

delicate1. ['delɪkət] *n*

деликатес

2. ['delɪkət] *a*

1. 1) утончённый, изысканный, тонкий

delicate taste - изысканный /тонкий/ вкус

delicate mind - возвышенный ум

delicate style - изысканный /отточенный филигранный стиль

delicate hint - тонкий намёк

delicate wine - вино с тонким букетом

2) изящный; сделанный со вкусом; искусный

delicate casket - изящная шкатулка

delicate workmanship - тонкая /филигранная работа

delicate operation - виртуозная операция

delicate lace [features] - тонкие кружева [черты лица]

delicate figure - стройная /точёная, хрупкая/ фигура

delicate web of the spider - тончайшая паутина

2. хрупкий; требующий осторожного обращения; слабый, болезненный

delicate skin - нежная кожа

delicate plant - нежное растение

delicate china - хрупкий фарфор

delicate health [lungs] - слабое здоровье [-ые лёгкие]

delicate constitution - хрупкое телосложение

delicate child - болезненный ребёнок

to be in delicate health - быть слабого здоровья

3. нежный; слабый; едва уловимый

delicate odour - нежный запах

delicate flavour - неуловимый аромат

delicate shade of blue - мягкий оттенок голубого

delicate differences - тонкие различия

delicate irony - лёгкая ирония

delicate touch - а) осторожное прикосновение; б) *муз.* бархатное туше

4. (высоко)чувствительный, тонкий; точный

delicate instrument - тонкий прибор

delicate adjustment - тонкая настройка

delicate balance - чувствительные весы

5. острый, тонкий; чувствительный

delicate ear - острый слух

to have a delicate ear for music - иметь тонкий музыкальный слух

6. 1) щекотливый, затруднительный

delicate subject [mission, situation] - щекотливая тема [миссия, -ое положение]

delicate stage in negotiations - трудный /сложный/ этап переговоров

that's a delicate affair - это тонкое дело; ≅ здесь надо действовать умно

2) *арх.* «деликатный», «интересный»

to be in a delicate condition /in a delicate state of health/ - быть в (интересном) положении

7. деликатный, учтивый, тактичный, вежливый

delicate manners - учтивые манеры

a conversation which is not exactly delicate - (несколько) грубоватый разговор

8. приятный на вкус, вкусный; лёгкий

delicate dish - вкусное блюдо

delicate food - лёгкая пища

delicate**deli-cate** *BrE* ['delɪkət] ^m *NAmE* ['delɪkət] ^m **adjective**

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

1. easily damaged or broken

Syn: †fragile

- delicate china teacups
- The eye is one of the most delicate organs of the body.
- the delicate ecological balance of the rainforest
- Babies have very delicate skin.
- a cool wash cycle for delicate fabrics

2. (of a person) not strong and easily becoming ill/sick

- a **delicate child/constitution**
- His health had always been delicate.

3. small and having a beautiful shape or appearance

- his delicate hands

4. made or formed in a very careful and detailed way

- the delicate mechanisms of a clock

5. showing or needing skilful, careful or sensitive treatment

- I admired your delicate handling of the situation.
 - a delicate problem
 - The delicate surgical operation took five hours.
6. (of colours, flavours and smells) light and pleasant; not strong

Syn: †subtle

- a **delicate fragrance/flavour**
- a riverscene painted in delicate watercolours

Derived Word †delicately

Word Origin:

late Middle English (in the sense 'delightful, charming'): from French *délicat* or Latin *delicatus*, of unknown origin. Senses also expressed in Middle English (now obsolete) include 'voluptuous', 'self-indulgent', 'fastidious', and 'effeminate'.

Thesaurus:

delicate [**delicate delicately**] **adj.**

- a delicate china cup
- the delicate ecological balance of the rainforest

fragile •• **brittle** •

delicate/fragile/brittle **bones/glass**

(a) delicate/fragile **china/thread**

the delicate/fragile **ecology**

Delicate or fragile? **Delicate** fabrics, like silk, need special care

- Use a cool wash for delicate fabrics.

Fragile fabrics need even more care, usually because they are very old.

Example Bank:

- Her bones felt as delicate as a bird's.
- The glasses looked very delicate.
- This is a somewhat delicate subject.
- a politically delicate situation
- a rather delicate child
- He warned that the talks were at a very delicate stage.
- I wasn't sure how to approach the delicate matter of pay.
- She has a delicate constitution and has to be careful with what she eats.
- The eye is one of the most delicate organs of the body
- This has done nothing except to inflame an already delicate situation.
- a cool wash for delicate fabrics

delicate

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

del  **icate** /'delɪkət, 'delɪkɪt/ *BrE* " *AmE* " **adjective**

[Date: 1300-1400; Language: Latin; Origin: delicatus]

1. needing to be dealt with carefully or sensitively in order to avoid problems or failure:

- There's something I have to speak to you about – it's a delicate matter.
- delicate negotiations

2. easily damaged or broken **SYN fragile** :

- delicate hand-cut glass
- The sun can easily damage a child's delicate skin.

3. **old-fashioned** someone who is delicate is hurt easily or easily becomes ill:

- a delicate child

4. a part of the body that is delicate is attractive and graceful:

- Her wrists and ankles were slim and delicate.
- her delicate features

5. made skilfully and with attention to the smallest details:

- a plate with a delicate pattern of leaves

6. a taste, smell, or colour that is delicate is pleasant and not strong:

- The wine has a dry delicate flavour.
- a delicate pink

—delicately **adverb**

⇒ †indicate

delicate

FreQUENCY Pack

12500 **3888**^{MCW}

15000 **2707**^{COCA}

RANGE: **3k** DELI CATE⁰²⁶¹

delicate 7612

delicately 1414

delicacy 876

