

**bit**

I

[bit] *n*

1. 1) кусок; кусочек

small bits of sugar - кусочки сахара

small bits of plaster - куски штукатурки

every bit of - всё

he ate all the cake bit by bit - он по кусочку съел весь пирог [см. тж. ◇]

to go /to come/ to bits - разбиться на мелкие кусочки

2) частица, доля

give me a bit - дай мне немного /часть/

2. (a bit) небольшое количество, немного, чуть-чуть

a bit at a time - понемногу, не спеша, постепенно

wait a bit - подожди немного

I am a bit tired - я немного устал

he is a bit late - он слегка опоздал

not a bit - нисколько, ничуть

he is not a bit tired - он совсем не устал

he is a bit of a coward - он трусоват

3. *разг.* мелкая монета

threepenny bit - монета в три пенса

short bit - *амер.* монета в 10 центов

long bit - монета в 15 центов

two bits - *амер.* монета в 25 центов4. *амер. сл.* срок заключения5. *амер. сл.* эпизодическая роль (*тж.* bit part, bit role)

bit player - (кино)актёр или (кино)актриса, исполняющие эпизодические роли; статист(ка)

6. поведение, образ действий

this is strictly a fascist bit - так могут поступать только фашисты

7. обычная процедура

the familiar 1-2-3-4 bit to check the acoustics - обычная процедура счёта вслух, принятый в таких случаях счёт

раз-два-три-четыре для проверки акустики

8. мода, фасон; стиль (*одежды*)

the bouffant bit - мода на пышные юбки и рукава

9. предмет обсуждения

as for the bit about marriage ... - если речь идёт о браке ...

◇ bit by bit - постепенно [см. тж. 1, 1]

a good /nice/ bit - изрядно, много

a good bit older - много старше

a nice bit of money - немало денег

a saucy bit - дерзкая девчонка

bits and pieces - всякая всячина, всякий хлам; остатки, обрезки, кусочки чего-л.

to do one's bit - внести свою лепту, исполнить свой долг

to take a bit of doing - требовать затраты усилий

a bit much - необдуманно, неосмотрительно ≅ хватить через край

a bit of all right - *разг.* здорово, хорошо

II

1. [bit] *n*

1. 1) бур

2) бурав

3) зубило

4) зубок (*врубной цепи*); вставной резец2. режущая кромка (*инструмента*)

3. бородачка ключа

4. головка паяльника

5. удила, мундштук; трензель

to be on the bit - идти на поводу

to be over the bit - не слушаться повода (*конный спорт*)

to draw bit - а) натянуть поводья, остановить лошадь; б) замедлить, уменьшить скорость

◇ to champ at the bit - проявлять нетерпение

to take the bit between one's teeth - закусить удила, не зная удержу

2. [bit] *v*

1. взнуздывать

2. обуздывать, сдерживать

II

[bit] *n вчт.*

бит, (двоичная) единица информации

bit rate - скорость передачи информации

**bit****bit** [bit bits bitted biting] *BrE* [bit] <sup>m</sup> *NAmE* [bit] <sup>m</sup> **noun****SMALL AMOUNT****1. a bit singular** (used as an adverb) (especially *BrE*) rather**Syn:** ↑little

- These trousers are a bit tight.
- 'Are you tired?' 'Yes, I am a bit.'
- It costs a bit more than I wanted to spend.
- I can lend you fifty pounds, if you want. That should help a bit.

**2. a bit singular** (especially *BrE*) a short time or distance

- Wait a bit!
- Can you move up a bit?
- Greg thought for a bit before answering.

**3. countable ~ of sth** (especially *BrE*) a small amount or piece of sth

- some useful bits of information
- With **a bit of luck**, we'll be there by 12.
- I've got a bit of shopping to do.
- a bit of cake
- bits of grass/paper

**PART OF STH****4. countable** (especially *BrE*) a part of sth larger

- The best bit of the holiday was seeing the Grand Canyon.
- The school play was a huge success — the audience roared with laughter at all the funny bits.

**LARGE AMOUNT****5. singular a ~ (of sth)** (informal, especially *BrE*) a large amount

- 'How much does he earn?' 'Quite a bit!'
- The new system will **take a bit of** getting used to (= it will take a long time to get used to).

**COMPUTING****6. countable** the smallest unit of information used by a computer**FOR HORSE****7. countable** a metal bar that is put in a horse's mouth so that the rider can control it**TOOL****8. countable** a tool or part of a tool for **drilling** (= making) holes**see also** ↑drill**MONEY****9. countable** (*NAmE*, informal) an amount of money equal to 12½ cents**SEXUAL ORGANS****10. bits plural** (*BrE*, informal) a person's sexual organs**see also** ↑bite, ↑bit, ↑bitten <sub>v.</sub>**more at** not a blind bit of... **at** ↑blind <sub>adj.</sub>, champing at the bit **at** ↑champ <sub>v.</sub>**Idioms:** ↑bit by bit ▪ ↑bit much ▪ ↑bit of a ... ▪ ↑bit of all right ▪ ↑bit of rough ▪ ↑bit on the side ▪ ↑bits ▪ ↑bits and bobs ▪ ↑do your bit ▪ every bit as good/bad ▪ ↑get the bit between your teeth ▪ ↑in bits ▪ ↑not a bit ▪ ↑not a bit of it! ▪ ↑not one bit ▪ ↑... bitWord Origin:**senses 1 to 5 and senses 9 to 10** Old English bita 'bite, mouthful' Germanic German Bissen ↑bite**senses 7 to 8** Old English bite 'biting, a bite' Germanic Dutch beet German Biss ↑bite**sense 6** 1940s ↑binary ↑digitThesaurus:**bit noun C** (especially *BrE*)

- a bit of pizza/shopping/luck

**piece** • • **scrap** • • **slice** • • **morsel** • • **fragment** • • **sliver** • • **particle** • • **speck** • • **pinch** • • **drop** • • **grain** • • **length** • |*BrE*, informal **spot** •a bit/piece/scrap/slice of **meat**a bit/piece/scrap of **paper/information/news**

British/American:

**a bit / a little**

In *BrE* it is common to use **a bit** to mean 'slightly' or 'to a small extent': ▪ These shoes are a bit tight. ◊▪ I'll be a bit later home tomorrow. ◊▪ Can you turn the volume up a bit?

It is more common in *NAmE* to say **a little**, or (informal) **a little bit**. You can also use these phrases in *BrE*: ▪ These shoes are a little bit too tight. ◊▪ I'll be a little later home tomorrow. ◊▪ Can you turn the volume up a little bit?

Example Bank:

- 'Has it been difficult for you at work?' 'Just a bit= it has been very difficult.'
- A big bit of stone had fallen off the wall.
- All the crockery had been smashed to bits.
- He helped me a little bit in the afternoon.
- He managed to get odd bits of work, but no regular job.
- I picked up a bit of information that might interest you.
- I read it, but I missed out the boring bits.
- I'm not the least bit interested in football.
- I'm still just a bit confused.
- I'm worried because bits keep falling off my car.
- I've bought a nice bit of fish for dinner.
- It rained a fair bit during the night.
- Listen to the interview again and pick out the bits you want to use in the article.
- My briefcase eventually fell to bits.
- My mother has some bits and pieces to give you.
- She tore the letter up and threw it on the floor. Marion stooped to pick up the bits.
- The new system will take quite a bit of getting used to.
- We made a good bit of progress.
- A big bit of plaster just fell down from the ceiling.
- Can you save me a bit?
- Do you want a bit of pizza?
- Here's a bit of news that may interest you.
- I've got a bit of shopping to do.
- With a bit of luck, we'll be there by 12.
- You've got bits of grass in your hair.

**bit**

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

I. **bit**<sup>1</sup> **S1 W1** /bit/ *BrE* <sup>u</sup> *AmE* <sup>u</sup> *adverb, pronoun*

**1. ONLY SLIGHTLY a bit especially British English**

**a) slightly or to a small degree SYN a little:**

- Could you turn the TV up a bit?
- That's a bit odd.
- 'Are you sorry to be leaving?' 'Yes, I am a bit.'
- Aren't you being a little bit unfair?
- I think you're a bit too young to be watching this.
- She looks a bit like my sister.

**a bit better/older/easier etc**

- I feel a bit better now.

**b) sometimes, but not very often:**

- I used to act a bit when I was younger.

**REGISTER**

In written English, people usually avoid **a (little) bit** and use **slightly**, **rather**, or **somewhat** instead:

- This system is slightly more efficient.
- The final cost was somewhat higher than expected.

**2. AMOUNT a bit especially British English informal** a small amount of a substance or of something that is not a physical object

**SYN a little**

**a bit of**

- I may need a bit of help.
- He still likes to do a bit of gardening.
- I want to spend a bit of time with him before he goes.
- With a bit of luck, we should have finished by five o'clock.
- Everyone needs a little bit of encouragement.
- 'Would you like cream in your coffee?' 'Yes please, just a bit.'

**a bit more/less**

- Can we have a bit less noise, please?

**3. QUITE A LOT quite a bit (also a good bit British English)** a fairly large amount or to a fairly large degree:

- She's quite a bit older than you, isn't she?
- He knows quite a bit about painting.

**quite a bit of**

I expect you do quite a bit of travelling?

**quite a bit more/less**

They're worth quite a bit more than I thought.

**4. TIME/DISTANCE a bit especially British English** a short period of time or a short distance **SYN a while** :

You'll have to wait a bit.

I walked on a bit

**in a bit**

I'll see you in a bit.

**for a bit**

We sat around for a bit, chatting.

**5. a bit of a something especially British English** used to show that the way you describe something is only true to a limited degree:

The news came as a bit of a shock.

I felt a bit of a fool.

It looks like they left in a bit of a hurry.

**6. not a bit/not one bit especially British English** not at all:

You're not a bit like your brother.

Am I cross? No, not a bit of it.

I'm not in the least bit interested in whose fault it is.

Well, you haven't surprised me, not one bit.

**7. every bit as important/bad/good etc especially British English** used to emphasize that something is equally important, bad etc as something else:

Jodi plays every bit as well as the men.

**8. bit by bit especially British English** gradually:

Bit by bit, I was starting to change my mind.

**9. a/one bit at a time especially British English** in several small parts or stages:

Memorize it a bit at a time.

**10. take a bit of doing/explaining etc British English** to be difficult to do, explain etc:

The new system took a bit of getting used to.

**11. be a bit much British English** to be unacceptable, impolite, or unfair:

It's a bit much when he criticizes us for doing something that he does himself.

**12. be a bit of all right British English informal** used to say that someone is sexually attractive

**13. bit on the side British English informal** someone's bit on the side is a person they are having a sexual relationship with, even though they already have a wife, husband, or partner – used humorously or to show disapproval:

She stayed, in the hope that he'd tire of his bit on the side.

**14. a bit of stuff/fluff/skirt British English informal not polite** offensive expressions meaning a young woman, especially one who is sexually attractive

**15. a bit of rough British English informal** someone of a lower social class that someone has a sexual relationship with – used humorously

• • •

## GRAMMAR

### a bit, a bit of

Use **a bit** before an adjective, not before a noun or an adjective and noun:

▪ He's a bit shy (NOT a bit shy man).

Before a noun or an adjective and noun, use **a bit of**:

▪ There was a bit of trouble (NOT a bit trouble).

▪ It was a bit of a strange decision (NOT a bit strange decision).

You can also use **a bit** after a verb or its object:

▪ I cried a bit (NOT a bit cried).

II. **bit**<sup>2</sup> **S1 W1 BrE** <sup>AmE</sup> **noun** [countable]

[Sense 1-3, 7-12: Language: Old English; Origin: bita 'piece bitten off, small piece of food']

[Sense 4: Date: 1900-2000; Origin: binary digit]

[Sense 5-6: Language: Old English; Origin: bite 'act of biting']

**1. PIECE** a small piece of something

**bit of**

bits of broken glass

He wedged the door open with a bit of wood.

**break/rip/shake etc something to bits**

The aircraft was blown to bits.

He's taken the engine to bits.

**fall/come to bits**

The old house was falling to bits.

**2. PART British English informal** a part of something larger:

This is the boring bit.

**bit of**

We did the last bit of the journey on foot.

**bit about**

Did you like the bit about the monkey?

**3. to bits British English informal** very much or extremely:

Mark's a darling – I love him to bits.

thrilled/chuffed/pleased to bits

I've always wanted a car, so I'm thrilled to bits.

4. **COMPUTER** the smallest unit of information that a computer uses:

a 32-bit processor

5. **TOOL** the sharp part of a tool for cutting or making holes:

a drill bit

6. **HORSE** the metal bar attached to a horse's <sup>↑</sup>bridle that is put into its mouth and used to control it ⇒ **be champing at the bit** at <sup>↑</sup>champ<sup>1</sup>(2)

7. **bits and pieces** (also **bits and bobs** *British English*) *informal* any small things of various kinds:

Let me get all my bits and pieces together.

8. **do your bit** *informal* to do a fair share of the work, effort etc that is needed to achieve something good or important:

Everyone should do their bit for the environment.

9. **get the bit between your teeth** *British English*, **take the bit between your teeth** *American English* to do something or deal with something in a very determined way, so that you are not likely to stop until it is done

10. **MONEY**

a) **two bits/four bits** *American English informal* 25 cents or 50 cents

b) *British English old-fashioned* a small coin

11. **pull something to bits** *British English informal* to criticize something strongly:

The critics pulled his new play to bits.

12. **TYPICAL BEHAVIOUR/EXPERIENCE** *informal* used to mean a kind of behaviour or experience that is typical of someone or something

the (whole) student/movie star/travelling etc bit

Then she gave us the concerned mother bit.

13. **be in bits** *British English spoken informal* to be extremely upset because something unpleasant or disappointing has happened:

She was in bits after the race, and looked totally gutted.

...

## COLLOCATIONS

### ■ adjectives

▪ **a little/tiny bit** The floor was covered in tiny bits of glass.

### ■ verbs

▪ **fall/come to bits** (=separate into many different parts because of being old or damaged) The book was so old that I was afraid it would fall to bits.

▪ **break/smash to bits** The vase fell and smashed to bits on the concrete floor.

▪ **rip/tear something to bits** She grabbed the letter and ripped it to bits.

▪ **be blown to bits** (=by a bomb) A bus shelter nearby was blown to bits.

▪ **take something to bits** (=separate the parts of something) Tony loves taking old radios and computers to bits.

III. **bit**<sup>3</sup> *BrE* *AmE*

the past tense of <sup>↑</sup>bite

## bit

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202 **51719**<sup>209</sup> *vvv*

12 **232441**<sup>12</sup> *jj*

3 **462846**<sup>4</sup> *np1*