

# Oxford English Dictionary | The definitive record of the English language

## venue, *n.*

**Pronunciation:** <sup>2</sup> Brit. /'venjuː/, U.S. /'venju/

**Forms:** Middle English **venov**, **venev**, **veneu**, Middle English **venyw**, 1500s–1700s **venew** ...

**Frequency (in current use):**

**Etymology:** < Old French *venue* coming, verbal noun < *venir* to come.

**I.** Senses relating to striking or attacking.

†**1.** A coming on, in order to strike; an assault or attack. *Obsolete. rare.*

a1330 *Roland & V.* 845 And at anoþer venov, Roland smot vernagu, þat he fel doun to grounde.

a1400 *Coer de L.* 1074 The lyon made a gret venu, And wolde have him al to-rent.

a1400 *Sir Beues* (A.) 811 Beues in þat ilche venev..Wiþ is swerd out a slinte Twei toskes at þe ferste dent.

†**2.**

**a.** A thrust or hit in fencing; a stroke or wound with a weapon. *Obsolete.*

Cf. *VENY n.*<sup>2</sup> 1.

1591 R. PERCYVALL *Bibliotheca Hispanica* Dict. at *Treta*. A fenue at defence, *tactus*.

1600 P. HOLLAND tr. Livy *Rom. Hist.* 513 Divers of the guard let flie at Indigemines, who by this time was readie to oppose himselfe, and to ward all venues.

c1605 HARINGTON in *Monthly Rev.* (1770) 53 Like a perfect fencer that will tell aforehand in which button he will give the venew.

1625 P. HEYLYN *Μικρόκοσμος* (rev. ed.) 643 An aged, but spiritfull Souldier; who..gaue the onset, and at the second venew slew him.

**b.** *figurative* and in *figurative* context.

1590 'PASQUIL' *First Pt. Pasquils Apol.* sig. C2 The second venue the Welch-man hath bestowed vpon vs, is a wipe ouer the shinnes of the Non Residents.

1598 W. SHAKESPEARE *Love's Labour's Lost* v. i. 56 A sweete tutch, a quicke venewe of wit, snip snap, quicke and home.

1622 J. MABBE tr. M. Alemán *Rogue* II. 195 Shee had no more any Nunnerie to shelter, but lay open to the venues of Fortune.

†**3.** A bout or turn of fencing. Also *figurative. Obsolete.*

1601 B. JONSON *Every Man in his Humor* I. iii. sig. C4<sup>v</sup> *Mat.* But one veny sir. *Bob.* Fie veney, most grosse denomination, as euer I heard: oh the *stockado* while you liue Signior, note that.

1615 T. HEYWOOD *Foure Prentises* I. ii Into the Fencing-schoole, To play a venew with some friend.

- 1640 J. SHIRLEY *Loves Crueltie* II. i Faces about, good Master Fencer!.. You and I will try a venue below.
- 1659 T. FULLER *Appeal Iniured Innocence* I. 53 If the Animadvertor hath a mind to..have a venue with him, to try whose skill is most and weapon best.
- [1820 W. SCOTT *Monastery* II. vii. 239 Let us pause for the space of one venue, until I give you my opinion on this dependence.]

## II. Senses relating to arrival or meeting; a place where this occurs.

### †4.

#### a. The action of coming; arrival. *Obsolete. rare.*

?a1400 *Arthur* 307 Eche of þese vyve at her venyew Brougt zyx þousand at har retenyw.

#### †b. *concrete.* That which has come; an importation of something.

*Obsolete. rare.*

a1483 *Liber Niger* in *Coll. Ordinances Royal Househ.* (1790) 74 To kepe the first venues of wynes in vesselles or shippes..from any sale.

### 5.

#### a. *Law.* The county, district, or locality where an action is laid; the place where a jury is summoned to come for the trial of a case. Frequently in the phrase **to lay (also fix or place) the venue**.

- 1531 in I. S. Leadam *Select Cases Star Chamber* (1911) II. 190 The venewe most nedes be of Stevenage aforsed.
- 1531 in I. S. Leadam *Select Cases Star Chamber* (1911) II. 194 The layng of the venewe or issue at Stevenege..to have an indefferent Jury.
- 1543–4 *Act 35 Hen. VIII* c. 6 §3 Within the saide hundred where the venewe lieth.
- 1641 *Rastell's Termes de la Ley* (new ed.) f. 260 *Venew* or *Visne* is a terme used..often in our bookes, and signifies a place next to that where any thing that comes to be tryed is supposed to bee done. And therefore..some of the Jury must be of the same hundred, or sometimes of the same parish in which the thing is supposed to be done.
- 1664–5 *Act 16 & 17 Chas. II* c. 8 §1 The Plaintiffe might have demurred and shewen the same for Cause, nor for want of the Averment..or for that there is noe right Venue.
- 1728 E. CHAMBERS *Cycl.* (at cited word) Thus we say, Twelve of the Assize ought to be of the same Venew where the Demand is made.
- 1796 J. ANSTEY *Pleader's Guide* I. 4 For Bards and Lawyers both with ease May place the Venue where they please.
- 1826 S. SMITH *Lett. Electors Catholic Quest.* in *Wks.* (1859) II. 227/1 The venue of several crimes imputed to the prisoner is laid in countries to which the jurisdiction of this court does not extend.
- 1838 R. MEESON & W. N. WELSBY *Rep. Cases Exchequer* II. 23 The Attorney-General may lay the venue where he pleases.
- 1883 S. C. HALL *Retrospect Long Life* I. 350 The plaintiff laid the venue in Warwickshire.

#### b. In the phrases **to change the venue** or **(a) change of venue**.

- 1768 W. BLACKSTONE *Comm. Laws Eng.* III. 294 If the defendant will make affidavit, that the cause of action, if any, arose not in that but another county, the court will direct a change of the venue, or *visne*.
- 1796 J. ANSTEY *Pleader's Guide* To Rdr. II. v. Partly owing to..the changing of the Venue [in the trial].
- 1817 W. SELWYN *Abridgem. Law Nisi Prius* (ed. 4) II. 984 Where the writing and publication are confined to the same county..the venue may be changed into such county.
- 1881 *Macmillan's Mag.* 44 134 If we often change a venue because a fair jury cannot be had, why should we not go further to insure justice?
- 1893 *Times* 3 June 13/4 The dropping of such obvious and effective weapons as secret inquiry and change of venue.

**c.** The scene of a real or supposed action or event; also *figurative*, a position taken up by a disputant.

- a1843 R. SOUTHEY *Doctor* (1847) VI. 210 When I was young there was no tradition of any such thing in the town where the venue of the action is laid.
- 1845 R. FORD *Hand-bk. Travellers in Spain* I. i. 46 Sterne would have done better to have laid the venue of his sentimentalities over a dead ass in Spain, rather than in France.
- 1861 G. A. SALA *Dutch Pict.* 269 A something far more..vexatious..changes the venue to a kingdom of realities.
- 1873 H. SPENCER *Study Sociol.* ii. 38 Here Mr. Froude changes the venue and joins issue on the old battle ground.

**d.** An appointed place of meeting, esp. for a match or competition.

- 1857 G. A. LAWRENCE *Guy Livingstone* iv A steeple-chase in which both Universities were to take part... The venue was fixed at B.
- 1884 *Truth* 13 Mar. 369/2 It showed a great want of judgment..to select the former town as the venue for the semi-final tie.
- 1901 *Scotsman* 12 Mar. 5/4 The question of the venue of the annual meeting: at present this was held on one of four greens.

**e.** *Theatre*. The site of a theatrical performance, *spec.* one used by touring companies.

- 1967 *Stage* 2 Mar. 21/4 (*adv.*) Clubland Promotions urgently require first-class artists..for venues in South and West Wales.
- 1980 *Times* 25 Nov. 6/4 Cologne Opera and San Francisco Ballet have both inspected the theatre and are considering it as a venue.
- 1984 *Times* 8 Mar. 4/2 The largest computerized box office system in Britain, which will link every main venue in the city. Instant ticket printing means that venues can put on performances at short notice.

Last viewed by the First Circuit Library on 9/6/2022