

**thumb**

1. [θʌm] *n*

- 1) большой палец (руки)  
with his thumb and finger - большим и указательным пальцем
- 2) большой палец перчатки
- 3) выступ, выступающая часть (чего-л.)
- 2. мера длины (*приравниваемая к одному дюйму*)  
a thumb's breadth - шириной в один дюйм /в палец/  
◇ Tom Thumb - мальчик с пальчик  
a rule of thumb *см.* thumb-rule 1  
under smb.'s thumb, under the thumb of smb. - всецело в руках кого-л., у кого-л. под башмаком /под каблуком/  
some men are under the thumbs of their wives - некоторые мужья (находятся) под каблуком /под башмаком/ у своих жён, некоторые мужья - подкаблучники  
to keep smb. under one's thumb - держать кого-л. под каблуком /под башмаком/  
to stick out like a sore thumb - обращать на себя внимание; бросаться в глаза; колоть глаза, оскорблять взор /взгляд/  
to give a quick thumb through the book - быстро пролистать/просмотреть книгу  
to twiddle one's thumbs - бездельничать, бить баклуши  
to turn down the thumb(s) on smth. - быть против чего-л.; говорить, что номер не пройдет  
to turn up the thumbs on smth. - быть за что-л.; обеими руками подписаться под чем-л.  
to be all thumbs - быть неловким /неуклюжим/  
his fingers are all thumbs - у него руки-крюки  
to bite one's thumbs - сердиться, раздражаться  
to bite the thumb at smb. - *уст.* показать кому-л. кукиш; смеяться /издеваться/ над кем-л.  
to fash one's thumbs (about) - *шотл.* беспокоиться, затруднять себя  
to whistle on one's thumbs - *шотл.* утешаться как умеешь /можешь/  
put your thumbs up! - не робей!, не вешай носа!; держи хвост морковкой!

2. [θʌm] *v*

- 1) 1) захватать, загрязнить (*особ. книгу*)  
the book was thumbed out of existence - книгу совершенно истрепали
- 2) пролистать, просмотреть (*тж. thumb through*)  
to thumb (through) a book - пролистать книгу, прочитать книгу по диагонали
- 2. ощупывать (большим пальцем)
- 3. неловко обращаться (с чем-л.; *тж. to thumb it*)  
to thumb the piano - играть одним пальцем на пианино; брэнчать кое-как на пианино
- 4. уминать, разравнивать  
he thumbed (down) the tobacco in his pipe - он плотно набил трубку
- 5. *амер. разг.* «голосовать» (*на дороге*)  
◇ to thumb one's nose - *амер.* показать нос  
to thumb a lift - а) «голосовать» (*на дороге*); б) подъезжать на попутной машине

**thumb**

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

**thumb** [thumb thumbs thumbed thumbing] noun, verb *BrE* [θʌm] <sup>u</sup> *NAmE*

[θʌm] <sup>u</sup>  
noun

- 1. the short thick finger at the side of the hand, slightly apart from the other four  
• She still **sucks her thumb** when she's worried.



- see also** ↑green thumb
- 2. the part of a glove that covers the thumb  
• There's a hole in the thumb.

**more at** a rule of thumb **at** ↑rule *n.*, stand/stick out like a sore thumb **at** ↑sore *adj.*, twiddle your thumbs **at** ↑twiddle *v.*

Word Origin:

Old English thūma, of West Germanic origin; related to Dutch **duim** and German **Daumen**, from an Indo-European root shared by Latin **tumere** 'to swell'. The verb dates from the late 16th cent., first in the sense 'play (a musical instrument) with the thumbs'.

Example Bank:

- He made a thumbs-up sign through the window to tell us everything was fine.
- He smiled and raised a thumb in greeting.
- I picked up the beetle carefully between finger and thumb.
- I sat there twiddling my thumbs until the manager finally appeared.

- I stuck out a thumb and a car stopped immediately.

**Idioms:** ↑all thumbs ▪ ↑hold thumbs ▪ ↑thumb your nose at somebody ▪ ↑thumbs up ▪ ↑under somebody's thumb

**Derived** ↑thumb through something

## verb

- 1. intransitive, transitive** to make a signal with your thumb to passing drivers to ask them to stop and take you somewhere
  - **+ adv./prep.** He had thumbed all across Europe.
  - (BrE) ~ **a lift** We managed to thumb a lift with a lorry driver.
  - (NAme) ~ **a ride** We managed to thumb a ride with a truck driver.
- 2. transitive ~ sth (+ adv./prep.)** to touch or move sth with your thumb
  - She thumbed off the safety catch of her pistol.

**see also** ↑well thumbed

**Verb forms:**

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we / they	thumb
	BrE /θʌm/
	NAme /θʌm/
he / she / it	thumbs
	BrE /θʌmz/
	NAme /θʌmz/
past simple, past participle	thumbed
	BrE /θʌmd/
	NAme /θʌmd/
-ing form	thumbing
	BrE /θʌmɪŋ/
	NAme /θʌmɪŋ/

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Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

I. **thumb**<sup>1</sup> /θʌm/ **BrE** <sup>ˈ</sup> **AmE** <sup>ˈ</sup> **noun** [countable]

[Language: Old English; Origin: thuma]



1. the part of your hand that is shaped like a thick short finger and helps you to hold things:

- a baby sucking its thumb
- She held the coin carefully between finger and thumb.

2. the part of a ↑glove that fits over your thumb

3. **be all fingers and thumbs** *British English*, **be all thumbs** *American English informal* to be unable to do something in which you have to make small careful movements with your fingers:

- Would you do up these buttons for me? I seem to be all thumbs today.

4. **the thumbs up/down** *informal* when an idea or plan is officially accepted or not accepted:

- The project was finally given the thumbs up.
- Her performance got the thumbs down from the critics.

5. **be under sb's thumb** to be so strongly influenced by someone that they control you completely:

- He was still under his father's thumb.

⇒ **rule of thumb** at ↑rule<sup>1</sup>(8), ⇒ **stand/stick out like a sore thumb** at ↑sore<sup>1</sup>(6)

II. **thumb**<sup>2</sup> **BrE** <sup>ˈ</sup> **AmE** <sup>ˈ</sup> **verb**

1. **thumb a lift** *British English*, **thumb a ride** *American English informal* to persuade a driver of a passing car to stop and take you somewhere, by putting your hand out with your thumb raised:

- I thumbed a lift into town.

2. **thumb your nose at somebody/something** to show that you do not respect rules, laws etc or you do not care what someone thinks of you:

- a chance to thumb his nose at the college authorities

**thumb through something** *phrasal verb*

to look through a book, magazine etc quickly:

- I began thumbing through the pages of a gardening catalogue.

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