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set, n.¹

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

Forms: Also ME **sete**, ME–15 **sette**, (15 **seat**), ME– (now prevalent in many technical senses) **sett** .

Frequency (in current use):

Etymology: < SET *v.*¹, partly directly from the verb-stem, and partly a subst. use of SET *adj.*¹; the two formations cannot always be distinguished.

Old English had *set* (neuter) *seat* (in singular place of setting of the sun; in plural *setu*, *seotu* collect. in the senses camp, stable or cowhouse), corresponding to Old High German *sez* (neuter) *seat* (Middle High German *sez* (neuter, masculine) *seat*, siege, modern German *sess* (masculine), *seat*), Old Norse *set* (neuter) *abode* < Germanic **seto-m*, < **set-* : see SIT *v.* It is doubtful whether this survived beyond Old English; the rare early Middle English *sette seat* appears to be (as the rhyme shows in one instance) an irregular spelling for *sete* SEAT *n.* Sense 1 below can hardly have been influenced by the Old English word, as this occurs (in singular) only in phrases e.g. *to sete gán* (= to set), and the dative *n.* would have become *sēte* in early Middle English. On the other hand, sense 1 may be partly due to an adoption of Old Norse *-setr* (neuter), *-seta* (feminine) (in *dagsetr*, *sólarsetr*, *-seta* : see SUNSET *n.* and compare SAETER *n.*), which are cognate with Old English *set*.

I. The action of setting or condition of being set.

1.

a. The act of setting (of a luminary); the apparent descent of the heavenly bodies towards the horizon at the close of their diurnal period. Now only *poet.* except in SUNSET *n.*

c1386 CHAUCER *Clerk's Tale* 718 At day set he on his way is goon.

1390 J. GOWER *Confessio Amantis* III. 257 Riht evene upon the Sonne set.

a1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 2045 And so to sett of þe son sesid þai neuire.

1592 S. DANIEL *Complaint Rosamond* in *Wks.* (1717) 39 This fair Morning had a shameful Set.

1594 M. DRAYTON *Ideas Mirrour* sig. H Till mee, if euer since the world begunne, So faire a Morning had so foule a set?

a1616 SHAKESPEARE *Henry V* (1623) IV. i. 269 But [the King] like a Lacquey, from the Rise to Set, Sweates in the eye of Phebus.

a1616 SHAKESPEARE *Macbeth* (1623) I. i. 5 That will be ere the set of Sunne.

1618 G. CHAPMAN tr. Hesiod *Georgicks* II. 366 The Seuen-stars, and the Fiue, That twixt the Bulls hornes, at their set arriue.

1655 LD. ORRERY *Parthenissa* IV. II. vii. 704 The Sun was five hours from his Set.

1724 A. RAMSAY *Vision* in *Ever Green* I. xvii Frae the sun's rying to his sett.

1812 H. F. CARY tr. Dante *Purgatorio* XVIII. 80 When they of Rome behold him [the sun] at his set Betwixt Sardinia and the Corsic isle.

1834 A. E. BRAY *Warleigh* III. vi. 74 The sun had already made a 'fiery set'.

1845 C. SUMNER *True Grandeur Nations* (1846) 13 Between the rise and set of a single sun.

b. set of day *n.* (*a*) the time at which the sun sets; (*b*) the west.

- 1623 W. LISLE in tr. *Ælfric Saxon Treat. Old & New Test.* Ded. xv Thou..shalt..Extend thy fame fro Set to Spring of day.
- 1830 TENNYSON *Adeline* in *Poems* 70 Looking at the set of day.
- 1868 J. T. NETTLESHIP *Ess. Browning's Poetry* v. 127 At set of day.
- 1885 R. BRIDGES *Eros & Psyche* I. xxiii. 10 Looked left and right to rise and set of day.

c. fig. of the close of life.

- 1635 A. STAFFORD *Femall Glory* 13 Anna..being then in the occident, or set of life.
- 1655 H. L'ESTRANGE *Reign King Charles 6* Yet can they never deny but that admired serenity had its set in a cloud.

†**2.** ? A setting oneself to fight, encounter, attack. *Obs.*

- c1330 R. MANNYNG *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 15658 Wyþ Cadwaly so harde he met, & Cadwalyn fley atte ferste set.

†**3.****a.** Letting, lease. *Sc. Obs.*

- 1439 in J. D. Marwick *Charters Edinb.* (1871) 64 Sindry alde charteris, takis, and settis of feefedorme made to thaim.
- 1471 in T. Thomson *Acts Lords Auditors* (1839) 14/2 Þat he sall haue na dale nor entrometing þarwith..without þt he optene tak & set þarof.
- 1476 in T. Thomson *Acts Lords Auditors* (1839) 41/1 Daid allegiand at þe said landis of logycarroch belangit him be Resone of Sete.
- 1583 *Exch. Rolls Scot.* XXI. 564 Thair was ane set maid of the kingis majesties landis.
- a1614 J. MELVILLE *Autobiogr. & Diary* (1842) 11 Be whome they might gett a new sett and possessioun of thay teind fisches.
- a1639 J. SPOTTISWOOD *Hist. Church Scotl.* (1655) 452 He should not delapidate his Benefice..nor make any set, or disposition thereof.
- [1886 *Act 49 & 50 Vict.* c. 50 §3 'Lease' [in this Act] shall include tack and set.]

b. (Usually *sett.*) A mining lease. Chiefly *Cornwall.* (Cf. 21.)

- 1713 *London Gaz.* No. 5141/4 The Setts heretofore made of the Copper-works..will determine at Michaelmas next.
- 1778 W. PRYCE *Mineralogia Cornubiensis* 326 A Set..sometimes..implies the deed or lease by which

they enjoy the premises.

1855 J. R. LEIFCHILD *Cornwall: Mines & Miners* 241 The sett, or lease, frequently extends to twenty-one years.

attrib.

1891 *Labour Commission Gloss.* *Sett quarries*, a number of mines or quarries taken on lease.

4. *Sc. Law.* The action of setting to sale (see quot.).

1693 J. DALRYMPLE *Inst. Law Scotl.* (ed. 2) i. xvi. 135 A Roup at the half or major part of the Owners against the rest, or a Set at any of the Owners instance against the whole, either to take his part at such a rate, or [etc.].

1838 W. BELL *Dict. Law Scotl.* at *Sett* Where the owners of a ship disagree as to the manner in which a vessel is to be employed, or where one of the owners is desirous to sell his share, he usually offers it, at a certain price, to the other owners; and failing an extrajudicial arrangement, an action of sett is competent.

†5.

a. The condition of being stopped or checked; a check. Phr. **at a set**, at a standstill, in difficulties, nonplussed (cf. 10e); **hard or sore set** (*Sc.*), a serious check or set-back (cf. phr. s.v. SET *v.*¹).

1613 S. PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* III. iv. 211 Our Gull-gallants..who would sometimes be at a sette in their braue and brauing phrases, if they should not haue varietie of oathes and curses.

1642 D. ROGERS *Naaman* 87 He is at a set, and knows not what to make of it.

c1680 *Mem. Mrs. Veitch, etc.* (1846) 26 (E.D.D.) They were both against it, which gave my faith a sore set.

1751 R. PALTOCK *Life Peter Wilkins* I. xii. 118 It rose so steep..that I was at a Set upon the first Entrance.

1768 A. ROSS *Fortunate Shepherdess* I. 64 I cud na tald you, nor can I do yet, How sad the sett was, that my heart did get.

1778 A. ROSS *Helenore* (ed. 2) 49 Great may the hardships be, that she has met, And gotten for my sake so hard a set.

b. *Bowls.* (See quot. 1876 and RUB *n.*¹ 2a.)

1876 *Encycl. Brit.* IV. 180/2 A 'rub' or 'set' is when a jack or bowl, *in transitu*, comes in contact with any object on the green.

†**c.** *Mech.* (See quot. 1764.)

1764 K. FITZGERALD in *Philos. Trans.* 1763 (Royal Soc.) 53 156 The stop, or sett, generally in large

engines, when the ends of the leaver come to the springs, is a defect that has been endeavoured to be remedied.

6. The act of a dog in setting game. (Cf. 1of.)

- 1699 A. BOYER *Royal Dict.* at *Arrest* A Dog that makes a fine set.
- 1737 H. BRACKEN *Farriery Improved* xxxvii. 527 Their little Dogs make a Set at them, in the Manner of Setting-Dogs.
- 1897 *Badminton Mag.* Apr. 448 All your senses tingle as you go to the set, and encourage the statue-like animal to go on.
- 1897 *Outing* 29 479/2 Only twenty years ago the term 'set' was in general use. A sportsman, especially an old-timer, when a setter paused on game, would then say 'There's a set!'

7.

a. = *dead set* n. at sense 10.

- 1829 *Examiner* 609/1 'A set' is made upon him of the most inveterate and splenetic character.
- 1850 J. CHUBB *On Constr. Locks & Keys* 17 When 'a set' is made at a bank, every information is..sought for, by the burglars.
- 1857 A. MATHEWS *Tea-table Talk* I. 136 On one occasion, at a noble table, a great set was made at him.
- 1857 A. MAYHEW *Paved with Gold* II. x A direct set upon Phil was made by the satirical young rogues.
- 1887 W. E. NORRIS *Major & Minor* xxiii No one could say that Miss N. was making a set at him.

b. A grudge. Chiefly in phr. **to have (or take) a set on (a person)**, to have a grudge against. *Austral.* and *N.Z. colloq.* Cf. SET *v.*¹ 125b.

- 1903 'T. COLLINS' *Such is Life* i. 15 'Has n't Warrigal Alf got a set on you too?' asked Thompson coldly.
- 1941 S. J. BAKER *Pop. Dict. Austral. Slang* 64 *Set*, a grudge against (someone), e.g., 'have a set on someone'.
- 1946 K. TENNANT *Lost Haven* (1947) xiv. 228 If the Old Man hadn't tried to give Mark Thorne such particular hell when he was starting his shop, perhaps Thorne wouldn't have taken a set on all the Sudermans... If he hadn't the set on the Sudermans..he wouldn't have wanted to cut off his nose to spite his face.
- 1948 D. BALLANTYNE *Cunninghams* II. vi. 187 He had a bit of a set on Frank and Sydney and was always pinching their cheeks and telling them they were young roughnecks.

8. (Usually *sett*.) A form of power used by shipwrights: see quotes.

- 1794 D. STEEL *Elements & Pract. Rigging & Seamanship* I. 10 The sett is made by driving wedges

between the head or heel of the shore.

- 1794 D. STEEL *Elements & Pract. Rigging & Seamanship* I. 19 Both must be set close together with cross-sets.
- 1815 W. BURNEY *Falconer's New Universal Dict. Marine* (rev. ed.) *Setts*, in mast-making, denotes powers made use of, where force is required to bring or unite two or more pieces together, and is performed by screws, shores, cross-sets, or cleats.
- 1874 S. J. P. THEARLE *Naval Archit.* (new ed.) I. 83 A 'set' or pressure is obtained by means of other pins driven and wedged into holes on the opposite side of the angle-iron.

9.

a. The action of setting or hardening, or the condition of being set. **to take a set:** to set.

- 1837 J. T. SMITH tr. L. J. Vicat *Pract. & Sci. Treat. Mortars & Cements* 53 The 'time of set' may sometimes transgress the prescribed limits.
- 1839 *Civil Engineer & Architect's Jrnl.* **2** 69/1 Before the cement was perfectly hardened and had taken a set.
- 1923 *Rep. Progr. Appl. Chem.* VIII. 231 The time of set has been found to depend upon the proportion of combined water..in the hydrated calcium aluminate.
- 1923 *Rep. Progr. Appl. Chem.* VIII. 23 Removal of water..results in the time of set being reduced.
- 1957 V. J. KEHOE *Technique Film & Television Make-up* xii. 149 Warm weather hastens the set of the material, so chilling the bowl is advisable to slow down the set.
- 1963 D. SETON *Essent. Mod. Cookery* 156 The use of lemon juice or citric or tartaric acid is essential to ensure a good set [in marmalade].

b. initial set (*Building*), a condition attained by cement when it begins to stiffen, but before hardening commences.

- 1891 T. POTTER *Concrete* (ed. 2) I. iii. 104 If a plasterer finds his mortar for stucco is becoming too stiff..the initial set has commenced.
- 1927 *Engineer* 5 Aug. 143/2 At the completion of the operation the concrete has taken an initial set.
- 1953 VAN DEN BRANDEN & KNOWLES *Plastering* iv. 98 The initial set of Portland cement mortar occurs about two to three hours after the dry materials have been wetted.

10. dead set *n.* often in phr. **to make a dead set at.**

†**a. slang.** (See quotes.)

- 1725 *New Canting Dict.* *Set*, as *Dead Set*, a Term used by Thief-catchers when they have a Certainty of seizing some of their Clients.
- 1785 F. GROSE *Classical Dict. Vulgar Tongue* *Set*, a dead set, a concerted scheme to defraud a person by gaming.

†**b.** A fixed look. *Obs.*

1781 G. PARKER *View Society & Manners* I. 196 The Doctor..gave me what I term the dead set with his eye.

c. A pointed attack; a determined onslaught; const. *at, against*. Also, an attitude or position of hostility.

1835 A. W. FONBLANQUE *Eng. under Seven Admin.* (1837) III. 274 The abhorrence of every thing like a 'dead set', or an attempt to run down a man by abuse and clamour.

1836 T. P. THOMPSON *Exercises* (1842) IV. 91 A dead set is to be made from various quarters, against the abominable innovation of publishing Divisions by authority.

1841 J. KEBLE *Let. to Newman* 19 July It was plain from the moment Young went into the room that a dead set was to be made at him.

1859 J. C. HOTTEN *Dict. Slang* 89 'A dead set', a determined stand, in argument or in movement.

1885 *Manch. Evening News* 16 July 2/1 The disaffected sections of the Irish population made a dead set against him from the first.

d. Of a woman: A determined attempt to gain a man's affections. Also *occasionally* conversely of a man.

1823 BYRON *Don Juan: Canto XIV* xlii. 136 Her late performance had been a dead set At Lord Augustus.

1825 T. HOOK *Sayings & Doings* 2nd Ser. I. 4 James had..made a 'dead set' at a 'fortune'.

1847 THACKERAY *Vanity Fair* (1848) iii. 20 There was a girl at Dumdum..who made a dead set at me in the year '4.

1883 F. M. CRAWFORD *Dr. Claudius* xvii I made a dead set at a new beauty just arrived from the South.

1894 F. M. ELLIOT *Rom. Gossip* v. 148 Women all through his life made a dead set at Garibaldi.

e. An absolute stop; a complete check; phr. *at a dead set*. Also *University slang* = DEAD *n.* 5.

1806 T. S. SURR *Winter in London* III. viii. 211 Hollo—what's this!—the duchess of Drinkwater at a dead sett!

1848 *Webster's Amer. Dict. Eng. Lang.* at *Set* *To be at a dead set*, is to be in a fixed state or condition which precludes further progress.

1851 B. H. HALL *Coll. College Words* 92 See the front of Logic lower; Screws, dead-sets, and fines.

1854 H. D. THOREAU *Walden* 72 The man is at a dead set who has got through a knot hole or gateway where his sledge load of furniture cannot follow him.

f. Hunting. An abrupt stop made by an animal with its muzzle in the direction of the prey; *esp.* the position taken up by a dog in pointing game. (Cf. 6.)

1819 T. B. JOHNSON *Shooter's Compan.* 23 Happening to pass a small bush, with the whelp close to me..when the bitch was at a distance, he made a dead set.

1863 W. C. BALDWIN *Afr. Hunting* v. 122 He made a dead set, getting my wind; and immediately made a desperate charge.

II. The manner or position in which a thing is set.

†**11.** The way in which something is set down in writing. *Obs. rare.*

1535 W. STEWART tr. H. Boethius *Bk. Cron. Scotl.* (1858) II. 27 Ane herald..Quhilk schew to him ilk word fra end to end,..In forme and sett as I haif said 3ow heir.

12. Tendency, inclination; determination (of the mind, character, action, etc.) in a certain direction; often = settled direction, fixed habit. Also *spec.* in *Psychol.*, a predisposition or expectation that influences the response of a person or animal: used variously of conscious or unconscious, or of mental or physical, states. Cf. SET *v.*¹ 93c.

1567 J. MAPLET *Greene Forest* f. 14 There is another kind of Lodestone..that is of contrarie set and disposition, which will haue none of Iron.

1603 S. DANIEL *Def. Ryme* in *Panegyrike* sig. G4 Which frame of wordes..are disposed into diuers fashions, according to the humour of the Composer and the set of the time.

a1640 J. FLETCHER & P. MASSINGER *False One* II. ii, in F. Beaumont & J. Fletcher *Comedies & Trag.* (1647) sig. Qq4/1 Heere's a strange alteration in the Court; Mens faces are of other setts, and motions.

1692 BP. G. BURNET *Disc. Pastoral Care* vii. 80 Tully's Offices will give the Mind a noble sett.

a1732 T. BOSTON *Memoirs* (1776) VIII. 173 The Lord was pleased to give my heart a set toward the preaching of Christ.

1847 H. MILLER *First Impressions Eng.* xvi. 297 The poetical mind of England had taken an inveterate set.

1852 J. S. BLACKIE *On Stud. Lang.* 10 In the..process by which the mother tongue is acquired, the mind acquires a habit and a set.

1890 W. JAMES *Princ. Psychol.* I. iv. 124 It is not in the moment of their forming, but in the moment of their producing *motor effects*, that resolves and aspirations communicate the new 'set' to the brain.

1898 T. C. ALLBUTT et al. *Syst. Med.* V. 843 Strain of the heart,—that is, of a permanent 'after-strain' or 'set' towards other than the normal lines of its action.

1911 E. L. THORNDIKE *Animal Intell.* vi. 249 If a cat pushes a button around with its nose, while..the act to which its general 'set' impels it..is that of clawing at an opening, it will be less aided in the

- formation of the habit than if it had been chiefly concerned in what its nose was doing.
- 1918 R. S. WOODWORTH *Dynamic Psychol.* iii. 56 Danger arouses a 'set' of the nervous system towards escape.
- 1931 *Brit. J. Psychol.* Apr. 379 The theory..that ability in proof-reading is largely a matter of attitude or mental 'set'.
- 1953 J. B. CARROLL *Study of Lang.* iii. 77 There are actually prelinguistic organismic events (sets, attitudes, etc.) which can be identified with what expression theorists regard as 'thoughts' and 'ideas'.
- 1968 *Science* 13 Dec. 1236/1 'Set' refers to the subject's psychological expectations of what a drug will do to him in relation to his general personality structure.
- 1979 FORGUS & SHULMAN *Personality* i. 9 We can measure the dominant perceptual sets..and..these sets, in fact, direct perceptual selectivity.

13. The direction in which a current flows or a wind blows; also, the action of the water, etc. in taking a particular direction.

Locally applied to particular currents.

- 1719 D. DEFOE *Life Robinson Crusoe* 225 How the Sets of the Tide, or Currents lay, when the Flood came in.
- 1755 J. SHEBBEARE *Lydia* (1769) I. 125 By a sudden sett of the sea..Jack tumbled forward.
- 1793 *Philos. Trans.* (Royal Soc.) **83** 189 Although the northern set was trifling..; yet the wind, being both scant and light, we could never overcome the tendency of the current.
- 1823 W. SCORESBY *Jrnl. Voy. Northern Whale-fishery* 350 The set of the ice.
- 1827 A. W. FONBLANQUE *Eng. under Seven Admin.* (1837) I. 13 As straws show the set of the wind.
- 1876 F. W. FARRAR *In Days of Youth* ii. 19 A feather will show you the direction of the wind; a straw will prove the set of a current.
- 1879 *Scribner's Monthly* **19** 327/1 Often in storms a strong swift current runs along the coast between the outer bar and the shore, called by the surf-men the 'set' or 'cut'.

14.

a. The build or make of a person. *Obs. exc. dial.*

- 1611 J. SPEED *Hist. Great Brit.* IX. xxiv. 851/2 Of a bigge and broad set.
- a1640 J. FLETCHER & P. MASSINGER *Custome of Countrey* v. v, in F. Beaumont & J. Fletcher *Comedies & Trag.* (1647) sig. Cc4/2 A goodly Gentleman, Of a more manly set, I never look'd on.
- 1708 *Brit. Apollo* No. 32. 4/2 He is of a Squat Set.
- 1825 J. JAMIESON *Etymol. Dict. Sc. Lang.* Suppl. *Set*..2. Shape, figure, cast, make, Aberd[een].
- 1888 *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 291/2 Something effective and picturesque in the set of his strongly built frame.

†**b.** *gen. ?* Shape. *Obs.*

1567 J. MAPLET *Greene Forest* f. 46 Houselike..for his endurance is resembled to Ambrosia..for his roundset [? *read* round set] or figure to the Bullocks eie.

15.

a. *Weaving.* (Usually *sett.*) The adjustment of the reeds (of a loom) necessary for the making of a fabric of a particular texture; hence, the make of a fabric as determined by this.

1780 A. YOUNG *Tour Ireland* (Dublin ed.) I. 324 The grist or fineness of the yarn, determines the set or fineness of the reed through which it is to be wrought.

1833 J. HOLLAND *Treat. Manuf. Metal* II. 350 When the set of the web is from three fourths of an inch to forty meshes in the inch.

1879 T. R. ASHENHURST *Pract. Treat. Weaving & Designing Textile Fabrics* 272 The systems of calculating the sett of reeds.

1879 T. R. ASHENHURST *Pract. Treat. Weaving & Designing Textile Fabrics* 272 If a cloth contains sixty threads per inch, it would be said to be a sixty sett cloth.

1893 *Times* 10 July 4/6 Medium and heavy setts of powerlooms are having most attention, fine descriptions being almost neglected.

b. (Usually *sett.*) Each or any of the squares in the pattern of a tartan; the pattern itself.

1721 A. RAMSAY *Tartana* 197 The Plaid itself gives pleasure to the sight, To see how all its sets imbibe the light.

1725 A. RAMSAY *Gentle Shepherd* I. i Scarlet and green the sets, the borders blue.

1811 A. GRANT *Ess. Superstit. Highlanders* II. 207 Every clan wore a different *set.* of tartan.

1819 SCOTT *Legend of Montrose* viii, in *Tales of my Landlord* 3rd Ser. III. 327 How many checks in the sett of his plaid and trews.

1897 *Standard* 21 Sept. 7/1 The Murray 'sett'.

16. The form which a body assumes as the result of strain or pressure or in the process of solidification, etc.; *esp.* the permanent deflection of a bar or plate of metal or wood.

1807 T. YOUNG *Course Lect. Nat. Philos.* I. xiii. 136 The operation of forces applied in any of these ways may produce a permanent alteration, or change of figure...: this change is sometimes called by workmen settling, or taking a set.

1812 P. NICHOLSON *Mech. Exercises* 85 When the timbers are sagged, either by casting or by a set.

1824 T. TREGGOLD *Pract. Ess. Strength of Cast Iron* (ed. 2) 81 That iron is to be esteemed the best which will bear the greatest degree of flexure without set.

1847 H. MILLER *First Impressions Eng.* xii. 226 Like a piece of old elastic parchment that had been acquiring for ages the set of the roll.

- 1869 M. SOMERVILLE *Molec. Sci.* i. ii. 77 The..phenomena of crystals depends upon unequal conductivity..and their set is determined by the difference between the forces of attraction and repulsion.
- 1883 *Science* 1 174/1 The 'set' of a zinc bar when heated.
- 1886 R. HOLLAND *Gloss. Words County of Chester* (at cited word) When the crystals of bay-salt begin to form upon the strings and thorns, the pan is said to have a good or a bad set according as the crystals are large or small.
- 1888 *Lockwood's Dict. Mech. Engin.* *Permanent set*, that amount of deflection from which a beam or structure is unable to return to its original form, but which remains constant.
- 1903 R. KIPLING *Five Nations* 24 Turning the shingle, returning the shingle, changing the set of the sand.

17. The way in which an article of dress is arranged or 'hangs'; also similarly of a ship's sails.

- 1822 *Examiner* 68/2 Studying the set of her bonnet.
- 1827 A. W. FONBLANQUE *Eng. under Seven Admin.* (1837) I. 107 She who shapes the mistress's caps, and gives the set to her head-dress—the lady's maid!
- 1828 H. LE BLANC *Art of Tying the Cravat* (ed. 2) 65 Scrutinizing examination will be made on the set of his Cravat.
- 1845 M. J. HOWELL *Hand-bk. Dress-making* 40 In order to give the skirt a pretty 'set'.
- 1881 *Daily Tel.* 28 Jan. Considering the squareness of her bows and the set of her canvas.
- 1896 R. KIPLING *Seven Seas* 166 The set o' the tunic's 'orrid.

18.

a. The position or attitude (either occasional or habitual) given to a limb or a part of the body.

- 1855 A. BAIN *Senses & Intellect* II. i. 322 A peculiar set of the limb, for example the turning out of the toes.
- 1863 B. TAYLOR *Hannah Thurston* iv His yellow hair..grew back from the temples with a sturdy set.
- 1876 'G. ELIOT' *Daniel Deronda* I. I. vii. 120 The set of her head and neck.
- 1896 R. KIPLING *Seven Seas* 165 'E saw the set o' my shoulders.

b. The action or result of fixing the hair when damp so that it dries in the required style. Also with reference to fixing the hair by other means (with heat, a setting lotion, etc.), and as **hair-set**. Cf. SET *v.*¹ 81b.

- 1933 G. A. FOAN *Art & Craft Hairdressing Spec. Suppl.* iv. 23/2 The procedure here outlined in reference to the final touch must be followed exactly as indicated in order to prevent entirely spoiling the set.

- 1938 H. GOODMAN *Princ. Professional Beauty Culture* v. 90 After permanent set the intramolecular breakdown and rebuilding processes have effectively evolved a new..conformation.
- 1940 W. PECK *Bewildering Cares* iv. 110 I met her once at the hairdresser's bewailing that she couldn't afford a nice steak for Herbert on their income, and she had obviously spent the price of it on a 'set'.
- 1946 K. TENNANT *Lost Haven* (1947) xiii. 204 You can't get a hairset here and I have to do my own.
- 1975 *Country Life* 27 Mar. 806/1 Many women disliked wearing a hat because it squashed their 'set'.

19.

a. The inclination or dip of the arm of an axle-tree; the elevation of a gun.

- 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. of Farm* III. 1163 Were all wheels made with one uniform degree of dish, we should then have one simple standard for the *set* of the axle-arms.
- 1852 R. BURN *Naval & Mil. Techn. Dict. French Lang.* (ed. 2) II. 233 Set or dip of an axletree-arm.
- 1876 G. E. VOYLE *Mil. Dict.*
- 1898 EARL OF SUFFOLK et al. *Encycl. Sport* II. 168/2 (Punt shooting) '*Set*' of the gun, the elevation given to the gun as it lies on the gun-rest.

b. The slight lateral deflection in opposite directions of the alternate teeth of a saw; the amount of this deflexion.

- 1837 L. HEBERT *Engin. & Mech. Encycl.* II. 630 Each successive tooth is placed in opposite directions, at the desired *set*, to allow the blade of the saw to pass through the wood without resistance.
- 1853 A. URE *Dict. Arts* (ed. 4) II. 584 The 'set' of the saw consists in inclining the teeth at the particular angle known to be the best to facilitate the exit of the sawdust.
- 1875 E. H. KNIGHT *Pract. Dict. Mech.* 1047/1 *Hack-saw*, a frame saw of moderate set.

c. *Typogr.* (See quotes.)

- 1892 *Southward's Pract. Printing* (ed. 4) 29 (*note*) The set of the types signifies the proper position of the letters, with reference to the precise amount of space between them.
- 1908 LEGROS in *Proc. Instit. Mech. Engin.* Dec. 1043 As the letters are not only unequal in set, and since the widths of set generally bear no particular relation to the em (or body).
- 1908 LEGROS in *Proc. Instit. Mech. Engin.* Dec. 1075 The mould thus made is of definite size for body but variable for the width of set.

d. *Bell-ringing.* The inverted position of a bell when it is set. Cf. SET *v.*¹ 66.

- 1677 F. STEDMAN *Campanalogia* 23 A prospect of true ringing at any certain compass under the Sett, may thus be taken.
- 1677 F. STEDMAN *Campanalogia* 39 The reason why one of them is said to move up, is, because he that rings that bell, in the making of the change must hold it up at the Sett a little longer than ordinary, to delay its striking, whereby 'tis made to follow the other note which before it preceded.
- 1901 H. E. BULWER *Gloss. Techn. Terms Bells & Ringing* (1904) 33 *Set*, the position of a bell after being 'raised', when it rests mouth upward a little beyond the balancing point [etc.].

e. *Carpentry.* The amount that the blade of a plane projects below the sole.

- 1898 F. FLETCHER & H. P. FLETCHER *Carpentry & Joinery* xxvi. 281 The set of the plane may be adjusted during use by tapping the iron of the nose.
- 1950 M. T. TELLING *Carpentry & Joinery* II. 116 All [planes] will do specially true work if properly set and sharpened and many of them have mechanical means of adjusting the cutting iron to a fine set.

f. 'The amount of compression of which a spring is capable, or which it takes under a load; in helical coils, the distance between two adjacent coils; in elliptic springs, the decreased distance between opposed parts' (*Funk's Stand. Dict.* 1895).

III. Something which is set.

†**20.** An area marked out for a hunt. *Obs.*

- a1425 EDWARD, DUKE OF YORK *Master of Game* (Digby) xxxv Þe maister of þe game shulde be enformed by þe forster or þe parker, what game þe kyng shall fynde withinne his sette.
- a1425 EDWARD, DUKE OF YORK *Master of Game* (Digby) xxxv The maister of þe game shulde be accorded with þe maister forster or parker whedyr þat it be where þe kynge shall hunte suche a daye. And if þe sette be wyde [etc.].

21. (Usually *sett*.) The area of ground worked by a particular mining company. Chiefly *Cornwall*. (Cf. 3b.)

- 1778 W. PRYCE *Mineralogia Cornubiensis* 326 A Set is the ground granted to a company of Adventurers.
- 1835 *English's Mining Rev.* July 113 The setts comprise a circumference of several miles, and abound in lodes producing argentiferous ores.
- 1839 H. T. DE LA BECHE *Rep. Geol. Cornwall* xv. 537 The bounder had the right of granting the sett.
- 1855 J. R. LEIFCHILD *Cornwall: Mines & Miners* 136 The lord of the soil grants a *sett*., or portion of

mining soil, for a lease of years.

1893 *Daily News* 11 Jan. 2/1 There are many old workings in Wheal Owles, and several setts have of late years been discontinued.

†**22.** ? An ornament of jewellery set on a garment. *Obs.*

1502 in N. H. Nicolas *Privy Purse Expenses Elizabeth of York* (1830) 21 Spangelles settes..sterrys dropes and pointes..for garnisshing of jakettes.

1542 in T. Thomson *Coll. Inventories Royal Wardrobe* (1815) 67 Upon the samyne bonet tene settis, in every set four dyomonttis,..with xxiiii settis of perle in every set four perle.

1542 in T. Thomson *Coll. Inventories Royal Wardrobe* (1815) 67–68 Tene plain dyamonttis in settis of gold, xviii settis of perle, & thrie in every set, and nyne set lang, and four in every sett.

23.

a. ‘Any thing not sown, but put in a state of some growth into the ground’ (Johnson); a twig, slip, or sucker, used for planting or grafting; also, a young plant, *esp.* a bedding-out plant.

In the following quot. given by *N.E.D.* (1912) the word *set* is replaced by *act* in A. Marvell *Poems & Lett.* (1975):

1662 A. MARVELL *Let.* 1 Apr. in *Wks.* (1875) II. 80 We may..graft an Set of our own upon their motion.

1513 G. DOUGLAS in tr. Virgil *Æneid* XII. Prol. 133 The plane pulderyt with semely settis sovnd.

?1523 J. FITZHERBERT *Bk. Husbandry* f. xl At euery two fote or thre fote to leaue one sette growynge nat plached.

?1523 J. FITZHERBERT *Bk. Husbandry* f. xl Take a sharpe hatchette..and cutte the settes in a playne place nygh vnto the yerth.

1553 T. WILSON *Arte of Rhetorique* 26 b To ympe or graffe yong settes.

1577 B. GOOGE tr. C. Heresbach *Foure Bks. Husbandry* II. f. 66 Doo they growe of the seede, or of the sette?

1615 W. LAWSON *Country Housewives Garden* (1626) 12 It shall grieue you much to see your yong sets rubd loose at the roots.

1618 in J. Harland *House & Farm Accts. Shuttleworths* (1856) II. 233 ij hundrethe setts of lycorise for my M^{ris}, iiij^s.

1669 J. WORLIDGE *Systema Agriculturæ* (1681) 147 Chuse the largest Sets that you can get; which are to be had best out of a Garden well kept.

1760 R. BROWN *Compl. Farmer: Pt. 2* 107 One runner will make many setts.

1848 *Jrnl. Royal Agric. Soc.* 9 II. 563 The hop-set is no sooner put in the ground than its enemies find it out.

1877 E. PEACOCK *Gloss. Words Manley & Corringham, Lincs.* *Set.*.(2) Young plants of any kind used for bedding out.

1894 *Daily News* 15 Jan. 6/6 Find a swampy place, and get good setts (that is, two or three year old withy).

fig.

1605 *1st Pt. Jeronimo* sig. F This arme neare met, So strong a courage of so greene a set.

b. A potato, or a portion of a potato, used as seed. *local.*

1767 A. YOUNG *Farmer's Lett.* 12 Dropping potatoe setts.

1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. of Farm* II. 655 The tubers are either planted whole, or cut into parts called *sets*.

1896 P. A. GRAHAM *Red Scour* vi. 83 I found her and Mark and Elsie planting potatoes... She carried a basket of 'sets',...and Mark was doing the hard work of digging.

1901 *Dundee Advertiser* 23 Apr. 4 The common potato growing practice is to allow..six inches from sett to sett of the seed.

†**c.** A shoot. *Obs.*

1658 J. EVELYN tr. N. de Bonnefons *French Gardiner* 182 When you have cut off the heads of your Cabbages..they will produce small sets, which the Italians call Broccoli.

d. An undeveloped or rudimentary fruit; *collect.*, flowers that have been fertilized and should develop into fruit. Also, the development of fruit following fertilization. Cf. SET *v.*¹ 98.

1888 C. M. DOUGHTY *Trav. Arabia Deserta* II. xv. 436 Every cluster, which had inclosed in it a spray of the male blossom, was lapped about with a wisp of dry forage; and this defended the sets from early flights of locusts.

1891 *Cent. Dict.* s.v. The peaches set well, but the sets all dropped off.

1928 *Daily Tel.* 12 June 5/2 Of culinary apples the set appears good on the whole... Dessert cherries have had a fair set.

1929 E. C. AUCHTER & H. B. KNAPP *Orchard & Small Fruit Culture* viii. 369 In such orchards, if the blossoms are properly pollinated, much better sets occur.

1964 H. B. TUKEY *Dwarfed Fruit Trees* xxiii. 422 Bee flight is noticeably reduced at 60 degrees F. or below, and pollination, fertilization, and fruit set are accordingly reduced.

1973 H. G. KINGHAM *U.K. Tomato Man.* xvi. 126 For all crops overhead damping with a course spray helps to improve set.

†**24.** The stake put down at dice, etc. Also *fig.*

1537 in *Privy Purse Exp. Hen. VIII* (1827) 143 Paied to the iij Cotons for iij settes the whiche the kinges grace loste to them in Grenewiche parke.

1592 A. DAY *2nd Pt. Eng. Secretorie* sig. G2, in *Eng. Secretorie* (rev. ed.) The place [*sic*] that I vsed was with them, the sette by agreement not great, concluded vppon more to passe time then

wherof to make gaine.

- 1607 T. HEYWOOD *Woman Kilde with Kindnesse* sig. D4^v Let them that are taken playing false forfeit the set.
- 1611 R. COTGRAVE *Dict. French & Eng. Tongues* *Mommon*,...a set, by a Mummer, at dice.

†25.

a. A game at dice or cards; hence, the number of points to be made in order to be 'up'.

- 1595 P. HENSLowe *Diary* 2 Jan. (1961) 26 [Title of play] The seat at mawe.
- 1611 J. FLORIO *Queen Anna's New World of Words* *Partita*,...a set or match at any game.
- 1633 J. FORD *Loves Sacrifice* III. sig. G2^v You were best to try a set at Maw.
- 1668 DRYDEN *Sr Martin Mar-all* I. 5 I lose all my Sets, when I want but one of up.
- 1680 C. COTTON *Compl. Gamester* (ed. 2) 58 Picket... The usual Set is an hundred.
- 1680 C. COTTON *Compl. Gamester* (ed. 2) 75 At Cribbidge..the number of the Set is sixty one.
- 1680 C. COTTON *Compl. Gamester* (ed. 2) 79 This Game I conceive is called All-Fours from Highest, Lowest, Jack, and Game, which is the Set as some play it.
- 1687 C. SEDLEY *Bellamira* IV. i, in *Wks.* (1778) II. 161 I lost three sets at back-gammon.

†b. *fig.* Match, contest. *Obs.*

- a1626 W. ROWLEY *Birth of Merlin* (1662) sig. A4 Your Sister and Lord Edwin are in game, and all their wits at stake to win the Set.
- a1657 G. DANIEL *Trinarchodia: Richard II* cclxxxvi, in *Poems* (1878) III. 208 If the sword must try it, Hee had an Equall sett, and choos'd to play it.
- 1687 DRYDEN *Hind & Panther* II. 42 That was but civil war, an equal set, Where Piles with piles, and eagles Eagles met.

26.

a. *Real Tennis* (sometimes spelt *sett*): A group of six games which counts as a unit to the side that wins more than half of them; see also quot. a1769. *Tennis* (always spelt *set*): A group of games counting as a unit towards a match for the person or pair of persons who win the greater number of games in it.

- 1578 J. FLORIO *Firste Fruites* f. 8 I will goe see some play at Tenise, and perhaps play also: will you play two or three settes with me?
- 1591 J. FLORIO *Second Frutes* 25 P. How manie are you my masters? H. We are but two that will plaie. P. Will you plaie in set?
- 1630 tr. G. Botero *Relations Famous Kingdomes World* (rev. ed.) 185 Ye shall see them play Sets at Tennis in the heat of Summer.
- a1769 E. HOYLE *Games* (1778) 203 Six Games make a Set of Tennis, but if what is called an

Advantage Set is played, two successive Games above five Games must be won to decide; or, in Case it should be six Games all, two successive Games must still be won on one Side to conclude the Set.

- 1822 SCOTT *Fortunes of Nigel* II. xii. 283 Perhaps you would like a set at tennis, or a game at balloon.
- 1886 *Field* 31 July 182/2 Mr. Joy only beat Mr. Thorpe after all three sets had been exhausted.
- 1891 'J. S. WINTER' *Lumley* v. 36 I shouldn't have liked to lose my first sett with you.
- 1949 *Lawn Tennis* ('Know the Game' Ser.) 15 The first player or pair to win six games wins the set, except that should the score become five games each—'Five All'—one player or pair must become two games ahead to win the set.
- 1980 *Guardian* 14 July 18/5 Miss Jevans..had a bad patch in the second set before winning 6–1, 7–5.

b. set point *n.* the state of a set when one side or player needs only one point to win the set; also, the point itself (cf. *match point n.* (a) at MATCH *n.*¹ Compounds 2).

- 1928 *Observer* 1 July 29/3 When that cunning player..would, at set-point, send one as hard as he could hit it straight down the centre line.
- 1946 *Times* 26 June 2/3 The Dutch pair, after missing a set point when leading by six games to five, finally secured the first set at 9–7.
- 1972 D. DELMAN *Sudden Death* vi. 152 Set point. I crouch, racket twirling.

c. set ball *n.* Tennis a ball that may decide a set.

- 1928 *Daily Tel.* 26 June 11/7 He went on to lead 4–2 in the third set, and then, at 5–4, had three set balls before running out.

†**27.** One of the pleats of a ruff; also, the arrangement of a ruff in pleats. *Obs.*

- 1594 T. NASHE *Vnfortunate Traveller* sig. G I warrant you should not see one set of her neckercher peruerted or turned awrie.
- 1601 A. DENT *Plaine Mans Path-way to Heauen* 53 Some are as proude of their falling bandes, and little sets, as others are of their great ruffes.
- 1608 G. MARKHAM & L. MACHIN *Dumbe Knight* I. sig. B2^v You haue a pretty set too, how big is the steele you set with?
- 1612 B. JONSON *Alchemist* IV. iii. sig. I3 He speakes, out of a Fortification. 'Pray God, He ha' no squibs in those deepe sets.
- 1651 T. RANDOLPH et al. *Hey for Honesty* III. iii. 27/2 The sets of my old Ruffe lookt like so many Organ-Pipes.

28. = *set scene n.* at *SET adj.*¹ Special uses 1. Also, more widely, the setting, stage furniture, etc., used on stage in a theatre. In *Film-making* and *Television*, the scenery (usually built up rather than painted) and other properties used in the filming of an individual scene; the place or area in which filming takes place. Frequently in phr. **on or off (the) set**. Also *attrib.* and *Comb.* Cf. *FILM SET n.*

- 1859 E. FITZBALL *Thirty-five Years Dramatic Author's Life* I. vi. 91 The vast scenes were pushed into sets, imperfectly painted.
- 1861 *Cornhill Mag.* Aug. 169 In the *Frogs*, we have..a grand full stage 'set' of the Acherusian lake.
- 1868 M. E. BRADDON *Dead Sea Fruit* II. xxvi. 296 If such a set were only manageable at the Bonbonnière! But we have not enough depth for this kind of thing.
- 1880 *Theatre* Apr. 223 The set was excellent, representing the interior of an Elizabethan house.
- 1894 MRS. H. WARD *Marcella* I. i. i. 5 The complete disappearance of this earliest 'set', to use a theatrical phrase, from the scenery of her childhood.
- 1912 F. A. TALBOT *Moving Pictures* x. facing p. 109 (*caption*) Building a solid set for 'The Two Orphans'.
- 1918 H. CROY *How Motion Pictures are Made* 107 With the sets determined upon, preparation for the taking of the picture is begun.
- 1929 *Morning Post* 24 May 12/7 Whether one observes this operation on the 'set' or in the recording-room, one is struck by the essential differences in making talk and silent films.
- 1929 *Morning Post* 24 May 12/7 The director produces his sequence again on the 'set'.
- 1929 'VAN DINE' *Studio Murder Myst.* i. 7 The skeletons of 'dead' sets clothed in flowing veils of gray.
- 1936 P. G. WODEHOUSE *Laughing Gas* iv. 51 She was supposed to be on the set, made up, at six on the following a.m. for some retakes.
- 1947 A. HUXLEY *Let.* 27 July (1969) 573 The ticklish situation on the set made it impossible to come to New York for Claire's wedding.
- 1953 K. REISZ *Technique Film Editing* i. 60 Dialogue-writing, set-design and acting all become subjugated to this central purpose.
- 1956 C. MCCULLERS in *Mademoiselle* Sept. 174/2 Mabel Goodley, the painter and set-designer.
- 1961 G. MILLERSON *Technique Television Production* i. 15 The set designer, responsible for the scenic treatment.
- 1973 *Listener* 22 Nov. 727/3 The same people are very much less agreeable in *Meet Pamela* than they are 'off-set' in *Day for Night*.
- 1977 M. BABSON *Murder, murder, Little Star* xviii. 154 Had there been a further scene..in the dressing-room? Twinkle was being too good on set.

29. (Usually *sett*.) A squared stone (chiefly granite) used for paving.

- 1871 WILLIAMSON *Science Lect.* 2nd Ser. 98 Those square stones which I think are technically called 'sets'.
- 1880 *Daily News* 7 Dec. 6/3 One of the small steamers which trade with setts from the quarries.

1880 *Daily News* 9 Dec. 1/3 A sett stone quarry.

1905 *Academy* 9 Sept. 935/1 The streets used to be paved with setts taken from the black marble quarry.

30. Miscellaneous technical senses.

a. *Plastering*. The finishing coat on walls prepared for painting.

1823 P. NICHOLSON *New Pract. Builder* 373 As the plasterer lays on the set, he draws the brush backwards and forwards over it, till the surface is smooth.

1825 'J. NICHOLSON' *Operative Mechanic* 613 By *set* is denoted a superficial coat of fine stuff or putty upon the rendering.

b. In pile-driving, etc., a body placed between the hammer and the object to be struck.

1837 in *Civil Engineer & Archit. Jrnl.* 1 (1838) 242/2 A set is then applied to the end of the wedge, and the workman strikes it with a hammer.

1842 J. GWILT *Encycl. Archit.* Gloss. 1031 *Sett*, in piling, a piece placed temporarily on the head of a pile.

c. *Fishing*. (a) = 'set net' (see SET *adj.*¹); chiefly **eel-set**. (b) See quot. 1867. (Cf. Middle Dutch *set*, *sete*.)

a1808 *State, Leslie v. Fraser* 56 (Jam.) The practice of hauling their fishing-nets and feith-sets to the shore.

1867 F. FRANCIS *Bk. Angling* iv. 86 The angler..hooks the fish on to his line by a certain arrangement of hooks called a flight or set.

1882 *Blackwood's Edinb. Mag.* Jan. 102 The silver~bellied eel..is only caught in the eel-sets.

1892 *Longman's Mag.* Nov. 88 Along the Norfolk rivers a very important eel fishery is carried on by means of fixed nets known as 'eel-sets'.

d. *Mining*. (See quotes.)

1858 R. HUNT *Catal. Mus. Pract. Geol.* 223 The pillars are taken away, commencing at the extreme end of the sett.

1862 *Chambers's Jrnl.* Apr. 216 The strait sets are excavations four or five feet wide..made..in the side of a seam of coal at a distance of about six yards from each other.

1883 W. S. GRESLEY *Gloss. Terms Coal Mining* *Sett*, a measure of length along the face of a stall, usually from say 6 to 10 feet, by which holers and drivers are paid. A certain number of setts comprise a day's work.

e. Saddlery. 'The filling of deer's hair or other stuffing beneath the ground seat of a saddle, to bring the top seat to its shape' (E. H. Knight *Pract. Dict. Mech.* 1875).

f. (a) A young oyster when first attached; **(b)** the crop of young oysters in a locality.

1881 E. INGERSOLL *Oyster-industry* (10th Census U.S.: Bureau of Fisheries) 248 'The Set is good in Somerset this year'; *i.e.*, there is an abundance of infant oysters.

1887 G. B. GOODE *Fisheries U.S.: Hist. & Methods* II. 515 At only a few places does a breed of oysters, or a 'set', as it is termed, occur with any regularity.

1887 G. B. GOODE *Fisheries U.S.: Hist. & Methods* II. 540 (*note*) There is no word in the Northern States for infant oysters, except the terms 'set', 'spat', 'spawn', &c.

g. N. Amer. Trapping. A trap or snare; a series of traps.

1912 V. E. ROE *Maid of Whispering Hills* 74 What is all this beside that which waits the runner of the trail at every 'set' in those many miles?

1942 *Sun* (Baltimore) 2 Feb. 4/3 Each morning the trapper makes the rounds of his 'set'. He strips the skin from the animals..and takes the pelts to market.

1977 *Globe & Mail* (Toronto) 30 Mar. 33/3 We were still within 20 yards of the trap's position, when a 55-pound beaver, swimming unseen under the ice, hit the set.

IV. A place where something is set.

31. A place where stationary fishing nets are fixed.

1745 F. BLOMEFIELD *Ess. Topogr. Hist. Norfolk* II. 866 There were 19 appropriated Fishing-Places, which they called Setts, which were yearly allotted by the Mayor, to certain Fresh-Water Fishermen.

1867 W. H. SMYTH & E. BELCHER *Sailor's Word-bk.* *Sett*, the particular spot in a river or frith, where stationary nets are fixed.

32. The earth or burrow of a badger.

1898 A. E. PEASE *Badger* 40 I knew of nine badger 'sets' in the vicinity.

1898 A. E. PEASE *Badger* 44 A badger's earth or warren is properly and generally called a 'set' or 'cete'.

1908 *Nation* 6 June 340/2 For a year or two past the brocks had held their sett in the brake.

V.

33. (Often *sett*.) A tool or device used for ‘setting’ (in various technical senses); *esp.* a heavy punch or chisel for use on metal or stone. Cf. SATE
n.: see quotes.

- 1750 T. R. BLANCKLEY *Naval Expositor* *Setts* for Saws, are for setting the Teeth when out of Order, so as they may cut with the greater Exactness.
- 1812 P. NICHOLSON *Mech. Exercises* 353 [Smithing:] *Side Set*, a hammer used to set shoulders of rivets to a true square or bevel, as required.
- 1843 C. HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning & Mech. Manip.* I. 387 The work..is bent over with the blows of a flat-ended punch or set.
- 1846 C. HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning & Mech. Manip.* II. 697 The saw-set..consists of a narrow blade of steel, with notches of various widths for different saws... In some few cases saw-set pliers are used.
- 1881 *Design & Work* 24 Dec. 451/2 The operation of ‘driving’ rivets consists in placing a set on the end of the rivet, and sledging it down to form the head.
- 1888 *Lockwood's Dict. Mech. Engin.* *Set*, or *Sett*, (1) a narrow square nosed or round nosed chisel-like tool used by fitters and boiler makers for chipping grooves in metal. (2) Broad chisel-like tools used for cutting off hot or cold bars on the anvil.
- 1888 *Lockwood's Dict. Mech. Engin.* *Hook Wrench*, or *Set*, or *Hand Hook*, a smith's tool used for taking work out of winding or out of twist.
- 1892 *Labour Comm. Gloss.* *Sett*, a piece of bar-iron bent to the same curvature or shape that an iron pipe is required to take.
- 1905 P. N. HASLUCK *Handyman's Bk.* 134/1 For punching the nail head below the surface of the work, the steel set is used.
- 1920 A. H. FAY *Gloss. Mining & Mineral Industry* 605/1 *Sett*, a quarryman's term for a square-faced steel tool which is held in position and struck with a sledge to cause a fracture in a rock mass.
- 1942 W. H. ATHERTON *Workshop Pract.* (ed. 2) V. 176 The Hot Sate or Sett..is in constant use for cutting away extraneous metal while hot.
- 1962 J. G. ROBERTSON *Metalwork* viii. 95 The Hot Set (Sett or Sate)..is used for cutting off on the cutting face of the anvil. A smith holds the work and hot set whilst a striker wields the sledge hammer. The hot set is designed to cut hot metal.
- 1964 H. HODGES *Artifacts* iv. 77 The heads were either cast, or formed as the rivets were closed using sets (setts) or snaps.

This entry has not yet been fully updated (first published 1912).