

Oxford English Dictionary | The definitive record of the English language

round, n.1

Pronunciation: Brit. /raʊnd/, U.S. /raʊnd/

Forms:

α. ME **roonde**, ME **rount**, ME–15 **ronnd**, ME–16 **rounde**, ME–16 **rownd**, ME–16 **rownde**, ME– **round**, 15 **rovnde**, 15 **rowund**, 16 **rovnd**, 18 **raand** (*Eng. regional (north.)*); *Sc.* pre-17 **ronde**, pre-17 **rounde**, pre-17 **rovnd**, pre-17 **rownd**, pre-17 **rund**, pre-17 **runde**, pre-17 17– **round**, 18 **round**.

β. ME **roun**, ME **rown**, 15–16 **rowne**; *Eng. regional* 18– **roon'**, 18– **roun**, 18– **roun'**; *Sc.* pre-17 **roon**, pre-17 **rowne**, pre-17 **rownn**, 17 **roun'**, 18 **roon'**, 18 **roun**.

Frequency (in current use):

Origin: Of multiple origins. Partly a borrowing from French. Partly a borrowing from French, combined with an English element. **Etyms:** French *rund* ; French *runde* , ROUND *adj.*

Etymology: Partly (i) < Anglo-Norman *rund*, Old French, Middle French *reond*, *reont*, Middle French, French *ronde* (masculine noun) circle (c1145 in *en reont* in a circular course; rare before late 15th cent.), denoting various circular objects, e.g. bud (13th cent.), ring-shaped object (1413), small coin (1461), environs of a town (end of the 14th cent.), partly (ii) < Anglo-Norman *runde*, Old French, Middle French *reonde*, Middle French, French *ronde* (feminine noun) circle (c1170 in *a la reonde* in a circle), denoting various circular objects (13th cent., earliest in specific sense 'round cap'), and partly (iii) use as noun of ROUND *adj.*

Many senses of the French nouns are first attested later than in English, e.g. *ronde* circle (1484), circumference (1538), group of people arranged in a circle (1555), man-made structure with a circular form (a1577, originally denoting a round horse-racing track), cylindrical piece of something (1850), *ronde* simple canon (1751, earliest in *ronde de table*), or are not regularly attested until much later (so Old French *roonde* , French *ronde* round dance: 13th cent. in an isolated attestation, subsequently from 1783).

Compare parallel nouns in several other Germanic languages, showing a similar variety of senses: Middle Dutch *ront* (in uncertain sense, perhaps 'wheel'; Dutch *ronde* now chiefly in sense 'circular space'), Dutch *ronde* , (with added noun-forming suffix) *ronde* , Middle Low German *runt* , *runde* , *ronde* , German *Runde* , feminine noun (16th cent.; compare Middle High German *ze runde* in a circle), German *Rund* , neuter noun (17th cent.; < French *ronde*), Danish *runde* , Swedish *rund* , (now rare) *runde* , (in some specific senses, e.g. in boxing) *ronde* .

In sense 11 short for ROUND SHOT *n.*

In sense 13d after Dutch †*ronde* ROUNCE *n.*¹

In sense 23 and later extended uses of this sense probably after Middle French *ronde* (French *ronde*) (?1559 in sense 'review of troops', 1567 in sense 'group of soldiers on patrol', 1569 in sense 'act of patrolling'). Like Middle French *ronde* ROUND *v.*² in its specific sense 'to patrol' (beginning of the 15th cent.), Middle French, French *ronde* may show a different word (although associated with *ronde* 'circle, environs' and *ronde* ROUND *adj.* early on), a borrowing < Spanish *ronda* (a1260), a variant (with consonantal assimilation) of †*robda* , in turn a variant (with loss of the initial vowel) of †*arobda* , †*arrobda* (a1207), probably (with metathesis of consonants) < Spanish Arabic *al-rutba* < Arabic *al-* the + Arabic *rutba* rank, degree, class, occupation, in a specific Spanish Arabic sense development 'office, tour of duty'. See further F. Corriente *Diet. of Arabic and Allied Loanwords: Spanish, Portuguese, Catalan, Galician and Kindred Dialects* (2008) 196. An older suggestion, still cited in many etymological dictionaries, derives

Spanish †*robda*, †*arobda*, †*arrobda* from an alleged Arabic form *rubt*, supposed to be the plural of *rābiṭa* 'barracks of Arab soldiers defending the border areas of Muslim-held territory, also patrol of armed riders' (< *rabaṭa* to bind, tie: see ALMORAVID *n.*). However, this etymology is impossible, as no such plural form is attested, or even grammatical, in Arabic. Compare (< Spanish) Portuguese *ronda* (14th cent.), Italian *ronda* (16th cent.), and also (< French) Dutch *ronde* (late 16th cent. both denoting the action of patrolling and the group of soldiers executing a patrol; subsequently also in extended uses), German *Runde* (second half of the 17th cent. both denoting the action of patrolling and the group of soldiers executing a patrol; subsequently also in extended uses).

A supposed sense 'some species of flat sea-fish' in *N.E.D.* (1909) is based on a misreading of an elliptical use of the adjective introducing a list of round fish.

The β. forms show loss of the final consonant.

I. Something circular in form, and related senses; a circle, a ring.

1.

a. A circular band, a ring; a ring-shaped object; (in later use) *spec.* a representation or drawing of a ring-shaped object on a flat surface, *esp.* one used to enclose another image, an inscription, etc. Formerly also: †a coil (*obs.*). Also *fig.*

- a1325 *St. Thomas Becket* (Corpus Cambr.) l. 2168 in C. D'Evelyn & A. J. Mill *S. Eng. Legendary* (1956) 681 (*MED*) Per nis ipeint a round al aboute is heued þat is icluped diademe.
- ?c1400 (†c1380) CHAUCER tr. Boethius *De Consol. Philos.* (BL Add. 10340) (1868) III. met. ix. l. 2436 It haþ assembled a moeuyng in two roundes [L. *orbis*].
- 1589 A. FLEMING tr. Virgil *Georgiks* l. 9 in A. Fleming tr. Virgil *Bucoliks* The serpent huge with winding bowts and rounds Slides downe..in maner of a riuier.
- a1616 SHAKESPEARE *Macbeth* (1623) IV. i. 104 What is this, that..weares vpon his Baby-brow, the round And top of Soueraignty?
- 1667 MILTON *Paradise Lost* IX. 183 The Serpent..fast sleeping soon he found In Labyrinth of many a round self-rowld.
- 1742 tr. *Heister's Gen. Syst. Surg.* (1768) II. III. 386 Then the Roller ascends gradually by spiral Rounds towards the Inguen.
- 1817 J. EVANS *Excursion to Windsor* 169 At each end, in a round, is a knight on horseback, in the manner of ancient seals.
- 1868 J. T. NETTLESHIP *Ess. Browning's Poetry* viii. 291 We cannot each finish our lives to a perfect round.
- 1884 *Times* (weekly ed.) 28 Dec. 7/1 Upon which was engraved in a round, an inscription of a star with six rays.
- a1918 N.-V. GHOSHA *Poet. Wks. Ram Sharma* (1919) 271 Mazes of seventeen concentric rounds.
- 1941 E. MONGAN & C. O. SCHNIEWIND *First Cent. Printmaking 1400–1500* 77 The rounds on the top, bottom, and on both sides contain the symbols of the four evangelists.
- 2001 K. FASSETT & L. PRIOR LUCY *Passionate Patchwork* (2003) 99 Embroider a flower of two or three concentric rounds of radiating straight stitches on each chartreuse centre square.

†**b.** A link in a chain. *Obs.*

In quot. 1648 in figurative context.

- 1648 A. BURGESS *True Doctr. Justif.* xxii. 187 The major is grounded upon the method and order which the Apostle observeth, beginning with the highest round in that chain, which is predestination.
- 1693 *London Gaz.* No. 2838/4 Lost., a Gold Chain with 7 Rounds.
- 1708 *Brit. Apollo* No. 8. 4/2 A Gold Chain containing six Rounds with a Gold Locket.

c. A single turn of thread, yarn, etc., wound on to a reel.

- 1771 T. SADLER *Muses Cabinet* I. 34 Admit the radius of a weaver's beam to be 5 inches, and with 27 rounds of cloth.
- 1788 *Ann. Agric.* **10** 555 The price of spinning linen yarn is 400 rounds on a two-yard reel for one penny.
- 1835 E. P. ROBERTS *Man. Direct. sowing, transplanting & raising Mulberry Tree* 58/1 The several rounds as they lie on the reel should not be glued together.
- 1845 *London Jrnl. Arts, Sci., & Manuf.* **26** 169 From twenty to thirty rounds of cloth are rolled upon the cylinder.
- 1880 *Plain Hints* 58 All materials in skeins are divided above into 'rounds' as they are comparatively easily counted.
- 1906 W. W. MERRITT *Hist. County Montgomery* xv. 128 A 'cut' consisted of sixty rounds of the reel, which was announced when it was done by a loud 'crack' made by some internal attachment.
- 1940 *Elem. School Jrnl.* **40** 646 Arithmetic will be learned by the children while counting the number of rounds during the winding of the yarn on the winder.
- 1993 *Pennsylvania Folklife* Autumn 12/2 [Reels] had a geared clock face which indicated the number of rounds wound on it in increments of ten.

2.

a. A group of people sitting (standing, dancing, etc.) in a circle.

Frequently in ***in a round***.

In examples of *in a round* referring to dancing (e.g. quotes. 1590, 1886), overlapping with Phrases 1a.

- 1489 CAXTON tr. C. de Pisan *Bk. Fayttes of Armes* I. xxiv. sig. Ev^v Whan eny grete strengthe of ennemyes dyde comme vpon hem, they putte hem self in a rounde [Fr. *se mettoient en rondeur*].
- 1567 A. GOLDING tr. Ovid *Metamorphosis* (new ed.) VIII. 108 Oftentymes with hand in hand they daunced in a round About the Trunk.
- 1590 SPENSER *Faerie Queene* I. VI. sig. E8 A troupe of Faunes and Satyres far a way Within the wood were dauncing in a rownd.
- 1623 J. BINGHAM tr. Xenophon *Hist.* 96 The Souldiers..gathered together, and stood in rounds.
- 1655 T. STANLEY *Hist. Philos.* I. I. 104 From midst of that learn'd Round come I.
- 1711 J. ADDISON *Spectator* No. 1. ¶5 Sometimes I am seen thrusting my Head into a Round of

Politicians at Will's.

- 1725 W. BROOME in Pope et al. tr. Homer *Odyssey* II. VIII. 518 The Peers encircling form an awful round.
- 1747 J. WARTON *Odes on Var. Subj.* 45 While in sweet converse in a round you sit On the green turf, or in the woodbine-bower.
- 1825 W. S. ROSE tr. L. Ariosto *Orlando Furioso* III. xvii. 198 With much solace, seated in a round, We from the chace expect our lord's return.
- 1886 J. RUSKIN *Præterita* II. vi. 215 The dance of four sweet Pisan maids, in a round.
- 1923 E. SITWELL *Bucolic Comedies* 26 Dancing with angels all in a round, Hornpipe and rigaudon on the Fair's ground.
- 2009 *Insider's Guide to Colleges 2010* 34/1 All classes are taught with students sitting 'in a round', emphasizing student participation.

b. A circular group of things; a number of things set or arranged in a ring.

- a1600 (D?c1535) tr. H. Boece *Hist. Scotl.* (Mar Lodge) (1946) f. 63^v Certane grete stanyis..in cirkill..3it in thir oure dayis ar sene thir roundis of stanyis and ar callit the ald templis of goddis.
- a1616 SHAKESPEARE *Merry Wives of Windsor* (1623) IV. iv. 50 (My daughter) and my little sonne, And three or foure more of their growth,..With rounds of waxen Tapers on their heads.
- 1620 J. PYPER tr. H. d'Urfé *Hist. Astrea* I. II. 7 He made a Round of dead bodies about Clidaman.
- 1663 W. CHARLETON *Chorea Gigantum* 33 Encompassed only with a round of Columns.
- 1700 T. BROWN *Amusem. Serious & Comical* xi. 131 A Grave Assembly, but ill seated upon Low Stools set in a Round.
- 1766 T. SMOLLETT *Trav. France & Italy* II. xxvii. 59 You need not doubt but I visited the Campanile, or hanging-tower, which is a beautiful cylinder of eight stories, each adorned with a round of columns.
- 1803 in J. J. Shillinglaw *Hist. Rec. Port Phillip* (1879) 70 They cut the corn with a sickle, than place it upon a large round of stones.
- 1857 *Russell's Mag.* Nov. 175 Amid the Theatre's broad round Of seats.
- 1921 L. PLANTE *Shadow of Astral* iv. 59 From the topmost round of seats, a scene of beauty unfolded itself to the beholders like a panorama.
- 1985 C. HOLLAND *Pillar of Sky* ii. 157 He went to the hearth, a raised round of stones in the center of the house.

c. In extended use: a group or set of things which are related or typically found together, *esp.* a circle of friends or acquaintances.

- 1767 A. YOUNG *Farmer's Lett.* 2 In a round of different professions, all must either immediately or relatively depend on each other.
- 1785 W. COWPER *Task* II. 385 Constant at routs, familiar with a round Of ladyships.
- 1826 C. LAMB *Pop. Fallacies* xiii Cannot we..know Sulpicia without knowing all the round of her card-playing relations?

- 1859 'G. ELIOT' *Adam Bede* III. v. xxxvi. 3 Repeating again and again the same small round of memories.
- 1875 *Q. Rev.* Jan. 7 In common..with the whole round of his acquaintance, we looked forward to the publication of his Journal.
- 1908 E. F. A. DRAKE *What Young Wife ought to Know* (rev. ed.) iii. 52 Once out of the pleasant, social round of friends it is hard to regain your lost footing.
- 1992 N. MILLER *Theodore Roosevelt* xix. 429 Family dinners, at which the president liked to entertain visiting celebrities along with his usual round of friends, were far simpler.

3. The circumference, bounds, or extent of a circular object. Also *fig.*
Now chiefly *literary*.

- ?a1500 in T. Wright & R. P. Wülcker *Anglo-Saxon & Old Eng. Vocab.* (1884) I. 600/35 (*MED*)
Paritonius..the rownde of the erth.
- 1594 SHAKESPEARE *Lucrece* sig. G3^v To..turne the giddy round of Fortunes wheele.
- 1615 G. SANDYS *Relation of Journey* 32 On the left side stands the round of an ancient Chappell.
- 1707 J. MORTIMER *Whole Art Husbandry* 280 The ring or round of the Wheel is more flat.
- 1730 A. GORDON tr. F. S. Maffei *Compl. Hist. Anc. Amphitheatres* 211 That of Rome was built of Travertine Stone..in the Circuit or exterior Round.
- 1785 W. COWPER *Task* IV. 258 The moon..Resplendent less, but of an ampler round.
- 1821 SCOTT *Pirate* II. xii. 292 The wide round of earth..holds nothing that I would call a recompense.
- 1832 TENNYSON *Miller's Daughter* viii, in *Poems* (new ed.) 37 The dark round of the dripping wheel.
- 1865 J. M. NEALE *Hymns Paradise* 66 There the soul, in fullest tenour, Graspeth Wisdom's total round.
- 1901 F. NORRIS *Octopus* II. ix. 651 What was the full round of the circle whose segment only he beheld?
- 1983 N. DUBIE *Sel. & New Poems* 70 The events in this wilderness, Portrayed in the round of the vase.

4.

a. A circular object, a disc; *spec.* a representation or drawing of a circle on a flat surface, e.g. a heraldic roundel. Cf. HALF-ROUND *n.*

- c1500 *Sc. Poem Heraldry* (Harl. 6149) l. 107 in F. J. Furnivall *Queene Elizabethes Achademy* (1869) I. 97 In armis ar sertene rondis, as ball.
- 1516 in J. B. Paul *Accts. Treasurer Scotl.* (1903) V. 96 For glas to the said windo and for j pantit rownd.
- 1525 tr. H. von Brunschwig *Noble Experyence Vertuous Handy Warke Surg.* sig. Cv^v Lay it in a rounde of wyne and let it lye therin. vi hours longe.
- 1688 R. HOLME *Acad. Armory* I. vi. 60/2 I shall in the first place speak of the Rounds, Roundles, or Roundlets.
- 1757 W. WILKIE *Epigoniad* II. 46 The Theban spear;..Full to the center of the shield, it came; And, rising swiftly from the polish'd round, His throat transfix'd.

- 1810 A. BOSWELL *Poet. Wks.* (1871) 54 Those polish'd rounds which decorate the coat, And brilliant shine upon some youth of note.
- 1860 N. HAWTHORNE *Marble Faun* II. xxv. 277 The pavement, with its great squares and rounds of porphyry and granite, cracked crosswise and in a hundred directions.
- a1940 F. SCOTT FITZGERALD *Crack-up* (1945) 145 Honey-colored pointed-back hair..accentuated the two lovely rounds of her temples.
- 2008 S. NICHOLS *Malta Spitfire Aces* vi. 81 (*caption*) It clearly has light-coloured rounds on the top wing.

†**b.** A circular archery target marked with a bullseye at the centre of a number of concentric rings, and usually mounted on a butt (BUTT *n.*⁴ 2a). Chiefly in **at rounds**. Frequently contrasted with ROVER *n.*² 1a. *Obs. (hist. in later use).*

- 1531 in H. A. Ford & W. Butt *Theory & Pract. Archery* (1887) 141 Paied to Byrde Yoeman of the Kinges bowes for making the Roundes.
- 1551 KING EDWARD VI *Jrnl. in Lit. Remains* (1857) II. 312 I lost the chaling of shoting at roundes, and wane at rovers.
- a1627 J. HAYWARD *Life & Raigne Edward Sixt* (1630) 8 He often appointed challenges among them for wrestling, leaping, running, riding, shooting at roues, and at rounds and such like games.
- 1891 A. CONAN DOYLE *White Company* II. xxii. 206 Take them how you would, at long butts or short, hoyles, rounds, or rovers, better bowmen never twirled a shaft over their thumbnails.

c. A flat circular piece of something. Frequently in *Cookery*.

- 1615 G. SANDYS *Relation of Journey* 109 Ouer their shashes the men weare rounds of stiffned russet to defend their brains from the piercing feruour.
- 1699 J. STEVENS tr. J. de Mariana *Gen. Hist. Spain* XIX. vi. 323 To be known they should wear a Round of Red Cloath on their right Shoulder three Fingers broad.
- 1765 R. JONES *New Treat. Artific. Fireworks* iii. 92 Two or three rounds of paper well pasted will be enough for the head.
- 1830 *Times* 14 Aug. 4/4 Atkinson's Almond Soap, made from the purest almond oil, in squares for washing, and in rounds for shaving.
- 1846 C. E. FRANCATELLI *Mod. Cook* 35 Moisten with sufficient broth to cover the cabbages, and spread a buttered round of paper over the whole.
- 1896 G. C. FOSTER & E. ATKINSON *Elem. Treat. Electr. & Magn.* x. §97.135 He arranged a number of alternate discs of copper and zinc, each pair being separated from the next by a round of cloth soaked with acidulated water.
- 1905 E. TUIITE *Dishes for All Seasons* 29 Place a round of potato on each round of paté de foie gras, and cover agin with tongue and potato.
- 1920 A. L. MACLEOD *Chem. for Nurses* IV. 145 Fold the round of paper first in two, then in four, and open up the resulting triangular segment .
- 1977 *Bon Appétit* May 56/1 Medaillon..French. Applied to foods (beef, lobster, et al.) cut in rounds.

1996 *BBC Good Food* Oct. 24/3 Roll the pastry out to a round slightly larger than the tin.

d. A large round piece of beef; *spec.* a thick disc cut from the haunch as a joint. Frequently in **round of beef**. Cf. HOG ROUND *n.* 1.

- 1660 W. DENTON *Let.* 29 Feb. in M. M. Verney *Mem. Verney Family Commonwealth* (1894) xiii. 469
The Beef the best that ever was eat, I eat a whole Round last night my self.
- 1742 J. WINSTANLEY et al. *Poems* 210 Thursday next, the Archer's dine, On Rounds of Beef, if not Sir Loin.
- 1771 J. WOODFORDE *Diary* 5 Jan. in *Parson Woodforde Soc. Jrnl.* (1970) 3 1. 24 I gave them for Dinner..a Round of Beef boiled.
- 1821 SCOTT *Pirate* II. iv. 68 The board groaned with rounds of hung beef.
- 1852 R. S. SURTEES *Mr. Sponge's Sporting Tour* x. liv. 309 A magnificent cold round of home-fed beef, red with saltpetre.
- 1861 G. F. BERKELEY *Eng. Sportsman* xv. 246 The quarters of the animal are indeed 'rounds of beef'.
- 1870 E. PEACOCK *Ralf Skirlaugh* I. 16 A round of cold spiced beef.
- 1908 S. J. WEYMAN *Wild Geese* xix. 294 Visions of hot bacon, cold round, and sweet brown bread.
- 1955 F. G. ASHBROOK *Butchering, Processing & Preserv. Meat* xii. 229 Our modern dried beef, sometimes called chipped beef, is generally made from the round.
- 1993 *Barbados Advocate* 28 Dec. 15/1 (*adv.*) Roast Chicago Round of Beef. Garlic Shrimp Chicken Provencale... Rice & Peas.

e. A slice of bread, originally as cut from a round loaf; a slice of toast.
Cf. sense 29c.

With reference to toast, now often with the implication of a single serving, overlapping with branch VI. (cf. sense 29c), and in some recent examples not necessarily suggesting a single slice.

- 1769 H. BROOKE *Fool of Quality* IV. 239 He carried a large Round of Bread and Butter in one Hand.
- 1828 S. T. COLERIDGE *Coll. Lett.* (1971) VI. 772 Your Letter by this morning's Post made me eat my Round of Toast and sip my Cups of Tea in gladsomeness of heart.
- 1841 DICKENS *Barnaby Rudge* iv. 260 A couple of rounds of buttered toast.
- a1845 R. H. BARHAM *Knight & Lady* in *Ingoldsby Legends* (1847) 3rd Ser. 278 A round and a half of some hot butter'd-toast.
- a1902 S. BUTLER *Way of All Flesh* (1903) lxxii. 330 She..had made him a round of toast.
- 1947 A. RANSOME *Great Northern?* xix. 232 Peggy was cutting rounds of bread to make potted meat sandwiches.
- 1968 M. WOODHOUSE *Rock Baby* vi. 51 Rasmussen had to make do with four eggs and only half a dozen rounds of toast because I was there.
- 1990 *Illustr. London News* Christmas No. 48/2 There is smoked salmon, cold scrambled egg, delicious raw herrings, cold meats, rounds of bread, and cheese.
- 2008 J. WILSON *Cookie* (2009) iv. 39 Mom poured him another cup of coffee and gave him another round of toast.

5.

a. A man-made structure with a circular form; a curved or rounded part of such a structure; (in early use) *esp.* a circular tower or turret forming part of a larger structure. Chiefly *Sc.* in early use.

- 1530 in H. M. Paton *Accts. Masters of Wks.* (1957) I. 33 For..rauchteris for..the pending of the greit windois..in the ii chalmeris and rowndis.
- 1589–90 in R. S. Mylne *Master Masons to Crown of Scotl.* (1893) 68 And sall big ane doucat in the north round ellevine fut abone the jesting thairof.
- 1600 R. LINDSAY *Hist. & Cron. Scotl.* (1899) I. 336 Farder thair was tua great roundis in ilk syde of the 3eit.
- 1602 J. MARSTON *Antonios Reuenge* Prol. sig. A2 If any spirit breathes within this round [*sc.* the theatre], Vncapable of waightie passion.
- 1632 W. LITHGOW *Total Disc. Trav.* I. 16 A rotundo..open at the top with a large round.
- 1692 tr. M.-C. d'Aulnoy *Trav. Spain* II. viii. 89 The Old Walls..are yet standing; There are of them four Rounds, built at divers times.
- 1725 J. HENLEY tr. B. de Montfaucon *Antiq. Italy* (ed. 2) 21 A Round of Walls fortified with Towers.
- 1775 JOHNSON *Journey W. Islands* 161 Within the great circle were several smaller rounds of wall, which formed distinct apartments.
- 1820 SCOTT *Monastery* I. v. 163 The small *round*, or turret closet..was accessible by another door.
- 1881 E. A. FREEMAN *Sketch Subj. Lands Venice* 133 The arches of the round rest on heavy rectangular piers of truly Roman strength.
- 1909 *Archit. Rec.* Feb. 115/2 Jean IV. de Beuil, improvements to the outer wall, the way of the rounds and the towers.
- 1967 *Transition* 29 29/1 Le Corbusier's Ronchamp... has various sorts of 'ancient' apsidical rounds, and heavy thick walls.

b. A natural structure of circular form; (now) *esp.* a ring or circular clump or flowers, trees, etc. Also: a circular or rounded part of a natural structure.

- 1602 R. CAREW *Surv. Cornwall* II. f. 107 The Iland is square, with foure rounds at the corners, like Mount-Edgecumb.
- 1632 W. LITHGOW *Total Disc. Trav.* IX. 397 High are thy rounds, steepe, circled, as I see.
- 1741 LADY POMFRET *Lett.* (1805) III. 269 A vast round of mountains, joined, and covered with fir-trees.
- 1786 S. HENLEY tr. W. Beckford *Arabian Tale* 119 She passed the large round of honeysuckles, her favourite resort.
- 1837 N. HAWTHORNE *Twice-told Tales* 252 The vast round of cloud and forest.
- 1881 T. E. BROWN *Fo'c's'le Yarns* 211 A round of trees, if it's trees you'd call them.
- 1904 A. M. F. ROBINSON *Fields of France* (ed. 2) iv. 164 The white may-trees, still in flower, grow in rounds and rings together on the broken ground.

2001 D. DRAKE *Mistress of Catacombs* xii. 311 Trees stood in rounds of bright-colored flowers.

c. A curve or bend in a river, coastline, etc. Now *rare*.

- 1608 B. JONSON *Masque of Beautie* 302 in *Characters Two Royall Masques* Those curious Squares, and Rounds, Wherewith thou flow'st betwixt the grounds Of fruitfull Kent.
- 1728 POPE *Dunciad* II. 154 So Jove's bright bow displays its watry round.
- 1799 LD. NELSON 30 Apr. in *Dispatches & Lett.* (1845) III. 343 Castel-a-Mare, which is opposite Naples, and, by the Round of the Bay, twelve miles distant.
- 1807 J. BARLOW *Columbiad* I. 33 The yielding concave bends sublimer rounds.
- 1890 *Murray's Handbk. Lincs.* 177 The Trent makes some eccentric windings, called 'rounds', in this parish.
- 1921 S. GRAHAM *Europe* (1922) iii. 45 It is all pure poetry now, the wrecked lighters stuck in the sand, the sweep of Ocean Beach, the rounds of Suvla Bay.

†**6.** A statue or piece of sculpture made in the round (see Phrases 2a(a)). Also: a fragment of a statue. *Obs.*

- 1634 H. PEACHAM *Compl. Gentleman* (new ed.) xii. 110 Besides, Rounds (so Painters call Statues and their fragments) may be had, when the life cannot.
- 1634 H. PEACHAM *Compl. Gentleman* (new ed.) xii. 110 A Round is better to draw by..than any flat or painting whatsoever.
- c1660 J. EVELYN *Diary* anno 1644 (1955) II. 190 Over the doore [is] a round of M:Angelo.
- 1662 J. EVELYN *Sculptura* v. 116 Rounds, Busts, Relievos and entire Figures.
- 1773 T. MARTYN & J. LETTICE in tr. O. A. Bayardi *Antiq. Herculaneum* I. Pref. xxxiv Two half-length figures in rounds, much decayed; one of a woman crowned with leaves, the other of a boy with a thyrs in his hand.

7. *Brewing*. Originally (more fully **cleansing round**): a large cask in which beer is purified and the fermentation process finished (now chiefly *hist.*). Later (usually in **fermenting round**): a large round vessel in which beer is fermented.

- 1806 *Hull Advertiser* 11 Jan. (*advt.*) All that well-known and Capital common brewhouse with coppers, backs, rounds, casks &c. &c. situate in Milk-street.
- 1835 W. BLACK *Pract. Treat. Brewing* 105 I recollect having been on a certain occasion asked by an eminent brewer to give my opinion of the comparative merits, of two different gyles of beer, then in the cleansing rounds.
- 1865 *Sci. Amer.* 8 July 17/1 They would not permit of any conjunction of iron and brass in the fermenting tuns or in the cleansing rounds.
- 1880 *Spons' Encycl. Manuf.* II. 406 It was at one time the practice amongst the Scotch brewers to employ fermenting rounds only, and to cleanse from these directly into the casks.

- 1910 *Encycl. Brit.* IV. 510/2 Fermentation takes place in wooden vessels (termed 'squares' or 'rounds').
- 1928 *Times* 19 May 27/1 (*adv.*) 204-barrel fermenting round.
- 1975 H. S. CORRAN *Hist. Brewing* x. 167 Fermentation in the squares was generally concluded in 30hr and the beer then removed to the rounds for cleansing.
- 2006 A. WHITAKER *Brewers in Herts.* xxix. 221 Cooled wort was piped into fermenting rounds or squares of pitch pine, up to 100 barrels' capacity.

8. Surveying. A complete circle (of measured angles). Now *rare*.

- 1839 C. DARWIN in R. Fitzroy & C. Darwin *Narr. Surv. Voy. H.M.S. Adventure & Beagle* III. 341 Two of the officers landed to take a round of angles with the theodolite.
- 1899 *Geogr. Jnl.* **13** 411 Rounds of angles were taken from Pegi Hill, the hill on Kaweri Island,..and a rock near Ngo.
- 1916 *Nature* 21 Sept. 58/1 The great drawback to the sextant for survey work is that it is impossible to take accurate rounds of horizontal angles with it.
- 1963 *Geogr. Rev.* **53** 169 The survey team..completed four rounds of angles at each of three triangulation stations.

II. A spherical object.

9. Something of spherical form; a sphere, an orb; *spec.* a planet.

Formerly also: †a globular lump (*obs.*). Somewhat *rare* except as in sense 10a.

- c1330 *King of Tars* (Auch.) l. 577 in *Englische Studien* (1889) **11** 47 (*MED*) When þe child was y-bore..lim no hadde it non; Bot as a rond of flesche y-schore..Wiþ outen blod & bon.
- †a1398 J. TREVISA tr. Bartholomaeus Anglicus *De Proprietatibus Rerum* (BL Add. 27944) (1975) I. VII. xxx. 375 Þe tokenes..beþ..difficulte of breþinge, bolnyng of face, roundes of þe izen swellip and akeþ.
- a1500 *Sidrak & Bokkus* (Lansd.) in *Centaurus* (1968) **12** 224 (*MED*) Al þe formes þat þou woost, Rounde conteineþ alþermost.
- 1604 W. ALEXANDER *Cræsus* v. i She 'twixt her bosomes Rounds entomb'd his head.
- 1614 W. ALEXANDER *Doomes-day* III. i. sig. H2^v Immortall Monarch, Ruler of the Rounds.
- 1642 H. MORE *Ψυχωδια Platonica* sig. B2^v Those far-shining Rounds in open skies.
- 1807 J. BARLOW *Columbiad* I. 33 To yon dim rounds first elevate thy view.
- 1930 T. S. ELIOT *Ash Wednesday* 11 The hollow round of my skull.

10. *spec.* Chiefly poet.

a. With *this* (also *the*). The earth. Frequently with modifying word, esp. in ***this earthly round, this terrestrial round.***

- 1584 KING JAMES VI & I *Ess. Prentise Poesie* sig. Bij^v How the Seas owerflowed this massiue round.

- 1594 T. KYD tr. R. Garnier *Cornelia* II. 347 The Monarchies, that couer all This earthly round with Maiestie.
- c1595 COUNTESS OF PEMBROKE *Psalm* lxxii. 88 in *Coll. Wks.* (1998) II. 92 Lett all this Round Thy honor sound.
- 1607 J. DAVIES *Summa Totalis* sig. H2 The Delvge (that did rince this Rovnd).
- 1667 MILTON *Paradise Lost* VII. 267 Elemental Air, diffus'd In circuit to the uttermost convex Of this great Round.
- 1704 C. POVEY *Holy Thoughts on God made Man* xviii. 391 The whole terrestrial Round cannot fill the triangular Heart of Man.
- 1728 A. RAMSAY *Poems* II. 172 When Time was young, and Innocence, With tender Love govern'd this Round.
- 1798 W. SOTHEBY tr. C. M. Wieland *Oberon* II. 190 The little demon on this earthly round, Who, with full quiver, sits in triumph crown'd.
- 1834 T. CARLYLE *Sartor Resartus* I. iv. 11/2 Some incarnate Mephistopheles, to whom this great terrestrial and celestial Round, after all, were but some huge foolish Whirligig.
- 1878 C. SANGSTER in *Belford's Monthly Mag.* Feb. 330 Disturber of the peace profound Sighed for through all this earthly round.
- 1917 T. HARDY *Moments of Vision* 225 I traced the whole terrestrial round.
- 2000 tr. Bede in M. O'Connell tr. J. Delumeau *Hist. Paradise* iii. 44 Paradise is located in the eastern part of the earthly round.

b. The vault of the sky; the firmament; = HEAVEN *n.* 1a. Frequently more fully ***round of heaven, celestial round***, etc.

- ?1593 G. FLETCHER *Licia* xxi. 31 The rownd of heaven, from earth unto the skies.
- 1645 MILTON *On Christ's Nativity: Hymn* x, in *Poems* 6 Nature that heard such sound Beneath the hollow round Of Cynthia's seat.
- 1697 DRYDEN tr. Virgil *Pastorals* III, in tr. Virgil *Wks.* 16 The round of Heav'n, which all contains.
- 1738 J. THOMSON *Agamemnon* III. i. 34 The full-peopled Round of azure Heaven.
- 1794 *Free-mason's Mag.* June 428 The Persians held, that the whole round of heaven was their Jupiter.
- 1808 SCOTT *Marmion* I. Introd. iv. 6 The wild birds carol to the round.
- 1879 J. BURROUGHS *Locusts & Wild Honey* 99 Not a speck or film in all the round of the sky.
- 1908 E. C. STEDMAN *Poems* 325 Do you know the blue of the Carib Sea..More deep than the bluest spaces be Betwixt white clouds in heaven's round?
- 1930 S. HOFFENSTEIN *Year in, you're Out* 82 Sweet Morning, ere you yield the boon Of heaven to the afternoon, Oh, let me envy from the ground The sights of your celestial round!

11. = ROUND SHOT *n.* Now chiefly *hist.*

- 1707 *London Gaz.* No. 4380/2 We gave him..our Broadside with Double and Round.
- 1736 W. R. CHETWOOD *Voy. W. O. G. Vaughan* II. 227 We fir'd upon 'em with our Double and

Round.

- 1804 W. MONSON in Marquess Wellesley *Select. Despatches* (1877) 544 We..charged the enemy's advanced party under a most tremendous discharge of round, grape, and chain.
- c1860 H. STUART *Seaman's Catech.* 13 When loading with round and grape.
- 1882 T. ROOSEVELT *Naval War 1812* vii. 323 The British opened the conflict, firing the shifting 12-pound carronade, loaded with round and grape.
- 1998 R. C. BUTALIA *Evol. Artillery in India* vii. 98 They were subjected to severe fire of musketry, and the artillery firing round, chain and grape.

12. A (more or less) spherical variety of potato. Frequently contrasted with KIDNEY *n.* 3b. Cf. *round potato n.* (a) at ROUND *adj.* Special uses 2b(b).

- 1800 *Aberdeen Jrnl.* 29 Dec. In Newgate market, the ox noble sell at 8s. per cwt. the round 11s. and kidneys 14s.
- 1847 *Farmer's Mag.* Apr. 386/1 (*table*) Belfast rounds. Red potato. Kidneys.
- 1899 *Gardening Illustr.* 29 Apr. 114/1 Take the well-known Schoolmaster, a white round.
- 1928 *Daily Mail* 25 July 19/3 Potatoes.—Spitalfields: English Kidneys 6s to 7s, rounds 5s to 5s 6d per cwt.
- 1983 G. J. SCOTT *Marketing Bhutan's Potatoes* iii. 25/2 Traditional Indian varieties such as Darjeeling Red Rounds.

III. A cylindrical object, and related senses.

13. A cylindrical part of an implement or other manufactured object.

a. A rung of a ladder.

- c1450 (►c1390) CHAUCER *Miller's Tale* (Texas) (1940) l. 3625 Roundes [c1405 *Hengwrt* He made ladders thre To clymben by the ronges and the stalkes Vn to the tubbes hangyng in the balkes].
- 1548 T. COOPER *Bibliotheca Eliotæ* (rev. ed.) *Climacter*, the rounde or step of a ladder.
- 1579–80 in W. H. Turner *Select. Rec. Oxf.* (1880) 410 Item, for the ladder rownes, *vjd.*
- 1626 W. LAWSON *New Orchard & Garden* (rev. ed.) xi. 40 A Ladder of eight or moe rounds.
- 1667 L. STUCKLEY *Gospel-glasse* (1670) xxvi. 253 They should be but as the rounds of a Ladder.
- 1709 *Tatler* No. 42. ¶13 A Ladder of Ten Rounds.
- 1758 J. REED *Madrigal & Trulletta* IV. vii. 45 As she climb'd Into the garret, her too-faithless foot Slipp'd from the ladder's topmast round.
- 1854 A. E. BAKER *Gloss. Northamptonshire Words* II. (at cited word) The common mode of describing the length of a ladder is to call it 'a ladder of so many rounds'.
- 1875 E. H. KNIGHT *Pract. Dict. Mech.* 1245/1 The collapsing-ladder..has rounds pivoted to the side-rails.
- 1936 *Pop. Sci. Monthly* Dec. 66/3 The ladders..are made of white pine with match sticks for the rounds.
- 1991 J. C. GEORGE *On Far Side of Mountain* 140 The stumps of its branches, which they had

trimmed away, formed the rounds of the ladder they climbed to the top.

b. *fig.* or in *fig.* context. Cf. RUNG *n.* 2b. Now *rare*.

- 1577 N. BRETON *Floorish upon Fancie* Pref. sig. Aiiii To make my Ladder of such stuffe, As I may trust..But then the Rovndes, must not be made of Rymes.
- 1601 J. MARSTON et al. *Iacke Drums Entertainm.* i. sig. B Let who will climbe ambitious glibbery rowndes.
- 1661 J. DAVIES *Civil Warres* 152 They..pursue their..intentions to the very uttermost round of the ladder.
- 1741 S. RICHARDSON *Pamela* III. xxix. 173 I should scorn to make myself a Round to any Man's Ladder of Preferment.
- 1786–7 *Microcosm* (ed. 2) 437 Having arrived at the 'topmost round' of that learning which this seminary was capable of bestowing.
- 1813 R. WILSON *Private Diary* 11 June (1861) II. 45 The topmost round of the ladder cannot be reached in a single enterprise.
- 1858 H. W. LONGFELLOW *Ladder St. Augustine* ii Our pleasures and our discontents Are rounds by which we may ascend.
- 1875 F. E. TROLLOPE *Charming Fellow* I. xiii. 170 I may consider myself on the first round of the ladder.
- 1911 H. JAMES *Outcry* I. 49 Oh, I'm at the very lowest round of the ladder. But I aspire!
- 1975 *Advocate-News* (Barbados) 29 Oct. 4 Some very touching sermons..which concerned the whole Barbadian community beginning at the top round of the ladder.

c. A rod or bar joining and supporting the legs of a chair (or occasionally the stilts of a plough); a stretcher. *rare* before 19th cent. (chiefly *U.S.* in later use).

- 1599 *Triall Maist. Dorrell* sig. G Being againe bound in the chair, sixe stronge men leaned with their whole strength thereon, each also setting one foote on the rounde of the chaire to keepe it down.
- 1815 J. PICKERING in *Mem. Amer. Acad. Arts & Sci.* 3 liv. 515 The braces or *rounds* of common chairs arc also called *rungs*.
- 1843 J. H. INGRAHAM *Fanny H—* iii. 7 His legs were duck-legs, and like a little boy's, reaching only to the round of his chair.
- 1843 *Southern Planter* Apr. 85/1 The balance could then be made fast to the upper slat or round of the plough.
- 1905 M. E. FREEMAN *Debtor* 266 Eddy sat down and swung his feet, kicking the round of the chair.
- 1995 *Amer. Woodworker* Oct. 79/3 (*caption*) Rough-turned chair rounds are fed through this dowel sander.

†**d.** *Printing.* = ROUNCE *n.*¹ 1. *Obs. rare.*

1648 H. HEXHAM *Groot Woorden-boeck Rondtse*, the Wheele or Round of a presse.

e. Each of the cylindrical pins of a trundle or lantern pinion; = STAVE
n.¹ 2c.

1731 *Philos. Trans.* (Royal Soc.) 37 6 To this is applied a Trundle, or Pinion,..of six Rounds, or Teeth.

1764 J. FERGUSON *Lect. Select Subj.* iii. 35 A winch six inches long, fixt on the axis of a trundle of 8 staves or rounds.

1805 D. BREWSTER *Ferguson's Lect. Mech.* (new ed.) II. 82 (note) The cylindrical bars of trundles..are called staves, or rounds.

1875 E. H. KNIGHT *Pract. Dict. Mech.* 2634/1 *Trundle-wheel*, a wheel acting as a pinion, in which the cogs consist of rounds or trundles fastened in disks which are secured to an axle.

1905 'W. ROGERS' *Pumps & Hydraulics* I. 124 On the axis of the wheel was a cog-wheel..meshing into a trundle-wheel 4½ feet in diameter and having 20 rounds, or pins.

1977 E. SMITH *Clocks* ii. 44 The lantern pinion..consists of two brass 'shrouds' into which are fitted steel pins, known as 'rounds',..and is extensively found on cheaper clockwork.

†**14.** A long length of fabric rolled or wound up into cylindrical form;
this as a fixed measurement, esp. for sale. Cf. ROLL n.¹ 5a. *Obs.*

1661 in *Acts Parl. Scotl.* (1820) VII. 253/2 Runds of cloath ilk three thousand ells.

1693 in C. M. Armet *Kirkcudbright Sheriff Court Deeds* (1953) II. 461 Ane rowne half plaids.

1696 J. F. *Merchant's Ware-house* 5 The Cambricks are sold..in a Parcel, the Kentings are sold by Rounds, as four or five in a Round.

15. An object with a convex surface.

a. *Archit.* A convex moulding of which the section is (more or less) a semicircle, as an astragal, a torus, etc. Cf. *quarter-round* n. at QUARTER
n. Compounds 4.

1673 J. MOXON tr. J. Barozzio *Vignola* (ed. 3) 44 The Astragaloes, or Rounds.

1728 E. CHAMBERS *Cycl.* at *Volute* In others, the Round is parallel to the Abacus, and springs out from behind the Flower thereof.

1845 F. A. PALEY *Man. Gothic Mouldings* iv. 26 St. Sepulchre's Church, Cambridge, affords..an excellent illustration of the first idea of forming rounds by removing edges, and of setting off the parts thus rounded.

a1878 G. G. SCOTT *Lect. Mediæval Archit.* (1879) I. 249 Its practical use being to strengthen the hollows rather than to enrich the rounds.

1910 H. M. PRATT *Cathedral Churches of Eng.* 49 The large rounds are grouped with smaller ones or with clusters or fillets.

1978 P. DIRSZTAY *Church Furnishings* 4 Mouldings of deeply cut rounds and hollows.

b. *Woodworking.* A plane with a convex iron designed to cut an arc of sixty degrees, typically used in conjunction with a hollow (HOLLOW *n.* 4).

- 1791 T. SHERATON *Cabinet-maker & Upholsterer's Drawing-bk.* I. III. 375 The convex parts of the base-moulding may be worked with hollows and rounds.
- 1797 *Trans. Soc. Arts, Manuf., & Commerce* 15 261 The sort of planes I have used are what, by the joiners, are called the levelled rebate plane, and small rounds.
- 1846 C. HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning & Mech. Manip.* II. 488 Concave and convex planes, called hollows and rounds, include the fifth or sixth..of the circle.
- 1875 E. H. KNIGHT *Pract. Dict. Mech.* 1113/1 The illustration shows the use of hollows and rounds, in the molding of a panel door.
- 1904 F. T. HODGSON *Up-to-date Hardwood Finisher* (1908) I. 85 Hollows, rounds, and rebate planes are exceptional, however, and should have the grain as straight as possible.
- 1990 *Amer. Woodworker* May–June 51/2 Hollows and rounds are used to shape the remaining profile.

16. A cylindrical piece of something.

a. A roughly cylindrical piece of edible root, tuber, or stalk, esp. of dried rhubarb rhizome.

- 1837 *London Med. Gaz.* 21 Jan. 604/2 The pieces are frequently cylindrical or roundish, but sometimes flattened; in trade they are distinguished as rounds and flats.
- 1877 *Amer. Jrnl. Pharmacy* 49 408 The large central portion [of rhubarb], or tap root, furnishes the pieces known in trade as 'fine large flats' and 'fine large rounds'. The 'small rounds'..are obtained from the side branches of the root.
- 1911 *Jrnl. Genetics* 1 43 The majority of [potato] tubers are normal 'rounds'.
- 1963 *Brit. Pharmaceut. Codex* 706 The 'rounds' are shrunken and frequently show the remains of the bud.
- 2003 M. RISLEY *Tante Marie's Cooking School Cookbk.* 112/1 Slice the celery root into 1/4-inch rounds. Pile up the rounds and cut them into 1-inch widths.

b. An iron or steel bar of circular section.

- 1862 *Merchants' Mag.* Aug. 158 Rounds not less than one-half an inch nor more than four inches in diameter, and squares not less than one-half an inch nor more than four inches square.
- 1873 S. GRIFFITHS *Guide to Iron Trade Great Brit.* v. 78 The sheets, hoops, plates, bars, strip and small rounds and squares manufactured here, may be relied upon.
- 1891 *Times* 5 Oct. 4/4 Engineers are sending in good orders for turning rounds, &c., and the demand for the general run of sizes in rounds, flats, squares, &c., is steadily increasing.
- 1939 *Calumet Region Hist. Guide* (Board Educ. Gary, Indiana) 85 The plant produces cold finished bar steel in unusual shapes and sizes technically called squares, hexagons, and flats, turned and

polished rounds and ground rounds.

- 1967 *Technol. & Culture* 8 347 Existing rolling methods were combined to establish the mill as a consistent and satisfactory producer of flats, rounds, or squares in wrought iron.
- 1993 G. FRIDAY in A. B. Bakan et al. *Imperial Power & Regional Trade* 255 Centrin produces steel products (squares, flats, and rounds) from billets purchased from ISCOTT.

IV. Something which moves in a circular manner or occurs cyclically.

17.

a. A dance in which the dancers move in a circle, typically while remaining in contact with each other, e.g. by holding hands. Also *fig.* and in extended use.

Cheshire-, *miller's round*, etc.: see the first element.

- c1487 J. SKELTON tr. Diodorus Siculus *Bibliotheca Historica* v. 358 The roundes and daunces fullyllyd with plesure.
- 1513 G. DOUGLAS in tr. Virgil *Aeneid* XII. Prol. 193 Sum sing sangis, dansis ledys, and rovndis.
- 1548 *Hall's Vnion: Henry VI* f. cvij To tel you..what roundes were daunced in large and brode places..it were a long woorke.
- 1579 S. GOSSON *Schoole of Abuse* f. 27^v There are other which haue a share with them in their Schooles, therefore ought they to daunce the same Rounde.
- a1616 SHAKESPEARE *Macbeth* (1623) IV. i. 145 Ile Charme the Ayre to giue a sound, While you performe your Antique round.
- 1636 J. STRATFORD in *Ann. Dubrensia* sig. G3 Keeping their Revells now on Cotswold downes, In thy great honour, dauncing Maskes, and Rownes.
- 1695 R. BLACKMORE *Prince Arthur* I. 22 The Jocond Fairies Dance their silent round.
- 1705 E. ARWAKER *Birth-night* 4 Am'rous Pairs in Rosie Garlands crown'd, On Moss-green Carpets dance an artless Round.
- 1799 WORDSWORTH *Three Years she Grew* 28 Where rivulets dance their wayward round.
- 1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* III. xiii. 325 A good fellow and a merry, who will..draw a bow, and dance a Cheshire round with e'er a man in Yorkshire.
- 1892 J. A. SYMONDS *Life Michelangelo* (1893) I. vii. 34 Ballats for women to chant as they danced their rounds on the piazza.
- 1906 P. MACKAYE *Jeanne d'Arc* I. 1 He watches the boys and girls dancing a country round.
- 1968 V. WATKINS *Fidelities* 47 Spirits who never tire, Dance, dance your round.
- 2006 M. MIRLEY *Rites* 197 When the other women stood to dance a round, they had encouraged her to join in.

b. The music for such a dance. *rare*.

- 1600 N. BRETON *Pasquils Mad-cap* 15 A Fidler..Who..can but play a Round, or Hey-de-gey, And that perhaps he onely hath by roate.
- 1867 N. MACLEOD tr. in *Reminisc. Highland Parish* 345 The piper played a round on the green before the door, as the men gathered.

1900 H. BUTTERWORTH *In Days of Jefferson* xx. 129 'I do not feel like playing rounds and glees and minuets now,' said Mr. Jefferson.

†18. A swinging stroke or blow with a sword. *Obs.*

a1500 in T. Wright & J. O. Halliwell *Reliquiæ Antiquæ* (1845) I. 308 He most have a goode eye bothe fer and nere, And an in stop..Two roundys an an halfe with a goode chere.

a1500 in T. Wright & J. O. Halliwell *Reliquiæ Antiquæ* (1845) I. 309 (*MED*) With a rownde and a rake abyde at a bay.

a1627 J. BEAUMONT *Bosworth-field* (1629) 21 Erects his weapon with a nimble round, And sends the Peasants arme to kisse the ground.

19. Music. Originally: a short, simple song, *esp.* one in which two or more people sing in turn. Later: *spec.* a song for three or more unaccompanied voices or parts, each singing the same theme but starting one after another, at the same pitch or in octaves; a simple canon.

In quot. 1530: a roundelay.

[In later specific use perhaps after the corresponding post-classical Latin sense of classical Latin *rota* ROTA *n.*]

a1522 G. DOUGLAS tr. Virgil *Æneid* (1959) VII. ix. 85 The matronys at 3ellit And roundis sang so in thar wilde dotage.

1530 J. PALSGRAVE *Lesclarcissement* 264/1 Rounde a songe, *rondeau*, *uirelay*.

1586 W. WEBBE *Disc. Eng. Poetrie* sig. F.iii The sixt kinde, is called a round, beeing mutuallie sung betweene two: one singeth one verse, the other the next, eche rymeth with himselfe.

1603 S. HARSNETT *Declar. Popish Impostures* x. 49 He had beene..the Master setter of Catches, or roundes, vsed to be sung by Tinkers, as they sit by the fire with a pot of good Ale betweene theyr legges.

1652 R. BROME *Joviall Crew* IV. i. sig. K3^v A Round, a Round, a Round, Boyes, a Round. Let Mirth fly aloft, and Sorrow be drown'd.

1683 W. SOAMES tr. N. Boileau-Despréaux *Art of Poetry* ii. 23 Each Poem his Perfection has apart; The Brittish Round in plainness shows his Art.

1776 J. HAWKINS *Gen. Hist. Music* II. ix. 361 Fugues in the unison were also called rounds, from the circular progression of the melody.

1789 C. BURNEY *Gen. Hist. Music* III. 348 (*note*) A Round is..no more than a song of as many strains, or sections, as parts.

1820 *Lit. Gaz.* 26 Aug. 558/1 They sing a round, and the curtain drops.

1833 W. CROTCH *Elem. Musical Compostion* (ed. 2) vii. 76 A Round is a vocal composition in three or more parts, all written in the same clef, the performers of which are to sing each part in succession.

1883 G. GROVE *Dict. Music* III. 180/1 It..is written for six voices, four of which sing the round proper or 'rota' (as it is termed in the Latin directions for singing it).

- 1893 H. E. WOOLDRIDGE *Chappell's Old Eng. Pop. Mus.* I. II. 66 Part-Singing, and especially the singing Rounds, or Roundelays, and Catches, was general throughout England during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.
- 1942 L. ABBOTT in E. Siegmeister *Music Lover's Handbk.* (1943) 106 Anyone who has ever joined in the sportive pastime of singing rounds, such as 'Three Blind Mice', or 'Frère Jacques'..has already experienced the pleasures of canon form.
- 1975 E. W. HERBERT & C.-A. LOPEZ *Private Franklin* 205 Catches were jocose, sometimes bawdy rounds sung by unaccompanied voices.
- 2005 D. FRY in T. Grant & G. Littlejohn *Teaching Green* 232/2 Lead younger children in singing a round of 'Down by the Bay'.

20.

a. A regularly recurring sequence or continuous cycle of activities, events, duties, etc. Frequently with *of*.

- 1650 H. VAUGHAN *Silex Scintillans* 71 In all this Round of life and death.
- 1667 MILTON *Paradise Lost* VI. 6 A Cave,..Where light and darkness in perpetual round Lodge and dislodge by turns.
- 1726 BP. J. BUTLER *15 Serm.* xiv. 289 Care and Sorrow, and the Repetition of vain Delights which fill up the Round of Life.
- 1752 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 191. ¶11 This is the round of my day; and when shall I..so change it as to want a book?
- 1813 F. J. JACKSON *Let.* 25 July in Lady Jackson *Bath Archives* (1873) II. 191 The noisy round of the so-called pleasures of a London season.
- 1841 B. HALL *Patchwork* II. 209 The same causes bring a perpetual round of company to Malta.
- 1883 E. PENNELL-ELMHIRST *Cream Leicestersh.* 337 The Quorn had a round of sport from noon till dark.
- 1935 G. SANTAYANA *Last Puritan* IV. i. 457 Even the holidays..had been devoted to the same round of systematic reading, unremitting physical exercise, and social attitudes.
- 1948 *Sunday Pict.* 18 July 2/1 (*adv.*) The weary round of shopping added to the usual household routine is an ordeal for any woman.
- 2000 A. HASTINGS in A. Hastings et al. *Oxf. Compan. Christian Thought* 556/2 In the total geography of Christian living the monastery, the home *par excellence* of a daily round of prayer, is critically important.
- 2009 *Daily Mail* (Nexis) 6 Oct. Her daily round of housework, shopping, cooking, washing, ironing and running around after me.

b. The constant passage and recurrence of days, years, or other cyclical measures of time; the passage of time in cyclical periods. Also: a particular cycle of days, hours, etc. Usually with *of*.

- 1652 W. CHARLETON *Darknes Atheism* vi. 220 The life of man, being included within a certain Circle, or round of days and moneths..cannot possibly be extended to a longer duration then what our

Creator hath prefixt to all mankind.

- 1692 T. FLETCHER *Poems Several Occasions* 55 An endless Round of Years, Where Suns in vain their annual Courses run.
- 1710 R. STEELE *Tatler* No. 181. ¶1 We make it [sc. the clock] strike the Round of all its Hours.
- 1710 W. CONGREVE *To Cynthia* in *Wks.* III. 987 Thro' each returning Year, may that Hour be Distinguish'd in the Rounds of all Eternity.
- 1798 S. ROGERS *Epist. to Friend* 12 The gay months of Carnival resume Their annual round of glitter and perfume.
- 1818 KEATS *Endymion* I. 49 What a calm round of hours shall make my days.
- 1842 TENNYSON *Love & Duty* in *Poems* (new ed.) II. 83 Shall Error in the round of time Still father Truth?
- 1884 *Househ. Words* 10 May 28/2 The time passed in a slow, monotonous round of days and nights, of which she took but little heed.
- 1915 *Bull. Seismol. Soc. Amer.* 5 31 January comes trailing along after December, as it in fact always does in the natural round of years.
- 1966 *Advancem. Sci.* 23 406/2 The peasant plans for the round of time.
- 2002 J. LENT *Lost Nation* (2003) 186 With the cold weather settling he began to believe the winter might bring quiet to the round of days.

c. Theosophy. Each of seven subdivisions of human spiritual life, represented as a cycle of spiritual development.

- 1882 *Hints on Esoteric Philos.* No. 2. 52 During each round the entity has to live several lives in several races... Almost the whole of mankind has got through the 3rd round.
- 1909 *N.Y. Times* 1 Aug. 4/4 Theosophically speaking,..we are at present in the fifth sub-race of the fifth root race, and are on the upward cycle of the fourth round.
- 1920 *Encycl. Americana* XXVI. 521/2 This carries a man to the level necessary to pass successfully through what in theosophical books is usually called the critical period of the fifth round.
- 2006 M. P. MAU *Sanctus Germanus Prophecies* II. i. 20 The monad starts in Round I, then 'descends' gradually down through Rounds II, III, and IV, before 'ascending' the Cycle through Rounds V to VII.

21. An act of ringing each bell of a set or peal in sequence; (now) *spec.* a sequence in which bells are rung moving down the scale in order, typically preceding the ringing of changes (CHANGE *n.* 9a). Also occasionally in extended use.

Recorded earliest in *round ringing n.* at Compounds 2.

- 1661 T. FULLER *Worthies* (1662) Lincs. 152 This Shire carries away the Bell for round-ringing, from all in England, though other places may surpass it for Changes.
- 1668 *Tintinnologia* 54 Whole-pulls, is to Ring two Rounds in one change, that is, Fore-stroke and Back-stroke, and in a change.
- 1752 C. SMART *Poems* 8 The abby bells in wak'ning rounds The warning peal have giv'n.

- 1826 C. LAMB *Pop. Fallacies* ix Ringing a round of the most ingenious conceits.
- 1872 H. T. ELLACOMBE *Bells of Church in Church Bells Devon* iii. 35 The ringing 'rounds', and 'call changes' was a good deal cultivated.
- 1897 F. T. JANE *Lordship* xiii A man well practised in all that pertained to bells, whether rounds, changes, eights, twelves.
- 1912 H. B. WALTERS *Church Bells Eng.* iii. 89 That church contained a ring of six bells, and the neighbouring gentry used to amuse themselves by chiming them in rounds.
- 1956 *Musical Times* 97 414/2 He steers his team by occasional and mysterious calls..which prevent the bells resolving themselves back into rounds.
- 2004 *Grimsbey Evening Tel.* (Nexis) 30 Aug. 24 We practise ringing in rounds before trying more complicated sequences.

V. A circular route; a circuit, a tour, and related senses. Frequently in combination with a basic verb of action, as *go, make, take*, etc. (cf. Phrases 5).

22.

a. A circular or revolving motion; movement in a circle; *esp.* a recurring circular course. Also in *pl.* and *fig.*

- 1539 T. WYATT in *Eng. Stud.* (1977) 58 407 Where there [sc. the planets'] bodis ben layd, in by ways and lesser rowndes.
- 1604 E. GRIMESTON tr. J. de Acosta *Nat. & Morall Hist. Indies* v. xxviii. 415 The children with the old men made a certaine shew, with rounds and turnings.
- 1647 A. COWLEY *Love & Life* in *Mistress* iv [The sun] does three hundred Rounds enclose Within one yearly Circles space.
- 1706 I. WATTS *Horæ Lyricæ* i. 110 Where Skies revolve their little Rounds.
- 1725 POPE tr. Homer *Odyssey* III. XIV. 339 In giddy rounds the whirling ship is tost.
- 1821 SCOTT *Pirate* I. i. 14 His kill-joy visage will never again stop the bottle in its round.
- a1822 SHELLEY *Witch of Atlas* lvi, in *Posthumous Poems* (1824) 47 Those streams of upper air, Which whirl the earth in its diurnal round.
- 1846 J. KEBLE *Lyra Innocentium* 178 The rounds of restless love, When high and low she searches.
- 1850 F. W. ROBERTSON *Serm.* (1853) 3rd Ser. ix. 115 In a constant round from the capital to the watering place, and from the watering place to the capital.
- 1877 R. J. MORE *Under Balkans* xv. 216 At the end of the third round they all marched out of the house.
- 1912 M. E. MARTIN *Ways of Planets* vii. 62 An inferior planet passes through phases, like the moon, changing gradually during its rounds from full to crescent, and back again.
- 1999 A. MAURER *Philos. William of Ockham* ix. 441 A clock is made so that it will complete its circle when the sun has finished its daily round.

b. An indirect or circuitous path, route, or journey; a journey which contains many detours and ultimately comes full circle. Now somewhat *rare*.

- 1600 SHAKESPEARE *Midsummer Night's Dream* III. i. 101 Ile leade you about a Round..through bush, through brake, through bryer.
- 1719 D. DEFOE *Life Robinson Crusoe* 313 I bad them..then keeping out of Sight, take a round, always answering when the other hollow'd.
- 1722 D. DEFOE *Jrnl. Plague Year* 16 [He] fetch'd a Round farther into Buckinghamshire..to a Retreat he had found out there.
- 1773 O. GOLDSMITH *She stoops to Conquer* v. 93 You took them in a round, while they supposed themselves going forward.
- 1841 G. P. R. JAMES *Brigand* xxxviii You have given yourself a long round, and forced me to take a long round in order to meet you.
- 1866 B. TAYLOR *Story of Kennett* iv. 33 We took the hedge together, while you were making a round of I don't know how many miles on the road.
- 1907 *Life & Light for Woman* Dec. 543 It is only eighty miles from here..but we had to take a long round to get to it by train.
- 1999 K. H. MOTT *Hoyts* iv. 40 We took quite a round—to the site of the old hurricane.

c. A circuit of a racecourse; a lap.

- 1750 'J. B.' *Let. to G. Faulkner* in J. Swift *Wks.* (1762) XIII. 235 It is a circular plantation, consisting of five walks; the central of which is a horse-course, and three rounds make exactly a mile.
- 1838 *Sportsman* Apr. 242/2 On commencing the second round, the pace was much improved, all the riders seeming to be on better terms with their horses.
- 1880 *Frank Leslie's Pop. Monthly* Oct. 460/1 There was a good deal of excitement as they neared the starting-post on the second round.
- 1910 *Automobile* 7 Apr. 689/1 Twenty-two rounds will be made, the total mileage being 278.08.
- 1932 R. STREAT *Diary* 18 Mar. (1987) I. 135 On the second round the horses still in the race disappear on their way to the 'finish'.
- 2009 *Lebanon (Pa.) Daily News* (Nexis) 6 May He grabbed the lead on the third round and held the top spot until the checkered flag waved for his second career modified feature win.

23. Mil.

a. A circuit of a garrison or camp, the ramparts of a fortress, etc., made by a patrol, esp. during the night, to ensure that the sentinels are vigilant; (also) a circuit of the streets of a town made by a watch to preserve good order. Chiefly in **to go (also †make, pace, walk, etc.) the rounds (also round)**. Also *fig.* and in extended use. Now chiefly in *pl.* and *hist.*

- 1580 A. SAKER *Narbonus* I. 136 There must thou watch at thy Warde, and stand thy sentinell: bee one in the still watch, or walke thy Round.
- 1598 R. BARRET *Theorike & Pract. Mod. Warres* VI. 244 The first [soldier] in the time of winter maketh his Rounds & counter Roundes for sixe houres.

- 1646 H. PEAKE *Medit. upon Seige* 92 He that hath the charge of the Guard in the night time is to walke the round at times.
- 1677 S. PEPYS *Portugal Hist.* 137 The Watch which made the Round in the City, were not exempt from the Assaults of these People.
- 1755 G. WASHINGTON *Orders* 23 Oct. in B. Franklin *Papers* (1983) II. 135 The Captain of the Day is to go the Rounds every night, and visit the Guard and Centries.
- 1791 J. BOSWELL *Life Johnson* anno 1778 II. 272 He accompanied the Major of the regiment in going what are styled, the *Rounds*, where he might observe the forms of visiting the guards.
- 1813 SCOTT *Bridal of Triermain* III. x. 141 As when a guard Of some proud castle, holding ward, Pace forth their nightly round.
- 1829 G. DE STEFANI *Let.* in G. Jones *Sketches Naval Life* I. xxx. 206 He sometimes goes the rounds in his night watch, and catches the midshipmen asleep.
- 1855 R. BROWNING *Master Hugues* iv You may challenge them, not a response Get the church-saints on their rounds!
- 1868 *Queen's Regulations & Orders Army* §859 Commanders of Guards are to go their rounds twice by day and twice by night.
- 1916 *Confederate Veteran* Oct. 452/1 This guard went the rounds at the expiration of every two hours during the night.
- 1987 P. BATTY & P. PARISH *Divided Union* i. 20 An important feature of Southern life was the slave patrol, usually a mounted detachment of three or four white men who went the rounds each night to check on slave movements.

b. A watch or patrol that is responsible for making a regular inspection of sentries, patrolling a town, etc. Now *rare*.

- 1581 W. BLANDY *Castle of Pollicy* f. 18^v Corporall, gentleman in a company or of the Rounde, Launce passado.
- 1598 R. BARRET *Theorike & Pract. Mod. Warres* IV. 107 The Round finding the Sentinell vigilant, neede not alwayes approach neare him.
- 1627 R. BERNARD *Isle of Man* (ed. 4) II. 175 Diuers times meeting the Gentlemen of the round,..hee would stop their passages and turne them backe againe.
- 1652 J. WADSWORTH tr. P. de Sandoval *Civil Wars Spain* 151 After which they kept their Rounds and Guards in the Citie, and sent Hors to the relief of Segovia.
- 1711 E. WARD *Life Don Quixote* 193 Don Vincent fearing to be taken up by the Rounds,..left that Street with all possible speed.
- 1802 C. JAMES *New Mil. Dict.* (at cited word) As soon as the sentry..perceives the round coming, he shall give notice to the guard.
- 1878 R. L. STEVENSON *Inland Voy.* 84 It was just the place to hear the round going by at night in the darkness, with the solid tramp of men marching.
- 1957 G. F. SCHEER & H. F. RANKIN *Rebels & Redcoats* xxxiii. 406 Guards and sentinels in the right wing hailed the visiting rounds.

c. *Naut.* In *pl.* Inspection.

- 1862 *Queen's Regulations Her Majesty's Naval Service* xiii. 129 (*margin*) At evening rounds.
- 1894 W. W. HEWETT *Order Bk. Executive Officers Royal Navy* 112 For Captain's rounds on Sunday, the same will attend as for Captain's rounds on Thursday.
- 1916 'TAFFRAIL' *Stand By!* 13 Except on Sundays, when the latter is specially tidied up for the 'rounds', it will not bear close investigation.
- 2005 *Times* (Nexis) 30 Aug. 44 His captain's rounds were often a torment—a failed neon tube in the stokers' messdeck would call down wrath from heaven.

24. In *sing.* or *pl.* Frequently with possessive adjective, as **to go (also walk, march, etc.) one's round (also rounds).**

a. A route, course, or circuit habitually used or followed by a person in the course of his or her job. Cf. BEAT *n.*¹ 10.

In quot. 1607 *poet.* and *fig.* with reference to the sun, overlapping with sense 22a.

- 1603 T. POWELL *Welch Bayte to spare Prouender* sig. D^v The watchman, whom the businesse of the night had tooke vp, seemed to walke his round in some vnfrequented place, so full of solitude was that night.
- 1607 J. DAVIES *Summa Totalis* sig. C4 Ere once the Sunne his Round perambulate.
- 1688 S. PENTON *Guardian's Instr.* 48 I could willingly have heard him [*sc.* a Proctor in Oxford] longer but that he was to go his Rounds.
- 1709 R. STEELE *Tatler* No. 2. ¶2 The watchful Bellman march'd his Round.
- 1741 S. RICHARDSON *Pamela* IV. xiii. 74 In the Account she gave us of her benevolent Round, as Lady Davers calls it.
- 1815 SCOTT *Guy Mannering* I. xviii. 288 The regularity with which the keeper makes his rounds with a loaded fowling-piece.
- 1878 'J. MILLER' *Songs Italy* 36 If a dead man should be found By these same fishers in their round.
- 1894 *Outing* 23 356/1 I proposed to accompany the rubber-gatherer on his rounds.
- 1978 C. RAINE *Onion, Memory* 79 The rent man on his round.
- 2009 A. STOROZYNSKI *Peasant Prince* i. 10 He asked the night watchman to tug on it to wake him at 3:00 a.m. during his rounds to stoke the furnaces.

b. spec.

(a) Chiefly *Brit.* A journey along a fixed route for the purpose of delivering goods; a regular route followed in this way; a delivery job involving journeys along such a route.

milk, newspaper, paper round: see the first element.

- 1744 *Verses Printer's Boy that carries Pennsylvania Jrnl.* (single sheet) As I ply'd my weekly Round, By your Benevolence I found, My Purse, before the Close of Day, Grow heavy, and my Fancy gay.
- 1861 DICKENS *Great Expectations* II. xiii. 214 A potman was going his rounds with beer.
- 1894 *Sunday at Home* 28 Apr. 414/1 Joseph, the postman, started on his rounds.

- 1905 *Pall Mall Gaz.* Dec. 700/1 A rural postman,..while returning from his rounds, tripped upon a root of furze, and falling into a deep ditch was drowned.
- a1953 D. THOMAS *Under Milk Wood* (1962) 43 Ocky Milkman on his round.
- 1976 R. SABBAG *Snowblind* ii. 25 Every day, rain or shine, he made his rounds.
- 2009 *Derby Evening Tel.* (Nexis) 3 Dec. 2 The 52-year-old..also has separate rounds delivering fruit and veg, meat, hay and manure after he has finished his round.

(b) A regular visit by a doctor or nurse in a hospital to each of the patients under his or her care.

- 1883 *Hand-bk. for Hospitals* viii. 172 Doctor's rounds.—By this time in an orderly ward it is nearly nine o'clock.
- 1915 J. LEE *Aunt Jane* x. 52 It had become a happy part of the day's routine, as regular as the doctor's visit—or the night nurse's rounds.
- 1944 *Mod. Hosp.* Nov. 84/1 The significance and importance of the ward round lie in the fact that it constitutes at one and the same time a consultation for the benefit of the patient and an educational experience for the benefit of all those participating in it.
- 1954 A. HUXLEY *Let.* 9 May (1969) 706 He [sc. a physician] takes foreign pupils—mostly doctors..—young men who live near by and go the rounds with him and learn by listening, answering questions and doing.
- 1974 G. B. MAIR *Confessions of Surgeon* v. 58 When added to routine clerking, ward rounds, night rounds, dealing with emergencies,..no day had enough hours.
- 2008 S. JAUHAR *Intern* 246 After rounds, we went back to the conference room to finalize patient assignments and delegate tasks.

25. The circuit of a place, building, etc. Now only with *of*. Also *fig.*

- 1616 B. JONSON *Epicœne* IV. v, in *Wks.* I. 579 Hee walkes the round vp and downe, through euery roome o' the house.
- 1655 tr. C. Sorel *Comical Hist. Francion* iv. 11 The Principal was by that time in the Court and walked the round with a great Lanthorn before him.
- 1712 J. ARBUTHNOT *Law is Bottomless-pit* x. 19 You have danc'd the Round of all the Courts.
- 1843 G. W. LE FEVRE *Life Trav. Physician* II. II. ii. 189 In a short time we made the round of the Society.
- 1861 T. L. PEACOCK *Gryll Grange* xxxi Lord Curryfin..—in his official capacity—taking the round of the rooms.
- 1883 J. GILMOUR *Among Mongols* xviii. 211 You will find him..going the rounds of the sacred place, prostrating himself at every shrine.
- 1921 T. D. MURPHY *On Sunset Highways* (rev. ed.) iii. 59 After the visitor has made a round of the museum..he may wish to drive out West Wilshire Boulevard and inspect the asphalt pits.
- 1979 M. KUNENE *Emperor Shaka the Great* xi. 238 Mbopha of Sithayi moved in and out of the royal enclosure, Making the final round of the arena.
- 2001 P. SCANLAN *Francesca's Party* xvi. 91 Agitated and unhappy, she walked the round of the

summit and came back to the car along the road.

26.

a. A recreational walk or drive round a place or a number of places; a tour. Usually in *to take (also go, make) a round*. Also *fig.* Now chiefly *S. Asian*.

- 1620 F. BEAUMONT & J. FLETCHER *Phylaster* II. 21 Come Ladies, shal we talke a round, as men do walke a mile, women should talke an houre after supper.
- 1698 J. FRYER *New Acct. E.-India & Persia* 100 Thence we took a Round..to the English Tombs.
- 1698 J. FRYER *New Acct. E.-India & Persia* 137 Liberty to take a Round about the Castle.
- 1709 R. STEELE *Tatler* No. 13. ¶1 I went into Lincoln-Inn-Walks; and having taken a Round or Two, I sate down.
- 1765 S. FOOTE *Commissary* I. 5 Mercy upon me, what a round have I taken!..don't you see I'm tired to death?
- a1822 SHELLEY tr. Goethe *Scenes from Faust* (1824) II. 364 Yet I will take a round with you, and hope..To beat the poet and the devil together.
- 1906 MRS. C. DAUNCEY *Englishwoman in Philippines* xxiv. 197 What a pity we are not on our own balcony, as they have made a round, and are coming past the house.
- 1977 B. C. VARMA *Mirage* iii. 41 Start driving the car right now. There's no work to do. Let us take a round of the city.
- 2008 F. NORONHA *Behind News* v. 49 After the edition was over, my NT colleague Anthony and I decided to take a round.

b. An act of visiting a number of people or places in turn. Frequently in *pl.*

- 1688 BP. G. BURNET *Three Lett. State of Italy* 119 The Judge refusing to medle in it, the Sbiri..carried him to another, and so made the round of all the Judges in Naples.
- 1743 ERSKINE tr. A. F. Prévost d'Exiles *Mem. & Adventures Marquis de Bretagne & Duc d'Harcourt* II. 43 I was just going out to make a Round among our Friends, who had the best Interest at Court, and could do us the most Service.
- 1840 J. REID *Turkey & Turks* xiv. 142 During the carnival I made the round of these houses almost every night, and always found the gambling room filled to suffocation.
- 1868 *Colonial Monthly* Nov. 198 A party of revellers, who have been 'doing the rounds', or sitting up at a gambling-house.
- 1914 R. GRAU *Theatre of Sci.* vii. 157 Making the rounds of the agencies every day for a whole summer soon taught him little tricks.
- 2005 T. HALL *Salaam Brick Lane* x. 213 But Barnes was still out of the question, so we started doing the rounds of estate agents in other areas.

c. A series of visits, appearances, etc., undertaken in a single trip or

tour, or within a certain period of time.

- 1748 S. RICHARDSON *Clarissa* III. xiv. 96 Then out came..a proposal of speedy solemnization: Which, he said, would..make my first three or four months..a round of visits and visitings to and from all his relations.
- 1772 F. BURNEY *Early Jrnls. & Lett.* (1988) I. 215 We went yesterday to make a round of visits.
- 1843 DICKENS *Martin Chuzzlewit* (1844) xxvii. 331 I have a round of visits to make.
- 1866 G. MACDONALD *Ann. Quiet Neighbourhood* xi I..made another round of visits.
- 1892 W. P. TRENT *William Gilmore Simms* vi. 211 His round of lectures, at the various villages of South Carolina was over, and he had cleared some money and increased his reputation.
- 1928 C. S. WHITEHEAD & C. A. HOFF *Ethical Sex Relations* (new ed.) I. iii. 88 It will be a foolish and costly experiment, above all at this critical period, to drag a lady about the country on a protracted round of visiting.
- 1972 *Times* 29 May 8/1 The Prince's life was one of a perpetual round of visits to every part of Britain.
- 2006 *One in Seven* Apr.–May 22/2 His autobiography..next month comes out in paperback with a gruelling round of personal appearances and signings planned.

27. In *pl.* With *the*. The procedure established under the Poor Law by which unemployed agricultural labourers were given temporary work by a number of farmers in turn. Chiefly in **on the rounds**, (also) **to go the rounds**. Cf. ROUNDSMAN *n.* 1. Now *hist.*

- 1795 F. M. EDEN *State of Poor* II. 29 Most labourers are, (as it is termed,) on the Rounds; that is, they go to work from one house to another round the parish.
- 1813 T. BATCHELOR *Gen. View Agric. Bedford.* 608 (E.D.D.) The increase of population has caused a deficiency of employment, which is so remarkable in some seasons, that a great proportion of the labourers 'go the rounds'.
- 1854 A. E. BAKER *Gloss. Northamptonshire Words* II. 183 *Rounds-Men*, labouring poor, who are taken into employment by the farmers in rotation; when they are said to be 'on the rounds'.
- 1893 M. H. A. STAPLETON *Three Oxfordshire Parishes* 167 Efforts were made to keep the men off the rates by the system of going the 'Rounds', that is to say, a man out of work was kept in turn by the farmers and passed on from one to another.
- 1934 E. H. HAMPSON *Treatm. Poverty in Cambridgeshire, 1595-1834* 163 The Industrial School and the workhouse, and from 1795 onwards the gravel pit and the 'rounds', took the place of apprenticeship for many children.
- 2004 K. MORGAN *Birth Industr. Brit.* vi. 63 In some parishes the 'roundsman' system was used, whereby unemployed workers were sent on the rounds in search of work.

28. *Austral.* and *N.Z.* Frequently with modifying word. Originally: the succession of routine enquiries made by a journalist covering news stories in a particular subject or area (frequently in *pl.*); esp. in **police**

round. Hence also: the subject or area assigned for a journalist to cover. Cf. BEAT *n.*¹ Additions.

Recorded earliest in ROUNDSMAN *n.* 4.

- 1912 *West Australian* (Perth) 7 May 8/6 As a 'roundsman' on the 'West Australian' I spent many hours with these two captors of criminals.
- 1934 *Newspaper News* (Sydney) 1 Oct. 11/1 He..left there to do Trades and Labour rounds, Police rounds and special writing for *The Evening News*.
- 1946 H. BAXTER *Reporter's Experiences* (ed. 2) 147 A Shire Council meeting, writing paragraphs, following enquiries on rounds, with hospital, morgue, fire brigade, police stations [etc.].
- 1961 C. MCKAY *This is Life* 25 At night, about half past seven, I started on police rounds.
- 1989 *Sydney Morning Herald* (Nexis) 18 Mar. (Business section) 39 His choice was a former journalist who had covered the science round.
- 1996 S. A. WHITE *Reporting in Austral.* (ed. 2) ii. 30 Rounds reporters are expected to know what is going on in their area and to find many of their own stories.
- 2003 *Dominion Post* (Wellington) (Nexis) 25 Aug. 2 I also covered the courts, the police round, the occasional murder.
- 2010 *Press* (Christchurch, N.Z.) (Nexis) 6 Feb. 17 By the time he left the Star in 1986, he had..worked as an education reporter, held the health round, [etc.].

VI. A single amount or quantity of something.

29.

a. A set of drinks bought for all the members of a group, in early use esp. for a toast, now typically as one of a sequence bought by different members of the group. Formerly frequently with *of* and type of drink specified.

- 1667 DRYDEN & W. DAVENANT *Shakespeare's Tempest* II. i This is prize brandy... Let's have two rounds more.
- 1716 J. ADDISON *Freeholder* No. 8. ¶2 The Tories..can scarce find beauties enough of their own side, to supply a single round of October.
- 1760 C. JOHNSTONE *Chrysal* I. I. xi. 79 A round or two of loyal toasts.
- 1799 PRINCE OF WALES in *Paget Papers* (1896) I. 150 Every Round was a Bumper to you in the very best Claret I had.
- 1821 SCOTT *Pirate* I. iv. 70 A round of cinnamon-water serving only like oil to the flame.
- 1883 R. L. STEVENSON *Treasure Island* IV. xxi. 167 Serve out a round of brandy to all hands.
- 1928 C. MACKENZIE *Extraordinary Women* x. 176 Two rounds of stingers brought the evening to a close.
- 1960 M. SPARK *Ballad of Peckham Rye* vii. 150 Dixie, at first under the impression that Humphrey was buying the round, asked for a ginger ale.
- 1970 G. F. NEWMAN *Sir, You Bastard* viii. 255 Just a slag avoiding his round.
- 1992 J. TORRINGTON *Swing Hammer Swing!* xvii. 148 I took the hint and got a round in.

b. A set of portions of food bought or provided for all the members of a group. Frequently with *of* and type of food specified.

- 1839 F. M. TROLLOPE *Widow Married* xvi, in *New Monthly Mag.* Oct. 213 The persevering waiter had completed the last round of cake and bread-and-butter which he considered necessary.
- 1896 *Chicago Tribune* 14 May 1/3 The Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church last night entered upon a new era by supplementing prayer-meeting with a round of cake and iced lemonade.
- 1915 *Granite Monthly* Nov.–Dec. 512/2 A blast was set going in the brick oven to bake a round of pies.
- 1978 *Washington Post* 7 Sept. (Virginia Weekly section) 13/3 We ordered a round of friend wontons, at \$1.25, to keep everyone happy.
- 2007 D. RIGBY & C. KRAMER *World is our Home* xliii. 231 Burgers, fries and pop were inhaled and followed by more burgers, chili, and then topped off by not one, but two rounds of chocolate sundaes.

c. Chiefly *Brit.* The quantity of sandwiches (typically two) made from two slices of bread.

- 1901 H. W. LUCY *Diary of Unionist Parl.* vi. 130 Mr. Rhodes with his mouth full of ham-sandwich..was in laager with rounds of sandwiches, over whose heights rose..a tumbler of stout.
- 1945 N. COLLINS *London belongs to Me* v. 60 One of the waiters..had brought her the best part of a round of chicken sandwiches and a cup of soup.
- 1974 L. DEIGHTON *Spy Story* xvi. 162 ‘Have you come for your sandwiches?’.. ‘Last night's pork, and one round of cheese.’
- 2010 *Liverpool Echo* (Nexis) 1 May 14 Six tonnes of potatoes, 40 tonnes of haddock, 3,000 crabs and 20,000 rounds of sandwiches.

30. Frequently in *pl.*

a. The amount of ammunition needed to fire one shot from a firearm or piece of artillery. Also occasionally: †a single arrow or bolt for a bow (*obs.*).

- 1680 in *Digges's Englands Def.* 7/1 Powder answerable to the number of the Rounds of great Guns and small Arms.
- a1711 T. KEN *Edmund* XII, in *Wks.* (1721) II. 325 More Bodies than their Arrows e're possest; Three Rounds or four were all that now remain'd, Which might prove fatal, if entirely drain'd.
- 1747 *Gentleman's Mag.* July 345/2 Wolfe's regiment carried into the field 24 rounds a man... Afterwards they had a supply of 8 rounds a man more.
- 1815 DUKE OF WELLINGTON *Dispatches* (1838) 6 May XII. 355 I have thought it expedient to lodge in the fortress..1,000,000 rounds of musket ammunition.
- 1868 *Queen's Regulations & Orders Army* §630 For every trained soldier in the infantry 90 rounds of ball Cartridges, and 300 rounds per Battery for Artillery.

- 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educator* (new ed.) I. 66/1 The reduction in the weight of the arm with sixty rounds of ammunition was three pounds.
- 1902 G. S. WHITMORE *Last Maori War* vi. 86 The Ngatiporo..still would not move without taking forty rounds of ammunition per man.
- 1945 D. BOLSTER *Roll on my Twelve* 8 Have five rounds per gun on deck besides the stuff in the R.U. lockers.
- 2001 *Time* 22 Oct. 50 Armed to the teeth with Hellfire rockets, Stinger missiles and 1,200 rounds of 30-mm ammo.

b. A single volley of fire by artillery or a number of firearms; a shot from a single firearm or piece of artillery. Also: †a single arrow shot from a bow (*obs.*). Cf. *baton round* at *BATON* *n.* 2a.

- 1690 *Relation of taking of Town & Forts Kinsale* (single sheet) At Night the Men of War came into the Harbour with the Tide of Flood, and after casting Anchor, they fired a round for this joyful Success.
- 1714 *Boston News-let.* 20 Sept. 2/1 Three Valleys [sic] of small Arms, Three Rounds of the Great Artillery of our Fort.
- 1725 *London Gaz.* No. 6378/4 The great Guns..fired several Rounds.
- 1792 E. HARGROVE *Anecd. Archery* 76 Three rounds shall be shot by all the Company, with what manner of shaft..every one pleaseth.
- 1794 LD. NELSON *Let.* 30 July in *Dispatches & Lett.* (1844) I. 462 The Garrison fired one general round, when they nearly all left their guns.
- 1821 SCOTT *Kenilworth* III. v. 74 A round of artillery..was discharged from the battlements.
- 1846 W. GREENER *Sci. Gunnery* (new ed.) 58 The number of rounds that each gun fired averaged 1,249.
- 1878 *19th Cent.* Mar. 446 Of the men sent to Malta..a considerable proportion..had never even fired a round of ball cartridge.
- 1919 A. HORNBLOW *Hist. Theatre Amer.* II. xvi. 40 Accordingly, the sheriff directed the military to fire a round over the heads of the people, which was done, but without effect.
- 1955 HSU MENG-HSIUNG tr. Chou Li-po *Hurricane* 58 With a bound he took cover behind a tree and fired a round at the corner of the hut.
- 2001 *Navy News* Sept. (Suppl.) 2/2 Typically, 12 to 20 rounds were needed to destroy a caique or schooner.

†**31.** *Coal Mining.* A quantity of coal delivered to the surface by a putter (*PUTTER* *n.*¹ 6). *Obs.*

- 1708 J. C. *Compl. Collier* 14 in T. Nourse *Mistery of Husbandry Discover'd* (ed. 3) Those Sticks immediately show him how many Rounds the Barrow Men have put.

32. A single, distinct outburst of applause, cheers, etc.

- 1794 C. MATHEWS *Let.* 28 Dec. in A. Mathews *Mem. C. Mathews* (1838) I. i. vi. 129 He came forward at the end of the play,..and he had six successive rounds of applause.
- 1815 SCOTT *Guy Mannering* II. 268 The gravity with which he accommodated himself to the humour of the moment..procured him three rounds of applause.
- 1867 DICKENS *Let.* 29 Mar. (1999) XI. 343 The roars of welcome and the rounds of cheers.
- 1884 *Western Daily Press* 21 Oct. 8/1 Mr. Chamberlain, on rising to reply, was received with several rounds of hearty cheers.
- 1937 J. P. MARQUAND *Late George Apley* xxviii. 322 When Apley arose to speak there against Bossism, much to the concern of many of his friends, he was greeted with a round of cheers which lasted for five minutes.
- 1963 S. E. TOULMIN *Night Sky at Rhodes* 22 With a fine show of grunts and grimaces, he pulled them out in turn. There was a round of applause.
- 2005 *Guardian* 5 Nov. (Guide) 15/1 In the audience, a stunned silence, a big round of applause, and plenty of boos.

33. A unit of trade used by European traders in West Africa, consisting of a selection of goods. Frequently in *round trade* *n.* at Compounds 2. Now *hist.*

- c1810 in G. E. Brooks *Yankee Traders, Old Coasters & Afr. Middlemen* (1970) 321 This is not in addition to the following Kegs of powder in the rounds, but from Cavally to St Andrews it is not a regular round trade.
- 1965 L. SUNDRÖM *Exchange Econ. Pre-colonial Trop. Afr.* iii. 81 Such a set of articles was known as a 'round' or 'bundle'.
- 1980 A. MASSING *Econ. Anthropol. of Kru (West Afr.)* iv. 78 On the Kru Coast trade was governed by the 'round', a fictitious unit which referred to an assortment of goods.

VII. A period or bout of play at a game or sport, and related senses.

34.

a. A game of cards. Chiefly with *of*.

- 1712 G. GRANVILLE *Poems* 121 Women to Cards may be compar'd; We play A Round or two, when us'd, we throw away.
- 1773 A. M. TOPLADY *Let.* 19 Nov. in *Weekly Entertainer* (1800) 30 June 504 A rubber of sixpenny whist, a pool of penny quadrille, or a few rounds of twopenny Pope Joan.
- 1789 E. SHERIDAN *Let.* in *Betsy Sheridan's Jrnl.* (1986) vii. 159 I can not help wondering at his Wife preferring a round of cards and dissipation to the society of such a Man.
- 1843 *Ainsworth's Mag.* 3 88 An early round at quadrille..was all that prying curiosity could lay to her charge on the score of frivolity.
- 1889 M. S. VAN DE VELDE *Cosmopolitan Recoll.* vi. 221 [He] sits down to the real enjoyment of his day, a round of whist.
- 1940 A. WALTON *New Techniques Supervisors & Foremen* xii. 155 He may..play a round of pool or rummy before he has to show up at the plant.

- 1991 A. CHAUDHURI *Strange & Sublime Addr.* (1992) 178 When he would go down to call the sweeper later, he would smoke a beedi and play a round of cards.

b. Golf. An act of playing all the holes on a golf course (or occasionally all those nominated for play in a particular tournament) once. Also (with *of*): the score made in doing this.

Tournament golf is typically played over four rounds, with the result that there is now some overlap with senses 36 and 37.

- 1744 *Scots Mag.* Apr. 197/1 The act appoints, That..if two or more shall have won an equal number, that they play a round by themselves in order to determine the match.
- 1775 in C. B. Clapcott *Rules of Golf* (1935) 24 No member of this Society pay the Cadies more than one penny per round.
- 1834 P. BUCHAN *Peterhead Smugglers* 63 To gang wi' you to the links ilka morning at five o'clock to a round o' the golf.
- 1836 *Caledonian Mercury* 17 Sept. He had occasionally..gone to Blackheath to take a round at golf.
- 1866 *Golfer's Year Bk.* 65 Each round consisted of 7 holes, and four rounds were fixed on for the decision of the Tournament.
- 1880 *Aberdeen Weekly Jrnl.* 24 May 4/5 [He] played a remarkable round of golf on the Monifieth Links.
- 1897 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 25 May 10/1 His second round of 76..was a remarkably fine finish to a day's very good golf.
- 1928 A. HUXLEY *Point Counter Point* xxiii. 414 The others had gone to play a round of golf.
- 1964 D. LANGDON *How to play Golf & stay Happy* iii. 27 Palmer..rushed back to the pro's shop after a disastrous round of 76, slammed his driver into the vice and filed away the club face.
- 1992 M. J. CORMACK *Ideology* vi. 57 They teed off together for a deciding round of four holes (the 1st, 2nd, 17th and 18th).
- 1996 *Sunday Tel.* 4 Feb. (Sport section) 12/1 The best golf..was that played by Woosnam who had eight birdies in a round of 65 to equal the course record.
- 2006 S. LYLE *To Fairway Born* (2007) ii. 23 After five holes of the second round, I was going along smoothly on level par.

c. gen. A bout *of* play at a game, sport, or contest; (in early use) *spec.* a bout *of* fisticuffs. Also in extended use.

- 1877 *Unitarian Rev.* Jan. 48 His black eye and bloody nose from a round of fisticuffs with the other boy across the street.
- 1886 C. HAZARD *Mem. J. L. Diman* i. 16 This friendship, which dated from a round of fisticuffs and bloody noses on both sides.
- 1917 *Green Bk. Mag.* Oct. 661 Sirius played a round of quoits—and said good night.
- 1962 E. ALBEE *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (1965) II. 85 We'll play a round of Get the Guests. How about that? How about a little game of Get the Guests?
- 1994 *Rotarian* Sept. 4/1 Planning a visit to a sister club in the Philippines, and playing a round of

mah jong, were far from regular, bland tourist staples.

2009 M. HERCZOG *Frommer's New Orleans 2009* xi. 277 Enjoy some shepherd's pie, wash it down with a sample of the nice selection of beers on tap, play a round of pool or darts.

35. Cards. A single turn of play by all the players, *esp.* the playing of a single card in turn by each of the players; a trick.

- 1742 E. HOYLE *Short Treat. Game Whist* 22 You must play three Rounds of Trumps, otherwise you may have your strong Suit trumped.
- 1791 A. THOMSON *Whist* VIII. 122 While he pursues your but-commencing plan, And takes at ev'ry round two trumps for one.
- 1850 H. G. BOHN et al. *Hand-bk. Games* 135 At the fourth round of trumps, he revokes, and afterwards trumps your suit.
- 1885 R. A. PROCTOR *How to play Whist* i. 27 The first round may show it to be unadvisable to continue the suit.
- 1932 *Times* 31 May 19/6 If Z ruffs the third round of Hearts and leads out his four winning trumps A is left with the last trump and two winning Hearts.
- 1966 *Listener* 13 Jan. 78/3 The unusual ploy of discarding a trump on the third round of clubs.
- 2000 *Birmingham Post* (Nexis) 1 May 4 You will have to take two rounds before tackling diamonds.

36.

a. orig. Boxing. Each of the periods into which a boxing match (or later a match in other combat sports, as wrestling, karate, etc.) is divided. Also in extended use.

In the 18th and early 19th centuries, rounds were of indeterminate length, typically continuing until one of the fighters was knocked down. In 1867 the introduction of the Queensberry rules (see QUEENSBERRY RULES *n.*) established three minutes as the standard duration of a round, with a one minute rest between rounds (two minute rounds are now also common in amateur boxing). Until the later years of the 19th cent. the number of rounds in a match was unlimited, but subsequently matches have typically been scheduled to last a certain number of rounds.

- 1787 *World* 20 Dec. The first round was a very severe one. Both fought very open.
- 1806 *Morning Chron.* 9 Oct. The fifty-first round finished the contest in favour of Duckett, after a hard contest of one hour.
- 1817 *Hone's Reformists' Reg.* 6 Sept. 214 Hall was the friendly opponent of Read upon the occasion, and he was thrown in the first round of wrestling.
- 1846 C. ST. JOHN *Wild Sports Highlands* 248 We heard the clash of horns as two rival stags met and fought a few rounds together.
- 1887 *Dundee Courier & Argus* 20 Dec. The eighth round was well nigh settling the contest, as Kilrain..landed a 'stunner' on the left side of the Englishman's jaw.
- 1930 *Manitoba Free Press* 20 Aug. 6/5 [He] put paid to the account of Al Anderson..after 2.56 in the second round of a bout billed to go eight rounds.
- 1989 *Black Belt* Oct. 12/3 Then we change the rules so fighters have to throw eight kicks a round.
- 2002 *Times* 11 Feb. 36/3 In the ninth round, just before the referee decided that the punishment

had to stop, Hatton caught his opponent with his heaviest body-shot.

b. *fig.* With reference to the exchanges and contributions constituting a debate, argument, controversy, etc. Frequently in ***round two***, typically suggesting the initiation of a new phase of the dispute.

- 1937 'M. INNES' *Hamlet, Revenge!* II. iii. 137 Gott sighed. 'You certainly know the habits of your friends. Round Two to you.'
- 1959 *Listener* 22 Oct. 681/2 He began round two by making a fresh application for *habeas corpus*.
- 1967 *Listener* 3 Aug. 147/3 By quoting, selectively, two rounds of a three-round controversy..[you] gave an inaccurate picture of the course of the argument.
- 1991 J. CARTWRIGHT *To 18 Landlord: I don't know what you're on about. Landlady (she closes till) Ting ting, round two. Yes you do, yes you do.*
- 2000 R. BARGER et al. *Hell's Angel* xi. 205 Within a year the federales secretly geared up for round two.

c. Each of a number of subdivisions or segments of a quiz, game show, or similar competition.

- 1938 *New Castle (Pa.) News* 25 Nov. 19/2 After six rounds of questions the score was totalled resulting in victory for the Girl Reserves.
- 1943 *Hartford (Connecticut) Courant* 28 Nov. (Parade of Youth section) 4/4 In the first round the contestants had musical answers played by the band. In the second there were straight book questions with no music.
- 1974 *N.Y. Times* 7 July D15/1 The bigger prizes are usually awarded in some form of 'bonus' round.
- 2006 M. HAIG *Dead Fathers Club* (2007) 185 He said Right. The first round is a general knowledge round.

37. orig. and chiefly *Sport*. Each of a succession of stages in a competition, each resulting in the elimination of a number of competitors or candidates.

- 1837 *N. Wales Chron.* 7 Mar. A dog named Bugle..which was bent off by fly in the first round for the [Waterloo] cup.
- 1860 *Newcastle Courant* 13 Apr. 3/2 In this round the most interesting struggle was that between Amos and Joseph Nairass.
- 1886 *Northern Echo* (Darlington) 13 Dec. 4/6 Replayed match in the first round of the Durham Cup competition.
- 1902 *Encycl. Brit.* XXVIII. 425/2 All the clubs entered are drawn by lot, in pairs, to play together in the first round; the winners of these ties are then similarly drawn in pairs for the next round.
- 1921 A. W. MYERS *Twenty Years Lawn Tennis* 19 Barrett beat him 'all ends up' in an early round.
- 1951 *Sport* 30 Mar. 2/4 In the Amateur Cup they reached the second round, losing to Pegasus.

- 1977 *Evening Post* (Nottingham) 24 Jan. 7/9 Tuxford Young Farmers A team defeated their B team in the third round of the county Inter-Club Quiz to reach the semi-finals.
- 1998 *BBC Match of Day Mag.* Apr. 112/1 The only shock of the fourth round of the FA Cup is that there are no shocks.

38. Archery. A fixed number of arrows shot from a fixed distance. Frequently with distinguishing word, as ***National round, Vegas round, York round***, etc.

- 1856 *Field* 1 Mar. 138/3 A friendly passage of arms between Messrs. Ford, Bramhall, and Moore, resulted in the following score—the double York round of 144 arrows at 100 yards, 96 at 80 yards, and 48 at 60 yards, being shot.
- 1875 *Encycl. Brit.* II. 373/2 Two days' shooting, or the result of a 'double round'.
- 1879 M. THOMPSON & W. H. THOMPSON *Archery* 12 The 'National Round'..consists of 48 arrows at 60 yards, and 24 arrows at 50 yards.
- 1924 *Times* 25 Aug. 8/5 All the ladies shot the National Round. The gentlemen shot the Double York Round.
- 1960 *Archery* ('Know the Game' Ser.) 4/1 Targets are set up at one end of the ground, and 'rounds' of a predetermined number of arrows are shot from one or more fixed distances.
- 2004 *Buffalo N.Y. News* (Nexis) 14 Mar. C10 This day begins at 10 a.m. with either a 15-target outdoor 3-D match or an indoor Vegas round.

39. A session of meetings for discussion or negotiation, *esp.* one of a sequence of sessions in an ongoing process, typically characterized by a development between one session and another.

Frequently used with distinguishing word with reference to GATT (G.A.T.T. *n.*); see quotes. 1964, 1978, 2008.

- 1947 *Econ. Jrnal.* 57 60 The main tasks of the leaders lie..in the preparation of material for the next round of discussions.
- 1964 *Ann. Reg.* 1963 252 They disagreed on what should be the approach of the Six in preparation for the forthcoming 'Kennedy round' of negotiations.
- 1969 *Daily Tel.* 23 Apr. 26 The first round of talks..started soon after the arrival of a Czechoslovak delegation.
- 1978 *Internat. Relations Dict.* (U.S. Dept. State Library) 42/2 The talks, which opened in Geneva in October 1973, were called the 'Tokyo Round' because they were initiated by a declaration signed in Tokyo.
- 1983 *Economist* 24 Sept. 84/3 Markets were nervous ahead of the latest round of Sino-British talks on Hongkong's future.
- 2008 *Independent* 22 July 19/1 His stamina exceeds that of anyone else negotiating what should be the final stages of the Doha round of trade talks.

PHRASES**P1. in round.**

†**a.** In a circular or spiral form or course; with circular motion. Also **in halfround**: in a semicircle. *Obs.*

[After Middle French *en rond* (c1145 in Old French as *en reont*; French *en rond*). Compare Anglo-Norman *a la runde*, Middle French, French *à la ronde*, in same sense (13th cent. or earlier).]

- †a1382 *Bible* (Wycliffite, E.V.) (Bodl. 959) (1961) Lev. xix. 27 Ne 3e sholen in rount [*v.r.* rownde; L. *rotundum*] dodde heer ne schaue berd.
- a1425 (†c1395) *Bible* (Wycliffite, L.V.) (Royal) (1850) Ezek. xli. 7 A street was in round, and stiede vpward bi a vijs.
- 1541 in *Proc. Soc. Antiquaries Scotl.* (1862) 3 161 Ane..walter tabill abone the thak on the est gauill of the queir pendit in half round to the said queir.
- 1591 W. GARRARD & R. HITCHCOCK *Arte of Warre* 119 They..doe with maruellous furie force the enimie, & in this order skirmishing in a winding ring, in round,..do still maintaine themselues lusty and fresh.
- 1626 BACON *Sylua Syluarum* §9 This Motion worketh in round at first..and then worketh in Progress.
- 1626 BACON *Sylua Syluarum* §138 Sound diffuseth it selfe in round.

†**b.** In turn; in rotation. *Obs. rare.*

- 1527 in W. L. Nash *Churchwardens' Acct. Bk. St. Giles, Reading* (1851) 32 At this accompte hath bene dismissed John Beke and chosen in round Richard Body.

P2. in the round.**a.**

(**a**) Of a sculpture: standing free with all sides shown, rather than carved in relief against a ground. Frequently contrasted with *in relief*.

- 1612 J. DAVIES *Muses Sacrifice* Ep. Ded. sig. A3^v Some Authors say, the Ground-worke of the same [*sc.* a pyramid] tooke vp an hundred Furlongs in the Round.
- 1662 J. EVELYN *Sculptura* v. 125 Few of our Gravers work off from the Round, upon which alone the observation is practicable.
- 1811 J. PARKINS *Young Man's Best Compan.* 512 The art of drawing, both from the round and from life.
- 1873 C. D. E. FORTNUM *Maiolica* xv. 171 Many early pieces, modelled in high relief and in the round, are probably of this origin.
- 1900 A. S. MURRAY *Catal. Sculpt. Parthenon Brit. Mus.* 113 In slab xxxviii. the cow's right horn must have been carved in the round, only the tip being attached to the background of the relief.
- 1958 W. WILLETTS *Chinese Art* I. v. 384 Modelling of figures in the round and as though in movement.
- 2002 *Wood Carving Illustr.* Summer 9/1 A lamp base made from a cypress knee carved in the round.

(b) fig. Fully and thoroughly; with all aspects shown. Cf. TWO-DIMENSIONAL *adj.* 2.

- 1928 *Mod. Lang. Rev.* **23** 145 Most of Shakespeare's women are less real than romantic... They are highly individualised,..but are not presented fully, in the round, and have few connexions with the world as we know it.
- 1933 *Punch* 12 July 51/2 It is not an easy part, seeing that it is the only character in the whole cast to be drawn in the round.
- 1948 'M. WESTMACOTT' *Rose & Yew Tree* ix. 72 Up to now Lord St. Loo had been a name, an abstraction... Now he came into the round—a living entity.
- 1959 *Spectator* 7 Aug. 164/3 The camera also gives an impression in the round of the man who seems one-dimensional in print.
- 1977 N. SHEPHERD *Living Mountain* vi. 40 Rain in the air has also the odd power of letting one see things in the round, as though stereoscopically.
- 2000 *Business Day* (S. Afr.) 28 Jan. 7/2 The WTO meeting folded amid disagreement among the major powers..on what topics should be covered in the round.

(c) Theatre. Of a performance: with the audience placed on at least three sides of the stage. Frequently in *theatre-in-the-round* *n.* at THEATRE *n.* 3f(a). Cf. ARENA *n.* 5.

- 1944 *Bull. National Theatre Conf. (U.S.)* Apr. 19 In this country, Glen Hughes out in Seattle has operated his Studio and Penthouse theatres, playing sophisticated comedies to small audiences 'in the round'.
- 1958 *New Statesman* 22 Feb. 228/3 At the Mahatma Gandhi Hall, Fitzroy Square, Miss Margaret Rawlings is giving *Phèdre* in English In-the-Round.
- 1975 R. POTTER *Eng. Morality Play* ii. 30 An outdoor spectacle of mammoth proportions, for performance in the round.
- 1992 *Times Educ. Suppl.* 31 Jan. 29/1 He guided them through..his passions about acting and directing and the problems of playing in the round at the Stephen Joseph Theatre.

b. In diameter or circumference.

- c1567 G. CLARKSON in *Mem. Hist. & Antiq. Northumberland* (1858) II. p. clxi The said corner towre ys on thre parte round thinner parte square with out wall conteyninge in the rounde thereof xvij yards.
- 1663 R. MANLEY tr. F. Caron in tr. F. Caron & J. Schouten *True Descr. Kingdoms Japan & Siam* 87 A hollow in the side of a Mountain, some ten foot in the round; this hole was, by reason of its depth, very obscure within.
- 1753 J. HANWAY *Hist. Acct. Brit. Trade Caspian Sea* II. I. v. 18 A moss, which is about 60 inches in the round, can be most conveniently reeled off.
- 1789 *European Mag. & London Rev.* Sept. 191/1 Their ground plan in the inclosure is two leagues in

the round.

- 1825 R. BYFIELD *Sectum* 131 Hollow out 9 inches in the back and 12 in front..which will give the neck 36 inches in the round.
- 1883 *Jrnl. Asiatic Soc. Bengal* 52 183 The uprights are..6 feet in the round.
- 1935 *Proc. Royal Irish Acad. 1934-5 B.* 42 102 The type of net generally used had meshes one inch from knot to knot or four inches in the round.
- 1987 H. WRIGHT *James Lick's Monument* ix. 155 It weighed 165 pounds, had no visible fault, and would mold 34 inches in the round.

c. Of timber: in its natural shape, without having being squared, split, or otherwise worked.

- 1808 C. VANCOUVER *Gen. View Agric. Devon* x. 251 Beech about the same, and sycamore 1s. 3d. all in the round, and where the trees were fallen.
- 1875 E. H. KNIGHT *Pract. Dict. Mech.* *Juggle*, a block of timber cut to a length, either in the round or split.
- 1907 R. S. TROUP *Indian Forest Utilization* I. iii. 113 Timber in the round should be allowed to season slowly and regularly.
- 1947 A. L. HOWARD *Trees in Brit.* 134 In earlier times..British-grown laburnum was greatly prized for inlay, turnery and cabinet work... Cut in cross section in the round, it was known by the term 'oyster work'.
- 2004 P. WHITEFIELD *Earth Care Man.* xi. 302/2 Using timber in the round saves the energy and money cost of milling.

†d. In a rounded or convex form. Obs. rare.

- 1876 *Encycl. Brit.* IV. 43/1 The back springs back into its rounded form, and thus the face presents the appearance of having been cut in the round.

P3. to run in a round: to run in circles; to rush about aimlessly. Cf. *to run around in circles* at CIRCLE *n.* 1c. See also sense 2a.

- 1628 J. DAVENANT *One of Serm. preached at Westm.* 24 No circular and friuolous running in a round.
- 1632 J. HAYWARD tr. G. F. Biondi *Eromena* 37 He ranne always in a round, going..very little wide from the same place.
- 1697 DRYDEN tr. Virgil *Aeneis* v, in tr. Virgil *Wks.* 350 Then in a round the mingl'd Bodies run.
- 1838 B. VON ARMIN *Goethe's Corr. with Child* III. 110 Poor doe! how do I shudder at thy lot, and how nearly related may it be to mine. I too run in a round.
- 1884 *Brit. Friend* 42 283/2 He runs in a round, and makes himself, his works, and duties his Saviour.
- 1986 S. BANDYOPADHYAY tr. M. Devi *Bāyen* in *Five Plays* 97 Then he mimes a wild drum dance, beating at the air with both his hands, as he runs in a round and screams: 'Ha-ri-ri-ri-ri-ri.'

†**P4. to keep the round:** to keep pace with others in a group while drinking a succession of rounds (sense 29). *Obs.*

1633 G. HERBERT *Church Porch* in *Temple* v Drink not the third glasse... It is most just to throw that on the ground, Which would throw me there, if I keep the round.

P5. to go the round (also rounds): (of news, gossip, a joke, etc.) to be passed on from person to person (or from publication to publication, etc.). Later also **to make (also do) the rounds.** Also with *of*.

In *sing.* use, now somewhat *arch.* In *pl.* use, orig. *U.S.*

1669 W. SIMPSON *Hydrol. Chymica* 124 The rest..communicate it one to another, till it hath gone the round.

1756 T. HALE et al. *Compl. Body Husbandry* XII. xxiii. 649 Thus we see how many write, and how few think: how Error goes the Round of different Nations.

1811 *National Intelligencer* (Washington, D.C.) 9 May A case of similar impressment at the eastward had been satisfactorily contradicted, after going the rounds of all the papers, in most of which, however, the contradiction will never, I presume, appear.

1833 H. MARTINEAU *Tale of Tyne* v. 79 No light sayings of his upon the matter were going the round of his neighbourhood.

1837 *Jamestown (N.Y.) Jrnl.* 22 Mar. 3/2 There is a story going the rounds in relation to the president-elect.

1840 THACKERAY *Paris Sketch Bk.* I. 66 The following anecdote, that is now going the round of the papers.

1861 T. HUGHES *Tom Brown at Oxf.* I. ii. 18 This celebrated epistle..created quite a sensation..as it went the round after tea.

1862 O. W. NORTON *Army Lett.* (1903) 55 Everything of the kind has to go the rounds, you know.

1927 *Vanity Fair* Nov. 67/2 Conway's 'That's the pay off!' is swiftly making the rounds.

1931 A. CHRISTIE *Sittaford Myst.* xvi. 123 In this little community of ours the smallest detail is known, and your arrival here yesterday has naturally gone the round.

1959 *Listener* 28 May 941/2 All those romantic stories..which have been going the rounds of the *rive gauche* ever since.

1977 *Rolling Stone* 13 Jan. 39/2 The rumor that the FBI started about her being a Soviet spy is still making the rounds at parties she no longer attends.

1989 *Investors Chron.* 27 Jan. 89/1 All sorts of wild rumours are doing the rounds.

2001 C. PETIT *Hard Shoulder* (2002) 152 It was already going the rounds that Brendan had been hanging out in hardline bars.

2006 *Independent* 24 Nov. 14/1 According to recent rumours doing the rounds in medialand, the BBC are considering bringing back *Nationwide* to primetime television.

†**P6. U.S. slang. to take a round:** to go on a spree. Cf. sense 26a. *Obs.*

rare.

c1848 'N. BUNTLINE' *Myst. & Miseries N.Y.* I. 113 Taking a cruise about town, or going on a spree, is called taking a round.

P7.

a. orig. and chiefly *Austral.* ***the rounds of the kitchen:*** a severe reproof; a scolding; (also occasionally) criticism, abuse, scorn.

- 1836 *Sydney Gaz.* 15 Oct. [He] seemed very apprehensive that he should have the rounds of the kitchen when she got home.
- 1873 J. C. F. JOHNSON *Christmas on Carringa* 4 He had been getting from Mrs M..what he termed 'the rounds of the kitchen', for being such a fool.
- 1939 J. CAMPBELL *Babe is Wise* 211 An does she gimme the rounds of the kitchen! Pitches into me like I dunno w'at.
- 1988 K. AMIS *Let.* 1 Aug. (2000) 1073 I confess to a glow of innocent satisfaction at seeing Wain's novel getting the rounds of the kitchen.
- 2004 R. GIETZELT *Worth Fighting For* vii. 134 Ducker and Co were able to give me the rounds of the kitchen for 'misinforming' the Federal Executive about these events.

†b. *Naut.* ***the rounds of the galley:*** criticism or scorn directed at one member of the crew by the rest. *Obs.*

- 1867 W. H. SMYTH & E. BELCHER *Sailor's Word-bk.* 582 *Rounds of the Galley*,...is figurative of a man incurring the expressed scorn of his shipmates.

P8.

round-by-round *adj.* that describes or analyses each round of a contest, esp. a boxing match, in turn; also in extended use.

- 1933 *St. Petersburg (Florida) Times* 10 Apr. 1/8 (*heading*) Round-by-round system of judging bouts will be inaugurated.
- 1955 T. H. PEAR *Eng. Social Differences* 246 Championship fight..with a leading article and a back-page 'round-by-round' report.
- 1961 *Times* 25 May 15/4 It is a remarkable round-by-round study in the art of politics.
- 1997 A. N. WISE & B. S. MEYER *Internat. Sports Law & Business* III. 1718 P granted to NBC the exclusive radio broadcast rights for a ringside, round-by-round description of a particular fight.
- 2009 *Hucknall Disp.* (Nexis) 23 Apr. A round-by-round look at how Scots Grey...secured their place in the final of the FA All-England Sunday Cup at Anfield.

COMPOUNDS

C1. attrib., designating a round of beef (see sense 4d), or a piece cut from this, as **round beef**, **round steak**.

- 1829 *Blackwood's Edinb. Mag.* **25** 293/1 We..had some cuts at one great piece of round beef, for luncheons.
- 1880 M. PARLOA *New Cook Bk.* 20 Round steak is not, of course, as tender as tenderloin, sirloin or rump, but it has a far richer and higher flavor than any of the others.
- 1938 R. CHANDLER in *Dime Detective Mag.* Jan. 43/2 The kid's face had as much expression as a cut of round steak and was about the same color.
- 1972 'L. EGAN' *Paper Chase* (1973) x. 161 Athelstane was..condescending to eat the best round steak cut into bite-size pieces.
- 1993 *Canad. Living* Jan. 21/1 1/2 lb blade or round steak.

C2.

round book *n.* (a) a book consisting of a collection of rounds (see sense 19), a songbook; (b) a book in which a trader or delivery driver keeps details of customers, their orders and payments, etc.

- 1852 J. P. METCALFE (*title*) Novello's school round-book. A collection of fifty rounds and catches.
- 1893 *Food & Sanitation* 14 Oct. 306/1 According to his round book, a quart was to be delivered to each person.
- 1897 S. R. CROCKETT *Lads' Love* xxv. 249 Mary Grey was getting used to these irregular and uncovenanted halts, not entered in the round book.
- 1904 O. PRESCOTT *About Music, & What it is made Of* i. 20 The little round which is in every school round-book in the country, *Turn again, Whittington*.
- 1957 *Dairy Industries* **22** 227/3 He collected the usual amounts from his customers..but failed to mark them 'paid' in his round book.
- 1999 M. R. MACDONALD (*title*) The round book. Rounds kids love to sing.
- 2003 'STING' *Broken Music* 45 Alan has come back to pick up a pair of overalls, the 'round book', and a money bag.

round ringing *n.* *Campanol.* the action or practice of ringing rounds (sense 21).

- a1661 Round-ringing [see sense 21].
- 1789 J. ROBINSON in J. Nichols *Addit. Coll. Antiq. Leicester* 969 A common peal of round ringing, during which there is a continual undulation at the top of the spire.
- 1875 *Musical World* 11 Dec. 621/2 A dumb peal, to commemorate death, ought always to be conducted in round-ringing order.
- 2007 *Mid Devon Gaz.* (Nexis) 23 Oct. 10 The round ringing was won by Sam Munday, with Simon Teitze as runner-up.

round trade *n.* now *hist.* a system of barter used by European traders in West Africa (see quot. 1845); cf. sense 33.

- c1810 in G. E. Brooks *Yankee Traders, Old Coasters & Afr. Middlemen* (1970) 321 they will require sometimes a proportion of Powder in lieu of the small Kegs in the round trade, but do not give it if you can possibly avoid it.
- 1845 H. BRIDGE *Jrnl. Afr. Cruiser* xiv. 114 In dealing with the natives, there was formerly a system much in vogue, but now going out of use, called the 'round trade'. The method was, to offer one of each article; for instance, one gun, one cutlass, one flint, one brass kettle, one needle, and so on, from the commodity of greatest value down to the least.
- 1883 R. F. BURTON & V. F. CAMERON *To Gold Coast* II. xiv. 72 The Bristolians preserve the old 'round trade,' and barter native produce against cloth and beads, rum and gin, salt, tobacco, and gunpowder.
- 1980 A. MASSING *Econ. Anthropol. Kru* iv. 78 Before discussing the logic of the 'round trade' system some remarks on the 'bar trade' system prevailing to the north of our area will be useful.

This entry has been updated (OED Third Edition, March 2011).

Oxford University Press
Copyright © 2017 Oxford University Press . All rights reserved.

Your access is brought to you by:
University of Toronto Libraries