

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** *Jrnl. 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 (*advt.*) 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. WESTMACOTT *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 brachidochio, 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