

gnaw[nɔ:] v (*gnawed* [nɔ:d]; *gnawed, gnawn*)

1. (*часто* at) грызть, глодать
to gnaw (at) a bone - глодать кость
to gnaw the bit - закусить удила
to gnaw one's lips in rage - кусать губы в ярости
a mouse was gnawing at a crust of bread - мышь грызла корку хлеба
stop gnawing your fingernails - перестань грызть ногти
2. разъедать (*о кислоте, ржавчине*)
rust gnaws away steel - ржавчина разъедает сталь
3. (*часто* at) беспокоить, терзать, подтачивать
to be constantly gnawed by fear - постоянно терзаться страхом
anxiety [pain] gnawed (at) his heart - тревога [боль] терзала его душу

gnaw

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

gnaw [gnaw gnaws gnawed gnawing gnawn] BrE [nɔ:]^u NAmE [nɔ:]^u verb

transitive, intransitive

to keep biting sth or chewing it hard, so that it gradually disappears

- ~ **sth** The dog was gnawing a bone.
- ~ **through sth** Rats had gnawed through the cable
- ~ **at/on sth** She gnawed at her fingernails.
- ~ **away at/on sth** (*figurative*) Self-doubt began to gnaw away at her confidence.

Derived ↑gnaw at somebody

Verb forms:

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we /they	gnaw
	BrE /nɔ:/
	NAmE /nɔ:/
he / she /it	gnaws
	BrE /nɔ:z/
	NAmE /nɔ:z/
past simple, past participle	gnawed
	BrE /nɔ:d/
	NAmE /nɔ:d/
-ing form	gnawing
	BrE /nɔ:ɪŋ/
	NAmE /nɔ:ɪŋ/

Word Origin:

Old English gnagen, of Germanic origin; related to German *nagen*, ultimately imitative.**gnaw**

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

gnaw /nɔ:/\$ nɔ:ɪ/ BrE^u AmE^u verb [intransitive, transitive always + adverb/preposition]

[Language: Old English; Origin: gnagan]

to keep biting something hard **SYN** chew:

- Dexter gnawed his pen thoughtfully.
- A rat had gnawed a hole in the box.

gnaw at/on

- The puppy was gnawing on a bone.

gnaw (away) at somebody/something phrasal verb

to make someone feel worried or frightened, over a period of time:

- Something was gnawing at the back of his mind.
- Doubt was gnawing away at her confidence.

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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.

gnaw12500 **10895**^{MCW}15000 **7724**^{COCA}RANGE: **11k** **GNAW** ¹²⁶⁷gnaw ¹⁹⁶gnaws ⁹⁸gnawed ³⁸⁴gnawing ⁵⁸⁹

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

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