

PICK

Choose. Collect. Remove.
It's your choice.

“ Sometimes the
smallest decision
changes everything. ”

★ MAJOR MEANINGS

1 CHOOSE

Select one
from several
options.

Pick a colour.



2 COLLECT / GATHER

Take or gather
things.

*We pick apples
every autumn.*



3 REMOVE WITH YOUR FINGERS

Take or remove
something small.

*She picked a thorn
from her shoe.*



4 COLLECT SOMEONE OR SOMETHING

Go and get
someone or
something.

*I'll pick you up
at 6 p.m.*



5 PLAY INDIVIDUAL STRINGS (MUSIC)

Play a stringed
instrument by
plucking.

*He picked his
guitar softly.*



6 CRITICISE SMALL DETAILS

Find fault; criticise
in a way that is
not fair.

*Stop picking at
my work!*



ORIGIN

Old English *pician*
“to prick or pierce
with a pointed tool.”
From the idea of
picking with the
fingers came
meanings of
choosing, collecting
and removing.



So many options.
You have to **pick**
one.



WORD FAMILY

VERB
pick

NOUNS

- pick (choice)
- pick (tool)
- picker (person / machine)

ADJECTIVES

- picked (carefully selected)
- picky (hard to please)

RELATED WORDS

selection • choose
gather • harvest

COMMON CONTEXTS



Daily Life



Shopping



Education



Agriculture



Music



Logistics



Technology



Sports

HIGH-FREQUENCY COLLOCATIONS

- pick a winner
- pick a date
- pick a lock
- pick the best option
- pick a colour
- pick flowers
- pick a fight
- pick sides
- pick a team
- pick fruit
- pick a seat
- pick carefully

USEFUL PHRASAL VERBS

- ➔ **pick up** collect / improve
I'll pick you up at six.
- ➔ **pick out** choose carefully
She picked out a dress.
- ➔ **pick on** repeatedly target
They always pick on him.
- ➔ **pick over** examine carefully
We picked over the evidence.
- ➔ **pick apart** analyse or criticise
The reviewer picked apart the proposal.

COMMON IDIOMS

- ★ **pick and choose** select some things, not all
- ★ **pick someone's brain** ask for ideas or advice
- ★ **pick a fight** start an argument
- ★ **pick up the pieces** deal with the problems
- ★ **pick your battles** choose your fights wisely
- ★ **the pick of the bunch** the best of a group

CONTEXT EXAMPLES

- 1 Please **pick** a seat near the window.
- 2 We **picked** fresh strawberries yesterday.
- 3 I'll **pick you up** after work.
- 4 She **picked out** the perfect gift.
- 5 The committee **picked** the best candidate.
- 6 Don't **pick** on your little brother.



Pick is a regular verb.
Past simple: **picked** Past participle: **picked**