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From Middle English vicious, from Anglo-Norman vicious, (modern French vicieux), from Latin vitisus, from vitium (fault, vice). Equivalent to vice + -ous. IPA(key): /vɪs/ Rhymes: -s vicious (comparative more vicious or viciouser, superlative most vicious or viciousest) Violent, destructive and cruel. Savage and aggressive. 1922, Michael Arlen, 2/9/1, in Piracy: A Romantic Chronicle of These Days: He had always been remarkably immune from such little ailments, and had only once in his life been ill, of a vicious pneumonia long ago at school. He hadn't the faintest idea what to with a cold in the head, he just took quinine and continued to blow his nose (archaic) Pertaining to vice; characterised by immorality or depravity., Folio Society, 2006, vol.1, p.195: We may so seize on virtue, that if we embrace it with an over-greedy and violent desire, it may become vicious. 1930, Ogden Nash, Lines to Be Mumbled at Ovington's: A murrain on you, Reverend Apse/ hope you get caught in a vicious moral lapse. vicious circle vicious cycle vicious intromission Borrowed from Anglo-Norman vicious, from Latin vitisus; equivalent to vice + -ous. IPA(key): /visius/, /visjus/, /visjus/ vicious (plural and weak singular vicious) English: vicious Scots: veecious From Latin vitisus. vicious (oblique and nominative feminine singular vicious) vicious; malicious defective; not capable of functioning Middle English: vicious, viciuous, vicius, vycious, vycyus, vicious, vecyous, vysyous, vycios, vycyous, vicyows English: vicious Scots: veecious vicios on the Anglo-Norman On-Line Hub Also found in: Thesaurus, Idioms, Wikipedia. (vshs) adj. 1. Mean-spirited or deliberately hurtful; malicious: vicious gossip. 2. a. Extremely violent or injurious; cruel: a vicious blow to the stomach; vicious tactics in suppressing a rebellion. b. Marked by an aggressive disposition. Used chiefly of animals. c. Disposed to violent or destructive behavior: a vicious dictator. 3. Severe, powerful, or intense; fierce: a vicious storm. 4. a. Having the nature of vice; evil, immoral, or depraved: "All men who succeed ... in finance in New York at last ... return to their native towns, assert that cities are vicious, marry their childhood sweethearts" (Sinclair Lewis). b. Given to vice, immorality, or depravity: "The sum and substance of it was, That Oliver was a foundingling, born of low and vicious parents" (Charles Dickens). 5. Faulty or defective: a forced, vicious style of prose. [Middle English, from Old French vicious, from Latin vitisus, from vitium, vice] American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition, Copyright 2016 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. (vs) adj. 1. wicked or cruel; villainous: a vicious thug. 2. characterized by violence or ferocity: a vicious blow. 3. informal unpleasantly severe; harsh: a vicious wind. 4. characterized by malice; vicious lies. 5. (esp of dogs, horses, etc) ferocious or hostile; dangerous 6. characterized by or leading to vice 7. invalidated by defects; unsound: a vicious inference. 8. obsolete noxious or morbid: a vicious exhalation. [C14: from Old French vicious, from Latin vitisus full of faults, from vitium a defect] Collins English Dictionary Complete and Unabridged, 12th Edition 2014 HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2014 (v s) adj. 1. addicted to or characterized by vice; immoral or evil; depraved. 2. spiteful; malicious: vicious gossip. 3. unpleasantly severe or intense: a vicious headache. 4. savage; ferocious: a vicious temper. 5. (of an animal) unruly, fierce, or of a violent disposition. 6. characterized by faults or defects; unsound: vicious reasoning. 7. morbid, foul, or noxious. [130050; < Latin vitisus, derivative of viti(um) fault, vice] Random House Kernerman Webster's College Dictionary, 2010 K Dictionaries Ltd. Copyright 2005, 1997, 1991 by Random House, Inc. All rights reserved. Adj. 1. vicious - (of persons or their actions) able or disposed to inflict pain or suffering; "a barbarous crime"; "brutal beatings"; "cruel tortures"; "Stalin's roughshod treatment of the kulaks"; "a savage slap"; "vicious kicks" barbarous, brutal, cruel, fell, savage, roughshod inhumane - lacking and reflecting lack of pity or compassion; "humans are innately inhumane; this explains much of the misery and suffering in the world"; "biological weapons are considered too inhumane to be used" 2. vicious - having the nature of vice wicked - morally bad in principle or practice 3. vicious - bringing or deserving severe rebuke or censure; "a criminal waste of talent"; "a deplorable act of violence"; "adultery is as reprehensible for a husband as for a wife" condemnable, criminal, reprehensible, deplorable wrong - contrary to conscience or morality or law; "it is wrong for the rich to take advantage of the poor"; "cheating is wrong"; "it is wrong to lie" 4. vicious - marked by deep ill will; deliberately harmful; "poisonous hate"; "venomous criticism"; "vicious gossip" malicious - having the nature of or resulting from malice; "malicious gossip"; "took malicious pleasure in... watching me wince" Rudyard Kipling Based on WordNet 3.0, Farlex clipart collection. 2003-2012 Princeton University, Farlex Inc. adjective 1. savage, brutal, violent, bad, dangerous, foul, cruel, ferocious, monstrous, vile, atrocious, diabolical, heinous, abhorrent, barbarous, fiendish He suffered a vicious attack by a gang of youths. savage kind, friendly, gentle, tame, playful, docile 2. depraved, corrupt, wicked, infamous, degraded, worthless, degenerate, immoral, sinful, debased, profligate, unprincipled a vicious criminal incapable of remorse depraved good, upright, honourable, virtuous 3. malicious, vindictive, spiteful, mean, cruel, venomous, bitchy (informal), defamatory, rancorous, backbiting, slanderous a vicious attack on an innocent woman's character malicious complimentary, appreciative, congratulatory Collins Thesaurus of the English Language Complete and Unabridged 2nd Edition. 2002 HarperCollins Publishers 1995, 2002 adjective 2. Characterized by intense ill will or spite: black, spiteful, evil, hateful, malevolent, malicious, malign, malignant, mean, nasty, poisonous, spiteful, venomous, wicked 4. Showing or suggesting a disposition to be violently destructive without scruple or restraint: barbarous, bestial, cruel, fell, feral, ferocious, fierce, inhuman, savage, truculent, wolfish. The American Heritage Roget's Thesaurus. Copyright 2013, 2014 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. cruell fiero malintencionado vicious Collins Spanish Dictionary - Complete and Unabridged 8th Edition 2005 William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1971, 1988 HarperCollins Publishers 1992, 1993, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2003, 2005 [vs] adj (= brutal) [person, attack, assault, murder, crime] brutal(e); [blow] vicioux/euse; [gang] violent(e) (= ferocious) [dog] vicioux/euse Collins English/French Electronic Resource. HarperCollins Publishers 2005 adj (inf = strong, nasty) headache fies (inf), gemein (inf) Collins German Dictionary Complete and Unabridged 7th Edition 2005. William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1980 HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1997, 1999, 2004, 2005, 2007 [vs] adj (attack) brutale; (blow, kick) dato/a con cattiveria, violento/a; (animal) cattivo/a; (remark, criticism) crudele; (glare) malevol/a, d'odio; (tongue) velenoso/a vicious habit un vizio Collins Italian Dictionary 1st Edition HarperCollins Publishers 1995 (vis) adjective evil; cruel; likely to attack or cause harm. Keep back from that dog it's vicious, moordlustig mau zl, ton bsartig ondsksbsfuld, , , cruel, malintencionado tige hijy mchant zao, loe naravi gonosz, rosszindulat, haraps galak illvilijaur; grimmur cattivo piktas, nirus nikns; auns kejam wreed, gemeenkraklisk, ustyrlig, ondsksapsfullzy, zoliwymau ru zl, ton hudoben opasan elak, ond, ilsken () zalim, amasz, kt , xu xa, y c viciously adverb moordlustig cruelmente neestn bsartig ondsksbsfuldt , cruelmente, malintencionadamente tighedalt hijysti mchamment , zio, zloesto gonoszul dangan galak grimmilega con cattiveria piktai nikni; auni dgn kejam wreed, gemeenkraklisk, ondsksapsfullt zoliwie cruelmente cu rutate zkerne, tone hudobno opasno elakt, ondskefullt, ilsket kt maksatla, iddetle , xu xa, y c viciousness noun moordlustigheid crueldade patnost die Bsartigkeit ondsksbsfuldhed , crueldad, maldad, perversidad tagedus hijys mchancet , zloa gonoszsg kegalakan grimm d cattiveria piktumas niknuns; aunums kekejaman wreedheid, gemeenheid ondsksap, ustyrlighet zoliwo, przewrotno maldade rutate tonos, hrienos, podlos, zkernos hudobnost opasnost elakhet, ondskefullhet, argsinthet ktlk, iddet , s xu xa, y c Kernerman English Multilingual Dictionary 2006-2013 K Dictionaries Ltd. krut ondsksbsfuld bsartig fiero raju vicioux okrutan brutale wreed ondsinnet bezwzgdlny violento illvillig kt xu xa Multilingual Translator HarperCollins Publishers 2009a. [ridden by vice] vicioso-a, depravado-a; adv. viciosamente, malvadamente. English-Spanish Medical Dictionary Farlex 2012 Want to thank TFD for its existence? Tell a friend about us, add a link to this page, or visit the webmaster's page for free fun content. Link to this page: When a woman debauched from her youth, nay, even being the offspring of debauchery and vice, comes to give an account of all her vicious practices, and even to descend to the particular occasions and circumstances by which she ran through in threescore years, an author must be hard put to it wrap it up so clean as not to give room, especially for vicious readers, to turn it to his disadvantage. He wished to say, "Yes, a vile, idle, vicious life!" but dared not break the silence. Was man, indeed, at once so powerful, so virtuous and magnificent, yet so vicious and base? So I presently hurled a shoe at random, and with a vicious vigor: "Not what you'd call a real vicious horse, but a dangerous one. by taking them away from their father, or by leaving them with a vicious father.... Every living thing in the first place is composed of soul and body, of these the one is by nature the governor, the other the governed; now if we would know what is natural, we ought to search for it in those subjects in which nature appears most perfect, and not in those which are corrupted; we should therefore examine into a man who is most perfectly formed both in soul and body, in whom this is evident, for in the depraved and vicious the body seems [1254b] to rule rather than the soul, on account of their being corrupt and contrary to nature. I may have gone too far; in which case I shall be careful not to trouble myself or my readers in the same way again; but when we have to do with vice and vicious characters, I maintain it is better to depict them as they really are than as they would wish to appear. Not that he had been disappointed as to the possible market for his horse, but that before the bargain could be concluded with Lord Medicote's man, this Diamond, in which hope to the amount of eighty pounds had been invested, had without the slightest warning exhibited in the stable a most vicious energy in kicking, had just missed killing the groom, and had ended in laming himself severely by catching his leg in a rope that overhung the stable-board. I have invariably combated both these absurd assertions by quoting examples of fat people who were as mean, vicious, and cruel as the leanest and the worst of their neighbours. One day, then, as Allworthy was walking in his garden, the doctor came to him, and, with great gravity of aspect, and all the concern which he could possibly affect in his countenance, said, "I am come, sir, to impart an affair to you of the utmost consequence; but how shall I mention to you what it almost distracts me to think of!" He then launched forth into the most bitter invectives both against men and women; accusing the former of having no attachment but to their interest, and the latter of being so addicted to vicious inclinations that they could never be safely trusted with one of the other sex. Brocklehurst to apprise Miss Temple and the teachers of my vicious nature. View synonyms for vicious wicked or cruel; villainous characterized by violence or ferocity informal unpleasantly severe; harsh characterized by malice (esp of dogs, horses, etc) ferocious or hostile; dangerous characterized by or leading to vice invalidated by defects; unsound obsolete noxious or morbid Collins English Dictionary Complete & Unabridged 2012 Digital Edition William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012 viciously adverb viciousness noun unprincipled adjective unprincipally adverb viciousness noun Origin of vicious 1 First recorded in 130050; Middle English or directly from Anglo-French, from Latin vitisus, equivalent to viti(um) fault, defect, vice ( vice 1 ) + -sus -ous Origin of vicious 1 C14: from Old French vicioux, from Latin vitisus full of faults, from vitium a defect Examples have not been reviewed. "This sets off a vicious cycle: rising temperatures lead to greater energy use, which fuels more emissions and further warming," she added. Brycson Gaddis, 20, was arrested Wednesday and, if convicted, faces a potential sentence of life in prison in the vicious beating death of Elyjah Hearn, according to the Los Angeles County district attorneys office. It remains to be seen which way more be vicious. Sudan plunged into a civil war in April 2023 after a vicious struggle for power broke out between its army and the RSF. Black residents may have faced the most vicious racism, but Asian Americans, Native Americans and Latinos certainly did not escape it. vicinity vicious circle Browse #aabbccddeeffgghhijjkkllmmnnnooppqrrssttuvwxyz About Careers Contact us Cookies, terms, & privacy Help Follow us Get the Word of the Day every day! 2025 Dictionary.com, LLC adjective jump to other results violent and cruel synonym brutal a vicious attack vicious criminal She has a vicious temper. Police described the robbery as particularly vicious. Extra Examples a particularly vicious and brutal crime He was set upon by vicious thugs. This was a particularly vicious assault. Oxford Collocations Dictionary verbs adverb See full entry (of animals) aggressive and dangerous Oxford Collocations Dictionary verbs adverb See full entry (of an attack, criticism, etc.) full of hate and anger She wrote me a vicious letter: The newspapers launched a vicious attack on him, forcing him to resign. The article was vicious in its criticism of the prime minister. Extra Examples I've done nothing to deserve all your vicious insinuations. She wrote me a vicious letter after the incident. The committee was particularly vicious in its criticism of the management. They conducted a vicious campaign of misinformation and propaganda. The play is a vicious attack on the nouveau riche. Oxford Collocations Dictionary verbs adverb See full entry (informal) very bad or severe a vicious headache a vicious spiral of rising prices Oxford Collocations Dictionary verbs adverb See full entry Word Origin Middle English (in the sense characterized by immorality): from Old French vicious or Latin vitiosus, from vitium vice. See vicious in the Oxford Advanced American Dictionary See vicious in the Oxford Learner's Dictionary of Academic English Cast & crew User reviews Trivia FAQ Freddie Thornhill (Sir Ian McKellen) and Stuart Bixby (Sir Derek Jacobi) are an old gay couple who have been together for nearly fifty years. Their lives now revolve around entertaining their frequent guests and hurling insults at each other at every opportunity. Freddie Thornhill (Sir Ian McKellen) and Stuart Bixby (Sir Derek Jacobi) are an old gay couple who have been together for nearly fifty years. Their lives now revolve around entertaining their frequent guests and hurling insults at each other at every opportunity. Top Top-rated 2 seasons See all 213 years See all 2016 2015 2013 Sign in to rate and Watch list for personalized recommendations Sign in Suggest an edit or add missing content By what name was Vicious (2013) officially released in India in English? Answer You have no recently viewed pages

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