ar-rears BrE [ə'rɪəz] \* NAmE [ə'rɪrz] \* noun plural

money that sb owes that they have not paid at the right time

rent/mortgage/tax arrears

Idioms: 1get into arrears = 1 in arrears

## Word Origin:

[arrears] Middle English (first used in the phrase in arrear): from arrear (adverb) 'behind, overdue', from Old French arere, from medieval Latin adretro, from ad- 'towards' + retro 'backwards'.

## Example Bank:

- · She was six months in arrears with the mortgage.
- The country had accumulated arrears of \$80 million on loans of \$400 million.
- The government has agreed to pay all arrears owed to members of the armed forces.
- The local authority must try to recover arrears of rent.
- There have been sharp increases in arrears on interest payments.
- They fell into arrears with their rent.
- · You will be paid monthly in arrears.
- · struggling to pay off her mortgage arrears
- · Our tenants have fallen into arrears with their rent.
- The family is facing eviction over mortgage arrears.
- · Unions are demanding the settlement of pay arrears.

## arrears

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

ar rears /əˈrɪəz \$ əˈrɪrz/ BrE \* AmE \* noun [plural]

[Date: 1400-1500; Origin: arrear 'backward, behind' (14-18 centuries), from Old French arere, from Vulgar Latin ad retro 'to the back']

1. be in arrears if someone is in arrears, or if their payments are in arrears, they are late in paying something that they should pay regularly, such as rent:

Many people are in arrears with their rent.

be four weeks/three months etc in arrears

The rent money is two months in arrears.

fall/get into arrears (=become late with payments)

- 2. money that you owe someone because you have not made regular payments at the correct time:
  - We've got 3 months' arrears to pay.

## rent/mortgage/tax arrears

He was ordered to pay rent arrears of £550.

3. paid in arrears British English if your salary is paid in arrears, it is paid at the end of the period you have worked:

a salary paid monthly in arrears

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