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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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feint  (fānt)

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n.

1.

a. A military attack or maneuver that is meant to divert attention away from a planned point of attack.

b. A body movement that is intended to divert another's attention, often by being deliberately left uncompleted: "*The mongoose begins with a feint, which provokes the snake to strike*" (Norbert Wiener).

2. A deceptive action calculated to divert attention from one's real purpose. See Synonyms at [wile](#).

v. feint·ed, feint·ing, feints

v.intr.

To make a feint: "*He feinted with his left hand, trying to distract the turtle and then grab its tail*" ([Howard Frank Mosher](#)).

v.tr.

1. To deceive with a feint: *He feinted his opponent with a left hook.*

2. To do or perform as a feint: *feinted a punch.*

[French *feinte*, from Old French, from past participle of *feindre*, to feign; see [FEIGN](#).]

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