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fawn¹  (fôn)

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intr.v. **fawned**, **fawn·ing**, **fawns**

1. To exhibit affection or attempt to please, as a dog does by wagging its tail, whining, or cringing.
2. To seek favor or attention by flattery and obsequious behavior.

[Middle English *faunen*, from Old English *fagnian*, to rejoice, from *fagen*, *fægen*, glad.]

fawn *er n.*

fawn *ing·ly adv.*

Synonyms: **fawn**¹, **bootlick**, **kowtow**, **slaver**¹, **toady**, **truckle**

These verbs mean to seek or gain favor by behaving obsequiously and submissively: *fawned on her superior*; *bootlicked to get a promotion*; *lawyers kowtowing to a judge*; *slavered over his rich uncle*; *toadying to members of the club*; *nobles truckling to the king*.

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fawn²  (fôn)

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n.

1. A young deer, especially one less than a year old.
2. A grayish yellow-brown to moderate reddish brown.

[Middle English, from Old French *foun*, *faon*, *feon*, young animal, from Vulgar Latin **fētō*, **fētōn-*, from Latin *fētus*, offspring; see **dhē(i)-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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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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