lord, v.

Pronunciation: /lɔːd/

Forms: Also ME laverd.

Etymology: < LORD n.

1. intr.

†a. To exercise lordship, have dominion.


1489 CAXTON tr. C. de Pisan Bk. Fayttes of Armes i. i. 8 Metridates whiche lorded vpon xxiiiij. contrees.

b. To play the lord; to behave in a lordly manner, assume airs of grandeur; to rule tyrannically, domineer. Now rare exc. const. over.

1377 LANGLAND Piers Plowman B. x. 84 Pe more he..lordeth in londes pe lasse good he deleth.
1579 SPENNER Shepheardes Cal. Dec. 70 The grieslie Tode-stoole groune there mought I se, And loathed Paddocks lording on the same.
1595 SPENNER Amoretti x. sig. A6’, She lordeth in licentious blisse Of her freewill.
1633 P. FLETCHER Elisa 119 in Purple Island Her...sister..Alicia, in whose face Love proudly lorded.
1641 MILTON Reason Church-govt. 22 The hatefull thirst of Lording in the Church..first bestow’d a being upon Prelaty.
1671 MILTON Samson Agonistes 266 They had by this..lorded over them whom now they serve.
1685 DRYDEN tr. Lucretius Against Fear of Death in Sylvæ 74 That haughty King, who lorded o’re the Main,...Him death, a greater Monarch, overcame.
1777 E. BURKE Addr. to King Jan. in Writings & Speeches (1996) III. 281 Much less are we desirous of lording over our Brethren.
1833 T. CHALMERS On Power of God (1835) I. iii. 156 Its unhappy patient is lorded over by a power of moral evil.
1871 B. TAYLOR tr. Goethe Faust I. xiv. 184 Methinks, instead of in the forests lording, The noble Sir should [etc.].
1881 R. D. BLACKMORE Christowell xxxi, I am not one to be lorded over by a man no better than myself.

c. So to lord it, chiefly with over.

1579 SPENSER Shepheardes Cal. July 176 They..lord it as they list.
a1616 SHAKESPEARE Henry VI, Pt. 2 (1623) iv. vii. 200, I see them Lording it in London streets.
1657 T. AYLESBURY Treat. Confession of Sinne vii. 145 Lording it over the Consciences of the people.
a1704 T. BROWN Oration in Praise Drunkenness in Wks. (1707) I. i. 55 She [sc. drunkenness] Lord's it over Poland, Sweden and Norway.
a1716 R. SOUTH Serm. (1823) V. 409 Though reason and judgment would veil to Christ, yet the man does not, because his affections lord it.
1775 F. BURNEY Let. in Early Jnrls. & Lett. (1990) II. 170 He disdains submitting to the Great, or Lording it over the little.
1819 W. IRVING Rip Van Winkle in Sketch Bk. I. 59 The Kaatskill mountains..are seen..swelling up to a noble height, and lording it over the surrounding country.
1855 TYNDALL in Lett. Educ. 192 We lord it over Matter, and in so doing have become better acquainted with the laws of Mind.
1900 Q. Rev. Oct. 337 This barbarian..lorded it over many waters from the Canaries to Candia.

2. trans. To be or act as lord of; to control, manage, rule. rare.

1691 J. WILSON Belphegor t. ii, Simple Merit Lords few Mens Horoscope.
1807 J. BARLOW Columbiad v. 197 Austria’s titled hordes, with their own gore, Fat the fair fields they lording long before.
1818 KEATS Endymion II. 95 The look Of his white palace..And all the revels he had lorded there.

3.

†a. To make (a man) a lord or master.

b. To confer the title of lord upon; to ennoble.

a1340 R. ROLLE Psalter xviii. 14 If þai ware noght lordid of me [Mistransl.: L. si mei non fuerunt dominati].

a1616 SHAKESPEARE Tempest (1623) I. ii. 97 He being thus Lorded, did believe He was indeed the Duke.

1643 G. WITHER Campo-Musæ 69 Ev'ry one of those That hath for any services, beene Lorded.

1721 Coll. Humorous Lett. London Jrnl. 16 Thou shalt be told..Who gets an Estate in the Alley, and is afterward Knighted or Lorded.

1787 Minor 307 Sir Cadwallader Pleadwell..has been lately Lorded.

1889 FURNIVALL in Pall Mall Gaz. 14 Dec. 1/3 It was with no little pleasure then that I found Lord Tennyson (before he was lorded) making me known..to Mr. Robert Browning.

c. To address or speak of as ‘Lord’.

1636 S. RUTHERFORD Lett. (1863) I. lx. 161 My newly printed book against Arminians was one challenge: not lording the prelates was another.

1656 S. HUNTON Golden Law 92 Is not Sarah commended for obeying, and lording her husband?

1660 Char. Italy 56 Before they merit the degree of Knighthood, they must be Lorded.

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