

remission

(rɪ'mɪʃən)

Also 4 **remis(s)iun**, 4-6 **remissioun**, **-yssi(u)n**, 5-6 **-issyon**, **-ys(s)yon**, etc.

[a. OF. *remission*, ad. L. *remissiōn-em*, n. of action f. *remittĕre* to **REMIT**. The order in which the senses appear in English differs widely from their natural development: cf. the note to **REMIT V.**]

1. Forgiveness or pardon *of* sins (cf. 2) or other offences.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 346 In remission, & in uorziuenesse of alle þine sunnen.
a 1300 *Cursor M.* 20048 þai sal haue..crist aun beniscun, And o þair sin remisiun. **c 1380** *Wyclif Sel. Wks.* II. 11 And Joon cam..preching þe baptism of penaunce in remission of synnes. **1447** O. BOKENHAM *Seyntys* (Roxb.) 7 Of myn old and newe transgressyoun That I may haue a plener remyssyoun. **1483** CAXTON *Cato* 5 Of the sacryfyse that thauncyentes made to god for to haue remyssioun of theyr synnes. **1560** J. DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 4 If he repent of his owne accorde, and desyre remission of his offence. **1651** HOBBS *Leviath.* III. xxxviii. 245 In..Scripture, Remission of Sinne, and Salvation from Death and Misery, is the same thing. **1788** GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xlix. V. 123 The gift which he had conferred on the Roman pontiff for the remission of his sins. **1846** BROWNING *Lett.* (1899) II. 212 As naughty children punished by mistake are promised a remission of next offence. **1884** *Catholic Dict.* (1885) 5/1 Absolution from Sin is a remission of sin which the priest..makes in the Sacrament of Penance.

2. (Without *of*.) Forgiveness or pardon granted for sins or offences against divine law; the cancelling of, or deliverance from, the guilt and penalties of sin; þalso, power of obtaining such pardon.

c 1325 *Chron. Eng.* 634 in Ritson *Metr. Rom.* II. 296 The spere That Charlemayne was wonet to bere To-fore the holy legioun, That is of gret remissioun. **1362** LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. XI. 277 A robbere hadde remission rapere þanne þei alle. **c 1430** LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 239 O blissed Jhesu! do remissioun To alle that axe mercy on ther kne! **1500-20** DUNBAR *Poems* viii. 28 Pray now for him..Unto the Lord..To gif him mercie and remissioun. **1579** LYL *Euphues* (Arb.) 174 Remember..how he sweat water and bloud for thy remission. **1614** RALEIGH *Hist. World* II. (1634) 250 Ingratitude and rebellion after his so many benefits, so many remissions, so many miracles wrought. **1685** BAXTER *Paraphr. N.T.* Acts ii. 39 The Messiah with his Grace of Remission, and the Spirit, is promised. **1715** DE FOE *Fam. Instruct.* (1841) I. 25 He gives repentance and remission.

b. Pardon for a political, legal, or other offence. Now only *Hist.*

1429 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 145 Be rightful juge,..Thy right ay sugre with remyssioun. **1535** LYNDESAY *Satyre* 4093 But doubt, 3e salbe hangit, But mercie or remissioun. **1568** GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 863 Sir Thomas Broughton..was at hande..vtterly dispairing of pardon and remission. **1591** SHAKES. *Two Gent.* i. ii. 65 My pennance is, to call Lucetta backe And aske remission, for my folly past. **1613** PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* VIII. xii. 671 If any were found dishonest, they were put to death without remission. **1687** A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* i. 95 Whosoever are taken stealing of Mastick, are without remission sent to the Galleys. **1864** KIRK *Chas. Bold* I. viii. 376 They entreated, therefore, that letters of remission might be granted to them for this fault.

†c. Sc. With *a* and *pl.* A formal pardon; a document conveying this. *Obs.*

1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 52 That all maner of man, that had bene before tyme banist out of Rome, suld cum agayne, and thai suld..have remissiounes. **1535** LYNDESAY *Satyre* 1132, I dreid, without 3e get ane remissioun,..The spirtuall stait sall put 3ow to perdition. **1546** *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 34 The remissioun grantit to the Capitane of Dumbertane, and all his complices..sall presentlie be past throw the signet. **1609** SKENE *Reg. Maj.* 158 Gif he quha is accused, alledges ane remission, he sall produce the samine in judgement.

†d. An inclination towards pardon. *Obs. rare*⁻¹.

1603 SHAKES. *Meas. for M.* v. i. 503, I finde an apt remission in my selfe; And yet heere's one..I cannot pardon.

†3. a. Release from a debt or payment. *Obs.*

1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. vii. 83 To ha Reles and Remission on þat Rental I beleeue. **1382** WYCLIF *Deut.* xv. 1 To whom is owed eny thing,..he shal not mowe a3en aske it, for 3eer of remyssioun of the Lord it is. **1607** SHAKES. *Cor.* v. ii. 90 Though I owe My Reuenge properly, my remission lies In Volcean brests. **1608** WILLET *Hexapla Exod.* 838 They..only went vp..in the seuenth yere of remission twice.

†b. Release, liberation, deliverance, from captivity, etc.; respite. *Obs.*

1432-50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) II. 291 From whiche victory of Abraham, somme men say the yere of lubile to haue taken originale, for that remission of captif men. **1582** N. T. (Rhem.) *Luke* iv. 19 To preach to the captives remission,..to dimisse the bruised unto remission. **1635** E. PAGITT *Christianogr.* i. iii. (1636) 162 For remission of soules the Patriarch graunts no Indulgences. **1761** GOLDSM. *Misc. Wks.* (1837) I. 471 Some remission from the war gave them leisure to form schemes of future prosperity.

†c. Release from work or exertion. *Obs. rare.*

1382 WYCLIF *1 Macc.* x. 34 Alle solempne days..be alle dais of ynmunite..and of remissioun, to alle Jewis that ben in my rewme. *2 Cor.* viii. 13 Forsoth not that it be remyssioun, or slouthe, to othere,..to 3ou tribulacioun.

4. The action of remitting or giving up partially or wholly: **a.** of a debt, tax, etc.

1382 WYCLIF *Prol. Bible* iii. 6 Also in the vij. 3eer shal be remissioun of dette to citeseynes and kynnesmen. **a 1719** ADDISON (J.), Not only an expedition, but the remission of a duty or tax, were transmitted to posterity after this manner. **1841** ELPHINSTONE *Hist. Ind.* II. 491 His remissions [of taxes], as far as they were carried into effect, were productive of great inequality. **1884** *Law Rep. 9 App. Cases* 624 He does not ask for any remission of any portion of his obligation.

b. of a penalty or punishment. Also *attrib.*

1736 BUTLER *Anal.* I. iii. Wks. 1874 I. 58 Circumstances of aggravated guilt prevent a remission of the penalties. **1741** BETTERTON *Eng. Stage* II. 51 Queen Mary..immediately granted..a Remission of her Father's Execution for that of Transportation. **1797** MRS. RADCLIFFE *Italian* xxvi, The consequence of this confession was a remission of punishment. **1861** PEARSON *Early & Mid. Ages Eng.* 177 This was an illegal remission of an important part of the penalty. **1884** *Catholic Dict.* 442/1 The indulgence..was no mere remission of canonical penance. **1893** *Daily News* 9 Mar. 6/7 He [a convict] was punished by the forfeiture of remission marks.

†**c.** *Law* = REMISE *n.*¹ **1.** *Obs. rare*⁻¹.

c 1450 *Godstow Reg.* (E.E.T.S.) 100 He remytted to them and quyte-claymed... And for þis knowlechyng, remission, fyne, and accorde [etc.].

†**5.** Relaxation; lessening of tension; slackening of energy or application. *Obs.*

1579 LVLV *Euphues* (Arb.) 112 As too much bending breaketh the bowe, so too much remission spoyleth the minde. **1580** *Ibid.* 383 As the Musicians tune their strings, who..either by intention or remission, frame them to a pleasant consent. **1614** RALEIGH *Hist. World* v. iii. §18. 474 Such accompt of winnings past, is commonly in Gamesters that are at the height of their fortune, a cause of remission and carelesnesse. **1638** JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* 22 Among the manifold remissions of our minde, among our idle hopes,..these Images do follow us..close. **1690** LOCKE *Hum. Und.* II. xix. §4 This difference of intention and remission of the mind in thinking..every one..has experimented in himself. **1741** MIDDLETON *Cicero* I. i. 41, I used to speak without any remission or variation.

†**b.** Lowering or humbling (of mind). *Obs. rare.*

a 1628 F. GREVIL *Sidney* (1652) 35 This is that true remission of mind, whereof I would gladly have the world take notice. *Ibid.* 159 So far was his true remission of mind transformed into ejulation.

6. Diminution of force or effect; lowering or decrease of a condition or quality, esp. of heat or cold. (Cf. **INTENSION 3.**)

1603 HOLLAND *Plutarch's Mor.* 69 Morall vertue..tempereth the remission and intention, and..taketh away the excesse and defect of the passions. **1625** N. CARPENTER *Geog. Del.* i. x. (1635) 224 They haue extreame cold Winters, and in stead of Summer a small remission of cold. **1642** HOWELL *For. Trav.* (Arb.) 35 For then when the heate beginneth in Spaine, the violence thereof lasteth a long time without intension, or remission, or any considerable change. **1696** BP. PATRICK *Comm. Exod.* xix. 16 When their trembling was abated, by the Remission..of the Sound of the Trumpet. **1784** JOHNSON *Let. to Mrs. Thrale* 9 Feb., The remission of the cold did not continue long enough to afford me much relief. **1795-1814** WORDSW. *Excurs.* II. 799 Darkness fell Without remission of the blast or shower. **1879** *St. George's Hosp. Rep.* IX. 14 Marked morning remissions of temperature. **1897** SINGER & BERENS *Unrecog. Laws Nat.* 390 The fundamental belief that gravity admits of neither intension nor remission.

b. *Path.* A decrease or subsidence (esp. a temporary one) in the violence of a disease or pain: also *transf.* of violent emotions.

1685 tr. *Willis' Lond. Pract. Physick* 549 A Continual Fever..has its times of remission and exacerbation, but none of intermission. **1741-3** WESLEY *Extract of Jrnl.* (1749) 19, I had a clear remission in the morning: but about two in the afternoon, a stronger fit than any before. **a 1776** R. JAMES *Diss. Fevers* (1778) 57 In the very worst cases, if it does not effect a cure itself, it generally brings on a remission. **1797** M. BAILLIE *Morb. Anat.* (1807) 59 Empyema may be distinguished..by rigors having taken place, by a remission of the pain [etc.]. **1849** MACAULAY *Hist Eng.* ii. i. 188 It is the law of our nature that such fits of excitement shall always be followed by remissions. **1899** *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 297 One very marked character..is the tendency of the symptoms to periodicity, remission and relapse.

attrib. **1897** *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 407 This will furnish..nourishment during the febrile and remission periods.

tc. *Gram.* (See quot.) *Obs. rare.*

1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) VIII. 90 Adverbs of intension and remission, or of quantity continuous; as *moderately, vastly, exceedingly, &c.*

7. The action of remitting or sending (back), in various senses; a remittal. *rare.*

1724 SWIFT *Conc. Weavers Wks.* 1841 II. 85/1 The remission of a million

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1724 SWIFT *Conc. Weavers Wks.* 1841 II. 85/1 The remission of a million every year to England. **1741-2** STACKHOUSE *Hist. Bible* III. i, The Poets' Fiction of the Loss of Eurydice, and her Remission into Hell. **1883** *Law Rep. 8 Probate Div.* 194 A remission under the seal of Her Majesty's Court of Appeals..commanding the Official Principal..to resume the cause into his hands.