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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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for·feit  (fôr fit)

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tr.v. **for·feit·ed**, **for·feit·ing**, **for·feits**

1. To lose or give up (something) on account of an offense, error, or failure to fulfill an agreement: *The other team did not show up in time and so forfeited the game.*
2. To subject to seizure as a forfeit.

n.

1. Something that is lost or given up on account of an offense, error, or failure to fulfill an agreement.
2. The act of forfeiting: *The team lost the game by forfeit.*

3.

- a. In parlor games, an item placed in escrow and redeemed by paying a fine or performing an appointed task.
- b. **forfeits** A game in which forfeits are demanded.

adj.

Lost or subject to loss through forfeiture.

[Middle English *forfet*, crime, penalty, from Old French *forfait*, past participle of *forfaire*, to commit a crime, act outside the law : *fors-*, beyond; see [FORECLOSE](#) + *faire*, to do; see [FEASIBLE](#).]

for **feit·a·ble** *adj.*

for **feit·er** *n.*

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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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