fence

play

noun, often attributive

Simple Definition of fence

- a structure like a wall built outdoors usually of wood or metal that separates two areas or prevents people or animals from entering or leaving
- a person who buys stolen property from thieves and sells it

Source: Merriam-Webster's Learner's Dictionary
Examples: fence in a sentence

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Writing? Check your grammar now!

Full Definition of fence

1. 1 archaic : a means of protection : defense

2. 2 a : a barrier intended to prevent escape or intrusion or to mark a boundary; especially : such a barrier made of posts and wire or boards b : an immaterial barrier or boundary line <on the other side of the fence in the argument>

3. 3 : fencing 1

4. 4 a : a receiver of stolen goods b : a place where stolen goods are bought

fenceless

play 
-ləs\ adjective

fencelessness

noun

on the fence

1. : in a position of neutrality or indecision

See fence defined for English-language learners

See fence defined for kids

Examples of fence in a sentence

1. We put up a fence around our yard.

2. <the only way to prevent motorists from trying to use that unsafe bridge is to put a fence across the road leading to it>
Origin and Etymology of fence

Middle English fens, short for defens defense

First Known Use: 14th century

fence Synonyms

Synonyms

barricade, barrier, hedge, wall

Related Words

bar, pale, paling; block, chain, clog, crimp, deterrent, drag, embarrassment, encumbrance, handicap, hindrance, hurdle, impediment, inhibition, interference, let, obstacle, obstruction, roadblock, stop, stumbling block, trammel; fetter, hobble, manacle, shackle (s); constraint, curb, restraint, snag; buffer, bulwark, bumper, cushion, dam, fender, pad, rampart

Near Antonyms

door, doorway, entrance, entranceway, entry, entryway, gate, portal; break, gap, pass

Other Combat Sports Terms

foil, riposte, welter

2

fence

verb

Simple Definition of fence

• to put a fence around (a place or area)
• to keep (something or someone) in or out with a fence
• to fight with swords: to practice the art or sport of fencing

Source: Merriam-Webster's Learner's Dictionary

Full Definition of fence

fenced

fencing

1. transitive verb

2. 1a: to enclose with a fence b (1): to keep in or out with a fence (2): to ward off

3. 2: to provide a defense for

4. 3: to sell (stolen property) to a fence
5. intransitive verb

6. 1a: to practice fencing  b (I): to use tactics of attack and defense resembling those of fencing (2): to parry arguments by shifting ground

7. 2 archaic: to provide protection

fencer

noun

See fence defined for English-language learners

See words that rhyme with fence

Examples of fence in a sentence

1. a house with a fenced-in yard

2. He stole watches and fenced them on the street.

15th Century

First Known Use of fence

15th century

fence Synonyms

Synonyms

bulwark, cover, defend, fend, forfend, guard, keep, protect, safeguard, screen, secure, shield, ward

Antonyms
assail, assault, attack

Related Words

avert, prevent; oppose, resist, withstand; battle, contend, fight, war; conserve, preserve, save; buffer, palisade, picket, wall

Near Antonyms

bombard, storm; beset, besiege, overrun; capitulate, cave, submit, yield

Phrases related to FENCE

Related Phrases

- electric fence
- electrified fence
- mend fences
- the grass is always greener on the other side (of the fence)

FENCE Defined for Kids

1. fence

play

noun \ˈfens\ 

Definition of fence for Students

1. a barrier (as of wood or wire) to prevent escape or entry or to mark a boundary

2. fence

play

verb

Definition of fence for Students

fenced

fencing
1. 1: to enclose with a fence <fence a yard>

2. 2: to fight with swords: to practice the sport of fencing

fencer

noun

Law Dictionary

1

fence

noun

Legal Definition of fence

1. 1: a barrier intended to prevent escape or intrusion or to mark a boundary

2. 2a: a receiver of stolen goods b: a place where stolen goods are bought

2

fence

transitive verb

Legal Definition of fence

fenced

fencing

1. 1a: to enclose with a fence b: to keep in or out with a fence

2. 2: to sell (stolen property) to a fence
Learn More about fence


Seen and Heard

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WORD OF THE DAY

quid pro quo

something exchanged for something else

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