

[< Anglo-Norman *peine, paine, paigne, peigne, penne, pain, pein, peyene* and Old French, Middle French *peine, paine, peinne, pene* physical or bodily suffering (second half of the 10th cent. in plural as *poenas, penas*), trouble taken in accomplishing something, effort (c1050), mental suffering (c1100), difficulty (early 12th cent.), punishment or suffering thought to be endured by souls in hell (early 12th cent.), legal punishment (c1165) < classical Latin *poena* penalty, punishment (see [POENA](#) *n.*). Cf. Old Occitan, Occitan *pena* (c1090), Catalan *pena* (c1200), Spanish *pena* (938), Italian *pena* (1151). Cf. earlier [PINE](#) *n.*<sup>1</sup>

With *on* (also *under, upon*) *pain of* (see sense 1b) cf. Old French *sur peine de* (c1300), Middle French, French *a peine de* (c1340), *sous peine de* (1541). With *to take pains* (see sense 5b) cf. Middle French *prendre la peine (de)* (1461-9). With *for one's pains* (see sense 5c) cf. Middle French *pour ma peine* (1461-9).]

## I. Simple uses.

**1. a.** Punishment; penalty; suffering or loss inflicted for a crime or offence; (sometimes) *spec.* a fine, a tax. Also in extended use.

After 17th cent. only in *pains and penalties* (chiefly *Law*); see also sense 1b.

**c1300** *St. Thomas Becket* (Laud) 525 in C. Horstmann *Early S.-Eng. Legendary* (1887) 121 Ich hote ov euerechone þat 3e beon..at Clarindone..For-to confermi þis lawes; ope peyne þat i schal ou sette, Ich hote þat 3e beon þare. **c1325** (c1300) *Chron. Robert of Gloucester* (Calig.) 7742 þer to he nom gret peine of hom. **a1387** [J. TREVISA](#) tr. R. Higden *Polychron.* (St. John's Cambr.) II. 231 Crist..payed a payne [L. *p<sup>en</sup>nam*] for vs alle. **a1400** (a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Vesp.) 6691 If he liue a dai or tuin, þe lauerd sal vnderli na pain. **1433** in *10th Rep. Royal Comm. Hist. MSS* (1885) App. V. 295 He shal pay the same payne as afor is saide. **c1450** (a1425) *Metrical Paraphr. Old Test.* (Selden) 12074 þei say..þat þei wyll pay swylyk payn no more. **1555** in *Rep. Royal Comm. Hist. MSS: Var. Coll.* (1907) IV. 283 Also the leke paines and penalties shall ronne and be unto all those free Burgesses. **1577** [H. I.](#) tr. H. Bullinger *50 Godlie Serm.* (1592) 45 Condemnation vnto death set as a peine upon our heades, because of the transgression. **c1650** [J. SPALDING](#) *Mem. Troubles Scotl. & Eng.* (1850) I. 6 That none sould recept supplie, or intertyn onie of thame, wnder gryt panes and perell. **1689** *Colonial Rec. Pennsylvania* I. 309 Which Ordinances..shall be observed inviolably..under paynes therein to be expressed. **1726** [SWIFT](#) *Gulliver* I. i. vii. 118 Whoever shall make water within the Precincts..shall be liable to the Pains and Penalties of High Treason. **1742** [POPE](#) *New Dunciad* 335 She..heard thy everlasting yawn confess The pains and penalties of Idleness. **1816** [SCOTT](#) *Tales of my Landlord* 1st Ser. II. 42 Pains, penalties, and threats of dismissal were denounced in vain. **1873** [TROLLOPE](#) *Eustace Diamonds* III. lxxviii. 323 He did inform his cousin by letter that she would lay herself open to all manner of pains and penalties if she disobeyed such a summons. **1948** *All Eng. Law Rep.* 25 Dec. II. 1122 Although adultery is a high moral offence, it is not a criminal offence and is not subject to any pains and penalties. **1998** *Toronto Star* (Nexis) 16 June, In other provinces

and on the federal level, in many matters, women were still considered to be persons only in terms of pains and penalties, and not rights and privileges as defined by British Common Law.

**b.** In phrases. *on* (also *under, upon,* etc.) *pain of* —: with specified punishment, reaction, etc., as the penalty for not fulfilling the command or condition stated, *esp.* in *on pain of death*; (also) specifying the crime with which a person is liable to be charged or that which they are liable to forfeit, as *on pain of treason, on pain of one's life*.

†*in* (also *of, up,* etc.) *pain*: subject to a penalty or fine for disobedience (*obs.*).

**c1330** (?a1300) *Arthour & Merlin* (Auch.) 3650 It was forboden..Ich man bi way for to gon..Opon pain of her liue. **a1387** J. TREVISA tr. R. Higden *Polychron.* (St. John's Cambr.) II. 35 Walsche men schulde not passe þat diche wiþ wepoun vppon a grete payne. **1399** *Rolls of Parl.* III. 452/1 The..Lordes..ajuggen..that thei be in payne of Treson. **a1449** LYDGATE *Minor Poems* (1934) II. 814 Ther dar noon officer Peyne of his lyff do noon extorcioun. **c1475** *Antichrist & Disciples* in J. H. Todd *3 Treat.* (1851) p. cxxxiii, Crist bad preche, & þei bidden leue in payne of prisonyng. **a1500** (?a1450) *Gesta Rom.* (Harl.) 53 Ancelmus..edified..a..Castell & sette þere a Stiward, commaundyng to him, vp [v.rr. vpon, on] peyne of deth, for to kepe wele þat castell. **?1530** J. RASTELL *Pastyme of People* sig. \*Av<sup>v</sup>, That none shulde ley no violent hande vpon a clerke payne of cursyng. **1580** A. MUNDAY *Zelauto* 84, I thinke it sufficient that you put her in exyle, with expresse charge in payne of death neuer to returne. **1631** B. JONSON *New Inne* II. ii, No flattery for't, No lickfoot, pain of losing your proboscis. **1650** J. HOWELL tr. A. Giraffi *Hist. Revol. Naples* I. 98 That every one upon paine of life shold return to their houses. **1727** SWIFT *Let. to very Young Lady* in *Misc.* II. 323 Those Wives, who when their Husbands are gone a Journey, must have a Letter every Post, upon pain of Fits and Hystericks. **1752** J. LOUTHIAN *Form of Process* (ed. 2) 92 To pass upon the Assize of C.D. each under the Pain of One hundred Merks. **1829** R. SOUTHEY in *Foreign Rev. & Cont. Misc.* 3 30 They shall be commanded, on pain of perpetual bondage, to depart out of the said kingdoms. **1884** *Times* (Weekly ed.) 17 Oct. 14/1 A proclamation ordering the tribes to join him under pain of death. **1898** *Shetland News* 30 Apr., That none have more swine than four upon a last of land over winter, under the pain of 10 pounds. **1914** E. R. BURROUGHS *Tarzan of Apes* i. 16 It was a warning..to refrain on pain of death. **1959** J. BARZUN *House of Intellect* iii. 77 These obligations, which must be discharged day by day under pain of chaos and reprisals. **2002** *Capital Times* (Madison, Wisconsin) (Nexis) 12 Aug. 7A, These facts are all well known. Upon pain of perjury, there is not an actuary in the world who'd tell you otherwise.

†**c.** *Law. pain fort and dure*: = *peine forte et dure* s.v. PEINE n. 1. *Obs.*

**?1542** tr. C. St. German *Dialogues Doctoure & Student* II. xxxviii. f. 143 He shall haue payne [**1531** peyn] forte and dure. **1590** H. SWINBURNE *Briefe Treat. Test.* 54 If he be

indited at the Princes suite, and so beeing arraigned vpon that inditement will not answer, but standeth mute or dumbe, whereupon he is to receiue paine (as it is tearmed) Forte & Dure, and bee pressed to death. **a1634** E. COKE *2nd Pt. Inst. Lawes Eng.* (1642) 179 This Act [*sc.* Statute of Westminster I, c.12] describeth what persons shall be punished by Paine fort & dure..., but setteth not downe..what the punishment is. [**1658** E. PHILLIPS *New World Eng. Words, Pain fort & dure*, signifying in Common Law, an especial punishment for those that being arraigned of felony refuse to put themselves upon the ordinary trial of God and the Country, and thereby are mute and dumb.]

**2.** The punishment or suffering thought to be endured by souls in hell, purgatory, etc.; (also) an instance or particular form of such punishment. Also in extended use.

**c1300** *St. Mary Magdalen* (Laud) 643 in C. Horstmann *Early S.-Eng. Legendary* (1887) 480 God us schilde fram peyne and to heouene us bringue! **c1330** *Body & Soul* (Auch.) 54 O point of our payn to abat, In alle þe world nis no leche. **?a1425** (?c1350) *Northern Passion* (Rawl.) 1961 Þan sall þi fader com fra payne And dwell in paradyso o-gayne. **c1450** (c1350) *Alexander & Dindimus* 747 ðe schulle be punched and put in paine for evere. **1544** J. BALE *Brefe Chron. Syr J. Oldcastell in Harl. Misc.* (Malh.) I. 261 Euery man..is a pilgrym, eyther towards blesse or els towards payne. **1569** R. GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 345 Whosoeuer dyed in that time, and gaue his goodes to further that voyage, he was cleane absolved from paine and from sinne. **1629** W. MURE *Sonnets in Wks.* (1898) I. 58 Of paine to come the gallouse is but arles. **1671** MILTON *Samson Agonistes* 501, I Gods counsel have not kept..: A sin That Gentiles in thir Parables condemn To thir abyss and horrid pains confin'd. **1722** W. PHILIPS *Hibernia Freed* v. 57 Then shall I laugh at Hell's severest Pain, And scorn the Tortures all thy Priests can feign. **1858** W. E. AYTOUN *Bothwell* v. xii. 154 Why live I longer, since I know That prayer and penitence are vain; Since hope is dead for me below, And hell can give no ghistlier pain? **1877** P. J. BAILEY *Festus* (ed. 10) xxix. 487 Yea, who the depths of deity can conceive, That only see its surface creature-wards? Their punishment is partly to believe Hell's pain perpetual; but it ends. **1916** J. JOYCE *Portrait of Artist* iii, There are no contraries or admixtures of any kind to temper or soften in the least the pains of hell. **1999** *Boston Herald* (Nexis) 11 June S15 Love, the most sentimentalized subject in the world, is a wholly unreasonable, often distressing and destructive emotion... It can make the pains of hell seem like a walk in the park.

**3. a.** Physical or bodily suffering; a continuous, strongly unpleasant or agonizing sensation in the body (usually in a particular part), such as arises from illness, injury, harmful physical contact, etc.

**c1330** (?a1300) *Arthour & Merlin* (Auch.) 8455 What for sorwe & eke for paine, Sche les winde. **a1393** GOWER *Confessio Amantis* (Fairf.) VII. 3319 Whanne a man for peine cride, The Bole of bras..gapeth wyde. **?a1450** *Agnus Castus* (Stockh.) in *Ess. & Stud.*

*Eng. Lang. & Lit.* (1950) 6 132 That mylk men vse..for peyne of teth. **1486** *Bk. St. Albanssig. cvij<sup>v</sup>*, Hawkys that haue payne in theyr croupes. **a1500** (?a1475) *Guy of Warwick* (Cambr.) 264 For payne reste y ne maye. **1590** SPENSER *Faerie Queene* I. xi. 37 Loud he yelled for exceeding paine. **1655** W. SALES *Theophania* 29 Ervillius, who besides the pain of his wounds, bore so great a part in his Masters sufferings, that he enjoyed but little rest, plainly overheard all that he said. **1722** R. WODROW *Hist. Sufferings Church of Scotl.* (1837) II. II. xiii. §5. 458/1 At the ninth [stroke in the torture of the boot] Mr. Mitchel fainted through the extremity of pain. **1742** H. FIELDING *Joseph Andrews* II. IV. xi. 263 The Beau hopped about the Room, shaking his Head; partly from Pain, and partly from Anger. **1877** H. JAMES *American* xxii. 403 He had a fit of his great pain, and he asked her for his medicine. **1916** E. H. PORTER *Just David* xi. 149 The kitten cried out with the pain. **1946** J. HERSEY *Hiroshima* ii. 46 Others, because of pain, held their arms up as if carrying something in both hands. **1988** *Independent* 12 Aug. 1 Signs of a heart attack are pain in the centre of the chest.

**b.** A single unpleasant or agonizing physical sensation. Also in *pl.*

See *aches and pains* s.v. *ACHE* *n.*<sup>1</sup>

**c1375** CHAUCER *Monk's Tale* 3792 God for his manace hym so soore smoot With invisible wounde ay incurable That in his guttes carf it so and boot That hise peynes weren inportable. **?c1450** in G. Müller *Aus Mittelengl. Medizintexten* (1929) 130 A charme for peynys in theth. 'Sancta Apolonia, [etc.]' **1484** CAXTON tr. *Curial* 6 We after ouermoche drynkyng of wynes and grete paynes lye doun ofte in beddes ful of vermyne. **1553** J. BRENDE tr. Q. Curtius Rufus *Hist.* X. f. 208, He felt a payne in hys bely. **1587** M. GROVE *Pelops & Hippodamia* (1878) 86 Ixion nayled on the whirling wheele, Which hellish stubs & irksom pains doth feele. **1678** A. BEHN *Sir Patient Fancy* V. i, Are you not troubled with a pain in your Head Sir? **1727** R. BRADLEY *Family Dict.* s.v. *Arsenick*, It causes great Pains, Rendings,..violent Vomitings. **1763** *Philos. Trans. Royal Soc.* **53** 347 She complained of most excruciating stabbing pains in both breasts. **1832** G. DOWNES *Lett. from Continental Countries* I. 168, I was..attacked with a violent pain in my stomach, which yielded only to a strong dram of wormwood water. **1895** R. W. CHAMBERS *King in Yellow* (1909) 148 Then again something struck my ankle, and a sharp pain shot through me. **1911** L. COHEN *Reminisc. Kimberley* xviii. 323, I cannot eat, am sick of a morning, have pains in my legs, back, and head. **2000** *Here's Health* May 53/2 If you have a pain, work out when it started, how often it happens, what it feels like and so on.

**c.** The state or condition of consciousness arising from mental or physical suffering (opposed to *pleasure*); distress; (occas.) an instance of this. Freq. with *in*. Also in *pl.* in same sense.

Freq. in *to put out of (one's) pain* and variants: to destroy, put down (a wounded or suffering animal or (occas.) person). Also *fig.*

In early use: *esp.* suffering inflicted as punishment (cf. sense 1); later, except in *Philos.*

and *Psychol.* contexts, increasingly hard to separate from senses 3a and 4a.

**c1375** CHAUCER *Monk's Tale* B.3779 Goddes peple hadde he moost in hate; Hem wolde he sleen in torment and in payne. **a1393** GOWER *Confessio Amantis* (Fairf.) VIII. 2096 Of every lust thende is a peine. **c1475** (c1445) R. PECOCK *Donet* 9 þe soule..schal eft soone in þe eende of þis worlde be couplyd aʒen to þe body, forto dwelle so euere to gidere in ioeye or in peyne. **1481** CAXTON tr. *Reynard Fox* (Arb.) 32 Reynert the foxe..saide to Isegrym, shorte my payne. **1483** (1413) *Pilgrimage of Soul* (Caxton) V. i. 69 Now ben ended the peynes and tormentes. **a1533** LD. BERNERS tr. *Huon* lxvii. 231 In grete payne & mysery we must vse the resydwew of our lyues. **1598** G. CHAPMAN *Blinde Begger of Alexandria* sig. D2, But euery pleasure hath a payne they say. **1611** *Bible* (A.V.): *Rev.* xxi. 4 There shall bee no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there bee any more paine. **1639** J. SHIRLEY *Maides Revenge* v. iii, I would I were hanged, to be out of my pain! **1667** MILTON *Paradise Lost* IV. 910 So wise he judges it to fly from pain However, and to scape his punishment. **1757** E. BURKE *Philos. Enq. Sublime & Beautiful* I. ii, Pain and pleasure are simple ideas incapable of definition. **1783** *Ainsworth's Thes. Linguae Latinae* (new ed.) IV. s.v. *Lysimachus*, Lysimachus..at his request gave him a cup of poison to put him out of his pain. **1849** MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* I. iv. 433 The king was in great pain, and complained that he felt as if a fire was burning within him. **1883** A. BARRATT *Physical Metempiric* 152 The simple reaction, which physically is expressed as the Law of Self-conservation, psychically as the Principle of following Pleasure and avoiding Pain. **1895** T. HARDY *Jude* IV. ii. 268 The rabbit repeated its cry. Jude could rest no longer till he had put it out of its pain. **1913** J. MUIR *Story my Boyhood* i. 25 He must be mortally wounded..and now we must kill him to put him out of pain. **1955** R. S. THOMAS *Song at Year's Turning* 35 O blest are they, without pain or fretting. **1996** *Times* 13 Nov. 16/2 She was wearing huge constructivist heels. She was in pain.

**d.** Chiefly in *pl.* The physical suffering experienced when giving birth; labour.

Now usu. with preceding adjective or noun, esp. in *labour pains* (see LABOUR *n.* 8).

**a1398** J. TREVISA tr. Bartholomaeus Anglicus *De Proprietatibus Rerum* (BL Add.) f. 280<sup>v</sup>, þe hynde haþ grete trauayle and peyne whan sche calueþ. **a1400** (a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Vesp.) 3488 In trauelling..ful herd it was þair moder pain [**a1400** *Trin. Cambr.* Muchel was þe modir peyn]. **a1425** (c1395) *Bible* (Wycliffite, L.V.): *John* (Royal) xvi. 21 Sche hath borun a sone, now sche thenkith not on the peyne. **a1500** *Sidrak & Bokkus* (Lansd.) 6888 She is not of þe might þe peine of childinge to suffre right. **1539** *Bible* (Great): *I Sam.* iv. 19 She bowed her selfe, and traueled, for her paynes cam vpon her. **?1609** G. CHAPMAN tr. Homer *12 Bks. Iliads* IV. 65 Feeling soudainely the paines of Childe-birth. **1663** J. HOWELL *Poems Several Emergent Occasions in Poems Several Choice* 117 Hail, gentle Goddesse, Midwifes Queen Which pregnant Wombs from pain dost free. **a1704** T. BROWN *Ist Satire Persius Imitated in Wks.* (1707) I. i. 78 Here a Pert Sot, with six Months Pains brings forth, A strange, mishapen, and ridiculous Birth. **1797**

R. SOUTHEY *Hannah* in *Eng. Eclogues* 19 She bore unhusbanded a mother's pains. **1883** J. M. DUNCAN *Clin. Lect. Dis. Women* (ed. 2) viii. 56 Brought about..by the..contractions of the uterus in 'pains'. **1915** D. H. LAWRENCE *Rainbow* ii. 64 The pains began, Mrs. Brangwen was put to bed, the midwife came. **1990** D. ACKERMAN *Nat. Hist. Senses* ii. 103 In some cultures, the father experiences a false pregnancy..and takes to bed with childbirth pains.

**f. In pl.** A disorder characterized by the formation of sores on the feet and legs of horses (perh. mud fever). *Obs.*

**1440** *Prompt. Parv.* (Harl. 221) 390 Peynys, yvyl yn horsys fete. **1598** J. FLORIO *Worlde of Wordes* s.v. *Reste*, A disease in a horse which we call the paines. **1610** G. MARKHAM *Maister-peece* II. lxxviii. 350 The paines is a certaine vlcerous scabbe growing in the pastornes of a horse, betwixt the fetlocke and the heele. **1726** W. GIBSON *Farriers Dispensatory* I. 13 A Cataplasm made of Plantain, with Powder of Camphire, is very serviceable in the Pains, and watery Sores of the Legs and Pasterns. **1796** J. HUNTER *Compl. Dict. Farriery & Horsemanship, Pains*, or Watery Sores, on the legs and pasterns of horses, are frequently occasioned by a sharp serous meatter oozing through the pores, causing the hair to fall off.

**f. Sc., Eng. regional (Northumberland), and Irish English (north.). In pl.** Usu. with *the*. Rheumatism.

**1795** J. SINCLAIR *Statist. Acct. Scotl.* XIX. 129 Several old people complain much of what they call *the pains*, or rheumatism. **1827** R. CHAMBERS *Picture Scotl.* I. 222 The brownie of Bodsbeck..is remembered by tradition as a little grotesque creature, that, either from natural decrepitude, or from his wounds at Bothwell, or from 'the pains'..walked double. **1894** R. O. HESLOP *Northumberland Words* 522 He's just fair crippled wi' the pains. **1894** P. H. HUNTER *James Inwick* xx, An' there's me: as fu' o' the pains as I can haud. **1931** R. GIRVAN in *Sc. National Dict.* (1968) VII. 11/1, I hae naethin' much tae compleen o' for ma years, but, och man, I'm wild whiles wi' the pains. **1978** M. MCLAVERTY *Coll. Short Stories* (1997) 104 'If you get another attack of the pains it's us'll have to suffer,' put in Kate, 'attending you morning, noon and night.'

**4. a.** Mental distress or suffering; anguish, grief; an instance of this. Sometimes difficult to distinguish from sense 3c.

**c1330** (?a1300) *Sir Tristrem* 2622 Tristrem..sike<sup>b</sup>..Wi<sup>b</sup> sorwe and michel pain. **c1385** CHAUCER *Knight's Tale* 1815, I knowe of loues peyne And woot how sore it kan a man distreyne. **c1440** S. SCROPE tr. C. de Pisan *Epist. of Othea* (St. John's Cambr.) 30 He that berith the fardel of envie hath perpetual peyne. **1489** (a1380) J. BARBOUR *Bruce* II. 520 Thai..wald partenerys off thar paynys be. **a1500** (?c1400) *Sir Triamour* (Cambr.) 607 Hyt

dothe the kyng mekyll payne when he þenkyþ how syr Roger was slayne. **1568** A. SCOTT *Poems* (1896) xxviii. 1 To lve vnlvut it is ane pane. **1656** A. COWLEY *Gold in Misc.* 35 A Mighty pain to Love it is, And 'tis a pain that pain to miss, But of all pains the greatest pain It is to love, but love in vain. **1754** S. RICHARDSON *Hist. Sir Charles Grandison* IV. 51, I remember with pain the pain I gave to your generous heart. **1845** F. DOUGLASS *Narr. Life F. Douglass* x. 92, I regarded this separation as a final one. It caused me more pain than anything else. **1895** T. HARDY *Jude* v. vi. 374 Little Time..would..repeat inquiries and remarks..; and cause Sue, and Jude when he heard them, a great deal of pain and sadness. **a1902** S. BUTLER *Way of all Flesh* (1903) lxvii. 302 He still felt deeply the pain his disgrace had inflicted upon his father and mother. **1980** T. IRELAND *Catherine Loves* i. 9 Catherine thought of her own most secret pain. **1998** P. JOOSTE *Dance with Poor Man's Daughter* (1999) 13 It was not my lot to suffer the pain of discrimination.

†b. *spec.* Distress caused by fear of possible evil; anxiety, apprehension. With infinitive or adverb phrase. *Obs.*

**1582** *New Test. translated from Lat. Vulgate* xii, Being with child, she cried travailing in birth, and was in pain to be delivered. **1668** R. MOUNTAGU in *Buckleuch MSS* (Hist. MSS Comm.) (1899) I. 420, I am in a great deal of pain to know how my horses have performed the journey. **1722** D. DEFOE *Moll Flanders* 198, I am not in any pain about being seen, or being publick or conceal'd. **1758** *Ann. Reg.* 113/2 The public was in great pain for the Admirals..left..in sight of six large French ships of war. **a1793** G. WHITE *Observ. Quadrupeds in Nat. Hist. Selborne* (1802) II. 211 The foster mother [*sc.* a cat] became jealous of her charge [*sc.* young squirrels], and in pain for their safety. **1820** J. KEATS *Isabella in Lamia* 62 'Love, Isabel!' said he, 'I was in pain Lest I should miss to bid thee a good morrow.' **1848** DICKENS *Dombey & Son* xxiv. 246 If a book were read aloud, and there were anything in the story that pointed to an unkind father, she was in pain for their application of it to him; not for herself.

**5. a.** Trouble taken in accomplishing or attempting something; difficulty. Formerly also; †an instance of taking trouble (*obs.*).

**c1330** (?a1300) *Arthur & Merlin* (Auch.) 8367 Harans biseged and dede his peine, þe cite to winne of Dorkeine. **a1393** GOWER *Confessio Amantis* (Fairf.) IV. 2678 If thei techen to restreigne Mi love, it were an ydel peine To lerne a thing which mai nocht be. **?a1430** T. HOCCLEVE *Mother of God* 108 in *Minor Poems* (1892) I. 55 Do your bysy peyne To wasse away our cloudeful offense. **1476** *Paston Lett.* (1971) I. 495, I have moche payne to gete so moche mony. **a1522** G. DOUGLAS tr. Virgil *Æneid* (1957) I. Prol. 109 And þit, forsuith, I set my besy pane, As that I suld, to mak it braid and plane. **1586** R. LANE in R. Hakluyt *Principal Navigations* (1589) 742 Thus sir, I haue..set downe vnto you, what my labour with the rest of the gentlemen, and poore men of our company, (not without both payne, and perill which the lorde in his mercy many wayes deliuered vs from) could yeelde vnto you. **1603** G. OWEN *Descr. Penbrokshire* (1892) viii. 62 The

husbandman that spareth paine spareth thripte. **1633** P. FLETCHER *Purple Island* x. xl, A thousand Knights woo'd her with busie pain. **1702** *Eng. Theophrastus* 305 A man would not employ the least pain in the acquisition of sciences, if [etc.]. **1768** *Woman of Honor* I. 23 Taking some pain to excuse the girl's carelessness. **1877** R. L. STEVENSON in *Cornhill Mag.* July 84, I know there are people in the world who cannot feel grateful unless the favour has been done them at the cost of pain and difficulty. **1895** 'H. HALIBURTON' *Dunbar* 12 Maun wi' foreign markets mell, An' gets weel bitten for his pain. **1993** F. KIPPAX *Other People's Blood* (BNC), 'Why don't you come to my auntie's with me?.. You could meet a millionaire or two.' 'Oh sure, and die of bloody boredom for my pain.'

**b.** In *pl.* (a) Trouble taken in accomplishing or attempting something; labour, toil, exertions; careful and attentive effort. Freq. in phrases, as *to be at pains, to go to pains, to take pains* (now often with *great* or a similar intensifier).

**c1480** *St. Andrew* (Cambr.) 437 in W. M. Metcalfe *Legends Saints Sc. Dial.* (1896) I. 76, I haf þarninge With paynis quhill I thé kene How the tynt sawlis of almen [etc.]. **a1500** (c1477) T. NORTON *Ordinal of Alchemy* (BL Add.) 746 Moche trowble & peynes ye may reche. **a1538** T. STARKEY *Dial. Pole & Lupset* (1989) 38 Apply themselfys to theyr laburys & paynys for the susteynyng of the hole body. **1589** T. NASHE in R. Greene *Menaphon* Epist. sig. \*\*2<sup>v</sup>, They haue nought but..their paines for their sweate, and..their labour for their trauaile. **1608** G. CHAPMAN *Conspiracie Duke of Byron* IV. i. sig. G, What idle paines have you bestowd to see A poore ould woman? **1656** B. WHITELOCKE *Diary* 18 Apr. (1990) 437 Wh[itelocke] was able to give them satisfaction having taken pains to inform himself therin. **1709** SWIFT *Let. conc. Sacramental Test* 4 The University was at the pains of Publishing a Latin Paper to justify themselves. **1774** O. GOLDSMITH *Hist. Earth* II. viii. 176 A person born deaf, may, by time, and sufficient pains, be taught..to speak, and, by the motions of the lips, to understand what is said to him. **1808** SCOTT *Marmion* I. xiii, Yet much he praised the pains he took, And well those pains did pay. **1886** J. RUSKIN *Præterita* I. xii. 426 He..spared no pains on his daughter's education. **1925** A. LOOS in *Harper's Bazaar* Mar. 132/2, I am taking special pains with my diary from now on as I am really writing for Gerry. **2000** *N.Y. Times Mag.* 14 May 54/3 He picks a few campaign themes and goes to great pains to keep his candidates on message.

‡(b) With *sing.* concord. *Obs.*

**1542** N. UDALL tr. Erasmus *Apophthegmes* 51 (*margin*), The peines of teachyng is woorthie great wages. **1582** R. MULCASTER *Ist Pt. Elementarie* Peroration 230, I might haue spared this pains in requiring your frindship. **1651** B. WHITELOCKE *Diary* 20 Mar. (1990) 274 Order for an Act to incorporate Scotland into one Common wealth w[i]th England,..Wh[itelockes] pains was used in it. **1671** tr. *Erasm. Colloq.* 230 Recompensing one pains with another. **1711** R. STEELE *Spectator* No. 32 ¶3 One of the Seniors (whom



by the by Mr. President had taken all this Pains to bring over) sat still. **1794** MARQUIS OF BUCKINGHAM in *14th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm. App. v. 489*, I am sure you have taken every pains to do whatever you imagined might best forward my wishes. **a1862** H. D. THOREAU *Maine Woods* (1864) ii. 116 All this pains I took because I did not wish to be obliged to say merely that the moose was very large. **1884** *Law Rep.: Queen's Bench Div. 13* 488 He..took every pains to arrive at a proper conclusion.

**c. for one's pains:** in return for one's (esp. futile) labour or trouble.

**a1563** J. BALE *Brefe Comedy Iohan Baptystes in Harleian Misc.* (1744) I. 106 For your peynes ye haue appoynted by the emproure Your stypende wages. **1599** G. CHAPMAN *Humerous Dayes Myrth Civ*, Now she stops..and rates him for his paines. **c1600** in J. Balfour *Practicks* (1754) 599 The uther half to the wardane for his panis. **a1616** SHAKESPEARE *Merry W.* (1623) III. iv. 100 Giue my sweet Nan this Ring: there's for thy paines. **1678** J. BUNYAN *Pilgrim's Progress* I. 183 You..are like to have nothing but your travel for your paines. **1713** J. ADDISON in *Guardian* 20 July 2/1 When I talk of practising to fly, silly People think me an Owl for my Pains. **1778** F. BURNEY *Evelina* I. xxi. 148 If you hadn't come, you might have stayed..and have been a beggar for your pains. **1854** H. D. THOREAU *Walden* 21, I got only my labor for my pains. **1889** J. CORBETT *Monk* xi. 154 The old general, in a fit of exasperation, publicly gave him a sound thrashing for his pains. **1930** A. P. HERBERT *Water Gipsies* xi. 145 They had worked hard for many minutes, and were a few feet higher for their pains. **1997** J. SEABROOK *Deeper* viii. 267 He was gone for two years and returned with no money, nothing to show for his pains but a wonderful set of chess pieces he had whittled himself during his two years in the wilderness.

**6. colloq. a.** Chiefly *U.S.* **to give** (a person) **a pain:** to be annoying or tiresome to (a person). Now usually more fully **to give** (a person) **a pain in the neck** (also **in the arse**, etc.).

**1884** C. F. LUMMIS *Let. 10 Dec. in Lett. from Southwest* (1989) 142 That began to give me a pain. **1908** R. E. KNOWLES *Web of Time* xiv. 144 'There's naethin' like the guid auld oatmeal.' 'You Scotch folks give me a pain,' broke in David. **1911** *Washington Post* 8 Oct. E3 Aw, you pikers gimme a pain in the neck. **1924** P. G. WODEHOUSE *Leave it to Psmith* ix. 188 He got there first, damn him! Wouldn't that give you a pain in the neck! **1951** J. D. SALINGER *Catcher in Rye* iv. 27 He gave out a big yawn while he said that. Which is something that gives me a royal pain in the ass. **1990** S. MORGAN *Homeboy* i. 4 Squares gave Rings'n'Things a pain in the bahakas.

**b.** An annoying or tiresome person or thing; a source of irritation; a nuisance. Also more fully **pain in the neck** (also **arse**, etc.).

1933 E. B. WHITE *Let. Mar.* (1976) 112 All through the campaign I thought Mr. R. was something of a pain. 1937 J. WEIDMAN *I can get it for you Wholesale* xxviii. 268 She's a pain in the rear end. 1967 W. SOYINKA *Kongi's Harvest* 14 Your uncle is a pain in the neck. 1994 *Observer* 18 Sept. (Review Suppl.) 19/1 Metafiction, fiction which self-consciously signals its status as fiction, is usually a pain. 2000 J. GOODWIN *Danny Boy* i. 20 Only eighteen and already a complete pain in the arse.

## II. Compounds.

7. a. General attrib., as *pain sensation, sense, sensibility*. b. Instrumental, as *pain-afflicted, -bought, †-chastened, -dimmed, -distorted, -drawn, -racked, -shot, -stricken, -worn, -wrung* adjs. c. Objective, as *pain-assuaging, -dispelling, -giving, -inflicting, -killing, -producing, -relieving* adjs.; *-bearing* adj. and n.; *†pains-hating* adj. d. **pain barrier**, the point of greatest pain, esp. during extreme physical exertion, beyond which pain diminishes. **pain behaviour**, behaviour characteristic or indicative of pain. **pain clinic**, a place or institution, often a specialized hospital department, dedicated to the investigation and treatment of pain. **pain-free** *a.* and *adv.*, free from pain. **pain management**, the control and regulation of pain, esp. by means of medication. **pain pill** *colloq.* (orig. and chiefly *U.S.*), a painkiller. **†pain-piss** *Obs.*, painful urination, strangury. **pain point** *Physiol.* = *pain spot*; also in extended use. **pain-proof** *a.*, having immunity from pain. **pain relief**, the alleviation of pain, usually by means of medication. **pain reliever**, a medication which alleviates pain. **pain spot** *Physiol.*, a small spot on the surface of the skin that is sensitive to pain. **pain threshold**, the point beyond which a stimulus causes pain; the upper limit of tolerance to pain.

1645 F. QUARLES *Solomons Recant.* ii. 35 And like a \*pain-afflicted stripling, play With some new Toy, to while thy grief away. 1990 *Business & Health* (Nexis) 8 22 The company looks after pain-afflicted workers on a case-by-case basis in a number of ways.

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1597 A. M. tr. J. Guillemeau *Frenche Chirurg.* 49b/1 \*Payne-assuaging clisteryes, made of freshe milcke. a1800 W. COWPER tr. Homer *Iliad* IV, in *Wks.* (1835-7) IX. 94 One..shall dress The wound with drugs of pain-assuaging power. 2002 *Star Phoenix* (Saskatoon) (Nexis) 25 Oct. A3 An inter-institution team of researchers are examining the pain-assuaging qualities of tetrodotoxin, a potentially fatal poison found in certain varieties of puffer fish.

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1953 *Times* 14 Oct. 4/1 (*adv.*) Rheumatic sufferers! Penetrate the '\*pain barrier'. Here is soothing, healing warmth deep down where you feel the pain! 1963 *Times* 30 Oct. 4/4 There is a pain barrier to break through in swimming and every member of our team will have gone through the barrier before they leave for Tokyo. 1998 *Mirror* 27 Apr. 2/2 A

group of Mirror readers ran through the pain barrier yesterday for a spectacular charity success in the London Marathon.

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**1904** *N.E.D.* s.v. *Pain* sb.<sup>1</sup>, \*Pain-bearing. **1910** E. LYALL *We Two* xxxiii. 385 No pain she had ever suffered had been a wasted thing, nor had it merely taught her personally some needful lesson; it had been rather her allotted service, her share of pain-bearing, sin-bearing, Christ-following,..given to her as one of the best of gifts by the Father Himself. **2002** *Daily Mail* (Nexis) 25 Sept. 41 The researchers were unable to say why coffee did not boost men's pain-bearing abilities.

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**1953** in C. Hookway & P. Pettit *Action & Interpretation* (1978) 141 When I imagine that someone who is laughing is really in pain I don't imagine any \*pain-behaviour, for I see just the opposite. **1989** *Independent* 9 May 14 'Pain behaviour' such as wincing at every movement, is played down.

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**1835** T. N. TALFOURD *Ion* II. i. 57 In the dark chamber where my mother lay, Faint with the sense of \*pain-bought happiness. **a1906** P. L. DUNBAR *Coll. Poetry* (1993) 117 Breathing a fortitude Pain-bought.

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**1890** W. CARLETON *City Legends* 168 Her husband she met with a \*pain-chastened grace.

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**1947** *N.Y. Times* 6 Sept. 19/2 The New York University College of Medicine has opened a special '\*pain' clinic to instruct medical specialists and educators throughout the United States in the nerve block technique of anesthetics. **1967** *Anaesthesia* **22** 568 In the earlier years of the Pain Clinic all the injections were given as out-patient procedures. **2002** *Daily Tel.* 28 June 21/1, I have fibromyalgia, with tender painful muscles. I've been referred to a pain clinic, but wonder if you have anything to suggest?

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**1871** F. R. HAVERGAL *Ministry of Song* (ed. 2) 3 Sing of the gentle Saviour..And the \*pain-dimmed eye will brighten As the soothing verses flow. **1916** *Times* 23 June 10/1 Will the entreaty in its [*sc.* a horse's] pain-dimmed eyes be left unheeded?

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**1870** W. C. BRYANT tr. Homer *Iliad* I. v. 153 Pæan with his \*pain-dispelling balms Healed him. **1930** E. BLOM tr. R. Specht *Johannes Brahms* xiv. 231 Tears of loneliness flow so calm and pain-dispelling.

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**1845** C. MACKAY *Legends of Isles* 85 And that venerable head..up he raised..And..gazed On that \*pain-distorted cheek. **1998** *Belfast News Let.* (Nexis) 19 Aug. 6 His pain-distorted face softens only when he is asked what his wife was like. 'She was a lovely, gentle person.'

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**1857** *Househ. Words* 24 Oct. 398/1 Beguile The \*pain-drawn lips to curve into a smile. **1904** *Westm. Gaz.* 29 Dec. 8/3 Some few..rest on couches, wan smiles stealing across their pain-drawn faces. **1996** *Gaz.* (Montreal) (Nexis) 16 Mar. E5 He walks the

line..separating self-mythology from songwriting, self-destruction from pain-drawn inspiration, country from rock.

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**1629** J. GAULE *Practique Theories Christs Predict*. 176 Men neyther shrinke, nor shrike..when they perceiue their Bodies pierce-free, or \*paine-free. **1904** *Jrnl. Philos., Psychol. & Sci. Methods* **1** 191 The pain-free spots of the inner surface of the cheek are sensitive to pressure. **1989** *Psychol. Today* Sept. 32/2 After learning better eating habits and making other lifestyle changes, they were walking four or five miles pain-free.

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**1832** J. F. COOPER *Heidenmauer* I. x. 168 Nay, 'tis no \*pain-giving penance I ask. **1934** R. V. C. BODLEY *Japanese Omelette* iv. 30 The geta..supposed to fit the sole of a Japanese foot..are, to my mind, the most paingiving form of footwear ever devised. **2000** *Sunday Times* (Nexis) 22 Oct., Kenneth Hesketh's Torturous Instruments..is inspired by Hieronymous Bosch's depiction of hell, but there is nothing grotesque or pain-giving about the way the instruments are used in this fleet and felicitous, elegantly planned movement.

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**1798** E. MOODY *Poetic Trifles* 178 We approach'd the \*pain-inflicting Cave. **1883** *Amer. Naturalist* **17** 617 Anger implies..the effort to remove or attack any pain-inflicting agency. **1995** *Amer. Hist. Rev.* **100** p. iv, Some reformers shifted attention from the effort to eradicate pain-inflicting practices to their privatization.

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**1865** C. T. BROOKS tr. J. P. F. Richter *Hesperus* 168 Any poor body whose..gashes required a sponge or \*pain-killing drops. **1935** *Science* 6 Dec. 11/1 The pain-killing effect lasts from twenty minutes to an hour. **2001** *Washington Post* 22 Aug. A4/5 The drugs..provide the same pain-killing effects as aspirin and..ibuprofen.

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**1966** *N.Y. State Jrnl. Med.* **66** (title), \*Pain management in cancer. **1999** T. PARSONS *Man & Boy* (2000) xxx. 252, I was telling your mother that pain management is very sophisticated these days.

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**1941** L. HUGHES *Let.* 1 Feb. in E. Bernard *Remember me to Harlem* (2001) 182 Dopey with \*pain pills for two weeks. **2001** *Mirror* (Nexis) 12 Oct. 16 He's still a hypochondriac and insomniac who takes 'pain pills' and sleeping tablets but he said farewell to cocaine years ago.

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**1614** G. MARKHAM *Cheape & Good Husb.* (1668) I. xxix. 55 Of the pain in the Kidneys, \*pain~piss, or the Stone. **1698** in A. W. C. Hallen *Acct. Bk. Sir J. Foulis* (1894) 241 To John Carss for the bassie horss curing of the bats or painpiss.

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**1897** tr. T. A. Ribot *Psychol. of Emotions* 27 Goldscheider..admits \*pain-points (points sensible to pain), but not a specific organ for pain nor special nerves to transmit it. **1954** S. ROTHMAN *Physiol. & Biochem. Skin* v. 136/2 Itching is produced with great ease when the stimulus is weak and repetitive and when several pain points are stimulated simultaneously. **2003** *PR Week* (Nexis) 10 Mar. 15 We've learned there is a gap between what sales thinks the customer wants, and what are the customer's real pain points.

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**1850** C. H. MEEKER tr. 'J. H. Rausse' *Water-cure applied to Every Known Dis.* 225 By this false act of digestion, no \*pain-producing substances are engendered. **1974** V. B. MOUNTCASTLE *Med. Physiol.* (ed. 13) I. IV. xi. 357/2 The identity of the pain-producing neurohumor activated by cellular injury has proved elusive. **1995** *Amer. Family Physician* (Nexis) **52** 875 This technique can be especially helpful in localizing tubo-ovarian abscesses or other types of pain-producing ovarian pathology.

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**1903** 'M. TWAIN' in *North Amer. Rev.* Jan. 3 No C[hristian] S[cience] family would consider itself..\*pain-proof without an Annex. **2002** *Daily Tel.* (Nexis) 29 June 12 What parent's heart is pain-proof when their child's best friend suddenly ditches them for someone new?

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**1752** F. GENTLEMAN *Sejanus* II. i. 25 His \*Pain-rack'd Soul burst from its earthly Cage, And fleeting left the breathless Coarse behind. **1888** H. MORTEN *Sketches Hosp. Life* 11, I prayed that they were not coming to touch my painracked limbs. **1999** G. E. CHRISTIANSON *Greenhouse* ii. 15 In the bucolic hamlet of Down, a pain-racked Charles Darwin was completing the sequel to his 1859 magnum opus *On the Origin of Species*.

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**1935** *Isis* **23** 254 Trephining..may have been accomplished, insofar as \*pain relief was concerned, by the operator chewing a cud of coca leaves, the juice of which could be dropped upon the wound. **1995** *Independent* 6 Mar. 3/2 It would be right to give drinks, to feed orally, to treat pressure sores and to give pain relief.

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**1920** *Times* 26 Nov. 15/1 (advt.) All chemists stock Genasprin... You will find it a marvellous \*pain-reliever in Headache, Toothache, [etc.]. **1996** *Amer. Health* June 20/1 All other pain relievers..have the potential to cause gastrointestinal irritation and bleeding.

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**1859** *Times* 23 Nov. 11/4 (advt.) Indigestion cured at last by Menthanodyne or \*Pain-relieving Mint. **1908** *Practitioner* Dec. 850 The experiment was absolute proof of the pain-relieving quality of congestion. **1999** *Chem. in Brit.* Mar. 16/1 The chemicals responsible for the reputed pain-relieving effects of cherries are mainly anthocyanins.

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**1892** *Philos. Rev.* **1** 415 Most of the facts which we have noted for the separateness of \*pain sensations speak as well for the independence of pleasure. **1905** E. B. TITCHENER *Exper. Psychol.* I. II. iii. 95 The sensations of pain are very different from either the temperature or the pressure sensations... I could almost posit an area for the pressure sensations, but the pain sensations seemed to have no bigness at all. **1991** *Philadelphia Inquirer* 15 Aug. A16/1 A..neurotransmitter that relays pain sensations from the spinal cord to the brain.

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**1891** *Cent. Mag.* Dec. 288/2 Nor..do animals seem to have the acuteness of \*pain-sense to which we have arrived. **1938** L. H. MAXSON & W. W. BABCOCK *Spinal Anesthesia* i. 1 Spinal analgesia is the correct technical term when pain sense alone is abolished

without the loss of the epicritical faculties. **1985** *Philos. Trans. Royal Soc. B.* **308** 347  
The pain sense has an extensive cortical representation.

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**1897** *Mind* **6** 137 \*Pain sensibility to sensory stimulation varies with the conditions. **1974**  
V. B. MOUNTCASTLE *Med. Physiol.* (ed. 13) I. IV. xi. 359/2 Lesions..of the lemniscal  
system at any level may lead to profound alterations in pain sensibility. **1996** *Philos.*  
*Trans. Royal Soc. B.* **351** 437/1 The dual mechanisms of peripheral and central  
sensitization..may cooperate in the genesis of abnormal pain sensibility.

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**1864** E. B. PUSEY *Daniel* ix. 562 Indolent, conceited, soft, \*pains-hating.

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**1911** M. BEERBOHM *Zuleika Dobson* iv. 44 He was gazing at the girl with \*pain-shot  
eyes. **1991** *Stud. Eng. Lit.* (Houston, Texas) **31** 478, I have argued that this pain-shot  
heroism is basically uplifting.

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**1888** W. STIRLING tr. L. Landois *Text-bk. Human Physiol.* (ed. 3) xiv. 831 The \*pain-  
spots can be isolated by means of a needle, or electrically. **1927** J. B. S. HALDANE & J. S.  
HUXLEY *Animal Biol.* v. 126 Stimulation of a single pain-spot will only cause movement  
after a long time or never. **1998** R. L. GREGORY *Oxf. Compan. to Mind* 278 Von Frey  
showed that pain is a special skin modality, separate from these sensations and also from  
pressure. He went on to map out 'pain spots'.

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**1848** E. C. GASKELL *Mary Barton* I. x. 175 Creatures who..crawl through life with  
moody hearts and \*pain-stricken bodies. **1894** *Mod. Lang. Notes* **9** 8/2 The pleasure-  
loving and pain-stricken populace. **1995** *Melody Maker* 25 Mar. 11/1 Their aggressively  
pain-stricken 'World Of Noise' LP.

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**1895** *Science* 11 Jan. 46/2 Experiments were..described giving the relation of area and  
duration and of velocity and mass for the \*pain threshold. **1969** 'I. DRUMMOND' *Man*  
*with Tiny Head* xvi. 182 Sandro guessed that his pain-threshold would be high and that he  
would give nothing away. **1990** *Physiotherapy* **76** 741/2 However one..measures stress,  
the actual level which causes distress is, like pain threshold, unique to each individual.

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**1834** *Tait's Mag.* **1** 134/2 Above the little \*pain-worn thing The sailor's widow wept.  
**1886** W. D. HOWELLS *Indian Summer* xv. 245 Mrs. Bowen came in to them, looking pale  
and pain-worn. **1902** J. K. JEROME *Paul Kelter* viii. 123 Long physical suffering had  
chased the wantonness away for ever from the pain-worn mouth.

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**1815** E. B. NORTON *Alcon Malanzore* I. 6 Unlike thine other prisons, Spain, were here  
No shrieking penitent, no \*pain-wrung tear. **1894** M. COLBORNE-VEEL *Story of Marah* v,  
in *Fairest of Angels & Other Verse* 14 The little pain-wrung brow grew calm again. **1916**  
M. COUTHOUY SMITH *N.Y. Times* in C. E. Holman *In Day of Battle* 157 For brave songs  
breaking From pain-wrung lips—We praise Thee, O God!

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