

Good cooks cannot abide what they call *fiddling* work. *Swift.*

**FID DLE**, *v. t.* To play a tune on a fiddle.

**FID DLE-FADDLE**, *n.* Trifles. [*A low cant word.*] *Spectator.*

**FID DLE-FADDLE**, *a.* Trifling; making a bustle about nothing. [*Vulgar.*]

**FID DLER**, *n.* One who plays on a fiddle or violin.

**FID DLE-STICK**, *n.* The bow and string with which a fiddler plays on a violin.

**FID DLE-STRING**, *n.* The string of a fiddle, fastened at the ends and elevated in the middle by a bridge.

**FID DLE-WOOD**, *n.* A plant of the genus *Citharexylon*.

**FID DLING**, *ppr.* Playing on a fiddle.

**FID DLING**, *n.* The act of playing on a fiddle. *Bacon.*

**FIDEJUSSOR**, *n.* [*L.*] A surety; one bound for another. *Blackstone.*

**FIDELITY**, *n.* [*L. fidelitas*, from *fides*, faith, *fido*, to trust. See *Faith*.]

1. Faithfulness; careful and exact observance of duty, or performance of obligations. We expect *fidelity* in a public minister, in an agent or trustee, in a domestic servant, in a friend.

The best security for the *fidelity* of men, is to make interest coincide with duty.

*Federalist, Hamilton.*

2. Firm adherence to a person or party with which one is united, or to which one is bound; loyalty; as the *fidelity* of subjects to their king or government; the *fidelity* of a tenant or liege to his lord.

3. Observance of the marriage covenant; as the *fidelity* of a husband or wife.

4. Honesty; veracity; adherence to truth; as the *fidelity* of a witness.

**FIDGE**, *v. i.* [*allied probably to fickle.*]

**FIDGE**, *v. i.* To move one way and the other; to move irregularly or in fits and starts. [*A low word.*] *Swift.*

**FIDGE**, *v. i.* Irregular motion; restlessness. [*Vulgar.*]

**FIDG ETY**, *a.* Restless; uneasy. [*Vulgar.*]

**FIDUCIAL**, *a.* [*from L. fiducia*, from *fido*, to trust.]

1. Confident; undoubting; firm; as a *fiducial* reliance on the promises of the gospel.

2. Having the nature of a trust; as *fiducial* power. *Spelman.*

**FIDUCIALLY**, *adv.* With confidence. *South.*

**FIDUCIARY**, *a.* [*L. fiduciarius*, from *fido*, to trust.]

1. Confident; steady; undoubting; unwavering; firm. *Wake.*

2. Not to be doubted; as *fiducial* obedience. *Hovell.*

3. Held in trust. *Spelman.*

**FIDUCIARY**, *n.* One who holds a thing in trust; a trustee.

2. One who depends on faith for salvation, without works; an antinomian. *Hammond.*

**FIE**, pronounced *fi*, an exclamation denoting contempt or dislike.

**FIEF**, *n.* [*Fr. fief*, probably a compound word, consisting of *fe*, faith, and a word I do not understand. See *Fee*, *Feoff* and *Feud*.]

A *fee*; a *fend*; an estate held of a superior on condition of military service.

**FIELD**, *n.* [*Sax. feld*; *G. feld*; *D. veld*; *Sw. Dan. felt*; probably level land, a plain, from *D. vellen*, to fell, to lay or throw down.]

1. A piece of land inclosed for tillage or pasture; and part of a farm, except the garden and appurtenances of the mansion; properly land not covered with wood, and more strictly applicable to tillage land than to mowing land, which is often called meadow. But we say, the master of the house is in the *field* with his laborers, when he is at a distance from his house on his farm. He is in the *field*, plowing, sowing, reaping or making hay.

2. Ground not inclosed. *Mortimer.*

3. The ground where a battle is fought. We say, the *field* of battle; these veterans are excellent soldiers in the *field*.

4. A battle; action in the field. *Milton.*

5. To keep the *field*, is to keep the campaign open; to live in tents, or to be in a state of active operations. At the approach of cold weather, the troops, unable to keep the *field*, were ordered into winter quarters.

6. A wide expanse. Ask of yonder argent *fields* above. *Pope.*

7. Open space for action or operation; compass; extent. This subject opens a wide *field* for contemplation.

8. A piece or tract of land. The *field* I give thee and the cave that is therein. *Gen. xxiii.*

9. The ground or blank space on which figures are drawn; as the *field* or ground of a picture. *Dryden.*

10. In *heraldry*, the whole surface of the shield, or the continent. *Encyc.*

11. In *scripture*, *field* often signifies the open country, ground not inclosed, as it may in some countries in modern times.

12. A *field* of ice, a large body of floating ice.

**FIE LDLED**, *a.* Being in the field of battle; encamped. *Shak.*

**FIE LD-BASIL**, *n.* A plant of several kinds.

**FIE LD-BED**, *n.* A bed for the field. *Shak.*

**FIE LD-BOOK**, *n.* A book used in surveying, in which are set down the angles, stations, distances, &c. *Encyc.*

**FIE LD-COLORS**, *n. plu.* In war, small flags of about a foot and half square, carried along with the quarter-master general, for marking out the ground for the squadrons and battalions. *Encyc.*

**FIE LD-DUCK**, *n.* A species of bustard, nearly as large as a pheasant; found chiefly in France. *Dict. Nat. Hist.*

**FIE LDFARE**, *n.* [*field* and *fare*, wandering in the field. *Sax. faran*, to go.]

A bird of the genus *Turdus* or thrush, about ten inches in length, the head ash-colored, the back and greater coverts of the wings, of a fine deep chestnut, and the tail black. These birds pass the summer in the northern parts of Europe, but visit Great Britain in winter. *Encyc.*

**FIE LD-MARSHAL**, *n.* The commander of an army; a military officer of high rank in France and Germany, and the highest military officer in England.

**FIELDMOUSE**, *n.* A species of mouse that lives in the field, burrowing in banks, &c. *Mortimer.*

**FIELD-OFFICER**, *n.* A military officer above the rank of captain, as a major or colonel.

**FIELD-PIECE**, *n.* A small cannon which is carried along with armies, and used in the field of battle.

**FIELD-PREACHER**, *n.* One who preaches in the open air. *Livingston.*

**FIELD-PREACHING**, *n.* A preaching in the field or open air. *Warburton.*

**FIE LDROOM**, *n.* Open space. [*Not in use.*] *Drayton.*

**FIE LD-SPORTS**, *n. plu.* Diversions of the field, as shooting and hunting. *Chesterfield.*

**FIE LD-STAFF**, *n.* A weapon carried by gunners, about the length of a halbert, with a spear at the end; having on each side ears screwed on, like the cock of a match-lock, where the gunners screw in lighted matches, when they are on command. *Encyc.*

**FIE LD-WORKS**, *n.* In the military art, works thrown up by an army in besieging a fortress, or by the besieged to defend the place. *Encyc.*

**FIE LDY**, *a.* Open like a field. [*Not in use.*] *Wickliffe.*

**FIEND**, *n.* [*Sax. feond*, Goth. *fands*, from *fian*, *feon*, *figan*, to hate; *G. feind*; *D. ryand*; *Sw. Dan. fiende*. See *Feud*, contention.]

An enemy in the worst sense; an implacable or malicious foe; the devil; an infernal being.

O woman! woman! when to ill thy mind Is bent, all hell contains no fouler fiend. *Pope.*

**FIENDFUL**, *a.* Full of evil or malignant practices. *Marlowe.*

**FIENDLIKE**, *a.* Resembling a fiend; maliciously wicked; diabolical.

**FIERCE**, *n. fers.* [*Fr. fier*; *It. fiero, feroce*; *Sp. fiero, feroz*; from *L. ferus, ferax*, the primary sense of which is wild, running, rushing.]

1. Vehement; violent; furious; rushing; impetuous; as a *fierce* wind. *Watts.*

2. Savage; ravenous; easily enraged; as a *fierce* lion.

3. Vehement in rage; eager of mischief; as a *fierce* tyrant; a monster *fierce* for blood.

4. Violent; outrageous; not to be restrained. Cursed be their anger, for it was *fierce*. *Gen. xlix.*

5. Passionate; angry; furious.

6. Wild; staring; ferocious; as a *fierce* countenance.

7. Very eager; ardent; vehement; as a man *fierce* for his party.

**FIERCELY**, *adv. fers'ly.* Violently; furiously; with rage; as, both sides *fiercely* fought.

2. With a wild aspect; as, to look *fiercely*.

**FIERCE-MINDED**, *a.* Vehement; of a furious temper. *Bp. Wilson.*

**FIERCENESS**, *n. fers'ness.* Ferocity; savageness.

The defect of heat which gives *fierceness* to our natures. *Swift.*