

This is the second main definition of 'learn'. The first is the one more commonly used.

LEARN

II. To impart knowledge. Now *vulgar*.

4. *trans.* To teach. In various constructions:

a. To teach (a person).

a 1300 Cursor M. 19028 In crist lai pat folk to lern. 1382 WYCLIF *Prov.* ix. 7 Who lerneth [1388 techith] a scornere, doth wrong he to hymself. *c 1440 York Myst.* x. 20 þus lernyd he me. *a 1450 Knt. de la Tour* (1868) 2 A man aught to lerne his daughters with good ensaumplies. 1535 COVERDALE *Ps.* xxiv. 5 Lede me in thy trueth and lerne me. 1549 *Compl. Scot. Prol.* 14 Quhen ane ydiot . . . presumis to teche or to leyrne ane man that hes baytht speculatione ande experiens. 1650 FULLER *Purgh* 11. xii. 249 No doubt the chickens crowed as the cocks had learned them. 1763 FOOTE *Mayor of G.* 11. Wks. 1799 I. 178 [An uneducated speaker] If they would but once submit to be learned by me. 1974 *Times* 16 Dec. 12/8 We asked whether he had learned the instrument at school. . . 'No. He learned it himself and now he's learning me.'

b. To teach (a person) to do or how to do something. (Also in *passive*.)

c 1340 Cursor M. 8421 (Trin.) Set him faste to gode teching Til he be lerned him self to lede. *c 1435 Torr. Portugal* 1897 To lerne you flfor to ride. 1480 CAXTON *Descr. Brit.* 34 Gentilmens children ben lerned and taught from their yongth to speke frenash. *a 1540 BARNES Wks.* (1573) 352/1 Doth hee not learne all men to come to Christ. 1590 SPENSER *F.O.* I. vi. 25 He would learne The Lyon stoup to him. 1666 BUNYAN *Grace Ab.* P27 That my Father might learn me to speak without this wicked way of swearing. 1706 FARQUHAR *Recruiting Officer* 111. 1, The captain learned me how to take it with an air. 1792 MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT *Rights Wom.* v. 181 We should learn them, above all things, to lay a due restraint on themselves. 1801 STRUTT *Sports & Past.* 111. i. 115 The frequent practice of this exercise must have learned them . . . to become excellent horsemen. 1801 COLERIDGE *Lett.* I. 365 They learn us to associate a keen and deep feeling with all the good old phrases. 1844 DISRAELI *Coningsby* VIII. iii, Learn to know the House; learn the House to know you. 1885 G. ALLEN *Babylon* i, 'Will you learn me to draw a church?'

c. To teach (a person a thing). Also with *clause*.

c 1200 ORMIN 19613 To lokenn watt itt lernep uss Off [ure] sawle nede. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl. B.* x. 171 Logyke I lerned hir and many other lawes, And alle the musouns in musike I made hir to knowe. *c 1420 LYDG. Assembly of Gods* 957, I shall lerne hem a new daunce. *c 1460 FORTESCUE Abs. & Lim. Man.* xi. (1885) 135 Wherby we bith lerned þat it schal . . . be goode to owre prince . . . that he be well indowed. 1550 W. CUNNINGHAM *Cosmogr. Glasse* 33, I pray you learne me th' use of this table. 1606 J. CARPENTER *Solomon's Solace* xiv. 58 So lerneth he all children . . . in what honor . . . they

should hold those persons. 1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* I. ii. 365 The red-plague rid you For learning me your language. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. xv. (1840) 255 Having learnt him English. 1742 RICHARDSON *Pamela* III. 353 Her Ladyship asked one of the Children . . . who learnt her her Catechism? 1831 J. J. STRANG *Diary* 31 Dec. in M. M. Quaipe *Kingdom of St. James* (1930) 198, I have succeeded in regulating them and learning them what to do without punishing a single schollar. 1876 MORRIS *Sigurd* (1877) 86 Thou . . . hast learned me all my skill. 1889 'ROLF BOLDREWOOD' *Robbery under Arms* xlv, We made up our minds to learn him a lesson. 1914 *Sat. Even. Post* 4 Apr. 10/3, I learned him that, yuh see. 1935 WODEHOUSE *Luck of Bodkins* xv. 181 The English public school system . . . isn't at all what an educational system should be. . . If you ask me, they don't learn the little perishers nothing. 1966 F. SHAW et al. (*title*) *Lern yerself Scouse*.

d. To teach (a thing) to a person. *rare*.

1377 LANGL. *P. Pl. B.* x. 374 Many tales 3c tellen that Theologie lerneth. 1477 EARL RIVERS (Caxton) *Dictes* 15 b, He . . . commaunded it shulde not be lerned to any Straungers. 1697 COLLIER *Ess. Mor. Subj.* I. 161 'Tis the Rod, not the Inclination, which learns the Lesson. 1893 STEVENSON *Catriona* 21 My father learned it to me.

¶ e. Phr. *I'll learn you*: used as a warning of impending punishment. *Non-standard*.

1822 J. GALT *Sir A. Wylie* III. xxxiii. 279 I'll learn you to fill yoursel fu'. 1873 C. D. WARNER in 'Mark Twain' & Warner *Gilded Age* xxix. 266 The conductor . . . reached the bell rope, 'Damn you, I'll learn you,' stepped to the door. 1974 P. WRIGHT *Lang. Brit. Industry* iv. 41 The common *I'll learn you* . . . when used ironically, has the unstandard meaning of 'I'll teach you never to do that again'.

† 5. To inform (a person) of something; with *clause* or *thing* as second obj. *Obs.*

1425 *Rolls of Parlt.* IV. 271/1 For, as I am lerned, ther ar to consider two thinges. 1441 *Plumpton Corr.* (Camden) p. lix, The said misdoers were learned by their specialis [*sic*] . . . that the said officers . . . had knowledge of their said lying in waite for them. *a 1456 LD. CROMWELL in Paston Lett.* III. 426 There is a greet straungenesse betwix . . . John Radcliff and you . . . as I am lerned. *c 1500 in Q. Elis. Acad.* 96 Of brutane the duk . . . Richast armes is, as I lernit am. 1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* 11. i. 22 Learne me the Proclamation. 1697 *tr. C'tess D'Aunoy's Trav.* (1706) 57 You learn me Particulars I was ignorant of. *Ibid.* 69 Having learnt him all which had past.