

nibble

1. [ˈnɪb(ə)] *n*
- обгрызание; откусывание
 - чутьочка, капелька
to take a nibble - откусить кусочек
 - клёв (*рыбы*)
I felt a nibble at the bait - я почувствовал, что рыба клюнула
 - осторожная попытка; прощупывание почвы
I have not sold my car yet, but I've had some nibbles - я ещё не продал свой автомобиль, но к нему уже кое-кто приценивался
2. [ˈnɪb(ə)] *v*
- 1) обгрызать; грызть; глодать (*кость*); щипать (*траву*)
a child was nibbling a biscuit - ребёнок грыз печенье
the mice nibbled their way through the door - мыши прогрызли себе ход в двери
 - 2) (at) покусывать, есть лениво, без аппетита
for breakfast he would nibble at a piece of dry toast - вместо завтрака он только погрызёт сухарик и всё
 - 3) постепенно разрушать, подтачивать
waves nibbling the shore - волны, размывающие берег
food and rent nibbled away the money they had saved - расходы на стол и квартиру съели их сбережения
 - 4) (at) пробовать
to nibble at a subject - затронуть какую-л. тему; вскользь коснуться какой-л. темы
 2. 1) клевать (*о рыбе*)
the fish nibbled (at) the bait - рыба клюнула
 - 2) (at) клевать (*кого-л.*), изводить (придиурками), придиураться
 - 3) (*часто at*) не решаться, колебаться
to nibble at a suggestion /at an offer/ - раздумывать над предложением; не говорить ни да ни нет
to nibble at an idea - играть какой-л. мыслью
 3. *сл.* стянуть, стибрить
 4. *воен.* наносить ряд слабых ударов по обороне противника

nibble

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

nib·ble [nibble nibbles nibbled nibbling] **verb, noun** *BrE* [ˈnɪbəl] *NAmE* [ˈnɪbəl]**verb**

- transitive, intransitive** to take small bites of sth, especially food
 - ~ **sth** We sat drinking wine and nibbling olives.
 - He nibbled her ear playfully.
 - ~ (**at/on sth**) She took some cake from the tray and nibbled at it.
- intransitive** ~ (**at sth**) to show a slight interest in an offer, idea, etc
 - He nibbled at the idea, but would not make a definite decision.

Verb forms:

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we / they	nibble
	<i>BrE</i> / ˈnɪbəl/
	<i>NAmE</i> / ˈnɪbəl/
he / she / it	nibbles
	<i>BrE</i> / ˈnɪbəlz/
	<i>NAmE</i> / ˈnɪbəlz/
past simple, past participle	nibbled
	<i>BrE</i> / ˈnɪbld/
	<i>NAmE</i> / ˈnɪbld/
-ing form	nibbling
	<i>BrE</i> / ˈnɪblɪŋ/
	<i>NAmE</i> / ˈnɪblɪŋ/

Word Origin:late 15th cent.: probably of Low German or Dutch origin; compare with Low German **nibbeln** 'gnaw'.Derived ↑nibble away at something**noun**

- countable** a small bite of sth
 - I took a nibble from the biscuit.
- nibbles plural** small things to eat with a drink before a meal or at a party
 - wine and nibbles

Word Origin:late 15th cent.: probably of Low German or Dutch origin; compare with Low German **nibbeln** 'gnaw'.Example Bank:

- I took a little nibble from one of the sandwiches.
- Somebody's had a nibble at this biscuit!

nibbleI. **nibble**¹ /'nɪbəl/ *BrE* ¹ *AmE* ¹ *verb*

[Date: 1500-1600; Origin: Perhaps from Low German nibbeln 'to chew bits off']

1. **[intransitive and transitive]** to eat small amounts of food by taking very small bites:

He nibbled the biscuit cautiously.

nibble at

There's a fish nibbling at my bait.

nibble on

He nibbled on a piece of raw carrot.

2. **[transitive]** to gently bite someone in a loving way:

He began to nibble her ear affectionately.

nibble away at something *phrasal verb*

to take away small amounts of something so that the total amount is gradually reduced:

All these expenses are nibbling away at our savings.

The Scottish National Party is beginning to nibble away at Labour's majority.

...

THESAURUS

- **bite** to use your teeth to cut, crush, or chew something: The dog bit me! | I sometimes bite my fingernails when I'm nervous. | He bit into the apple.
- **chew** to keep biting something that is in your mouth: Helen was chewing a piece of gum. | He was chewing on a cigar.
- **gnaw** if an animal gnaws something, it bites it repeatedly: The dog was in the yard gnawing on a bone.
- **nip somebody/give somebody a nip** to give someone or something a small sharp bite: When I took the hamster out of his cage, he nipped me.
- **nibble** to take a lot of small bites from something: A fish nibbled at the bait. | She sat at her desk, nibbling her sandwich.
- **sink your teeth into somebody/something** to bite someone or something with a lot of force, so that your teeth go right into them: The dog sank its teeth into my leg. | He sank his teeth into the steak.
- **chomp on something** *informal* to bite something and chew it in a noisy way: The donkey was chomping on a carrot. | He was chomping away on big slice of toast.
- **sting** if an insect stings you, it makes a very small hole in your skin. You use **sting** about bees, wasps, and scorpions, and **bite** about mosquitoes, ants, spiders, and snakes: She stepped on a wasps' nest and must have been stung at least 20 times.

II. **nibble**² *BrE* ² *AmE* ² *noun*1. **[countable]** a small bite of something**nibble of**

She took a nibble of her cookie.

2. **nibbles** **[plural]** *informal* small things to eat, like ↑**crisps** and ↑**peanuts**, especially at a party3. **[singular]** a small amount of interest in something:

We've had the house on the market for a month and not even had a nibble yet.

nibble

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COCA 500k Unlemmatized

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