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fir·kin  (fûr kĭn)

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n.

1. A small wooden barrel or covered vessel.
2. Any of several British units of capacity, usually equal to about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a barrel or 9 gallons (34 liters).

[Middle English *ferken*, *ferdekin*, probably from Middle Dutch **verdelkijn*, diminutive of *veerdel*, one-fourth : *veerde*, fourth; see **k^wetwer-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + *deel*, part; see **dail-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]



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firkin

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Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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