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trough



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# Dictionary

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# trough noun

*trōf* *trōth* *by bakers often* *trō*

plural **troughs** *trōfs* *trōvz* *trōths*, *trō(th);* *trōz*

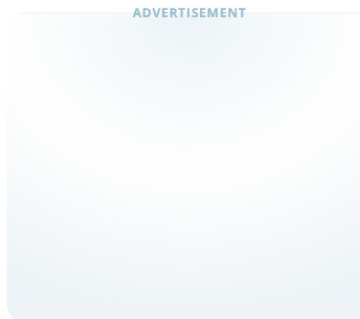
Synonyms of *trough*

- 1 **a** : a long shallow often V-shaped receptacle for the drinking water or feed of domestic animals
- b** : any of various domestic or industrial containers
- 2 **a** : a conduit, drain, or channel for water  
*especially* : a gutter along the eaves of a building
- b** : a long and narrow or shallow channel or depression (as between waves or hills)  
*especially* : a long but shallow depression in the bed of the sea  
→ compare **TRENCH**
- 3 : the minimum point of a complete cycle of a periodic function: such as
  - a** : an elongated area of low barometric pressure
  - b** : the low point in a business cycle

## Synonyms

pipe                      conduit                      tube  
 funnel                    channel                      drain

[See All Synonyms & Antonyms in Thesaurus](#)

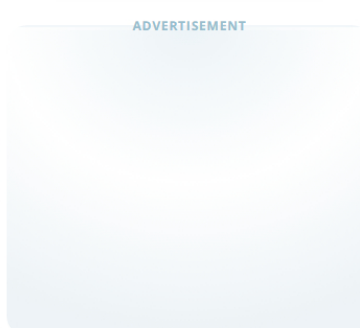
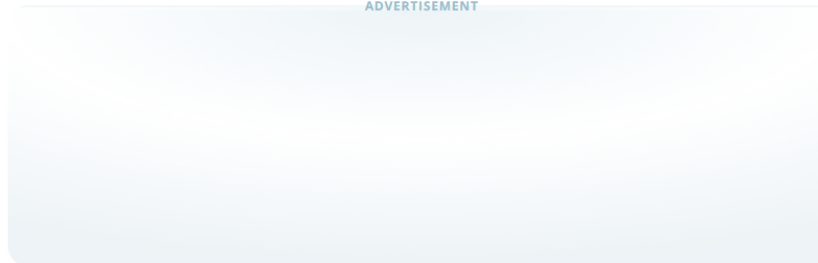


**Quordle**

W	O	R	D	Y
L	O	V	E	R
P	L	A	Y	S
D	A	I	L	Y

Can you solve 4 words at once?

**Play**



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WORD OF THE DAY

**flummox**

[See Definitions and Examples](#)

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## Examples of *trough* in a Sentence

The economy is in a **trough** right now.

all of the wiring for the converted residential loft is concealed in a vertical **trough**

## Recent Examples on the Web

Examples are automatically compiled from online sources to show current usage. Opinions expressed in the examples do not represent those of Merriam-Webster or its editors. [Send us feedback](#).

This was that the huge economic slowdown, the Great Depression at its absolutely frightful **trough** in 1933, in good part was happening because people had a preference for holding gold over cash.

– Brian Domitrovic, *Forbes.com*, 30 Aug. 2025

Lastly, a **trough** of low pressure located several hundred miles south of the Hawaiian Islands is expected to move westward into unfavorable environmental conditions, and development is not expected, the NHC said.

– Gabe Hauari, *USA Today*, 28 Aug. 2025

That long **trough** in the industry left an enduring shortage of new homes, which in turn caused a feverish bidding-up of existing properties.

– *Chicago Tribune*, 26 Aug. 2025

In this case, a **trough** is expected to set up over the Eastern United States, drawing in cooler than normal air to the Midwest and Northeast from Canada.

– Joe Edwards, *MSNBC Newsweek*, 22 Aug. 2025

[See All Example Sentences for \*trough\* >](#)

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## Word History

### Etymology

Middle English, from Old English *trog*; akin to Old High German *trog* trough, Old English *trēow* tree, wood — more at [TREE entry 1](#)

### First Known Use

before the 12th century, in the meaning defined at [sense 1a](#)

### Time Traveler

**The first known use of *trough* was before the 12th century**

[See more words from the same century](#)

### Phrases Containing *trough*

eaves trough      have/get one's nose/  
snout in the trough

### Rhymes for *trough*

coif	cough	doff
goff	groff	off
quaff	raphe	scoff
ashraf	checkoff	cutoff

[See All Rhymes for \*trough\* >](#)

### Browse Nearby Words

trou-de-loup      **trough**      trough conveyor

[See All Nearby Words >](#)

### Cite this Entry

Style

"Trough." Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/trough>. Accessed 12 Sep. 2025.

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## Kids Definition

# trough

**noun**

**'trɒf**

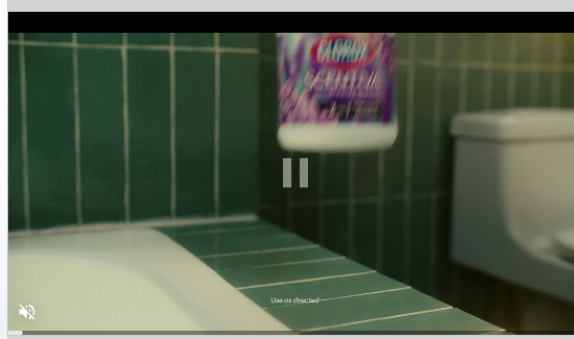
plural **troughs**

**'trɒfs**

**'trɒvz**

- 1 : a long shallow container for the drinking water or feed of domestic animals
- 2 : a pipe, drain, or channel for water  
*especially* : [GUTTER entry 1 sense 1a](#)
- 3 : a long and narrow or shallow hollow (as between waves or hills)

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## Medical Definition

# trough

→ see [GINGIVAL TROUGH](#)

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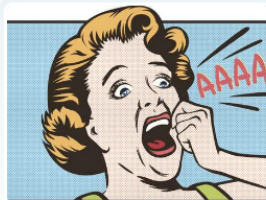
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- **Point B**
- **Point C**

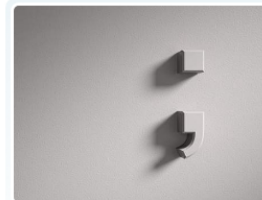
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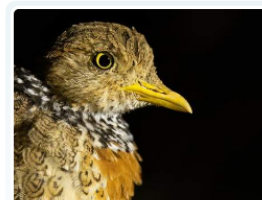
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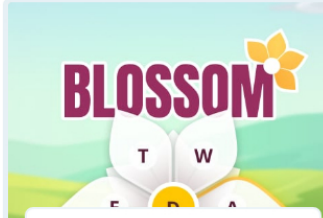
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**Play**



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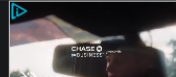
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