

'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Sports* III. i. iii. §3. 683 If the leader in two trials shall fail to deliver the jack a mark, his opponent is then entitled to set the mark. *1876 Encycl. Brit.* IV. 180/2 A game termed *carreau*... somewhat similar to bowls, the jack or mark being set up on a square stone at the end of an alley. *Ibid.*, 'Mark', or 'set a mark', means the delivery of the jack at the commencement of a game.

8. A post or other object placed to indicate the terminal point of a race; a goal. Often *fig.*, an object desired or striven for (cf. 7 d).

c1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 271 Sir Robert Roos of Werk with pe Scottis fled. He set so ille his mark, pat neuer eft he ne sped. 1535 COVERDALE *Phil.* III. 14, I forget that which is behynde... & preace vnto ye mark apoynted. 1555 LATIMER *Let. in Strype Eccl. Mem.* (1822) III. II. 305 He that runnyth at the merk doth not luke on other that stands by... but lokyth altogether on the glove or merk, and on them that runne with him. 1561 T. NORTON *Calvin's Inst.* II. viii. (1634) 187 Let this be our perpetual mark, to aide all men faithfully. 1642 ROGERS *Naaman Ep.* Ded. 3, I know your Honour hath long made this your mark. 1789 COWPER *Let. to Mrs. King* 1 Aug. The end is in view: I seem almost to have reached the mark. 1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* III. For fear divine Philosophy Should push beyond her mark, and be Procure to the Lords of Hell.

9. An object on shore or at sea, which, by its ascertained and known position, serves to guide a traveller proceeding in a given direction, *esp.* a LANDMARK *sb.*, *leading-mark* (see LEADING 1 b), SEA-MARK. Also *fig.*

[1398] TREVISIA *Barth. De P.R.* XVII. cxlii. (1495) 699 Ofte knottes ben made on trees and in bushes: in token and marke of the highe waye: to shewe the certen and sure waye to waye farynge men.] 14... *Sailing Direct.* (Hakl. Soc.) 12 Yif ye go oute of Orwell wayns to the Naisse ye must go south west from the Nasse to the merkis of the spetis your cours is west south-west. *Ibid.*, Bring your markis to gidre that the parish sette be owte by est. the abbey of Seint Hosies. 1577 STANYHURST *Descr. Irel.* iii. in *Holmshed*, Hulke tower, which is a notable marke for pilots, in directing them which waie to sterne their ships [etc.]. 1598 MANWOOD *Lawes Forest* i. 4 They seeme to understand this word *Meta*, a marke, for any thing that hath an ascending from the ground upward in height, that they call a marke, as, a hill, a Church, a Tree, or such like. 1650 HOBBS *Hum. Nat.* v. §1. 44 Men that have past by a Rock at Sea, set up some mark, thereby to remember their former danger, and avoid it. 1676 HALE *Narr. Customes* iii. in S. A. Moore *Foreshore* (1888) 338 As fixing of piles, or laying in of anchors without buoies or markes. 1708 PENN *in Pa. Hist. Soc. Mem.* X. 290, I have shewn my regard to him, and a fair mark I gave him to direct his steps. 1781 JUSTAMOND *Priv. Life Lewis XV.* II. 120 note, This is a mark, sometimes made by a floating tun, sometimes by a mast raised upon a bank. 1834 *Nat. Philos.* III. *Navig.* i. iii. 9 (Useful Knowl. Soc.) The marks themselves are called the leading marks.

III. A sign, token, indication.

10. a. An appearance, action, or event that indicates something; a sign, token, symptom.

c950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Mark xvi. 17 gemerca [Vulg. *signa*] bonne da ða ðe gefeleð da gefylzæ. c1200 ORMIN 17982 & wha sitt iss patt takepp wipþ Hiss witness tunnderrfangenn, He setteþ merke off patt he wiss las Godd sofastt i spæche. a1225 *Ancr.* R. 250 Lokeð nu þeorne, uor his deoruwufle lue, hwuch one merke he leide uppen his icorene, þa he steih into heouene. a1300 *Cursor M.* 18330 'Lauerd', þai said, al wit a steuen, 'Als þou has sett þi merck in heuen O þi blis lauerd god [etc.]. c1386 CHAUCER *Pars. T.* ¶819 That hooley ordre is chief of al the tresorie of god, and his especial signe and mark of chastitee. 1599 SHAKS. *Much Ado* II. iii. 255 Shee's a faire Lady, I doe see some markes of loue in her. 1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* III. xiii. 160 They found peeces of blew cloth, and other markes and signes that some men of Europe had passed there. 1669 GALE *Crit. Gentiles* I. Intro. 6 Is it not a great Marke of Honor. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 73 ¶10 She bestows a Mark of her Favour upon every one of them. 1725 WATTS *Logic* II. v. §4 In some Reports there are more Marks of Falshood than of Truth, and in others there are more Marks of Truth than of Falshood. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. vi. 192 Our people soon observed several lights... in the fort, and other marks of the inhabitants being in great motion. 1842 BORROW *Bible in Spain* lvii. His body... exhibited every mark of strength and vigour. a1862 BUCKLE *Civiliz.* (1873) III. v. 463 How unusual it is to meet with any one... whose writings bear marks of... original thought. 1884 SKEAT *Gamelyn* Intro. 11 The 'master outlaw' in the tale of Gamelyn is left unnamed. This is a mark of a somewhat early date.

b. A characteristic property; a distinctive feature, criterion; *spec. in Logic* (see quot. 1860).

1522 MORE *De quat. Noivis.* Wks. 73/2 He that by good vse and experyence, hathe in his eye the ryghte marke and very trewe lustre of the Dymante. 1561 T. NORTON *Calvin's Inst.* I. xv. 53 Neither is their opinion to be approued, which sett the Image of God in the power of dominion geuen vnto him, as if he resembled God onely in this mark, that he is [etc.]. 1612 BACON *Ess.*, *Wisd. for Man's Self* (Arb.) 184 Therefore let Princes... chuse such seruants, as haue not this mark. a1625 FLETCHER *Noble Gent.* IV. iv. Yet from this pitch can I behold my own, (From millions of those men that have no mark). 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) IV. 232 By these marks the monies of either continent, may be readily distinguished from each other. 1860 ANP. THOMSON *Laws* Th. §51. 78 Those properties by which we recognise any object, and assign it a place under some appropriate conception, are called marks. 1884 R. Lotze's *Logic* I. iii. 89 Life without intelligence is a possible mark of an animal, but not intelligence without life. 1885 R. L. & F. STEVENSON *Dynamiter* 194, I recognise in you the marks of an accomplished anarchist.

c. *spec.* A depression caused by a fold in the enamel of a horse's incisor tooth, which by its appearance and gradual disappearance gives some indication of the age of the animal. (Cf. COUNTER-MARK, *sb.* 3.) Also *mark of mouth*.

c1420 *Pallad. on Husb.* IV. 886 Their [horses'] myddel teeth aboue at too year age They cause, at yeeris iijj another gage;... At vij year are alle ylike longe, The markis of their age ar lost at seuen. 1626 BACON *Sylva* §754 At eight yeares old, the Tooth is smooth, and the Hole gone, And then they say; That the Marke is out of the Horses Mouth. 1680 *Land. Gaz.* No. 1562/4 A Bright Bay Gelding, near 15 hands high, ... the mark out of his mouth. 1707 *Curios. in Husb. & Gard.* 41 We may... say... as the Jockeys do of a Horse of eight or nine Years old, who has no longer certain Teeth in his Mouth; that his Mark is out. 1852 R. S. SURTESS *Sponge's Sp.* Tour xlv. 'He's past mark of mouth; but I think a hunter's age has very little to do with his worth.' 1897 *Encycl. Sport* I. 537 (Horse) *Mark*, the hollow upon the top of a young horse's teeth which wears down with years.

fig. and allusive. 1589 R. HARVEY *Pl. Perc.* (1590) 4 The marke is not out of thy mouth, for thou hast a Colts tooth in thine head still. a1616 BEAUM. & FL. *Wit without Money* IV. v. Biscuit That bawds have rubb'd their gums upon, like corals, To bring the mark again. 1824 MACTAGGART *Gallovid. Encycl.* s.v., Old maidens are said sometimes to have lost the mark o' mouth. 1857 G. A. LAWRENCE *Guy Liv.* viii. 77 Two ancient virgins, long past 'mark of mouth'.

† d. A vestige, trace. *Obs.*

c1325 *Metr. Hom.* 61 Bot of thair not yet standes merk, In Babiloun the tour yet stands. 1585 T. WASHINGTON *tr. Nicholas's Voy.* IV. xxv. 141 In which place are the markes of the ruines of Lacedemonia.

11. A sign affixed or impressed for distinction.

a. A device, stamp, seal, label, brand, inscription, written character, or the like, placed upon an article as an indication of ownership or origin, as an attestation of quality, as a means of identification, etc. † In early use often, the stamp or impress of a coin.

c1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 457 He was hirde wittere and wai; Of merke, and kinde, and helde, & ble, sundring and sameni[n]g tyste he. 1377 *LANGL. P. Pl.* B. xv. 343 þe merke of pat mone [sc. the lushburg] is good, as þe metal is fieble. c1394 *P. Pl. Crede* 177 Wyde wyndowes... Schynen wip schapen scheldes... Wip merkes of marchautes y-medled bytwene. 1420 in E.E. *Wills* (1882) 46 A tastour of siluer with myn owne merke ymade in þe bottom. c1440 *Promp.* Parv. 334/1 Merke, tokyne, signum, character. c1450 in *Rel. Ant.* II. 280 They salue þe byrnte on the hippe, chapmans merke. 1477 *Rolls of Parlt.* VI. 185/1 The merke or signe of every Goldsmith, shuld be known to the Wardeyns of the same craft. 1524 *Act 14 & 15 Hen. VIII.* c. 3. §9 This present act... for limittynge of markes to the maker of worsteds, saies, and stamins. 1567 *HARMAN Caveat* 33 The markes shalbe pycked out cleane, and [the clothes] conuayed craftely frae, to sell. 1594 T. B. *La Primuad. Fr. Acad.* II. 543 Hee will appoynt to haue a stone layde vpon his graue, in which his name shall bee ingrauen, & his marke, or some such like thing. 1607 *HEYWOOD Wom. Kild w. Kindn.* Wks. 1874 II. 142 Take with thee every thing that hath thy marke. 1617 *MORVSON Itin.* I. 38, I set a marke vpon these peeces, lest I shoulde spend them. 1687 A. LOVELL *tr. Thevenot's Trav.* I. 201 We spent all Tuesday... in getting Marks put upon our arms, as commonly all Pilgrims do. 1696 *PHILLIPS* (ed. 5), *Mark*,... Also a particular Character imprinted by Public Authority upon several things, either for the payment of Duties, or to prevent Adulteration. 1698 *FRYER Acc. E. India & P.* 207 The Company's Mark upon all their Goods, Bales, and Parcels. 1704 *NORRIS Ideal World* II. v. 293 A mark of the artificer impressed upon his work. 1797 *Directory Sheffield* 137 Directory of the Manufacturers, with their marks. 1838 *DICKENS O. Twist* ix, I'll show you how to take the marks out of the handkerchiefs. c1850 *Arab. Nts.* (Rldg.) 640 The robber quickly made a mark on the door with some chalk he had for the purpose. 1885 *Encycl. Brit.* XIX. 186 The first of these [Hall-marks] was the King's mark—a leopard's or lion's head crowned.

b. With prefixed defining *sb.*, as *age, cattle, flock, gunpowder, pedigree, pitch, raddle, sheep, wool mark*. Also *EAR-, HALL-, TRADE-MARK*.

1523 *FITZHERB. Husb.* §52 And se that they [sheep] be well marked, both eare marke, pitch marke, and radel marke. 1573 *TUSSER Husb.* (1878) 38 A sheepe marke, a tar kettle [etc.]. 1603 *OWEN Pembrokehire* (1892) 56-7 As many as they can finde by the eare marke, for woollie markes is used but of few. 1607 *COWELL Interpr.* s.v. *clack*, To clack wooll is to cut off the sheepes marke which maketh it to waigh less. 1802 *JAMES Mil. Dict.*, *Mark*... Gunpowder Marks. The different sorts of gunpowder are distinguished by the following marks. 1833 *Ht. MARTINEAU Briery Creek* II. 34 What about the cattle-marks? 1886 C. SCOTT *Sheep-Farming* 147 Sheep Marking—The flock mark, the age mark, and the pedigree mark, are all put on the ears of the stock lambs.

c. A visible sign, as a badge, brand, etc., assumed by or imposed on a person; *occas. in pl.* insignia.

† *Christ's, God's mark, mark of clergy, of holy church:* the tonsure. *mark of the Beast:* see *Rev.* xvi. 2 and *BEAST sb.* 7. c1200 *Vices & Virtues* 57 Summe oðre nimeðe godes marc o hem, wandep here clæfles and naht here peawes. c1205 *LAY.* 2085 Bisopes and clerkes and preostes mid godes merkes. c1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 1303 Quo ne bar ðanne is merk [sc. circumcision] him on fro fodes leu solde he be don. a1300 *Cursor M.* 2752 Quar he... cleything beres pat feris to clerc, or cron pat e o clergi merke. *Ibid.* 29283 Qua smites preist or clerc or an berand cristes merk, als munk, or frer, nun, or chanun, ... he is cursd. c1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 130 borgh God I pe forbede to chalange any clerke In lay courte for non nede, of holy kirke has merke. 1340 *HAMPOLE Pr. Cons.* 4402 Bot with pas pat had Criste forsaken And the merk of anticrist had taken [etc.]. 1382 *WYCLIF Rev.* xvi. 2 The carete or marke of the beast. 1399 *LANGL. Rich. Redeles* II. 78 Me thynketh, That no manere meynetenour shulde merkis bere, Ne haue lordis leure pe lawe to apeire. 1535 *COVERDALE Gen.* iv. 15 And the Lorde put a mark vpon Cain. 1560 *DAUS tr. Sleidane's Comm.* 118b, Neyther maye any others, than suche as haue the greute beastes charact, or Balles marke, be permitted to occupie that trade of marchaundise. 1592 *Newes fr. Scotland, Life & Dr. Fian* B. They suspecting that she had bene

marked by the Diuell (as commonly witches are)... found the enemies marke to be in her fore crag. 1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* v. viii. 350 The priest... was decked with the markes of the idoll. 1680 *True Protest. Intelligence* No. 3. 1/2 One of them, as it is said, had the Thieves mark in her hand. 1706 *tr. Dupin's Eccl. Hist.* 16th C. II. v. 4 He [Catharism] believes the Marks of St. Francis. 1727-51 *CHAMBERS Cycl.* s.v. *Herald*, Their persons are under the protection of the law of nations, when they bear the marks of their offices publicly, i.e. the trumpeter his trumpet, and the drummer his drum; as the herald his coat. 1874 *GLADSTONE Ritualism in Contemp. Rev.* Oct. 672 [The undivided clerical waistcoat] was deemed so distinctly Popish, that it acquired the nickname of 'The Mark of the Beast'; and... among the tailors... was familiarly known as 'the M.B. waistcoat'. 1881 *SANDS Sk. Trav.* 39 It was believed that Satan put a mark upon all who had enlisted into his service.

† d. *God's marks:* an appearance betokening impending death. (See *GOD sb.* 16 c.) *Obs.*

e. A character made with a pen, usually a cross, used by illiterate persons in place of a signature.

c1020 *Rule St. Benet* (Logeman) lviii. q8 Oððe soðes gif he na can stafas, oðer fram him gebeden write & se nicumena mearde do. 1434 in *E.E. Wills* (1882) 102 And y pray yowe loki thys marke and thys Seell, acorde as y Roger wyl answer afore god. 1588 in *Arber Marprel. Controv.* 82 William x Stanghtons markes. 1593 *SHAKS. 2 Hen. VI.* IV. ii. 110. 1627 in *Barnfield's Poems* (Arb.) Intro. 17 Peter Serientes his x mark. 1766 *BLACKSTONE Comm.* II. xx. 305 Which custom our illiterate vulgar do... keep up; by signing a cross for their mark when unable to write their names. 1851 H. MELVILLE *Whale* xviii. 100 Dost thou sign thy name or make thy mark?

f. A written symbol.

1737 J. CHAMBERLAYNE *St. Gt. Brit.* II. iii. 150 (List Councilmen Lond.) This * Mark denotes the New Members. 1862 *ANSTED Channel Isl.* II. ix. (ed. 2) 200 A mark of interrogation (?) [will denote] doubtful species. 1890 H. SWEET *Prim. Spoken Eng.* 2 The stress-marks are put before the element on which the stress begins. *Ibid.* 3 The tone-marks are put before the word they modify.

g. (a) *good, bad-mark:* a written character used by teachers, jailers, etc., in their registers as a symbol of an instance of good or bad conduct respectively; hence *fig.* a point noted or remembered to a person's credit or discredit. (b) Originally, in schools, a vertical line placed opposite to a pupil's name as a record or a correct answer in class of some other point of merit, his place in the class being determined by the number of 'marks' which he obtains. Hence, the unit of the numerical award given by a teacher or examiner to the person whose comparative merit is to be ascertained. Also *fig.* in phr. *full marks* used as an expression of considerable praise or commendation; also *top marks*.

1829 *LYTTON Devereux* I. iii. I was one hundred marks before my brother. 1837 *Orders & Regul. Harvard Univ.* 8 The average of the marks given by the members of the [examining] Committee. 1887 D. A. *Low Machine Draw.* (1892) 124 Inking-in... and shading... are not required in the examination, and receive no marks. 1891 H. MATTHEWS in *Law Times* XCII. 96/1 A convict who gains by steady industry the maximum number of marks during each day of his sentence. 1893 *LELAND Mem.* I. 73 The punishments were bad marks, and for every mark the boy was obliged to go to bed an hour earlier than the others. 1934 D. L. SAYERS *Nine Tailors* II. v. 75 That is well observed. Yes, but you may have full marks for that. 1941 H. NICOLSON *Let. 27 Mar.* (1967) 154 It is a fine show and I give Ronnie Campbell full marks. 1945 W. DE LA MARE *Scarecrow* 22 'Full marks, my dear,' said Mr. Bolsover, squeezing her hand. 1966 *Listener* 29 Sept. 472/3 Full marks for the deadly opening sentence. 1973 *Times* 2 June 9/4 Full marks as always, to this hard-up, persevering, resourceful and imaginative museum. 1973 J. THOMSON *Death Cap* xiii. 177 He gave Holbrook top marks for finding such a delightfully sharp and acid old lady.

† h. In schools, a badge worn by the pupil who had last committed some particular fault. to *pass the mark:* to get rid of the badge on detecting a schoolfellow in the same fault; also *fig. Obs.*

1832 *MISS MITFORD Village Ser.* v. 198 French was the universal language of the house, and an English mark was passed among the young ladies, transferred from culprit to culprit as they were detected in the fact, and called for three times a day, when the unlucky damsel who happened to be in possession of the badge was amerced in the sum of three-pence;... this order of demerit [was] an oval piece of wood, with ENGLISH, in large capitals engraven on its front, suspended by a riband from the neck. 1849 THACKERAY *Pendennis* xxxi, Bacon liked to be treated with rudeness by a gentleman, and used to pass it on to his inferiors as boys pass the mark. c1855 Mrs. GASKELL *Traits & Stories Huguenots* ad fin., I have now told all I know about the Huguenots. I pass the mark to some one else.

i. *Her.* A small charge added to a coat of arms as a sign of distinction; *esp. in mark of CADENCY.*

1625 B. JOHNSON *Staple of News* iv. iv, Were he a learned Herald, I would tell him He can give Armes, and markes. 1702 [see CADENCY]. 1718 *PRIOR Henry & Emma* 49 This lord... Had brought back his paternal coat enlarg'd With a new mark. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) VIII. 445 Of all the forementioned marks of distinction, none but the label is affixed on the coats of arms belonging to any of the royal family.

j. *Freemasonry.* Used *attrib.* (with reference to sense 1 i a) to designate a degree, grade, or rank immediately superior to that of the free and accepted mason (see 23).