

**touch****1. [tʌtʃ] n****1. прикосновение; касание**

at a touch - при (первом) прикосновении

a touch of /with/ a stick - прикосновение палочкой

a touch to the cap - приветствие прикосновением к шапке

to give a touch - прикоснуться

to give one's horse a touch of the spurs - слегка пришпорить коня

he felt a cold touch on his arm - он почувствовал на руке холодное прикосновение

momentary touch (of the shoulders to the mat) - кратковременное соприкосновение лопаток с ковром (*спортивная борьба*)

**2. 1) осязание**

touch is the fifth of our senses - осязание - наше пятое чувство

sort [rough, hard, slimy] to the touch - мягкий [шероховатый, твёрдый, скользкий] на ощупь

to know smth. by (the) touch - узнать что-л. на ощупь

he has a delicate sense of touch - у него очень чувствительная кожа, у него очень развито осязание /чувство осязания/

**2) чувствительность; чуткость, такт**

she has a wonderful touch with children - она удивительно тактична с детьми

**3) тактильное ощущение**

the velvety touch of fabric - бархатистость ткани

the cold touch of marble - холод мрамора

**3. 1) соприкосновение, общение; связь, контакт**

in touch with smb. - в контакте с кем-л.

I'll be in touch - я далеко не уеду, я дам о себе знать

to get in /into/ touch with smb. - связаться с кем-л.

to keep in touch with smb. - поддерживать связь /контакт/ с кем-л.

I can't get in touch with him - никак не могу поймать его

to put smb. in touch with smb. - познакомить /связать/ кого-л. с кем-л.

to be out of touch /to lose touch/ with smb. - потерять связь /не общаться/ с кем-л.

to lose touch with the older generation - терять контакты со старшим поколением

have you lost touch with your friends back home? - вы потеряли связь с друзьями на родине?

**2) знание, понимание, контроль**

to be in touch with the situation - быть в курсе дел; знать, как идут дела

to keep smb. in touch with smth. - держать кого-л. в курсе дел

to be out of touch with smth. - быть не в курсе дел; перестать следить за чем-л.

to be out of touch with modern methods - не знать современных методов, не владеть /не уметь пользоваться/ современными методами

to lose touch with reality - утратить представление о действительности; жить в мире грёз

**4. 1) штрих; чёрточка; деталь**

vivid [poetic] touches in the story - живые [поэтические] детали в рассказе

a few deft touches - несколько искусных штрихов

to put /to give/ the finishing /the final/ touches to smth., to add the final touch to smth. - добавлять последние штрихи к чему-л.,

отделять что-л.; заканчивать /завершать/ что-л.

**2) характерная черта**

the personal touch - характерная черта (*человека*)

touch of nature - черта характера

a characteristic touch in speech - характерная нотка в речи

a dress with individual touch about it - платье с выдумкой

a man with a touch of good breeding - хорошо воспитанный человек, человек с прекрасными манерами

**3) (художественная) манера, стиль; приём; сноровка**

a sculptor with a bold touch - скульптор со смелым резцом

he writes with a light touch - он пишет просто /доходчиво/

I know the touches of his tools - я знаю его работу

one can easily recognize the touch of the master - легко можно узнать руку большого художника

a tennis player who has lost his touch - теннисист, утративший свой стиль

this room needs a woman's touch - этой комнате не хватает женской руки; в этой комнате не чувствуется присутствия женщины

**4) *разг.* особый фасон или манера**

the latest touch - последний крик моды

**5) *муз.* туше**

firm touch - уверенное туше

**6) эффекттуше или удара**

a piano with a stiff touch - фортепьяно тугими клавишами

the typewriter has a light touch - у этой (пишущей) машинки лёгкая клавиатура

**5. 1) чуточка; примесь; оттенок налёт**

a touch of garlic - привкус чеснока

a touch of perfume - слабый запах /аромат/ духов

a touch of irony [of bitterness, of mockery] - оттенки иронии [горечи, насмешки]

an acid touch in smb.'s voice - кислая нотка в голосе

the first touches of autumn - первые признаки осени

to have a touch of colour - быть слегка окрашенным  
there's a touch of colour in her cheeks - её щеки слегка порозовели  
there was a touch of frost in the air - чувствовался лёгкий морозец, слегка морозило  
there was a touch of the Dane about him - в нём было что-то от датчанина  
his hope is a touch too wild - его надежды немножко беспочвенны  
ask me no more, for at a touch I yield - не просите меня больше, ещё слово - и я уступлю

2) лёгкий приступ (*болезни*); небольшой ушиб *и т. п.*

a touch of the sun - лёгкий солнечный удар  
a touch of rheumatism [of gout] - слабый /небольшой/ приступ ревматизма [подагры]  
touch of fever - небольшой жар, температурка  
he has a touch of flu - он немного простужен

6. 1) *разг.* сумма

the dinner was a guinea touch - обед обошёлся в гинею

2) *сл.* деньги, полученные займы *или* выпрошенные; деньги, полученные мошенническим путём

to come for a touch - прийти с целью пожить  
to make a touch, to put the touch (on smb.) - подзаять денег (у кого-л.); выклянчить /выцыганить/ деньги (у кого-л.)

3) *сл.* мошенничество, обман, надувательство

it's a touch - меня надули, меня обьегорили

7. 1) качественная проба (*золота, серебра и др. металлов*)

2) метка, клеймо, проба (*на золоте, серебре и др. металлах*)

3) проба на степень густоты сиропа (*в сахароварении*)

4) *уст.* пробный камень

8. *мед.* ощупывание; пальпация

9. намагничивание (*прикосновением предмета к магниту*)

10. *спорт.*

1) площадь, лежащая за боковыми линиями футбольного поля

to kick the ball into touch - выбить мяч за боковую линию

2) боковая линия

out of touch - за боковой линией

◇ easy /soft/ touch - а) человек, легко дающий деньги в долг; he's an easy /soft/ touch - у него легко занять деньги; его легко надуть; б) слабое место, слабое звено; he thinks you're a soft touch in the family - он думает, что ты в нашей семье - слабое место

common touch, touch of elbows - чувство локтя

a near touch - опасное /рискованное/ положение; опасность, которую едва удалось избежать

rum touch - а) странный /эксцентричный/ человек; б) странное дело

in /within/ touch - а) близко, под рукой; б) доступно, достижимо

to put to the touch - подвергнуть испытанию

2. [tʌtʃ] *adv*

немного, чуточку

to aim a touch too low - прицелиться чуть-чуть ниже, чем нужно

3. [tʌtʃ] *v*

1

1. 1) касаться, трогать, прикасаться, притрагиваться

to touch slightly - слегка прикоснуться

to touch the ball - *спорт.* задеть мяч, коснуться мяча

to touch a thing with the hand [with a stick] - трогать вещь рукой [палкой]

to touch land - приземлиться

to touch the horse with the spur, to touch one's spurs to the horse - слегка пришпорить коня

to touch a person on the arm [on the shoulder] - привлечь чьё-л. внимание, коснувшись руки [плеча]

he touched his lute /the strings of his lute/ delicately - он нежно коснулся струн лютни

2) касаться, соприкоснуться

the two ships touched - два судна соприкоснулись

our palms touched - наши ладони коснулись друг друга

3) быть каким-л. на ощупь

the rock touches rough - скала кажется шершавой на ощупь

2. (*обычно отриц. или вопр.*)

1) трогать (*пальцами, руками*)

visitors are requested not to touch the exhibits - посетителей просят не трогать руками экспонаты

nothing must be touched until the police have come - нельзя ничего трогать до прихода полиции

2) притрагиваться (*к еде, вину и т. п.*); есть, пить

he has not touched food for two days - два дня он ничего не ел

I couldn't touch anything - я не мог ничего есть

he never touches a drop - он не пьёт ни капли

3) тронуть, ударить

don't touch her! - только посмей тронуть её!

he swears he never touched the child - он клянётся, что никогда не трогал ребёнка

4) заниматься (*чем-л.*), делать (*что-л.*); брать в руки; прикасаться

we have not been able to touch our work all day - за весь день мы не смогли прикоснуться к работе

I haven't touched the piano for a long time - я давно не играл на пианино

he had never touched a card before then - до этого он вообще не брал в руки карт

5) касаться, иметь половые отношения

I doubt if he had ever touched a woman before his marriage - сомневаюсь, что он имел дело с женщинами до женитьбы

3. соприкасаться, примыкать, граничить

his garden touches mine - его сад граничит с моим

the country touches mountains on the north - с севера страну замыкают /к стране примыкают/ горы

4. 1) достигать; доставать

can you touch the ceiling? - вы можете достать до потолка?

to touch bottom - коснуться дна [см. тж. ◊ ]

2) достигать, доходить до, равняться

the thermometer touched 30u00B0 yesterday - вчера термометр поднялся до 30u00B0

he touches 6 feet - он шести футов ростом

5. равняться, идти в сравнение с

there is nothing to touch sea air for bracing you up - нет ничего полезнее морского воздуха для укрепления здоровья

is there one of you that could touch him? - разве кто-нибудь из вас может сравниться с ним?

my cooking can't touch yours - моё кулинарное искусство не идёт в сравнение с вашим

6. иметь отношение (к чему-л.)

the question touches you nearly - вопрос близко касается вас

the new law doesn't touch the case at all - новый закон никак не распространяется на этот случай; этот случай совершенно не подходит под новый закон

how does this touch me? - какое это имеет ко мне отношение?

I won't touch that business - я не хочу иметь ничего общего с этим делом

7. влиять, оказывать влияние

his war experiences seem not to have touched him at all - военные переживания не оставили никакого следа в его душе

alert to everything that touched his personal honour - чувствительный ко всему, что затрагивало его честь

8. оказывать физическое воздействие

nothing will touch these stains - эти пятна ничем не выведешь

this acid will not touch silver - эта кислота не действует на серебро

this metal is so hard that a file cannot touch it - металл настолько твёрдый, что напильник его не берёт

9. *обыкн. р. р.*

1) наносить вред, ущерб; слегка портить

the leaves are touched with frost - листья тронуты морозом

the paintings were not touched by the fire - огонь не тронул картин

this horse is slightly touched in the wind - у этой лошади дыхание немного не в порядке /не всё в порядке с дыханием/

2) действовать на психику

he is slightly touched - он немного не в себе, у него не все дома

the fright has touched his wits - он помешался от испуга

3) легко ранить, задеть

no soldiers were touched in the skirmish - ни один солдат в стычке не пострадал

10. 1) трогать, волновать

the sad story touched her heart - эта печальная история взволновала её

he was touched by her kindness - он был тронут её добротой

no memory of the past touched him - картины прошлого не волновали его

he was touched to tears - он был растроган до слёз

his repentance touched me to the heart - его раскаяние тронуло меня до глубины души

2) задевать за живое; сердить, раздражать

his vanity was touched no less than his sense of duty - его тщеславие было задето не меньше, чем его чувство долга

to touch smb. to the quick, to touch smb. home, to touch smb. on a raw /on a sore, on a tender/ place, to touch smb. on the raw -

задеть кого-л. за живое, задеть чьё-л. больное место; уязвить кого-л. до глубины души

11. *обыкн. р. р.*

1) слегка окрашивать; придавать оттенок

clouds touched with pink - розоватые облака

2) подмешивать, примешивать

admiration touched with envy - восхищение, к которому примешивается зависть, восхищение с оттенком зависти

12. ставить пробу, клеймо, метку (*на металле*)

13. *редк.* упоминать, намекать

14. *мед.* ощупывать, пальпировать

15. *мат.* касаться, быть касательной

16. *спорт.* наносить удар (*фехтование*)

to touch one's opponent - коснуться противника (*рапирой*)

17. *уст.* намагничивать (*прикосновением к магниту*)

II A

1. затрагивать (*тему, вопрос*)

we touched many topics in our talk - в разговоре мы коснулись многих тем

he merely touched the subject - он лишь затронул вопрос

2. 1) наносить (*линии, штрихи*)

2) изменять, подправлять, перекрашивать (*штрихами, мазками*)

3. давать сигнал (*звонком, горном*)

to touch the bell - нажать на кнопку звонка

4. получать (жалованье, стипендию)

he touches £2 a week - он получает два фунта в неделю

5. быть следующим за чем-л. (о мастях карт и т. п.)

diamonds touch hearts - бубны следуют за червями /идут сразу после червей/

6. мор. плыть круто к ветру (о парусниках)

II Б

1. to touch at a port заходить в порт (о судах)

what ports did your boat touch at on your trip? - в какие порты заходил ваш пароход во время путешествия?

2. to touch smb. for smth. разг.

1) выпрашивать, кланчить, занимать, выманивать что-л. у кого-л.

he touched John for a dollar - он заставил Джона раскошелиться на доллар

he touched me for a large sum of money - он занял /выклянчил/ у меня большую сумму денег

2) амер. воровать, красть, вынимать из кармана что-л. у кого-л.

to touch smb. for his watch - вынуть у кого-л. (из кармана) часы, срезать часы у кого-л.

3. to touch (up) on smth.

1) затрагивать, касаться, упоминать что-л.

I have already touched on these questions - я уже говорил об этом

2) влиять, оказывать влияние на что

the revolution touched on almost all aspects of human activity - революция затронула почти все аспекты человеческой деятельности

3) иметь отношение к чему-л.

4) подходить близко, граничить с чем-л.

his actions touch on treason - его действия граничат с предательством, его действия - почти предательство

5) доходить до, достигать (о температуре и т. п.)

4. to touch one's hat to smb. коснуться шляпы, приподнять шляпу в знак приветствия

5. to touch smth. to smth. подносить что-л. к чему-л.

he touched a lighted match to the candle - он поднёс зажжённую спичку к свече

◇

to touch and go - а) коснуться дна; б) ≅ выиграть один шанс из тысячи; едва удастся

to touch shore - подплыть к берегу

to touch bottom - а) дойти до предельно низкого уровня (о ценах); б) опуститься; our hopes touched bottom - надежда в нас едва теплилась; в) добраться до сути дела; г) ав. жарг. разбиться; [см. тж. I 4, 1]

to touch pitch - иметь дело с сомнительным предприятием или субъектом

to touch the spot - а) попасть в цель, соответствовать своему назначению; a glass of iced beer touches the spot on a hot day - стакан холодного пива - незаменимая вещь в жаркий день; б) понять суть дела; найти корень зла

to touch wood - пытаться умиловить судьбу, стучать по дереву, чтобы не накликал беду

touch wood! - не сглазьте!; постучите по дереву!

I [she, etc] would not touch him with a barge-pole /with a pair of tongs, амер. with a ten foot pole/ - он мне [ей и т. д.] противен /омерзителен/

to touch the wind - мор. заполаскивать (о парусах)

## touch

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

**touch** [touch touches touched touching] verb, noun BrE [tʌtʃ] <sup>а</sup> NAmE [tʌtʃ] <sup>а</sup>

verb

### WITH HAND/PART OF BODY

**1. transitive** ~ **sb/sth** to put your hand or another part of your body onto sb/sth

- Don't touch that plate— it's hot!
- Can you touch your toes? (= bend and reach them with your hands)
- I touched him lightly on the arm.
- He has hardly touched the ball all game.
- (figurative) I must do some more work on that article— I haven't touched it all week.

### NO SPACE BETWEEN

**2. intransitive, transitive** (of two or more things, surfaces, etc.) to be or come so close together that there is no space between

- Make sure the wires don't touch.
- ~ **sth** Don't let your coat touch the wet paint.
- His coat was so long it was almost touching the floor.
- The dancer's feet hardly seemed to touch the ground.

### MOVE STH/HIT SB

**3. transitive** (often in negative sentences) ~ **sth/sb** to move sth, especially in such a way that you damage it; to hit or harm sb

- I told you not to touch my things.
- He said I kicked him, but I never touched him!

### AFFECT SB/STH

**4. transitive** ~ **sb/sth** (to do sth) to make sb feel upset or sympathetic

- Her story touched us all deeply.
- What he said really touched my heart.

**5. transitive** ~ **sb/sth** (old-fashioned or formal) to affect or concern sb/sth

- These are issues that touch us all.

## EAT/DRINK/USE

6. **transitive** (usually in negative sentences) ~ **sth** to eat, drink or use sth

- You've hardly touched your food.
- He hasn't touched the money his aunt left him.

## EQUAL SB

7. **transitive** (usually in negative sentences) ~ **sb** to be as good as sb in skill, quality, etc

- No one can touch him when it comes to interior design.

## REACH LEVEL

8. **transitive** ~ **sth** to reach a particular level, etc

- The speedometer was touching 90.

## BE INVOLVED WITH

9. **transitive** ~ **sth/sb** to become connected with or work with a situation or person

- Everything she touches turns to disaster.
- His last two movies have been complete flops and now no studio will touch him.

## OF SMILE

10. **transitive** ~ **sth** to be seen on sb's face for a short time

- A smile touched the corners of his mouth.

**more at** strike/touch a chord **at** ↑**chord**, touch/tug you forelock **at** ↑**forelock**, not harm/touch a hair of sb's head **at** ↑**hair**, hit/touch a (raw/sensitive) nerve **at** ↑**nerve** <sub>n.</sub>, catch/touch sb on the raw **at** ↑**raw** <sub>n.</sub>

Verb forms:

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we /they	touch
	BrE /tʌtʃ/
	NAme /tʌtʃ/
he / she /it	touches
	BrE /tʌtʃɪz/
	NAme /tʌtʃɪz/
past simple, past participle	touched
	BrE /tʌtʃt/
	NAme /tʌtʃt/
-ing form	touching
	BrE /tʌtʃɪŋ/
	NAme /tʌtʃɪŋ/

Word Origin:

Middle English: the verb from Old French **tochier**, probably from a Romance word of imitative origin; the noun originally from Old French **toche**, later (in certain senses) directly from the verb.

Example Bank:

- Don't you dare touch me!
- He accidentally touched a live wire attached to overhead power cables.
- He did not actually touch the substance, but may have inhaled it.
- He touched her gently on the arm.
- He was close enough to touch her.
- He wouldn't let me touch the wound.
- Her hand reached out to touch his cheek.
- His fingers briefly touched hers.
- I want to touch briefly on another aspect of the problem.
- Photography is merely touched on in the book.
- Photojournalism and the birth of photography are merely touched on in the book.
- She hugged him, being careful not to touch his broken wrist.
- She touched him with her hand.
- The story touched me very deeply.
- Their faces were almost touching.
- Can you touch your toes?
- Don't let your coat touch the wet paint.
- Don't touch that plate— it's hot!
- Even the most remote areas are now directly touched by political, educational and medical advances.
- I had been touched by his kindness to my aunts.
- I must do some more work on that article— I haven't touched it all week.
- Make sure the wires don't touch.
- The dancer's feet hardly seemed to touch the ground.
- The life of a shepherd has been only marginally touched by technological change.

Idioms: ↑**a soft touch** ▪ be/become out of touch ▪ be/get/keep in touch ▪ be/keep in touch ▪ ↑**lose touch** ▪ ↑**not touch somebody**

with a bargepole ▪ ↑out of touch ▪ ↑touch base ▪ ↑touch bottom ▪ ↑touch wood ▪ ↑touched with something  
Derived ↑touch down ▪ ↑touch on something ▪ ↑touch somebody for something ▪ ↑touch somebody up ▪ ↑touch something off ▪  
↑touch something up

noun

## SENSE

- 1. uncountable** the sense that enables you to be aware of things and what they are like when you put your hands and fingers on them
  - the sense of touch

## WITH HAND/PART OF BODY

- 2. countable, usually singular** an act of putting your hand or another part of your body onto sb/sth
  - The gentle touch of his hand on her shoulder made her jump.
  - All this information is readily available **at the touch of a button** (= by simply pressing a button) .
  - This type of engraving requires a delicate touch.
  - She played the piano with a light touch.

## WAY STH FEELS

- 3. singular** the way that sth feels when you put your hand or fingers on it or when it comes into contact with your body
  - The body was cold **to the touch** .
  - material with a smooth silky touch
  - He could not bear the touch of clothing on his sunburnt skin.

## SMALL DETAIL

- 4. countable** a small detail that is added to sth in order to improve it or make it complete
  - I spent the morning **putting the finishing touches to** the report.
  - Meeting them at the airport was a nice touch.
  - Bright cushions add a decorative touch to a room.

## WAY OF DOING STH

- 5. singular** a way or style of doing sth
  - She prefers to answer any fan mail herself for a more personal touch.
  - Computer graphics will give your presentation the professional touch.
  - He couldn't find his magic touch with the ball today (= he didn't play well) .
  - This meal is awful. I think I'm **losing my touch** (= my ability to do sth) .

## SMALL AMOUNT

- 6. countable, usually singular ~ of sth** a very small amount

**Syn:** ↑trace

- There was a touch of sarcasm in her voice.
- There could be a touch of frost tonight.

## SLIGHTLY

- 7. a touch singular** slightly; a little
  - The music was a touch too loud for my liking.

## IN FOOTBALL/RUGBY

- 8. uncountable** the area outside the lines that mark the sides of the playing field

- He kicked the ball into touch.

**more at** common touch **at** ↑common adj., kick sth into touch **at** ↑kick v., a light touch **at** ↑light adj.

## Word Origin:

Middle English: the verb from Old French **tochier**, probably from a Romance word of imitative origin; the noun originally from Old French **touche**, later (in certain senses) directly from the verb.

## Example Bank:

- Giving her flowers was a nice touch.
- He found his old political touch when the crisis emerged.
- He handles this controversial subject with a light touch.
- He has just the right touch of arrogance for the role.
- He must regain his shooting touch.
- Her speech brought a welcome touch of frivolity to the evening
- Maybe the champion is losing her magic touch.
- Sculpture potentially appeals to the sense of touch as well as sight.
- She seemed to have a deft touch with comedy.
- She's just putting the finishing touches to her painting.
- The candles gave the table a romantic touch.
- The decor includes many idiosyncratic little touches.
- The door swung open at his touch.

- The family photos add a homely touch.
- The security staff were in close touch with the local police.
- The slightest touch will set off the alarm.
- The solid rock was warm to the touch.
- They had to identify various materials by touch.
- This government is increasingly out of touch with ordinary voters.
- With students she had a sure touch and showed great personal sensitivity.
- You can now do your shopping at the touch of a button.
- a politician who lacked the common touch
- All this information is readily available at the touch of a button.
- Give your garden a touch of class with a sundial as a focal point.
- He couldn't find his magic touch with the ball today.
- I did that very badly. I think I'm losing my touch.
- She has learnt to recognize the raised patterns of Braille by touch.
- The bird depends largely on an extremely delicate sense of touch to find its prey.

See also: ↑knock on wood ▪ ↑not touch somebody with a ten-foot pole

## touch

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

I. **touch**<sup>1</sup> **S2 W2** /tʌtʃ/ *BrE* " *AmE* " *verb*

[**Word Family**: adjective: ↑touched, ↑untouched, ↑touching, ↑touchy, ↑untouchable; noun: ↑touch, ↑untouchable; verb: ↑touch; adverb: ↑touchingly]

[**Date**: 1200-1300; **Language**: Old French; **Origin**: tuchier, from Vulgar Latin toccare 'to knock, hit a bell, touch'; from the sound]

**1. FEEL [transitive]** to put your hand, finger etc on someone or something:

- She reached out to touch his arm.
- If your house has been burgled, you shouldn't touch anything until the police arrive.
- 'Don't touch me!' she yelled.

**touch somebody on the arm/leg etc**

- A hand touched her on the shoulder.

**2. NO SPACE BETWEEN [intransitive and transitive]** if two things touch, or one thing touches another thing, they reach each other so that there is no space between them:

- As our glasses touched, he said 'Cheers!'
- Her dress was so long that it was touching the ground.

**3. touch something to something literary** to move something so that it reaches something else with no space between the two things:

- She touched the handkerchief to her nose.
- He touched his lips to her hair.

**4. AFFECT SB'S FEELINGS [transitive]** to affect someone's emotions, especially by making them feel sympathy or sadness:

- Her plight has touched the hearts of people around the world.
- She could sense his concern and it touched her. ⇒ ↑touched, ↑touching<sup>1</sup>

**5. HAVE AN EFFECT [transitive]** to have an effect on someone or something, especially by changing or influencing them:

- He has touched the lives of many people.
- Unemployment remains an evil that touches the whole community.
- He was often touched by doubt (=doubt affected him).

**6. USE [transitive usually in negatives]** to use or handle something:

- The law doesn't allow him to touch any of the money.
- It's a long time since I've touched a piano.

**7. not touch something**

**a) to not eat or drink something:**

- What's wrong? You've hardly touched your food.
- My grandfather was an alcoholic but I never touch the stuff (=never drink alcohol).

**b) to not deal with something that you should deal with:**

- I brought home loads of work, but I haven't touched any of it yet.

**8. not touch somebody/something** to not hurt someone or not damage something:

- The older boys swore they hadn't touched the child.
- Parma had not been touched.

**9. DEAL WITH SOMEBODY/SOMETHING [transitive]** to become involved with or deal with a particular problem, situation, or person:

- He was the only lawyer who would touch the case.
- Everything he touches turns to disaster.
- No school would touch a teacher who had been convicted of assault.

**10. REACH AN AMOUNT [transitive] especially British English** to reach a particular amount or level:

- At the time, the unemployment rate was touching 10 percent and rising.

**11. HIT/KICK [transitive] British English** to gently hit or kick a ball – used especially in reports of sports games:

- Evans was just able to touch the ball away from Wilkinson.

**12. not touch something/somebody (with a bargepole) British English, not touch something/somebody with a ten-foot pole American English** used to say that you think someone or something is bad and people should not be involved with them:

- I wouldn't touch him with a bargepole.
- Financial analysts have warned investors not to touch these offers with a ten-foot pole.

**13. be touched with something literary** to have a small amount of a particular quality:

His voice was touched with the faintest of Italian accents.

Her nails had been manicured and lightly touched with colour.

**14. EXPRESSION [transitive]** if an expression such as a smile touches your face, your face has that expression for a short time:

A smile touched her lips.

**15. RELATE TO SOMETHING [transitive]** to be about or to deal with a particular subject, situation, or problem:

Though the question touched a new vein, Nelson answered promptly.

The discourse touches many of the issues which are currently popular.

**16. LIGHT [transitive] literary** if light touches something, it shines on it:

The sun was just touching the tops of the mountains.

**17. nothing/no one can touch somebody/something** used for saying that nothing or no one is as good as a particular person or thing:

He describes the events with a passion that no other writer can touch.

**18. touch base (with somebody)** to talk to someone in order to find out how they are or what is happening:

I just wanted to touch base and make sure you hadn't changed your mind about seeing me.

**19. touch bottom**

a) to reach the ground at the bottom of a sea, river etc:

He swam down but could not touch bottom.

b) to reach the lowest level or worst condition:

The housing market has touched bottom.

⇒ **touch a (raw) nerve** at ↑*nerve*<sup>1</sup>(6), ⇒ **touch wood** at ↑*wood*(3)

• • •

## THESAURUS

- **touch** to put your fingers or hand onto someone or something for a very short time: Don't touch the iron – it's hot!
  - **feel** to touch something with your fingers in order to find out about it: Feel how soft this material is. | I felt his forehead. It was cold.
  - **handle** to touch something and pick it up and hold it in your hands: Children should always wash their hands before handling food. | The glass was very fragile, and she handled it with great care. | Please do not handle the merchandise.
  - **finger** to touch or handle something with your fingers, especially while you are thinking of other things: She fingered the heavy necklace around her neck.
  - **rub** to move your hand over a surface while pressing it: Bob rubbed his eyes and yawned.
  - **scratch** to rub part of your body with your nails, often because it **ITCHES**: The dog kept scratching its ear. | Bob scratched his head thoughtfully.
  - **tickle** to move your fingers lightly over someone's body in order to make them laugh: The baby giggled as I tickled him.
  - **grope** to touch someone's body in a sexual way when they do not want to be touched: The officer was accused of groping several women in his platoon.
- **touch somebody gently or lovingly**
- **stroke** to move your hand gently over something, especially in a loving way: She stroked the child's hair. | Our cat won't let people stroke him.
  - **pat** to touch an animal or child lightly several times, with your hand flat: He knelt down to pat the dog. | She patted the little boy's head.
  - **pet** to touch and move your hand gently over someone, especially an animal or child: The goats, pigs, sheep, and cows here allow you to pet them.
  - **caress** /kə'res/ to gently touch a part of someone's body in a loving way: a mother caressing her child | She caressed his cheek.
  - **fondle** to touch a part of someone's body in a loving or sexual way – use this especially about touching someone in a sexual way that is not wanted: He tried to fondle her and she immediately pulled away from him.

## touch down *phrasal verb*

1. when an aircraft touches down, it lands on the ground:

The plane finally touched down at Heathrow airport around midday.

2. in the sport of ↑*rugby*, to score by putting the ball on the ground behind the other team's ↑*goal line*

## touch somebody for something *phrasal verb British English informal*

to persuade someone to give or lend you something, especially money:

He tried to touch me for the taxi fare home.

## touch something ↔ *off phrasal verb*

to cause a difficult situation or violent events to begin:

It was these national rivalries that eventually touched off the First World War.

## touch on/upon something *phrasal verb*

to mention a particular subject when talking or writing:

The report touches on the relationship between poverty and poor health.

These issues were touched on in Chapter 2.

## touch somebody/something ↔ *up phrasal verb*

1. to improve something by changing it slightly or adding a little more to it:

She quickly touched up her lipstick.

The photograph had obviously been touched up.

The speech he finally gave had been touched up by his staff.

2. *British English informal* to touch someone in a sexual way when they do not want you to:

He was accused of touching up one of his students.

## II. touch<sup>2</sup> **S2 W2 BrE** *AmE* *noun*

[Word Family: adjective: ↑*touched*, ↑*untouched*, ↑*touching*, ↑*touchy*, ↑*untouchable*; noun: ↑*touch*, ↑*untouchable*; verb: ↑*touch*; adverb: ↑*touchingly*]



**1. TOUCHING SOMEBODY/SOMETHING [countable usually singular]** the action of putting your hand, finger, or another part of your body on something or someone:

" She felt a gentle touch on her shoulder.

**touch of**

" He remembered the touch of her fingers on his face.

**2. ABILITY TO FEEL THINGS [uncountable]** the sense that you use to discover what something feels like, by putting your hand or fingers on it:

" the sense of touch

**by touch**

" Visually impaired people orient themselves by touch.

" Bake the cake for 30 minutes until risen and firm to the touch.

**3. in touch (with somebody)** talking or writing to someone:

" We'll get in touch (=start talking or writing to you) as soon as we know the results of the test.

" Can I have your phone number in case I need to get in touch with you?

" Bye. I'll be in touch.

" Are you still in touch with John (=are you talking to him regularly)?

" I'm in close touch with Anna.

**stay/keep in touch (=keep writing or talking, even though you do not see each other often)**

" Anyway, we must stay in touch.

" I met him when I worked in Madrid, and I've kept in touch with him ever since.

" I lost touch with (=stopped writing or talking to) Julie after we moved.

" I can put you in touch with a local photography club (=give you their address or phone number so you can talk to them).

**4. be/keep/stay etc in touch (with something)** to have the latest information or knowledge about something:

" A regular newsletter keeps people in touch with local events.

" The speech was good and you felt he was in touch with people's needs.

" Rescuers were kept in touch through radio links.

" A head-teacher needs to remain in close touch with teachers' everyday concerns.

**5. be out of touch**

**a) (also lose touch (with something))** to not have the latest knowledge about a subject, situation, or the way people feel

**be out of touch with**

" I'm out of touch with modern medicine.

" The party cannot afford to lose touch with political reality.

**b) to not know much about modern life:**

" Judges are often accused of being out of touch.

**6. get in touch with something especially American English** to realize and understand something such as your feelings and attitudes:

" The first stage is to get in touch with your perceptions and accept responsibility for your relationships.

**7. DETAIL/ADDITION [countable]** a small detail that improves or completes something

**put the final/finishing touches to something**

" Emma was putting the finishing touches to the cake.

" There was a vase of flowers in the room, which was a nice touch.

" Brass pans added a decorative touch to the plain brick wall.

**8. WAY OF DOING SOMETHING [countable]** a particular way of doing something, or the ability to do it in a particular way:

" The room was decorated with a very artistic touch.

" Our staff combine efficient service with a personal touch (=they do things in a friendly way).

" The feminine touch was evident throughout the house.

" His sure touch (=confident way of doing things) and attention to detail are just as evident now.

" Barbara has a magic touch in the garden (=she grows things very well).

" King obviously hasn't lost his touch (=lost his ability) – his latest book sold in the millions.

**9. a touch of something** a small amount of something:

" Our furniture is guaranteed to add a touch of class to your bedroom.

" Add a lace top for a touch of glamour.

" 'What?' asked Hazel, with a touch of irritation.

**10. a touch disappointed/faster/impatient etc** slightly disappointed, faster etc:

" He sounded a touch upset when I spoke to him on the phone.

**11. with/at the touch of a button/key** used to emphasize that something can be done very easily by pressing a button:

" This card allows you to access your money at the touch of a button.

" You can get all the latest information with the touch of a button.

**12. a soft/easy touch informal** if someone is a soft or an easy touch, you can easily persuade them to do what you want, especially give you money

**13. WAY SOMETHING FEELS [countable usually singular]** the way that something feels and the effect it has on your skin:

" the warm touch of his lips

**14. SOCCER/RUGBY [uncountable]** the area outside the lines that mark the playing area

**into touch**

" The ball rolled into touch.

⇒ **common touch** at ↑**common**<sup>1</sup>(13), ⇒ **a/the human touch** at ↑**human**<sup>1</sup>(5), ⇒ **kick something into touch** at ↑**kick**<sup>1</sup>(11), ⇒ **lose your touch** at ↑**lose**(1), ⇒ **magic touch** at ↑**magic**<sup>2</sup>(5), ⇒ **↑Midas touch**, ⇒ **a soft touch** at ↑**soft**(17)

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touch 31428

touched 14354

touches 5261

touching 6936

untouched 1841

touchable 72

untouchable 451

untouchables 217

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