time I am going to see a lady friend. 1931 Weekend Rev. 17 Oct. 496/1 The night-watchman, after taunting Larry with his inexperience in affairs of the heart, is obliged to stand by and see the youngster making rapid headway in the affections of his own lady-friend. 2001 Jrln. Social Hist. 35 398 The tendency of members to use the club's craft to ship their lady friends upriver led to its being renamed the 'Floating Fornication Club'.

**lady governess** n. (also with capital initials) now hist. a woman of high rank having charge of a young person, esp. a prince or princess (cf. sense 3c); (later also) a gentlewoman employed as a tutor in a household (cf. Compounds 1d(c)).

?c1500 For Christening of Prince or Princess (BL MS Add. 38174) f. 12, The child to be borne vnto the nourcery where it shalbe norished w t a*lady governouz of the norsery. 1638 F. QUARLES Hieroglyphikes Ep. Ded. sig. A4, To the right honorable..Mary, Countess of Dorset; Lady Governess to the most Illustrious, Charles, Prince of great Britain. 1710 LD. SHAFTESBURY Advice to Author III. ii. 167 The Method of expostulating with his Lady-Governess. 1821 Gentleman's Mag. May 336/2 The Querist knows the etiquette of a Lady Governess..but he has never heard of dry and wet-nurses being (according to etiquette) strictly required to be of noble descent. 1859 Dublin Rev. Mar. 93 That most suffering section of the poor, the lady-governess class. 1904 Times 24 May 14/3 Wanted, Lady Governess, North German, good English teacher. 2003 D. LOADES Elizabeth I iii. 41 For the time being she was simply one of Elizabeth's gentlewomen, and it was not until..October 1537 that she became lady governess, and began to take her charge's education and training in hand.

**lady help** n. a refined woman engaged to perform domestic service; cf. Compounds 1d(c).

1848 Graham's Mag. Mar. 180/1 My Aunt Lina's paragon is a ‘*lady-help’. Of all kinds ‘of help’ the very one I have endeavored most to avoid; it is such a nondescript kind of creature that lady-help. 1875 Punch 11 Sept. 98/1 In poor genteel families, lady-helps could hardly expect any wages. 1922 K. MANSFIELD Garden Party (1923) 15 Mrs. S. J. and the poor lady-help drew up what she called a ‘brogramme’ every morning to keep them 'abused and out of bischief'. 1973 Times 6 Nov. 38/1 (adv.) Reliable lady help required for large country house in Surrey. 1997 N. TONKOVICH Domesticity with Difference vii. 145 Hale does not consider whence the lady-help originated. Who but gentlewomen fallen on hard times or unmarried female relatives might provide the dainty and tastefully refined services this lady-helper would render?

**ladykiller** n. humorous an attractive, charming man who habitually seduces women.

1769 A. B. POYNTZ Je Ne Sçai Quoi i. 2 Of all you woman-hunters, commend me to the *Lady-killer, as I call him, who, the moment he finds a female seemingly
to incline towards him, leaves her, as he thinks, to die of a broken heart. 1811 Ora & Juliet II. 197 Upwards of twenty sat down at table, amongst whom was the lady killer, or Colonel Sackville. 1910 J. LONDON Burning Daylight (1913) II. vi. 170 Of all unlikely things, to have the reputation of being a lady-killer...and to have a woman kill herself out of love for him! 1996 J. MCCORMICK & S. FISHER-HOCH Level 4 xxii. 197 Don was quite a lady killer in those days, so his trip turned out to be something of an event for the girls of Segbwema.

ladykilling n. and adj. humorous (a) n. the action of charming and seducing women; (b) adj. that charms and seduces women.

1795 S. CHATTERTON Poems 66 Thus of each requisite possess'd That might alarm a female breast, He went a *lady-killing. 1825 C. M. WESTMACCOTT Eng. Spy I. 192 Ladykilling coterie. 1837 F. MARRYAT Snarleyyow III. xvi. 251 ‘Pretty lady-killing,’ muttered the sergeant. 1858 R. S. SURTEES Ask Mamma i. 2 Nature had favoured Billy's pretensions in the lady-killing way. 1960 ‘MISS READ’ Fresh from Country (1962) v. 59 He was lazy, vain, and boastful, and his jejune attempts at lady-killing irritated Anna. 2007 St. Petersburg (Florida) Times (Nexis) 4 May E1 A speed-metal indictment of a ladykilling creep who seduces women into his posh hot tub.

*lady-monger n. Obs. = lady's man n. at Compounds 3b.

1597 1st Pt. Returne fr. Parnassus IV. i. 1236 This haberdasher of lyes, this bracchidochio, this *ladyemunger. 1678 S. BUTLER Hudibras III. i. 23 He serv'd two Prenticehips and longer, I' th' Myst'ry of a Lady-Monger. 1707 E. WARD London Terræfilius 26 That Libidinous Coxcomb of a Creature, is one of those Insatiate Lady-mongers, call'd an Universal Lover.

lady pack n. a pack of female hounds.

1828 Sporting Mag. Apr. 414/1 Met Mr. Osbaldeston at Kirby Gate—the *lady pack looking in high beauty, and a thundering large field. 1896 Westm. Gaz. 18 Dec. 4/1 Crossing the Swift brook the lady pack made play across the meadows beyond at a rare pace. 1978 B. CAMPBELL Badminton Trad. 131 Every hound was helping to drive a sinking fox to his death, instead of hanging about and trying to have another hunt on her own (for it was the lady pack).

*lady pear n. [after French poire de Madame (1654 in the passage translated in quot. 1658)] Obs. a variety of pear.

1658 J. EVELYN tr. N. de Bonnefons French Gardiner 115 The Ice Pear. The great stalked Pear. Ugly-Good. The *Lady Pear. 1664 J. EVELYN Kalendarium Hortense 78 in Sylva, Sugar-Pear, Lady-Pear, Ice-pear. 1746 Moffett & Bennet's Health's Improvem. (new ed.) xxii. 306 The Lady-pear is too watrish, though