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TENTH EDITION

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Merriam- Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary

TENTH EDITION

Merriam-Webster, Incorporated
Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A.



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resembles a finger (a narrow ~ of land) b: a part of a glove into which a finger is inserted c: a projecting piece (as a pawl for a ratchet) brought into contact with an object to affect its motion 3: the breadth of a finger 4: INTEREST, SHARE — often used in the phrase *have a finger in the pie* 5: BIRD 10 — usu. used with *the* — **finger-like** \-lĭk\ *adj*

finger vb fingered; fin-ger-ing \-g(ə-)rĭŋ\ vt (15c) 1: to touch or feel with the fingers 2 a: to play (a musical instrument) with the fingers b: to play (as notes or chords) with a specific fingering c: to mark the notes of (a music score) as a guide in playing 3: to point out; IDENTIFY 4: to extend into or penetrate in the shape of a finger ~ vi 1: to touch or handle something 2 a: to use the fingers in playing a musical instrument b: to have a certain fingering — used of a musical instrument 3: to extend in the shape or manner of a finger

fin-ger-board \-fĭŋ-gər-bōrd, -bōrd\ n (ca. 1672): the part of a stringed instrument against which the fingers press the strings to vary the pitch — see VIOLIN illustration

finger bowl n (ca. 1860): a small water bowl for rinsing the fingers at the table

fin-gered \-fĭŋ-gərd\ *adj* (ca. 1529) 1: having fingers esp. of a specified kind or number — used in combination (stubby-fingered) (five-fingered) 2: having projections or processes like fingers (the ~ roots of giant trees)

finger food n (1928): a food that is to be held with the fingers for eating

fin-ger-hold \-fĭŋ-gər-hōld\ n (1909) 1: a hold or place of support for the fingers 2: a tenuous hold or support

finger hole n (1854) 1: any of several holes in the side of a wind instrument (as a recorder) which may be covered or left open by the fingers to change the pitch of the tone 2: a hole (as in a telephone dial or a bowling ball) into which the finger is placed to provide a grip

fin-ger-ing \-fĭŋ-g(ə-)rĭŋ\ n (14c) 1 a: the act or method of using the fingers in playing an instrument b: the marking (as by figures on a musical score) of the method of fingering 2: the act or process of handling or touching with the fingers

fin-ger-ling \-fĭŋ-gər-lĭŋ\ n (1836): a small fish esp. up to one year of age

fin-ger-nail \-fĭŋ-gər-nāl, -fĭŋ-gər-nā(ə)\ n (13c): the nail of a finger

finger painting n (1937): a technique of spreading pigment on wet paper chiefly with the fingers; also: a picture so produced

fin-ger-pick-ing \-fĭŋ-gər-pĭ-kiŋ\ n (1969): a method of playing a stringed instrument (as a guitar) with the thumb and tips of the fingers rather than with a pick — **fin-ger-pick** vb

fin-ger-point-ing \-fĭŋ-gər-pōĭnt-ĭŋ\ n (1949): the act of making explicit and often unfair accusations of blame

fin-ger-post \-fĭŋ-gər-pōst\ n (1785) 1: a post bearing one or more signs often terminating in a pointing finger 2: something serving as a guide to understanding or knowledge

fin-ger-print \-fĭŋ-gər-prĭnt\ n (1859) 1: the impression of a fingertip on any surface; also: an ink impression of the lines upon the fingertip taken for the purpose of identification 2: something that identifies: as a: a trait, trace, or characteristic revealing origin or responsibility b: analytical evidence (as a spectrogram) that characterizes an object or substance; esp: the chromatogram or electrophoretogram obtained by cleaving a protein by enzymatic action and subjecting the resulting collection of peptides to two-dimensional chromatography or electrophoresis — **fingerprint** vt — **fin-ger-print-ing** n

finger spelling n (1918): communication by signs made with the fingers — called also *dactylology*

fin-ger-tip \-fĭŋ-gər-tĭp\ n (1842) 1: the tip of a finger 2: a protective covering for the end of a finger — at one's fingertips: instantly or readily available

fin-ger-tip *adj* (1926) 1: readily accessible: being within easy reach (~ information) (~ controls) 2: extending from head or shoulders to mid-thigh — used of clothing

finger wave n (ca. 1934): a method of setting hair by dampening with water or wave solution and forming waves or curls with the fingers and a comb

fin-ial \-fĭ-nē-əl\ n [ME, fr. *final*, *final*] (15c) 1: a usu. foliated ornament forming an upper extremity esp. in Gothic architecture 2: a crowning ornament or detail (as a decorative knob)

fin-ial-cal \-fĭ-nĭ-kəl\ *adj* [prob. fr. *fine*] (1592): FINICKY — **fin-ial-cal-ly** \-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **fin-ial-cal-ness** \-kəl-nəs\ n

fin-ick-ing \-fĭŋ-ĭk-ĭŋ, -kən\ *adj* [alter. of *final*] (1661): FINICKY

fin-ick-y \-fĭ-nĭ-kē\ *adj* [alter. of *finicking*] (ca. 1825) 1: extremely or excessively nice, exacting, or meticulous in taste or standards 2: requiring much care, precision, or attentive effort (a ~ recipe) — **fin-ick-i-ness** n

fin-ial \-fĭ-nē-əl\ n [ME, fr. *L*] (15c): END, CONCLUSION

fin-ish \-fĭ-nĭsh\ vb [ME *finisshen*, fr. MF *finiss*, stem of *finir*, fr. *L finire*, fr. *finis*] vi (14c) 1 a: to come to an end; TERMINATE b: END 1b 2 a: to come to the end of a course, task, or undertaking b: to end relations — used with *with* (decided to ~ with him for good) 3: to end a competition in a specified manner or position (~ed third in the race) ~ vt 1 a: to bring to an end; TERMINATE (~ed the speech and sat down) b: to use or dispose of entirely (her sandwich ~ed the loaf) 2 a: to bring to completion with a finish; esp: to put a new home before winter) b: to provide with a finish; esp: to put a final coat or surface on (~ a table with varnish) 3 a: to defeat or



fingerprint: 1 arch, 2 loop, 3 whorl, 4 composite

fine or decorative work required for a building or one of its parts b: a finishing material used in painting c: the final treatment or coating of a surface d: the taste in the mouth after swallowing a beverage (as wine) 2 a: final stage; END b: the cause of one's ruin 3: the result or product of a finishing process 4: the quality or state of being perfected

fin-ish-ed \-fĭ-nĭsh-əd\ *adj* (1709): marked by the highest quality; CONSUMMATE

fin-ishing school n (ca. 1837): a private school for girls that emphasizes cultural studies and prepares students esp. for social activities

fin-ish line n (1899): a line marking the end of a racecourse

fi-nite \-fĭ-nĭt\ *adj* [ME *finit*, fr. *L finitus*, pp. of *finire*] (15c) 1 a: having definite or definable limits (~ number of possibilities) b: having a limited nature or existence (~ beings) 2: completely determinable in theory or in fact by counting, measurement, or thought (the ~ velocity of light) 3 a: less than an arbitrary positive integer and greater than the negative of that integer b: having a finite number of elements (a ~ set) 4: of, relating to, or being a verb or verb form that can function as a predicate or as the initial element of one and that is limited (as in tense, person, and number) — **finite** n — **fi-nite-ly** *adv* — **fi-nite-ness** n

finite difference n (1807): any of a sequence of differences obtained by incrementing successively the dependent variable of a function by a fixed amount; esp: any of such differences obtained from a polynomial function using successive integral values of its dependent variable

fi-ni-tude \-fĭ-nĭ-tūd, -tyūd, -tūd\ n (1644): finite quality or state

fin-k \-fĭŋk\ n [origin unknown] (1903) 1: one who is disappointed or is held in contempt 2: STRIKEBREAKER 3: INFORMER 2

fin-k vi (ca. 1925): to turn informer; SQUEAL

fin-k out vi (1956): BACK OUT, COP OUT

Fin-land-isa-tion *Brit var* of FINLANDIZATION

Fin-land-iza-tion \-fĭn-lən-də-'zā-shən, (-)fĭn-,lan-\ n [Finland] (1969): a foreign policy of neutrality under the influence of the Soviet Union; also: the conversion to such a policy — **Fin-land-ize** \-fĭn-lən-dĭz, (-)fĭn-'lan-\ vt

Finn \-fĭn\ n [Sw *Finne*] (bef. 12c) 1: a member of a people speaking Finnish or a Finnic language 2 a: a native or inhabitant of Finland b: one who is of Finnish descent

fin-nan had-die \-fĭ-nən-'hɑ-dē\ n [alter. of *findon haddock*, fr. *Findon*, village in Scotland] (1811): smoked haddock — called also *finnan haddock*

Finn-ic \-fĭ-nĭk\ *adj* (1668) 1: of or relating to the Finns 2: of, relating to, or constituting the branch of the Finno-Ugric subfamily that includes Finnish, Estonian, and Lapp

fin-nish \-fĭ-nĭsh\ *adj* (1699): of, relating to, or characteristic of Finland, the Finns, or Finnish

Finn-ish \-fĭ-nĭsh\ *adj* (1699): of, relating to, or characteristic of Finland, the Finns, or Finnish

Finn-ish n (ca. 1845): a Finno-Ugric language spoken in Finland, Karelia, and small areas of Sweden and Norway

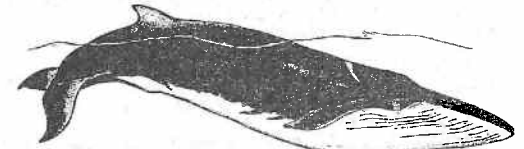
Fin-no-Ugri-an \-fĭ-,nō-'(y)ü-grē-ən\ *adj* (1880): FINNO-UGRIC — **Finno-Ugrian** n

Fin-no-Ugri-c \-fĭ-nō-'(y)ü-gri-k\ *adj* (1879) 1: of, relating to, or constituting a subfamily of the Uralic family of languages comprising various languages spoken in Hungary, Lapland, Finland, Estonia, and parts of western Russia 2: of or relating to any of the peoples speaking Finno-Ugric languages — **Finno-Ugri-c** n

fin-ny \-fĭ-nē\ *adj* (1590) 1: provided with or characterized by fins 2: relating to or being fish

fi-no \-fē-,nō\ n, pl **fi-nos** [Sp, fr. *fino* fine, fr. *fin* end, fr. *L finis*] (1846): a very dry Spanish sherry

fin whale n (1885): a baleen whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*) that attains a length of over 60 feet (18.3 meters) and is found in arctic to tropical waters worldwide — called also *finback*



fin whale

fiord *var* of FJORD

fi-or-i-tu-ra \-fē-,ōr-ə-'tūr-ə\ n, pl **-tu-re** \-'tūr-ē\ [It, lit., flowering, fr. *fi-orito*, pp. of *fi-orire* to flower, fr. (assumed) VL *florire* — more at FLOURISH] (1841): ORNAMENT 5

fi-pleur flute \-fĭ-pōl-\ n [origin unknown] (1911): any of a group of wind instruments (as a flageolet or recorder) having a straight tubular shape, a whistle mouthpiece, and finger holes

fir \-fĭr\ n [ME, fr. OE *fyrh*; akin to OHG *forha* fir, *L quercus* oak] (bef. 12c) 1: any of a genus (*Abies*) of north temperate evergreen trees of the pine family that have flattish leaves, circular leaf scars, and erect female cones and are valued for their wood; also: any of various conifers (as the Douglas fir) of other genera 2: the wood of a fir

fire \-fĭr\ n, *often attrib* [ME, fr. OE *fyr*; akin to OHG *fuir* fire, Gk *pyr*] (bef. 12c) 1 a (1): the phenomenon of combustion manifested in light, flame, and heat (2): one of the four elements of the alchemists b (1): burning passion; ARDOR (2): liveliness of imagination; INSPIRATION 2 a: fuel in a state of combustion (as on a hearth) b *Brit* 3 a: a small gas or electric space heater 3 a: a destructive burning (as of a building) b (1): death or torture by fire (2): severe trial or ordeal 4: BRILLIANCY, LUMINOSITY (the ~ of a gem) 5 a: the firing of weapons (as firearms, artillery, or missiles) b: intense verbal attack or criticism c: a rapidly delivered series (as of remarks) — **fire-less** \-lēs\ *adj* — **on fire** 1: being consumed by fire; AFLAME 2

\ə\ abut \ə\ kitten, F table \ər\ further \ə\ ash \ə\ ace \ä\ mop, mar
\ə\ out \ch\ chin \e\ bet \ē\ easy \g\ go \h\ hit \i\ ice \j\ job
\k\ kick \l\ lamp \lō\ boy \th\ thin \th\ the \ū\ loot \ū\ foot