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Also found in: Thesaurus, Medical, Legal, Acronyms, Idioms, Encyclopedia, Wikipedia. measurefrom "Roses of the South," a waltz by Johann Strauss the Younger (mĕzh'ər)n.1. a. A reference standard or sample used for the quantitative comparison of properties: The standard kilogram is maintained as a measure of mass.b. A unit specified by a scale, such as an inch, or by variable conditions, such as a day's march.c. A system of measurement, such as the metric system.d. The dimensions, quantity, or capacity of something as ascertained by comparison with a standard: curtains made to measure; took his measure for the suit jacket.e. A device used for measuring.f. The act of measuring: By measure the picture was four feet tall.2. An evaluation or a basis of comparison: "the final measure of the worth of a society" (Joseph Wood Krutch).3. Extent or degree: The problem was in large measure caused by his carelessness.4. a. A definite quantity that has been measured out: a measure of wine.b. A fitting amount: a measure of recognition.c. A limited amount or degree: a measure of goodwill.5. a. Limit; bounds: generosity knowing no measure.b. Appropriate restraint; moderation: "The union of ... fervor with measure, passion with correctness, this surely is the ideal" (William James).6. a. An action taken as a means to an end; an expedient: measures taken to improve energy efficiency. b. A law or ballot initiative adopted by a legislature as a remedy for a problem.7. b. Music The metric unit between two bars on the staff; a bar.v. measured, meas-ur-ing, meas-ures v.t.r.1. a. To ascertain the dimensions, quantity, or capacity of: to measure the height of the ceiling.b. To mark, lay out, or establish dimensions for by measuring: measure off an area.c. To mark off or apportion, usually with reference to a given unit of measurement: measure out a pint of milk.d. To allot or distribute as if by measuring; mete The revolutionary tribunal measured out harsh justice.2. a. To estimate by evaluation or comparison: "I gave them an account ... of the situation as far as I could measure it" (Winston S. Churchill).b. To bring into comparison: She measured her power with that of a dangerous adversary.3. To serve as a measure of: The inch measures length.4. To consider or choose with care; weigh: He measures his words with caution.5. Archaic To travel over: "We must measure twenty miles today" (Shakespeare).v.intr.1. To be of a specific measurement: The room measures 12 by 20 feet.2. To take a measurement.3. To allow of measurement: White sugar measures more easily than brown.Phrasal Verb: measure up1. To be the equal of something; have similar quality.2. To have the necessary qualifications: a candidate who just didn't measure up.Idioms: beyond measure for good measure In addition to the required amount.in a/some measure To a degree: The new law was in a measure harmful.[Middle English, from Old French mesure, from Latin mĕnsūra, from mĕnsus, past participle of mĕtīrī, to measure; see mē- in Indo-European roots.]American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition. Copyright © 2016 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. ('mɜzəz) pl n (Geological Science) rock strata that are characterized by a particular type of sediment or deposit: coal measures. Collins English Dictionary - Complete and Unabridged, 12th Edition 2014 © HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2014 Want to thank TFD for its existence? Tell a friend about us, add a link to this page, or visit the webmaster's page for free fun content. Link to this page: "Let us go to the king's tailor," he said; "and since he measures the king, I think, by my faith, I may do worse than allow him to measure me!Stremov, carrying with him several members, went over to Alexey Alexandrovitch's side, and not contenting himself with warmly defending the measure proposed by Karenin, proposed other more extreme measures in the same direction.It is true, as has been before observed that facts, too stubborn to be resisted, have produced a species of general assent to the abstract proposition that there exist material defects in our national system; but the usefulness of the concession, on the part of the old adversaries of federal measures, is destroyed by a strenuous opposition to a remedy, upon the only principles that can give it a chance of success.In cases of capture; of piracy; of the post office; of coins, weights, and measures; of trade with the Indians; of claims under grants of land by different States; and, above all, in the case of trials by courts-marshal in the army and navy, by which death may be inflicted without the intervention of a jury, or even of a civil magistrate; in all these cases the powers of the Confederation operate immediately on the persons and interests of individual citizens.Strict measures have been taken to put an end to disorder and to re-establish public security.'He is making game of us,' they said; and the shoemakers seized their yard measures and the tanners their leathern aprons and they gave Big Klaus a good beating.Did not you promise me, brother, that you would take none of these headstrong measures? Was it not by these headstrong measures that you forced my niece to run away from you in the country?(though you do not recognize) a Fourth Dimension, which is not colour nor brightness nor anything of the kind, but a true Dimension, although I cannot point out to you its direction, nor can you possibly measure it.' What would you say to such a visitor?When she took the paste out to bake it, she left smears of dough sticking to the sides of the measure, put the measure on the shelf behind the stove, and let this residue ferment.The appropriate metre was also here introduced; hence the measure is still called the iambic or lampooning measure, being that in which people lampooned one another.And Mopsus answered: ' Ten thousand is their number, and their measure is a bushel: one fig is left over, which you would not be able to put into the measure.'Therefore measure not dispatch, by the times of sitting, but by the advancement of the business. Verb: measure me-zhu(r)Determine the measurements of something or somebody, take measurements of'Measure the length of the wall'; "measure out the length of the wall"; - mensurate [rare], measure out Determine or express the amount or quantity of something'he measured the amount of rice left'; - quantify, quantitate Have certain dimensions'This table surfaces measures 20 inches by 36 inches' Estimate or determine the nature, value, quality, ability, extent, or significance of'We need to measure the impact of these changes' - evaluate, valueate [N. Amer], assess, appraise, value, scope, apprise [Brit, archaic], apprize [archaic] Compare or judge by a standard'Don't measure yourself against unrealistic ideals'Noun: measure me-zhu(r)How much there is or how many there are of something that you can quantify'He added a small measure of salt to the recipe'; - quantity, amount The act or process of assigning numbers to phenomena according to a rule'Scientists developed a new measure for quantifying biodiversity'; - measurement, measuring, mensuration A basis for comparison; a reference point against which other things can be evaluated'they set the measure for all subsequent work'; - standard, criterion, touchstone Measuring instrument having a sequence of marks at regular intervals; used as a reference in making measurements'The carpenter used a measure to determine the length of the board"; - measuring stick, measuring rod A container of some standard capacity that is used to obtain fixed amounts of a substance'The recipe called for two measures of flour" A course of action made as part of progress toward a goal"the situation called for strong measures"; - step (law) a statute in draft before it becomes law"they held a public hearing on the measure"; - bill (prosody) the accent in a metrical foot of verse"The poem's regular measure gave it a rhythmic quality"; - meter [US], metre [Brit, Cdn], beat, cadence Musical notation for a repeating pattern of musical beats"the orchestra omitted the last twelve measures of the song"; - barDerived forms: measured, measures, measuringSee also nonstandard, qualify, standardType of: abstract entity, abstraction, activity, be, carry, container, convey, decide, determine, evaluate, express, instrument, judge, legal document, legal instrument, make up one's mind, maneuver [US], manoeuvre [Brit, Cdn], measuring device, measuring instrument, measuring system, metric, musical notation, official document, pass judgment, poetic rhythm, prosody, rhythmic pattern, system of measurement, tactical maneuver [US], tactical manoeuvre [Brit, Cdn]Encyclopedia: Measure Collins Concise English Dictionary © HarperCollins Publishers:: measures /mɜzəz/ pl n rock strata that are characterized by a particular type of sediment or deposit: coal measures WordReference Random House Learner's Dictionary of American English © 2025meas+ure ('mɜzə/USA pronunciation n, v, -ured, -ur-ing, n. Weights and Measures a unit or standard of measurementweights and measures. Weights and Measures a system of measurementliquid measure. Weights and Measures a unit or standard of measurementcapacity, for measuring, the extent, dimensions, quantity, etc., of something, ascertained esp. by comparison with a standard:to take the measure of a thing, the act or process of ascertaining the extent, dimensions, or quantity of something; measurement. Weights and Measuresa definite or known quantity measured out:to drink a measure of wine, any standard of comparison, estimation, or judgment, a quantity, degree, or proportion:in large measure, a moderate amount:to live with a measure of enjoyment, a limit, or an extent or degree not to be exceeded: to know no measure, reasonable bounds or limits:to know no measure. Governmenta legislative bill or enactment:The senate passed the new measure. Usually, measures, actions or procedures intended as a means to an end:to take measures to avert suspicion. Poetrya short rhythmical movement or arrangement, as in poetry or music. Poetrya particular kind of such arrangement. Music and Dancethe music contained between two bar lines; bar. Poetrya metrical unit. Music and Dancean air or melody. Music and Dancea slow, dignified dance. PrintingPrint, the width, measured in ems or picas, to which a column or page of printed matter is set. Geology measures, Geol. beds; strata. MathematicsMath, an abstraction of the property of length; a set function assigning to each set of a collection of sets a value, usu. having the properties of sigma finiteness and fnite additivity, the functional value of the whole collection being greater than zero. Idioms beyond measure, too much to be reckoned; immeasurably; extremely:The suffering that they endured was beyond measure. Idioms for good measure, as an extra: In addition to dessert, they served chocolates for good measure. Idioms have or take someone's measure, to judge or assess someone's character, capabilities, etc.; size up:During their conversation she was taking his measure as a prospective employee. Idioms in a or some measure, to some extent or degree:His conclusion is justified in some measure. v.t. to ascertain the extent, dimensions, quantity, capacity, etc., of, esp. by comparison with a standard:to measure boundaries, to mark off or deal out by way of measurement (often fol. by off or out); to measure out two cups of flour, to estimate the relative amount, value, etc., of, by comparison with some standard:to measure the importance of an issue, to judge or appraise by comparison with something or someone else:to measure Corneille against Racine, to serve as the measure of:Her sacrifices measure the degree of her love, to adjust or proportion:to measure a portion to one's liking, to bring into comparison or competition:to measure one's strength with another's, to travel over; traverse:to measure a room with great strides. v.i. to take measurements, to admit of measurement, to be of a specified measure. Idioms measure one's length, to fall or be knocked down; fall flat:He missed a step in the dark and measured his length at the bottom. Idioms measure swords: to test one's preparedness for a contest or encounter, to battle with swords, to fight, compete, etc.The producer of the poorly reviewed show decided to measure swords with the critics. measure up, to reach a certain standard: The exhibition didn't measure up to last year's. to be capable or qualified:As an administrator, he couldn't quite measure up. Latin mĕnsūra equivalent. to mĕns(us) (past participle of mĕtīrī to measure, mete) + -ūra -ure Middle French Middle English measure 1250-1300 meas+ur+er, n. Collins Concise English Dictionary © HarperCollins Publishers:: measure /mɜzə/ n the extent, quantity, amount, or degree of something, as determined by measurement or calculation a device for measuring distance, volume, etc, such as a graduated scale or container a system of measurement: give the size in metric measure a standard used in a system of measurements a specific or standard amount of something: a measure of grain, short measure, full measure a basis or standard for comparison reasonable or permissible limit or bounds: we must keep it within measure degree or extent (often in phrases such as in some measure, in a measure, etc): they gave us a measure of freedom (often plural) a particular action intended to achieve an effect: a legislative bill, act, or resolutionanother word for bar| poetic rhythm or cadence: metre a metrical foot poetic a melody or tune the act of measuring; measurement archaic a dance the width of a page or column of typefor good measure = as an extra precaution or beyond requirementsmade to measure = (of clothes) made to fit an individual purchaser vb (transitive) often followed by up: to determine the size, amount, etc, of by measurement (intransitive) to make a measurement or measurements (transitive) to estimate or determine (transitive) to function as a measurement of the ohm measures electrical resistance (transitive) to bring into competition or conflict: he measured his strength against that of his opponent (intransitive) to be as specified in extent, amount, etc: the room measures six feet (transitive) to travel or move over as if measuringEtymology: 13th Century: from Old French, from Latin mĕnsūra measure, from mĕnsus, past participle of mĕtīrī to measure Etymology Noun Middle English measure "act of measuring, instrument for measuring, standard unit of quantity, size, measurable amount, proper proportion, moderation, temperance," borrowed from Anglo-French, going back to Latin mĕnsūra "act of measuring, dimension determined by measurement, amount, instrument for measuring," from mensus, past participle of mĕtior, mĕtīrī "to determine the extent of, mark off by measuring" + -ūra -ure; mĕtior verbal derivative of an Indo-European noun *meh1-ti- "act of measuring" (whence Old English mæth "measure, degree, efficacy," Greek mētis "measure, skill, craft," Sanskrit mātī- "measure, correct understanding"), nominal derivative of a verbal base *meh1-, whence, as a reduplicated present, Sanskrit mimite "(s/he) measures, shares," Avestan framimāθā "(s/he) should arrange" Note: The irregular past participle mensus, alongside a regular derivative mĕtītus only found in later classical texts, may have been formed by analogy with pensus, past participle of pendere "to weigh." Verb Middle English mesuren "to calculate the measurements of, determine the extent of by measuring, apportion, moderate, control, judge," borrowed from Anglo-French mesurer, going back to Late Latin mĕnsūrāre "to calculate the measurements of," derivative of mĕnsūra measure entry 1 First Known Use Noun 13th century, in the meaning defined at sense 1a(1) Verb 14th century, in the meaning defined at transitive sense 1a Time Traveler The first known use of measure was in the 13th century See more words from the same century 1 : an amount or degree of something [count] She felt equal measures of hope and fear. — usually singular The province has gained a large measure of freedom. Their children want a greater measure of independence. [=they want more independence] The coating provides a measure of protection [=provides some protection] against corrosion. The proposal has been met with a measure [=a certain amount] of skepticism. The alarm system provides an added measure of security. [=provides more security] [+] more examples [-] hide examples [-] Example sentences [-] Hide examples [noncount] The show mixes comedy and drama in equal measure. [=in equal amounts] He returned their hostility in full measure. [=he was as hostile toward them as they were toward him] The company's success is due in no small measure to her talents. [=its success is largely due to her talents] Their actions were motivated in large measure by a desire for revenge. An occasion like this calls for some measure of decorum. [+] more examples [-] hide examples [-] Example sentences [-] Hide examples 2 [count] a : something (such as a cup or a ruler) that is used to measure things — see also tape measure b : a unit used in measuring something The meter is a measure of length. The dictionary includes a table of weights and measures. — see also made-to-measure 3 [count] : an action planned or taken to achieve a desired result 4 [count] : a sign or indication of something — usually singular Wealth is not a measure of happiness. Her willingness to compromise is a measure of how much she's changed. 5 [count] : a way of judging something The company is a success by any measure. Are IQ tests the best measure of intelligence? 6 [count] chiefly US, music : a part of a line of written music that is between two vertical lines or the group of beats between these lines a brief clarinet solo in the third measure Can you hum a few measures [=bars] of that song? beyond measure formal : to a very great degree an artist who is talented beyond (all) measure [=who is exceptionally talented] Her joy was beyond measure. [=she was very happy] for good measure : as something added or extra He performed his most recent songs, and then threw in a couple of old ones for good measure. have/take/get the measure of (someone) chiefly British or have/take/get someone's measure : to have or get a good understanding about what is needed to defeat or deal with (someone you are competing against) She failed to take the measure of her opponent. [=she failed to realize how good her opponent was] View synonyms for measuresrock strata that are characterized by a particular type of sediment or deposit"Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged" 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012Examples have not been reviewed.Love Island USA's producers did not say whether added mental health precautions would be taken after this season - but noted they review and reassess such measures continually.Planners in some of the world's major cities are taking measures to mitigate and adapt to the building heat.A recent study from the charity found that cancer deaths cost the UK economy £10.3bn a year, more than any other health condition - underlining the importance of preventative measures.More contentious measures are also still in place, including restrictions and requirements on Medicaid - a healthcare programme used by millions of elderly, disabled and low-income Americans.Canvas bags emblazoned with "Protect HB" and the Huntington Beach Pier — the logo for the coalition that pushed for the measures — hung from many shoulders.measure outmeasure upBrowse#aabcbccdeeffghhijikkllmmnnnooppqqrrssttuuvvwwxyyyzAboutCareersContact usCookies, terms, & privacyHelpFollow usGet the Word of the Day every day!© 2025 Dictionary.com, LLC