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substantial, *adj.*, *n.*, and *adv.*

Text size: A A AView as: Outline | [Full entry](#)Quotations: Show all | [Hide all](#)**Pronunciation:** Brit. /səbˈstʌnʃl/ , /səbˈstɑːnʃl/ , U.S.

/səbˈstæn(t)ʃəl/

Forms: ME **substancal**, ME **substanciaie**, ME **substancialle**, ME **substanciel**, ME

... (Show More)

Etymology: < (i) Middle French *substantial*, *substancial*, *substantiel* (French *substantiel*)

... (Show More)

A. adj.**I. Relating to size, quantity, solidity, etc.****1. Of food, a meal, etc.: ample and nourishing; (in some contexts) large and heavy.** [Thesaurus](#) >

- 1340 *Ayenbite* (1866) 113 Þe more þet he [sc. food] is norissinde, me zayþ þet he is þe substancielier.
- c1390 (?c1350) *St. Paula* l. 60 in C. Horstmann *Sammlung Altengl. Legenden* (1878) 4 (*MED*), Cumforte þi brayn beter wiþ sum bred And wiþ sum substancial mete.
- c1425 *Myroure to Lewde Men & Wymmen* (Harl.) (1981) 97 Men seith þat þe mete is substancial þat is mete of grete norischinge.
- c1449 R. PECKOCK *Repressor* (1860) 67 Thei feeden hem with sweete stonde potagis and with sweete bake metis, and leuen othere substancial and necessarie metis.
- a1533 LD. BERNERS in tr. A. de Guevara *Golden Bk. M. Aurelius* (1537) End note f.167, Many bokes there be of substancial meates.
- 1578 *Bk. Christian Prayers* in *Private Prayers* (1851) 451 We be able to brook substancialer meat, because we be grown to further years of discretion.
- 1634 W. TIRWHYTT tr. J. L. G. de Balzac *Lett.* 115 Whilest others fill themselves with substanciall and most ponderous cates.
- 1659 A. SPEED *Adam out of Eden* v. 38 Clovergrass..renders abundance of very exquisite hay, very great substancial and much desired.
- 1754 R. BROOKES *Gen. Pract. Physic* (ed. 2) I. 276 All Things that raise a Commotion in the Blood, and stimulate the Bowels, are bad; as also Aliment that is too substancial.
- a1774 A. TUCKER *Light of Nature* (1774) III. iv. xxxvii. 411 We say roast beef is good substancial food, but water gruel not.
- 1822 J. M. GOOD *Study Med.* I. 173 One substancial meal of solid animal food daily.
- 1855 *Frank Leslie's N.Y. Jrnl.* Sept. 192/2 Air may do for camomiles and other reptiles... But I know that men must have something more substancialler.
- 1903 *Janesville (Wisconsin) Daily Gaz.* 23 July 3/3 The substancial American breakfast with plenty of everything good from coffee to buckwheat cakes.
- 1932 J. C. POWYS *Glastonbury Romance* xxvi. 894 Half his normal appetite was enough..to dispose of the more substancial viands.
- 1972 V. CANNING *Rainbird Pattern* vi. 115 He was restless himself from a substancial dinner and lay awake for hours wishing he had brought some stomach powder.

This entry has been updated (OED Third Edition, June 2012).[Publication history](#)[Entry profile](#)[Previous version](#)

In this entry:

- substantial form
- substantial-looking

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2001 M. HUGHES et al. *World Food: India* 26 Lunch is a substantial meal and..will usually be the local version of the thali.

(Hide quotations)

2.

a. Of a structure, etc.: of solid material or workmanship, stout, solid. [Thesaurus »](#)

a1393 GOWER *Confessio Amantis* (Fairf.) VII. I. 226 Erthe..Which..in his forme is schape round, Substantial, strong, sadd and sound.

a1450 (c1412) T. HOCCELEVE *De Regimine Principum* (Harl. 4866) l. 5116 Thei [sc. women] made ware of a ribbe,..Which more strong is, and substantial, Pan slyme of eerthe.

1463 in S. Tymms *Wills & Inventories Bury St. Edmunds* (1850) 39 A substanciall and a sqwar dore of free stoon.

1512 *Act 4 Hen. VIII* c. 1 §3 Goode and substanciall bulwarkes..in every landyng place.

1551 R. ROBINSON tr. T. More *Vtopia* sig. Hii^v, A brydge..with gorgious and substanciall archeis.

1624 J. SMITH *Gen. Hist. Virginia* v. 189 Then they built no more Cabbens, but substanciall houses.

1667 MILTON *Paradise Lost* IV. 189 Some rich Burgher, whose substantial dores, Cross-barred and bolted fast, fear no assault.

1707 J. MORTIMER *Whole Art Husb.* I. 296 Country Houses ought to be substantial, and able to encounter all the shocks of the Wind.

1734 *Builder's Dict.* I. at *Dial.* You may, if you please, do it over again with the same Colour: The Work will be the substancialler, and last the longer.

1845 B. DISRAELI *Sybil* II. III. iii. 44 Behind the substantial counter which was an impregnable fortification.

1874 J. STAINER in E. H. Plumtre *Bible Educator* I. 18/1 Music could reach a very high standard amongst nomadic tribes, whose roof was never more substantial than a tent.

1935 E. GLASGOW *Vein of Iron* (1936) I. IV. 40 The great bed, so substantial that it took two men to push it.

1969 E. CONNELL *Mr Bridge* lxvii. 180 He listened without a word, eyes half shut, to the voices soaring from the substantial walnut console.

2004 *Electronic Engin. Times* (Nexis) 3 May 20 Such networks would not leak through substantial brickwork and masonry.

(Hide quotations)

b. Of a person, a part of the body, or (esp. in later use) a person's physique, etc.: solid, sturdy; strong, burly; muscular; well-built. [Thesaurus »](#)
[Categories »](#)

c1460 (?c1400) *Tale of Beryn* (1887) l. 2518 (MED), Geffrey was riȝt myȝty & wele his age did bere, ffor natur was more substancial, when tho dayis were, Then nowe in our tyme.

a1500 (a1450) tr. *Secreta Secret.* (Ashm. 396) (1977) 83 (MED), It behoveth hym to be a man substanciall [c1484 J. de Caritate substancial], faire chered and wele arraied.

1539 T. ELYOT *Castel of Helthe* (new ed.) 52 b, [Vociferation] maketh the members of the body substancial and stronge.

1578 G. WHETSTONE *Promos & Cassandra: 2nd Pt.* IV. I. sig. K.iiij^v, (*heading*) Gresco, a good substanciall Offycer.

1602 in F. Moryson *Itinerary* (1617) II. 250 Men broken, and not substanciall in war.

1657 N. BILLINGSLEY *Brachy-martyrologia* xiv. 48 Tormentors, pray procure Substancialler than these; these are too small.

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- 1847 G. SIMPSON *Narr. of Journey round World* II. xx. 223 The women are generally red-faced, red-handed, red-heeled, strong-featured wenches of substantial build.
- 1865 *St. James' Mag.* 18 463 It was the 'peasant' who brought the substantial thews and sinews to aid in those mighty struggles.
- 1919 C. K. HARRINGTON *Capt. Bickel of Inland Sea* i. 31 Tall and of substantial physique, he made on one the impression of strength and vigour.
- 1978 C. MATTHEWS *Power Seekers* iv. 53 She had a substantial figure, what little Levi had been able to glimpse of it under all the crinoline and lace.
- 2004 C. SUDBERY *Dying of Delight* vi. 87 He placed his hand on the man's substantial forearm. The man shook Andy off violently, almost hitting him in the face.

(Hide quotations)

3. Of ample or considerable amount or size; sizeable.

Thesaurus »

- 1413 T. HOCCLEVE *Balade Henry VI.* 33 in *Minor Poems* (1892) i. 40 (MED), Syn god hath sent yow wit substancial And kynges might, vertu putte in assay!
- 1453–4 *Rolls of Parl.: Henry VI* (Electronic ed.) Parl. Mar. 1453 §54. m. 10, That substancial provision be made in all hast..for the keyng of the see.
- a1500 (a1451) in *Ld. Clermont Wks. J. Fortescue* (1869) I. 551 Ynglond ys no lytyll londe but a substauncyall londe.
- 1539 C. TUNSTALL *Serm. Palme Sodaye* (1823) 81 Yf a manne wolde offre a greatte substanciall suretie.
- 1575 J. ROLLAND *Treat. Court Venus* II. f. 26^v, He thoct the price was our substanciall.
- 1616 in S. R. Gardiner *Fortescue Papers* (1871) 17 Although you are not capable (through your fulnes) of any substanciall addition from me.
- 1690 C. NESS *Compl. Hist. & Myst. Old & New Test.* I. 138 The wealth of a man is..reckoned..by the substancial bills and bonds, &c. he is able to produce.
- 1728 J. MORGAN *Compl. Hist. Algiers* I. v. 319 Often..one finds good substancial Leagues dwindling into even Liliputian Furlongs.
- 1780 T. JEFFERSON *Corr. in Wks.* (1859) I. 274 Were it possible to arm men, we would send on substancial reinforcements to you.
- 1897 M. KINGSLEY *Trav. W. Afr.* 335 One of us at least would..have made something substancial by the venture.
- 1908 *Outlook* 8 Aug. 178/2 These two substancial volumes.
- 1957 W. S. CHURCHILL *Hist. Eng. -speaking Peoples* III. ix. iii. 218 A substancial section of the population..were largely exempt from taxation.
- 1976 *Sunday Times* 30 May 24/4 (adv.). It is mandatory that candidates have experience of..the control and motivation of a substancial work force.
- 2010 *Ideal Home* May 170/2 Substancial energy savings will come too through fitting the latest energy-efficient glazing.

(Hide quotations)

4. Firmly or solidly established; of solid worth or value; of real significance, weighty; reliable; important, worthwhile.

a. Of a statement, discourse, writing.

Thesaurus »

- 1419–23 in R. W. Chambers & M. Daunt *Bk. London Eng.* (1931) 306 (MED), We wol þat ye do write hit ayein of a more substancial hande.
- a1456 LYDGATE *Minor Poems* (1911) i. 41 With Crystis worde substancial in sentence.
- 1468 in J. Raine *Vol. Eng. Misc. N. Counties Eng.* (1890) 19 By substanciall wrytyng undre sealez.
- 1547 A. BORDE *Breuiary of Helthe in Fyrst Bk. Introd. Knowl.* (1870) 96 In great matters aske substancial counsell.
- 1576 A. FLEMING tr. Cicero in *Panoplie Epist.* 151 My letters cannot make you such substanciall assuraunce, of my desire touching your safetie, as it is in

deede.

- a1591 R. GREENHAM *Wks.* (1599) 56 The Lord..vrgeth him with substantiall questions.
- 1602 in F. Moryson *Itinerary* (1617) II. 238 We have not heard any such substantiall intelligence.
- 1691 A. WOOD *Athenæ Oxon.* II. 607 His..practical, spiritual, substantial preaching.
- 1710 J. ADDISON *Tatler* No. 158. 1 This he looks upon to be sound learning, and substantial criticism.
- 1742 A. CORBIERE *Let.* 26 June in *10th Rep. Royal Comm. Hist. MSS* (1885) App. I. 277 Few words but substantial ones you will like best I suppose.
- 1863 'G. ELIOT' *Romola* II. xiv. 174 His mind glanced round..to see how far those words could have the force of a substantial threat.
- 1873 J. EARLE *Philol. Eng. Tongue* (ed. 2) Introd. 68 This division is substantial and useful.
- 1979 C. JAMES *Pillars of Hercules* I. vi. 80 It is a deceptively substantial little book which looks like a slim volume only by accident.
- 2010 D. J. CHALMERS *Char. Consciousness* I. 33 If Dennett can elaborate this into a substantial argument, that would be a very useful service.

(Hide quotations)

b. Of an action, condition, result, idea, etc.

- ?a1425 (a1415) WYCLIF *Lanterne of Liȝt* 26 (MED), Per ben opir foure doweris of substancial mede wiþ þe whiche we schal be dowid in oure soule.
- 1565 W. ALLEN *Def. & Declar. Doctr. Purgatory* II. xvii. f. 282, Do yow not see here a trim faith and a substantiall?
- 1592 T. NASHE *Pierce Penilesse* (Brit. Libr. copy) sig. B4, Now trust mee a substantiall trade.
- 1622 M. DRAYTON *2nd Pt. Poly-olbion* xxiv. 80 The Christian Faith, for whose substantiall planting, Saint Augustine from Rome was to this Iland sent.
- 1624 J. SMITH *Gen. Hist. Virginia* III. xii. 94 Ten good workemen would haue done more substantiall worke in a day, then ten of them in a weeke.
- 1696 N. TATE & N. BRADY *New Version Psalms* cxix. 165 Secure, substantial Peace have they.
- 1749 T. SMOLLETT *Regicide* v. i. 65 Life with substantial Ills, enough is curs'd.
- 1753 S. RICHARDSON *Hist. Sir Charles Grandison* V. xliii. 278 She has substantial notions still left, I find, of ideal Love.
- 1785 W. COWPER *Task* III. 300 Foolish man..quits..Substantial happiness for transient joy.
- 1812 S. T. COLERIDGE *Friend* 316 Where he deems his interference warranted by substantial experience.
- 1867 J. RUSKIN *Time & Tide* II. §7 To..complete his home gradually with more delicate and substantial comforts.
- 1902 *Cosmopolitan* Feb. 433/1 Substantial hopes which less than a year of working and of waiting would change into permanent realities.
- 1955 R. C. HUTCHINSON *Stepmother* xxvi. 245 The warmth of Patricia's welcome had made the present substantial enough to live in.
- 2009 *Times* (Nexis) 11 Apr. (Features) 1 We need something more substantial than happiness.

(Hide quotations)

c. Of a reason, a cause, evidence.

Thesaurus »

- c1449 R. PECOCK *Repressor* (1860) 46 (MED), The euydencis..which Holi Scripture bringith ben not more substancial and strengre..than ben the euydencis..which doom of resoun therto bringeth.
- 1528 in N. Pocock *Rec. Reformation* (1870) I. li. 121 Very good matter and substantial why the said matrimony should be dissolved.

- a1535 T. MORE *Hist. Richard III* in *Wks.* (1557) 50/1 For that I se some men so gredeye withowte any substaunciall cause.
- a1616 SHAKESPEARE *Comedy of Errors* (1623) II. ii. 106 Your reason was not substantiall.
- a1687 W. PETTY *Polit. Arithm.* (1691) v. 88 Although there be not naturally substantial reasons..why there should be such differences.
- ?1795 *Explan. Word Equality* 4 Mr Reeves..has some substantial reasons for opposing all levelling systems.
- 1847 G. GROTE *Hist. Greece* III. II. xvi. 273 In itself a substantial testimony.
- 1866 S. BARING-GOULD *Curious Myths Middle Ages* 1st Ser. i. 23 How wanting they are in all substantial evidence which could make us regard the story in any other light than myth.
- 1920 *Harvard Law Rev.* 33 949 There must be substantial reason for treating the donee as an equitable owner.
- 1948 *Bull. Atomic Scientists* Feb. 47 The decision was supported by substantial evidence.
- 2002 *Time* 2 Sept. 34/3 Saddam Hussein's links to bin Laden could undermine more substantial reasons for taking down a dangerous criminal.

(Hide quotations)

†5. Of an action, measure, etc.: having weight, force, or effect; effective, thorough. *Obs.*

Thesaurus »

- c1449 R. PECOCK *Repressor* (1860) 54 (*MED*), The verri lawe of kinde and of feith..and so the substancial lawe of God to man in erthe, is wors knowen than of manye othere.
- 1523 *Act 14 & 15 Hen. VIII* c. 3 §1 The true and substanciall makynge of the said clothes.
- a1525 (1485) *Coventry Leet Bk.* (1908) II. 523 Thobseruyng..such sad direccions and substanciall ordinaunces.
- a1525 (?1461) *Coventry Leet Bk.* (1908) II. 314 The good & substanciall rule and gudyng that ye kepe theryn.
- 1550 R. CROWLEY *Way to Wealth* sig. Aiiiv, The moste substanciall waye in curinge diseases, is by puttinge awaye the causes.
- 1551 in J. Strype *Eccl. Mem.* (1721) II. II. iv. 272 That substantial Order be taken forth—with for the pulling down all Altars.
- 1683 J. MOXON *Mech. Exercises* II. 341 There is no substantial remedying this fault, but by making a new Head.

(Hide quotations)

6. Of a person or thing: of real worth, reliability, or repute; respected, honoured.

Thesaurus »

- c1449 R. PECOCK *Repressor* (1860) 85 Substantial clerkis weel learned in logik.
- 1562 W. TURNER *Herball* (1568) II. 72 Theophrast so ancient and substantiall autor.
- 1588 R. GREENE *Pandosto* sig. Fv, That he might goe like an honest substantiall man to tell his tale.
- a1687 W. PETTY *Polit. Arithm.* (1690) 74 Another Book written by a substantial Author.
- 1716 I. NEWTON *Let.* 25 Aug. in *Corr.* (1976) VI. 367, In the presence of Substantial Witnesses.
- 1814 W. WILSON *Hist. Dissenting Churches* IV. 310 Mr. Sheffield was a sound and substantial scholar.
- 1867 J. A. FROUDE *Short Stud.* 1st Ser. I. 228 Till it be so agreed, the substantial intellect of the country will not throw itself into the question.
- 1910 *Bookman* Dec. 32 He was the son of a gentleman, a substantial scholar,..highly cultivated, restless intellectually.

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- 1957 H. LEVIN *Contexts of Crit.* 38 The orator was advising the antiquarian..to look for authoritative precedents in some first-class and substantial author.
- 1990 *N.Y. Rev. Bks.* 15 Feb. 15/1 He had been a substantial critic, and widely read.
- 2009 *Clin. Psychiatry News* (Nexis) July 46, I saw in him the potential for being a substantial citizen, one whose head was very much 'together'.

(Hide quotations)

7. Of a person: possessing property, or wealth; well-to-do, wealthy; hence of social standing or influence.

Thesaurus »

- ?c1450 *Brut* (Trin. Cambr.) (1908) 479 They..ordeyned .iij. enquestes within the Cite, of substantiall peple.
- 1461 J. BERNEY in *Paston Lett. & Papers* (2004) II. 241 Any substancyall gentyman.
- 1548 *Hall's Vnion: Henry VI* f. clxix^v, The Maire..assembled a great nombre of substantiall and graue citezens.
- 1593 T. NASHE *Christs Teares* 37 All which were of the Nobles, Gentlemen, and substantialest men of the Iewes.
- 1602 F. MARBURY *Serm. preached at Paules Crosse* sig. F, There are enow penurious and idle male-contents euerie night couching, to expell all the substantiall inhabitants of the towne out of their houses.
- 1642 PRINCE RUPERT *Declar.* 4 The Knights, Aldermen, and substantiall Citizens of London.
- 1695 C. DAVENANT *Ess. Ways & Means* 80 All substantial Merchants will acknowledge, that Stealing Customs, and Running Goods, is against their Common Interest.
- 1714 J. FORTESCUE-ALAND in J. Fortescue *Governance of Eng.* Pref. 10 A Jury of twelve upright and substantial Men, is by the Law, to be summon'd.
- 1771 T. SMOLLETT *Humphry Clinker* I. 185 The substantial tradesman, who wont to pass his evenings at the ale-house for fourpence half-penny, now spends three shillings at the tavern.
- 1833 H. MARTINEAU *Brooke & Brooke Farm* (ed. 3) viii. 94 In former times...the proprietor or occupier of thirty or forty acres was thought a substantial farmer.
- 1883 S. C. HALL *Retrospect* II. 276 Among our few fellow-passengers..was a substantial Scottish grazier.
- 1911 A. L. SAWYER *Hist. Northern Peninsula Michigan* III. 1212 One of the substantial farmers and highly honored citizens of that county.
- 1958 D. J. BOORSTIN *Americans* xviii. 109 The social gulf between a substantial gentleman planter and everybody else was probably never wider in Virginia than around the year 1750.
- 1993 D. POOL *What Jane Austen Ate* 40 Squires per se were merely substantial landowners with a long residence in a particular country area.

(Hide quotations)

II. Relating to nature, essence, etc.

8.

a. Of or relating to the tissue of the body, an organ, etc. (in an animal or plant); cf. **SUBSTANCE** *n.* 9. Also: composed of or involving tissue; *spec.* = **SUBSTANTIVE** *adj.* 6. Now rare.

Thesaurus »
Categories »

- a1398 J. TREVISA tr. Bartholomaeus Anglicus *De Proprietatibus Rerum* (BL Add. 27944) (1975) I. iv. iv. 144 3if þe substancial moisture [L. *humiditate substantiali*] is destroyed in þe body, al þe worching of þe soule is ilet.
- c1475 (1392) *Surg. Treat.* in *MS Wellcome 564* f. 14^v, The veyne is a consimile membre..in substancial complexioun, sche is cold and drie, but sche is hoot and moist hauynge reward to hise contentis.

- a1500 (c1477) T. NORTON *Ordinal of Alchemy* (BL Add.) (1975) l. 1726 So nothing els is oure digestion But of humour substancial a create perfeccion.
- 1620 T. VENNER *Via Recta* viii. 192 By reason of much resolution of the nutrimentall and substanciall moisture through the pores.
- 1672 M. LISTER *Let.* 10 Jan. in H. Oldenburg *Corr.* (1971) VIII. 464 For, as it is truth-like of all the other *substantial* parts of plants, yt they are actually in, & common to all plants, though specyfyed by divers accidents in figure & texture.
- 1774 J. HILL *Constr. Timber* (ed. 2) 43 Mean time the Bark remains what it was, covering the more substantial parts.
- 1797 R. COUPER *Speculations Impregnation* (ed. 2) 115 The substantial parts of the body are gradually developed.
- 1820 J. JOHNSON *Infl. Civic Life* 64 An important mean of distinguishing sympathetic, from substantial disease of this organ, is percussion of the chest.
- 1884 *Brit. Med. Jnl.* 15 Mar. 498/1 We may say in our haste the uterus has no substantial diseases; that its affections are all neurotic.
- 1889 A. H. BUCK *Ref. Handbk. Med. Sci.* VIII. 120 Transition from substantial to membranous parietes.
- 1900 *Philadelphia Med. Jnl.* 10 Mar. 580/1 As a primary or substantial disease it is a disease of old age.

(Hide quotations)

b. Relating to or deriving from the essence of a thing.

Thesaurus »

- 1649 W. CHARLETON tr. J. B. van Helmont *Ternary of Paradoxes* 122 An Angel is not that substantiall light, nor hath he any light geniall and inherent to his essence, but is onely a mirror of the increated light.
- 1672 N. GREW *Anat. Veg.* iii. 47 In all such Roots, the Pith is..of the same substantial nature.
- 1718 M. PRIOR *Solomon on Vanity* I, in *Poems Several Occasions* (new ed.) 415 Now shine these Planets with substantial Rays?
- 1737 B. FRANKLIN in *Pennsylvania Gaz.* 8-15 Dec. Dr. Lister is of Opinion, that the material Cause of Thunder, Lightning and Earthquakes, is one and the same, viz. the inflammable Breath of the *Pyrites*, which is a substantial Sulphur.
- 1879 E. W. FOX *Mechanism of Man* II. xii. 497 It is merely nerve force, and not the substantial constituents of body.
- 1884 tr. A. R. Serbati *Psychol.* I. ix. 69 To the perceived substance of the soul corresponds the *substantial essence*.
- 1935 G. DE PURUCKER *Esoteric Trad.* I. iv. 128 The substantial root of all beings and things, man therefore included, is the cosmic Brahman or Cosmic Spirit.
- 1973 J. F. QUINN *Hist. Constit. St. Bonaventure's Philos.* ii. 202 Spirit designates the whole of the rational soul as the substantial foundation of superior reason.
- 2003 G. C. BURNEKO *By Torch of Chaos & Doubt* v. 164 While we have designated thus the substantial origin, we have not designated the epistemological or meaning origin.

(Hide quotations)

9.

a. That is, constitutes, or involves an essential part, point, or feature; essential, material. Cf. SUBSTANTIVE *adj.*

Thesaurus »
Categories »**3. Now rare.**

In later use difficult to distinguish from senses A. 3 or A. 4.

- 1422 in A. T. Bannister *Reg. Thome Spofford* (1919) 80 (*MED*), Wee ordeyne..that the thre substancyalle articles of your professyon, that es to say, dow obedyence, wylfulle poverttee, and clene chastytee, be observed and

keped contynually.

- ?a1475 (?a1425) tr. R. Higden *Polychron.* (Harl.) (1879) VII. 399 (MED), A decrete was made that the substantiall partes of that rule scholde be kepede, and oþer thynges as superfluous to be refusede.
- ?1541 R. COPLAND *Guy de Chauillac's Questyonyary Cyrurgyens* ii. sig. Gj, Be the addicions abouesayd other bones than the bone of y^e sholdre? Answere. No,..but are substancyall party of it.
- 1588 T. KYD tr. Tasso *Housholders Philos.* f. 18^v, Those compasses..which though they be diuers according to the variety of Countreys, is (notwithstanding) no occasion of substantiall difference.
- 1627 G. MARKHAM *2nd Pt. Soldiers Gram.* 47, I must confesse they carry a greete shew of substantiall truth, did not some impediment crosse in the way.
- 1686 J. GOAD *Astro-meteorologica* II. viii. 273, I would not have it destitute of a Limme that is substantial, or one of its vital Parts.
- 1702 *Clarendon's Hist. Rebellion* I. i. 11 The common misfortune of Princes, that in so substantial a part of their Happyness..Themselves had never any part.
- 1729 W. LAW *Serious Call* iv. 52 Most of the employments of life are..lawful; and all those that are so, may be made a substantial part of our duty to God.
- 1818 W. CRUISE *Digest Laws Eng. Real Prop.* (ed. 2) II. 188 He could not find any substantial distinction between that case, and the principal one.
- 1867 J. RUSKIN *Time & Tide* viii. §35 Under..Divine guidance, securing them from substantial error.
- 1968 *Brit. Jرنl. Psychiatry* **114** 1186/1 This leads to a substantial criticism..which amounts to a rejection of these terms.

(Hide quotations)

b. Law. = SUBSTANTIVE *adj.* 4a.

Thesaurus »
Categories »

- 1768 W. BLACKSTONE *Comm. Laws Eng.* III. 397 That the defendant do answer over, *respondeat ouster*; that is, put in a more substantial plea.
- 1775 J. RAYNER *Readings on Statutes* 153 There is no real Variance between the *material* and the *substantial* Charge, and the Evidence.
- 1837 W. TIDD *New Pract. Courts of King's Bench, Common Pleas, & Exchequer of Pleas* xxxvii. 504 The judge will consider what is the substantial fact to be made out, and on whom it lies to make it out.
- 1839 J. BOUVIER *Law Dict. U.S.A.* II. 426/1 If the *matter* pleaded be in itself insufficient, without reference to the manner of pleading it, the defect is substantial.
- 1868 *Bouvier's Law Dict. U.S.A.* (ed. 12) II. 486/1 *Right to begin*..The party who asserts the affirmative of an issue has the right to begin and reply, as on him is the burden of proof. The substantial affirmative, not the verbal, gives the right.
- 1904 D. S. GARLAND et al. *Amer. & Eng. Encycl. Law* (ed. 2) XXVII. 287/2 A *substantial* right has been defined as one involving a legal right, such a right as may be enforced and protected by law.
- 1940 *Law Jرنl. Rep.: King's Bench* **109** 754 If the Court is satisfied that a defendant who gives such a notice is merely a formal defendant, or has no substantial cause to interfere in the conduct.
- 2008 W. WEIGEL *Econ. of Law* v. 124 While the formal requirements are thus perfectly met, the substantial content of such acts can be questionable.

(Hide quotations)

c. That is such in the main; real or true for the most part.

Thesaurus »

- 1771 'JUNIUS' *Stat Nominis Umbra* (1772) II. xlv. 167, I should be contented to renounce the forms of the constitution.., if there were no other way to obtain substantial justice for the people.
- 1790 W. PALEY *Horæ Paulinæ* i. 8 It establishes the substantial truth of the

narration.

- 1855 T. B. MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* IV. xviii. 150 The Tories..though they could not deny that there had been some hard cases, maintained that, on the whole, substantial justice had been done.
- 1875 B. JOWETT tr. Plato *Dialogues* (ed. 2) III. 115 He argues rightly for the substantial genuineness of the text.
- 1901 *Med. Examiner* June 284/1 There can be no reasonable doubt of the substantial accuracy of the returns.
- 1963 W. F. LAFEBER *New Empire* ii. 95 On some of the most vital issues they reached a substantial consensus.
- 1991 H. R. McADOO *Anglican Heritage* vi. 90 Substantial agreement as a term in inter-Church dialogue made its first..appearance at the Malines Conversations.

(Hide quotations)

10. That is, or exists as, a substance; having a real existence; subsisting by itself.

Thesaurus »

- a1425 (?a1400) *Bk. Priue Counseling* in P. Hodgson *Cloud of Unknowing* (1944) 144 (MED), Þof al þou haddest a biginnyng in þi substancial creacion, þe whiche was sumtyme nouȝt, ȝit haþ þi being ben euer-more in hym wiþ-outyn beginnyng.
- 1493 *Chastysing Goddes Chyldern* (de Worde) xviii. sig. Div/2, Eche thyng that is noo body if it be substancial it is callid a spiryte.
- 1532 (c1385) *Usk's Test. Loue* in *Wks. G. Chaucer* II. f. cccxlviii v, Naturel goodnesse of euery substaunce is nothing els than his substancial beyng.
- 1547 J. HOOPER *Answer Detection Deuyls Sophistrye* sig. O4 v, Christes uery naturall corporall, phisicall, substancial and reall body is in the sacrament.
- 1651 T. HOBBS *Leviathan* III. xxxiv. 211 Some such apparitions [sc. Dæmons] may be reall, and substancial; that is to say, subtile Bodies, which God can form by the same power, by which he formed all things.
- 1678 R. CUDWORTH *True Intellect. Syst. Universe* Pref. aig. A4 v, The General Ranks of Substantiall Beings, below the Deity.
- 1704 E. PELLING *Disc. conc. Existence of God* II. iii. 66 The Souls of Men are substantial Beings, distinct from Matter, and therefore not Formable out of Matter, or Creatable by Atoms.
- 1794 N. E. KINDERSLEY tr. *Hist. Nella-Rajah* in *Specimens Hindoo Lit.* 112 He is beautiful as the god of love, the only difference between them is, that the one has a substantial body, the other none.
- 1817 S. T. COLERIDGE *Biogr. Lit.* I. xii. 248 The want of substantial reality in the objects of the senses, according to the sceptics.
- 1890 G. M. DUNCAN tr. G. W. Leibnitz *Wks.* 376 (Notes), I was compelled to have recourse to a real or animated point, so to speak, or to a substantial atom.
- 1916 *Encycl. Relig. & Ethics* VIII. 492/1 A philosopher who..assigns to a Supreme Being a substantial body, is not a materialist.
- 1994 F. LACHMAN tr. Z. Zawirski *Life & Work* 214 This contradiction gave impetus to Plotinus's successors..to consider time as a substantial being.

(Hide quotations)

†11. Relating to or proceeding from the essence of a thing. *Obs.*

Thesaurus »

- ?a1425 in A. Hudson *Eng. Wycliffite Serm.* (1990) I. 567 Crist..was of þe same kynde þat is eche man his broþur, and þis licnesse is in substancial kynde.
- ?c1450 (a1388) tr. Richard of Wallingford *Exafrenon* (Digby) in J. D. North *Wks. Richard of Wallingford* (1976) 183 (MED), Thu most knawe the strenghtis and vertues substancial of all the planetis.
- 1517 S. HAWES *Pastime of Pleasure* (1928) xviii. 84 Your hert is your by substancially lyne It is not in my domynacyon.

- 1551 T. WILSON *Rule of Reason* sig. Dvijv. If he can learne firste to se the very nature, & substantial properte of euery thyng.
- a1653 H. BINNING *Common Princ. Christian Relig.* in *Wks.* (1735) 30/2 Christ may be called the Truth indeed, the substantial Word of God, for he is the very Substance of the written and preached Word.
- 1667 MILTON *Paradise Lost* iv. 485 To give thee being I lent Out of my side to thee, neere my heart Substantial Life.
- 1731 A. HILL *Advice to Poets* Epist. 5 A Poet is..an Exalter of what is most dignified, and substantial, in Nature.
- 1782 J. PRIESTLEY *Hist. Corruptions Christianity* I. i. 127 Their substantial union was taken away, and nothing but a numerical or moral union was left.

(Hide quotations)

12. Philos. Of, relating to, or inherent in substance, rather than an accident or attribute; that is substance.

Thesaurus »
Categories »

Also *fig.*

- 1526 W. BONDE *Pyjgrimage of Perfection* iii. sig. FFFvi^v. Howe to the actiue lyfe perteyneth accidentall ioye, but to the contemplatiue, the substancial crowne of glory.
- 1532 (c1385) *Usk's Test. Loue* in *Wks. G. Chaucer* ii. f. cccxlⁱⁱⁱ. Thilke thynges that we clepe power, is but accident to the fleshly body, and so they may not haue that suretie in might, whiche wanteth in the substancial body.
- 1580 T. BLUNDEVILLE *Foure Offices Horsemanship* (rev. ed.) iv. iv. 3 Sicknes..is knowne..by inseparable or substancial accidents, as by the shape, number, qualitie, & site of the part, or member diseased.
- 1642 J. DENHAM *Sophy* v. 39 If happinesse be a substancial good, Not fram'd of accidents, nor subject to 'em.
- 1664 H. MORE *Apol.* 498 Calvin seems to be affraid of the opinion of the Body being Spiritual, as implying a Substantial change.
- 1726 J. AYLIFFE *Paregon Juris Canonici Anglicani* 147 There are seven Causes consider'd in Judgment, viz. the Material, Efficient, and Formal Cause; and likewise a Natural, Substantial, and Accidental Cause; and lastly a Final Cause.
- 1781 J. CLOWES tr. E. Swedenborg *True Christian Relig.* II. xii. 319 Here all Things are Substantial, and not material, and material Things derive their Origin from Things substantial.
- 1895 E. B. SPEARS & J. B. SANDERSON tr. G. W. F. Hegel *Lect. Philos. Relig.* I. ii. 323 These two sides are now opposed as infinite and finite—the one as pure Being, the other as determinate Being—as substantial and accidental, as universal and as particular.
- 1915 *Jrnl. Philos. Psychol. & Sci. Methods* 12 164 This book..construes the phenomenal world in the light of esthetics as the place of joy, the causal world by means of ethics as the place of work, and the substantial world after the manner of religion as the place of truth.
- 1939 *Thomist* 1 101 We are compelled to substitute an accidental for a substantial difference.
- 2005 C. J. SHIELDS *Aristotle* ii. 63 Being human, unlike having an even number of hairs upon your head, qualifies as a substantial form of yours.

(Hide quotations)

13. Having a corporeal or bodily form; consisting of solid matter; corporeal, material. Now rare.

Thesaurus »
Categories »

In later use freq. difficult to distinguish from sense A. 14a.

- c1550 *Complaynt Scotl.* (1979) v. 26 That var[l]d that the pepil malingnis, is nocht ane substancial material mas maid of eird.
- 1589 J. LVLV *Pappe with Hatchet* sig. E. I came so neere, that I could feele a substancial knaue from a sprites shadowe.

- a1616 SHAKESPEARE *Measure for Measure* (1623) III. i. 532 To draw with ydle Spiders strings Most ponderous and substantial things.
- 1653 H. MORE *Second Lash Alazonomastix* (1713) 184 He means no substantialler a Being by Matter than what may well be called Metaphysical.
- 1784 *Eng. Rev.* Sept. 189 The ghost of our artists is a very muscular and substantial ghost indeed!
- 1819 SCOTT *Bride of Lammermoor* ix, in *Tales of my Landlord* 3rd Ser. II. 220 Neither was there pressure of the grass, nor any other circumstance, to induce him to believe that what he had seen was real and substantial.
- 1883 *Arthur's Home Mag.* Sept. 643/1 That was a very substantial ghost..to judge from the creaking of those old stairs as he came down.
- 1913 A. PREUSS tr. J. Pohle *Christology* I. ii 42 We believe that the body of Christ was not imaginary, nor a mere phantasm, but real and substantial.

(Hide quotations)

14.

a. Having substance in reality; not imaginary, unreal, or only apparent; true, actual, real. Thesaurus »

- 1597 SHAKESPEARE *Romeo & Juliet* II. i. 183 All this is but a dreame..Too flattering true to be substantiall.
- a1632 T. MIDDLETON & J. WEBSTER *Any Thing for Quiet Life* (1662) I. sig. B2^v, Her railing did appear but a vision, till certain scratches on my hand and face, assur'd me it was substantial.
- 1639 R. DAVENPORT *New Tricke to cheat Divell* III. i. sig. E1^v, Dreame I? or i'st substantiall that I see?
- 1705 tr. T. Boccalino *Advices from Parnassus* II. xl. 263 Neapolitans, and other Nations,..who are more fond of vain Appearance than of substantial Reality.
- 1729 N. TINDAL tr. P. Rapin de Thoyras *Hist. Eng.* IX. xvii. 23 Not by Words, but chiefly by very substantial Deeds.
- 1798 S. LEE *Young Lady's Tale* in H. Lee *Canterbury Tales* II. 15 His substantial wealth vanished, but the shadow still remained.
- 1862 B. BRODIE *Psychol. Inq.* II. i. 27 We should..not be led away from that which is real and substantial by the pursuit of the shadowy and fantastic.
- 1883 J. A. FROUDE *Short Stud.* IV. III. 265 Rich men could not easily abandon substantial enjoyments in pursuit of so imaginary an object.
- 1949 G. BLAKE *Paying Guest* I. 9 The understanding was at the basis of their undeclared but substantial friendship.
- 1965 J. N. ROSEN in L. E. Abt & S. L. Weissman *Acting Out* II. 26 These are not wishes for any actual, substantial satisfactions... The psychotic's wishes are for imaginary satisfactions.
- 2000 E. GRAVER *Honey Thief* 99 Here, her own man, actual, substantial, in the flesh. She realized she had never quite expected to find one.

(Hide quotations)

†b. That is really such; thorough, real. *Obs.* Thesaurus »

- 1656 J. BRAMHALL *Replic. to Bishop of Chalcedon* III. 128 If he [sc. Henry VIII] was a Protestant, doubtlesse he was a substantiall Protestant, But why a Protestant?
- 1665 S. PATRICK *Parable of Pilgrim* xx. 205, I mean..that it must appear to the world, that you are a substantial Christian by all the acts of an Holy Life.
- a1694 J. TILLOTSON *Serm.* (1742) IV. liii. 497 To become wise and peaceable and substantial Christians.

(Hide quotations)

B. n.

1. In *pl.* Those things belonging to or constituting the Thesaurus »

substance; the essential parts or elements; (the) essentials. Also occas. in *sing.* (*obs.*).

- a1398 J. TREVISA tr. Bartholomaeus Anglicus *De Proprietatibus Rerum* (BL Add. 27944) (1975) II. xvii. ci. 992 Alle þe substancials [L. *substantialia*] of þis tree hauen sournesse and vertu of byndyng.
- c1443 R. PECKOC *Reule of Crysten Religioun* (1987) 495 Þe lijf now lad in þis world here and þe lijf to be lad aftir in heuene accorden in hir substancialis.
- 1567 *Reg. Privy Council Scott.* 1st Ser. I. 547 Always keband all the uther substanciallis of the formar seill.
- 1628 O. FELLTHAM *Resolves: 2nd Cent.* xlvi. sig. Q5 v. All this change, without the losse of any visible substanciall.
- 1652 J. GAULE *Ιυσ-μavτια* 77 Neither doth nature prefer any creature for its adventitials, or accidentals; but for its substantials or essentials.
- 1661 R. BAXTER *Accompt Proc. Commissioners* i. 4 Those who in the substantials of the Protestant Religion are of the same perswasions with our selves.
- 1681 E. STILLINGFLEET *Unreasonableness of Separation* II. 150 They agree with us in the Substantial of Religion.
- 1726 J. AYLIFFE *Parergon Juris Canonici Anglicani* 75 Altho' a Custom introduc'd against the Substantials of an Appeal be not valid..yet a Custom may be introduc'd against the Accidentals of an Appeal.
- 1815 J. SCOTT *Visit to Paris* xi. 226 In the substantials of knowledge and conduct, they are below both these.
- 1854 H. D. THOREAU *Walden* 52 A September gale would strip them [sc. architectural ornaments] off, like borrowed plumes, without injury to the substantials.
- 1870 J. R. LOWELL *Love among my Bks.* 26 His judgement in substantials, like that of Johnson, is always worth having.
- 1907 *Overland Monthly* Dec. 551/2 An undaunted effort to procure enough of the substantials of life to satisfy every one.
- 1934 *Steubenville (Ohio) Herald-Star* 29 Jan. 5/2 Dargusch told a forum gathering that food and substantials should be exempted under a sales tax.
- 2008 *BusinessWorld* (Nexis) 15 Dec. s1/4 The ability and willingness to give and take, to compromise in nonessentials, never in substantials.

(Hide quotations)

†2. With *the*. Persons of influence or substance. *Obs.*

Thesaurus »

- 1548 *Hall's Vnion: Henry VIII* f. clxxv. The French kyng had onely called suche of Burgoyne, as hym pleased, and not the substanciall of the cuntry.
- 1569 R. GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 331 The Maior of London, and the substanciall of the Citie toke counsaile together.

(Hide quotations)

3. That which has substance; the substantial element. Cf. sense A. 10.

- a1631 J. DOWNE *Christs Prayer for Church* 131 in *Certaine Treatises* (1633) The Substantiall, is the very Godhead it selfe considered in its Nature together with all the essentiall properties thereof.
- 1838 F. HAYWOOD tr. Kant *Critick Pure Reason* I. 327 That which..might yet seem to be an idea of transcendental reason, would be the conception of the substantial.
- 1856 J. F. FERRIER *Inst. Metaphysic* (ed. 2) xvi. 328 There is a substantial in cognition; in other words, substance is knowable, and is known by us.
- 1966 F. C. COPLESTON *Hist. Philos.* viii. 215 The elimination of substance, of the substantial, is skilfully used to suggest that all finite things are adjectival to one reality.

- 1991 M. ROSEMAN *Healing Sounds from Malaysian Rainforest* iii. 54 Like sound, odor calls into question the distinction between the substantial and the insubstantial, for it is both perceptible or existent and yet invisible.

(Hide quotations)

†4. In *pl.* Substantial or solid things. *Obs.*

Thesaurus »

- a1639 J. STOUGHTON *Forme Wholsome Words* (1640) iii. 75 There is no beauty or pleasantnesse in such a sight, yet there are all the substantials whereof the body is made.
- a1653 H. BINNING *Serm.* (1845) 570 All these substantials we let go, that we may get hold of some empty unedifying notions.
- 1796 M. ROBINSON *Angelina* I. 155 We look sharp after the substantials, and leave the shadows to your end of the town.
- 1824 S. E. FERRIER *Inheritance* I. xxviii. 317 Too busy with the substantials of marriage, to have much time to bestow on the empty speculations of love.

(Hide quotations)

5. In *pl.* The substantial or solid parts of a meal; (also *esp.*) a main course or dish. Now chiefly *N. Amer.*

Thesaurus »
Categories »

- 1751 R. PALTOCK *Life Peter Wilkins* I. xii. 120 From Day to Day I found out something new to add to my Repasts, either in Substantials, or by Way of Desert.
- 1765 H. WALPOLE *Let.* 7 Apr. (1840) V. 17 Instead of substantials, there was nothing but a profusion of plates striped red, green, and yellow, gilt plate, blacks and uniforms!
- 1804 E. JOHNSON *Let.* 9 Jan. in *Francis Lett.* (1901) II. 540 The substantials, yesterday were dwindled to roast mutton at one end & boiled mutton & broth at the other.
- 1865 J. CAMERON *Malayan India* 301 Soup and fish generally both precede the substantials... The substantials are invariably followed by curry and rice.
- 1950 *Williamsburg (Iowa) Jrnl. Tribune* 15 June 1/2 Tables were spread with the good substantials for men had work to do.
- 2009 *Toronto Sun* (Nexis) 30 Aug. (Lifestyle) 39 Most of the substantials (a.k.a. mains) come with at least one side.

(Hide quotations)

†C. *adv.*

= SUBSTANTIALLY *adv.* *Obs.*

Thesaurus »

[It is possible that quot. 1447 may instead show a use of the adjective.]

- 1447 in S. A. Moore *Lett. & Papers J. Shillingford* (1871) i. 13 (MED), Tho that beth substancialle grete and grevous to us, and somme cause and begynnnyng of alle this debate, lete tham be so answered.
- c1475 tr. C. de Pisan *Livre du Corps de Policie* (Cambr.) (1977) 98 (MED), Ther be but fewe that is substanciall perfoundid in the said science.
- c1503 R. ARNOLD *Chron.* f. xxviiij^v/1, Consideryng that hys fee is competent for a substanciall lerned man.
- 1532 T. MORE *Confut. Tyndale* in *Wks.* 726/1 That substaunciall wel learned man Lyre.
- ?1561 *A.B.C. for Chyldren* sig. B.i^v, In the Latin tongue, and other substancial congrue languages.

(Hide quotations)

SPECIAL USES

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S1.

substantial-looking *adj.*

- 1804 R. BISSET *Mod. Lit.* III. i. 19 A decent substantial looking man declared himself extremely delighted.
- 1897 'A. HOPE' *Phroso* (1905) iv. 73 He held a very substantial-looking whip in his hand.
- 1993 *Time* 1 Nov. 85/1 Eugene Lee's sets eschew his customary found-object minimalism in favor of substantial-looking streetscapes.

(Hide quotations)

S2.

substantial form chiefly *Philos.* [compare post-classical Latin *substantialis forma* (from c1200 in British sources), Byzantine Greek οὐσιῶδες εἶδος (Philoponus in *Aristotelis Categorias commentarium*), Middle French *forme substanciele* (1377); compare [FORM n. 4a](#)] the nature or distinctive character by virtue of possessing which a thing is what it (specifically or individually) is.

Thesaurus »
Categories »

- a1398 J. TREVISA tr. Bartholomaeus Anglicus *De Proprietatibus Rerum* (BL Add. 27944) (1975) I. VIII. xxviii. 508 And þe substancial fourme [L. *substantiali forma*] of eueriche is saaf, by þe which forme eueriche is diuers fro oþir.
- a1450 *St. Katherine* (Richardson 44) (1884) 37 Þe same god schold not mowe take vpon hym þe substancial forme of man.
- 1697 tr. F. Burgersdijck *Monitio Logica* i. xvi. 56 The Substantial Form of a Musician, as he is a Man, is the Rational Soul; Accidental as he is a Musician, Musick.
- 1775 J. HARRIS *Philos. Arrangem.* xvi. 387 Here we find the Phrase εἶδος οὐσιῶδες, commonly called Substantial Form.
- 1886 J. F. SMITH in *Encycl. Brit.* XXI. 412/1 The sum of being consists of the two systems of substantial forms and interactional relations.
- 2003 J. HALDANE *Intelligent Person's Guide to Relig.* vi. 156 For the medievals the central descriptive and explanatory idea was that of the 'substantial form' of a thing (*forma rei*) as revealed through its activities.

(Hide quotations)

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