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arrogate, *v.*

Pronunciation: Brit. /'arəɡeɪt/, U.S. /'ɛrə,ɡeɪt/

Forms: 15 **arrogate** (past participle), 15 **arrogatt**, 15–16 **arogate**, 15– **arrogate**, 16 **arogat**.

Frequency (in current use):

Origin: A borrowing from Latin. **Etymons:** Latin *arrogāt-*, *adrogāre*.

Etymology: < classical Latin *arrogāt-*, past participial stem (see *-ATE suffix*³) of *adrogāre*, *arrogāre* to lay claim to, claim as a right, to claim for another, attribute, to adopt (an adult) as a son < *ad-* *AD-* *prefix* + *rogāre* to ask (see *ROGATION n.*).

Compare earlier *ARROGANCE n.*, *ARROGANCY n.*, *ARROGANT adj.*, and (with use in sense 5) later *ADROGATE v.*

Compare Middle French, French *arrogier* (late 15th cent. in senses of both branches; in senses of branch I. usually reflexive), Spanish *arrogar* (15th cent.), Portuguese *arrogar* (15th cent.), Italian *arrogare* (1532).

N.E.D. (1885) gives the pronunciation as (æ·roge^t) /'æɾəʊgeɪt/.

I. To claim without justification.

1. trans. To claim or appropriate (a right, title, privilege, power, etc.) falsely or without justification, esp. as a result of presumptuousness or arrogance.

a. With *to* (also occasionally †*for*, *unto*) and reflexive pronoun.

- 1537 tr. H. Latimer *Serm. to Clergie* sig. B.viii Howe moche so euer we arrogate [L. *arrogamus*] these holy tytles vnto vs.
- 1574 T. TYMME tr. J. de Serres *Three Parties Comm. Ciuill Warres Fraunce* I. 60 It was not lawfull for the Guises, to arrogate vnto themselues the titles and authoritie of Princes, which onely appertained to the Kings bloude.
- 1627 J. C. FURSDON tr. R. Smith *Life Visctess. Montague* i. 2 King Henry the VIII. calling a Parliament, purposed..to arrogate vnto himselfe the title of head of the Church of England.
- 1671 MILTON *Paradise Regain'd* IV. 313 To themselves All glory arrogate, to God give none.
- a1754 T. CARTE *Gen. Hist. Eng.* (1755) IV. 87 This was arrogating plenipotency to themselves.
- 1777 R. WATSON *Hist. Reign Philip II* I. XIII. 428 The Spaniards..had arrogated to themselves every important branch of the administration.
- 1861 LD. BROUGHAM *Brit. Constit.* (new ed.) ix. 120 They arrogated to themselves the right of approving or rejecting all that was done.
- 1891 T. HARDY *Tess* II. xxxvii. 242 He went so far as to arrogate to himself the right of harming her.
- 1950 D. CUSACK *Morning Sacrifice in 3 Austral. Three-act Plays* III. ii. 250 I now arrogate to myself my last privilege before I leave you.
- 1999 D. J. SCHROETER in Y. K. Stillman & N. A. Stillman *From Iberia to Diaspora* I. 94 Macnin..arrogated for himself the position of official representative of the Moroccan government in London.

2000 *Business Recorder* (Karachi) 10 Apr. 3/8 He said it is not for the Secretary General of the Commonwealth to arrogate to himself the right to criticize the judgement.

b. With simple object.

1566 J. BARTHLET *Pedegrewe Heretiques* f. 6 Such..ambiciously coueting to be aduanced vnto godly honour, arrogate the authoritie of yoking religion and superstition together.

1593 T. BILSON *Perpetual Govt. Christes Church* 18 May they not arrogate any parte of Christes honour.

1667 MILTON *Paradise Lost* XII. 27 Will arrogate Dominion undeserv'd Over his brethren.

1702 N. ROWE *Tamerlane* II. ii. 18 And arrogate a Praise which is not ours.

1798 *Crit. Rev.* **23** App. 582 The majority of the constituent assembly arrogated the title and functions of the legislative body of the state.

1806 G. PINCKARD *Notes W. Indies* II. 76 The slaves, who proudly arrogate a superiority above the negroes of the other islands!

1858 J. DORAN *Hist. Court Fools* 92 The liberty arrogated by the professor of wit.

1920 *Amer. Woman* Aug. 5/2 He'd even arrogated the habit of planning how Beatrice and he should spend the leisure part of their days.

1982 'E. PETERS' *Virgin in Ice* (1984) x. 145 But if I may not arrogate blame, I am noble, and I will demand vengeance.

2001 J. FRANZEN *Corrections* 31 I'm saying the bureaucracy has arrogated the right to define certain states of mind as 'diseased'.

2. trans. To claim to possess (something, esp. a quality) falsely or without justification, esp. as a result of presumptuousness or arrogance; to assert without foundation that one has; to assume.

a. With *to* (also occasionally *for*, †*unto*) and reflexive pronoun.

1563 *2nd Tome Homelyes* sig. Mmmm.ii^v Whether all men do iustly arrogate to themselues y^e holy ghost, or no?

1607 R. ABBOT tr. St. Augustine in *2nd Pt. Def. Reformed Catholicke* 756 They arrogate vnto themselues so great righteousness.

1629 J. MEDE *Let.* 21 Oct. in *Wks.* (1672) IV. xii. 757 Nor do I arrogate so much ability to myself.

1700 C. LEIGH *Nat. Hist. Lancs.* ii. 43 I do not speak this as any wise arrogating a greater Genius to my self,..but only from the Phænomena I have observ'd in Nature.

1791 W. BELSHAM *Ess.* II. xl. 501 They arrogate..all wisdom, knowledge, and even honesty, to themselves.

1872 W. BLACK *Strange Adventures Phaeton* xxix. 384 She arrogated to herself a certain importance.

1922 J. WARSHAW *New Lat. Amer.* ix. 225 To deny that social and political progress can thrive in Latin America is to arrogate wisdom to ourselves.

1967 *Times* 16 Dec. 8/7 Never was it more necessary..for the richer to realize that they have no right to arrogate virtue to themselves.

2005 *Jerusalem Post* (Nexis) 9 Sept. (Opinion section) 14 Yosef arrogates to himself a wisdom not

granted to human beings.

b. With simple object.

In quot. 1581 with pronoun as object, referring to an infinitive clause; cf. sense 2c.

- 1581 T. NEWTON tr. M. Luther *Comm. Epist. St. Peter & St. Jude* f. 10^v How..shall wee by our owne strength arrogate that, whiche of all other is moste excellent, namely to beleuee?
- 1598 R. BARCKLEY *Disc. Felicitie of Man* Ded. One that arrogateth superioritie ouer all.
- 1660 T. STANLEY *Hist. Philos.* III. 1. 145 Thus Pythagoras might arrogate the soul of Euphorbus.
- 1769 *Philos. Trans. 1768* (Royal Soc.) 58 149 I can arrogate no merit in the discovery.
- 1788 W. YOUNG *Let.* 10 Aug. in Duke of Buckingham *Mem. Court & Cabinets George III* (1853) I. 416 The Foxites..sought to arrogate all credit from that tranquillity of the night which they could not prevent.
- 1848 H. ROGERS *Ess.* I. vi. 321 Arrogating the exclusive possession of wisdom.
- 1867 C. UPHAM *Salem Witchcraft* I. II. 326 They arrogated the credit of being raised to a higher sphere of knowledge than the rest of mankind.
- 1915 D. H. LAWRENCE *Rainbow* ii. 53 Arrogating a curious superiority to him.
- 2009 U. STEINVORTH *Rethinking Western Understanding of Self* xvii. 156 Salvation religion has arrogated the intellectual task of presenting and exploring meaning.

†c. With infinitive or clause as object. *Obs.*

- 1590 C. S. *Briefe Resol. Right Relig.* 1 The papistical Romishe Church arrogateth, that they are the true church.
- 1628 G. WITHER *Britain's Remembrancer* v. f. 139^v Doe falsly arrogate to be inspired.
- 1648 C. WALKER *Relations & Observ.* II. 29 They arrogate to be the peculiar people of God.
- 1708 C. LESLIE *Socinian Controv. Discuss'd* III. 43 Who..did Not Rob God of His Honour by Arrogating to be God, or Equal to God.

3. *trans.* With *to, for*. To claim (something) without justification on another's behalf; to assign or attribute (something) unduly, inappropriately, or incorrectly.

- 1584 W. ALLEN *True Def. Eng. Catholiques* viii. 198 The next step vnto which is (doubtles) to say and beleuee, that a temporal King is about the Priest in causes ecclesiastical..and so arrogate the regiment of the Church to a Queene.
- 1605 T. TYMME tr. J. Du Chesne *Pract. Chymicall & Hermeticall Physicke* I. vi. sig. D4^v We deny that those inset and naturall qualities..are to be arrogated to hotte, moist, and drie.
- 1818 S. T. COLERIDGE tr. in *Friend* (new ed.) I. iv. 34 To Antiquity we arrogate many things, to ourselves nothing.
- 1863 H. COX *Inst. Eng. Govt.* I. viii. 111 An attempt was made..to arrogate to the Crown the privilege of issuing writs during a prorogation.

- 1953 *Western Polit. Q.* 6 814 They arrogated for Russian autocracy the role of freeing 'the suffering Slav brothers' from a foreign political yoke.
- 1991 *Oxf. Art Jrnl.* 14 I. 95/2 Advocates..tend to misread the modern and arrogate its defining characteristics to their own period.
- 2013 W. B. HALLAQ *Impossible State* (2014) ii. 35 Arrogating to the social order an agency that stands autonomous from the state.

†4. *intr.* To behave in a presumptuous or arrogant manner. *Obs. rare.*

- 1649 MILTON *Tenure of Kings* 12 No Christian Prince..would arrogate so unreasonably above human condition.

II. *trans.* To adopt.

5. *Roman Law.* To adopt (a person who is not subject to the legal power of another); = ADROGATE *v.* Now *rare.*

Attested earliest as past participle.

- 1565 W. ALLEY *Πτωχομυσειον* II. f. 115 For they were arrogate, that is, demanded whether they would be in the steede of lawfull children to him that did adopte them.
- 1649 BP. J. TAYLOR *Great Exemplar* III. §15. 89 He did arrogate John..into Maries kindred, making him to be her adopted son.
- 1675 G. MACKENZIE *Observ. upon 28. Act, 23. Parl. James VI* 19 Minors who were adopted or arrogated, might revoke what was done in prejudice of their fourth part due to them.
- 1749 G. HARRIS tr. Justinian *Institutes: Liber Primus* i. xi. §3. 118 When any Person, not arrived at Puberty, is arrogated by the imperial Rescript, the Cause is first inquired into.
- 1795 W. BELOE tr. Aulus Gellius *Attic Nights* I. v. xix. 332 No-one could be arrogated before he became a youth.
- 1849 P. M. DE COLQUHOUN *Summ. Rom. Civil Law* I. II. iv. 551 A man could arrogate his *own libertus*, who then obtained *ingenuus* rights.
- 1891 *Church Rev.* Oct. 131 It was often the custom to adopt or arrogate a son, in order that the domestic religion might not cease.
- 2004 C. J. REID *Power over Body, Equality in Family* iv. 190 One who has been arrogated..was thereby transferred to the power of the arrogator.

†6. To adopt or assume (a defining characteristic of another person).
Obs. rare.

- 1573 *Epitome of Doct. Barnes Wks.* in Tyndale et al. *Wks.* II. 371/1 The Byshops..doe arrogate vnto them selues some thyng of the Phariseis pride.

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