



\* fetish(n.): "material object regarded with awe as having superior powers or being the representative of an ideal that may be worshipped through it," orig. 1610s, from Portuguese *feitiço* "charm, sorcery, allurement," noun use of an adjective meaning "artificial." The Portuguese adjective is from Latin *facticius* "made by art, artificial," from *facere* "to make, do, produce" (from PIE root \*dhe- "to set, put;" compare French *factice* "artificial," restored from Old French *faitise*, from Latin *facticius*). Via the French word, Middle English had *fetis*, *fetice* (adj.) "cleverly made, neat, elegant" (of things), "handsome, pretty, neat" (of persons). In the Middle Ages the Romanic derivatives of the word took on magical senses; compare Portuguese *feiticeira* "sorcery, witchcraft," *feiticeiro* "sorcerer, wizard." Latin *facticius* in Spanish has become *hechizo* "artificial, imitated," also "bewitchment, fascination."