

Second College Edition

The
American
Heritage
Dictionary



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BIOGRAPH

GEOGRAPH

ABBREVIAT

FOUR-YEAR

TWO-YEAR

PICTURE C

virilla < Lat. viriola, little
—tr. 1. To transport by
own power to its eventual
goods) esp. by aircraft.
1 or as if on a ferry. —n.,
place of embarkation for
flight to operate a ferry-
transporting esp. an
eventual user. [ME ferien

ied to ferry passengers or
i who owns, administers,

ble of reproducing. b. Cas-
supporting reproduction,
loping; able to mature.
tures or material such as
al needed to sustain plant
continuously productive;
fertile < OFr. fertile < Lat.
-ly adv. —fertile-ness n.
ition, state, or quality of

1. The act or process of
2. The process in which
3. The act or process of
onval adj.

i, -izes. —tr. 1. To cause
iple), esp. to provide with
fertilization. 2. To spread
ilizer. —fertile-able adj.
hat fertilizes. 2. Any of a
hetic materials, including
s, and potassium com-
soil to increase its fertil-

r stick used in punishing
pound, C₁₀H₁₀O₆, related
tain plants. [< NLat. Fe-

dition or quality of being
or showing great emotion
not; glowing. [ME < OFr.
to boil.] —fervent-ly adv.

erent or zealous; impas-
[Lat. fervidus < fervor,
dly adv. —fervid-ness n.
motion; ardor. 2. Intense
error. —see FERVOR.]

ariant of fervor.
adj. Licentious; obscene.
town in ancient Etruria

ous grasses of the genus
orage. [ME festu, stalk <

A wide horizontal band
escutcheon. [ME fesse <

r point of an escutcheon,
characterized by a speci-
festival < Lat. festum.]
to, or of the nature of a
Lat. festum, feast.] —fes-

ers. —intr. 1. To generate
er. 3. To decay; rot. 4. To
n; rattle. —tr. To infect,
ll festering sore or ulcer.
r. < Lat. fistula.]

—v. (-nāt) -nated, -nat-
atus, p.part. of festinare, to

asion for feasting or cele-
gious significance that re-
often regularly recurring
tions, or competitions: a
dly. —adj. Festive. [ME,
lis < Lat. festivus < festus.]

ing to, or appropriate to a
s: a festive occasion. [Lat.
—fes-tive-ness n.

es. 1. A festival. 2. The
ival or celebration. 3. fes-
s of a festival.

or garland, as of leaves or
curve between two points.
n, as in sculpture. —tr.v.
decorate with or as if with

nich / i pit / i pie / ir pier /
ou out / oō took / oō boot /

a festoon. 2. To form or make into a festoon. [Fr. feston <
Ital. festone < festa, feast < Lat. festus, festive.]

festoon-ery (fē-stōō'nā-rē) n., pl. -ies. 1. An arrangement
of or into festoons. 2. Festoons collectively.

fest-schrift (fēs'tshrift) n., pl. -schrift-en (-shrift'tən) or
-schrifts. A volume of learned articles or essays by col-
leagues and admirers, serving as a tribute or memorial esp.
to a scholar. [G.: Fest, festival + Schrift, writing.]

fet- pref. Variant of feto-.

fet-a (fēt'ā, fē'tā) n. A white Greek cheese made usually of
goat's or ewe's milk and preserved in brine. [Mod. Gk. (furi)
pheta, (cheese) slice < Ital. fetta, slice < Lat. offa, morsel of
food.]

fet-al also foe-tal (fēt'l) adj. Of, pertaining to, or having the
nature of a fetus.

fetal alcohol syndrome n. A complex of birth defects in-
cluding retarded growth and cardiac abnormalities that oc-
cur in infants born to alcoholic mothers.

fetal position n. A position of the body at rest in which the
spine is curved, the head is bowed forward, and the arms
and legs are drawn in toward the chest. [From its resem-
blance to the position of a fetus in the womb.]

fe-ta-tion (fē-tā'shan) n. The development of a fetus; preg-
nancy.

fetch¹ (fēch) v. fetched, fetch-ing, fetch-es. —tr. 1. To go or
come after and return with. 2. To cause to come. 3. a. To
draw in (breath); inhale. b. To bring forth (a sign, for ex-
ample). 4. To bring in as a price: fetched a hundred dollars at
auction. 5. Informal. To strike or deal (a blow). 6. Naut.
To arrive at; reach. —intr. 1. To go after and return with something.
2. To retrieve game that has been killed. 3. Naut.
a. To hold a course. b. To turn about; veer. —phrasal verb.
fetch up. 1. To reach a place and halt there. 2. To make up
(lost time, etc.). —n. 1. An act or instance of fetch-
ing. 2. Computer Sci. A program routine that brings a phase
of the program from storage for immediate use. 3. A strat-
agem or trick. [ME fecchen < OE feccean.] —fetch'er n.

fetch² (fēch) n. Chiefly Brit. 1. A ghost; apparition. 2. A
doppelgänger. [Orig. unknown.]

fetch-ing (fēch'ing) adj. Informal. Very attractive; charming.
—fetch'ing-ly adv.

fete also fête (fāt, fēt) —n. 1. A festival or feast. 2. An
elaborate outdoor party or other entertainment, such as a
fair. 3. An elaborate party. —tr.v. fet-ed, fet-ing, fet-es also
fē-ted, fē-t'ing, fē-t'es. 1. To celebrate with a fete. 2. To pay
honor to. [Fr. fête < OFr. feste. —see FEAST.]

fête cham-pêtre (fēt' shān-pēt'rā) n. An outdoor party or
entertainment. [Fr.]

fet-er-i-ta (fēt'ā-rē'tā) n. A variety of sorghum, Sorghum vul-
gare caudatum, grown in warm regions for its grain and as
forage. [Ar.]

fet- pref. Variant of feto-.

fet-ich (fēt'ish, fē'tish) n. Variant of fetish.

fet-ich-ism (fēt'ish-shīz'əm, fē'ti-'n) Variant of fetishism.

fet-i-cide (fēt'ī-sīd') n. The intentional destruction of a hu-
man fetus. —fet'i-cid'at' (-sīd'it) adj.

fet-id (fēt'id, fē'tid) also foe-tid (fē'tid) adj. Having an offen-
sive odor; foul-smelling. [ME < Lat. fetidus < fetēre, to
stink.] —fet'id-ly adv. —fet'id-ness n.

fet-ish also fet-ich (fēt'ish, fē'tish) n. 1. An object that is
superstitiously believed to have magical powers, esp. of pro-
tection. 2. An object of unreasonably excessive attention or
reverence: made a fetish of punctuality. 3. Something, such
as a material object or an often nonsexual part of the body,
that arouses or gratifies sexual desire. [Fr. fétiche < Port.
fetiço, charm < Lat. facticus, factitious. —see FACITIOUS.]

fet-ish-ism also fet-ich-ism (fēt'ish-shīz'əm, fē'ti-'n) n. 1. The
worship of or belief in magical fetishes. 2. Excessive attach-
ment or regard. 3. The displacement of sexual arousal or
gratification to a fetish. —fet'ish-ist n. —fet'ish-ist'ic adj.

fet-lock (fēt'lōk) n. 1. a. A projection on the lower part of
the leg of a horse or related animal, above and behind the
hoof. b. A tuft of hair on such a projection. 2. The joint
marked by the fetlock. [ME fitlok.]

feto- or feti- or fet- pref. Fetus; fetal: fetology. [< FETUS.]

fet-toi-o-gy (fē-tōl'ō-jē) n. The medical study of a fetus. —fet-
to-l'og-ist n.

fet-or (fēt'or, -tōr) also foe-tor (fē'tor) n. An exceptionally
offensive odor; stench. [ME fetour < Lat. fetor < fetēre, to
stink.]

fet-os-co-py (fē-tōs'kō-pē) n. The examination of a fetus in
the uterus by insertion of a fiber-optic device equipped with
a lens into the amniotic cavity. —fet'o-scope' (fē'tō-skōp'
n.

fet-ter (fēt'ter) n. 1. A chain or shackle attached to the ankles
to restrain movement. 2. Something that serves to restrict;
restraint. —tr.v. -tered, -ter-ing, -ters. 1. To put fetters on;
shackle. 2. To restrict the freedom of. [ME fetter < OE.]

fet-ter-bush (fēt'ter-bōosh) n. 1. A shrub, Lyonia lucida, of
the southeastern United States, having evergreen leaves and
clusters of white flowers. 2. Any of several shrubs similar or
related to the fetterbush, esp. one of the genus Leucothoe.

fet-tle (fēt'l) tr.v. -tled, -tling, -tles. Metallurgy. To line (the
hearth of a reverberatory furnace) with loose sand or ore
preparatory to pouring molten metal. —n. 1. The material
used to line a furnace in fettling. 2. a. Proper or sound

condition. b. Mental or emotional state; spirits: was in fine
fettle. [ME fetlen, to shape, prob. < OE fetel, girdle.]

fet-ting (fēt'ling) n. The material, such as loose ore and
sand, used to line a reverberatory furnace.

fet-tuc-ci-ne (fēt'ā-chē'nē) n. 1. Narrow strips of pasta. 2. A
dish made with fettuccine. [Ital. pl. of fettuccina, dim. of
fettuccia, ribbon, dim. of fetta, slice. —see FETA.]

fe-tus also foe-tus (fē'tas) n., pl. -tus-es. The unborn young
of a viviparous vertebrate; in humans, the unborn young
from the end of the eighth week to the moment of birth as
distinguished from the earlier embryo. [Lat., offspring.]

feud¹ (fyōōd) n. A bitter, prolonged quarrel or state of en-
mity, as between two families, individuals, or clans. —intr.v.
feud-ed, feud-ing, feuds. To carry on a feud. [ME fede <
OFr. faide, of Germanic orig.]

feud² (fyōōd) n. A fee (sense 5.a.). [Med. Lat. feudum, of
Germanic orig.]

feu-dal (fyōōd'l) adj. 1. Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of
feudalism. 2. Of or pertaining to lands held in fee or to the
holding of such lands. [Med. Lat. feudalis < feudum, feud.]
—feu-dal-ly adv.

feu-dal-ism (fyōōd'l-iz'əm) n. A political and economic sys-
tem of Europe from the 9th to about the 15th century, based
on the relation of lord to vassal held on condition of hom-
age and service. —feu-dal-ist n. —feu-dal-ist'ic adj.

feu-dal-ty (fyōōd-dāl'tē) n., pl. -ties. 1. The state or quality
of being feudal. 2. A feudal holding, system, or regime.

feu-dal-ize (fyōōd-dāl'iz') tr.v. -ized, -iz-ing, -izes. To make
feudal. —feu-dal-iza'tion n.

feu-dat-o-ry (fyōō'dā-tōr'ē, -tōr'ē) n., pl. -ries. 1. A person
who holds a feudal fee; vassal. 2. A feudal fee. —adj. 1. Of,
pertaining to, or characteristic of the feudal relationship be-
tween vassal and lord. 2. Owing feudal homage or allegi-
ance. [Med. Lat. feudatarius, of a feudatory < feudare, to
enfeoff < feudum, feud.]

feud-ist¹ (fyōō'dist) n. One who participates in a feud.

feud-ist² (fyōō'dist) n. One who specializes in feudal law.

feuil-le-ton (fœ'yā-tōn') n. 1. The part of a European news-
paper devoted to light fiction, reviews, and articles of gen-
eral entertainment. 2. An article appearing in a feuilleton,
as an installment of a serialized novel. [Fr. < feuille, dim. of
feuille, leaf < OFr. folle < Lat. folium.] —feuil-le-ton'ism
(-tōn'iz'əm, -tōn'niz'ē) n. —feuil-le-ton'ist n.

Feul-gen reaction (fœ'lgən) n. A DNA-specific staining re-
action based on the formation of a reddish-purple color
upon contact with a reagent containing fuchsin and sulfuric
acid. [After Robert Feulgen (1884-1955).]

fe-ver (fē'vər) n. 1. Abnormally high body temperature. 2. A
disease characterized by abnormally high body tempera-
tures. 3. A condition of heightened activity or excitement: a
fever of anticipation. 4. A contagious, usually short-lived en-
thusiasm. [ME < OE fefor and OFr. fièvre, both < Lat. fe-
bris.]

fever blister n. A cold sore.

fever-few (fē'vər-fyōō) n. An aromatic plant, Chrysanthem-
um parthenium, native to Eurasia, having clusters of but-
tonlike, white-rayed flowers. [ME feverfu < OE feferfuge <
Lat. febrifugia: febris, fever + fugare, to drive away.]

fever-ish (fē'vər-ish) also fe-ver-ous (-əs) adj. 1. a. Having
a fever. b. Of, pertaining to, or resembling a fever. c. Caus-
ing or tending to cause fever. 2. Marked by intense agita-
tion, emotion, or activity: worked at a feverish pace.
—fe-ver-ish-ly adv. —fe-ver-ish-ness n.

fever pitch n. A state of extreme disturbance or excitement.

fever therapy n. Treatment of disease involving artificially
induced fever.

fever tree n. Any of several trees, such as certain species of
eucalyptus or Pinckneya pubens, of the southeastern United
States, having leaves or bark used to ally fever.

fe-ver-weed (fē'vər-wēd') n. Any of various plants consid-
ered to have medicinal properties.

fe-ver-wort (fē'vər-wūrt', -wōrt') n. Any of several plants
considered to have medicinal properties, as the horse gen-
tian and boneset.

few (fyōō) adj. -er, -est. Amounting to or consisting of
a small number: spoke for only a few minutes. —n. (used with a
pl. verb). 1. An indefinitely small number of persons or
things: borrowed a few of your books. 2. A limited number of
people: the discerning few. —pron. (used with a pl. verb). A
small number of persons or things: "Many are called, but
few are chosen" (Matthew 22:14). [ME fewe < OE fæwe.]
—few-ness n.

Usage: Few and fewer are correctly used in writing
only before a plural noun: few cars; few of the books; fewer
reasons. Less is used before a mass noun: less music; less
sugar. Less than is also used before a plural noun that de-
notes a measure of time, amount, or distance: less than three
weeks; less than sixty years old; less than \$400.

fe-y (fā) adj. 1. Scot. a. Fated to die soon. b. Full of the sense
of approaching death. 2. Having visionary power; clairvoy-
ant. 3. Appearing as if under a spell; touched. [ME feie <
OE fæge.]

fez (fēz) n., pl. fez-zes. A man's felt cap in the shape of a
flat-topped cone, usually red with a black tassel hanging
from the crown, worn chiefly in the eastern Mediterranean
region. [Fr. < Turk. < Fez, a town in Morocco.]



feverfew



fez