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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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coun·ter·feit  (koun tər-fīt')

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v. coun·ter·feit·ed, coun·ter·feit·ing, coun·ter·feits

v.tr.

1. To make an imitation or copy of (something), usually with the intent to defraud: *counterfeits money*.

2. To make a pretense of; feign: *counterfeited interest in the story*.

v.intr.

1. To carry on a deception; dissemble.

2. To make fraudulent copies of something valuable.

adj.

1. Made in imitation of what is genuine with the intent to defraud: *a counterfeit dollar bill*.

2. Simulated; feigned: "'You don't understand,' Morrison said with counterfeit patience" ([Stephen King](#)).

n.

A fraudulent imitation or facsimile.

[Middle English *countrefeten*, from *contrefet*, made in imitation, from Old French *contrefait*, past participle of *contrefaire*, to counterfeit : *contre-*, counter- + *faire*, to make (from Latin *facere*; see **dhē-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

coun ter·feit'er n.

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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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