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AMERICAN
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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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feign  (fān)

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v. **feigned**, **feign·ing**, **feigns**

v.tr.

1.

a. To give a false appearance of: *feign sleep*.

b. To represent falsely; pretend to: *feign authorship of a novel*.

2. To imitate so as to deceive: *feign another's voice*.

3. To fabricate: *feigned an excuse*.

4. *Archaic* To invent or imagine.

v.intr.

To pretend; dissemble.

[Middle English *feinen*, from Old French *feindre*, from Latin *ingere*, to shape, form; see **dheigh-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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