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dain·ty  (dān tē)

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adj. dain·ti·er, dain·ti·est

1. Delicately beautiful or charming and usually small: *dainty slippers*.
2. Delicious; tasty: *a dainty dish*.
3. Fastidious or finicky: "*They chided [them] for being too dainty to eat army rations*" ([Stephen Berry](#)).
4. Frail in constitution or health: "*Such heroines have [been] replaced by the dainty young thing who faints away at the sight of a six-shooter*" ([Molly Gloss](#)).

n. pl. dain·ties

Something delicious; a delicacy.

[Middle English *deinte*, excellent, excellence, from Old French *deintie*, from Latin *dignitās*, from *dignus*, worthy; see **dek-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

dain ti·ly *adv.*

dain ti·ness *n.*

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