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## reckon, v.

**Pronunciation:** Brit. /'rɛk(ə)n/ , U.S. /'rɛk(ə)n/

### Forms:

α. OE **gereconod** (past participle), OE **recenian**, ME **recen**, ME **rekene**, ME **rekene** (past participle, transmission error), ME **rekeni**, ME **rekeny**, ME **rekenye**, ME (*north.*)–15 **rekin**, ME–15 **rekyn**, lME **recun**, lME **reekne**, lME **rekenne**, lME **rekone**, lME **rekoun**, lME **rekun**, lME **rekynne**, lME–15 **rekon**, lME–16 **recon**, lME–16 **reken**, 15 **recone**, 15–16 **reacon**; *Eng. regional* 18– **reacon** (*Lancs.*), 19– **reackon** (*Surrey*); *Sc.* pre-17 **reackon**, pre-17 **reaken**, pre-17 **reakin**, pre-17 **reakne**, pre-17 **recone**, pre-17 **reikn-** (inflected form), pre-17 **reken**, pre-17 **rekeng**, pre-17 **rekin**, pre-17 **rekine**, pre-17 **reking**, pre-17 **rekon**, pre-17 **rekyn**, pre-17 **rekyne**.

β. OE **recna** (3rd singular present subjunctive, *irreg.*), eME **reccnenn** (*Ormulum*), eME **recn-** (inflected form), ME **rekyn** (*north.*), ME **rekken**, ME **rekene**, ME **rekyn** (*north.* and *E. Anglian*), ME **rekne**, ME (*north.*)–15 **rekkin**, ME–15 **rekn-** (inflected form), ME (*north.*)–15 17 **rekin**, ME–16 **reken**, ME–16 **rekn-** (inflected form), lME 16 **recon**, 15 **reckine**, 15– **rekon**, 16 **reck'n**; *Eng. regional* 18– **reck'n**, 19– **rekkon** (*Yorks.*); *U.S. regional* 18– **reck'n**, 19– **raig'n**, 19– **reken**, 19– **rekin**, 19– **reckun**; *Sc.* pre-17 **reken**, pre-17 **rekin**, pre-17 **rekn-** (inflected form), pre-17 **rekyn**, pre-17 **recn-** (inflected form), pre-17 **rekken**, pre-17 **rekkin**, pre-17 **rekine**, pre-17 **rekkn-** (inflected form), pre-17 **rekkyin**, pre-17 **rekkin**, pre-17 **rekn-** (inflected form), pre-17 **rekne**, pre-17 **rekny**, pre-17 17– **rekon**.

γ. ME **riken**, ME **rikene**, ME **rikeni**, ME **ryken**, ME **rykene**, 15 **rykon**, 15 **rykyn**; *Eng. regional* 18– **ricken** (*Worcs.*), 18– **rickon** (*Oxon.*); *N.E.D.* also records a form ME **rikenie**.

δ. ME (*north.*) 16 **raken**, lME **rakyn**, 16 **rakn-** (inflected form); *Eng. regional* 18– **rackan** (*Westmorland*), 18– **racken** (*north.*), 18– **rackon** (*north.*), 18– **rakkon** (*Devon*); *Sc.* pre-17 **rackan**, pre-17 **rackin**, pre-17 **rackn-** (inflected form), pre-17 **rackyn**, pre-17 **racon**, pre-17 **raikn-** (inflected form), pre-17 **rakan**, pre-17 **rakein**, pre-17 **raken**, pre-17 **rakin**, pre-17 **rakine**, pre-17 **raking**, pre-17 **rakken**, pre-17 **rakkin**, pre-17 **rakkyn**, pre-17 **rakn-** (inflected form), pre-17 **rakone**, pre-17 **rakyn**, pre-17 **rakyne**, pre-17 17– **rackon**, pre-17 18– **racken**, 18 **raucken** (*Aberdeenshire*), 19– **ryackin** (*Aberdeenshire*); *N.E.D.* also records a form ME **rakine**.

ε. *Sc.* pre-17 **rokn-** (inflected form).

**Etymology:** Cognate with Old Frisian *rekenia*, *reknia* to calculate, reckon up, to distribute, to say, Middle Dutch *rēkenen*, *reekenen* to set right, put in order, to settle, square up, to charge, to manage (money), to calculate, to say, to include (Dutch *rekenen*), Middle Low German *rēkenen*, *reknen*, *rēken*, *reken* to count, calculate, reckon up, to include, take account of, to assess, evaluate, to think, judge, to say, Old High German *rehhanōn*, *rehhenōn* to arrange, prepare (Middle High German *rechenen* to count, reckon up, German *rechnen*) < the same Germanic base as **REKEN** *adj.* (and hence ultimately < the same base as **RIGHT** *adj.* and probably also **RECH** *v.*). Compare (< Middle Low German) Old Icelandic (in late sources) *reikna*, Old Swedish *räkna* (Swedish *räkna*), Old Danish *regnæ*, *reknæ* (Danish *regne*).

†1.

**a. trans.** To give an account of, recount; to tell; to describe. *Obs.*

- OE *Exodus* 526 Run bið gerecenod, ræd forð gæð, hafað wislicu word on fæðme.
- c1225 (þ?c1200) *Hali Meidhad* (Bodl. 34) (1940) l. 483 (*MED*), Hwenne schuld ich al habben irikenet [a1250 *Titus* irekened] þet springeð bituhe þeo þe þus beoð iþederet?
- c1225 (þ?c1200) *Sawles Warde* (Bodl. 34) (1938) 10 (*MED*), For ne mei na muð for wrecchedom ne for wa rikenin [a1250 *Titus* rekenen] hit ne tellen.
- a1375 *William of Palerne* (1867) 3179 (*MED*), Sche..rapli gan a-way renne, to reken þe soþe.
- c1390 (þ?c1350) *Joseph of Arimathie* (1871) l. 76 (*MED*), Pat tyme..þis reson bi-gon þat I schal now rikenen.
- c1450 (þ?a1400) *Wars Alexander* (Ashm.) 4124 (*MED*), Þen ferd þai furth..Euyn to þe heued of Eumaure, as I first rekend.
- 1481 CAXTON tr. *Hist. Reynard Fox* (1970) 33 Rekened to me that he was myn eme whenne I herde hym thenne rekene allyance we becomen felaws whiche I may wel repente.
- 1530 J. PALSGRAVE *Lesclarcissement* 684/1, I wyll reken all the mater to hym as it vas.
- 1586 A. DAY *Eng. Secreterie* l. sig. F2<sup>v</sup>, To reckon vnto you since, how hee came into the country here,..what shuld I clogge my self.
- 1665 T. STANLEY tr. *Ælian Various Hist.* xxi. 236, I will reckon to you the names of Greek Wines much esteemed by the Ancients.

**b. trans.** To recite, repeat, utter (words, esp. the Creed). Also *intr.* with object implied. *Obs.* (*Sc.* in later use).

- c1350 (þ?a1333) WILLIAM OF SHOREHAM *Poems* (1902) 90 (*MED*), Eche man scholde conne hy [sc. the Decalogue] And rekeny wel y-lome.
- c1390 (þ?c1350) *Joseph of Arimathie* (1871) l. 629 (*MED*), He tolde hire [the Creed] a-non trewely him-seluen, And heo rikenede a-þeyn radly and sone, Also redili as he.
- c1450 (þ?a1400) *Wars Alexander* (Ashm.) 4931 Þe renke..rekind þir wordis: 'Haile, Alexander!'
- 1533 J. GAU tr. C. Pedersen *Richt Vay* 31 That is noth aneucht that ony reid the creid or rekin ye articulis contenit in it x or xii timis apone ye day.
- 1621 *Gude & Godlie B.* (S.T.S.) 174 Sum mumlit Auies, sum raknit [1567 craknit] Creidis.

**c. intr.** To speak or tell of; to give a description of. Also with *on*. *Obs.*

- c1390 *Talkyng of Love of God* (Vernon) (1950) 64 Makyng þat I ne wot what I may siggen ne rikene þeronne.
- ?a1400 (þ?a1338) R. MANNYNG *Chron.* (Petyt) (1887) l. 157 (*MED*), Of manyon he reknes & sayes, both of Troiens & of Gregeis.
- a1425 (þ?a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Galba) l. 29432 (*MED*), Here haue I rekind [a1400 *Vesp.* tald] of sere thing þat men falles fore in cursing.
- c1450 (þ?a1400) *Wars Alexander* (Ashm.) 150 (*MED*), Slik care kindils in his curte..Pat it ware tere any tonge of þar tene to reken.

**d. trans.** To mention, refer to; to cite. *Obs.*

- c1480 (▶a1400) *St. Thomas Apostle* 387 in W. M. Metcalfe *Legends Saints Sc. Dial.* (1896) I. 140 þe firste of þame, to rekin now, Is [etc.].
- 1513 G. DOUGLAS tr. Virgil *Aeneid* VI. ix. 143 Quhat suld I rekin [L. *quid memorem*] thai peple of Thessaly, That Lapithas ar hait..?
- 1532 T. MORE *Confut. Tyndale* in *Wks.* 352/2 Belieue me not if any man can reken a place where euer he founde it otherwyse.
- 1596 SPENSER *Second Pt. Faerie Queene* IV. x. sig. I8, Cast into sundry shapes by wondrous skill, That like on earth no where I reckon may.
- 1692 J. LOCKE *Some Considerations Lowering Interest* 20 Money may be considered as in the hands of the Consumer, under which Name I here reckon the Merchant who buys the Commodity, when made, to export.

## 2.

†**a. trans.** To count out (money) for payment; to pay (a sum). Also with *out*. *Obs.*

- OE *Will of Bp. Ælfric* (Sawyer 1489) in D. Whitelock *Anglo-Saxon Wills* (1930) 72 Recna man iungere Brun an marc gol.
- ?c1200 *Ormulum* (Burchfield transcript) l. 3287 Forr to lokenn. Hu mikell fehþ he mihhte..sammnenn. Þurh þatt himm sholde off ille an mann An pening wurrþenn recnedd.
- c1440 (▶a1400) *Morte Arthure* 3587 (*MED*), Resaywe the rentis of Rome qwen þay are rekkenede.
- 1713 R. STEELE *Guardian* No. 17. ¶7 There is an honest Man..who has often said he would marry her with Two Hundred Pounds. The Knight ordered his Man to reckon out that Sum.
- 1833 A. PICKEN *Waltham* II. xi. 259 Arnwood reckoned out the amount, while Johnston stood petrified with astonishment and horror.

**b. trans.** To count, so as to ascertain the amount or number of; to determine (a number, sum, quantity, etc.) by counting or calculation; to calculate, work out. Also with *out*.

(a) With simple object.

- ?c1225 (▶a1200) *Ancrene Riwe* (Cleo. C.vi) (1972) 159 His eskebach fareð abuten esken..& madeð þer in figures of augrim, as þeose rikeneres doð þe habbeð muche to rikenen [c1230 *Corpus Cambr.* rikenin, a1250 *Titus* recnen].
- a1325 *Judas Iscariot* (Corpus Cambr.) 17 in C. D'Evelyn & A. J. Mill *S. Eng. Legendary* (1956) 693 (*MED*), Þis wyf rikenede þe time & supþe heo gan ywyte, & heo velede þat heo was mid chylde.
- c1405 (▶c1390) CHAUCER *Shipman's Tale* (Hengwrt) (2003) l. 216 How longe tyme wol ye rekene and caste Youre sommes.
- c1425 (▶a1400) *Arthur* 410 (*MED*), Fowre hunderd þowsand An hundred & foure & twenty, Thus herawdes dude ham rekeny.
- c1475 (▶c1450) P. IDLEY *Instr. to his Son* (Cambr.) (1935) II. B. 1729 (*MED*), They rekoned the goodis that to hem wolde fall; And whan they hadde rekoned, scored, and accompted Hoolly al his money..To xxx li. than his goodis amounted.

- 1530 J. PALSGRAVE *Lesclarcissement* 684/1, I shall reken it syxe tymes by aulgorisme, or you can caste it ones by counters.
- 1604 SHAKESPEARE *Hamlet* II. ii. 121 O deere Ophelia, I am ill at these numbers, I haue not art to reckon my grones.
- 1633 T. ADAMS *Comm. 2 Peter* (iii. 10) 1307 A woman reckons out her nine moneths, and can guesse neare to the day of her comming.
- 1687 A. LOVELL tr. J. de Thévenot *Trav. into Levant* I. 36 They Divine with Beans, which they put together without reckoning them.
- 1753 J. HANWAY *Hist. Acct. Brit. Trade Caspian Sea* II. xxxv. 218 The par is reckoned 125 Saxon dollars for 100 rix dollars current in Amsterdam.
- 1833 H. MARTINEAU *Brooke & Brooke Farm* (ed. 3) iv. 46 But I can't reckon it; will you?—Eleven pounds and sixpence, is it?
- 1845 C. J. LEVER *O'Donoghue* xliv. 360 Mark..pointed straight out to sea, where now seven sail [*sic*] could be distinctly reckoned.
- 1920 D. H. LAWRENCE *Women in Love* v. 61 Art—music—London Bohemia—the most pettifogging calculating Bohemia that ever reckoned its pennies.
- 1988 M. SEYMOUR *Ring of Conspirators* i. 26 As a woman who reckoned every halfpenny spent in the house, she was horrified by Cara's airy disregard for economy.

(b) With clause as object.

- ▶a1393 GOWER *Confessio Amantis* (Fairf.) III. 64 (*MED*), I beginne To rekne with miself withinne How many yeres ben agon Siththe I have trewly loved on.
- ?a1425 (▶c1400) *Mandeville's Trav.* (Titus C.xvi) (1919) 139 Now may men wel rekene [Fr. *assoumer*] how much þat it amounteth.
- 1569 R. GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 289 He is now looking on your crownes..to reckon if he haue his whole some or no.
- 1668 J. FLAVELL *Saint Indeed* 63 Antigonus over-heard his souldiers reckoning how many their enemies were.
- 1770 W. EMERSON *Math. Princ. Geogr.* 118 Reckon how many times 15 degrees is contained between that point and the horizon.
- 1825 *Cottager's Monthly Visitor* Oct. 468 Let a man reckon whether many are not taxed twice as much by their folly..as they are by government.
- 1860 *Congregational Q.* July 257 He used anxiously to reckon whether the millenium would come in his life-time.
- 1905 L. WOOLF *Let.* 13 Aug. (1989) 99, I have to help to see that King's House is prepared for him, to reckon out how many fishknives & pillow cases & pos he wants.
- 1974 G. RYGA *Hungry Hills* (1977) 8 128, I looked around, trying to reckon how far we'd walked before I blanked.
- 2007 *Herald* (Glasgow) (Nexis) 5 Jan. 20 Historians can reckon how much Scotland lost through not controlling the North Sea windfall.

**c. intr.** To count; to work out a sum or account; to make a calculation.

- 1340 *Ayenbite* (1866) 35 (*MED*), Hi wylleþ rekeny tuyes oper pries þet yer, uor to do arise þet gael.
- a1450 (þ1369) CHAUCER *Bk. Duchess* (Tanner 346) (1871) l. 436 Þouȝ argus þe noble countour..rekene with his figurs ten..ȝit shuld he faile to rekyn euen þe wondirs me met.
- 1530 J. PALSGRAVE *Lesclarcissement* 684/1, I holde you a grote you have reckened false.
- a1616 SHAKESPEARE *Henry V* (1623) IV. i. 221 Wee haue French Quarrels enow, if you could tell how to reckon.
- 1697 J. POTTER *Archæologiæ Græcæ* I. i. i. 3 Meursius reckons to the number of forty Plantations peopl'd by Athenians.
- 1777 W. ROBERTSON *Hist. Amer.* I. IV. 311 The Cherokee..can reckon only as far as a hundred.
- 1823 J. GALT *Spawife* I. xxv. 280 You do not reckon well.
- 1840 F. MARRYAT *Poor Jack* i. 3 My father always reckoned in this way.
- 1857 J. SIBREE tr. G. W. F. Hegel *Lect. Philos. Hist.* I. i. 143 As to Mathematics, they understand well enough how to reckon, but the higher aspect of the science is unknown.
- 1947 D. DAVIDSON *Steeper Cliff* xxiii. 308 He extended all the fingers of his left hand and began to enumerate points on them as though reckoning on an abacus.
- 1995 M. Z. BRADLEY *Lady of Trillium* xvii. 168 She reckoned on her fingers.

**d. trans.** To measure, count, or calculate in relation to a specified base or starting point. Usu. with *from*. Freq. in *pass*.

In quot. 1774: to count *over* the days of the week.

- a1513 R. FABYAN *Chron.* (1533) VII. CCXXXV. f. clxii<sup>v</sup>, He reigned, to reken from his faders deth to his owne, vppon .xliiii. yeres.
- 1540 in *Vicary's Anat. Bodie of Man* (1888) App. xii. 239 The same half yere accompted and reconned, fromme Michaelmas last paste.
- 1651 T. HOBBS *Leviathan* III. XXXVIII. 240 Death is reckoned from the Condemnation of Adam.
- 1669 S. STURMY *Mariners Mag.* II. ix. 74 The North Point of the Nocturnal is the first Point you reckon from,..and so reckon forward North and by East.
- 1698 J. FRYER *New Acct. E.-India & Persia* 153 Which makes the Mouth of the Bay to be reckoned from the Head-lands or Out-guards, some Three Leagues over.
- 1718 H. PRIDEAUX *Old & New Test. Connected* II. IX. 665 If we reckon it from the Actiac Victory, his reign will then be forty four years wanting fourteen days.
- 1774 A. ADAMS in *Familiar Lett.* (1876) 24, I shall reckon over every week as they pass, and rejoice at every Saturday evening.
- 1868 J. N. LOCKYER *Elem. Lessons Astron.* vii. 264 Declination is reckoned N. or S. of the plane of the earth's equator.
- 1895 *Longman's Mag.* Nov. 33 The kelper's year may be reckoned from mid November.
- 1949 A. C. WALSHAW *Heat Engines* (ed. 3) vi. 115 Heat and energy are reckoned from 32° F. as the datum of temperature.
- 2005 L. HOLFORD-STREVEVS *Hist. Time* vii. 118 The Prophet Muhammad's *hijra* or departure from Mecca to Medina, from which the Muslim era is reckoned.

**e. trans.** With *up*. To count up (money, people, etc.); to calculate or

work out (a sum, a bill, etc.). Also: to size up, get the measure of (a person).

- ?1537 in tr. Erasmus *Declamatio Med.* sig. Aiiii, How many kyndes of diseases, whiche Plinie writteth were rekened vp in olde tyme iii.hondreth by their names.
- 1581 W. FULKE *Reioynder Bristows Replie* viii. 450 Not regarding what Ambrose or Augustine hath written, who..had not the charge to reckon vp how many Sacramentes there are.
- 1647 J. CLEVELAND *Char. London Diurnall* (1677) 108 It would tire a Welshman to reckon up how many Aps 'tis removed from an Annal.
- 1672 SIR T. BROWNE *Let. to Friend* §28 If we reckon up only those days which God hath accepted of our lives, a life of good years will hardly be a span long.
- 1706 *Phillips's New World of Words* (ed. 6) at Poll vb., To take a Poll, to set down the Names and reckon up the Number of Persons concern'd in an Election.
- 1760 L. STERNE *Life Tristram Shandy* I. xii. 63 When thou viewest him in that light too, and reckons up his friends, his family, his kindred, and allies.
- 1836 F. MARRYAT *Japhet* I. viii. 91 To reckon up their means—that is, to count the money which they may have in their pockets.
- 1853 DICKENS *Bleak House* liv. 515 The deceased Mr. Tulkinghorn employed me to reckon up her Ladyship—if you'll excuse my making use of the term we commonly employ—and I reckoned her up, so far, completely.
- 1888 *Times* 21 June 4/1, I have not reckoned it up; altogether, perhaps, my income is £5,000 or £6,000 a year.
- 1928 E. SIDGWICK *When I grow Rich* i. 10 Now she looked twice at Edith, reckoning her up.
- 1952 T. ARMSTRONG *Adam Brunskill* viii. 277 In the shop Old Hannah was reckoning up the monthly bill of a woman.
- 2002 S. WATERS *Fingersmith* xiii. 409 John throws the dice again, and reckons up his score, before he rises.

**f. intr.** With complement. To number or amount to a specified quantity.

Now rare.

- 1783 J. O. JUSTAMOND tr. G. T. F. Raynal *Philos. Hist. Europeans in Indies* (new ed.) IV. ix. 468 The most important of these rich governments is..Minas Geraes. It reckons thirty-five thousand one hundred and twenty-eight white men, [etc.].
- 1842 *Penny Mag.* 22 Jan. 33/2 The Alikhoolip tribe, which reckons four hundred adults, are superior to the Tekeenicas.
- 1850 *Blackwood's Edinb. Mag.* Nov. 519/1 The Prussian army now reckons three hundred thousand men.
- 1873 C. M. YONGE *Cameos* cxv, in *Monthly Packet* May 454 He marched [them] into the camp before his own troop, which did not reckon nearly so many.
- 1943 D. BURTON tr. S. A. Hedin *Hist. Exped. Asia* II. ix. 74 Barun Sunit Wang's army reckoned a thousand soldiers, while Durbet Wang had only three hundred.

### 3.



**a. trans.** To mention separately or in order (a number of things); to enumerate or list (items); to go over or through (a series or set of things) in detail. Now *rare*.

**to reckon a (also by, in, on, etc.) row, to reckon in reason** : to list in order. Cf. A-ROW *adv.* 2, and prepositional phrases at ROW *n.*<sup>1</sup>

?c1200 *Ormulum* (Burchfield transcript) l. 11217 Maþþeow..biginneþþ cristess kinn. To reccnenn. & to rimenn. Att abraham. & reccneþþ a33. Dunnwarrd fra mann to manne.

?c1225 (þ?a1200) *Ancrene Riwe* (Cleo. C.vi) (1972) 156 Alle sunnen sunderliche. bihare nomeliche nomen ne machte nanmon Rikenen.

c1300 *St. Mathias* (Laud) 17 in C. Horstmann *Early S.-Eng. Legendary* (1887) 390 (MED), He helde also þat sike weren: ne may no man rikenen [a1325 *Corpus Cambr.* rekeni] alle.

þa1398 J. TREVISA tr. Bartholomaeus Anglicus *De Proprietatibus Rerum* (BL Add.) f. 130, Þise propertees and many opir matiere haþ, and hit wore to longe to rekene [L. *recitare*] hem alle on rewe.

c1400 (þa1376) LANGLAND *Piers Plowman* (Trin. Cambr. R.3.14) (1960) A. l. 22 Þre þinges..And rekne [v.rr. rekkene, rekenen, rykene] hem in resoun [c1400 *C text* rekene hem by rewe]; reherse þou hem þeraftir.

c1405 (þc1385) CHAUCER *Knight's Tale* (Hengwrt) (2003) l. 1075 Festes, Instrumentz, caroles, daunces Lust and array and alle the circumstaunces Of loue whiche þt I rekned [v.rr. rekned haue; reken, rekened] and rekne shal By ordre weren peynted on the wal.

a1450 in *Stockholm Stud. in Eng.* (1978) 47 87 (MED), Sum haueþ betur here þan summe as I haue herde telle..Mylkewhite..yren-graye, & oper many hewes þat buþ not to rekne.

1508 *Golagros & Gawane* sig. c, Now wil I rekkin the renkis of the round tabill.

1533 J. GAU tr. C. Pedersen *Richt Vay* 3 Thay reknit mony foul and abhominabil sinnis..the quhilk mony guyd men..kneu neuer of befor.

1611 J. MELVILLE *Dream* in D. Laing *Var. Pieces Fugitive Sc. Poetry* (1853) 2nd Ser. ii. 2, I heare there is ane English Dean..Who moved hes the King to much of spleen, Saying he could not racken all the best.

1664 J. EVELYN *Sylva* vii. §1 The Chesnut of which Pliny reckons many kinds.

1796 in T. Pennant *Hist. Parishes Whiteford & Holywell* 300 If I should go about to reckon all the famous men descended of him, it would require more time than I can well spare.

1835 A. T. MALKIN *Gallery of Portraits with Mem.* IV. 32 It would be useless to reckon all the labours of this part of his life.

1853 MRS J. SADLIER tr. F. de Ligny *Hist. Life Lord Jesus Christ* xvii. 141 (note) It would be troublesome to reckon all the errors which have been built upon this maxim.

1931 J. C. LOCKE tr. G. de Givry *Witchcraft, Magic & Alchemy* II. ii. 236 It would be impossible to reckon all the instances of this kind.

**†b. intr.** To place or name things in order; to list things. *Obs. rare*.

c1300 *St. Michael* (Laud) 440 in C. Horstmann *Early S.-Eng. Legendary* (1887) 312 Of Saturnus so is satur-day, and sonen-day of þe sonne, And of þe Mone Monen-day, 3if 3e wel rikenen konne.

þa1393 GOWER *Confessio Amantis* (Fairf.) vii. 1101 (MED), After Virgo to reknen evene Libra sit in the

nombre of sevene.

1508 *Golagros & Gawane* sig. bii, He his the riallest roy..Of all the rentaris to ryme or rekin on raw.

1535 W. STEWART tr. H. Boethius *Bk. Cron. Scotl.* II. 708 Mony mo than I will heir report, To reckin heir becaus the tyme is schort.

**c. trans.** With *up* or (occas.) *over*: = sense 3a. Now *rare*.

Cf. also 2e.

c1400 (♯?c1380) *Cleanness* (1920) 2 Clannesse who so kyndly cowþe comende, And rekken up alle þe resounz þat ho by riȝt askez.

c1450 in T. Wright *Polit. Poems & Songs* (1861) II. 228 Pite for to here the people complayne And riken up the ragmanne of the hole rowte.

1576 A. FLEMING tr. P. Manutius in *Panoplie Epist.* 336 [He] reckoneth vpp by name diuerse Gentlemen, with whome he was in fauour.

1638 F. JUNIUS *Painting of Ancients* 105, I shall reckon up only such authors whose records..are lost and gone.

1694 W. WOTTON *Anc. & Mod. Learning* (1697) 410 France could reckon up Des Cartes, Mersennus, Fermat, and Gassendi.

1702 N. ROWE *Tamerlane* Ded., When they shall reckon up his Labours from the Battle of Seneff.

1764 J. OTIS *Rights Brit. Colonies* 24 Editions so late as 1750, speak of the British plantations abroad as consisting chiefly of islands; and they are reckoned up in some of them in this order.

1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* II. vii. 104 For my conscience, a man that has slain three hundred Saracens, need not reckon up every little failing, like a village girl at her first confession upon Good Friday eve.

1846 H. W. TORRENS *Remarks Uses Mil. Hist.* 355 In 1585, a pamphlet was addressed to..[the] Mayor of London, reckoning over the advantages of a marching watch for the city.

1884 B. BOSANQUET et al. tr. H. Lotze *Metaphysic* 477 It would be mere trifling to reckon up reactions of a third and fourth order.

1991 R. KEE *Crowd is not Company* (BNC) 53, I began to reckon up the people whom I knew to be prisoners.

**†4. intr.**

**a.** To answer for or give an account of something; *spec.* to account for one's life to God after death (cf. RECKONING *n.* 1a). Usu. with *for* or *of*.  
*Obs.*

a1300 in C. Brown *Eng. Lyrics 13th Cent.* (1932) 2 (*MED*), Hwan ich hier-of rekeni schal, wel sore me mei drede.

a1425 (♯a1400) *Prick of Conscience* (Galba & Harl.) (1863) 5984 Fadirs and modirs sal rekken þat tyde, Of þair sons and þair doghtirs unchastide.

a1475 (♯a1376) LANKLAND *Piers Plowman* (Harl. 875) A. II. l. 96 3e schule abygge it bothe..At oo 3eris ende whan 3e reken schul.

1530 *Myroure Oure Ladye* (Fawkes) (1873) 89 We muste haue as they had, and worse, for we haue receyued more to reken for.



- 1585 ABP. E. SANDYS *Serm.* xx. 345 Christ is comming in the cloudes, all fleshe shall rise and reckon.  
 a1707 S. PATRICK in *Wks.* (1858) VII. 532 We have one day less to live, and one day more to reckon for.  
 1819 SCOTT *Bride of Lammermoor* iii, in *Tales of my Landlord* 3rd Ser. I. 100, I must reckon then for many things, and will reckon for this also.

**b.** To give an explanation *for*. *Obs. rare*<sup>-1</sup>.

- 1674 N. FAIRFAX *Treat. Bulk & Selvedge* 153 We can give no reason why a Fool should rise more Mathematically from a seat, than the wisest man can fully reckon for.

**5. intr.** To go over or settle an account *with* a person. *Freq. fig.:* to go over a matter or contentious issue *with* someone; to have it out or settle the score *with* someone. †Also with *together (obs.)*. Now *rare*.

In quot. c1325 with *mid*.

- c1325 (►c1300) *Chron. Robert of Gloucester* (Calig.) 6575 Let me in pes sitte, Oþer bi þe fey ich owe to god, icholle rekeni [a1400 *Trin. Cambr.v.rr.* riken, rekyn the] mitte.  
 a1375 *William of Palerne* (1867) 336 (*MED*), Prestely for pore men profer þe euer, For hem to rekene wiþ þe riche in riȝt & in skille.  
 c1450 (►?a1400) *Sege Melayne* 1517 (*MED*), No sarazene solde come owte To þay had rekkenede with þat rowte.  
 1488 (►c1478) HARY *Actis & Deidis Schir William Wallace* (Adv.) (1968–9) x. l. 460 Erar he wald bid chalans off his king Than with Wallace to rakyn for sic a thing.  
 a1500 (►?c1378) WYCLIF *Eng. Wks.* (1880) 425 Þis lord wole rikene wiþ þes seruautis fully.  
 1552 *Bk. Common Prayer* (STC 16279) Administr. Lordes Supper sig. O.iv, Euery Parishioner shal reken with his Person; Vicare, or Curate.  
 1572 J. HIGGINS *Huloets Dict.* (new ed.) To reckon together, or to come to reckening, *conferre rationes*.  
 a1616 SHAKESPEARE *Macbeth* (1623) v. xi. 27 We shall not spend a large expence of time, Before we reckon with your seuerall loues.  
 1624 H. BEST *Farming & Memorandum Bks.* (1984) 20 July 175 Reckoned with Leonard Goodale and paid him for his mowing.  
 1677 D. GOOKIN in *Trans. & Coll. Amer. Antiquarian Soc.* (1836) 2 443 Hearing of the war, they reckoned with their master, and getting their wages, conveyed themselves away without his privity.  
 1714 SWIFT *Hue & Cry* 5 Reckon with my Washerwoman; making her allow for old Shirts, Socks, Dabbs and Markees, which she bought of me.  
 1785 W. COWPER *Task* vi. 606 God..Will reckon with us roundly for the abuse.  
 1825 SCOTT *Talisman* ix, in *Tales Crusaders* III. 214 The blame rests not with thee, but with those with whom..I hope to reckon roundly.  
 1862 J. M. RYMER *Edith Captive* II. clxxviii. 219/2 Peace! I will reckon with you yet.  
 1913 W. TUDOR JONES tr. R. EUCKEN *Truth of Relig.* 340 Man, they say, dare not reckon with God, whose decrees far overreach all human knowledge.

## 6. *trans.*

**a.** With complement, or with *as*, *for*, or *to be*. To regard, consider, or hold (a person or thing) to be something specified, or to be of a specified nature, quality, importance, etc.

- 1340 *Ayenbite* (1866) 214 (*MED*), Al þane time þet þou ne þengst naȝt a god, þou hise sselt rekeni [c1450 *Bk. Vices & Virtues* holde] uor naȝt.
- c1405 (►c1395) CHAUCER *Wife of Bath's Prol.* (Hengwrt) (2003) l. 367 Yet perchestow and seist an hateful wyf Yrekened [*v.rr.* I-rekenede, Yreckned] is for oon of thise myschaunces.
- c1440 (►?a1400) *Morte Arthure* 2334 They schouen thes schalkes schappely there-aftyre, To rekken theis Romaines recreaunt and ȝolden.
- a1500 (►?c1378) WYCLIF *Eng. Wks.* (1880) 432 (*MED*), Seynt poul biddiþ to tymothe and rikeneþ hym silf as o man to whiche þat he spekiþ to.
- a1533 LD. BERNERS tr. *Bk. Duke Huon of Burdeux* (1882–7) vii. 16, I reken our wyage to be a daungerous passage.
- 1561 T. NORTON tr. J. Calvin *Inst. Christian Relig.* iii. f. 192, He reckoneth repentance and fayth as two diuerse thinges.
- 1603 G. OWEN *Descr. Penbrokshire* (1891) 244 This is reconned for a strange and rare thinge.
- 1658 O. CROMWELL *Speech* 25 Jan. in *Writings & Speeches* (1947) IV. 716 A thing, so far from being reckoned a suggestion to any ill end.
- 1687 A. LOVELL tr. J. de Thévenot *Trav. into Levant* i. 39 They reckon Women with big black Eyes, and red Cheeks, to be the greatest Beauties.
- 1712 R. STEELE *Spectator* No. 422. ¶6 Fortius would have been reckon'd a Wit, if there had never been a Fool in the World.
- 1748 H. WALPOLE *Let.* 18 May in *Corr.* (1941) IX. 56 The Princess of Wales has got a confirmed jaundice, but they reckon her much better.
- 1764 GIBBON *Misc. Wks.* (1814) IV. 354, I reckon for nothing the researches of a Coyer.
- 1833 L. RITCHIE *Wanderings by Loire* 117 Here..we reckon the women to be among the prettiest in France.
- c1850 *Arabian Nights* (Rtldg.) 181 He was reckoned one of the richest merchants in the city.
- 1870 J. YEATS *Nat. Hist. Commerce* 108 Quite a fourth of the soil is reckoned as unproductive.
- 1939 *Fortune* Nov. 62/2 A full year is reckoned as essential for making a civilian into a good soldier.
- 1995 *Times* 7 Jan. 16/5 High Tory grandees have reckoned the Hanoverians vulgar ever since they came over.

**b.** With infinitive. To consider or believe (a person or thing) *to do* something.

- a1535 T. MORE *Hist. Richard III* in *Wks.* (1557) 38/2 Ye se their youthe, of whiche I reckon the onely suretie to reste in youre concord.
- 1567 J. MAPLET *Greene Forest* ii. f. 47<sup>v</sup>, Plinie sayth, that the onely shadow of this sleath and killeth Serpents: and therefore his fruit is reckned to be a remedie against poyson.
- 1707 J. MORTIMER *Whole Art Husbandry* 33 Ray-Grass..is reckoned to grow on any Land, but chiefly in

Cold sour Clays, and weeping Grounds.

- 1542 J. ARBUTHNOT *Pract. Rules of Diet* i. 249 It [sc. lettuce] is reckoned to increase milk.
- 1838 F. SHOBERL tr. M. A. Thiers *Hist. French Revol.* IV. 516 He reckoned him to have forty-five thousand men.
- 1852 H. B. STOWE *Uncle Tom's Cabin* I. i. 20, I believe I'm reckoned to bring in about the finest droves of niggers that is brought in.
- 1929 U. B. PHILLIPS *Life & Labor in Old South* 25 Three hundred [black people] were reckoned to dwell among fifteen thousand whites at the middle of the century.
- 1997 *Daily Tel.* 14 July 13/2 Nearly seven years ago, Sheen strong-armed Charlie into a rehabilitation hospital for cocaine addiction, and is reckoned to have saved his life.

**c.** To consider, judge, or estimate, esp. by, or as the result of, calculation. Freq. with clause as object.

- 1549 W. THOMAS *Hist. Italie* f. 11, Peter the apostle came to Rome, and there continued .xxv. yeres after. Whiche other some doe disallow..that rekenyng the time it was impossible Peter should liue so longe after Christes passion.
- 1555 R. EDEN tr. Peter Martyr of Angleria *Decades of Newe Worlde* f. 351<sup>v</sup>, We set owre course east..rekenynge owre selues .xxxvi. leaques from the coast of Guinea.
- 1632 W. LITHGOW *Total Disc. Trav.* x. 456 [This] I reckon to be foure hundred and fifty English miles.
- 1708 J. C. *Compl. Collier* 5 in T. Nourse *Mistery of Husbandry Discover'd* (ed. 3) Water, or New-Castle or Sunderland Measure,..is generally reckoned double the Measure of a London Chaldron, or more.
- 1745 P. THOMAS *True Jrnl. Voy. South-Seas* 343 They reckon that this..Work will be finish'd in about fifty Years.
- 1781 W. COWPER *Let.* 4 Oct. (1979) I. 526, I reckon my volume will consist of about 8000—lines.
- 1800 J. RENNELL *Geogr. Syst. Herodotus* xiv. 362 He himself reckons that number of steps, equal to ¼ of a league.
- 1879 S. C. BARTLETT *Egypt to Palestine* xiv. 315 We reckoned the distance about sixteen miles and back.
- 1946 *Times* 23 Sept. 8/1 The judge reckoned the distance between second and third as four lengths.
- 1988 M. FORSTER *Elizabeth Barrett Browning* iv. 65 The complete abolition of slavery was reckoned only to be months away.
- 2007 *Evening Standard* (Nexis) 12 Dec. c39 Oil reserves are conservatively reckoned to be about eight billion barrels.

7.

**a.** *trans.* To take into account or consideration; to take note of. Now *rare* (*arch.* in later use).

- a1375 *William of Palerne* (1867) 1934 (*MED*), No man vpon molde schuld mow deuise men richlier a-raid, to rekene alle þinges, þan eche rink was in rome.
- a1450 (þ?c1421) LYDGATE *Siege Thebes* (Arun.) 951 (*MED*), Al this yweied and rekned into on, Maketh myn herte hevy as a ston.

- a1500 *Sidrak & Bokkus* (Lansd.) (Ph.D. diss., Univ. of Washington) (1965) 5719 (*MED*), Panne is it forto reckon aright þat man of his lyf haþ no might.
- 1613 S. PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* v. viii. 413 If a man doe any thing worth reckoning, presently his Captaine imparteth this honor to him.
- 1686 R. PARR *Life J. Usher* 94 Which [treatises] being not set down in my Lord Primates own Words..cannot be reckoned, being much enlarged by the Dr., as himself confesseth.
- 1767 G. G. BEEKMAN *Let.* 28 May in *Beekman Mercantile Papers* (1956) I. 512 All those Charges Reckoning Nothing for Our Trouble and Insurance will be an Addition to the first Cost of at Least 1/6 per bushel.
- 1837 A. SLADE *Turkey, Greece & Malta* I. i. 39 Reckon the consequences of a reverse, then say what naval fight can compare with Nelson's last.
- 1983 P. ACKROYD *Last Test. Oscar Wilde* 127, I did not reckon then the cost, to him and to others.

†**b. intr.** To take heed of; to take notice of. *Obs. rare.*

- 1622 R. HAWKINS *Observ. Voiage South Sea* xxxi. 75 They reckon not of a Musket shott, a sword pierceth not their skinne.
- 1634 *Malory's Most Anc. Hist. Prince Arthur* II. xxx, Like as it had beene a man..which reckoned not of himselfe.
- a1677 T. MANTON *Serm.* (1701) IV. xiv. 113 They seek to hide their Sins from Men..but little reckon of the allseeing Eye of God.

## 8. trans.

**a.** To include in an enumeration; to place or class in a particular group.

Freq. with *in* or *among*. Cf. NUMBER *v.* 3a.

- a1382 *Bible* (Wycliffite, E.V.) (Bodl. 959) (1961) Lev. xxv. 53 He shal ȝelde to þe byggere þat þat is left of þe ȝerys in þe which byfore he seruede, þe meedys wiþ ynne rekened [*L. imputatis*].
- a1387 J. TREVISA tr. R. Higden *Polychron.* (St. John's Cambr.) (1876) VI. 171 Þe þridde Leo..is nouȝt i-rekened [*?a1475 anon. tr. putte*] in þe ordre of bisshoppes.
- ?a1425 *Mandeville's Trav.* (Egerton) (1889) 93 (*MED*), Also iles of Inde..er nouȝt rekned in þe climates.
- c1460 *Tree & 12 Frutes* (McClean) (1960) 35 (*MED*), Pou may be rekenyd endelesly a monge þe holy trees of his heuenly paradise.
- 1526 W. BONDE *Pylgrimage of Perfection* III. sig. SSSiiii<sup>v</sup>, Firste, the matyns..is rekened for one of the .vii.
- 1583 R. SEMPILL in J. Cranstoun *Satirical Poems Reformation* (1891) I. 373 Gude Robert Melwene..I shuld not racken in with thea.
- 1630 tr. G. Botero *Relations Famous Kingdomes World* (rev. ed.) 231 The number of souldiers..amount to eight thousand, not reckoning any man of sort, nor Mariners.
- 1687 *Philos. Trans.* 1686–7 (Royal Soc.) 16 144 It may perhaps be better reckon'd amongst Boles than Stones.
- 1711 J. ADDISON *Spectator* No. 40. ¶4 There is also another Particular, which may be reckon'd among the Blemishes..of our English Tragedy.

- 1774 O. GOLDSMITH *Hist. Earth* II. 230 In this class we may reckon the Georgians, Circassians, and Mingrelians.
- 1822 T. WEBSTER *Imison's Elem. Sci. & Art* (new ed.) II. 33 Light..is reckoned among the imponderable bodies.
- a1864 N. HAWTHORNE *Amer. Note-bks.* (1879) I. 52 Among other languages spoken hereabouts must be reckoned the wild Irish.
- 1924 R. H. MOTTRAM *Spanish Farm* II. 101 She wrote a good hand, having acquired that art at a convent school where it, at least, was not reckoned among the subversive sciences.
- 1994 R. R. NAUTA in I. J. F. De Jong & J. P. Sullivan *Mod. Crit. Theory & Classical Lit.* 208 If one needs a label for Iser, one could follow general American practice and reckon him among the 'reader-response critics'.

**b.** To accept or state (a number) as a total. Now *rare*.

- a1387 J. TREVISA tr. R. Higden *Polychron.* (St. John's Cambr.) III. 105 Who þat wil rekene seuenti þere of þe prisonyng and bondage of þe Iewes..þan he schulde ende þis seuenti þere in þe secounde þere of Darius, Itapsis his sone.
- 1561 T. NORTON tr. J. Calvin *Inst. Christian Relig.* II. iii. f. 131<sup>v</sup>, The Apostle in describyng of repentance rekeneth seuen eyther causes or effectes or partes thereof.
- 1563 J. MAN tr. W. Musculus *Common Places Christian Relig.* 273 b, Wherein he reconneth but two sacramentes only, giuen by the Lorde himselfe.
- 1671 J. WEBSTER *Metallographia* vii. 115 He reckons four of a silver colour, that hold no metal, nor yield any fire.
- 1726 R. NEVE *Builder's Dict.* (ed. 2) Architects reckon five Orders..viz. Tuscan, Dorick, Ionick, Corinthian, and Roman, Composite, or Compound Order.
- a1774 A. TUCKER *Light of Nature* (1777) III. i. v. 169 The Romish doctors reckon three stages in the passage from vice to virtue, Attrition, Contrition, and Repentance.
- 1879 S. C. BARTLETT *Egypt to Palestine* iii. 52 Lepsius reckons about sixty, including some very small ones.
- 1914 *Mariner's Mirror* 4 254/2 One of the catch questions in my young days was 'How many ropes are there in a ship?' I think we reckoned seven.
- 1962 *Classical Rev.* 12 9 Ovid reckons eleven feet to the elegiac distich.

**9.**

†**a.** *intr. Sc.* With *for*, *to*, or complement. To be worth or equate to a specified sum, amount, etc. *Obs.*

- 1434 *Ayr Burgh Court Bks.* 19 Apr. John Martinson commond hyrd rakans for ilka som v d.
- 1501 in J. B. Paul *Accts. Treasurer Scotl.* (1900) II. 42 For j<sup>c</sup> elne carsay.., reknand sex score for the hundir of rede and grene.
- 1627 *Rep. Parishes Scotl.* (1835) 1 The wiccarage reakineth to ane hundreth mairkis.
- 1652–3 in L. B. Taylor *Aberdeen Shore Work Accts.* (1972) 365 A pounshen racknett to 2 barrels.

†**b. trans.** To work out or decide the nature or value of. *Obs. rare.*

- c1440 (þ?a1400) *Morte Arthure* 1275 (*MED*), Thane sall we rekken full rathe whatt ryghte þat he claymes.
- c1450 (þ?a1400) *Wars Alexander* (Ashm.) 41 (*MED*), He was wyse enoȝe wīdis to reken, When he þe heuyn beheld, of lede[s] opon lyfe.
- 1567 in J. Cranstoun *Satirical Poems Reformation* (1891) I. viii. 9 War 30<sup>r</sup> richt reknit to þe croun It myt be laid with litill menss.

**c. trans.** To value or rate; to give a value to.

- a1533 LD. BERNERS tr. *Bk. Duke Huon of Burdeux* (1882–7) li. 173, I wold reken all the sorow that I haue enduryd at no thyng.
- a1616 SHAKESPEARE *All's Well that ends Well* (1623) v. iii. 91, I haue seene her weare it, and she reckon'd it At her liues rate.
- 1642 D. ROGERS *Naaman* 136 Never harkening what God will answer..but reckoning her worke for a price.
- 1667 S. PEPYS *Diary* 9 June (1974) VIII. 255 The world sees it and reckons my interest accordingly.
- 1773 B. FRANKLIN *Votes & Proc. Boston* Pref. p. v, Which, at the first Cost here, can scarce be reckoned at less than Half a Guinea a Head *per Annum*.
- 1783 *Parl. Reg.* XI. 49 Some people reckoned the value of things by pounds, shillings, and pence.
- 1811 P. KELLY *Universal Cambist* I. 183 New Pieces of 12 Marks Danish, called current Ducats, are reckoned at 6 Marks Hamburg currency.
- 1861 *Cornhill Mag.* June 727 The labour of women being reckoned at a value only a few pence short of 35<sup>l</sup>.
- 1908 L. D. H. WELD *Private Freight Cars & Amer. Railways* 134 The Continental Fruit Express reckoned it at \$15 on a trip from California to Chicago.
- 1992 *New Yorker* 13 July 78/3 Muslims..dutifully reckon the value of their property and assets.

**d. intr.** To count; to have significance or value. Now *rare*.

- [1778 J. CARVER *Trav. N.-Amer.* xi. 365 Which ever side first causes it to reach their own goal, reckons towards the game.]
- 1811 tr. J.-A. Masséna in *New Ann. Reg. 1810* 180/2 She puts your battalions in advance, as if your blood was to reckon for nothing.
- 1879 J. MCCARTHY *Hist. our Own Times* II. xxii. 159 Such discretion..would in the long run reckon to his credit and his advantage.
- 1899 W. BESANT *Orange Girl* I. i. 19 After the fashion..of the sailors, with whom strength of arm reckons before style.
- 1943 *Times* 16 Sept. 5/4 A proportion of cadet service to reckon towards reduction of the general period of universal training.



## 10.

**a. trans.** With infinitive. To expect, plan, or intend *to do something*.  
Now chiefly *regional*.

- a1450 (►c1410) H. LOVELICH *Merlin* (1932) III. l. 21778 (MED), They ne rekken to been distroyed, in certein.
- 1535 T. LUPSET *Exhort to Yonge Men* f. 25<sup>v</sup>, Touching the .iii. said thinges: in ye which I reken to rest the hole course of your lyfe.
- a1563 J. BALE *King Johan* (1969) II. 1126 The Cistean monkes are in soche perplexyte That owt of Englonde they reken all to flee.
- 1601 R. JOHNSON tr. G. Botero *Travellers Breviat* (1603) 160 He neither defendeth himselfe, nor intreateth for mercie, as reckoning straight to die.
- 1689 *Undaunted London-Derry* (single sheet) 2 Another sweet invention, the which in brief I reckon to name.
- 1727 LADY BOLINGBROKE *Let.* 1 Feb. in *Lett. Jonathan Swift* (1766) III. 389, I reckon to send you some of those fans by one of your friends.
- 1770 JOHNSON *Let.* 7 July (1992) I. 344, I reckon to go next week to Ashbourne.
- 1863 E. C. GASKELL *Sylvia's Lovers* II. iii. 59 Well, then I'll reckon to hear fro' thee in a week, or, mayhap, less.
- 1872 J. HARTLEY *Yorks. Ditties* 2nd Ser. 44 Ov a Thursday aw reckon to brew.
- 1956 M. L. SETTLE *O Beulah Land* II. iv. 257, I always reckoned to live in brick or stone so folks'll know we're quality.
- 1996 C. MCWILLIAM in H. Ritchie *New Scottish Writing* 7 We don't reckon to sell the sample dishes when put out the front under cling, so they're what the gulls get.

**b. intr.** To count, rely, or depend *on or upon*.

- 1547 J. BALE *Lattre Examinacyon A. Askewe* f. 46, The wynnynges were not small that ye reckened vpon, whan ye toke on ye that cruell enterpryse.
- 1632 W. LITHGOW *Totall Disc. Trav.* v. 173 No man could reckon vpon felicity so long as he liued.
- 1665 R. BOYLE *Occas. Refl.* VI. v. sig. Nn7, His reward would be much less than he reckons upon.
- 1704 SWIFT *Tale of Tub* vii. 142 This will stand as an uncontestable Argument, that our Modern Wits are not to reckon upon the Infinity of Matter, for a constant Supply.
- 1752 D. HUME *Ess. & Treat.* (1777) II. 95 A manufacturer reckons upon the labour of his servants.
- 1796 H. HUNTER tr. J. H. B. de Saint-Pierre *Stud. Nature* (1799) I. p. lxx, I reckon on the indulgence of the really intelligent.
- 1836 C. P. TRAILL *Backwoods of Canada* 22, I was reckoning much on seeing the falls of Montmorenci.
- 1874 J. R. GREEN *Short Hist. Eng. People* ii. §4. 74 He could reckon on no support within England itself.
- 1940 L. MACNEICE *Last Ditch* 16 Under God we can reckon On pardon when we fall.
- 1954 T. S. ELIOT *Confidential Clerk* II. 69, I hadn't reckoned on reports and typewriters When I designed this room.
- 1991 P. KUSSI tr. M. Kundera *Immortality* III. x. 129 He supposed that his lover had reckoned on the

necessity of one day voluntarily ceding her place to a younger woman.

**c. trans.** With clause as object. To consider; to conclude; to suppose, believe, think likely. Now *colloq.*

- 1548 *Hall's Vnion: Richard III* f. xxvij, Men woulde not recon that he coulde haue righte to the realme.  
 c1600 *Wriothesley's Chron. Eng.* (1875) I. 16 Some reckon he killed himselfe with purgations.  
 1611 *Bible (King James)* Isa. xxxviii. 13, I reckoned till morning, that as a Lyon so will hee breake all my bones.  
 1668 J. GLANVILL *Plus Ultra* Pref. 22 Whether his Reply be publique or not, I reckon he will blow the dust upon me.  
 1712 SWIFT *Jrnl. to Stella* 17 June (1948) II. 538, I reckon the Qu— will go to Windsor in 3 or 4 weeks.  
 1796 C. BURNEY *Mem. Life Metastasio* II. 78, I reckon that I shall have a humpback.  
 1863 E. C. GASKELL *Sylvia's Lovers* I. v. 88 'A reckon it's a bargain,' said Harry.  
 1863 *Congress. Globe* 7 Feb. 783/3 If you can take this property by compact, I reckon you cannot take it against the consent of the owners.  
 1875 B. JOWETT tr. Plato *Dialogues* (ed. 2) I. 443, I reckon, said Socrates, that no one..could accuse me of idle talking.  
 1900 *Cosmopolitan* Feb. 389/1 She met Sam on the way out, and says she: 'Sam, what do you reckon? My quilt took the premium.'  
 1963 *Social Problems* Spring 367/1, I reckon it'll always be lucky.  
 1992 R. MACNEIL *Burden of Desire* II. 112 How long you reckon it'll have to last?

**d. intr. I reckon:** I believe, expect, think, etc. Used parenthetically or at the end of a sentence. Now *colloq.*

Cf. *I guess* at GUESS *v.* 6.

- [?1526 M. ROPER tr. Erasmus *Deuout Treat. Pater Noster* sig. b, To vanquisshe and ouercome the better for the best parte (as I reken) whom I accompte the wysest of euery age.]  
 1567 J. JEWEL *Def. Apol. Church Eng.* II. ix. 200 But for further answeare, I reckon, M. Hardinge cannot be ignorant, that [etc.].  
 1603 R. CECIL *Let.* 29 May in *Nugæ Antiquæ* (1775) II. 85 He is, I reckon, no wise man that looketh this waye to heaven.  
 1748 S. RICHARDSON *Clarissa* V. xlv. 326, I shall have a good deal of trouble, I reckon,..to be decent on the expected occasion.  
 a1777 S. FOOTE *Capuchin* (1778) I. 108 All your family..come over to be polish'd, I reckon.  
 1827 J. F. COOPER *Prairie* I. vii. 107 Neither of us, I reckon, has ever had much to do with [etc.].  
 1883 R. L. STEVENSON *Treasure Island* IV. xx. 162 You would just as soon save your lives, I reckon.  
 1929 T. HARDY *Old Mrs Chundle* 15, I may as well do that as do nothing, I reckon.  
 1991 *Times Educ. Suppl.* 8 Feb. 31/3 I'm engaged on a three-volume study of the post-war period which, I reckon, now needs to be broken up into mini-eras.

**e. intr.** To allow *for*; to be prepared *for*.

- 1824 SCOTT *Redgauntlet* I. xii. 293 This fair unknown has made a deeper impression on your gravity than you reckoned for.
- 1848 J. H. NEWMAN *Loss & Gain* III. v. 330 You may have more to bear than you reckon for, when you find yourself with men of rude minds and vulgar manners.
- 1900 H. LAWSON *On Track* (1903) 61, I didn't reckon for them there blanky hailstones.
- 1986 *New Scientist* 4 Dec. 75/2 Unfortunately, they didn't reckon for British Rail.

**11. trans.** To assign or attribute *to* or *unto* a person or thing; *Theol.* (of God) to impute (righteousness).

- 1526 *Bible* (Tyndale) Rom. iv. 9 We saye verely how that fayth was rekened to Abraham for rightewesnes.
- 1578 J. ROLLAND *Seuin Seages* 172 We reckin that vnto 3our greit wisdom.
- 1643 J. SHUTE *Sarah & Hagar* (1649) 142 The Ishmaelites..are reckoned unto Hagar, not unto Abraham; and therefore called Hagareans.
- 1719 D. WATERLAND *Vindic. Christ's Divinity* 25 As if the Ray were not to be reckon'd to the Sun, as included in it.
- 1725 J. COLLIER *Several Disc.* 285 The last Sermon de Sanctis..is mistakenly reckon'd to this Father.
- 1741 R. RAWLIN *Christ Righteousness of his People* iii. 129 His righteousness is reckoned and imputed of God unto us for this purpose.
- 1847 J. TORREY tr. A. Neander *Gen. Hist. Christian Relig. & Church* I. iv. 25 It is somewhat difficult..to separate here what belongs to the general tendency of that particular sect of the Ebionites..and that which must be reckoned to the peculiarities of the author.
- 1873 J. P. LACROIX tr. A. Wuttke *Christian Ethics* I. 93 This work is evidently to be reckoned to his Ethics.
- 1928 tr. F. Schleiermacher *Christian Faith* II. 519 How far the good works of the regenerate man are his own in such a sense that they can be *reckoned to him*.
- 1997 B. RUNDLE *Mind in Action* ii. 53 A consideration of thought and belief has revealed a further misconception as to what can be reckoned to the domain of the mental.

**12.**

**†a. intr.** To think *of* in a specified way; to have the specified opinion *of*.  
*Obs. rare.*

- 1567 J. MAPLET *Greene Forest* f. 42<sup>v</sup>, The verie Serpents..were sufficient to Noble & to cause this kinde to be well reckened of.
- 1602 W. WATSON *Decacordon Ten Quodlibeticall Questions* 95 He was to be reckned of for an inurious calumniator.
- 1625 R. MONTAGU *Appello Cæsarem* 151 So he was esteemed and held..during life, and so is he reckoned of by his followers at this day.

- 1712 J. BINGHAM *Scholastical Hist. Baptism by Laymen* v, in *Wks.* (1855) IX. 251 A man was..scarce to be reckoned of as a perfect and proper member of the Church.
- 1838 *N.Y. Rev.* Oct. 467 Highly as we have always reckoned of him a teacher.

**b. intr.** To approve or think highly of. Chiefly *Eng. regional* in later use.

- 1576 R. PETERSON tr. G. della Casa *Galateo* 16 He doth not esteeme the company, and little reckoneth of them or their talke.
- 1585 R. LANE *Let.* 12 Aug. in *Trans. & Coll. Amer. Antiquarian Soc.* (1860) 4 8 One moost worthye of grete accompte emongest us, and with your honor not to bee the lesse reckenned of in thys behalfe.
- 1594 R. ASHLEY tr. L. le Roy *Interchangeable Course* 47 Traitours..were most reckoned of in Court.
- 1601 W. CORNWALLIS *Disc. Seneca* sig. D2<sup>v</sup>, We reckon of Physicions, because the end of them is health.
- 1653 H. COGAN tr. N. N. *Scarlet Gown* 109 He is not much reckoned of in the Court, but is reuerenced in the sacred Colledge.
- 1724 *Ladies Diary* in C. Hutton *Diarian Misc.* IV. (1775) vi. 221 I'm little reckon'd of, or thought upon.
- 1803 tr. G. C. A. Pigault-Lebrun *Monsieur Botte* II. 208 He reckoned a good deal of the pleasures of the table.
- 1878 W. DICKINSON *Gloss. Dial. Cumberland* (ed. 2) 117/2, I rackon nought o' sek wark.
- 1903 J. T. FOWLER in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* (1904) (at cited word), [West Yorkshire] I reckon nowt o' yond.
- 1935 *Brit. Jnl. Educ. Psychol.* 5 205, I would reckon much of the competition and ambition involved in school work.
- 2004 S. COLLINS *Amer. over Water* ii. 16, I didn't reckon much of him.

**c. intr. colloq.** (orig. *Eng. regional*). With *on* or *to*. To have a (specified) opinion as to the merit of something or someone. Chiefly in questions or negative phrases.

- 1866 *North Lonsdale Mag.* July 31 Ah've heeard a deecal o' foine toke abaat t' pleece, but ah reckon nowt on't.
- 1883 'COSTA' *Between Two Stools* viii. 99, I don't reckon much on 'em to look at.
- 1929 E. RAYMOND *Family that Was* v. ii. 422 I've seen some clergy come and go in my time, and they've all had their different little ideas, the new ones never reckoning much to the ones before 'em.
- 1983 J. SULLIVAN *Only Fools & Horses* (1999) I. 3rd Ser. Episode 3. iii. 151 Now, what d'you reckon to that?
- 1991 J. CONNOR *Distortions* 59 What do you reckon on this place?
- 2005 *Yorks. Evening Post* (Nexis) 17 Oct. If it was a kid's prank, I don't reckon much to it.

**d. trans. colloq.** To rate or esteem highly; to think much of. Usual in negative phrases.

- 1919 R. C. HOLLIDAY *Broome Street Straws* vi. 100 We don't reckon him much round here.

- 1957 *Evening News* 12 Nov. 6/4 If..an East Ender wants to say that he does not consider the character of another to be worth while he says 'I don't reckon him'.
- 1977 *Sunday Times* 52/3, I don't reckon the chances of *Young Scientists of the Year*..against *Just William*.
- 1995 J. M. SIMS-KIMBREY *Wodds & Doggerybaw: Lincs. Dial. Dict.* 243/1 A nivver did reckon 'im much.

## PHRASES

**P1. to reckon right:** to judge correctly, to come to the right conclusion; to estimate or calculate correctly.

- a1400 (þa1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Vesp.) l. 9228 (MED), Four thusand yeir and sex hundreth, Qua reckens [*Fairf.* rekkenis, *Gött.* rekinis] right to tell es eth.
- a1425 (þ?a1400) CHAUCER *Romaunt Rose* (Hunterian) (1891) l. 3032 Ther was a womman eke that hight Shame that who can reken right Trespace was hir fadir name.
- 1535 D. LINDSAY *Satyre* 1308, I traist, gif I can reckon richt, Scho schaips to ludge with him all nicht.
- 1556 W. LAUDER *Compend. Tractate Dewtie of Kyngis* sig. A3, Nothing at all, to rekin rycht Different in to Goddis sycht.
- 1612 J. DAVIES *Muses Sacrifice* sig. L, And if, I reckon right betweene thy Law And mine obseruance.
- 1667 MILTON *Paradise Lost* viii. 71 This to attain, whether Heav'n move or Earth, Imports not, if thou reck'n right.
- 1701 T. BRETT *Acct. Church-govt.* v. 76 If Edwards reckons right in his *Gangræna*.
- 1794 J. ELPHINSTON *Fifty Years' Corr.* I. cccxxxiii. 43 Dhat won day France should recovver a libberty, lost upwards ov twelv centuries, if we reckon right.
- 1844 T. C. HALIBURTON *Attaché* 2nd Ser. II. xiv. 213 The free nigger..may be President, but he guesses he can't; and he reckons right.
- 1858 T. D. MCGEE *Canad. Ballads* 90 If his bark comes not in sight They deem they have not reckoned right.
- 1912 L. ABERCROMBIE *Emblems of Love* 140 There must be hope, if we could reckon right!
- 1988 *Reviews Amer. Hist.* 16 120 His contention that President Eisenhower reckoned right about what folks wanted.

**P2. intr. Chiefly Sc. Law. to count and reckon:** to make or draw up an account, esp. when legally compelled to do so; cf. *count and reckoning* at RECKONING *n.* 2. Now rare.

- 1566–7 in J. H. BURTON *Reg. Privy Council Scotl.* (1877) 1st Ser. I. 503 To pas to the said wardane and compt and rekkin with him.
- 1674 *Processes Kirkcudbright Sheriff Court* No. 197 Caus Robert ... have patience quhill Witsonday that we count and rakin befor onye honest man.
- 1722 W. FORBES *Inst. Law Scotl.* I. II. iv. 89 Nor yet can he oblige such as had dealing with his Predecessor, to count and reckon *ad deliberandum*.

- 1807 D. ROBERTSON *Rep. Cases on Appeal From Scotl.* I. 48 Sir Patrick was thereby bound to count and reckon yearly for his intromissions.
- 1861 *Jrnl. Jurispr.* 5 268 They conclude that..the defenders should count and reckon with the rents since Martinmas 1853.
- 1987 *Rep. Court of Session: Outer House* (Lexis) 12 Mar. When the society raised an action against a former member who was in the position of chief salesman and treasurer it was held that the latter should count and reckon.

### P3.

**a. to reckon with (also without):** to take into (or not take into) account or consideration; to be prepared (or unprepared) for.

- 1622 G. MARKHAM & W. SAMPSON *Herod & Antipater* II. i. sig. E 2, Murder beyond example: but there's left A Hell to reckon with.
- 1803 M. HAYS *Female Biogr.* V. 434, I shall be their queen, and they will have to reckon with me.
- 1847 tr. in *Times* 11 Aug. 6/1 Everywhere Governments are obliged to reckon with that power of ideas, which increases every day.
- 1896 W. H. HUTTON *Philip Augustus* vi. 182 It might seem..as if the Jews were the only dissenters with whom the king and the church had to reckon.
- 1902 R. KIPLING *Five Nations* (1903) 63 We reckon not with those Whom the mere Fates ordain.
- 1945 K. TYNAN *Let.* 5 June (1994) i. 79, I hoped faintly yesterday, reckoning without the indubitable laxity of Scots postal services.
- 2007 *N.Y. Times* (National ed.) 16 Sept. II. 1/4 As he turns 40, a man must reckon with harbingers of decay like reading glasses and a recalcitrant belly roll.

**b. a — to reckon (also to be reckoned) with:** a thing or person of significance, ability, etc., that should not be ignored or underestimated.

- 1866 W. BAGEHOT in *Fortn. Rev.* 15 Mar. 259 An opinion within the intellectual sphere, an opinion to be reckoned with.
- 1881 H. JAMES *Washington Square* xxxiv. 251 Although Catherine, in growing older, had become a person to be reckoned with, yet her society was a very different thing.
- 1885 *Manch. Examiner* 16 June 4/6 A Ministerial crisis..is always a contingency to be reckoned with.
- 1925 *Glasgow Herald* 23 July 7 A Doggett badger is a man to be reckoned with in the rowing world.
- 1966 *Times* 2 Feb. 12/1 Germany confirmed her emergence as a power to be reckoned with politically in the Common Market.
- 1993 *Bayview Post* (North York, Ont.) Mar. 21/2 Victories at Davis and Sunshine Cup competitions have proven that our players are a force to reckon with.

**c. to reckon without one's host:** see HOST *n.*<sup>2</sup> 2b.



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**DERIVATIVES**
**'reckoned** *adj.*

- 1592 H. BROUGHTON *Apol. in Briefe Assertions* sig. G 4, The commenters vppon hym bryng a reckoned number of the Olympiades vppon two gamesters.
- a1717 W. DIAPER tr. Oppian *Halieuticks* (1722) 43 Some in their wonted Dwellings patient stay, Prepare their Beds, and wait the reckon'd Day.
- 1812 R. WOODHOUSE *Elem. Treat. Astron.* (1823) xxxviii. 756 The difference of actual or absolute time, which depends on the reckoned time at each place of observation.
- 1955 A. J. ARBERRY tr. *Koran* I. xi. 240 If We postpone the chastisement from them Till a reckoned moment they will say 'What is Detaining it?'

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This entry has been updated (OED Third Edition, June 2009).

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