

35 languages

Entry Discussion Citations

Read Edit View history Tools

Afrikaans [\[edit \]](#)

Etymology [[edit](#)]

Borrowed from [Dutch *fiets*](#), of uncertain origin.

Pronunciation [\[edit \]](#)

- IPA^(key): /fits/
- Audio: 0:01

Noun [\[edit \]](#)

fiets (*plural fietse*)

1. bicycle, bike

Derived terms [[edit](#)]

- motorfiets

Dutch [[edit](#)]

Pronunciation [\[edit \]](#)

- IPA^(key): /fits/, [fits]
- Audio: 0:01
- Hyphenation: fiets
- Rhymes: -its

Etymology 1 [[edit](#)]

Unknown. Various hypotheses exist:

- A corruption of [French *vélocipède*](#), via an intermediate *fieseleepee* or *fietsepee*.^{[1][2][3]}
- Named after bike seller E.C. Viets from [Wageningen](#).^{[4][5]}
- From the dialectal verb *vietsen* (“to move quickly”).^[1]



Een typische *fiets*. — A typical *bike*.

- From [German *Vize*](#) as short for *[Vizepferd](#)* (literally “surrogate horse”).^{[6][7]}

Noun [[edit](#)]

fiets *f* (*plural* **fietsen**, *diminutive* **fietsje** *n*)

1. [bicycle](#) [synonyms ▲]

Synonyms: (*formal*) [rijwiel](#), (*humorous*) [stalen ros](#), (*archaic*) [wieler](#)

*Gisteren heb ik een nieuwe **fiets** gekocht.* — Yesterday I bought a new bicycle.

2. (*motor racing*) [motorbike](#) [synonyms ▲]

Synonyms: [motorfiets](#), [motor](#), [motorrijwiel](#)

Derived terms [[edit](#)]

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • bakfiets | • fietsenrek | • fietstaxi | • ov-fiets |
| • bierfiets | • fietsenstalling | • fietstocht | • racefiets |
| • bromfiets | • fietshelm | • huurfiets | • snelfietsroute |

[show more ▼]

Descendants [[edit](#)]

- Afrikaans: [fiets](#)
- Caribbean Javanese: [pit](#)
- Dutch Low Saxon: [fietse](#)
- German: [Fietse](#)
- Javanese: [ꦥꦶꦠ꧀](#) ([pit](#))
 - Indonesian: [pit](#) (“bicycle”)
- West Frisian: [fyts](#)

Etymology 2 [[edit](#)]

Verb [[edit](#)]

fiets

1. *inflection of* **fietsen**:
- first-person singular present indicative*
 - (*in case of inversion*) *second-person singular present indicative*
 - imperative*

References [[edit](#)]

- ↑ ^{1.0} ^{1.1} [van der Sijs, Nicoline](#), editor (2010), “[fiets1](#)”, in *Etymologiebanc*, Meertens Institute.
- ↑ B.G., “*t Woord “fiets”*”, in: *Taal en letteren* (1911), p. 407-410.
- ↑ Blog: [Jan Dirk Snel, Vietsen in het Vondelpark \(2012\)](#).
- ↑ Jan-Dirk Snel, [Vietsen in het Vondelpark](#)

5. ^ L. Brouwer, "Over de herkomst van een eponiem. Een fiets van Viets" in: *Genealogie* 18 (2012) ; p. 16-19; geraadpleegd 2018-06-22

6. ^ Gunnar de Boel; [Luc de Grauwe](#) (2011), “Fiets ‘ersatzpaard’”, in *Tijdschrift voor Nederlandse Taal- en Letterkunde*^[1] , volume 127, number 4, pages 327–342.

7. ^ Jan Stroop, *Ga toch fietsen!* . Published in *Die taal, die weet wat: over wat kan en niet kan in het Nederlands* , 2014.

Further reading

[[edit](#)]

- 

[fiets](#) on the Dutch Wikipedia.

Categories: [Afrikaans terms borrowed from Dutch](#) | [Afrikaans terms derived from Dutch](#) | [Afrikaans terms with IPA pronunciation](#) | [Afrikaans terms with audio pronunciation](#) | [Afrikaans lemmas](#) | [Afrikaans nouns](#) | [Dutch terms with IPA pronunciation](#) | [Dutch terms with audio pronunciation](#) | [Rhymes:Dutch/its](#) | [Rhymes:Dutch/its/1 syllable](#) | [Dutch terms with unknown etymologies](#) | [Dutch lemmas](#) | [Dutch nouns](#) | [Dutch nouns with plural in -en](#) | [Dutch feminine nouns](#) | [Dutch terms with usage examples](#) | [nl:Motor racing](#) | [Dutch non-lemma forms](#) | [Dutch verb forms](#) | [nl:Cycling](#) | [nl:Vehicles](#)

This page was last edited on 26 September 2025, at 15:15.

Definitions and other text are available under the [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License](#); additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#).

