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frail ¹ (frāl)

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adj. **frail·er, frail·est**

1. Physically weak or delicate: *an invalid's frail body; in frail health*. See Synonyms at [weak](#).
2. Easily broken or destroyed; fragile: *a flower with a frail stem*.
3. Not strong or substantial; slight: *a frail voice; evidence too frail to stand up in court*.
4. Easily led astray; morally weak.

[Middle English *frele*, from Old French, from Latin *fragilis*, from *frangere*, *frag-*, to break; see **bhreg-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

frail **ly** *adv.*

frail **ness** *n.*

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frail ² (frāl)

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n.

1. A rush basket for holding fruit, especially dried fruit.
2. The quantity of fruit, such as raisins or figs, that such a basket can hold.

[Middle English *fraiel*, from Old French.]

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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