

fumble1. ['fʌmb(ə)] *n*

неуклюжее, неловкое обращение (с чем-л.)

2. ['fʌmb(ə)] *v*

1. нащупывать; шарить

to fumble in one's pocket for a pen - шарить у себя в кармане в поисках ручки

2. (with, at)

1) неловко, неумело обращаться (с чем-л.)

to fumble with a lock - возиться с замком

to fumble at a knot - безуспешно пытаться развязать узел

2) *спорт*. промахнуться, не ударить (по мячу); не остановить мяч

3. мять, вертеть в руках

to fumble with one's scarf - тереть шарф

4. бормотать

to fumble excuses - пробормотать что-то в своё оправдание

to fumble for the right word - с трудом подбирать нужное слово

fumble

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

fum·ble [fumble fumbles fumbled fumbling] *verb, noun* BrE ['fʌmbəl] ¹ NAmE

['fʌmbəl] ¹

verb

1. **intransitive, transitive** to use your hands in an awkward way when you are doing sth or looking for sth

• ~ **(at/with/in sth) (for sth)** She fumbled in her pocket for a handkerchief.

• He fumbled with the buttons on his shirt.

• ~ **around** She was fumbling around in the dark looking for the light switch.

• ~ **sth (+ adv./prep.)** He fumbled the key into the ignition.

• ~ **to do sth** I fumbled to zip up my jacket.

2. **intransitive, transitive** to have difficulty speaking clearly or finding the right words to say

• ~ **(for sth)** During the interview, she fumbled helplessly for words.

• ~ **sth** to fumble an announcement

3. **transitive ~ sth** (especially in sport) to drop a ball or to fail to stop or kick it

Verb forms:

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we / they	fumble
	BrE / 'fʌmbəl/
	NAmE / 'fʌmbəl/
he / she / it	fumbles
	BrE / 'fʌmbəlz/
	NAmE / 'fʌmbəlz/
past simple, past participle	fumbled
	BrE / 'fʌmbld/
	NAmE / 'fʌmbld/
-ing form	fumbling
	BrE / 'fʌmbliŋ/
	NAmE / 'fʌmbliŋ/

Word Origin:

late Middle English: from Low German **fommeln** or Dutch **fommelen**.

Thesaurus:

fumble *verb*, **I**, **T** (usually used with an adverb or preposition)

• She was fumbling around in the dark, looking for the light switch.

grope • **feel** • **rummage** • **fish** • **especially BrE scrabble** •

fumble/grope/feel/rummage/fish/scrabble **around/about**

fumble/grope/feel/rummage/fish around/scrabble **for sth**

noun

1. **singular** (also **fum·bling** *countable, usually plural*) an awkward action using the hands

2. **countable** (NAmE) the action of dropping the ball while it is in play in [↑]American football

• After a Pittsburgh fumble, Miami scored a touchdown.

Word Origin:

late Middle English: from Low German **fommeln** or Dutch **fommelen**.

See also: [↑]fumbling

fumble

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

fum·ble /'fʌmbəl/ BrE ¹ AmE ¹ *verb*

[Date: 1500-1600; Origin: Probably from a Scandinavian language]

1. (also **fumble around**) [**intransitive and transitive**] to try to hold, move, or find something with your hands in an awkward way

fumble at/in/with

She dressed, her cold fingers fumbling with the buttons.

fumble for

- " I fumbled around in my bag for a cigarette.
- " She reached round to fumble the light on.

2. **[intransitive and transitive]** if you fumble with your words when you are speaking, you have difficulty saying something

fumble for

- " Asked for an explanation, Mike had fumbled for words.
- " The second candidate fumbled her lines.

3. **[intransitive and transitive]** to drop a ball after catching it:

- " Quarterback Rattay was hit and fumbled the ball.

—**fumble** *noun* [countable]

—**fumbling** *noun* [countable]

fumble

Freakuency Pack

12500 **10893**^{MCW}

15000 **4634**^{COCA}

RANGE: **8k FUMBLE** ³⁷⁰⁸

fumble ⁹⁸⁶

fumbles ⁷⁰⁵

fumbled ¹¹⁶²

fumbling ⁸⁴⁷

fumbler ⁸

fumblers ⁰

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

431 **26737**⁶⁷⁶ *nn1*

153 **58918**¹⁶³ *vv0*

137 **63316**¹⁴² *vvi*

5 **388789**⁵ *np1*
