



SINCE 1828

¹ chicane verb | chi·cane | \shi-'kān , chi-\

TRENDING NOW:

[Examples: CHICANE in a Sentence](#)[Editor's Note: Did You Know?](#)**Definition of CHICANE**

chicaned; chicaning

intransitive verb: to use chicanery

- a wretch he had taught to lie and *chicane* —George Meredith

transitive verb: TRICK, CHEAT

CHICANE was our Word of the Day on 08/06/2014. Hear the podcast!

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Examples of CHICANE in a Sentence

a lawyer who is so notorious for *chicaning* that the guilty invariably seek his services

Did You Know?

There's no mystery about the origins of *chicane*. It's from the Middle French verb *chicaner*, meaning "to quibble" or "to prevent justice," and print evidence of its use as a verb in English dates to around 1672. The noun form of *chicane* was first used in print in 1686. In addition to referring to "trickery," the noun *chicane* is used to refer to an obstacle or a series of tight turns in opposite directions on a racecourse. In card games, *chicane* refers to the absence of trumps in a hand of cards. One curiosity of this word set is that the word that would appear to be a derivative of *chicane-chicanery* (a synonym of *chicane* in its "trickery" sense)-actually appeared in English over 60 years before *chicane*.

Origin and Etymology of CHICANE

French *chicaner*, from Medieval French, to quibble, prevent justice

NEW! Time Traveler

First Known Use: circa 1672

in the meaning defined at intransitive sense

CHICANE Synonyms

Synonyms

[cheat](#), [finagle](#), [fudge](#)

Related Words

[crib](#); [color](#), [distort](#), [falsify](#), [misinterpret](#), [misrepresent](#), [misstate](#), [pervert](#), [twist](#), [warp](#); [doctor](#), [fake](#).

² chicane

noun

Definition of CHICANE

- 1 : [CHICANERY](#)
- 2 a : an obstacle on a racecourse
b : a series of tight turns in opposite directions in an otherwise straight stretch of a road-racing course
- 3 : the absence of trumps in a hand of cards

Examples of CHICANE in a Sentence

most get-rich-quick schemes involve more than a smidgen of *chicane*

Recent Examples of CHICANE from the Web

Monza is one of the oldest tracks still used today and demands precise timing of every input, especially when racing the layout with *chicanes*.

— [Austin Irwin](#), *Car and Driver*, "[Keep It 1.11: Gran Turismo Sport Expands with New Update.](#)"
[5 Feb. 2018](#)