

squeeze verb

1 hold firmly

Structure: with adverb

■ squeeze [gently, tightly, firmly]

- *I walk round behind his chair, place my hands on his shoulders, and squeeze them gently.*
- *I took a firm grip and squeezed tightly, but nothing happened*

A with your hand

a PERSON squeezes an OBJECT with his/her hand

Structure: intransitive

▶ sb squeezes

- *She was walking past with her granny friend, and as she was passing, a hand cupped my left butt cheek and squeezed.*
- *I took a firm grip and squeezed tightly, but nothing happened.*

Structure: transitive

▶ sb squeezes sth

- *She smiled as he squeezed her hand.*
- *Brent reaches out to squeeze Justice 's thigh with his left hand, but as the the camera picks up the actual squeeze, its Brent 's right hand squeezing her thigh.*

B with your arms LABEL: AFFECTION?

a PERSON squeezes a PERSON with his/her arms

Structure: transitive

▶ sb squeezes sth/sb

- *'I'll come with you,' he said. He put his arms round her thin little body and squeezed it.*
- *I just put my arms around her and squeezed her so tight I thought I 'd break her ribs, ' said Rosemary Lodge.*

Structure: intransitive

▶ sb squeezes

- *Michael Collins wrapped his arm around her shoulder and squeezed affectionately. "You 've worked wonders, as usual."*
- *She threw her arms around him and squeezed tightly.*

C with your fingers

a PERSON squeezes an OBJECT with his/her fingers

Structure: transitive

▶ sb squeezes sth

- *Hold the rolled up condom at the tip of his erect penis squeezing the teat as before.*

D activate a device

a PERSON squeezes an activating PART OF DEVICE using his/her fingers

Structure: transitive

▶ sb squeezes sth

■ to squeeze [a trigger]

- *He stood in front of me, aimed the gun at my head and squeezed the trigger.*
- *She gently squeezed the accelerator lever under her thumb to rev the engine.*

2 extract substance

A press out liquid

a PERSON squeezes a CONTAINER with liquid |or| squeezes LIQUID out of a CONTAINER

Structure: transitive [from|on|onto]

▶ sb squeezes sth

▶ sb squeezes sth from sth

▶ sb squeezes sth on(to) sth

■ to squeeze [a lemon, an orange]

■ to squeeze [a sponge]

■ to squeeze [juice]

■ **to squeeze [lemon, orange] juice**

- *Peel two oranges, squeeze the juice and keep the pith.*
- *Squeeze a bit of lemon juice onto the fish.*
- *Arrange salad, squeeze over some lemon juice and add freshly ground pepper.*

Structure: PV-out

▶ **sb squeezes sth out**

▶ **sb squeezes sth out of sth**

■ **to squeeze out [water]**

- *Wet the sponge then squeeze out the excess water.*
- *Compression is required to squeeze the fluid out of your legs when you are standing up.*

B press out soft matter

a PERSON squeezes a CONTAINER with soft matter |or| squeezes SOFT MATTER out of a CONTAINER

Structure: transitive |on(to)|

▶ **sb squeezes sth**

▶ **sb squeezes sth on(to) sth**

■ **to squeeze [toothpaste]**

■ **to squeeze on/onto [a brush, a toothbrush]**

- *It was once claimed that Charles would have toothpaste squeezed on to his brush by royal staff.*
- *And she squeezes the toothpaste from the middle of the tube!*

3 get into limited space

a PERSON squeezes into or through a LIMITED SPACE |or| squeezes an OBJECT into a LIMITED SPACE

Structure: intransitive |through|between|into|past|

▶ **sb squeezes through sth**

▶ **sb squeezes between sth**

▶ **sb squeezes into sth**

▶ **sb squeezes past sth**

■ **to squeeze through [a gap, a hole, a door]**

■ **to squeeze into [a seat, a corner]**

■ **to squeeze into [wetsuits]**

- *He had squeezed through a gap in the fence.*
- *All the table seats were occupied so we had to squeeze into airline seats.*
- *Can you squeeze past or should I move?*
- *Katy cheekily squeezed into tight hot pants which Simon could be seen openly ogling.*

Structure: PV-in

▶ **sb squeezes in**

▶ **sb squeezes sth/sb in**

- *She squeezed in between her brothers.*
- *Quickly, I scampered over to the opening and squeezed myself in.*

Structure: PV-up

▶ **sb squeezes up**

- *We had to squeeze up to make room.*
- *On the bus, I was squeezed up against a beautiful young black lady.*

Structure: transitive |into|

▶ **sb squeezes sth into sth**

- *We can only squeeze one more thing into the bag.*

4 obtain with difficulty

A just succeed

a PERSON squeezes a desired RESULT out of a SITUATION or CONDITION

Structure: transitive |out of|

▶ **sb squeezes sth out of sth**

- *Gary French squeezed a pass out of a tackle on the line 12 minutes from the end.*

- *In the city that invented the breakfast meeting to squeeze more hours out of the day I want to make sure I don't dither about .*

Structure: intransitive |through|

▶ **to squeeze through**

- *Greece just squeezed through into the next round.*

B persuade

a PERSON squeezes HIDDEN KNOWLEDGE out of another PERSON

Structure: transitive |out of|

▶ **sb squeezes sth out of sb**

- *See if you can squeeze more information out of them.*
- *They made one final attempt to squeeze concessions out of us.*

C get maximum

a PERSON squeezes maximum PERFORMANCE out of a MACHINE or SYSTEM

Structure: transitive |out of|

▶ **sb squeezes sth out of sth**

■ **to squeeze [performance, power]**

- *Maxon has gone even further and squeezed even more power out of its latest DC motor, the EC-powermax 30 range.*
- *Criterion Games, the award-winning creators of the Burnout series, will squeeze more performance out of the Playstation 2 and Xbox hardware than ever before.*

D extort money

a PERSON or an INSTITUTION squeezes MONEY out of another PERSON or INSTITUTION

Structure: transitive |out of|

▶ **sb squeezes sth out of sb**

■ **to squeeze [money, cash]**

- *Councils will want to squeeze as much money out of taxpayers as they can.*
- *DalGLISH last night attempted to squeeze £250,000 out of Portsmouth for midfielder Steve Agnew.*

Syntactic combinations:

to squeeze every ounce of sth (from sth)

to squeeze the last ounce of sth (from sth)

- *I feel great satisfaction in squeezing every ounce of capability from the things I own.*
- *In my quest for perfection I am not afraid to question any rule, nor am I afraid to modify or even ignore what I consider to be a bad rule in order to squeeze the last ounce of productivity from whichever software development tool I am using.*

5 get rid of

an AUTHORITY or INSTITUTION squeezes out another INSTITUTION or PEOPLE, usually by financial means

Structure: PV-out

▶ **sth/sb squeezes out sth/sb**

■ **to squeeze out [competitors]**

- *The company is squeezing out competitors and forcing its remaining rivals to adopt its price-is-everything approach.*
- *Council is obsessed with controls and it is squeezing business out of the area.*
- *Big companies will squeeze the little ones out of the market.*
- *Workers have been squeezed out of their jobs.*

6 make financial damage

a financial CONDITION or ORGANIZATION squeezes another ORGANIZATION or ITEM, causing them financial difficulties

Structure: transitive

▶ **sb squeezes sth**

■ **to squeeze [margins, budget]**

- *Slow economic growth has squeezed our budget.*
- *Small businesses are being squeezed by high interest rates.*

- *The government is squeezing the railways' investment budget.*
- *The economy is being squeezed by foreign debt repayments.*
- *Supermarkets are accused of squeezing both customers and suppliers.*

7 find time

if PEOPLE squeeze in other PEOPLE or EVENTS in, they manage to find time for them

Structure: VP-in

▶ **sb squeezes sth/sb in**

■ **to squeeze in [a visit, a trip]**

- *I try to squeeze in a daily visit to the gym.*
- *Can I squeeze in a trip to see an ageing relative?*
- *She may be able to squeeze you in, if you play your cards right.*
- *How do you manage to squeeze so much into one day?*

8 push body parts closer

a PERSON squeezes his/her BODY PARTS together

Structure: transitive [together]

▶ **sb squeezes sth**

▶ **sb squeezes sth together**

■ **to squeeze [buttocks, thighs]**

- *Return to the upright position by squeezing buttocks and pushing feet into the floor.*
- *She had allowed her gown to fall open again, and he had the impression that she was squeezing her thighs together.*

Syntactic combinations:

to squeeze your eyes shut

- *Involuntarily she squeezed her eyes shut.*
- *I squeezed my eyes shut against the pain.*

Phraseology:

to squeeze a quart into a pint pot

to squeeze a quart out of a pint pot

to attempt to do the impossible

- *There will be little of real substance other than trying to squeeze a quart into a pint pot whilst keeping all of the really contentious areas largely unchanged.*
- *Joined up action allows those involved to make the most of scarce resources said Mr Bridgeman and allows overstretched local authority budgets to squeeze a quart out of a pint pot.*

to squeeze the life out of sb/sth

to hinder, to choke off

- *This latest downward pressure could squeeze the life out of the Scottish industry.*
- *He described the spirit of monopoly that was squeezing the life out of France.*