 1852 H. B. STOWE *Uncle Tom's Cabin* II. xxi. 54 It's like jumping from one bog to another.; borrow of one to pay another, and then borrow of another to pay one.
- 1885 *Law Rep.: Queen's Bench Div.* 14 735 They agreed to hire another room of the defendants.
- 1953 M. TRAYNOR *Eng. Dial. Donegal* 200/2 *Of*, from. He took it of me.

b. With *ask, beg, demand, desire, expect, inquire, request, require, want*, etc.; also *hear, learn, understand*.

Some of these, as *ask, inquire*, were formerly constructed with *at*. In some cases *of* is now used interchangeably with *from*.

- eOE tr. Orosius *Hist.* (BL Add.) (1980) II. v. 46 He hæfde of oþerum þeodum abeden IIII c m.
 c1325 (▶ c1300) *Chron. Robert of Gloucester* (Calig.) 2477 (MED) Bid of me wat þou wilt.
 ▶ c1384 *Bible* (Wycliffite, E.V.) (Douce 369(2)) (1850) Matt. ii. 4 He..enquiride of hem wher Crist shulde be borun.
 c1390 G. CHAUCER *Physician's Tale* 197 This cursed iuge wolde no thyng tarie Ne here a word moore of Virginius.
 a1400 (▶ a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Trin. Cambr.) 6819 (MED) Lerne not of him þat is lyere.
 ▶ a1470 T. MALORY *Morte Darthur* (Winch. Coll.) 48 They asked of Arthure trwage for hys realme.
 1587 J. WHITE *Jrnl.* 16 Oct. in R. Hakluyt *Princ. Navigations* (1589) 770 We knew not what land it was..vntill the pinnesse sent off their boate to vs with 6. or 8. men, of whom we vnderstood we were in Smewicke.
 1598 W. SHAKESPEARE *Henry IV, Pt. 1* v. iv. 22 Lustier maintenance then I did looke for Of such an vngrowne warrior.
 1610 J. HEALEY tr. J. L. Vives in tr. St. Augustine *Citie of God* II. xxii. 93 Sylla..demanded helpe of his armie.
 1683 J. RAY *Corr.* (1848) 132 Visit him, and inquire of him whether he designs to engrave and publish any of those icons.
 1769 W. BLACKSTONE *Comm. Laws Eng.* IV. 339 Corsned:..being a piece of cheese or bread..which was consecrated with a form of exorcism; desiring of the Almighty that it might cause convulsions and paleness..if the man was really guilty.
 1791 W. COWPER *Retirem.* 10 I know not where she caught the trick..Or else she learned it of her master.
 1821 J. F. COOPER *Spy* I. viii. 129 It is all that is required of me.
 1854 C. DICKENS *Hard Times* II. vii. 208 You expect too much of your sister.
 1859 G. MEREDITH *Ordeal Richard Feverel* III. ii. 39 I do not beg of you to forgive him now.
 1929 E. BOWEN *Last September* x. 118 Marda wanted nothing of Mr. Montmorency but entertainment.
 1976 *Times Lit. Suppl.* 19 Mar. 326/4 It is..petty carping..to demand of the author of a scholarly work information that does not fall within the limits he has meticulously drawn up for his work.
 1991 *Economist* 2 Nov. 16/1 Whatever foreigners requested of him, he was usually able to get the party to deliver.

10. After a noun, with the participle of a verb (such as one of those referred to at senses 8 and 9) implied or understood.

Also used *spee.* with reference to local origin (where the notion of *from* passes into that of *belonging to*): see sense 33.

- eOE tr. Bede *Eccl. Hist.* (Tanner) III. xx. 246 Twegen biscopas of Bretta ðeode.
 OE ÆLFRIC *Old Eng. Hexateuch: Gen.* (Claud.) vii. 8 Ða nytenu of eallum cynne & of eallum fugolecynne.
 IOE KING ÆLFRED tr. Boethius *De Consol. Philos.* (Bodl.) i. 7 On ðære tide ðe Gotan of Sciððiu mægðe wið Romana rice gewin up ahofon.
 c1175 *Ormulum* (Burchfield transcript) l. 17505 He wass godd himm selff off godd.
 a1400 *Ancrene Riwe* (Pepys) (1976) 42 Many men & wymmen hane gret gladnesse of her faire honden.
 a1500 (▶ c1400) *St. Erkenwald* (1977) 127 (MED) He graunte hade, An ansuare of þe Holy Goste.

- 1520 in *Vicary's Anat. Bodie of Man* (1888) App. viii. 213 Camme Pereson & Bankes..& Showed forthe their Graunte of Kyng Edward iiiijth.
- 1793 R. BURNS *Poems* (ed. 2) II. 85 Three noble chieftains, and all of his blood.
- 1818 W. CRUISE *Digest Laws Eng. Real Prop.* (ed. 2) IV. 380 Such person as should be heir male of the body of the wife at her death.
- 1885 *Law Rep.: Probate Div.* 10 192 There was one child of the marriage.
- 1929 E. BOWEN *Last September* ii. 12 The Naylor and the Montmorencys had always known each other; it was an affair of generations.
- 1989 P. VAN DER MERWE *Origins Pop. Style* xiv. 115 The old bluesmen, their black faces engraved with the sorrows of ages.

IV. Of the source or starting point of action, emotion, etc., in respect of motive, cause, reason, or ground.

11.

a. Indicating the mental or non-material source or spring of action, emotion, etc.: out of, from, as an outcome, expression, or consequence of.

Esp. in phrases, as *of one's own accord*, *of choice*, *of course*, *of necessity*, *of one's own free will*, *of right*, etc.: see also the nouns.

This connects the notions of origin and cause.

- eOE KING ÆLFRED tr. Gregory *Pastoral Care* (Hatton) (1871) xxi. 157 Donne he of yfelum willan ne gesyngað, ac of unwisdome.
- eOE tr. Bede *Eccl. Hist.* (Tanner) I. xvi. 68 Þonne is hit of lufan to donne.
- eOE KING ÆLFRED tr. Boethius *De Consol. Philos.* (Otho) xiii. 27 Hit is of his [agenre gecynde], næs of þinre.
- c1225 (▶ ?c1200) *St. Katherine* (1973) 1352 (MED) Þe keiser kaste his heaued, as wod mon, of wreððe.
- c1300 (▶ ?c1225) *King Horn* (Cambr.) (1901) 385 (MED) Of his feire siȝte Al þe bur gan liȝte.
- c1380 G. CHAUCER *Second Nun's Tale* 54 Ofte tyme of thy benygnytee..Thow goost biforn and art hir lyues leche.
- ▶ a1382 *Bible* (Wycliffite, E.V.) (Bodl. 959) Ruth ii. 16 Of ȝoure, forsoþe, handfulls þroweþ o purpose [a1425 L.V. of purpos; L. *de industria*], & suffre ȝee to abidyn stille, þat with oute schame sche gadere.
- a1425 (▶ a1400) *Prick of Conscience* (Galba & Harl.) (1863) 5773 Other werkes noght done of mercy.
- c1500 (▶ ?a1475) *Assembly of Gods* (1896) 81 Desyryng of fauour to haue audyence.
- 1530 *St. German's Secunde Dyaloge Doctour & Student* i. f. iii^v It semeth of reason.
- 1574 *St. Austens Manuell* in *Certaine Prayers S. Augustines Medit.* sig. Nv^v It is of thy goodnesse that we be made, of thy iustice that we be punished, and of thy mercy that we be deliuered.
- 1581 R. MULCASTER *Positions* xxxix. 220 If some of choice became both diuines, and physicians.
- 1624 J. SMITH *Gen. Hist. Virginia* (Arb.) II. 370 They..serue him more of feare then loue.
- 1651 T. HOBBS *Leviathan* I. v. 19 The parties must by their own accord, set up for right Reason, the Reason of some Arbitrator, or Judge, to whose sentence they will both stand.
- 1729–30 *N.Y. Gaz.* 30 Dec.–6 Jan. (*advt.*) Who say I help to steal Man's Land, And blame me very sore Which Blame of right belongs to them That stole it long before.
- 1776 *Trial Maha Rajah Nundocomar for Forgery* 32/1 Did you know of any bond..of your own knowledge?
- 1849 T. B. MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* II. ix. 433 Lewis..laboured, as if of set purpose, to estrange his Dutch friends.
- 1894 S. R. CROCKETT *Raiders* 15 I seized my oars of instinct and rowed shorewards.
- 1939 H. MILLER *Tropic of Capricorn* 13 It seems to me that I never did anything of my own volition but always through the pressure of others.

- 1965 N. J. HICKS *Notes Differential Geom.* ix. 136 Principal coordinates exist of necessity about any non-umbilical point on a surface.
- 1994 B. A. STAPLES *Parallel Time* viii. 124 You can lie here and be treated of your own free will. Or he can hold you down.

b. of oneself: by one's own impetus or motion; without the instigation or aid of another; essentially. Compare IN *prep.* 10.

Now usually only in *of itself*, *of themselves*.

- OE *West Saxon Gospels: John* (Corpus Cambr.) viii. 28 Ic ne do nan þing of me sylfum.
- OE *West Saxon Gospels: John* (Corpus Cambr.) xviii. 34 Cwyst þu þis of ðe sylfum?
- c1175 *Ormulum* (Burchfield transcript) l. 74 Te33 ne gilltenn nohht. Þurh flæshess untrumnesse. Acc þurh þatt lape modigle33e. Þatt comm all off hemm sellfenn.
- a1325 (▶ ?c1300) *Northern Passion* (Cambr. Gg.1.1) 35 (MED) Of him silf ne had he it noth; þe holi gost pult hit in his þoth.
- c1384 *Bible* (Wycliffite, E.V.) (Douce 369(2)) John v. 19 The sone may not of him silf do any thing, no but that thing that he schal se the fadir doynge.
- ?a1425 *Mandeville's Trav.* (Egerton) (1889) 24 Þe cuntree es strang ynogh of þe self [?a1425 *Titus* of himself].
- c1475 (▶ c1445) R. PECOCK *Donet* (1921) 166 (MED) No þing hangib of him silf neiþir comeþ oute fro him silf.
- 1542 N. UDALL tr. Erasmus *Apophthegmes* f. 152 Whatsoever thyng wer not of it self eivill.
- 1598 G. CHAPMAN *Blinde Begger of Alexandria* sig. Bv A man that of him selfe, Sits downe and bids you welcome to your feast.
- 1607 E. TOPSELL *Hist. Foure-footed Beastes* 86 When an Oxe or a Cow in auntient time did die of themselues.
- 1621 R. MONTAGU *Diatribæ Hist. Tithes* 503 I speake not of my selfe or without booke.
- 1707 W. FUNNELL *Voy. round World* ii. 20 The Goats..would many of them come of themselves to be milked.
- a1774 O. GOLDSMITH *Surv. Exper. Philos.* (1776) I. 106 Matter is of itself entirely passive, incapable of moving itself.
- 1836 T. CARLYLE *Let.* 16 May I judged that Robert and you were happy enough of yourselves for the present.
- 1886 *Athenæum* 30 Oct. 561/1 [They] therefore can do nothing good of themselves.
- 1919 *Outing* Mar. 317/3 It is doubtful if the aeroplane will ever dislodge the suburban trolley. It will be a sport in itself, sufficient of itself to thrill and allure.
- 1984 A. CARTER *Nights at Circus* II. iv. 122 Sometimes it seems..that the faces exist of themselves, in a disembodied somewhere, waiting for the clown who will wear them.
- 2000 T. ROBBINS *Fierce Invalids* 309 Being a thing in and of itself, her kiss..was not necessarily a mere prelude to other activity.

12. Indicating the cause, reason, or ground of an action, occurrence, feeling, etc.

a. Following an intransitive verb.

In some cases *of* is now replaced by *with*, *from*, or *at*, or may be used interchangeably with these.

The sense of cause is sometimes weakened into that of the subject matter of the action: cf. branch VIII.

- OE tr. Orosius *Hist.* (Tiber.) (1980) I. v. 23 Þæt he of ðæm cræfte Pharaone þæm cyninge swa leof wurde.
- IOE *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Laud) anno 1119 Forðferde se eorl Baldewine of Flandran of þam wundan þe he innan Normandige gefeng.

- c1275 (▶ ?a1200) LAȜAMON *Brut* (Calig.) (1978) l. 15715 Heo..menden heom to Pandan of Oswy þan kinge.
- c1300 *St. Edmund Rich* (Harl.) 397 in C. D'Evelyn & A. J. Mill *S. Eng. Legendary* (1956) 505 (MED) Of him wondrede euerich man.
- c1350 (▶ a1333) WILLIAM OF SHOREHAM *Poems* (1902) 47 Word þat of god smakeþ.
- a1400 *Prose Life Christ* (Pepys) (1922) 4/9 (MED) Whan þe tyme com þat Elizabeth trauailed of childe, sche hadd a son.
- ▶ a1470 T. MALORY *Morte Darthur* (Winch. Coll.) 588 All the foreyste range of the noyse.
- 1544 *Letanie* in *Exhort. unto Prayer* sig. Bviii All women labouryng of chylde.
- 1674 T. BLOUNT *Glossographia* (ed. 4) at *Marinated* Pertaining to the Sea, that tastes of salt water.
- 1697 J. DRYDEN tr. Virgil *Georgics* IV, in tr. Virgil *Wks.* 140 He breath'd of Heav'n, and look'd above a Man.
- 1710 N. BLUNDELL *Diary* 17 Oct. (1952) v. 84 My Wife went to see Coz. Scarisbrick who was lying in of her son Henry.
- 1748 J. THOMSON *Castle of Indolence* I. vi. 53 Whate'er smacked of 'noyance, or unrest, Was far far off expelled.
- 1817 S. T. COLERIDGE *Fire, Famine, & Slaughter* Apol. Pref. Afterward this philistine-combatant went to London, and there perished of the plague.
- 1843 *Fraser's Mag.* 28 277 I am dying of fatigue.
- 1886 *Manch. Examiner* 18 Jan. 5/5 It savours more of statecraft than of statesmanship.
- 1939 W. S. MAUGHAM *Christmas Holiday* ii. 24 His father died of cirrhosis of the liver.
- 1962 I. MURDOCH *Unofficial Rose* I. iii. 34 The room smelt of alcohol and roses.
- 1992 *N.Y. Times Mag.* 12 Apr. 53/2 Tuff shuns the weight room, or anything that smacks of exercise.

†b. Following a transitive verb: for, on account of. *Obsolete.*

- c1175 *Ormulum* (Burchfield transcript) l. 17041 Godess sune nass. Nohht hiderr sennd..To demenn her. adameß stren. Off hæþenndom.
- a1375 (▶ c1350) *William of Palerne* (1867) 500 Þat perles..is preised ouer alle, of fairnesse of facioun and frely þeuwes.
- c1400 (▶ c1378) W. LANGLAND *Piers Plowman* (Laud 581) (1869) B. vi. 129 (MED) We preye..þat god..3elde 3ow of 3owre almesse þat 3e 3ue vs here.
- ▶ c1426 J. AUDELAY *Poems* (1931) 123 (MED) I þonke my God..Of his gracious vesityng.
- c1450 (▶ c1400) *Bk. Vices & Virtues* (Huntington) (1942) 211 (MED) Oure lord preised þe Magdaleyne of þe precious oynement.
- 1484 W. CAXTON tr. G. de la Tour-Landry *Bk. Knight of Tower* (1971) lxxiii. 104 Behynd her bak he mocked her of it.
- c1515 LD. BERNERS tr. *Bk. Duke Huon of Burdeux* (1882–7) lxi. 212 I thanke you of your courtesye.
- 1611 M. SMITH in *Bible* (King James) Transl. Pref. 3 How can wee excuse ourselues of negligence?
- 1623 W. SHAKESPEARE & J. FLETCHER *Henry VIII* I. i. 201 I Arrest thee of High Treason.
- 1641 J. MILTON *Animadversions* 52 Hee could have well beteen'd to have thank't him of the ease hee profer'd.
- 1657 J. TRAPP *Comm. Psalms* lxxviii. 17 Angels, who are here called, Shinan, of their changeableness.

13. Following an adjective or noun, indicating the thing that causes or gives rise to a feeling, condition, or action.

a. Following adjectives: because of, on account of.

In some of these now *Obsolete*: see the words themselves.

In Old English expressed by the genitive: cf. 38. In French with *de*.

- c1175 *Ormulum* (Burchfield transcript) l. 794 Opre menn..glade. & bliþe sholldenn ben Ec. off þatt childess come.
- c1225 (▶ ?c1200) *St. Katherine* (1973) 1727 (*MED*) Porphire & Auguste wurden of þeos wordes..swiðe wilcweme.
- a1300 (▶ c1275) *Physiologus* (1991) 454 He is of walke weri.
- c1325 (▶ c1300) *Chron. Robert of Gloucester* (Calig.) 11178 (*MED*) Þo were þe porters agrise sore of þulke siȝte.
- c1330 *Horn Child* 754 in J. Hall *King Horn* (1901) 188 (*MED*) Þan was Horn as fain o fiȝt, As is þe foule of þe liȝt, When it ginneþ dawe.
- ?c1450 tr. *Bk. Knight of La Tour Landry* (1906) 99 She held her..ashamed of that she had be warned of her demaunde and requeste.
- a1475 (▶ ?a1430) J. LYDGATE tr. G. Deguileville *Pilgrimage Life Man* (Vitell.) 3645 As thog ye were In party dronken of your wynes.
- 1526 *Bible* (Tyndale) Matt. viii. f. x Lyinge sicke of a fevre.
- 1535 *Bible* (Coverdale) Jonah iv. 6 And Ionas was exceedinge glad of the wylde vyne.
- 1568 E. TILNEY *Brief Disc. Mariage* (new ed.) sig. Bijv They had nothing to be prowde off.
- a1616 W. SHAKESPEARE *Tempest* (1623) v. i. 233 We were dead of sleepe.
- a1653 H. BINNING *Serm.* (1743) 607 Would not dyvours and prisoners be content of a deliverance?
- 1716 A. POPE tr. Homer *Iliad* II. vi. 105 Press'd as we are, and sore of former Fight.
- 1733 P. G. ELCHIES *Lett.* (MacWilliam) 84 I went to Mr. Colquhoun, who has been very bad of the cold, and spoke to him.
- 1813 J. AUSTEN *Pride & Prejudice* III. xvi. 270 Kitty was too much afraid of him to talk.
- 1842 T. B. MACAULAY *Ess.* (1848) I. 321 Sick of inaction.
- 1892 R. L. STEVENSON & L. OSBOURNE *Wrecker* v. 73 I made my plea in English; for I knew, if he were vain of anything, it was of his achievement of the island tongue.
- 1925 W. CATHER *Professor's House* I. ii. 37 Nearly everyone considered Rosamond brilliantly beautiful. Her father, although he was very proud of her, demurred.
- 1941 P. HAMILTON *Hangover Square* III. vii. 104 He was glad of the fresh air for the moment, so that he could collect himself.
- 1976 *Sci. Amer.* Nov. 138/2 More than 12,000 were dead of the flu and its concomitant pneumonia by the middle of November.
- 2001 *Independent* 28 Feb. (Review section) 7/5 No man need be ashamed of his working clothes.

b. Following nouns: on account of, for, at. Now rare.

Now usually only in *joy of*: see *JOY* n. 9.

- a1225 (▶ ?OE) *MS Lamb.* in R. Morris *Old Eng. Homilies* (1868) 1st Ser. 23 Þah we numen scrift of ane sunne.
- a1300 (▶ c1250) *Floris & Blauncheflur* (Vitell.) (1966) 59 (*MED*) Þider heo hine broute wel suþe, Vor care a[n]d sorwe of hire deþe.
- c1330 (▶ ?c1300) *Guy of Warwick* (Auch.) 275 (*MED*) Sorwe he makeþ wiþ þe mest Of Felice þat feir may.

- a1438 *Bk. Margery Kempe* (1940) I. 105 (MED) For þe compassyon þat sche had of owr Lordys Passyon sche cryed..wondyr lowde.
- 1496 J. ALCOCK *Mons Perfeccionis* (de Worde) sig. Biv v Some in pryde of worde, of garment & of blood.
- a1500 (► ?c1450) *Merlin* 227 Feire lady, with goode will, and gramercy of youre seruyse.
- 1598 R. GRENEWAY tr. Tacitus *Annales* XIII. xii. 198 For want of remedie, and anger of such a destruction.
- 1600 W. SHAKESPEARE *Much Ado about Nothing* II. i. 182 I wish him ioy of her.
- a1616 W. SHAKESPEARE *King John* (1623) IV. i. 113 You will but make it blush, And glow with shame of your proceedings.
- 1656 W. MEREDITH Narr. *Passages Irel.* in *8th Rep. Royal Comm. Hist. MSS* (1881) App. 600/1 The enemy..were some distance from vs sounding levitts for joy of there supposed victory.
- 1749 H. FIELDING *Tom Jones* VI. XVIII. x. 262 She..wished him heartily Joy of his new-found Uncle.
- 1768 H. BROOKE *Fool of Quality* III. xv. 99 Pouring forth her tears..for grief of having found him in that condition.
- 1819 W. SCOTT *Ivanhoe* III. ii. 40 Lady Rowena appeared, surrounded by..footmen, who joyfully shook their pikes and clashed their brown-bills for joy of her freedom.
- 1878 H. JAMES *Watch & Ward* viii. 167 She cannot marry Hubert; he's engaged to another person..a young girl in New York..who holds him to his bargain. I wish her joy of it!
- 1913 D. H. LAWRENCE *Sons & Lovers* xii. 339 She stood letting him adore her and tremble with joy of her.
- 1993 S. CRAVEN *Tower of Shadows* (BNC) It was the heiress of La Tour Monehauzet that he wanted, she thought desolately. Well, she wished Antoinette joy of him.

V. Indicating the agent or doer.

14. Introducing the agent after a passive verb.

The usual word for this is now *by* (BY prep. 33), which was prevalent by the 15th cent.; *of* was used alongside *by* until c1600. *Of* is subsequently found as a stylistic archaism in biblical, poetic, and literary use, and in certain constructions, e.g. 'on the part of'. In Old English *of* was less used than *from* (both of which, however, retain connotations of separation or origin): cf. German *von* from, of.

The use of *of* is most frequent after past participles expressing a continued non-physical action (as in *admired, loved, hated, ordained of*), or a condition resulting from a definite action (as in *abandoned, deserted, forgotten, forsaken of*, which approach branch II.). It is also occasional with participial adjectives in *un-*, as *unseen of, unowned of*. *Of* often shows an approach to the subjective genitive: cf. 'he was chosen of God to this work' with 'he was the chosen of the electors'. In other senses the agent has passed into the cause, as in *afraid, frightened, terrified of*; or the source or origin, as in *born of*. English *of* and *by* correspond somewhat to French *de* and *par*.

- eOE tr. Orosius *Hist.* (BL Add.) (1980) 1 (*table of contents*) Hu ii æþelingas wurdon afliesmed of Scipþium.
- OE *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Tiber. B.i) anno 1030 Her wæs Olaf cing ofslagen on Norwegon of his agenum folce.
- ?a1160 *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Laud) (Peterborough contin.) anno 1154 Wæl luued of þe kinge.
- a1225 (► ?OE) *MS Lamb.* in R. Morris *Old Eng. Homilies* (1868) 1st Ser. 5 (MED) Hit [sc. a foal] nes nefere ifuled of nane oðre assa.
- c1300 (► c1250) *Floris & Blancheflur* (Cambr.) (1966) l. 766 Alle þopere bisechep þis, And of þe Admiral igranted is.
- c1400 (► ?a1300) *Kyng Alisaunder* (Laud) (1952) 602 (MED) He shal be poysond..Of his owen traytours.
- ?a1425 (► c1400) *Mandeville's Trav.* (Titus C.xvi) (1919) 145 He was cursed of god.
- c1450 (► a1400) *Libeaus Desconus* (Calig. A.ii) (1969) 8 (MED) Hys name was called Geynleyn, Be-yete he was of Syr Gaweyn.

- 1458 W. BARKER in *Paston Lett. & Papers* (2004) II. 179 Ser Thomas shuld a ben there, but he is hurte of an hors.
- a1500 (▶ ?c1378) J. WYCLIF *Eng. Wks.* (1880) 427 Þe puple trowiþ betere þerto whanne it is seyð of a maistir.
- 1549 *Bk. Common Prayer* (STC 16267) Svpper of the Lorde f. cxxiii I am commaunded of God, especially to moue and exhorte you.
- 1558 C. GOODMAN (*title*) How superior powers oght to be obeyd of their subiects.
- 1577 B. GOOGE tr. C. Heresbach *Foure Bks. Husbandry* i. f. 13 That the iuyce that the ground requires, be not sucked out of the sunne.
- 1611 *Bible* (King James) Matt. ii. 12 Being warned of God in a dreame.
- 1611 *Bible* (King James) Acts xii. 23 Herod..was eaten of wormes.
- a1616 W. SHAKESPEARE *As you like It* (1623) III. ii. 333 I haue bin told so of many.
- 1711 R. STEELE *Spectator* No. 152. ¶3 He is beloved of all that behold him.
- 1725 A. POPE tr. Homer *Odyssey* II. vii. 34 A wretched stranger, and of all unknown!
- 1785 W. COWPER *Task* I. 392 The languid eye, the cheek Deserted of its bloom.
- 1847 D. G. MITCHELL *Fresh Gleanings* (1851) 232 Otho was not loved of his kinsfolk in his home.
- 1869 E. A. FREEMAN *Hist. Norman Conquest* III. xii. 222 A wretch forsaken of God and man.
- 1898 *Daily News* 10 Oct. 6/3 Everything..seems to be done of those who govern Spain to keep travellers out of that country.
- 1904 *Eng. Dial. Dict.* V. 462/2 The Petteril skellies were hated of the single-hair trout-fisher.
- 1983 J. MATTHEWS *Park* (1989) 164 He and his uncle patiently trapped [birds]..on Sunday afternoons in the square deserted of cars.
- 2001 *GQ* Nov. 127/2 An Uzi, the compact submachine gun beloved of the Israeli military.

15. Following a noun, as the head of a postmodifying noun phrase.

Sometimes called the subjective genitive. This can often also be expressed by the possessive case, e.g. 'the approbation of his prince' or 'his prince's approbation', 'the sonatas of Beethoven' or 'Beethoven's sonatas'. With sense 15b a combination of the possessive with the partitive of (sense 32) is also possible, e.g. 'a sonata of Beethoven's'.

a. Expressing the relation of agent (doer or maker).

- a1225 (▶ OE) *Ælfrie's Homily De Initio Creaturae* (Vesp. A.xxii) in R. Morris *Old Eng. Homilies* (1868) 1st Ser. 217 Þenche ȝie ælc word of him swete.
- c1225 (▶ ?OE) *Soul's Addr. to Body* (Worcester) (Fragm. E) l. 31 Ne ihereþ heo [nefr]e more none herunge of þe.
- a1250 *Wohunge ure Lauerd* in R. Morris *Old Eng. Homilies* (1868) 1st Ser. 269 Þe wohunge of ure lauerd.
- c1300 *St. Brendan* (Laud) 472 in C. Horstmann *Early S.-Eng. Legendary* (1887) 232 (*MED*) Þo i-heorden heo gret blowynge of manie beolies þere.
- a1375 (▶ c1350) *William of Palerne* (1867) 1141 God..graunt ȝou wel to spede to a-bate þe bost of þat breme duke.
- a1400 (▶ a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Fairf. 14) 24985 I traw in..vprising of flesshe & life wiðouten end.
- a1425 J. WYCLIF *Sel. Eng. Wks.* (1871) II. 197 In þe aȝenrysing of just men.
- a1500 tr. Lanfranc *Sci. Chirurgie* (Wellcome) f. 16^v (*MED*) Flux or rynnyng of blod out of veyne.
- 1548 *Hall's Vnion: Henry VIII* f. ccliii As trew as the allegation of him that is burnt in the hande, to saye he was cut with a sikle.
- 1609 BP. W. BARLOW *Eagle & Body* sig. C1 By the traditions of antiquitie and the definitions of Councils.

- 1659 B. HARRIS tr. J. N. de Parival *Hist. Iron Age* I. i. vii. 13 The conquest of the Romans over them was more sure.
- 1754 BP. T. SHERLOCK *Disc.* (1755) I. viii. 247 The Evidence of the Spirit is not any secret Inspiration.
- 1818 M. W. SHELLEY *Frankenstein* I. vi. 138 Thank God she did not live to witness the cruel, miserable death of her youngest darling!
- 1856 J. A. FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* (1858) I. iii. 269 He had the secret approbation of his prince.
- 1872 T. H. HUXLEY *Lessons Elem. Physiol.* (ed. 6) ii. 42 Beating of the heart..is the result of the striking of the apex of the heart against the pericardium.
- 1905 BARONESS ORCZY *Scarlet Pimpernel* xvii. 164 Her very limbs seemed to ache with longing for the love of a man who had spurned her.
- 1991 J. SAYERS *Mothering Psychoanal.* II. viii. 77 Losing all sense of inner worth, he now depended instead on the admiration of others outside himself.

b. spec. Indicating the creator of a work: made, written, painted, etc., by.

- ▶ a1382 *Prefatory Epist. St. Jerome in Bible* (Wycliffite, E.V.) (Bodl. 959) (1959) i. 1 Heer begynnep þe epistil of seynt Ierom.
 - ▶ a1382 *Bible* (Wycliffite, E.V.) (Douce 369(1)) (1850) Prov. i. 1 The parablis of Salamon.
- 1453 in F. B. BICKLEY *Little Red Bk. Bristol* (1900) II. 206 (*MED*) We..at the special praier of me..the seal..haue sette.
- 1576 A. FLEMING tr. J. L. Vives in *Panoplie Epist.* 398 The Epistles of Seneca are full of Philosophie.
- 1631 in S. A. GILLON *Sel. Justiciary Cases* (1953) I. 187 The 83 act of the saxt parliament.
- 1766 O. GOLDSMITH *Vicar of Wakefield* 136 Dryden's and Rowe's manner, sir, are quite out of fashion:...Fletcher, Ben Jonson, and all the plays of Shakespeare are the only things that go down.
- 1787 T. JEFFERSON *Let.* 1 July in *Papers* (1955) XI. 516 The new regulations for our commerce with this country, announced in the letter of M. de Calonnes which I sent you last fall.
- 1822 J. FLINT *Lett. from Amer.* 20 The Kaleidoscope of Dr. Brewster is here fabricated in a rude style, and in quantities so great, that it is given as a plaything to children.
- 1830 I. D'ISRAELI *Comm. Life Charles I* III. vi. 92 There exist no autographs of Charles, except some letters.
- 1885 *Sat. Rev.* 29 Aug. 300 The Cornish Ballads of the Rev. R. S. Hawker.
- 1917 J. B. CABELL *Cream of Jest* II. v. 65 The latest masterpiece of a pornographically gifted genius.
- 1968 J. D. CARR *Papa Là-bas* III. xix. 239 He spent a whole evening arguing that the novels of Sir Walter Scott have been the curse of the South.
- 2000 *Renaissance* No. 17. 28/1 A round-the-clock reading of the complete works of William Shakespeare.

16. Indicating the doer of something characterized by an adjective:

following an adjective alone, as *foolish, good, rude, stupid, unkind, wise, wrong* (or any other adjective with which conduct can be described);

†following an adjective qualifying a noun, as *a cruel act, a cunning trick, a kind deed, an odd thing*; †following a past participle qualified by an adverb, as *cleverly managed, ill conceived, well done*.

Usually followed by *to do* (something), as in *it was kind of you* (i.e. a kind act or thing done by you) *to help him* etc., and less frequently by †*that*, both constructions introducing the logical subject or object of the statement, e.g. It was kind of him to tell me = His telling me was a thing kindly done by him.

- 1532 W. TYNDALE *Expos. & Notes* 73 Is it not a blind thing of the world that either they will do no good works,..or will..have the glory themselves?
- a1593 C. MARLOWE *Jew of Malta* (1633) IV. v 'Tis a strange thing of that Iew, he lives upon pickled grasshoppers.
- 1603 W. SHAKESPEARE *Hamlet* III. ii. 101 It was a brute parte of him, To kill so capitall a calfe.
- 1668 H. MORE *Divine Dialogues* II. 383 That's a very odd thing of the men of Arcladam.
- 1733 J. TULL *Horse-hoing Husbandry* 266 Is it not very unfair of Equivocus to represent [etc.]?
- 1766 H. BROOKE *Fool of Quality* I. iv. 145 Indeed, it was very naughty of him.
- 1816 W. SCOTT *Antiquary* II. xviii. 239 Juno's master is in such fear of your joking him about the seal..—it's very silly of him, to be sure.
- 1849 F. W. NEWMAN *Soul* 104 It was not a proud thing of Paul to say, but a simple truth.
- 1887 'L. CARROLL' *Game of Logic* iv. 92 It was most absurd of you to offer it!
- 1915 W. S. MAUGHAM *Of Human Bondage* lxxxvii. 456 She won't think it rude of you to sit still while she waits upon you.
- 1946 P. LARKIN *Let.* 6 Dec. in *Sel. Lett.* (1992) 131 It was good of you to write so quickly in answer to my mingy letter.
- 1966 *Listener* 9 June 840/2 It seems to me niggling of Graham Hough to complain about the neglect of politics.
- 2000 T. ROBBINS *Fierce Invalids* 227 Kind of you to say that, Mr. Switters.

VI. Indicating means or instrument.

†17.

a. Indicating the thing by means of or with which something is done: with. *Obsolete*.

In Old English with residual connotations of origin or source.

- eOE KING ÆLFRED tr. Gregory *Pastoral Care* (Hatton) (1871) xxxvi. 249 Ðylæs fremde menn weorðen gefylled of ðinum gesuince.
- OE tr. *Vindicta Salvatoris* (Cambr. Univ. Libr.) in J. E. Cross *Two Old Eng. Apocrypha* (1996) 255 He of v hlafor and of twam fixum fif þusend manna gefylde.
- a1225 (▶ ?OE) *MS Lamb.* in R. Morris *Old Eng. Homilies* (1868) 1st Ser. 139 (*MED*) Sunnendei weren engles makede of godes muðe.
- c1300 *St. Mark* (Laud) 28 in C. Horstmann *Early S.-Eng. Legendary* (1887) 363 (*MED*) Al blodie weren of is blod þe stones in þe strete.
- ▶ c1385 G. CHAUCER *Knight's Tale* 1888 The circuit a myle was aboute Walled of stoon.
- c1400 (▶ ?c1380) *Cleanness* (1920) 1277 Þe gredirne and þe gobloten garnyst of sylver.
- ?a1425 (▶ c1400) *Mandeville's Trav.* (Titus C.xvi) (1919) 84 Men shall fynde..ryueres rennyng of mylk & hony.
- 1490 W. CAXTON tr. *Foure Sonnes of Aymon* (1885) xvi. 374 So I defended me of all my power.
- 1551 R. ROBINSON tr. T. More *Vtopia* sig. Kii They begin euerye dynner and supper of reading sumthing y^t perteineth to good maners and vertue.
- c1626 H. BISSET *Rolment Courtis* (1922) II. 109 Many chaipellis builded of the liberalitie of the kingis.
- 1652 J. EVELYN *Mem.* 6 Mar. A chariot canopied of black velvet.

b. Indicating that on or by means of which a person or animal lives, feeds, is fed on, etc.: on, off. *Obsolete.*

- c1390 in C. Brown *Relig. Lyrics 14th Cent.* (1924) 176 (MED) A wommon was þi dame, I-Boren and fed of hire Brest.
- a1400 (▶ a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Vesp.) 6383 (MED) Þis mete þat þai war fed of þaa þai cald it..manna.
- a1450 (▶ c1412) T. HOCCLEVE *De Regimine Principum* (Harl. 4866) (1897) 1193 (MED) I lyue of almesse.
- 1533 J. GAU tr. C. Pedersen *Richt Vay* 93 Lat wsz noth liff of okir or be ony falsait.
- 1588 J. UDALL *State Church of Eng.* sig. B2^v Euerie man must liue of his trade.
- 1591 H. SAVILE tr. Tacitus *Ende of Nero: Fower Bks. Hist.* iv. 214 Feeding of branches and sprigges.
- 1613 S. PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* 540 They live of bread made of pith of trees.
- 1631 S. JEROME *Arraignem. Whole Creature* x. §1. 76 Many Countries lived of Pulse. and Gland, and Dates.
- a1718 W. PENN *Maxims in Wks.* (1726) I. 825 [The covetous man] lives of the Offal.
- 1896 'IOTA' *Quaker Grandmother* 43 He hobnobbed with soldiers, and was nourished of carnage.

18. With adjectives.

a. After full.

Doubtfully placed here. In Old English also accompanied by a noun in the genitive case.

- OE (Northumbrian) *Lindisf. Gospels: Luke* Pref. *Obiit in bithiniam plenus spiritu sancto* : geliorade in bithiniam in ðær byrig full of halig gast.
- OE (Northumbrian) *Lindisf. Gospels: John* xix. 29 *Uas ergo positum erat aceto plenum* : þæt fætt uel forðon gesettet uæs of æcced full.
- ?a1160 *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Laud) (Peterborough contin.) anno 1137 Hi..fylden þe land ful of castles.
- a1250 in C. Brown *Eng. Lyrics 13th Cent.* (1932) 5 (MED) Al is þe heouene ful of pine blisse.
- ▶ a1382 *Bible* (Wycliffite, E.V.) (Douce 369(1)) (1850) Song of Sol. v. 14 The hondis of hym able to turnen aboute, goldene and ful of iacynctis.
- 1655 I. WALTON *Compl. Angler* (ed. 2) iii. 80 [The chub] is objected against, not only for being full of small forked bones,..but that he eats watrish.
- 1749 H. FIELDING *Tom Jones* III. vii. viii. 61 She then departed..with a Countenance so full of Rage, that she resembled one of the Furies rather than a human Creature.
- 1860 R. W. EMERSON *Considerations in Conduct of Life* (London ed.) 220 Nature..shakes down a tree full of gnarled, wormy, unripe crabs, before you can find a dozen dessert apples.
- 1990 *N.Y. Times Bk. Rev.* 12 Aug. 5/3 Her arms were full of flowers and her feet caught the rhythms of salsa and rock.

b. Following an adjective, indicating that which imparts a quality to a thing: with. Now *regional.*

- ?c1400 (▶ c1380) G. CHAUCER tr. Boethius *De Consol. Philos.* (BL Add. 10340) (1868) iv. met. vi. 4142 Autumpne comeþ aʒeyne heuy of apples.
- a1450 *Generides* (Pierpont Morgan) (1865) 4098 The ground of bloode was al wete.
- a1500 (▶ ?a1390) J. MIRK *Festial* (Gough) (1905) 191 Al þe pament ʒet ys wete of þe holy watyr.
- a1500 (▶ ?c1450) *Merlin* 155 The water was all reade of blode.
- 1530 *Myroure Oure Ladye* (Fawkes) (1873) II. 248 Hys face made redde of the blode.

- 1660 F. BROOKE tr. V. Le Blanc *World Surveyed* 22 The Red Seas coast towards Aden is thick of good towns.
- 1760 S. FIELDING *Ophelia* II. xxxix. 109 A Soil..not..fertile of any Thing but Weeds.
- 1802 J. FLEMING in *Hist. Rec. Port Phillip* (1879) 22 The land is..thin of timber, consisting of gum, oak, Banksia, and thorn.
- 1937 in H. Wentworth *Amer. Dial. Dict.* (1944) 421/1 Hit was thick of houses, thick of people up thar then.

VII. Indicating the material or substance of which something is made or consists.

19.

a. Following the verbs *be*, *consist*, *make*, *be made*, etc.: out of, from.

Also in *figurative* phrases, as to *make a fool of*, to *make much of*, to *make the best of*, etc. See *MAKE* v.¹ 12.

- eOE tr. Orosius *Hist.* (BL Add.) (1980) iv. xiii. 112 Hie worhton sume of seolfre, sume of treowum.
- OE *Genesis B* 365 Adam..þe wæs of eorðan geworht.
- c1175 (► OE) ÆLFRIC *Homily* (Bodl. 343) in S. Irvine *Old Eng. Homilies* (1993) 61 Ða spætte he on þa eorðan, & made of ðam spattle & of ðare eorðe lam.
- c1175 *Ormulum* (Burchfield transcript) l. 14300 Ðær wass god win off waterr wroht.
- c1275 (► ?a1200) LA3AMON *Brut* (Calig.) (1978) 8575 Ðat weorc is of stane.
- c1385 G. CHAUCER *Knight's Tale* 3042 To maken vertu of necessitee.
- a1400 tr. Lanfranc *Sci. Chirurgie* (Ashm.) (1894) 113 (MED) Ymagynacioun..resceyueþ þingis þat comprehendip of fantasie.
- c1450 (► c1400) *Sowdon of Babylon* (1881) 129 The sailes were of rede Sendelle.
- a1500 (► ?c1440) J. LYDGATE *Horse, Goose & Sheep* (Lansd.) 338 in *Minor Poems* (1934) II. 553 (MED) Ley doun thi trapurs forgid of plate & maile!
- 1590 E. SPENSER *Faerie Queene* II. VII. sig. S3^v Of which the matter of his huge desire..He did compownd.
- 1611 *Bible* (King James) Job vi. 12 Is my flesh of brasse?
- a1616 W. SHAKESPEARE *Twelfth Night* (1623) III. ii. 12 Will you make an Asse o'me?
- 1667 J. MILTON *Paradise Lost* II. 258 When great things of small..We can create.
- 1712 E. COOKE *Voy. S. Sea* 336 The Women have short Petticoats made of Silk Grass.
- 1748 *Defoe's Tour Great Brit.* (ed. 4) II. 400 The Pulpit is very old, and of Stone.
- 1837 J. R. MCCULLOCH *Statist. Acct. Brit. Empire* II. III. ii. 21 The..houses..are built of brick.
- 1859 G. A. SALA *Gaslight & Daylight* xxviii. 325 They..make much of one another.
- 1891 G. B. SHAW *Quintessence of Ibsenism* App. 144 The highest type of play is completely homogeneous, often consisting of a single very complex incident.
- 1937 *Evening News* 11 Feb. 8/4 All the Office of Works stands are being constructed of Douglas Fir and Western hemlock from British Columbia.
- 1962 I. MURDOCH *Unofficial Rose* I. iii. 36 Hugh could hear Jimmie's voice exclaiming that he was not going to have his son made a..snob of.
- 1989 *Mod. Painters* Autumn 97/3 Off he went, for six weeks to the Artic,..to sculpt towers and arches..of ice.
- 2000 *Architect's Jrnal*. 18 May 63/3 The dwellings were single-storey sprawls of wood, glass, and canvas.

†b. Indicating the former condition from which a transformation to a different condition has occurred: from. *Obsolete* (archaic in later use).

This has affinities with sense 3.

- OE tr. Bede *Ecccl. Hist.* (Cambr. Univ. Libr.) i. vii. 38 Ða wæs þes man ðurh Godes gyfe of ehtere geworden soðfæstnesse freond.
- 1526 *Bible* (Tyndale) Heb. xi. 34 Off [Gk. ἄπο, L. de] weake were made stronge, wexed valiant in fyght.
- 1548 E. COURTENAY tr. A. Paleario *Benefit Christ's Death* (1855) iv. 121 God..hath made us of enemies most dear children.
- 1590 E. SPENSER *Faerie Queene* II. XII. sig. Bb2v Streight of beastes they comely men became.
- 1679 R. SOUTH *Serm. Several Occasions* 27 When Sampsons eyes were out, of a publick Magistrate, he was made a publick Sport.
- a1680 S. CHARNOCK *Several Disc. Existence of God* (1682) 227 Of angry he becomes appeased.
- 1814 H. F. CARY tr. Dante *Vision* III. XXXI. 75 Of slave Thou hast to freedom brought me.
- 1846 H. E. MANNING *Serm.* (ed. 2) II. i. 8 Our humanity needed to be strengthened and hallowed: of fleshly, to be again made spiritual.

20. Following a noun, connecting the material immediately with the thing.

This can usually also be expressed by a preceding adjective, or a noun used *attributively*, e.g. 'a floor of wood or tiles' or 'a wooden or tile floor'.

- OE *Daniel* 175 Pære burge weard anne manlican ofer metodes est, gyld of golde, gumum arærde.
- OE *West Saxon Gospels: Matt.* (Corpus Cambr.) iii. 4 Se iohannes witodlice hæfde reaf of oluenda hærum.
- IOE *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Laud) (Peterborough interpolation) anno 1070 Hi..namen þa þe kynehelm of ure Drihtnes heafod eall of smeate golde.
- c1275 (► ?a1200) LA3AMON *Brut* (Calig.) (1978) 12885 He hafde..enne brond al of stele.
- c1300 *St. Mary of Egypt* (Laud) 157 in C. Horstmann *Early S.-Eng. Legendary* (1887) 265 Spek sum-3wat with me of godes lore 3if þou art..womman of flesch and felle.
- a1350 (► a1325) *St. Cecilia* (Ashm.) 71 in *Yale Stud. in Eng.* (1898) 3 76 (MED) To gerlans he huld an honde, Of rosen & of lylion suote.
- c1400 (► c1378) W. LANGLAND *Piers Plowman* (Laud 581) (1869) B. Prol. 168 To bugge a belle of brasse, or of briȝte syluer.
- a1450 in T. Austin *Two 15th-cent. Cookery-bks.* (1888) 7 (MED) Fride Creme of Almaundys.
- a1500 (► ?c1440) J. LYDGATE *Horse, Goose & Sheep* (Lansd.) 113 in *Minor Poems* (1934) II. 544 (MED) The ship bi liknesse is clepid an hors of tree.
- 1555 in J. W. Burgon *Life & Times Sir T. Gresham* (1839) I. 189 A case of black leather.
- 1634 T. HERBERT *Relation Some Yeares Trauaille* 92 A Carrauans-raw of white free stone, and the first building of that materiall, I saw in those parts.
- 1645 J. MILTON *L'Allegro* in *Poems* 31 There on Beds of Violets blew.
- 1721 R. WODROW *Hist. Sufferings Church of Scotl.* I. App. 102 They threatned..that whosoever gave me a Drink of Water should get the Goadloup.
- 1787 T. JEFFERSON *Notes Virginia* xv. 279 If cold water be poured into a vessel of stone, or glass, a dew forms instantly on the outside.
- 1839 W. CHAMBERS *Tour Holland* 69/1 To afford space for promenading, there is a bridge of boats across the Lahn, leading to some beautiful woody banks opposite.
- 1895 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 10 Oct. 2/1 A kind of whip of three flaps of leather.
- 1927 A. C. PARKER *Indian How Bk.* III. xxxviii. 169 Some hats were made by coiling ropes of fur like an old-fashioned beehive.

1992 *From Land* Summer 2/1 Nature is like a house of cards; sometimes removing a single piece can be devastating.

21.

a. Connecting two nouns, of which the former is a collective term, a quantitative or numeral word, or the name of something having component parts, and the latter is the substance or elements of which this consists.

In Old English usually expressed by the genitive.

IOE *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Laud) (Peterborough interpolation) anno 963 He macode þær twa abbotrice, an of muneca oðer of nunna.

c1175 *Ormulum* (Burchfield transcript) l. 170 He shall turrenn mikell flocc Off þiss iudisskenn þeode.

c1275 (▶ ?a1200) LA3AMON *Brut* (Calig.) (1978) 11694 Ten hundred punde of seoluer and of golde.

a1375 (▶ c1350) *William of Palerne* (1867) 181 (MED) He went hom..wiþ is droue of bestis.

a1450 *Terms Assoc.* in *PMLA* (1936) 51 603 (MED) A clodre of cattes..a pase of asses..a gagalle of wymmene..a nonpaciens of wyues.

1490 *Caxton's Blanchardyn & Eglantine* (1962) xl. 151 Sadoyne..lefte wythin his cyte..foure thousand of goode knyghtes.

a1600 (▶ 1535) W. STEWART tr. H. Boece *Bk. Cron. Scotl.* (1858) II. 709 Within les space nor tua or thre of 3eir.

1623 W. GOUGE *Serm. Extent God's Provid.* §15 A masse of ancient heresies.

1657 R. LIGON *True Hist. Barbados* 54 A family of a dozen persons.

1762 O. GOLDSMITH *Citizen of World* I. 168 He sent me a very fine present of duck eggs.

1783 W. THOMSON in R. Watson & W. Thomson *Hist. Reign Philip III* vi. 455 With a Spanish army..of thirty thousand men.

1816 W. SCOTT *Antiquary* I. vi. 142 A cup of tea in the one hand, and a volume of the Rambler in the other.

1849 T. B. MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* I. v. 533 A reward of five hundred pistoles.

1889 A. GISSING *Both of this Parish* I. 115 You've a power o' gumption.

1896 *Law Times Rep.* 73 615/1 A distance of over 700 yards.

1929 E. BOWEN *Last September* v. 52 Light tufts of hair came out in fluttering commas against her cheek-bones.

1977 W. S. MERWIN *Compass Flower* II. 35 Men in gloves taking out the garbage at all hours piling up mountains of plastic bags.

2000 *Independent* 4 Mar. 1/1 An upfront payment of £2.2m for sending four helicopters to rescue the stranded.

b. Following a classificatory word, as *class*, *kind*, *manner*, *sort*, *species*, *type*, etc.

a1225 (▶ ?OE) *MS Lamb.* in R. Morris *Old Eng. Homilies* (1868) 1st Ser. 51 (MED) Crabbe is an manere of fissce in þere sea.

▶ c1384 *Bible* (Wycliffite, E.V.) (Douce 369(2)) (1850) Matt. xiii. 47 A nette sent in to the see, and of alle kynd of fishis gedrynge.

▶ a1438 *Bk. Margery Kempe* (1940) I. 4 (MED) Sche xuld don wryten hyr felyngys & reuelacyons & þe forme of her leuyng.

- a1475 *Sidrak & Bokkus* (Lansd.) (Ph.D. diss., Univ. of Washington) (1965) 1310 (MED) Þis oone þing telle þou me, Hou many maners of water þer be?
- 1579 E. SPENSER *Shepherd's Cal.* Dec. (Glosse) f. 51^v It is sayde that Circe a famous sorceresee turned men into sondry kinds of beastes & Monsters.
- 1602 R. CAREW *Surv. Cornwall* i. f. 20 Of Wheate there are two sorts.
- 1698 J. FRYER *New Acct. E.-India & Persia* 344 All manner of Hairs.
- 1719 D. DEFOE *Life Robinson Crusoe* 15 Upon that I told him some of my Story; at the End of which he burst out with a strange kind of Passion.
- 1774 O. GOLDSMITH *Hist. Earth* V. 312 Of the..eagle, there are but few species.
- 1823 C. LAMB *My Relations in Elia* 169 A constitutional acuteness to this class of sufferings.
- 1864 LD. TENNYSON *Northern Farmer: Old Style* ii, in *Enoch Arden, etc.* 129 Naw soort o' koind o' use to saäy the things that a do.
- 1870 R. ANDERSON *Hist. Missions Amer. Board* II. xi. 80 It was a sort of travelling school.
- 1938 F. C. HITCHCOCK *To Horse!* ix. 295 Another good type of leather girth is the Balding pattern, which..can be used in cases where there have been girth galls.
- 2001 *N.Y. Times Mag.* 1 July 36/1 Fanconi anemia causes bone marrow failure, eventually resulting in leukemia and other forms of cancer.

22. Connecting two nouns, of which the former denotes the class of which the latter is a particular example, or of which the former is a connotative and the latter a denotative term (i.e. genitive of definition or specializing genitive).

Often passing into grammatical apposition, e.g. 'the River Thames', formerly 'the River of Thames'; the city of Rome, Old English *Rōmeburg*: cf. Latin *urbs Roma*, *urbs Buthroti*.

The pattern of distribution of usage between *of*, apposition, and other constructions is very complex: see e.g. H. Poutsma, *Grammar of Late Modern English* (ed. 2, 1928) i. iv. §13–§39.

- IOE *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Laud) (Peterborough contin.) anno 1123 Forbearn eall meast se burh of Lincolne.
- a1225 (► OE) *Ælfric's Homily In Die Sancto Pentecosten* (Lamb. 487) in R. Morris *Old Eng. Homilies* (1868) 1st Ser. 87 Þe mont of synai.
- c1300 *St. Edmund Rich* (Laud) 387 in C. Horstmann *Early S.-Eng. Legendary* (1887) 442 (MED) In þe toun of wyricestre bi-tidde þat selue cas.
- 1340 *Ayenbite* (1866) 45 Þe gemenes of des and of tables.
- a1400 (► c1250) *Floris & Blauncheflur* (Egerton) (1966) 66 (MED) We shul oure soon Florys Sende into þe londe of Mountargis.
- ?a1475 (► ?a1425) tr. R. Higden *Polychron.* (Harl. 2261) (1865) I. 93 The floode of Tigris.
- 1530 J. PALSgrave *Lesclarcissement* 319/2 Of the colowre of scarlet.
- 1548 *Hall's Vnion: Henry VII* f. iii^v Within the cytie of London.
- 1556 R. ROBINSON tr. T. More *Utopia* (ed. 2) sig. Hii^v In the riuer of Thamys.
- 1597 W. SHAKESPEARE *Richard II* I. iii. 189 This fraile sepulchre of our flesh.
- a1661 T. FULLER *Worthies* (1662) Northampt. 292 He was brought into the Barn of the grave.
- 1691 *Humble Addr. Publicans in Andros Tracts* (1869) II. 241 Where the vice of Covetousness has..got the prevalency over the rest.
- 1749 H. FIELDING *Tom Jones* I. i. viii. 44 The pleasant Month of November.
- 1749 J. CLELAND *Mem. Woman of Pleasure* II. 110 Every thing then being dispos'd and fix'd for Mr. Norbert's reception, he was at the hour of eleven at night,..let in.

- 1854 T. DE QUINCEY *Autobiogr. Sketches* in *Select. Grave & Gay* II. 176 In the novel of 'Edmund Oliver', written by Charles Lloyd.
- 1861 M. PARTISON in *Westm. Rev.* Apr. 413 The free towns of Lübeck, Bremen, and Hamburg.
- 1901 *Wide World Mag.* 8 194/1 A huge, tuskless elephant, in a state of must or periodical madness.
- 1995 *Independent* 12 Oct. II. 30/2 Lift-surfing was first suspected in the London borough of Greenwich eight years ago.

23. Between two nouns which are in virtual apposition.

†a. In the person of; in respect of being; to be; for. *Obsolete.*

The leading noun is the former, of the qualification of which the phrase introduced by *of* constitutes a limitation; thus 'he was the greatest traveller of a prince', i.e. the greatest traveller in the person of a prince, or so far as princes are concerned. The sense often merges with that of the partitive genitive. See sense 30.

- c1275 (▶ ?a1200) LA3AMON *Brut* (Calig.) (1963) 3434 Þe hæhste eorles..curen heom enne king of ane cnihte þe wes kene.
- c1300 (▶ ?a1200) LA3AMON *Brut* (Otho) 4980 Hadden hii anne heuedling of on heze ibore man.
- ▶ a1470 T. MALORY *Morte Darthur* (Winch. Coll.) 119 He was a ryght good knyght of a yonge man.
- 1697 K. CHETWOOD *Life Virgil* in J. Dryden tr. Virgil *Wks.* sig. *4^v Cæsar..the greatest Traveller, of a Prince, that had ever been.
- 1748 LD. CHESTERFIELD *Let.* 20 Dec. (1932) (modernized text) IV. 1278 Allowed to be the best scholar of a gentleman in England.

b. In the form of, in the guise of.

The leading noun is the latter, to which the preceding noun with *of* stands as a qualification, equivalent to an adjective; thus 'that fool of a man' = that foolish man, that man who deserves to be called 'fool'; 'that beast of a place' = that beastly place.

Quot. c1175 is placed here by *Middle Eng. Dict.*; however the *of*-phrase seems to complement the verb and its object (as in sense 19) rather than the preceding noun only as in later examples.

- [c1175 *Ormulum* (Burchfield transcript) l. 11695 Þe33 hall3henn cristess flæsh off bræd & cristess blod te33 hall3henn. Off win.]
- a1375 (▶ c1350) *William of Palerne* (1867) 226 (MED) So fair a siȝt of seg ne sawe he neuer are.
- ?c1450 tr. *Bk. Knight of La Tour Landry* (1906) 38 (MED) Here is a faire body of a woman.
- 1599 T. NASHE *Lenten Stufte* 57 Some euill spirit of an heretique it is.
- 1663 S. BUTLER *Hudibras: First Pt.* i. iii. 189 'Twas a strange Riddle of a Lady.
- 1683 J. EVELYN *Mem.* 5 Dec. That monster of a man, Lord Howard of Escrick.
- 1769 I. BICKERSTAFF *Dr. Last* III. ix. 64 O! devil of a help-mate, have I found you out?
- 1791 W. COWPER *Let.* 2 Mar. (1982) III. 473 The rogue of a Clerk sent me only half the number.
- 1850 W. M. THACKERAY *Pendennis* II. xxiii. 232 That scamp of a husband of hers.
- 1887 J. FISKE *Let.* 6 July (1940) 547 I have had a lovely drive all the afternoon in an open buggy with a fool of a mare that squinted at everything.
- 1920 *Amer. Woman* Aug. 8/3 Mother has bought me a dream of a breakfast-coat for my trousseau.
- 1956 I. MURDOCH *Flight from Enchanter* xii. 176 'You beastly contemptible shit of a crook,' said Hunter.
- 1992 *Vanity Fair* (N.Y.) Feb. 144/3 The Schramsberg offers a whirlwind of a mousse, tasting of lemon and yeast.

24. Forming a complement to the object of a transitive clause, indicating a person or thing regarded as what is specified by the object of the clause.

†a. With reference to persons: *in, in the person of. Obsolete.*

- ▶ a1438 *Bk. Margery Kempe* (1940) I. 193 (MED) Se thy sone of Seynt Iohn þe Euangelist.
- ▶ a1470 T. MALORY *Morte Darthur* (Winch. Coll.) 934 Thou haste nat thy pere of ony erthly synfull man.
- 1523 LD. BERNERS tr. J. Froissart *Cronycles* I. 631 The towne of Gaunte hath lost of hym a right valyant man.
- c1540 (▶ ?a1400) *Gest Historiale Destr. Troy* 1387 Þai fonde þer a fre faire to be-holde Euyne of his owne doughter.
- c1613 in T. Stapleton *Plumpton Corr.* (1839) 122 Ye have a great treasour of Mr. Gascoyne.
- a1616 W. SHAKESPEARE *All's Well that ends Well* (1623) IV. ii. 66 You haue wonne A wife of me.
- 1651 C. CARTWRIGHT *Certamen Religiosum* I. 2 It may be your Lordship hopes to meet with a weaker Disputant of me.
- 1769 H. BROOKE *Fool of Quality* IV. xvii. 14 We shall have a heavy loss of our friend Ned.
- 1820 LD. BYRON *Wks.* IV. 347 A precious representative I must have had of him.

b. With reference to things. With *it*.

Esp. in such phrases as *to have a bad time of it*. *Of it* appears originally to mean 'consisting of' or 'comprising' the fact or circumstance referred to.

- 1628 *World Encompassed by Sir F. Drake* 60 We were to make a very long and tedious voyage of it.
- 1650 J. TRAPP *Clavis to Bible* (Gen. xxxii. 31) 264 Christ, our Captain, had a bloody victory of it.
- 1740 S. RICHARDSON *Pamela* II. 32 What a fine Time a Person..would have of it.
- 1761 L. STERNE *Life Tristram Shandy* III. ix 'Tis God's mercy..that Mrs. Shandy has had so bad a time of it;—else she might have been brought to bed seven times told.
- 1839 W. HOWITT *Boy's Country-bk.* i. 2 Well, we had a happy time of it.
- 1872 J. RUSKIN *Fors Clavigera* II. xv. 3 Living quite as hard a life of it.
- 1931 E. FERBER *Amer. Beauty* x. 212 First thing you know your wedding will be all over Oakesfield before it's happened, and they'll make a regular raree show of it.
- 1976 L. ST. CLAIR *Fortune in Death* ix. 86 Let's make an evening of it.
- 1997 *Eng. Nature* Jan. 2/2 The rare Cambridge milk parsley is having a grand time of it in its native county.

VIII. Indicating the subject matter of thought, feeling, or action.

25. Concerning, about; with regard to, regarding.

a. Following intransitive verbs, esp. of learning, knowing, thinking, and expressing thought, as *dream, hear, know, read, tell, think, write*, etc.; also *complain, despair, rejoice*, etc. (which are closely akin to branch XI.).

Formerly frequently in subject-headings, titles of chapters, etc., often without a verb, e.g. 'Of Snakes in Europe'; *of* is now often omitted.

Rare in Old English (which commonly uses *be, ymb*, or with some verbs the genitive); but *of* occurs after *secgan* to tell and after *sprecan* to speak.

- OE tr. Bede *Eccl. Hist.* (Cambr. Univ. Libr.) Pref. ii. 2 Swyðost he me sæde of ðeodores gemynde.
- IOE *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Laud) anno 1116 Þis gear wæs swa gæsne on mæstene, swa þæt on eallon þison lande..ne gehyrde me of nanan segcean.

- c1175 *Ormulum* (Burchfield transcript) Ded. l. 162–3 All wrohht. & writenn upp o boc Off cristess fisste come. Off hu soþ godd wass wurrþenn mann.
- c1175 *Ormulum* (Burchfield transcript) l. 462 Þiss gode prest. Þatt we nu mælenn offe.
- a1200 *MS Trin. Cambr.* in R. Morris *Old Eng. Homilies* (1873) 2nd Ser. 93 Þat holie gestninge þe he offe specð.
- a1225 (► OE) *Ælfrie's Homily De Initio Creaturae* (Vesp. A.xxii) in R. Morris *Old Eng. Homilies* (1868) 1st Ser. 217 Þat we hine lufie and of him smaȝe and spece.
- c1300 (► ?c1225) *King Horn* (Cambr.) (1901) 229 Tak nu here Mi fundlyng for to lere of þine mestere.
- 1387–8 *Petition London Mercers* in R. W. Chambers & M. Daunt *Bk. London Eng.* (1931) 34 [T]o the..Lordes..compleynen..the folk of the Mercerye of London..of many wronges.
- a1400 (► c1300) *Northern Homily: Sermon on Gospels* (Coll. Phys.) in *Middle Eng. Dict.* at Douten Of his birth douted thai noht.
- a1400 (► a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Gött.) 5495 (heading) Of moyses nou wil i tell.
- a1450 *Castle Perseverance* (1969) l. 409 If þou thenke of þat aray, Certys þou schalt not synne.
- a1500 (► ?a1400) *Sir Torrent of Portyngale* (1887) 585 (MED) Leve we now of Torrent there, And speke we of thys squyer more.
- ?c1550 tr. P. Vergil *Three Bks. Eng. Hist.* (1844) xxiii. 56 The Burgoignions and Frenchemen begonne to treate of trewece.
- 1590 E. SPENSER *Faerie Queene* I. Proem sig. A2 [To] sing of Knights and Ladies gentle deeds.
- 1605 L. ANDREWES *Serm.* (1841) I. 14 They rejoyce of our good.
- 1667 J. MILTON *Paradise Lost* I. 1 Of Mans First Disobedience..Sing Heav'nly Muse.
- 1697 J. DRYDEN tr. Virgil *Georgics* III, in tr. Virgil *Wks.* 120 The Learned Leaches..shake their Heads, desponding of their Art.
- 1709 J. STRYPE *Ann. Reformation* xlix. 498 All these bills were then referred to committees to consider of them.
- 1774 *Considerations Legislative Authority Brit. Parl.* 2 The cause of liberty ought not to be despaired of.
- 1816 J. WILSON *City of Plague* I. i. 200 Father, judge kindly of us.
- 1855 R. BROWNING *Women & Roses* i I dream of a red-rose tree.
- 1863 S. E. DE MORGAN in *From Matter to Spirit* Pref. 8 Far more useful than he knows of, though not exactly in the way he thinks of.
- 1895 *Bookman* Oct. 12/2 He was disposed to think very well of it.
- 1900 *Harper's Weekly* 24 Mar. 262/1 Whole pages of close-printed reading matter telling of gambling-dens here, of halls of depravity there.
- 1954 D. ABSE *Ash on Young Man's Sleeve* 68 This Dr Aristotle—everybody has heard of him.
- 1992 *Time* 6 Jan. 75/2 (caption) Writing of how he cared for his dying father.

b. Following transitive verbs and their objects, as *hear, read, tell*, etc. (cf. 25a); also *advise, inform, warn*, etc.

These blend with 39a.

- eOE *Acct. Voy. Ohthere & Wulfstan* in tr. Orosius *Hist.* (BL Add.) (1980) I. i. 14 Fela spella him sædon þa Beormas..of þæm landum þe ymb hie utan wæron.
- lOE *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Laud) (Peterborough contin.) anno 1127 Of his utgang ne cunne we iett noht seggon.
- a1250 (► ?a1200) *Ancrene Riwe* (Nero) (1952) 54 Uor to warnie wummen of hore fol eien.

- c1275 (▶ ?c1250) *Owl & Nightingale* (Calig.) (1935) 9 (MED) Eifer seide of oþeres custe þat alre worste þat hi wuste.
- c1390 *Castle of Love* (Vernon) (1967) 373 (MED) Þou ouhtes nouȝt to heere Merci Of no boone þat heo bisecheþ þe.
- c1440 *Privy of Passion* (Thornton) in C. Horstmann *Yorkshire Writers* (1895) I. 209 (MED) He had not herde tell of þeme.
- 1444 *Rolls of Parl.* V. 112/2 Warn the maister..of the saide covenant.
- 1525 LD. BERNERS tr. J. Froissart *Cronycles* II. cxxix. [cxxv.] 366 Men..well enstructed of your busynesse.
- 1526 *Bible* (Tyndale) John xviii. f. cxlvij^v Did other tell ytt the of me?
- 1653 I. WALTON *Compl. Angler* viii. 164 The like I have known of one that has almost watched his Pond.
- 1656 LD. ORRERY *Parthenissa* V. III. ii. 117 I..first acquainted her of the danger.
- 1711 R. STEELE *Spectator* No. 80. ¶3 Before Brunetta could be alarmed of their Arrival.
- 1761 F. SHERIDAN *Mem. Miss Sidney Bidulph* III. 42 I knew not whether he had informed her of this particular; and I find he had not.
- 1813 J. AUSTEN *Pride & Prejudice* III. vi. 120 When Mrs. Bennet was told of this, she did not express so much satisfaction as her children expected.
- 1861 M. PATTISON in *Westm. Rev.* Apr. 407 To observe the young prince, and to inform himself of his character.
- 1891 T. HARDY *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* I. xvii. 213 He had not been aware of Mrs. Durbeyfield's existence till reminded of the fact by her daughter's letter.
- 1959 *Daily Tel.* 10 Mar. 16/3 He also asked the secretary..to advise us of the possibility of any appreciable rise in radioactive content in the river.
- 1988 *Early Music* 16 597 Of the orchestra we are told nothing.
- 2000 T. CLANCY *Bear & Dragon* iii. 54 He'd been notified of the locations and activities of his various submarines.

c. Following other verbs and phrases.

- 10E *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Laud) (Peterborough contin.) anno 1129 Ða weorð hit eall of earcedæcnes wives & of preostes wives.
- a1275 in C. Brown *Eng. Lyrics 13th Cent.* (1932) 49 (MED) Hit bið sone of þe al so þu neauer nere.
- c1300 (▶ ?a1200) LA3AMON *Brut* (Otho) 7521 Þus hit was of Vortimer.
- ?c1430 (▶ c1400) J. WYCLIF *Eng. Wks.* (1880) 75 (MED) Þus it stondiþ of mannus curs.
- a1450 (▶ a1338) R. MANNYNG *Chron.* (Lamb.) (1887) I. 4584 (MED) He dred hym of [?a1450 *Petyt* for] his tresour.
- 1488 (▶ c1478) HARY *Actis & Deidis Schir William Wallace* (Adv.) (1968–9) I. l. 166 King Herodis part thai playit..Off ȝong childyr that thai befor thaim fand.
- a1500 tr. Thomas à Kempis *De Imitatione Christi* (Trin. Dublin) (1893) 45 Yf þou kepe silence of oþir men, & specialy beholde þiself.
- 1579 W. FULKE *Heskins Parl. Repealed* in *D. Heskins Ouerthrowne* 495 Maister Heskins..tryfleth off the nearnesse of the bloud of Christe, which hee layeth wee denye.
- a1593 C. MARLOWE *Tragicall Hist. Faustus* (1604) sig. C4 Examine them of their seuerall names.
- 1655 T. STANLEY *Hist. Philos.* I. I. 2 Of this Colony see Herodotus, Strabo, and Ælian.
- a1699 W. TEMPLE *Ess. Health & Long Life* in *Miscellanea: 3rd Pt.* (1701) 102 Of the first I find no Dispute.
- a1770 J. JORTIN *Serm.* (1771) IV. i. 6 We need not suppose of him that he prayed against riches.

- 1849 J. RUSKIN *Seven Lamps Archit.* i. 9 To enter into dispute of all the various objections.
- 1884 *Law Times Rep.* 50 174/1 The defendants gave notice of their motion to set aside and remit the report.
- 1967 *Punch* 4 Oct. 520/1 Most of us 20th-century electric circuitry villagers by now have got at least the drift of McLuhanism.
- 1991 T. PAKENHAM *Scramble for Afr.* xix. 351 The danger was that Lord Salisbury would get wind of the plan and raise the ante.

†d. Following the verb *do*: see *to do of* — at DO *v.* Phrasal verbs 1.

Now replaced by *with*: cf. branch VI.

e. Following *become*; formerly also following other verbs with non-referential pronoun as subject, as *befall*, *fare*, *fortune*, etc.

- a1387 J. TREVISA tr. R. Higden *Polychron.* (St. John's Cambr.) (1872) IV. 471 (*MED*) So it farþ ofte of ars metrik and of gemetrie.
- c1390 G. CHAUCER *Parson's Tale* 552 Right so fareth it of rancour.
- c1425 (▸ c1400) *Laud Troy-bk.* 3454 (*MED*) What scholde be-tyde Off his Gregeis, if thei ride?
- 1451–1500 (▸ c1400) *Vision of Tundale* 18 I will 3ou telle how hit befell þanne..of a ryche monne.
- 1535 *Bible* (Coverdale) Exod. xxxii. 1 We can not tell what is become of this man Moses.
- 1569 R. GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 213 Thus it befell of this..enterprice.
- 1651 T. HOBBS *Leviathan* IV. xlv. 344 God onely knows..what becomes of a mans spirit, when he expireth.
- 1749 J. CLELAND *Mem. Woman of Pleasure* I. 181 What became of her afterwards I know not.
- a1753 P. DRAKE *Memoirs* (1755) I. vii. 50 Colonel Tatton..kindly asked me..how I fared of my Wound.
- 1860 C. A. COLLINS *Eye-witness* vi. 84 What becomes of icemen and skate-lenders in summer?
- 1970 K. AMIS (*title*) What became of Jane Austen?
- 1995 K. TOOLIS *Rebel Hearts* (1996) vi. 309 His father is a welder, his brothers are at the bricklaying and carpentering, but what will become of Martin?

26. Following nouns.

Now chiefly limited to nouns of knowing, narrating, informing, and the like.

- IOE *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Laud) (Peterborough contin.) anno 1123 Se ærcebiscop swor him underþeodnysse of ealle ða þing þæt se papa him on leide.
- c1175 *Ormulum* (Burchfield transcript) l. 3437 Þe calðeowisshe þeod..cann innsihht o steornness.
- a1325 (▸ c1250) *Gen. & Exod.* (1968) l. 19 Man hem telled soðe tale..Of blisses dune, of sorwes dale.
- a1400 (▸ a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Fairf. 14) 52 (*MED*) How adam brake goddis comandement of the appil.
- a1425 (▸ ?a1400) G. CHAUCER *Romaunt Rose* (Hunterian) 5661 That may these clerkis seyn and see In Boece of Consolacioun.
- a1538 A. ABELL *Roit or Quheill of Tyme* f. 108, in *Dict. Older Sc. Tongue* at O King James..hard mony plantes o Duk Mordaik & Robert his sone.
- 1551 R. ROBINSON tr. T. More *Vtopia* (title page) A fruteful and pleasaunt worke of the beste state of a publyque weale.
- 1611 B. RICH *Honestie of Age* (1844) 77 I remember a pretty iest of Tobacco.
- 1684 W. HACKE *Coll. Orig. Voy.* I. 7 We concluded the discoursing of Women at Sea was very unlucky.
- 1711 J. ADDISON *Spectator* No. 47. ¶1 Mr. Hobbs, in his Discourse of Human Nature.

- 1766 O. GOLDSMITH *Vicar of Wakefield* xvii. 123 My little family..were gathered round a charming fire, telling stories of the past.
- 1859 C. DICKENS (*title*) A tale of two cities.
- 1888 H. JAMES *Aspern Papers* i. 1 Her actual knowledge of the Misses Bordereau was scarcely larger than mine.
- 1938 D. THOMAS *Let.* 28 Mar. (1987) 286 Each person should write a verse-report of his own particular town, village, or district.
- 1976 W. W. WARNER *Beautiful Swimmers* vii. 175 There were tales of little children being drowned by whirlpools made by the mano boats.
- 1993 *Big Issue* 30 Apr. 6 (*caption*) Phillipino migrant workers mail out information of their oppression.

27. Following adjectives.

- 1490 W. CAXTON tr. *Four Sonnes of Aymon* (1885) i. 30 I am moche wrothe and sory of my sone Lohyer.
- 1548 N. UDALL et al. tr. Erasmus *Paraphr. Neue Test.* I. Acts 24 They..were afraied of themselues, lest they..should be stoned.
- 1615 W. BEDWELL tr. *Mohammedis Imposturæ* III. §113 When I do see man..without any crosse at all,..I am afraid of him [= concerning him].
- 1886 *Law Rep.: Chancery Div.* 32 28 The same observations are true of all other contracts similarly circumstanced.
- c1949 W. M. DEAN *Diamond Bess* 111 Ellen was sorry of her bargain.
- 1991 *Dogs Today* Mar. 14/2 While spaying bitches before their first season eliminates the chance of mammary tumours, the same is not true of males.

IX. In partitive expressions, indicating things or a thing of which a part is expressed by the preceding words.

28.

a. Preceded by a word of number or quantity.

[Of may here render Latin *ex* or *de*. Old English more commonly had the genitive case, e.g.

eOE tr. Bede *Eccl. Hist.* (Tanner) III. vi. 174 Monige þara broðra.

OE *Laws of Æðelred II* (Corpus Cambr. 201) VIII. Prol. 263 Þis is an ðara gerædnessa, þe Engla cyningc gedihhte.

See constructions of ONE *adj.*, *n.*, and *pron.*, SOME *pron.*, *adj.*¹, *adv.*, and *n.*¹, etc.]

eOE tr. Bede *Eccl. Hist.* (Tanner) III. xix. 240 Wæron þær in þa tiid monige of Ongelþeode [L. *multi de gente Anglorum*].

OE *Blickling Homilies* 241 Forþon þu eart blind þu ne gesihst ænigne of Godes þam halgum.

OE *West Saxon Gospels: Matt.* (Corpus Cambr.) x. 29 An of ðam [L. *unus ex illis*] ne befylð on eorðan.

OE *West Saxon Gospels: Luke* (Corpus Cambr.) vi. 13 He clypode hys leorningcnihtas & geceas twelf of him [L. *duodecim ex ipsis*].

?a1160 *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Laud) (Peterborough contin.) anno 1137 In mani of þe castles wæron lof & grin.

a1275 *St. Margaret* (Trin. Cambr.) l. 38 in A. S. M. Clark *Seint Maregrete & Body & Soul* (Ph.D. diss., Univ. of Michigan) (1972) 16 Faret summe of myne men ant facchet hire to me.

c1275 (► ?a1200) LA3AMON *Brut* (Calig.) (1978) l. 15375 Heo..droh of hire uingre an of hire ringe.

1340 *Ayenbite* (1866) 219 Yef tuo of ous [*read ou*] oneþ ham to-gidere, me uor to bidde.

- c1384 *Bible* (Wycliffite, E.V.) (Douce 369(2)) (1850) Luke xxii. 24 And stryf was maad among hem, which of hem schulde be seyn to be more.
- a1450 *Pater Noster Richard Ermyte* (Westm. Sch. 3) (1967) 7 (MED) When ȝee maken manyfold of preieres to me, I ne here ȝow not.
- a1500 (▸ ?a1400) *Tale King Edward & Shepherd* (Cambr.) (1930) 160 Ȝet ar þer of þeim nyne moo.
- 1523 LD. BERNERS tr. J. Froissart *Cronycles* I. cccxxii. 501 More than any of his predecessours.
- 1567 J. MAPLET *Greene Forest* f. 78^v In the high grasse, wherin nothing can be espied of him saving onelye his hornes.
- 1596 T. DANETT tr. P. de Commynes *Hist.* VIII. xvi. 368 Whither euery of their confederates should send their ambassadors.
- 1625 R. MONTAGU *Appello Cæsarem* 149 Either of the two States disjoynedly.
- 1660 F. BROOKE tr. V. Le Blanc *World Surveyed* 3 Of sixty five persons that we were in all, but five escaped.
- 1681 J. OLDHAM *Satyrs upon Jesuits* 34 Not Knights o'th Post..Shew more of Impudence.
- 1719 D. DEFOE *Life Robinson Crusoe* 357 They kill'd several of the Wolves at the first Volley.
- 1747 S. RICHARDSON *Clarissa* I. iii. 12 A man of morals, was worth a thousand of such gay flutterers.
- 1778 F. BURNEY *Evelina* II. xvi. 151 What, I suppose you'll tell me next you don't know nothing of the matter?
- 1812 T. JEFFERSON *Writings* (1830) IV. 176 The rest of the world.
- 1865 G. GROTE *Plato* I. Pref. p. viii There..[was] little of negation or refutation in their procedure.
- 1895 *Bookman* Oct. 17/1 For which some of us would gladly give all the novels ever written.
- 1938 M. K. RAWLINGS *Yearling* 23 You and them hounds and all the rest o' the stock.
- 1940 C. H. WARREN *Corn Country* ii. 53 She was still enough of the craftswoman not to measure time by the clock.
- 1968 *Brit. Jرنل. Psychiatry* 114 1302/1 Ten of the non-paranoids and 5 of the paranoids were admitted following offences of extreme assault.
- 1994 *Sci. Amer.* Apr. 72/1 Much of the airborne carbon dioxide was quickly sequestered into solid carbonate.

b. Preceded by a noun.

- eOE tr. Bede *Eccl. Hist.* (Tanner) v. iii. 392 Sumu fæmne of ðara nunnena rime [L. *de numero virginum*].
- OE ÆLFRIC *Old Eng. Hexateuch: Gen.* (Claud.) ii. 11 An ea of þam hatte Fison.
- c1175 *Ormulum* (Burchfield transcript) l. 292 Elysabæth wass an wifmann. Off aaroness dohhtress. Aaron wass þe firrste preost. Off israæle þeode.
- c1384 *Bible* (Wycliffite, E.V.) (Douce 369(2)) John iii. 1 Ther was a man of Pharisees [L. *ex Phariseis*], Nicodeme bi name, a prince of the Jewis.
- a1525 *Bk. Sevyne Sagis* 255, in W. A. Craigie *Asloan MS* (1925) II. 9 Þe worthy of þe cite.
- 1600 R. SURFLET tr. C. Estienne & J. Liébault *Maison Rustique* III. lxxi. 600 A water vsed amongst the Ladies of the Court, to keepe a faire white and fresh in their faces.
- 1697 in A. W. Johnston & A. Johnston *Old-lore Misc.* VIII. II. 73 He hes of my beasts in his custodie two ox steirkes.
- 1722 D. DEFOE *Jرنل. Plague Year* 22 A vast many people fled,..yet they were chiefly from the west end of town, and from that we call the heart of the city.
- 1792 M. RIDDELL *Voy. Madeira* 61 The only birds of this order.
- a1800 W. COWPER *Wks.* IV. 195 The sagacious of mankind.
- 1805 *Oracle* in *Spirit of Public Jرنls.* (1806) IX. 190 The drudger of the party.
- 1888 *Athenæum* 3 Nov. 597/1 Had three sons, of whom Thomas married twice.

- 1954 M. K. WILSON tr. K. Lorenz *Man meets Dog* v. 62 The small daughter of the house received..a charming little dwarf Pinscher.
- 1991 *Daily Tel.* 5 Jan. 28/1 Under the captaincy of Danny Pratt..the nucleus of the pack remains.

c. Expressing the whole of a thing under the partitive form.

This has affinity with sense 21.

- c1390 G. CHAUCER *Pardoner's Tale* 798 Thow woost wel we be tweye, And two of vs shul strengre be than oon.
- ?1479 W. PASTON in *Paston Lett. & Papers* (2004) I. 650 Ther be ij systers of them.
- 1481 W. CAXTON tr. *Hist. Reynard Fox* (1970) 67 Though ther of vs were fyue we coude not defende vs.
- 1548 *Hall's Vnion: Henry VIII* f. cclxj^v You of the Clergie preache one against another.
- 1598 W. SHAKESPEARE *Henry IV, Pt. 1* II. v. 187 If I fought not with fiftie of them I am a bunch of radish.
- 1685 J. CROWNE *Sir Courtly Nice* I. 6 There were Fourteen Sisters of us, and not one of us married.
- 1711 J. ADDISON *Spectator* No. 93. ¶1 We all of us complain of the Shortness of our Time.
- 1860 O. W. HOLMES *Professor at Breakfast-table* ii. 52 Give a fellah a fo'-penny bun in the mornin', an' he downs the whole of it.
- 1954 A. KOESTLER *Invisible Writing* IV. xxxix. 421 The five of us, plus some fifty other escapees.
- 1992 M. LEYNER *Et Tu, Babe* (1993) Pref. 5 Its synesthetic sensory apparatus was distributed evenly across the entirety of its shiny outer sheath.

d. [Perhaps after French *rien de*.] Followed by an adjective standing alone. Cf. NOTHING *pron.* and *n.* 2b, SOMETHING *n.* 2b. Now *rare*.

In later use chiefly *archaic* and *literary*.

- 1641 J. JOHNSON *Acad. Love* 21 The doubtfull is excluded, for that it promiseth nothing of certaine.
- 1651 T. HOBBS *Leviathan* xlii. 312 Nor hath [the power of the Pope] anything of Archicall, nor Craticall, but only of Didacticall.
- 1673 J. RAY *Observ. Journey Low-countries* 67 This Source hath that of peculiar to itself, that [etc.].
- 1788 *London Mag.* 429 If their souls carried nothing with them of terrestrial.
- 1800 C. J. FOX in *Corr. of G. Wakefield with C. J. Fox* (1813) 134 In the last..there is something of comic.
- 1821 LD. BYRON *Wks.* VI. 402 All that it had of holy he has hallowed.
- 1866 J. RUSKIN *Crown Wild Olive* iii. 215 Whatever of best he can conceive.
- 1920 C. C. MARTINDALE in C. Hess *God & Supernatural* X. ii. 318 There was not much of homogeneous in all this.

29.

a. Without preceding partitive word, forming the complement of a verb, or the predicate after *be*: a portion of, one of, some of, some. Now *archaic* and *poetic*.

- eOE tr. Bede *Eccl. Hist.* (Tanner) III. xx. 246 Wæs he of discipulum [L. *erat de discipulis*] Aidanes.
- OE *West Saxon Gospels: Matt.* (Corpus Cambr.) xxv. 8 Syllaþ us of eowrum ele.
- OE ÆLFRIC *Old Eng. Hexateuch: Gen.* (Claud.) iii. 6 Ðæt wif..genam ða of ðæs treowes wæstmæ.

- c1275 (▶ ?a1200) LA3AMON *Brut* (Calig.) (1978) 14473 I þan norð ende 3if heom of þine londe.
- c1275 (▶ ?a1200) LA3AMON *Brut* (Calig.) (1978) 15860 He æt of ane uisce.
- c1300 *St. Thomas Becket* (Laud) 1957 in C. Horstmann *Early S.-Eng. Legendary* (1887) 162 (MED) Seint thomas caste houndes of is bred.
- ▶ c1387–95 G. CHAUCER *Canterbury Tales Prolog*. 146 Of smale houndes hadde she.
- a1400 (▶ a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Vesp.) 7116 (MED) His wijf, fader, and moder he gaue O þis hony at ete þe laue.
- c1450 (▶ c1350) *Alexander & Dindimus* (Bodl.) (1929) 126 Þanne comaundede þe king cofli to feche Of þat freliche frut.
- a1500 (▶ ?c1450) *Merlin* 23 Like as thei hadden ben of the slayn.
- 1600 W. SHAKESPEARE *Henry IV, Pt. 2* II. iv. 331 Is she of the wicked.
- 1655 LD. ORRERY *Parthenissa* IV. II. vi. 594 To lose of his own Men, or to kill of the Kings, were equall advantages.
- 1710 R. STEELE *Tatler* No. 166. ¶2 You see of them in every Way of Life, and in every Profession.
- 1820 J. KEATS *Ode to Nightingale* in *Lamia & Other Poems* 107 As though of hemlock I had drunk.
- 1890 J. HEALY *Insula Sanctorum* 92 When the horses tasted of the grass, they both fell dead.
- 1915 W. S. MAUGHAM *Of Human Bondage* lv. 281 He was not of those who can talk of what moves them without caring whether it bores or not the people they talk to.
- a1918 W. OWEN *Coll. Poems* (1963) 112 Has your soul sipped of the sweetness of all sweets?
- 1983 A. MASON *Illusionist* vii. 245 There was no meanness in Saul, no holding back or calculation: he gave of himself completely.
- 1991 G. SLOVO *Betrayal* xi. 82 Albert Kana was of the old school, a practical man who had served his time.

b. Following the verb *partake*; formerly also *part*, *participate*.

- c1475 *Antichrist & Disciples* in J. H. Todd *Three Treat. J. Wycklyffe* (1851) p. cxxxviii Crist parted wiþ folke of goodis þat he had.
- 1611 *Bible (King James)* Rom. xi. 17 And thou..with them partakest of the roote and fatnesse of the Oliue tree.
- 1656 LD. ORRERY *Parthenissa* V. III. iv. 234 My looks so participated of my hopes.
- 1731 P. MILLER *Gardeners Dict.* I. at *Earth* Some by Loam mean that Sort of Earth that equally partakes of Sand and Clay.
- 1752 *Bible (Challoner)* 1 Pet. iv. 13 If you partake of the sufferings of Christ, rejoyce, that when his glory shall be revealed you may also be glad with exceeding joy.
- 1848 E. FITZGERALD *Lett.* (1889) I. 191 Whose turkey I accordingly partook of.
- 1918 D. H. LAWRENCE in *Eng. Rev.* Nov. 319 All art partakes of the Spirit of Place in which it is produced.
- 1991 A. CARTER *Wise Children* (1992) ii. 79 Grandma was partaking of the bottled stout she never knew would later prove her downfall.

30.

a. Preceded by a superlative or a comparative, or by a word equivalent to a superlative, as *chief*, *flower*, *cream*, *dregs*, etc.

- IOE *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Laud) anno 1101 Þis þa mid aðe gefestnodan xii þa hihste of ægðre healfe.
- c1275 (▶ ?a1200) LA3AMON *Brut* (Calig.) (1963) 1358 Galoes wes feirest, of alle þan oðren leouest þone kinge of þan sustren & of þon breoðen.

- a1300 in C. Brown *Eng. Lyrics 13th Cent.* (1932) 118 (MED) Moder milde, flur of alle, þu ert leuedi swuþe treowe.
- a1375 (▶ c1350) *William of Palerne* (1867) 442 (MED) Þat barne..flour is of alle frekes.
- c1450 (▶ ?a1400) *Wars Alexander* (Ashm.) 307 Ane of þe grettist of oure godis.
- 1476 J. PASTON in *Paston Lett. & Papers* (2004) I. 496 Ye sholde have þat maner in joyntur wyth yowre wyffe to þe lenger lyvere off yow bothe.
- 1559 W. CUNINGHAM *Cosmogr. Glasse* 43 Th' Earth..is lowest of all Elementes.
- 1576 A. FLEMING tr. J. L. Vives in *Panoplie Epist.* 398 I count him the rather of the twaine to bee chosen.
- 1590 E. SPENSER *Faerie Queene* I. Proem sig. A2 O holy virgin chiefe of nyne.
- 1667 J. MILTON *Paradise Lost* IV. 324 The fairest of her Daughters Eve.
- 1676 T. HOBBS tr. Homer *Iliads* I. 163 The greatest part o' th' gain.
- 1697 J. DRYDEN tr. Virgil *Georgics* IV, in tr. Virgil *Wks.* 128 He gather'd first of all In Spring the Roses, Apples in the Fall.
- 1724 J. HENLEY et al. tr. Pliny the Younger *Epist. & Panegyrick* I. III. vii. 120 A Man, entirely happy..except in the Loss of the youngest of his two Sons; but he left the eldest and better of them in a flourishing State.
- 1761 D. HUME *Hist. Eng.* III. lxi. 320 Low mechanics..the very dregs of the fanatics.
- 1820 L. HUNT *Indicator* 13 Sept. 389 The absurdest as well as the most impious of all the dreams of fear.
- 1834 T. MEDWIN *Angler in Wales* II. 163 We made the best of our way back to Tregaron.
- 1892 *Bookman* Oct. 27/2 The most dogged of fighters, the most dangerous of enemies.
- 1917 K. BURKE *Let.* 31 May in *Sel. Corr. K. Burke & M. Cowley* (1988) 38 There are lots of people here who have decided that between the Allies and the Germans the Allies are the lesser of the two evils.
- 1953 *Sun* (Baltimore) 15 Dec. (B ed.) 10/2 Mr. Gould's teleplay was the better of the two, although by no means a masterpiece.
- 1990 *Creative Rev.* Mar. 39/1 Certainly Croydon College used to be the pits of all art schools.

b. Preceded by a noun or pronoun denoting a person or thing that is distinguished out of a number, or out of all, on account of excellence. Also with repetition of the same noun in the plural, for intensification, as in the Hebraistic *Song of songs, holy of holies, king of kings*; hence *book of books, man of men, heart of hearts*, etc.

- ▶ c1375 G. CHAUCER *Monk's Tale* 3357 This kyng of kynges proud was and elat.
- ▶ a1382 *Bible* (Wycliffite, E.V.) (Bodl. 959) (1963) Kings Prol. 55 Þe fifþe is song of songes, whom þei befor notyn bi title Syrtasytym.
- a1425 (▶ c1385) G. CHAUCER *Troilus & Criseyde* (1987) v. 541 O! paleys desolat, O hous of houses whilom best iight.
- 1594 C. MARLOWE & T. NASHE *Dido* III. iii That man of men.
- 1684 J. BUNYAN *Pilgrim's Progress 2nd Pt.* 187 Now the Glass was one of a thousand.
- 1715 A. POPE tr. Homer *Iliad* I. II. 565 The King of Kings, majestically tall, Tow'rs o'er his Armies, and outshines them all.
- 1831 T. B. MACAULAY in *Life & Lett.* (1880) I. 243 He gave me a dinner of dinners.
- 1866 W. COLLINS *Armada* II. IV. ii. 270 The new sailing-master is a man of ten thousand.
- 1895 G. A. SALA *Life* (ed. 2) I. vi. 64 Morris Barnett..was a remarkably clever man—a Hebrew of the Hebrews, with a pronounced musical faculty.
- 1912 K. F. DOUGHTY *Betts of Wortham* xii. 115 The Bacons were Roundheads of the Roundheads.

- 1976 *Lancet* 13 Nov. 1094/2 A Scot of Scots, he was born in 1912 and was educated at St Andrews and Edinburgh Universities.
- 1997 *National Geographic* Feb. 10/1 Ogodei took the title khagan, 'khan of khans'—lord of lords, as we would say.

c. of all others (formerly also **†of (all) other** and variants): of all, out of all.

The use of *other* after a superlative is illogical, unless *of* originally had the notion of 'singled out from', 'taken from'.

- a1425 EDWARD, DUKE OF YORK *Master of Game* (Digby) 9 Hunters..lyueth in this worlde moste ioyefull of ony other men.
- a1425 (▶ ?c1384) J. WYCLIF *Sel. Eng. Wks.* (1871) III. 342 (MED) Cristis viker shulde be porerste man of opir and mekerst of opir men.
- ▶ a1470 T. MALORY *Morte Darthur* (Winch. Coll.) 592 Thou arte fayryst of all othir.
- 1559 W. CUNNINGHAM *Cosmogr. Glasse* 82 The place most excellent of other in the Earth for pleasure.
- 1589 G. PUTTENHAM *Arte Eng. Poesie* II. ix. 83 The square is of all other accompted the figure of most solliditie and stedfastnesse.
- a1616 W. SHAKESPEARE *Macbeth* (1623) V. x. 4 Of all men else I haue auoyded thee.
- 1651 T. HOBBS *Leviathan* IV. xlv. 371 Such Appellations, or Names, as are of all others the most Universall.
- 1700 J. LOCKE *Ess. Humane Understanding* (new ed.) II. xxi. 147 The Pain that any one actually feels, is still of all other the worst.
- 1749 H. FIELDING *Tom Jones* V. XIV. vii. 161 I bring News very unlikely to relieve you; nay, what I am convinced must, of all other, shock you the most.
- 1813 J. AUSTEN *Pride & Prejudice* III. i. 9 This was praise, of all others most extraordinary, most opposite to her ideas.
- 1884 *Times* (Weekly ed.) 17 Oct. 4/4 It is the thing of all others that we want you to do.
- a1902 F. NORRIS *Pit* (1903) x. 400 Her younger sister..had chosen this day of all others, to annoy her.
- 1944 K. REXROTH *Coll. Shorter Poems* (1966) 141 That language That is of all others, itself a work of art.
- 1991 J. CAPLAN *Memories of Gorbals* (BNC) 43 She felt he, of all others, would..carve a niche for himself.

†d. With superlative implied. of all (modifying a plural noun): most of all possible things, people, places, etc. Formerly also **of any** (modifying a singular noun). *Obsolete*.

- a1500 (▶ a1460) *Towneley Plays* (1897–1973) 98 (MED) Blyssed be thou of alle women.
- a1500 *Robert of Cisyle* (Cambr. Ff.2.38) (1879) 333 (MED) He trowyd of all thyng Hys bredur schulde haue made hym kynge.
- 1597 W. SHAKESPEARE *Richard III* III. i. 68 I doe not like the tower of any place.
- 1698 W. CONGREVE *Amendments Mr. Collier's False & Imperfect Citations* 107 For this reason, they of all People should last have parted with the innocent and wholesome Remedies, which the Diversions of Musick administred.
- 1732 G. BERKELEY *Alciphron* I. I. v. 17 It is what I desire of all things.
- 1870 A. TROLLOPE *Phineas Finn* 400 The Earl desired it of all things.
- 1885 *Manch. Examiner* 20 Oct. 5/1 He, of all men, should have some sympathy with doubters like himself.
- 1896 *Month* May 135 'I should like it of all things,' said his sister.

e. Preceded by a noun, in phrases indicating that a person or thing is considered the leading example of his, her, or its kind in a specified period of time (as *week*, *month*, *century*, etc.). Earliest in *of the year* at YEAR *n*. Phrases 1b. Cf. *book of the month n.* at BOOK *n*. Phrases 1j and *flavour of the month (or week)* at FLAVOUR *n*. 3d.

- 1802 J. WEST *Infidel Father* I. iv. 88 Lady Languish, the beauty of the year..softness, susceptibility, and an affectation of weakness almost to fragility, were the distinguishing traits of this reigning grace.
- 1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 23 June 2/2 This is the champagne of the century!
- 1914 S. LEWIS *Our Mr. Wrenn* vii. 93 Why, you remember, don't you?..he wrote the great musical comedy of the century.
- 1958 *Washington Post* 16 Aug. B10/1 The welcome theme of this architect-designed House of The Week is 'open planning'.
- 1968 *Jazz Monthly* Apr. 28/2 A long list of other achievements which must put her in the running for the title of Pseud of the Century.
- 1994 *Amer. Spectator* Nov. 69/1 *Quiz Show* which..I am forced to proclaim Movie of the Month.

f. of all (the)—: emphasizing (often parenthetically) the unlikelihood of something. Frequently as a (surprised or indignant) exclamation. Cf. PEOPLE *n*. 6a.

- 1848 A. JAMESON in G. Macpherson *Mem. Life A. Jameson* (1878) ix. 254 I ran to Ireland, of all places in the world.
- 1906 W. CHURCHILL *Coniston* I. xiv. 178 'Well, of all people, Cynthia Wetherell!' he cried.
- 1926 D. O. STEWART *Mr. & Mrs. Haddock in Paris* x. 266 'Maybe you would like to take a little rest—perhaps at a nice, comfortable movie.' 'Well, of all things, Will Haddock!'
- 1977 *Time* 30 May 21/3 Evangelical Protestantism appears to be flourishing in, of all places, Communist Rumania.
- 1998 *New Yorker* 7 Sept. 39/1 Well, of all the hell-fool things.

31.

a. One of, a member of. Hence: belonging to, included in, taking part in. Now chiefly in **to be in (the world, etc.) but not of it**. Cf. MAN OF THE WORLD *n.*, *man of the people n.* at MAN *n.*¹ Phrases 2af.

- c1175 *Ormulum* (Burchfield transcript) l. 478 I þatt shifftinng to serrfenn sett. Þatt nemmedd wass abya Affter an hæfedd prest tatt wass. Off aaroness childre.
- a1225 (► ?OE) *MS Lamb.* in R. Morris *Old Eng. Homilies* (1868) 1st Ser. 85 (MED) God almihtin iscilde us þet we ne bo noht of þe smalcheue.
- c1384 *Bible* (Wycliffite, E.V.) (Douce 369(2)) John xv. 19 If 3e hadden be of the world, the world schulde love that thing that was his; but for 3e ben not of the world, therfor the world hatith 3ou.
- c1385 G. CHAUCER *Knight's Tale* 1141 Thus artow of my counseil.
- 1425 W. PASTON in *Paston Lett. & Papers* (2004) I. 5 I prey yow..þat..ye wille..defenden þe seyde sutes..and to be of owr counseill in þese matieres.
- a1500 (► c1400) *Vision of Tundale* (Adv.) (1843) 1671 (MED) He was sum tyme with hym of meyne.

- 1615 G. SANDYS *Relation of Journey* 103 Their Priests were..of his counsell in all businesses of importance.
- 1673 J. RAY *Observ. Journey Low-countries* 36 If any desire to be admitted of the University.
- a1710 R. ATKYNS *Parl. & Polit. Tracts* (1734) 15 Keble, of Counsel for the Lord B.
- 1710 *Tatler* 5–8 Aug. 1/1 It is a great Ease to have one in our own Shape a Species below us, and who, without being listed in our Service, is by Nature of our Retinue.
- 1748 S. RICHARDSON *Clarissa* IV. xxviii. 172 Is it Thou, that hast thus made me of party against myself?
- 1806 T. JEFFERSON *Writings* (1830) IV. 47 Tracy has been of almost every committee during the session.
- 1845 R. BROWNING *Lost Leader in Bells & Pomegranates No. VII: Dramatic Romances & Lyrics* VII. 8/1 Shakespeare was of us, Milton was for us, Burns, Shelley were with us.
- a1859 T. B. MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* (1861) V. xxiii. 83 He had not been sworn of the Council.
- 1886 J. E. C. WELLDON *Serm. Harrow* (1887) x. 151 It is to be in the world, yet not of it; to live above it; to let your presence be a sanctifying influence among men.
- 1986 P. CRAIG *Elizabeth Bowen* ii. 44 The ambiguity in the position of families like the Bowens (from Ireland but not entirely of it).

b. Followed by an adjective in the superlative: one of, some of, something of. Formerly also used adverbially with sense ‘as a thing of’. Now *archaic* or *literary*.

- c1400 (► ?c1390) *Sir Gawain & Green Knight* (1940) 880 (MED). A mere mantyle..fayre furred wythinne with fellez of þe best.
- a1425 (► a1400) *Titus & Vespasian* 1335 in *Archiv f. das Studium der Neueren Sprachen* (1904) 112 28/1 (MED) I haue ybrouȝt a woman of þe best.
- a1470 T. MALORY *Morte Darthur* (Winch. Coll.) 1218 Anone lechys were brought unto hym of the beste.
- 1542 N. UDALL tr. Erasmus *Apophthegmes* f. 212^v The matter gooeth not all of the wurst.
- a1648 LD. HERBERT *Life Henry VIII* (1649) 265 Those who thought the late proceedings to have been of the severest.
- 1709 D. MANLEY *Secret Mem.* 127 That Satisfaction..he was now afraid came of the latest to him.
- 1750 *Bible* (Challoner) 2 Paralip. iii. 7 The gold of the plates with which he overlaid the house..was of the finest.
- 1877 J. D. CHAMBERS *Divine Worship Eng.* 230 The bread should be of the whitest and finest.
- 1878 F. A. KEMBLE *Rec. Girlhood* II. i. 35 My person was indeed of the shortest.
- 1937 J. P. MARQUAND *Late George Apley* xi. 127 Though not unlike many others which he has attended, the group around the table was of the best.
- 1985 W. SHEED *Frank & Maisie* ix. 217 A nomad becomes a connoisseur of welcomes, and Sheed and Ward's New York's were of the finest.

32. Followed by a noun in the genitive case or a possessive pronoun.

Originally partitive, but subsequently used instead of the simple possessive (of the possessor or author) where this would be awkward or ambiguous, or as equivalent to an appositive phrase; e.g. *this son of mine* = this my son; *a dog of John's* = a dog which is John's, a dog belonging to John. The early examples are capable of explanation as partitive, but in later use this is often not possible, and the construction may now be viewed as appositional (see further O. Jespersen *On Some Disputed Points in English Grammar* (S.P.E. Tract No. XXV, 1926)).

- [a1225 (► ?OE) *MS Lamb.* in R. Morris *Old Eng. Homilies* (1868) 1st Ser. 79 3if þu mare spenest of þine, hwan ic aȝen cherre, al ic þe zelde.]

- a1225 (▶ c1200) *Vices & Virtues* (1888) 77 Gif ðu him lanst ani þing of ðinen, and tu nimst aʒean more ðanne ðu him lændest.
- c1300 *St. Thomas Becket* (Laud) 24 in C. Horstmann *Early S.-Eng. Legendary* (1887) 107 (MED) Childrene of is owene none mo for-soþe he nadde.
- ▶ c1390 G. CHAUCER *Monk's Tale* 3091 Any neighebores of myne.
- a1425 (▶ c1385) G. CHAUCER *Troilus & Criseyde* (1987) I. 548 A frend of his..called was Pandare [*v.r.* pandaris].
- 1463 in S. Tymms *Wills & Inventories Bury St. Edmunds* (1850) 23 I ʒeue here the..clothes of myn that longe to ye bedde that she hath loyen in.
- 1502 in N. H. Nicolas *Privy Purse Expenses Elizabeth of York* (1830) 79 A yong hors of the Quenes.
- 1535 *Bible* (Coverdale) Micah vii. 8 O thou enemie of myne, reioyce not at my fall.
- a1616 W. SHAKESPEARE *As you like It* (1623) v. ii. 71 Looke, here comes a Louer of mine, and a louer of hers.
- 1638 G. DIGBY in G. Digby & K. Digby *Lett. conc. Relig.* (1651) 1 Many personall defects of mine own.
- 1679 J. BUNYAN *Pilgrim's Progress* (ed. 3) 179 Shall not their Cattle..and every beast of theirs be ours.
- 1718 I. WATTS *Psalms of David* cxix. III. vi Thou hast inclin'd this heart of mine Thy statutes to fulfil.
- 1720 D. DEFOE *Mem. Cavalier* 270 This was..a false Step of the..Generals.
- 1779 *Mirror* No. 27 A sister of Amelia's, and some other friends that were in the room.
- a1817 J. AUSTEN *Persuasion* (1818) IV. vi. 123 I wonder at it, I have a reason of my own for wondering at it.
- 1870 J. R. LOWELL *My Study Windows* 2 It is positive rest to look into that garden of his.
- 1927 E. BOWEN *Hotel* viii. 87 I should discourage any daughter of mine from a friendship with an older woman.
- 1974 O. CLARK *Diary* 29 Oct. (1998) 42 Decided to take a sauna bath and..relaxed in the heat..until I met two ballet dancer friends of Wayne's.
- 1991 *Conjunctions* 16 93 He moves on smiling that quixotic, sweet smile of his.

X. Expressing possession and being possessed.

E.g. 'the owner of the house', 'the house of the owner'. Generally regarded as one of the central uses of the word. Formerly expressed by the genitive case, and still to some extent by the genitive of nouns (especially proper names) and possessive adjectives (with transposition of order). The use of *of* began in Old English with senses 33, 34, expressing origin. After the Norman Conquest the example of the French *de*, which had taken the place of the Latin genitive, caused the gradual extension of *of* to all uses in which Old English had the genitive; the purely possessive sense was the last to be so affected, and it is that in which the genitive or 'possessive' case is still chiefly used. Thus, we say *the King's English*, in preference to *the English of the King*; but *the King of England* in preference to *England's King*, which is not natural or ordinary prose English.

33.

a. Belonging to a place, as a native or resident.

This occurs in Old English with the sense of origin = 'springing or coming from, belonging by origin to' (originally sense 10); in the 11th cent. this passed into the sense 'belonging to as inhabitants or occupants', 'living in', and so of things 'situated in or at'.

- eOE tr. Orosius *Hist.* (BL Add.) (1980) 2 (*table of contents*) Hu Galliæ of Senno abræcan Romeburg.
- eOE *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Parker) anno 895 Ða men of Lundenbyrig.
- OE *Blickling Homilies* 71 Hit is se Nadzarenisca witga of Galileum.
- ?a1160 *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Laud) (Peterborough contin.) anno 1137 Hi suencten suyðe þe uurecce men of þe land mid castelweorces.
- c1175 *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Tiber. B.i) anno 1066 Ða wes þer an of Norwegan þe wiðstod þet Englisce folc.

- a1225 (▶ ?OE) *MS Lamb.* in R. Morris *Old Eng. Homilies* (1868) 1st Ser. 129 Ðet weter..wes liðe and swete þan folce of israel þe wes sur and bitere alle þon monnen of þan londe.
- ▶ c1384 *Bible* (Wycliffite, E.V.) (Douce 369(2)) (1850) Matt. xii. 41 Men of Nynyue shal ryse in dome with this generacioun.
- ?c1450 tr. *Bk. Knight of La Tour Landry* (1906) 23 (MED) She was a ladi of Fraunce, that might spende more thanne fyue hundred pounce bi yeere.
- 1523 LD. BERNERS tr. J. Froissart *Cronycles* I. 102 They of the towne wyst nat wher the countesse was become.
- 1569 R. GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 331 They of London, namely the honest Citizens were greatly afayed.
- 1633 *Orkney Witch Trial* in P. H. Brown *Reg. Privy Council Scotl.* (1904) 2nd Ser. V. 545 The serwant woman off the house.
- 1708 *London Gaz.* No. 4464/8 Nathaniel Ogborne of Chipping~sodbury,..Cheese-Factor.
- 1786 S. HENLEY tr. W. Beckford *Arabian Tale* 113 One of those beautiful blue butterflies of Cachemire, which are, at once, so volatile and rare.
- 1830 J. LINDLEY *Introd. Nat. Syst. Bot.* 98 The Black Birch of North America.
- 1847 LD. TENNYSON *Princess* II. 26 We of the court.
- 1872 'M. TWAINE' *Roughing It* x. 88 It was hardly possible to realize that this pleasant person was the pitiless scourge..the nursing mothers of the mountains terrified their children with.
- 1945 C. H. CURRAN *Insects of Pacific World* xi. 293 The huntsman-spiders of the tropics include as one of their best known members the domestic *Heteropoda venatoria*.
- 2000 *Guardian* 21 July (Friday Review section) 23/1 All weekend the radio issued its barometer-busting temperature predictions..as citizens of California lay around in their undies.

b. Belonging to a place, as situated, existing, or taking place there;
 belonging to a place or thing, as forming part of it, or as associated with or
 derived from it (in which sense it approaches the partitive).

- IOE *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Laud) (Peterborough interpolation) anno 1102 Þeofas..breokan þa mynstre of Burh.
- ?a1160 *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Laud) (Peterborough contin.) anno 1132 Was it noht suite lang þer efter þatte king..dide him gyuen up ðet abbotrice of Burch.
- c1225 (▶ ?c1200) *St. Juliana* (Bodl.) 100 (MED) Hit nis nan eðelich þing þe refschiþe of rome.
- a1325 (▶ c1250) *Gen. & Exod.* (1968) l. 469 Tubal... Wopen of wigte and tol of grið Wel cuðe egte [*read* fegte].
- a1375 (▶ c1350) *William of Palerne* (1867) 2010 (MED) Þanne told sche me a tiding, teld was hire to-fore of on þat knew þe kostome of þe cuntre of grece.
- 1470 in L. L. Shadwell *Enact. in Parl. conc. Oxf. & Cambr.* (1912) 63 (MED) Your College roiall of seynt Nicholas of Cantebyrgge.
- 1487 (▶ a1380) J. BARBOUR *Bruce* (St. John's Cambr.) XX. 324 He salit, and left the grund of spanþe On north half hym.
- 1518 *Acta Dominorum Concilii et Sessionis XXXI.* f. 109 The granale of Driburgh.
- 1569 *Court Bk. Broughton & Canongate* (1937) 124 Ane duelling hous of the said Oliuer land.
- 1608 A. WILLET *Hexapla in Exodum* 165 The fables of his religion as he impiouslie calleth them.
- 1613 S. PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* 559 The Deserts of Lybia have in them many Hydra's.
- 1639 T. DE GRAY *Compl. Horseman* II. xviii. 306 Take of the oyle of Aspick one ounce.

- 1756 C. LENNOX tr. P. M. de L'Écluse des Loges *Mem. Maximilian de Bethune* I. II. 96 One side of the barricadoes.
- 1785 W. HUTTON *Bran New Wark* 30 Your minister was freetned, the hears of his head stood an end.
- 1809 B. H. MALKIN tr. A. R. Le Sage *Adventures Gil Blas* III. VII. xvi. 225 Innumerable articles of house-keeping.
- 1843 *Fraser's Mag.* **28** 698 Napoleon reached the plains of Gera.
- 1868 R. BROWNING *Ring & Bk.* I. I. 3 The basement-ledge O' the pedestal.
- 1891 *Law Times* **92** 107/1 The 8th section of the Act.
- 1939 F. A. KNOTT *Clin. Bacteriol.* iii. 45 The lining cells of the hepatic spaces.
- 1974 W. CONDRY *Woodlands* xiii. 152 In the mild, damp climate of south-west Ireland.
- 1991 C. HILL *Tack: Care & Cleaning* 25 Polypropylene is a product of the petroleum industry.

c. Belonging to a time, as existing or taking place in it.

- c1225 (► ?c1200) *St. Katherine* (Bodl.) (1981) 797 (MED) Heo swearf to Criste upo þe þreo ant twentuðe dei of Nouembres moned.
- 1343 in J. C. Atkinson *Cartularium Abbathie de Whiteby* (1879) I. 69 Gyfuen at 3ork, the third Day of Feuerzere.
- a1447 in H. Ellis *Orig. Lett. Eng. Hist.* (1824) 1st Ser. I. 8 Wrytyn..the xij. day of Marche.
- 1526 *Bible* (Tyndale) Matt. v. 21 It was sayd vnto them off the olde tyme [c1384 *Wycliffite*, *E.V.* to olde men, a1425 *L.V.* to elde men; 1611 *King James* by them of old tyme].
- 1538 *Pystles & Gospels in Eng.* (new ed.) (title page) Here begynneth the pystles and gospels: of euery Sonday, and holy daye in the yere.
- 1560 J. DAUS tr. J. Sleidane *Commentaries* f. ccclxxvij^v Your letters..of the xxi. of December.
- 1656 EARL OF MONMOUTH tr. T. Boccalini *Ragguagli di Parnasso* II. xc. 380 They..finished that which appeared so dreadful to men of former times.
- 1685 W. HEDGES *Diary* 2 Feb. (1887) I. 181 The Current (which usually settis to the Northward at this time of the Year).
- 1742 H. FIELDING *Joseph Andrews* I. II. xiii. 257 A Person who drest himself in the Fashion of the Times.
- 1788 T. JEFFERSON *Memorandum* 3 Mar. in *Writings* (1984) 655 This is done by bottling in the spring, from the beginning of March till June.
- 1813 J. AUSTEN *Pride & Prejudice* I. xxii. 291 Miss Lucas..in a private conference with Elizabeth related the event of the day before.
- 1861 M. PATTISON in *Westm. Rev.* Apr. 413 The massive and imposing style of the 14th century.
- 1885 *Manch. Examiner* 15 May 5/7 A thing of the near future.
- 1928 J. CORRIE *Last Day* 54 Where are ye going to at this time o' a Sunday morning.
- 1950 E. H. GOMBRICH *Story of Art* xiii. 178 The style of the Gothic painters and sculptors of that period is known as the International Style.
- 1984 A. F. LOEWENSTEIN *This Place* 291 She wished for her rage of earlier in the day.
- 2000 A. SAYLE *Barcelona Plates* 58 I heard some middle-aged beer-gut holder waxing lyrical about the innocence of those days.

d. Representative of a time, as typical or characteristic of it.

- 1853 *Fraser's Mag.* Nov. 503/1 In many respects this book is a type of its time.
- 1862 *N. Amer. Rev.* July 272 He was in every sense a man of his time, bearing an active part in the doings of the Academy, the state, and the Church.
- 1901 *Dict. National Biogr.* at *Marshall, William Calder* His style was of its time, and pseudo-classicism in his hands was informed by no richness of fancy or real power of technique.
- 1940 M. K. TIPPETT (*title of oratorio*) A child of our time.
- 1968 *Listener* 4 July 9/2 The 'Four' were very much of the 1890s.
- 1996 *Fi* Nov. 114/1 This opera was not an imperfect way station on the road to *Fidelio*, but a work of its time.

34.

a. Belonging to a place, as deriving a title from it, or as its lord, ruler, owner, etc., as *King, Earl, Archbishop of*, etc.

Probably also from the notion of origin. Rare in Old English till 11th cent., when it became the regular equivalent of French *de, of* and its object being found in apposition to a genitive case.

- eOE tr. Orosius *Hist.* (BL Add.) (1980) I. xi. 31 Alexander, Priamises sunu þæs cyninges, of Troiana þære byrig, genom þæs cyninges wif Monelaus, of Læcedemonia, Creca byrig, Elena.
- OE *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Tiber. B.i) anno 1066 Harold cyninge of Norwegan [IOE *Laud* Harold se Norrena cyng] & Tostig eorl.
- IOE *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Laud) anno 1104 Se eorl Rotbert of Normandig, & Rotbert de Bælesme.
- c1275 (▶ ?a1200) LA3AMON *Brut* (Calig.) (1978) 12206 Þe ærchebiscop of Lundene eode an his riht honden.
- c1300 *St. Augustine* (Laud) 79 in C. Horstmann *Early S.-Eng. Legendary* (1887) 26 (MED) Erchebischop of Caunterburi..Seint Austin huy maden.
- a1375 (▶ c1350) *William of Palerne* (1867) 116 (MED) He wedded a worchipful ladi, þe princes douȝter of portingale.
- a1450 (▶ a1400) *Athelston* (1951) 61 (MED) He þat was eerl off Stane..Was trewe.
- c1500 (▶ ?a1475) *Assembly of Gods* (1896) 469. Godfrey of Boleyn.
- c1589 in J. E. Auden *Shropshire* (1912) 193 This chauncell was re-edified and builded of newe at the chardges of John Lutwich of Lutwiche.
- 1612 T. SHELTON tr. M. de Cervantes *Don-Quixote: Pt. 1 (title)* The history of..Don Quixote of the Mancha.
- 1651 BP. J. TAYLOR *Rule & Exercises Holy Dying* v. §5. 283 This advice was inserted into the penitential of England in the time of Theodore Arch-Bishop of Canterbury.
- 1749 in W. M. Morison *Decisions* (1808) 4161 Donald the claimant's father, who was constantly and uniformly designed of Lochiel.
- 1772 *Hartford Mercury* 18 Sept. [He] created Lord Herbert, Baron Herbert of Cherbury and of Ludlow.
- 1791 J. BOSWELL *Life Johnson* anno 1778 II. 248 Mr. John Spottiswoode, of Spottiswoode.
- 1859 J. H. NEWMAN in *Rambler* May 93 The Duke of Wellington's despatches..tell us so much more about him than any panegyric sketch.
- 1887 *Literary World* (Boston) 23 July 228/1 His preferred plan was to betroth her to the English Prince of Wales.
- 1947 *Life* 17 Nov. 88/1 (*caption*) Presentation to the King and Queen of England was the goal of ambitious American society mothers.
- 1995 B. BRYSON *Notes from Small Island* (1996) xiii. 167 The mighty, absurdly egocentric column that the first Duke of Marlborough erected at the top of a hill overlooking the palace and lake.

b. Related to a thing or person as its ruler, superior, possessor, etc.

Frequently following an official title.

Akin to the objective genitive, sense 40, and sometimes interchangeable with a possessive case, esp. when the object is a person.

- IOE *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Laud) (Peterborough interpolation) anno 963 Swa ic hit freo þet nan biscop ne haue þær nane hæse, buton se abbot of þone minstre.
- IOE *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Laud) (Peterborough contin.) anno 1127 He wæs legat of ðone Romescott.
- c1175 *Ormulum* (Burchfield transcript) l. 298 Moysæs wass hæfedd mann Off israæle þeode.
- c1175 *Ormulum* (Burchfield transcript) l. 362 He wass preost. Hæfedd off alle preostess.
- c1300 (► c1225) *King Horn* (Cambr.) (1901) 226 (MED) Forþ he clupede æþelbrus, þat was stiward of his hus.
- a1325 (► c1250) *Gen. & Exod.* (1968) l. 29 Fader god of alle ðhinge.
- c1384 *Bible* (Wycliffite, E.V.) (Douce 369(2)) (1850) Luke viii. 41 He was a prince of a synagoge.
- 1426–7 W. PASTON in *Paston Lett. & Papers* (2004) I. 11 Þe styward..of all hese lordshipes in Norffolk and Suffolk.
- 1533 T. MORE *Answer Poysened Bk.* Pref. sig. Bb^v Tyndale the captayne of our Englyshe heretyques..was taken for full pretyly lerned to.
- 1582 *Bible* (Rheims) Acts i. 16 Iudas, who was the captaine of them that apprehended Iesvs.
- 1600 W. SHAKESPEARE *Merchant of Venice* III. ii. 170 But now I was the Lord of this faire mansion, maister of my seruants.
- 1662 E. STILLINGFLEET *Origines Sacrae* I. iv. §3 Gideon the Judge of Israel.
- 1817 *Ann. Reg. 1816* Hist. 116/2 The following circular was addressed by the minister of the interior, to the several presidents of the electoral colleges of departments.
- 1837 J. R. McCULLOCH *Statist. Acct. Brit. Empire* II. iv. vi. 356 The dean of guild, or head of the merchant company.
- 1844 *France: Govt., Admin. & Social Organisation* III. ix. 234 Humann, the minister of finance.
- 1888 J. BRYCE *Amer. Commonw.* II. lxx. 562 The Boss of Tammany, with whom Mr. Cleveland had at an earlier period in his career 'locked horns'.
- 1917 *N.Y. Tribune* 16 Mar. 1/7 The members of the new [Russian] national Cabinet are announced as follows... Minister of Public Instruction—Professor Manuiloff, of Moscow University.
- 1938 H. A. SHARP *Branch Libraries* iii. 62 A superintendent of branches..is necessarily a mediary between the chief and the branch librarian.
- 1970 *Wall St. Jrnl.* 13 Mar. 21/1 [He] was named vice president of the sales group.
- 1990 *Times Educ. Suppl.* 26 Oct. (Review section) R6/5 The headmaster of the said school..does have a mortar board and gown hanging in his study.
- 1994 *Daily Tel.* 2 Aug. 16/1 The leak..must have caused considerable embarrassment to the President of the Board of Trade.

35.

a. Belonging to a person or thing, as something that he, she, or it has or possesses (= the possessive genitive, and akin to the subjective, sense 15).

In Old English always, in Middle English most frequently, and in modern English preferably expressed by the genitive case (or a possessive adjective), except when for some reason this is difficult or awkward, e.g. in quotes. c1385², a1616, 1895.

- c1175 *Ormulum* (Burchfield transcript) l. 666 3iff þatt itt..sep þe wlite off enngle kinde.
- a1375 (▶ c1350) *William of Palerne* (1867) 755 (MED) A tri appeltre..was euen vnder a windowe of þat worþeis chaumber.
- ▶ c1385 G. CHAUCER *Knight's Tale* 928 In this temple of the goddesse Clemence.
- ▶ c1385 G. CHAUCER *Knight's Tale* 992 The bones of hir freendes that were slayn.
- a1400 (▶ a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Gött.) 20063 Vr aun Langage of þe norþren lede.
- 1466–7 in W. H. Godfrey *Sussex Wills* (1941) IV. 117 (MED) I biqueth to the Freres..to pray for the soules of me, my fadir and moder..vj s. viij d.
- 1535 *Bible* (Coverdale) Ruth Contents i Ruth the wife of the one sonne.
- 1559 W. CUNNINGHAM *Cosmogr. Glasse* 177 The soules of men and women.
- 1590 E. SPENSER *Faerie Queene* II. II. sig. Ov The children of one syre by mothers three.
- a1616 W. SHAKESPEARE *Taming of Shrew* (1623) v. i. 78 He is..heire to the Lands of me signior Vincentio.
- 1631 B. JONSON *Bartholmew Fayre* II. v. 27 in *Wks.* II 'Tis but a blister..I'll take it away with the white of an egge, a little honey [etc.].
- 1653 N. HOOKES *Armada* 68 Ne'er may the bristles of a bumpkin's chin, Or th' gripes o's callow fist, Injure her softer sweeter skin.
- a1680 S. BUTLER *Genuine Remains* (1759) II. 494 There is a Kind of Physiognomy in the Titles of Books, no less than in the Faces of Men.
- 1700 J. TYRRELL *Gen. Hist. Eng.* II. 820 The Ayries of Hawks.
- 1747 S. RICHARDSON *Clarissa* I. Pref. p. vi That Variety, which is deemed the Soul of a Feast.
- 1759 W. ROBERTSON *Hist. Scotl.* III, in *Hist. Wks.* (1813) I. 246 He was the son of a musician in Turin.
- 1808 T. FORSTER *Perennial Cal.* 21 May The leaves of plants.
- 1851 V. LUSH *Jrnl.* 1 Sept. (1971) 84 Lofty perpendicular cliffs, in the crevices and the tops of which were the beautiful Pohutukawa trees.
- 1895 *Law Times* 100 133/2 The widow of a man who had been killed at a level crossing.
- 1919 P. G. WODEHOUSE *Damsel in Distress* vi. 70 Convict son totters up the steps of the old home and punches the bell.
- 1954 D. ABSE *Ash on Young Man's Sleeve* 65 He buckled the bumper of the car.
- 1996 *Independent* 9 Sept. II. 26/3 The 'Terri-Louise', a new type of raspberry... Named after the granddaughter of its breeder, Derek Jennings.

b. Belonging to a person or thing as a quality or attribute.

Also interchanging with the possessive, esp. when the object is a person, animal, or space of time, as 'a month's salary'.

- c1225 (▶ c1200) *St. Juliana* (Bodl.) 476 (MED) O þe mihte of meiðhad, as þu art iwepnet to weorrin aȝein us!
- a1300 (▶ c1275) *Physiologus* (1991) 93 Ðurȝ grace off ure Driȝtin.
- ▶ c1387–95 G. CHAUCER *Canterbury Tales Prolog.* 39 To telle yow al the condicion Of ech of hem.
- a1400 (▶ a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Vesp.) 27033 For grettnes of his gilt.
- a1450 (▶ c1400) in D. M. Grisdale *3 Middle Eng. Sermon.* (1939) 34 (MED) It [sc. gluttony] ouercumbþ boþe strenþes oþ þe bodi & ek oþ þe sowle.
- a1500 in C. Brown *Relig. Lyrics 15th Cent.* (1939) 223 It is of þee for to forgyue Al kynnes trespas.
- c1503 R. ARNOLD *Chron.* f. Cix^v/1 In the tendir age off you.

- 1548 *Hall's Vnion: Henry VIII* f. ccxlviii^v The value of the grounde so lytle.
- 1559 J. AYLMEY *Harborowe* sig. D4^v The welfare or ilfare of the whole realm.
- a1616 W. SHAKESPEARE *Othello* (1622) IV. i. 191 But yet the pittie of it Iago, the pittie.
- 1648 *Royalist's Def.* 109 Words cannot express the barbarousnesse of it.
- a1674 EARL OF CLARENDON *Brief View Leviathan* (1676) 27 Describing the nature of foul weather.
- 1715 J. ADDISON *Spectator* No. 556. ¶14 The chief Tendency of my Papers.
- 1779 J. MOORE *View Society & Manners France* (1789) I. xlv. 372 Nothing can be a greater check to the wantonness of power.
- 1786 R. BURNS *To Mouse* in *Poems & Songs* (1968) I. 140 The best laid schemes o' Mice an' Men, Gang aft agley.
- 1793 J. SMEATON *Narr. Edystone Lighthouse* (ed. 2) §239 The little irregularities of boring.
- 1803 T. R. MALTHUS *Ess. Princ. Population* (new ed.) IV. vii. 542 Those who believe that the character of the woman is salved by such a forced engagement.
- 1803 R. TANNAHILL *Soldier's Return* 43 Ye hinna the ambition o a moose.
- 1843 *Peter Parley's Ann.* 346 The breezeless stillness of the summer air.
- 1886 *Athenæum* 30 Oct. 560/3 His failure seems..to be due to a want of singleness of aim.
- 1945 *Anthropol. Papers Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.* 40 62/2 Considering..the complexity of the problem of Java man..I deem it best to put aside the Sangiran Mandible of 1939 for the present.
- 1981 G. HOUSEHOLD *Summon Bright Water* i. 33 Only the surge around the Guscar Rocks revealed the force and speed of the tide.
- 1998 *Total Football* Nov. 18/3 The cheek of this man to accuse Barnsley fans of violence.

36. Belonging to a thing, as a logical consequence of its nature: e.g. *cause, effect, origin, reason, result of; correlative, counterpart, match, opposite, original of; copy, derivative, image, likeness of*; (also in *Mathematics*) *square, cube, logarithm, tangent, differential of*.

- c1175 *Ormulum* (Burchfield transcript) l. 706 Hiss sune sholde ben. Biginning off þatt blisse.
- c1350 (► a1333) WILLIAM OF SHOREHAM *Poems* (1902) 117 Cause of alle thyse dignyte..Was Godes owene grace.
- c1395 G. CHAUCER *Merchant's Tale* 1398 And for his freendes on a day he sente To tellen hem theeffect of his entente.
- 1484 W. CAXTON tr. G. de la Tour-Landry *Bk. Knight of Tower* (1971) liv. 78 The peyntynge of her face..was cause and occasion of suche horryble countrefeture.
- 1485 *Malory's Morte Darthur* (Caxton) I. ii. sig. aij She merueilled who that myght be that laye with her in lykenes of her lord.
- 1559 W. CUNINGHAM *Cosmogr. Glasse* 71 I am glad you understand the reason of it.
- 1587 SIR P. SIDNEY & A. GOLDING tr. P. de Mornay *Trewnesse Christian Relig.* xxiii. 401 The Image of Serapis hung vnfastened in the ayre.
- 1603 R. JOHNSON tr. G. Botero *Hist. Descr. Worlde* 248 Flanders..is the true correlative of the Indies, seeing that all the gold brought out of India is spent in the low countrie warres.
- 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseudodoxia Epidemica* IV. xii. 219 By perfect and sphericall numbers by the square and cube of 7 and 9 and 12.
- 1709 R. STEELE *Tatler* No. 130. ¶ 10 The Anniversary of the Birth-day of this Glorious Queen.
- 1776 *Maiden Aunt* II. 16 I informed them the cause and event of my ramble.

- 1807 C. HUTTON *Course Math.* (ed. 5) II. 281 We may also derive the fluxion of any fraction, or the quotient of one variable quantity divided by another.
- 1846 E. BULWER-LYTTON *Lucretia* I. i. iv. 167 Wait..the effect of the cataplasms I have applied.
- 1891 H. G. HUTCHINSON *Famous Golf Links* 156 The third hole (135 yards) is an exact counterpart of the second.
- 1904 J. LONDON *Sea-wolf* xxx. 285 The upshot of the affair was that she accompanied me next morning.
- 1953 A. HUXLEY *Let.* 31 Oct. (1969) 687 The jewelled palaces are partly, no doubt, wish fulfilments—the opposite of everyday experience.
- 1991 *Sci. Amer.* Nov. 20/1 Much of Witten's early work focused on creating a model that was a reasonable facsimile of the real world.

37. Belonging to an action, etc., as that to which it relates.

- c1390 G. CHAUCER *Melibeus* 2321 A coueitous man ne kan nat deme ne thynke but oonly to fulfille the ende of his coueitise.
- 1534 R. WHITTINGTON tr. Cicero *Thre Bks. Tullyes Offyces* I. sig. A.5 Suche offyces..pertayne to the ende of felycite.
- 1594 W. SHAKESPEARE *Lucrece* sig. B3^v Far from the purpose of his comming thither, He makes excuses for his being there.
- 1609 *Bible* (Douay) I. 1 Sam. xviii. 30 From the beginning of their going forth, Dauid behaued him self more wisely, then al the seruantes of Saul.
- 1677 A. MARVELL *Let.* 24 Feb. in *Poems & Lett.* (1971) II. 196 Those two days afforded litle matter of writing.
- 1749 J. CLELAND *Mem. Woman of Pleasure* I. 106 He..ask'd me tenderly what was the meaning of so much complaining?
- 1781 E. GIBBON *Decline & Fall* (1869) I. xx. 554 As he gradually advanced in the knowledge of truth, he proportionably declined in the practice of virtue.
- 1812 T. JEFFERSON *Writings* (1830) IV. 175 It would only change the topic of abuse.
- 1886 *World* 18 Aug. 18 The weather is the solitary topic of conversation.
- 1934 J. B. PRIESTLEY *Eden End* I. 6 What's the point of reading if it makes you feel uncomfortable?
- 1993 R. SHILTS *Conduct Unbecoming: Lesbians & Gays in U.S. Mil.* v. lii. 493 Just why so many homosexual women gravitated to DI positions remained a matter of speculation.

XI. Representing an original genitive dependent on a verb or adjective.

Many adjectives and verbs in Old English were followed by a genitive case as an object or complement. In Latin, also, many adjectives and some verbs were construed with a genitive, represented in French by *de*. These are represented in Middle and Modern English by constructions with *of*. Those which are closely allied in sense to one or other of the preceding branches are there included; but there are many other adjectives and verbs after which *of* is used to embody a relatively indefinable syntactic relationship, or which do not clearly fit into any of these branches. Many of these come close in sense to branch VIII., while others, esp. the adjectives, often approach or coincide with the objective genitive in branch XII. It is convenient therefore to consider them here.

38. In the construction of adjectives. Besides those mentioned under the preceding divisions, many adjectives are construed with *of* and an object; the following are representatives of some of the chief groups: *fruitful, prolific, ominous, redolent; liberal, lavish, prodigal, scant, short, sparing; capable, incapable, susceptible; worthy, unworthy, guilty, guiltless, innocent; certain, uncertain, confident, diffident, doubtful, sure; aware, conscious, unconscious, ignorant, sensible, insensible; careful, careless, forgetful, heedful, heedless, hopeful, hopeless, mindful, unmindful, reckless, regardless, thoughtless, neglectful, negligent, observant, watchful; ambitious, desirous, eager, emulous, enamoured, envious, fond, greedy, jealous, studious, suspicious; disdainful, indulgent, patient, impatient; those in -ive, as apprehensive, communicative, descriptive, destructive, expressive, indicative, productive; and some in -ic, as characteristic, symbolic.*

Many of these involve an underlying noun, which may be considered as the head of the prepositional phrase expressing the genitive relation; e.g. *hopeful of*, having hope of, *envious of*, having envy of, etc.; others are verbal derivatives, and are closely akin to the objective-genitive group (see branch XII.), e.g. *expressive of* = that expresses.

- IOE *St. Nicholas* (Corpus Cambr.) (1997) 95 Soðlice, ic nam naht swa scyldig of þisum gylte swa beoð þas burh gerefan Symonides & Eudoxius.
- a1250 (▶ ?a1200) *Ancrene Riwe* (Nero) (1952) 25 Heo is gulti of þe bestes deaðe.
- c1275 (▶ ?a1200) LA3AMON *Brut* (Calig.) (1963) 271 Þa Grickes neoren noht warre of heore wenside.
- c1425 (▶ c1400) *Prymer* (Cambr.) (1895) 66 Þe lord is bist of me.
- 1490 *Caxton's Blanchardyn & Eglantine* (1962) xlvii. 180 They sholde neuer be consentyng of that infydele and grete trayson.
- a1500 (▶ ?c1450) *Merlin* 32 (MED) He that wende to be siker of me hath failed.
- 1535 *Bible* (Coverdale) Matt. x. 10 The workman is worthy of his meate.
- 1548 *Hall's Vnion: Edward IV* f. ccxi. For suche thynges as wee se before our iyes, we be well ware of.
- 1567 J. MAPLET *Greene Forest* f. 85 He is of good memorie and long mindfull of a good tourne.
- a1625 J. FLETCHER *Demetrius & Eranthe* (1951) i. ii. 20 I should grow envious, Extreemely envious of your youth, and Honor.
- 1651 T. HOBBS *De Cive* l. i. §2 Whence it happens, that those, because they know not what Society is, cannot enter into it, these, because ignorant of the benefit it brings, care not for it.
- 1687 A. LOVELL tr. C. de Bergerac *Comical Hist.* 2 I was impatient of seeing him.
- 1697 J. DRYDEN tr. Virgil *Georgics* IV, in tr. Virgil *Wks.* 194 Four Heifars..all unknowing of the Yoke.
- a1715 BF. G. BURNET *Hist. Own Time* (1724) I. 330 They were very..oppressive..of those of the other side.
- a1751 P. DODDRIDGE *Hymns* (1755) 186 Observant of his heav'nly Word.
- 1759 A. SMITH *Theory Moral Sentiments* III. I. iv At the time of acting..he is..less sensible of the impropriety of his own conduct than afterwards.
- 1764 O. GOLDSMITH *Traveller* 6 Yet these each other's power so strong contest, That either seems destructive of the rest.
- 1789 J. BENTHAM *Introd. Princ. Morals & Legisl.* xv. 197 It may happen that punishment shall have been inflicted, where..it ought not to have been inflicted: that is, where the sufferer is innocent of the offence.
- 1816 J. AUSTEN *Emma* I. III. xiv. 120 I am as confident of seeing Frank here before the middle of January, as I am of being here myself.

- 1820 W. J. BRODERIP & P. BINGHAM *Rep. Court Common Pleas* 1 433 It is conclusive of the facts stated in it.
- 1850 N. HAWTHORNE *Scarlet Let.* x. 156 Mr. Dimmesdale would perhaps have seen this individual's character more perfectly, if a certain morbidness..had not rendered him suspicious of all mankind.
- 1873 R. BROWNING *Red Cotton Night-cap Country* I. 10 Symbolic of the place and people too.
- 1889 J. S. FARMER *Americanisms at Tackey* A man neglectful of personal appearance.
- 1917 T. S. ELIOT *Let.* 22 Oct. (1988) 201 We always are, and have been, very careful of what we put in our letters.
- 1940 T. WOLFE & E. C. ASWELL *You can't go Home Again* I. iii. 28 He was so infinitely patient, so unflaggingly hopeful of George's improvement.
- 1950 S. J. PERELMAN *Swiss Family Perelman* ix. 152 Buxom ladies of the town, redolent of attar of roses.
- 1967 *Arch. Neurol. (Chicago)* 16 4/2 The patient is aware of the time of day.
- 1976 W. W. WARNER *Beautiful Swimmers* vii. 167 The incredible cacophony of tweets, wows and overlapping speech so characteristic of working boat radio-telephony.
- 2001 *Financial Times* 27 Jan. ('The Business' Suppl.) 46/4 Everyone knows lice are not indicative of poor hygiene.

39. In the construction of verbs.

a. After transitive verbs, the person or thing affected ('secondary object') is often introduced by *of* (representing an original genitive). Such are *balk*, *cheat*, *defraud*, *disappoint*, *frustrate*; *accuse*, *arrest*, *blame*, *convict*, *indict*, *suspect*; *possess*, *seize* (a person *of*); *avail*, *bethink* (oneself *of*); also with verbs with non-referential *it* as subject, as *it repents me of*; and formerly with *ask*, *beg*, *beseech*, *thank* (a person *of*), etc.

- c1175 *Ormulum* (Burchfield transcript) l. 2918 Þatt godess þeoww himm 3eorne birrþ Bþennkenn. & bilokenn. Off all þatt tatt he wile don.
- c1390 (► ?c1350) *Joseph of Arimathie* (1871) l. 561 He bi-sou3te him of grace.
- c1390 (► a1376) W. LANGLAND *Piers Plowman* (Vernon) (1867) A. v. 227 (*MED*) Bidde god of grace.
- 1414 *Rolls of Parl.* IV. 57/2 I was endited of trespass as an accessorie.
- 1482 W. CELY *Let.* 3 Aug. in *Cely Lett.* (1975) 165 I hawe nott receyued yowre poll axe whych schulde come ffrom Brege, nott yett. I askydd Wylliam Dalton off hit at hys comyng home.
- 1484 W. CAXTON tr. G. de la Tour-Landry *Bk. Knight of Tower* (1971) cxxxiv. 177 She made hym to be serued of grete plente of good and delycate metes.
- a1555 H. LATIMER *Frutefull Serm.* (1572) II. f. 198 He came boldly vnto him desiring him of helpe.
- 1590 E. SPENSER *Faerie Queene* II. IX. sig. X Of pardon I you pray.
- 1591 H. SAVILE tr. Tacitus *Ende of Nero: Fower Bks. Hist.* III. 114 To furnish them of men, horses and money.
- 1635 W. LAUD *Wks.* (1860) VII. 182 That Ireland should serve itself first of its own land.
- c1670 T. HOBBS *Dial. Com. Laws* (1681) 7 How can a man be indicted of Avarice, Envy, Hypocrisie or any other vitious Habit till it be declared?
- 1709 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Let.* 8 Aug. (1965) I. 5 I cannot bear to be accused of coldness by one whom I shall love all my life.
- 1737 W. WHISTON tr. Josephus *Jewish War* III. v, in tr. Josephus *Genuine Wks.* 815 Providing themselves of such houshold servants.
- 1820 W. HAZLITT *Lect. Dramatic Lit.* 28 Shakespear..availed himself of the old Chronicles.
- 1844 A. SMITH *Adventures Mr. Ledbury* I. iii. 31 Our two friends bethought themselves of trying to catch a little slumber.

- 1887 J. R. LOWELL *Democracy & Other Addr.* 6 His audience would feel defrauded of their honest measure.
- 1934 G. ROSS *Tips on Tables* 13 On this most cosmopolitan of cosmopolitan islands [sc. New York], you may avail yourself of smorgasbord in a Swedish valhalla.
- 1960 R. DAVIES *Voice from Attic* i. 33 No cabal of professors...have vowed to cheat the reading public of its rights.
- 1992 *Metro* (San Jose, Calif.) 7 May 8/3 African Americans get pulled over because police suspect them of driving stolen cars.

b. In many verbal phrases, as ***to have (also get) the advantage of; to get (also have) the better of; also formerly in to have compassion (also mercy) of; to have (also take) pity of; to keep watch of, demand or do justice of (= on), have the victory of (= over).***

- a1225 (▶ ?OE) *MS Lamb.* in R. Morris *Old Eng. Homilies* (1868) 1st Ser. 43 (MED) Miserere nostri domine..Lauerd, haue merci of us.
- c1300 (▶ ?c1225) *King Horn* (Cambr.) (1901) 409 (MED) Horn, haue of me rewpe.
- ▶ c1385 G. CHAUCER *Knight's Tale* 2245 I recche nat but it may bettre be To haue victorie of hem or they of me.
- ?a1425 *Mandeville's Trav.* (Egerton) (1889) 5 When any man had be victory of his enemy.
- a1450 *St. Edith* (Faust.) (1883) 1958 Haue pyte of me!
- 1523 LD. BERNERS tr. J. Froissart *Cronycles* I. xvii. 18 That the archers shulde haue noo vauntage of hym.
- 1620 tr. G. Boccaccio *Decameron* II. vi. f. 1^v This idle fellow would maintaine to me, that Signior Sicophanto marrying with Madama della Grazza, had the victory of her virginity the very first night.
- 1655 T. STANLEY *Hist. Philos.* I. i. 20 Sometimes the Medes had the better of the Lydians.
- 1737 W. WHISTON tr. Josephus *Antiq. Jews* II. vi. in tr. Josephus *Genuine Wks.* 46 Take pity of his old age.
- 1774 O. GOLDSMITH *Grecian Hist.* I. viii. 312 Those were intimidated who demanded justice of the murderers.
- 1891 *Scribner's Mag.* Sept. 279/2 The traveller must keep watch of his clothes.
- 1949 E. GOUDGE *Gentian Hill* I. xii. 193 She went on holding the locket until she had got the better of her tears.
- 1994 B. A. STAPLES *Parallel Time* xi. 228 I finally got the advantage of him in broad daylight, in an afternoon crowd.

c. After intransitive verbs. Many of these in Old English took the genitive, and are found with *of* in Middle and Early Modern English, but this is now rare, except where *of* falls in sense under one of the branches already treated; instances are *to reckon, repent, rue, beware* (originally *be ware*) *of*. Verbs of sense, e.g. *feel, smell, taste, touch* (still with *of* in regional or colloquial use), verbs of asking, as *ask, beseech, demand, desire, entreat*, and others, e.g. *distinguish, esteem, forget, like, seize*, formerly construed with *of*, now take a simple object; some, as *accept, admit, allow, approve, conceive, recollect, remember*, still have both constructions; with others, as *hope, look, thirst, wait*, etc., *of* has been displaced by *for* or some other preposition.

- c1300 *St. Theophilus* (Laud) 95 in C. Horstmann *Early S.-Eng. Legendary* (1887) 290 Hou miȝte ich hopie of grace.
- c1400 (▶ ?c1390) *Sir Gawain & Green Knight* (1940) 2308 (MED) No meruayle þaȝ hym myslyke þat hoped of no rescowe.
- a1425 (▶ ?c1384) J. WYCLIF *Sel. Eng. Wks.* (1871) III. 361 Þe assoiling serveþ of nouȝt.
- c1450 (▶ c1350) *Alexander & Dindimus* (Bodl.) (1929) 868 No like no lud of his luþur fare.
- ?c1450 *Life St. Cuthbert* (1891) 5287 To pray to god and saynt cuthbert Of help.
- 1523 LD. BERNERS tr. J. Froissart *Cronycles* I. 447 They feared of a siege to be layed to them.
- a1555 N. RIDLEY *Pituous Lament.* (1566) sig. Dviii^v To fele the smarte, and to fele of the whyp.
- 1568 E. TILNEY *Brief Disc. Mariage* (new ed.) sig. Av Some liked well of carding and dicing, some of dauncing, and other some of chestes.
- 1575 ABP. M. PARKER *Let.* 17 Mar. in *Corr.* (1853) (modernized text) 477 As for the earthquake, I heard not of it, nor it was not felt of here.
- 1577 G. WHETSTONE *Remembraunce Gaskoigne* sig. B.ij^v Death waites of no mans will.
- 1624 J. SMITH *Gen. Hist. Virginia* III. 62 We had ranged vp and downe..looking of stones, herbs, and springs.
- a1628 J. PRESTON *Mount Ebal* (1638) 42 It is not any..niggardly kinde..that hee will like of.
- 1660 F. BROOKE tr. V. Le Blanc *World Surveyed* 83 Two Portuguais ships..seized of the Haven.
- 1698 A. DE LA PRYME *Diary* (1870) 187 He..enticed me to go and accept of the place.
- 1719 D. DEFOE *Life Robinson Crusoe* 63 She went to it, smell'd of it, and ate it.
- 1749 H. FIELDING *Tom Jones* III. VIII. xiii I had tasted of love already, and perhaps you know the extravagant excesses of that most tender and most violent passion.
- 1852 R. S. SURTEES *Mr. Sponge's Sporting Tour* III. xvi. 81 Don't wait of me, my dear Mr. Sponge..don't wait of me, pray.
- 1867 C. DICKENS & W. COLLINS *No Thoroughfare* v. When I felt of his heart, there was no beat.
- 1888 J. BRYCE *Amer. Commonw.* I. xiv. 194 Resolutions which perhaps no single member in his heart approves of.
- 1934 T. S. STRIBLING *Unfinished Cathedral* 349 Yes, an' I allow, too, you remember of puttin' Pap in jail.
- 2000 Z. SMITH *White Teeth* (2001) ix. 211 Born of a green and pleasant land,..the English have a basic inability to conceive of disaster.

XII. Expressing the relationship of the objective genitive.

40. After an agent noun.

Sometimes closely approaching the relation of the object possessed (see 34b).

- IOE *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Laud) (Peterborough interpolation) anno 675 Ic Theodorus ærcebiscop of Cantwarbyrig am witenesse of þas gewrite.
- a1225 *MS Lamb.* in R. Morris *Old Eng. Homilies* (1868) 1st Ser. 75 (MED) Creatorem celi & terre: scuppende and weldende of heouene and of orðe.
- ?a1300 *St. Eustace* (Digby) 230 in C. Horstmann *Altengl. Legenden* (1881) 2nd Ser. 216 (MED) Þe hayward..wes wardein of þat corn.
- c1350 *Ayenbite* (1866) App. 262 (MED) Ich leue ine god, uader almiȝti, makere of heuene and of erþe.
- ▶ c1384 *Bible* (Wycliffite, E.V.) (Douce 369(2)) (1850) Matt. iv. 19 I shal make ȝou to be maad fisheris of men.
- a1400 (▶ a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Fairf. 14) 4643 (MED) I sal do him atte vnder-take he [sc. Joseph] sal be rewler of al my lande.

- 1444 *Rolls of Parl.* V. 124/1 Sellers of Ale, that breken th'assise.
- 1523 in W. H. Turner *Select. Rec. Oxf.* (1880) 34 No purveyor, providor, or taker of victualls for the King's howshould.
- 1559 W. CUNNINGHAM *Cosmogr. Glasse* 173 They are great drinkers of *Aqua vitæ*.
- a1616 W. SHAKESPEARE *Twelfth Night* (1623) I. iii. 83 I am a great eater of beefe.
- 1684 J. PHILLIPS tr. N. A. de La Framboisière *Art of Physick* I. 48 Nature, the Architectress of the Body.
- 1759 W. ROBERTSON *Hist. Scotl.* I. II. 117 Bonot was appointed governor of Orkney.
- 1798 A. BARNARD in Ld. Lindsay *Lives of Lindsays* (1849) III. 439 Here was another civil schoolmaster, the tutor of the *yonge vrow*.
- a1849 J. C. MANGAN *Poems* (1859) 397 The Arbitress of thrones.
- 1857 'CAPT. CRAWLEY' *Billiards* (ed. 2) i. 6 Many foreigners are very excellent handlers of the cue.
- 1923 D. A. MACKENZIE *Myths China & Japan* v. 49 As the guardian of pearls, the Chinese dragon links with the shark-god of the early pearl-fishers.
- 1957 'MISS READ' *Village Diary* 11 She had been a manager of Fairacre School since the reign of King Edward the Seventh.
- 2000 *N.Y. Times Mag.* 16 Apr. (Part 2) 89/1 Name the designer of the ubiquitous swing-arm wall lamp.

41. After a noun of action.

- ?a1160 *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Laud) (Peterborough contin.) anno 1154 Ne durste nan man don oþer bute god for þe micel eie of him.
- c1175 *Ormulum* (Burchfield transcript) Ded. I. 19 3iff enngliſsh folc forr lufe off crist. Itt wollde 3erne lernenn.
- a1375 (► c1350) *William of Palerne* (1867) 113 (MED) At þe burþ of þat barn þe bold lady deyde.
- a1400 (► a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Vesp.) 15931 (MED) Knaulage of him had i neuer nan.
- c1450 (► ?a1400) *Sege Melayne* (1880) 1 The Sege off Melayne.
- 1548 *Hall's Vnion: Edward IV* f. ccxxxvi Testifyng the receipte of the pencion.
- 1563 *2nd Tome Homelyes* Common Prayer & Sacram., in J. Griffiths *Two Bks. Homilies* (1859) II. 356 Confirmation of children, by examining them of their knowledge.
- 1667 J. MILTON *Paradise Lost* XI. 86 Man is become To know both Good and Evil, since his taste Of that defended Fruit.
- 1677 A. MARVELL *Let. in Wks.* (1875) II. 181 Obstruction of the Publick Justice.
- a1715 BP. G. BURNET *Hist. Own Time* (1724) I. 542 He had the management of a secret press.
- 1791 E. INCHBALD *Simple Story* I. v. 44 An inordinate desire of admiration.
- 1861 M. PATTISON in *Westm. Rev.* Apr. 415 A domiciliary visit in search of heretical books.
- 1873 J. MORLEY *Rousseau* I. 344 The betrayal of a secret.
- 1888 *Athenæum* 3 Nov. 595/3 His explanation of various facts is not ours.
- 1945 *Fortune* Mar. 148/1 The twenty-six points amounted to a ten-year plan for the industrialization of Spain.
- 2000 *Ralph* 7 July 89 (caption) Hatred of the World Bank and bad coffee turns environmental protesters..into a crazed mob.

42. After a verbal noun in *-ing*. (See also *-ING suffix¹*).

a. With a verbal noun preceded by *the* or another determiner, or (esp. in recent usage) a premodifying adjective or noun.

- c1175 *Ormulum* (Burchfield transcript) l. 5612 Rihht drædunng off godd.
- c1225 (▶ ?c1200) *St. Katherine* (1973) 1380 I þe cnawlechung of his kinewurðe nome.
- c1230 (▶ ?a1200) *Ancrene Riwe* (Corpus Cambr.) (1962) 17 Heal mi blodi sawle of alle þe sunnen þet ha is wið iwundet þurh mine fif wittes i þe munegunge of ham [sc. Christ's wounds].
- a1375 (▶ c1350) *William of Palerne* (1867) 1941 (MED) For [to] telle þe a-tiryng of þat child..It wold lengeþ þis lessoun a ful long while.
- ▶ a1393 J. GOWER *Confessio Amantis* (Fairf.) v. 1022 He tawhte men..the makinge Of Oxen, and of hors the same.
- a1425 (▶ ?a1400) *Cloud of Unknowing* (Harl. 674) (1944) 73 Þis blynde beholdyng of synne.
- c1450 (▶ ?a1400) *Wars Alexander* (Ashm.) 4088 (MED) Þan wald..his princes haue past..And miȝt noȝt for þe morsure & maynyng of bestis.
- 1556 R. ROBINSON tr. T. More *Utopia* (ed. 2) sig. Qviii For the auoydinge of strife.
- 1576 R. HAKLUYT *Voyages* (1889) XII. 35 To proue by experience of Sundry Mens trauiles the opening of this Northwest Passage.
- a1631 J. DONNE *Serm.* (1955) II. 216 Not the cloathing, nor feeding of Christ, but the housing of him.
- 1642 D. ROGERS *Naaman* 128 The robbing of the church for the saving of some mony.
- 1690 J. LOCKE *Ess. Humane Understanding* III. iii. 191 The considering of a Man's self, or others.
- 1712 J. ADDISON *Spectator* No. 291. ¶2 Any..Notions and Observations which he has made in his reading of the Poets.
- 1785 T. JEFFERSON *Let.* 20 Sept. (1984) 829 Pray try if you can effect the stopping of this work.
- 1824 T. F. DIBDIN *Libr. Compan.* p. i The imparting of a moral feeling.
- 1849 J. RUSKIN *Seven Lamps Archit.* Introd. 3 To enter into any curious or special questioning of the innumerable hindrances.
- 1913 *Sat. Evening Post* (Philadelphia) 22 Feb. 31/2 A proper solving of the domestic, social and economic problems.
- 1931 *Economist* 1 Aug. 219/1 The President's plan hints at definite freezing of existing bank credit for an agreed period.
- 1937 M. COVARRUBIAS *Island of Bali* i. 7 The second half of the manuscript is extremely obscure..perhaps owing to careless copying of an older palm-leaf book.
- 1942 *Washington Post* 23 Nov. 11/6 An anti-hoarding regulation for householders..to curb panic-buying of foods.
- 1966 R. WEBSTER *Pract. Gemmol.* (ed. 4) xvi. 152 The lapidary being a worker whose job is principally the cutting of fine gems.
- 1974 *Nature* 10 May 111/3 Repeated burning of the scrub could have reversed the trend in vegetational development caused by ameliorating climate.
- 2000 *N.Y. Times* 1 May c4/1 The selling of goods and services may often seem to have turned into a youngster's game.

b. With a verbal noun not preceded by a determiner or other premodifier.

Now *rare* and (when the object of *of* is a pronoun) *regional*.

Use without *the* appears to occur chiefly where the process expressed by the verbal noun is prominent. In current standard English the form in *-ing* is usually constructed as a gerund taking a direct object without *of*.

- a1225 (▶ ?OE) *MS Lamb.* in R. Morris *Old Eng. Homilies* (1868) 1st Ser. 45 (MED) Ester dei..is muneȝing of his halie ariste from dede to liue.

- a1325 (▶ c1250) *Gen. & Exod.* (1968) l. 832 Do wurden waxen so wide and spred Pride and giscing of louerd-hed.
- a1375 (▶ c1350) *William of Palerne* (1867) 2114 (MED) For missing of þat mariage, al murrþe was seced.
- c1440 (▶ a1349) R. ROLLE *Eng. Prose Treat.* (1921) 11 Here is forboden vn-ryghtwyse hurtyng of any persone.
- 1488 (▶ c1478) HARY *Actis & Deidis Schir William Wallace* (Adv.) (1968–9) vi. l. 196 Newyn off it is bot ekyng off payne.
- 1523 LD. BERNERS tr. J. Froissart *Cronycles* I. cxxvi. 152 The Englysshmen departed without wyning of any thyng.
- a1575 N. HARPSFIELD *Treat. Divorce Henry VIII* (1878) (modernized text) 84 For avoiding of prolixity.
- 1642 D. ROGERS *Naaman* 451 Rebuked for greeving of God.
- a1687 W. PETTY *Polit. Arithm.* (1691) v. 88 The Burthen of protecting of them all, must lye upon the chief Kingdom England.
- 1751 R. PALTOCK *Life Peter Wilkins* I. xv.153 I can't help loving of you heartily for it.
- a1800 T. BELLAMY *Beggar Boy* (1801) II. 187 By stealing of children.
- 1848 C. DICKENS *Dombey & Son* lii. 516 Can't you be fond of a cove without squeedging and throttling of him!
- 1874 J. RUSKIN *Fors Clavigera* IV. xlviii. 278 We must cease throwing of stones either at saints or squirrels.
- 1875 G. W. DASENT *Vikings* I. 272 He that owned to burning of churches in the West.
- 1886 R. E. G. COLE *Gloss. Words S.-W. Lincs.* 101 It doesn't pay for sending of them to Lincoln.
- 1900 J. E. ELLIS in *Corr. rel. Polit. Situation S. Afr.* 12 We want a stream of facts concerning suppression of telegrams, opening of letters, arbitrary arrests, [etc.].
- 1906 E. NESBIT *Railway Children* xii. 256 Like most boys..[he] hated..kissing and holding of hands.
- c1921 A. M. HASWELL *Daughter of Ozarks* 27 Doc let me read his books and help me a heap about understandin' of 'em.
- 1948 M. DERIEUX & I. STEVENSON *Compl. Bk. Interior Decorating* 147 To simplify making of French pleats two products are available.
- 1982 *New Scientist* 14 Jan. 85/2 Mastering and pressing of discs can take up to three months.
- 1991 *Economist* 22 June 113/1 Buying of the September contract by Japanese brokers pushed the premium on the futures up from 620 Nikkei points to 700.

c. With a verbal noun governed by †*in* or *a* (in later modern English regarded as a present participle, as in sense 43, with prefixed *a-*). Now *regional*.

- c1396 in R. W. Chambers & M. Daunt *Bk. London Eng.* (1931) 234 Þe ȝomen of Schordych, þat þere were in amending of her berseles.
- c1465 in C. L. Kingsford *Stonor Lett. & Papers* (1919) I. 68 (MED) The chirchemen of Dudcote wer in barginyng off a ryke off weete.
- 1482 R. CELY THE YOUNGER *Let.* 2 Apr. (1975) 135 Now whyll I am a whrytting of thys letter, Wylliam Mydwyttyrs mane ys com to fet mony.
- 1523 LD. BERNERS tr. J. Froissart *Cronycles* I. 116 He was thre dayes a landyng of all his prouisyon.
- 1534 *Bible* (Tyndale rev. Joye) Matt. ix. 9 He sawe a man syt a receauynge of custome.
- 1580 J. LYLY *Euphues & his Eng.* (new ed.) f. 74^v Camilla, whome hee founde in gathering of flowers.
- 1684 J. BUNYAN *Pilgrim's Progress 2nd Pt.* 15 She is..a taking of her last farewel of her Country.
- 1790 R. TYLER *Contrast* II. ii. 29 The snarl-headed curs fell a-kicking and cursing of me.

- 1837 C. DICKENS *Pickwick Papers* xxxii. 343 But wot's that, you're a doin' of?
- c1884 'C. E. CRADDOCK' *In Tennessee Mts.* 250 I clar forgits what horses them Jeemes boys war a-ridin' of.
- 1892 R. KIPLING *Barrack-room Ballads* 51 An' I seed her first a-smokin' of a whackin' white cheroot.
- 1909 S. WATSON *Wops the Waif* i. 2 'I say, Tickle matey, wot's all them a-readin' of on that bill over there?' interrupted Wops.
- 1916 *Dial. Notes* 4 317 Concerning of Hiram Hubbert.
- 1938 M. K. RAWLINGS *Yearling* 76 Jody's been a-wanting of a leetle knapsack.
- 1948 M. CARBERY & E. GREY *Herts. Heritage* 117 I was but a-doin' of my dooty.
- 1973 J. KETT *Tha's Rum'un, Bor!* 35 Standin' there a-fillin' of 'em.

43. After a present participle (equivalent to sense 42c). Now *regional* and *nonstandard*.

- 1464 in E. Hobhouse *Church-wardens' Accts.* (1890) 103 (MED) For ye Plumer mendyng of the Sowthe Ele, xj s. x d.
- a1552 A. BARCLAY *Eclogues* (1928) ii. 74 Some would gladly be gnawing of a bone.
- 1563 J. FOXE *Actes & Monuments* 1693/2 He found the Byshop bastyng of him selfe against a great fire.
- 1593 *Tell-Trothes New-yeares Gift* (1876) 4 Who was making faste of the brand gates.
- a1616 W. SHAKESPEARE *Timon of Athens* (1623) v. ii. 70 Why I was writing of my Epitaph.
- 1666 S. PEPYS *Diary* 19 Mar. (1972) VII. 76 They being altering of the Stage.
- 1694 L. ECHARD tr. Plautus *Rudens* ii. xii, in tr. Plautus *Comedies* 178 I'll go see what the merchant..is doing of.
- 1708 *Session Bk. Glasserton MS* 18 Jan. John Dinle is to wait upon a visitation which is to be at Kirkinner, visiting of the manse.
- 1751 *Maryland Statistics* in J. R. Bartlett *Dict. Americanisms* (ed. 2) 300 Many negroes..absent themselves from their masters' service, and run out into the woods and there remain, killing and destroying of hogs and cattle.
- 1832 *Fife Herald* 11 Oct. He said he was shooting of game.
- 1839 T. SHONE *Jrnl.* 14 Jan. (1992) 81 The children was helping of me.
- 1853 C. DICKENS *Bleak House* viii. 76 How have I been conducting of myself? Why, I've been drunk for three days.
- 1907 S. E. WHITE *Arizona Nights* (U.K. ed.) 33 Pete, gettin' hostile and handlin' of his rifle.
- 1932 E. CALDWELL *Tobacco Road* vi. 73 You and him has been squatting there, hugging and rubbing of the other for near about half an hour.

XIII. Indicating that in respect of which a quality is attributed, or a fact is predicated.

44. In respect of, in the matter of, in point of, in.

a. Following an adjective. Now *archaic*, *literary*, and *regional* (chiefly *Irish English*).

In Old English expressed by *on*; in French by *de*; in Latin by the ablative, genitive, and accusative (of respect).

The *of*-clause is grammatically an adverbial qualification of the adjective, for which an adverb may often be substituted, e.g. *weak of mind*, 'mentally weak'. Taken together, the adjective + the *of*-clause = a compound (parasyntetic) adjective, e.g. *light of foot*, 'light-footed', *strong of limb*, 'strong-limbed'. It is further equivalent to the *of*-clause of quality in branch X., e.g. 'a man weak of mind' = 'a man of weak mind'; the latter being the ordinary prose form.

- c1175 *Ormulum* (Burchfield transcript) l. 12084 Te₃₃ hafenn mikell fe. & sinndenn riche off ahhte.
- c1225 (▶ ?c1200) *St. Katherine* (1973) 69 (MED) In þis ilke burh wes wuniende a meiden..feier & freolich o wlite & o westum.
- a1250 (▶ ?a1200) *Ancrene Riwe* (Nero) (1952) 158 3ung of 3eres ase he was.
- a1300 (▶ c1275) *Physiologus* (1991) 107 Danne ðe neddre is of his hid naked.
- ▶ c1300 *Havelok* (Laud) (1868) 2505 Þe mere..Skabbe[d] and ful iuele o bone.
- ▶ c1387–95 G. CHAUCER *Canterbury Tales Prolog*. 546 Ful big he was of brawn and eek of bones.
- c1390 (▶ a1376) W. LANGLAND *Piers Plowman* (Vernon) (1867) A. x. 32 Mon is him Most lyk of Marke and of schap.
- c1400 (▶ ?a1387) W. LANGLAND *Piers Plowman* (Huntington HM 137) (1873) C. xv. 187 Þe larke..is loueloker of lydene..swettur of sauour and swyfter of wynges.
- ?a1425 *Mandeville's Trav.* (Egerton) (1889) 24 (MED) Numidianes..er blakk of colour.
- c1450 (▶ a1400) *Libeaus Desconus* (Calig. A.ii) (1969) 704 (MED) Þe Erl..Yaf hym..a noble stede þat dou3ty was of dede.
- c1515 LD. BERNERS tr. *Bk. Duke Huon of Burdeux* (1882–7) 314 The emperour was hole of his thygh that Huon had broken.
- 1596 E. SPENSER *Second Pt. Faerie Queene* v. ix. sig. T5 So light of hand, and nymble of his pace, So smooth of tongue, and subtile in his tale.
- 1611 *Bible* (King James) 2 Sam. iv. 4 A sonne that was lame of [Coverdale on] his feete.
- c1630 in W. Macfarlane *Geogr. Coll. Scotl.* (1907) II. 149 Fertil of corne and plenteous off milk.
- 1697 J. DRYDEN tr. Virgil *Georgics* III, in tr. Virgil *Wks.* 99 Of able Body, sound of Limb and Wind.
- 1742 H. FIELDING *Joseph Andrews* II. iv. x. 259 They both exprest such unusual Coldness that day to Paul, that he, who was quick of Apprehension..discovered the Secret.
- 1783 *Ainsworth's Thes. Linguae Latinae* (new ed.) II *Luscus*, blind of one eye.
- 1821 *Farmer's Mag.* May 206 A field that appeared to be pretty rich of clover.
- 1829 D. SYME *Rep. High Court Justiciary 1826–9* 97 She was always a rash creature of her words.
- 1891 *Cornhill Mag.* Oct. 416 Hard he was of hand and harder of heart.
- 1915 *St. Nicholas Mag.* Nov. 66/1 A celebrated quarter-back... A player so fleet of foot that he holds a record..for the 100-yard dash.
- 1992 *Smithsonian* Jan. 90 Who is narrow of vision cannot be bighearted, who is narrow of spirit cannot take long, easy strides.
- 1996 C. I. MACAFEE *Conc. Ulster Dict.* (at cited word) He's not a bad fellow of his whiskey.

b. Indicating the reference of a measurement, in *of length*, *of breadth*, *of depth*, etc. Now archaic, except in *of age*.

Now usually replaced by *in*; this construction is often replaced by an adjective, e.g. 'six feet high', 'two inches long'.

- ▶ a1390 G. CHAUCER *Monk's Tale* 3602 With hym been hise litel children thre, The eldeste scarsly fyue year was of age.
- ?a1425 (▶ ?c1350) *Northern Passion* (Rawl.) 2141 (MED) Ane elne of lenghe þa wandes ware.
- ?a1425 *Mandeville's Trav.* (Egerton) (1889) 6 Þe crosse..was of lenth viii. cubits.
- c1450 (▶ ?a1400) *Wars Alexander* (Ashm.) 2898 3it has þe floum, as I fynde, a forelange o brede.
- a1500 (▶ ?c1450) *Merlin* 31 The werke of this tour is iij or iiij fadom of height.
- 1523 LD. BERNERS tr. J. Froissart *Cronycles* I. cccxxv. 507 The blade was two els of length.

- 1526 *Bible* (Tyndale) Luke iii. f. lxxvij^v Iesus him silfe was about thirty yere of age.
- 1589 P. IVE *Pract. Fortification* 25 in tr. R. Beccarie de Pavie *Instr. Warres* For euery one foot of height, one foot of scarpe.
- 1611 *Bible* (King James) Ezek. xlv. 5 The fiue and twenty thousand of length, and the tenne thousand of breadth, shall also the Leuites..haue for themselues.
- 1738 A. RAMSAY *Wks.* (1944–73) III. II. 247 To me, far in the frozen north,..through Nights of eighteen hours of Length, ther's hardly aught coud please me better than friendly love & your kind letter.
- 1843 *Fraser's Mag.* 28 652 He is..fifty-three years of age.
- 1882 R. L. STEVENSON *New Arabian Nights* II. 6 For ten miles of length..this belt of barren country lay along the sea.
- 1914 E. R. BURROUGHS *Tarzan of Apes* xi. 142 His six feet of height and his great rolling sinews seemed pitifully inadequate to the ordeal.
- 1968 *Jrnl. Pediatrics* 73 143/1 3 members of the maternal family had heart disease—2 died elderly and the third died at 12 years of age.
- 1993 S. L. DELANY et al. *Having our Say* IV. xiv. 88 My visitor was a sawed-off little fella. I was five feet, seven inches of height, and unfortunately for him, I like my men tall.
- 2000 *Big Issue* 17 July 43/2 (advt.) Candidates must be over 18 years of age, [and] have a minimum of one year's experience of mental health work.

c. Following *long*, *late*, *quick*, *slow*, etc., and followed by a verbal noun.

Now regional (*Irish English* and *Scottish*: cf. Scots *lang o'*) except in *hard of hearing*.

Now usually replaced by *in* or *at*.

- a1398 J. TREVISA tr. Bartholomaeus Anglicus *De Proprietatibus Rerum* (BL Add. 27944) (1975) I. VIII. xvi. 488 Þeiȝ he be most in quantite and most swift of meuyng.
- 1422 in R. W. Chambers & M. Daunt *Bk. London Eng.* (1931) 144 (MED) Þe world was hard of taking of money yn þat ȝer with þe Crafte of Breweres, For her Custumers paid hem not well.
- 1477 E. BEDYNGFELD in *Paston Lett. & Papers* (2004) II. 420 I be-leve yt not by-cause they have ben so long of comyng.
- c1500 in H. A. Person *Cambr. Middle Eng. Lyrics* (1953) 39 (MED) I had leuer she were of talkyng styll Then that she shuld so goodly speche spyll.
- 1614 in R. Pitcairn *Criminal Trials Scotl.* (1833) III. 292 Quhilk was the occasionne that your lo. was so long of getting word.
- 1621 T. W. tr. S. Goullart *Wise Vieillard* 9 Thou art quick of hearing, thy teeth are sound.
- 1712 in J. Lauder *Decisions Lords of Council* (1761) II. 705 For a long time before his death he was turned hard of hearing.
- 1741 A. MONRO *Anat. Human Bones* (ed. 3) 36 The Bones..are so long of hardning.
- 1774 *Weekly Mag.* 24 Feb. 272 One day the man was rather late of appearing.
- 1824 S. E. FERRIER *Inheritance* xxii That day may be a while of coming.
- 1840 A. ALISON *Hist. Europe from French Revol.* VIII. lxvii. 823 The winter was unusually late of setting in.
- 1887 W. BESANT *World Went* xxviii. 209 [He] was slow of catching news.
- 1902 *N.E.D.* (at cited word) I am so quick of catching cold.
- 1962 S. PLATH *Jrnl.* (2000) 650 She seemed very hard of hearing at first.
- 1996 C. I. MACAFEE *Conc. Ulster Dict.* at *Late* *Late of*, late in (doing something).

†45. Following a verb: in respect of. *Obsolete*.

Replaced by *in*.

- c1225 (▶ ?c1200) *Sawles Warde* (Bodl.) (1938) 24 (MED) Godd mei mid rihte fordemen us of al þis þurh ure prude.
- a1400 (▶ a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Gött.) 10613 As scho of body wex [*a1400 Vesp.* wex on her licame].
- c1425 J. LYDGATE *Troyyes Bk.* (Augustus A.iv) II. 8108 (MED) Phebus bemys briȝt..was dirked of his liȝt.
- c1450 (▶ ?c1400) *Three Kings Cologne* (Cambr. Ee.4.32) (1886) 6 (MED) Þat hill Vaws passeth of heithe all othir hillis in þat countreie.
- a1500 (▶ ?c1450) *Merlin* 92 (MED) The tother party..encrested moche of peple.
- 1568 T. HILL *Proffitable Arte Gardening* (rev. ed.) II. i. f. 40^v To make it sprede of bredth in the growyng.
- 1602 E. HAYES in J. Brereton *Briefe Relation Discouerie Virginia* 18 Charges abridged of salt, victualling and manning ships double.
- 1690 W. WALKER *Idiomatologia Anglo-Lat.* 346 Land rose of price very much.

†46. Following a noun: in respect of, in, by. *Obsolete*.

- a1375 (▶ c1350) *William of Palerne* (1867) 442 (MED) Þat barne..flour is of alle frekes, of fairnes and miȝt.
- c1395 G. CHAUCER *Merchant's Tale* 2428 Of hir tonge a labbyng shrewe is she.
- 1484 W. CAXTON tr. G. de la Tour-Landry *Bk. Knight of Tower* (1971) lxii. 87 A man..whiche of his craft was a Rope maker.
- 1535 *Bible* (Coverdale) Prov. xvi. D He y^t is a blabbe of his tonge, maketh deuysion amonge prynces.
- 1574 in J. D. Marwick *Rec. Convent. Royal Burghs Scotl.* (1870) I. 31 Johnne Dowglas..being ane cordinar of his occupation.

XIV. Indicating a quality or other distinguishing mark by which a person or thing is characterized, identified or described.

Used for the Old English genitive, French *de*; equivalent to the genitive of quality or description.

47. Indicating a quality possessed by the subject.

The quality is usually expressed by a noun qualified by an adjective, but may consist of a noun alone, as in 'a man of tact', 'a textbook of authority'. It is often equivalent to an adjective as in 'a man of tact' = a tactful man, 'a work of authority' = an authoritative work.

- c1175 *Ormulum* (Burchfield transcript) Pref. l. 49 Alls iff þeȝ karrte wære Off wheless fowwre.
- c1300 *St. Leonard* (Laud) 25 in C. Horstmann *Early S.-Eng. Legendary* (1887) 457 A tour of gret bolde.
- c1330 (▶ c1250) *Floris & Blancheflur* (Auch.) (1966) 4 (MED) Þe arsouns were gold pur and fin, Stones of vertu set þerin.
- a1400 (▶ a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Fairf. 14) 27685 Sum sais he is..of grete almus, of grete praier.
- ?c1430 (▶ c1400) J. WYCLIF *Eng. Wks.* (1880) 201 It is of most auctorite.
- ▶ 1440 *Promptorium Parvulorum* (Harl. 221) 363 Of o colowre.
- a1500 (▶ ?c1400) *Sir Triamour* (Cambr.) (1937) 868 Syr Barnard was of myght.
- 1512 *Act 4 Hen. VIII* c. 4 §1 To be utterly voyde and of noo force ne effect.
- 1526 *Bible* (Tyndale) Matt. ix. f. xi Sonne be off good chere.
- 1560 J. DAUS tr. J. Sleidane *Commentaries* f. xix He is still of the same minde.
- 1634 T. HERBERT *Relation Some Yeares Trauaile* 93 Stealing a trifle, of two shillings value.
- 1662 E. STILLINGFLEET *Origines Sacrae* III. iii. §4 A God of Infinite Justice, Purity, and Holiness.

- 1740 S. RICHARDSON *Pamela* II. 360 Four Misses, all pretty much of a Size.
- 1794 *Hist. in Ann. Reg.* 38 Several..officers of note fell.
- 1817 LD. BYRON *Manfred* II. i. 36 That word was made For brutes of burthen, not for birds of prey.
- 1886 *Manch. Examiner* 16 Jan. 5/4 An Evangelical of moderate views.
- 1915 W. S. MAUGHAM *Of Human Bondage* xxxii. 139 A fashionable portrait-painter, who had married a Jewish wife of means.
- 1966 N. GORDIMER *Late Bourgeois World* 66 The jobs came last in any consideration because they were of no importance.
- 1990 D. McINTOSH *Prairie Conversat. in Visits: on Road to Things Past* 181 Stilborn was a director of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool and thus a farmer of some influence.

48. Indicating an action, fact, or thing that distinguishes, characterizes, or specifies a time, place, etc.

This passes into branch XIV.

- a1225 (▶ ?OE) *MS Lamb. in R. Morris Old Eng. Homilies* (1868) 1st Ser. 41 (MED) Sunedei is ihaten þes lauerdes dei and ec þe dei of blisse and of lisse and of alleirest.
- a1325 (▶ c1250) *Gen. & Exod.* (1968) l. 252 God sette ðis dai folk bitwen Dai of blisse and off reste ben.
- ▶ a1382 *Bible* (Wycliffite, E.V.) (Bodl. 959) 2 Kings xxiii. 20 In þe daies of snowz [L. *in diebus nivis*].
- ▶ a1382 *Bible* (Wycliffite, E.V.) (Douce 369(1)) (1850) Eccles. iii. 2 Time of hauing birthe and time of diyng; time of plaunting, and time of pulling vp.
- a1425 (▶ a1400) *Prick of Conscience* (Galba & Harl.) (1863) 2600 Our last day þat sal falle, Our day of dome we may calle.
- 1508 *Golagros & Gawane* (Chepman & Myllar) sig. aii In the tyme of Arthur.
- 1523 in A. T. Bannister *Reg. Caroli Bothe* (1921) 206 Item, i black clothe for the founder's herse the day of his anniversary.
- 1567 W. PAINTER *Palace of Pleasure* II. xxv. f. 223^v I marked so many chaunged coloures in his face in time of his talke with me.
- 1638 BP. J. WILKINS *Discov. New World* (1684) l. 44 Where the Angel of Reflexion is Equal to the Angel of Incidence.
- 1660 F. BROOKE tr. V. Le Blanc *World Surveyed* 5 Caves..formerly inhabited by the Christians in time of persecution.
- 1743 W. EMERSON *Doctr. Fluxions* 144 The Point of Inflexion or contrary Flexure is that Point which separates the convex from the concave Part of the Curve.
- 1795 *Gentleman's Mag.* 65 545/1 The places of our birth and education.
- 1816 J. WILSON *City of Plague* l. i. 22 Is it the hour of prayer?
- 1845 M. PATTISON in *Christian Remembrancer* Jan. 73 You will find yourself in the country of the mulberries.
- 1939 W. S. MAUGHAM *Christmas Holiday* i. 1 A broad, sad, landscape of ploughed fields and sparse bare trees.
- 1988 *Observer* 8 May (Colour Suppl.) 49/2 After four years of constant applications I was finally invited to take a make-up test.
- 2001 *U.S. News & World Rep.* 19 Nov. 56/3 The fast-moving blue whales eluded whalers in the days of sail.

49.

a. Indicating quantity, age, extent, price, etc.

- c1225 (▶ ?c1200) *Hali Meidhad* (Bodl.) (1940) 130 For eðelich delit of an hondhwile.
- c1275 (▶ ?a1200) LA3AMON *Brut* (Calig.) (1963) 377 A 3ung mon of þriti 3eren.
- c1325 (▶ c1300) *Chron. Robert of Gloucester* (Calig.) 8017 He esste wat hii [sc. hose] costnede; 'þre ssillinges,' þe oþer sede..quaþ þe king.. 'Buy a peire of a marc'.
- c1405 (▶ c1390) G. CHAUCER *Reeve's Tale* (Hengwrt) (2003) l. 324 At the entree..Thow shalt a Cake of half a busshel fynde.
- ?c1450 *Life St. Cuthbert* (1891) 6623 Before he was of 3eres fourtene.
- 1523 LD. BERNERS tr. J. Froissart *Cronycles* I. ccxv. 270 Theyr speares of syxe foote of lengthe.
- a1616 W. SHAKESPEARE *Measure for Measure* (1623) II. i. 188 Are you of fourescore pounds a yeere?
- 1624 R. BURTON *Anat. Melancholy* (ed. 2) III. II. III. 411 Calfe skinne gloues of 4^d a paire.
- 1634 T. HERBERT *Relation Some Yeares Trauaile* 11 A Portugall Carrack of aboue fiftene hundred tunne.
- 1756 T. AMORY *Life John Buncl* I. 388 Eusebia was but just turned of twenty when I first saw her.
- 1790 *Ann. Reg. 1788* Misc. Ess. 134/1 He introduced me to his wife; a woman turned of forty.
- 1864 C. DICKENS *Our Mutual Friend* (1865) I. I. iii. 13 A boy of about fifteen.
- 1878 M. STOKES *Early Christian Archit. Ireland* 4 Simple churches of one chamber.
- 1891 *Notes & Queries* 26 Dec. 511/2 Small farms of from twenty to one hundred acres.
- 1926 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 1044/2 The heterodyning current must have a frequency of 10⁵ plus or minus 512.
- 1981 G. HOUSEHOLD *Summon Bright Water* ii. 96 The tin was flowing from the charcoal into the mould, enough for a small ingot of not more than three cubic inches.
- 2000 R. W. HOLDER *Taunton Cider & Langdons* xvi. 85 To avoid the same problem with the second store of some 35,000 square feet,..Donoghue renegotiated the lease.

b. With an adjective added, esp. *old* (see *OLD adj.* 4c); less commonly *long, broad, high, deep, wide, etc.*

- c1300 (▶ ?c1225) *King Horn* (Laud) (1901) 18 (*MED*) He was fayr and eke bold And of fiftene winter hold.
- c1390 G. CHAUCER *Prioress's Tale* 1674 As a child of twelf month old or lesse That kan vnnethe any word expresse, Right so fare I.
- ▶ a1398 J. TREVISA tr. Bartholomaeus Anglicus *De Proprietatibus Rerum* (BL Add.) f. 218 Canel..is a schort tre of tweye cubites longe.
- ?a1425 (▶ c1400) *Mandeville's Trav.* (Titus C.xvi) (1919) 176 (*MED*) And þei han grete longe leves & large of ij fote long or more.
- 1528 T. PAYNELL tr. Arnaldus de Villa Nova in Joannes de Mediolano *Regimen Sanitatis Salerni* (1575) 26 Lammes of a yeare olde.
- a1616 W. SHAKESPEARE *Cymbeline* (1623) II. v. 31 One Vice, but of a minute old.
- 1670 J. NARBOROUGH *Jrnl. in Acct. Several Late Voy.* (1711) I. 68 Large Smelts of 20 Inches long.
- 1750 G. HUGHES *Nat. Hist. Barbados* 234 The stalk..of near one fifth part of an inch thick.
- 1798 W. WORDSWORTH *Anecd. for Fathers* in W. Wordsworth & S. T. Coleridge *Lyrical Ballads* 105 I have a boy of five years old, His face is fair and fresh to see.
- 1840 R. H. DANA *Two Years before Mast* xxv. 271 We had a fine breeze to take us through the Canal, as they call this bay of forty miles long by ten wide.
- 1863 N. HAWTHORNE *Our Old Home* I. 1 A shabby..edifice of four stories high.

- 1910 W. S. BLOUNT *Diary* 15 Nov. (1920) II. 343 To the Grafton Gallery to look at what are called the Post-Impressionist pictures... The drawing is on the level of..an untaught child of seven or eight years old.
- 1938 A. E. CLAYTON *Performance & Design Direct Current Machines* (ed. 2) xiv. 288 Thin specimens of 0.15 mm. thick.
- 1997 J. WILSON *Coarse Fishing Method Man*. (1998) 143/1 Those lovely little baby calamari of about 4–6 inches long.

50. Followed by a noun of action with possessive.

Equivalent to a passive participial phrase indicating the agent and action of which something is the object, e.g. 'trees of our planting' = trees planted by us.

This has affinities with branches III. and IX.

- c1400 (▶ c1378) W. LANGLAND *Piers Plowman* (Laud 581) (1869) B. x. 211 In forceres of fele mennes makynge.
- ▶ a1470 T. MALORY *Morte Darthur* (Winch. Coll.) 713 Thus I am slayne..thorow two knyghtes of myne owne bryngynge vp and of myne owne makynge.
- 1526 W. BONDE *Pylgrimage of Perfection* Pref. sig. Aii^v Nat of myne inuencion.
- 1553 T. WILSON *Arte of Rhetorique* I. f. 3 To dispose and order matters of our awne inuencion.
- 1611 *Bible* (King James) Ezek. xxvii. 16 Syria was thy merchant by reason of the multitude of the wares of thy making.
- a1616 W. SHAKESPEARE *Coriolanus* (1623) I. i. 214 Fiue Tribunes..Of their owne choice.
- 1738 T. BIRCH *Life Milton* in J. Milton *Wks.* I. 20 Young Sparks of his Acquaintance..the Beaus of those Days.
- 1787 T. JEFFERSON *Let.* 7 Feb. in *Papers* (1955) XI. 124 Shall I fill the box with caps, bonnets, &c.? not of my own chusing, but [etc.].
- 1845 J. LINGARD *Hist. & Antiq. Anglo-Saxon Church* (ed. 3) I. v. 212 Their immediate superior was of her appointment.
- 1885 *Bible* (R.V.) Psalms cvii. 30 (*margin*) The haven of their desire.
- 1939 D. CECIL *Young Melbourne* iv. 106 Living wholly in a wish-fulfilment world of her own creation, she insisted it was the real one.
- 1953 M. McLuhan *Let.* 14 July (1987) 239 He makes part of his living by writing continuity for a comic strip of his invention.
- 1993 *Shakespeare Bull.* Summer 34/1 With *lazzi* (tricks, jests, mimes) of their own devising, commedia clowns..distracted the audience's attention.

XV. Indicating a point or space of time.

51.

a. At some time during, in the course of, on.

Apparently taking the place of the Germanic and Old English genitive of time. Now only implying regularity or repetition (as also in sense 51b), e.g. in *of a Monday, of a Sunday afternoon*. Now chiefly regional.

of an evening: see EVENING *n.*¹, *adv.*, and *int.* Phrases 2.

- [eOE *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Parker) anno 917 Ða æfter þam þæs ilcan sumeres gegadorode micel folc hit.
- IOE *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Parker) (Interpolation) anno 46 Ðis was þes feorðes geares his rices.]
- c1225 (▶ ?c1200) *St. Katherine* (1973) 1741 (*MED*) Freineden Porphire alle his cnihtes hwer he hefde, wið þe cwen, iwunet & iwiket swa longe of þe niht.
- ▶ a1382 *Bible* (Wycliffite, E.V.) (Bodl. 959) (1959) Gen. xx. 8 Anone of the nyȝt rysyng, abymalech [etc.].

- 1472 in J. Raine *Vol. Eng. Misc. N. Counties Eng.* (1890) 23 Maid asalt..& afrayd his neyghburs of Palmsondai.
- 1612 *Acct.-bk. W. Wray* in *Antiquary* 32 214 Great thunder..and also the like of new yeares day following.
- 1657 in *Court Leet Rec. Manch.* (1887) IV. 212 For buying and selling pullen both of one day.
- 1740 S. RICHARDSON *Pamela* II. 149 Of a Thursday my dear Father and Mother were marry'd.
- 1780 *Mirror* No. 80 As he commonly dines out of a Sunday, he expects his servants to go to church.
- 1830 J. H. NEWMAN *Lett. & Corr.* (1891) I. 222 My practice to walk of a day to Nuneham.
- 1899 W. I. KNAPP *Life G. Borrow* I. 79 The father made his last Will and Testament of a Monday.
- 1922 J. JOYCE *Ulysses* II. xii. [Cyclops] 301 See him of a Sunday with his little concubine of a wife.
- 1959 K. WATERHOUSE *Billy Liar* i. 11 He can start coming in of a night, or else go and live somewhere else.
- 1999 C. CREEDON *Passion Play* ii. 8 Kippers of a Friday, roast of a Sunday.

b. With plural noun (originally the genitive). Cf. *A-NIGHTS* *adv.*, *o'nights* at *NIGHT* *n.* and *int.* Phrases 2c(d). Now *regional* and *archaic*.

- 1740 LD. CHESTERFIELD *Lett.* (1932) (modernized text) II. 443 [To] sleep sound of nights.
- 1753 A. MURPHY *Gray's Inn Jrnl.* No. 50 [They] begin to drop in here of Evenings.
- 1849 W. M. THACKERAY *Pendennis* (1850) I. xx. 187 Dice can be played of mornings as well as after dinner.
- 1867 'E. KIRKE' *On Border* iii. 67 I don't forget..how you worked of nights.
- 1897 J. L. ALLEN *Choir Invisible* xvii. 252 You have holiday of Saturdays. I have not, you see.
- 1932 E. CALDWELL *Tobacco Road* viii. 98 She used to tell me how pretty I looked when I combed my hair of mornings and put on a clean apron.
- 1944 H. G. WELLS *'42 to '44* 149 These gentlemen seem able to sleep of nights without ordinary narcotics.
- 1970 C. OLSEN *Maximus Poems* (1983) III. 476 It is a pleasure to report, to a city which is now so moribund, that there are men still, in some of these houses, of evenings, who are of this make.

†c. *Scottish* and *U.S.* From the specified date. Usually in ***of this date***: as of now. Cf. sense 2. *Obsolete*.

- 1817 W. SCOTT *Rob Roy* v, in *Waverley Novels* (1830) II. 75 I cannot deny, sir, but the balance may of this date be brought out against us.
- 1866 *Glasgow Trade Circular* The Subscriber..has retired of this date from the Company.
- 1882 J. SCHOULER *Hist. U.S.A.* II. 284 All interdictions against Great Britain would cease of the same date [10th of the next June].

52.

a. During, for (a space of time). In later use chiefly in negative contexts. Now *English regional* (midlands and northern).

- c1275 (► ?a1200) LA3AMON *Brut* (Calig.) (1963) 188 Muchel we wleð driȝen, & habben care of ure life.
- a1375 (► c1350) *William of Palerne* (1867) 2458 (MED) No seg þat hade sewed no schuld hom winne, hized þei neuer so hard of al þa long niȝt.
- a1425 (► c1385) G. CHAUCER *Troilus & Criseyde* (1987) v. 281 This Pandare..of al the day biforn Ne myghte han comen Troilus to se.
- a1450 *Generides* (Pierpont Morgan) (1865) 4866 (MED) Ye shal not hang him of al this yere.

- 1523 LD. BERNERS tr. J. Froissart *Cronycles* I. x. 10 They wist nat of two dayes wher they were.
- 1587 L. MASCALL *Bk. Cattell: Hogges* (1627) 265 Giue him no meat of an houre or two after.
- 1631 J. WEEVER *Anc. Funerall Monuments* 220 That he should not weare a shirt of three yeares.
- 1662 E. STILLINGFLEET *Origines Sacrae* II. ii. §6 For these..of a long time had been very studious of Geometry.
- 1674 P. HENRY *Diaries & Lett.* (1882) 267 It had not rayn'd of many weekes before.
- 1768 H. BROOKE *Fool of Quality* III. xvi. 144 Not seeing or hearing from him of a long time.
- 1774 J. GURNEY *Let.* 24 Aug. in *Jrnl. Friends Hist. Soc.* (1923) 20 79 Thou hast not wrote me of some time.
- 1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words* 336 I have not heard the word of many years, and believe it is going out.
- 1833 S. AUSTIN *Characteristics Goethe* II. 334 Persons whom we have not seen of a long time.
- 1881 S. EVANS *Evans's Leicestershire Words* (new ed.) (at cited word) Ah shain't be theer of a dee or tew.
- 1928 A. E. PEASE *Dict. Dial. N. Riding Yorks.* (new ed.) (at cited word) Ah've nut seen her of a canny bit.

b. After a noun, indicating the duration of an activity, relationship, etc.

- 1741 C. MIDDLETON *Hist. Life Cicero* II. viii. 233 His late consulship of three months.
- 1798 T. JONES *Memoirs* (1951) 27 Mrs Bowles..was now a Convalescent after a most severe & dangerous Illness of many Months.
- 1855 T. B. MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* III. xii. 210 If he could not rely on positive laws and on the uninterrupted possession of many years.
- 1896 *Westm. Gaz.* 21 Dec. 2/3 This halt of several weeks in the negotiations?
- 1928 *Sat. Evening Post* 3 Mar. 5/3 It was Miss Donovan, the script girl, a friend of many years.
- 2003 *Vibe* Feb. 52/1 Los Angeles, where he lives with his wife of 26 years, Marcia.

53. During, in the course of (a specified period). Chiefly in *of late*, *of old*, *of recent years*, *of yore* (now archaic or literary).

These phrases were probably originally in sense 2.

- c1395 G. CHAUCER *Friar's Tale* 1615 Pay me..For dette which thow owest me of oold.
- 1432 *Rolls of Parl.* IV. 406/1 Ye verray and trewe makynge of old used and continued.
- 1488 (► c1478) HARY *Actis & Deidis Schir William Wallace* (Adv.) (1968–9) v. l. 757 Sen I off laitt now come owt off the west In this cuntre.
- a1500 in R. H. Robbins *Hist. Poems 14th & 15th Cent.* (1959) 114 (MED) Then wolde resorte in-to þat londe þat were lorde þerof olde.
- 1557 EARL OF SURREY et al. *Songes & Sonettes* sig. X.iii My hand and pen are not in plight, As they haue bene of yore.
- 1576 A. FLEMING tr. J. L. Vives in *Panoplie Epist.* 401 Wee sawe (of late yeares) the epistles..both bredd..and also buried.
- 1634 T. HERBERT *Relation Some Yeares Trauaile* 118 Cazbeen, is that City which of past ages was cald Arsatia.
- 1641 J. MILTON *Of Reformation* 20 It was not of old that a Conspiracie of Bishops could frustrate and fob off the right of the people.
- 1710 J. SWIFT in J. Swift & R. Steele *Tatler* No. 230 Till of late Years, a Grubstreet Book was always bound in Sheep~skin.
- 1713 S. PYCROFT *Brief Enq. Free-thinking* 26 The two Universities have been constantly traduc'd o' late.
- 1766 O. GOLDSMITH *Vicar of Wakefield* II. iii. 62 Your poor father and I have suffered very much of late.

- 1812 LD. BYRON *Childe Harold: Cantos I & II* l. xxix. 22 Where dwelt of yore the Lusians' luckless queen.
- 1878 H. JAMES *Watch & Ward* ii. 25 Of recent years a dusty disorder had fallen upon the house.
- 1910 H. H. RICHARDSON *Getting of Wisdom* xii. 101 The pleasant trepidation experienced of old by those who went to be present at a hanging.
- 1974 I. MURDOCH *Sacred & Profane Love Machine* 13 For many reasons he had ceased reading, ceased thinking, of late.
- 1993 A. HIGGINS *Lions of Grunewald* xxiii. 138 The long coltish thighs, the dimpled knees he had known of yore.

XVI. In locative and other mainly obsolete uses.

Many former uses of *of* are difficult to class. Some of these arose from employing it as a literal rendering of French *de* (or of Latin *ab, ex, de*), in phrases where English idiom would have required some other preposition; others arose from a confusion with *on*, or erroneous expansion of *a, o = on* (A prep.), or of Scots *a'* for *i'* = in. Others were apparently due to confusion of constructions. Without endeavouring to distinguish these, examples are here given in various senses.

54.

a. colloquial. In sense 'on'. Now U.S. regional (southern).

- ?1316 *Short Metrical Chron.* (Royal) (2002) l. 95 Ant of þis lond þat wes so wylde Hy bigonne tounes to bulde.
- c1380 J. WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 357 Þis is not groundid of Crist.
- 1389 in A. H. Thomas *Cal. Plea & Mem. Rolls London Guildhall* (1932) III. 4 Of peyne of a pond wax to the breþerhede.
- a1475 J. SHIRLEY *Death James* (BL Add. 5467) in *Miscellanea Scotica* (1818) II. 23 Thare heddes set upe of the gates of Sent Johannes Towne.
- 1516 in J. Raine *Testamenta Eboracensia* (1884) V. 80 I will that myn ex^{rs} lay a stone of my grave and that an ymage of our Lady be sett of the same.
- 1535 *Bible* (Coverdale) Mark vi. 33 Many..ranne thither together of fote.
- 1589 'M. MARPRELATE' *Epitome* (1843) 60 He bestow a whole booke of him.
- 1600 W. SHAKESPEARE *Merchant of Venice* II. ii. 93 I am sure hee had more haire of his taile then I haue of my face.
- 1606 T. DEKKER *Newes from Hell* sig. G4^v Mercury (that runnes of all the errands betweene the Gods).
- 1662 W. GURNALL *Christian in Armour: 3rd Pt.* 208 They turn their back of that light.
- 1671 J. DRYDEN *Evening's Love* IV. 71 A mischief of all foolish disguisements.
- 1715 J. STEUART *Let.-bk.* (1915) 8 I have of this dait wrot to Mr. Alexr. Indrew, of Rotterdam.
- 1736 EARL WALDEGRAVE in *Buccleuch MSS* (Hist. MSS Comm.) (1899) I. 389 I could not light of the Duc..till yesterday.
- 1746 J. WESLEY *Wks.* (1872) II. 15 She might send him of an errand.
- 1780 R. B. SHERIDAN *School for Scandal* v. i. 60 A plague of his nerves.
- 1869 J. HARTLEY *Budget* 76 Ther's somedy traidin' ov us heels.
- 1881 'M. TWAIN' *Prince & Pauper* xxi. 241 Know, then, that I have sent him of an errand.
- 1933 C. MILLER *Lamb in his Bosom* 102 She was tired of lying flat of her back, or sitting carefully in a chair.
- 1981 L. A. PEDERSON et al. *Ling. Atlas Gulf States* 0388/040 Flat of his face.

†b. With *side, hand, part*, etc. Obsolete.

[Compare French *du côté de*, Latin *ab, ex parte*, etc.]

- ?a1475 (► ?a1425) tr. R. Higden *Polychron.* (Harl. 2261) (1865) I. 93 Assyria hathe on the este parte of hit [L. *ab ortu*] Ynde, of the sowthe [L. *ab austro*] Media, of the weste parte the floode of Tigris.
- 1490 W. CAXTON tr. *Foure Sonnes of Aymon* (1885) iii. 73 Of the one side of it [sc. a high rock] was betyng a grete riuer.
- 1526 *Bible* (Tyndale) Rev. xxii. 2 Off ether syde [L. *ex utraque parte*] off the ryuer was there wode off lyfe.
- 1535 *Bible* (Coverdale) 1 Macc. v. 46 They coude not go by it, nether of the right honde ner of the left.
- 1549 *Bk. Common Prayer* (STC 16267) Visitation of Sicke f. xxiii* Of theyr parte a great token of charitie.
- 1583 T. STOCKER tr. *Tragicall Hist. Ciuile Warres Lowe Countries* i. 64^v They..of all handes bestirred them.
- 1662 J. DAVIES tr. A. Olearius *Voy. & Trav. Ambassadors* 300 Enclos'd of all sides with a high Wall.
- 1686 G. BURNET *Lett. Present State Italy* iii. 136 They thought the advantage was wholly of their side.
- 1779 T. FORREST *Voy. New Guinea* 83 Six banks of paddles, three banks of a side.
- a1817 J. AUSTEN *Persuasion* (1818) III. iii. 43 His face..all lines and wrinkles, nine grey hairs of a side.

†**55.** In senses of 'a-' (see *A prep.*¹) **of three:** in three. **to fall of:** to set to or about (a task). *Obsolete.*

- c1330 *Seven Sages* (Auch.) (1933) 649 (MED) Þe grehound wolde nowt sessed be Til þat adder ware toren of þre.
- 1451 *Rolls of Parl.* V. 216/1 The persones..named hath been of mysbehavyng aboute youre Roiall persone.
- 1672 A. MARVELL *Rehearsal Transpros'd* i. 269 Others fell of oyling and furbishing their Armour.

56. In sense 'at'. **of all** [= French *du tout* (compare *DU TOUT adv.*)] : at all (see also *AVA phr.*). Now *Irish English*.

- 1419 in J. Raine *Vol. Eng. Misc. N. Counties Eng.* (1890) 15 Twa postes..be set in of hys coste.
- 1546 *Wycklyffes Wycket* sig. B.ii That her two sonnes..myght syt one of his ryght syde & one at his left syde.
- 1548 *Hall's Vnion: Henry VI* f. cxxxvij All other graynes, wer sold of an excessiue price, above the olde custome.
- a1557 J. CHEKE tr. *Gospel St. Matthew* (1843) xx. 21 Y^t yees mi ij sones mai sit th'oon of yⁱ right hand and th'other of yⁱ left hand.
- 1588 A. KING tr. P. Canisius *Cathechisme or Schort Instr.* 220 Thay hauing in tham selues na merits of al.
- 1690 W. WALKER *Idiomatologia Anglo-Lat.* 94 It is cheap of twenty pounds.
- 1696 J. F. *Merchant's Ware-house* 32 They look very fine of the Price.
- 1835 D. WEBSTER *Orig. Sc. Rhymes* 44 She's as gude o' the dinging as he's o' the driving.
- 1899 S. MACMANUS *In Chimney Corners* 164 Who looks in of the barn door.
- 1953 M. TRAYNOR *Eng. Dial. Donegal* 200/2 s.v. Of all = at all.
- 1996 C. I. MACAFEE *Conc. Ulster Dict.* *Of all*, at all.

†**57.** In sense 'by'. **of oneself:** by oneself, alone. Cf. 11b. *Obsolete.*

- c1450 (► c1350) *Alexander & Dindimus* (Bodl.) (1929) 33 We ben sengle of us silf, & semen ful bare.
- 1596 E. SPENSER *Second Pt. Faerie Queene* IV. XI. sig. L4 Swift Awniduff, which of the English man is cal'de Blacke water.

- 1605 F. BACON *Of Advancement of Learning* I. sig. K1 Shee was solitary, and of her selfe.
 1626 F. BACON *Sylva Sylvarum* §323 Another apple, of the same kind, that lay of it Self.

58. In sense 'in'. Now regional.

- a1475 in F. J. Furnivall *Polit., Relig., & Love Poems* (1903) 52 Antonye and poule..lyuyd in desert of wilfull pouert.
 1525 LD. BERNERS tr. J. Froissart *Cronycles* II. cxlvi. [cxlii.] 403 They..made the greattest reuell of the worlde.
 1546 in W. H. Stevenson *Rec. Borough Nottingham* (1889) IV. 131 He dothe sooffer the horses of the market.
 1568 ABP. M. PARKER *Let.* 21 June in *Corr.* (1853) (modernized text) 326 I cannot of conscience favour them therein.
 1609 *Bible* (Douay) I. Num. xxxii. 17 Because of the lying of wayte of the inhabitantes.
 1613 *Court Rolls of Manor of Hibbaldstow* in *Archaeol. Jnl.* (1887) 44 285 Those that are resident of their house which they keep comons for.
 1773 O. GOLDSMITH *She stoops to Conquer* II. 32 I have just been mortified enough of all conscience.
 1899 L. A. FISON *Merry Suffolk, Master Archie & Other Tales* 47 A-walking..right of the middle o' the road!
 1996 C. I. MACAFEE *Conc. Ulster Dict.* (at cited word) Yellow of the face.

59. In sense 'with'. Cf. 25d, 18. Now chiefly U.S. regional and Scottish.

- 1523 LD. BERNERS tr. J. Froissart *Cronycles* I. ccxiii. 262 Then they fell in communycacion of the lord Charles of Bloys, and of the lord Iohn of Mountfort.
 1718 *Session Bk. Glasserton MS* 21 Sept. in *Sc. National Dict.* (at cited word) Interrogat if he could charge her of being guilty with any other person.
 1767 *Session Papers* in *Sc. National Dict.* (1965) VI. (at cited word) The deponent is not sure whether he was then at his breakfast or done of it.
 1824 S. FERRIER *Inheritance* xxvii It was pouring of rain.
 1826 W. COBBETT *Poor Man's Friend* ii These severe critics found fault of this working.
 1843 H. W. LONGFELLOW *Spanish Student* I. v. 41 Padre Francisco! Padre Francisco! What do you want of Padre Francisco?
 1896 'M. TWAIN' in *Harper's Mag.* Aug. 346/1 What *can* be the matter of him, do you reckon?
 1921 A. M. HASWELL *Daughter of Ozarks* 107 Now what's the matter of usin' hit fur yer theayter fur the one night?
 1923 G. WATSON *Roxburghshire Word-bk.* at O' It's poorin' o' rain. A'm poorin' o' sweet.
 1956 W. L. MCATEE *Some Dial. N. Carolina* 31 What's the matter of that child?

†60. In sense 'to'. Obsolete.

- 1523 LD. BERNERS tr. J. Froissart *Cronycles* I. ccciv. 702 They..set fyre of dyuers vyllages in Flaunders.
 1604 E. GRIMSTON tr. *True Hist. Siege Ostend* 68 He..would set fire of one of the Magazins.

PHRASES

P1.

a. Followed by a noun, as *of age, of a certainty, of choice, of consequence, of course, of force, of kin, †of life, of necessity, of purpose, of right, of a truth, of use, of wrong*, etc.: see the nouns.

of old, etc.: see also 53. Cf. also *all of a* at ALL *adj.*, *pron.*, *n.*, *adv.*, and *conj.* Phrases 20.

†b. Followed by an adjective (or adverb), formerly forming adverbial phrases [compare French *d'avant, de loin, de nouveau*, etc.] , as *of before, of certain, of enough, of ere, of far, of fore, of fresh*, (also *of afresh*), *of hard, of high, of light, of more, of new*, (also *of anew*), *of night, of ordinary, of the same*. Now only in *(all) of a sudden*, or as represented by worn-down forms in *a-* (as *afar, afresh, alight, anew*).

P2. Forming the last element of compound prepositions, as e.g. *because of, by means of, by reason of; for fear of, for the sake of, for want of; in behalf of, in case of, in comparison of, in consequence of, in face of, in lieu of, in regard or respect of, in spite of, instead of; on account of, on behalf of, on condition of, on the point of; in front of, (in) back of, on top of. outside of*; etc.: see the main words.