

fiddle

1. ['fɪdl] *n*
 1. *разг.*
 - 1) скрипка
 - 2) струнный инструмент
 2. *шотл.*
 - 1) скрипач
 - 2) весельчак, шутник, душа общества
 3. *сл.* ордер на арест
 4. 1) *сл.* обман
 - 2) *разг.* (мелкое) мошенничество
 5. *мор.* сетка на столе (*чтобы вещи не падали во время качки*)
 6. *с.-х.* волокуша
 7. *в грам. знач. междометия* ерунда!, вздор!
 - ◇ a face as long as a fiddle - мрачное лицо
 - to play first fiddle - играть первую скрипку, занимать ведущее /руководящее/ положение; задавать тон
 - to play second fiddle - занимать второстепенное положение
 - to play third fiddle - играть незначительную роль
 - (to be) (as) fit /*амер.* fine/ as a fiddle - (быть) в добром здравии *или* в хорошем настроении
 - to hang up one's fiddle - оставить работу, уйти на покой; выйти в отставку
 - to hang up one's fiddle anywhere - *редк.* осваиваться в любой обстановке
 - to hang up one's fiddle when one comes home - ≅ быть весёлым на людях и нудным дома
 - there is many a good tune played on an old fiddle - *посл.* ≅ старый конь борозды не испортит

2. ['fɪdl] *v*

1. *разг.* играть на скрипке; «пиликать»
2. вертеть в руках, играть (*чем-л.*)
 - he fiddled with the pipe until he broke it - он вертел в руках трубку до тех пор, пока не сломал её
 - don't fiddle with the device! - не трогай прибор!
3. *разг.*
 - 1) обманывать
 - 2) надувать; мошенничать
4. *амер. разг.* тратить попусту; растрачивать (*время, деньги*)
 - ◇ to fiddle while Rome burns - ≅ заниматься пустяками перед лицом серьёзной опасности

fiddle Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

fid·dle [**fiddle fiddles fiddled fiddling**] **verb, noun** *BrE* ['fɪdl] ^ɳ *NAmE* ['fɪdl] ^ɳ

verb

1. **intransitive** ~ (**with sth**) to keep touching or moving sth with your hands, especially because you are bored or nervous
 - He was fiddling with his keys while he talked to me.
2. **transitive** ~ **sth** (*informal*) to change the details or figures of sth in order to try to get money dishonestly, or gain an advantage
 - to fiddle the accounts
 - She **fiddled the books** (= changed a company's financial records) while working as an accountant.
3. **intransitive** (*informal*) to play music on the [↑]**violin**

Verb forms:

| verb forms | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| present simple | |
| I / you / we / they | fiddle |
| | BrE / 'fɪdl/ |
| | NAmE / 'fɪdl/ |
| he / she / it | fiddles |
| | BrE / 'fɪdlz/ |
| | NAmE / 'fɪdlz/ |
| past simple, past participle | fiddled |
| | BrE / 'fɪdlɪd/ |
| | NAmE / 'fɪdlɪd/ |
| -ing form | fiddling |
| | BrE / 'fɪdlɪŋ/ |
| | NAmE / 'fɪdlɪŋ/ |

Word Origin:

Old English fithele, denoting a violin or similar instrument (originally not an informal or depreciatory term), related to Dutch **vedel** and German **Fiedel**, based on Latin **vitulari** 'celebrate a festival, be joyful', perhaps from Vitula, the name of a Roman goddess of joy and victory. Compare with [↑]**viol**.

Example Bank:

- She fiddled the books while working as an accountant.

Idioms: [↑]**on the fiddle** ▪ [↑]**play second fiddle**

Derived [↑]**fiddle about** ▪ [↑]**fiddle about with something** ▪ [↑]**fiddle with something**

noun (*informal*)

1. **countable** = [↑]**violin**

2. **countable** (BrE) something that is done dishonestly to get money

Syn: †fraud

• an **insurance/tax, etc. fiddle**

3. **singular** (BrE) an act of moving sth or adjusting sth in order to make it work

4. **singular** (BrE) something that is difficult to do

more at fit as a fiddle **at** †fit_{adj.}

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fiddle

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

I. **fiddle**¹ /'fɪdl/ BrE " AmE " *noun* [countable] *informal*

[Date: 1200-1300; Language: Medieval Latin; Origin: *vitula* 'instrument played at ceremonies']

1. a †*violin*

2. **British English** a dishonest way of getting money:

• an insurance fiddle

on the fiddle

• They suspected he was on the fiddle (=getting money dishonestly or illegally) all along.

3. **be a fiddle** to be difficult to do and involve complicated movements of your hands:

• This blouse is a bit of a fiddle to do up.

⇒ **fit as a fiddle** at †fit²(1), ⇒ **play second fiddle (to somebody)** at †play¹(22)

II. **fiddle**² BrE " AmE " *verb*

1. [*intransitive*] to keep moving and touching something, especially because you are bored or nervous:

• Stop fiddling, will you!

• I sat and fiddled at the computer for a while.

fiddle with

• She was at her desk in the living room, fiddling with a deck of cards.

2. [*transitive*] **British English informal** to give false information about something, in order to avoid paying money or to get extra money:

• Bert had been fiddling his income tax for years.

fiddle the books (=give false figures in a company's financial records)

3. [*intransitive*] to play a †*violin*

fiddle around (also **fiddle about** **British English**) *phrasal verb*

to waste time doing unimportant things

fiddle around with something (also **fiddle about with something** **British English**) *phrasal verb*

1. to move the parts of a machine in order to try to make it work or repair it:

• I've been fiddling around with this old car for months but I still can't get it to work.

2. to make small unnecessary changes to something – used to show disapproval **SYN mess around with**:

• Why did you let her fiddle about with the remote control?

• The bus company is always fiddling around with the schedules.

fiddle with something *phrasal verb*

1. to move part of a machine in order to make it work, without knowing exactly what you should do:

• After fiddling with the tuning I finally got JFM.

2. to move or touch something that does not belong to you, in an annoying way:

• Don't let him fiddle with my bag.

fiddle

Freakuency Pack

12500 **2910**^{MCW}

15000 **5404**^{COCA}

RANGE: **3k** FIDDLE 2679

fiddle 1116

fiddles 248

fiddled 376

fiddling 635

fiddler 230

fiddlers 74

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

507 **23917**⁸¹⁷ *nn1*

137 **61175**¹⁵² *vv0*

144 **62187**¹⁴⁷ *vvi*