



resilience, *n.*

Pronunciation: Brit.  /rɪˈzɪlɪəns/ , U.S. /rəˈzɪliəns/ ,  /rəˈzɪljəns/

Frequency (in current use): 

Origin: Of multiple origins. Probably a borrowing from Latin. **Etymons:** Latin *resilientia*; Latin *resilient-*, *resiliēns*.

Etymology: Probably partly (i) < post-classical Latin *resilientia* fact of avoiding (a1540; the sense ‘action of rebounding’ is paralleled in Latin slightly later (1643 in the passage translated in quot. 1651 at RESILIENCY *n.* 1); < classical Latin *resilient-* , *resiliēns* , present participle of *resilīre* RESILE *v.* + *-ia* -IA *suffix*¹; compare -ENCE *suffix*),

and partly directly < either (ii) RESILIENT *adj.* (although this is first attested slightly later) or its etymon (iii) classical Latin *resilient-*, *resiliēns*: see -ENCE *suffix*. Compare later RESILIENCY *n.*

I. Literal applications.

†1. The action or an act of rebounding or springing back; rebound, recoil. *Obs.*

- 1626 BACON *Sylua Syluarum* §245 Whether there be any such Resilience in Eccho's.
- 1656 T. BLOUNT *Glossographia* *Resilience*, a leaping or skipping back, a rebounding.
- 1834 S. T. COLERIDGE *Hymn to Earth* in *Friendship's Offering* 166 Mightier far was the joy of thy sudden resilience.
- 1843 T. CARLYLE *Past & Present* I. ii. 15 The Heaviest..has its deflexions..nay at times its resiliences, its reboundings.
- 1866 J. MARTINEAU *Ess. Philos. & Theol.* 1st Ser. 41 The heart does not always propel without resilience.

2.

a. Elasticity; the power of resuming an original shape or position after compression, bending, etc.

- 1807 T. YOUNG *Course Lect. Nat. Philos.* I. xiii. 143 The resilience is jointly proportional to its strength and its toughness, and is measured by the product of the mass and the square of the velocity of a body capable of breaking it.
- 1822 J. M. GOOD *Study Med.* II. 10 The natural elasticity or resilience of the lungs.
- 1824 T. TREDGOLD *Pract. Ess. Strength of Cast Iron* 82 The term modulus of resilience, I have ventured to apply to the number which represents the power of a material to resist an impulsive force.
- 1867 C. T. F. YOUNG *Fouling Iron Ships* 164 To bend back again.., if the metal possesses sufficient resilience to do so.
- 1897 T. C. ALLBUTT et al. *Syst. Med.* IV. 470 [The skin] giving a sensation of the loss of all elasticity or resilience.
- 1937 *Life* 13 Sept. 18/2 (*advt.*) This Goodrich putty, made of rubber, never loses its resilience.
- 1990 *Connoisseur* Sept. 70/1 Linen as a fabric is valued for its resilience and strength.

b. Mech. The energy per unit volume absorbed by a material when it is subjected to strain; the value of this at the elastic limit.

- 1858 W. J. M. RANKINE *Man. Appl. Mech.* II. iii. 330 The Resilience or Spring of a Beam is the work performed in bending it to the proof deflection.
- 1877 W. THOMSON in *Encycl. Brit.* VII. 808/1 The word ‘resilience’ used without special qualification may be understood as meaning extreme resilience, or the work given back by the spring after being strained to the extreme limit within which it can be strained again and again.
- 1965 J. A. CORMACK *Definitions Strength of Materials* iii. 67 Show that resilience per cubic inch in direct tension or compression may be expressed in the form $f^2/2E$, where f is the intensity of stress induced and E is the modulus of

- elasticity.
- 2005 B. C. PUNMIA et al. *Mech. Design* vi. 215 If the load at the elastic limit..is 60 kN, calculate the elongation at elastic limit and the proof resilience.
- II.** Figurative uses.
- [†]**3.** The action of going back upon one's word. Cf. RESILEMENT *n.* *Obs. rare*^{−0}.
- 1656 T. BLOUNT *Glossographia* *Resilience*,..a going from ones word.
- 4.**
- a.** The action of revolting or recoiling *from* something; an instance of this. Now *rare*.
- 1838 *Burton's Gentleman's Mag.* **2** 191/1 The swelling pleasure..which the proud man feels in a cold resilience from the proffered thanks of those whom he has largely served.
- 1853 *Methodist Q. Rev.* Apr. 223 It is a resilience from old error—a reaction against decomposition—not of itself a forward movement.
- 1890 R. GARNETT *Life Milton* 38 Nor can we doubt that the old Puritan fully approved his son's resilience from a church defined by Arminianism and prelacy.
- 1900 S. I. WOODBRIDGE in tr. Chang Chih-Tung *China's Only Hope* 6 The ‘clear out the foreigner’ policy..represents a resilience from the ideas advocated in the Viceroy's book.
- [†]**b.** Repugnance, antagonism. *Obs. rare*.
- 1882 T. MOZLEY *Reminisc. Oriel* I. xii. 85 It was possibly a mutual resilience between him [sc. Hartley Coleridge] and people of more orderly ways that prevented him from standing at Oriel till some years after.
- 5.** The quality or fact of being able to recover quickly or easily from, or resist being affected by, a misfortune, shock, illness, etc.; robustness; adaptability.
- 1857 J. F. SMITH & W. HOWITT *Cassell's Illustr. Hist. Eng.* I. lx. 333/2 In their struggles with the ponderous power of England [the Scotch] discovered an invincible vigour, not only of resistance, but of resilience.
- 1893 *Independent* (N.Y.) 19 Oct. The resilience and the elasticity of spirit which I had even ten years ago.
- 1923 *Polit. Sci. Q.* **38** 237 With a curious resilience which..has characterized him [sc. Gandhi] upon similar occasions before, he came back from his mourning and fasting more determined than ever.
- 1977 K. M. E. MURRAY *Caught in Web of Words* xvi. 309 Although he still had surprising vigour of body and mind, he had lost something of his powers of resilience.
- 2002 *Daily Tel.* 30 May 24/4 As Ernest, Alan Perrin captures the character's humour and plucky resilience, as well as his socialist chippiness.

