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trough



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trough

noun

ˈtrɒf *ˈtrɒθ* *by bakers often* *ˈtrō*

plural **troughs** *ˈtrɒfs* *ˈtrɒvz* *ˈtrɒθs*, *ˈtrɒ(θ)z*; *ˈtrɒz*

Synonyms of *trough*

- 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
- 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**
- : 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

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

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Synonyms

pipe

conduit

tube

funnel

channel

drain

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WORD OF THE DAY

flummox

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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

Solmetex Ex. 2032

Ascentcare Dental Products v. Solmetex - IPR2025-01059

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

MLA

"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](#)

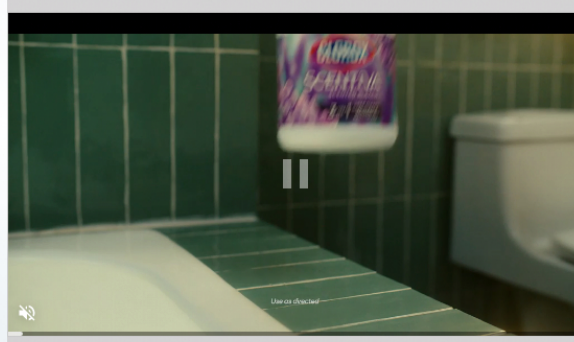
plural **troughs**

['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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Nglish: [Translation of *trough* for Spanish Speakers](#)

Last Updated: 31 Aug 2025 - Updated example sentences

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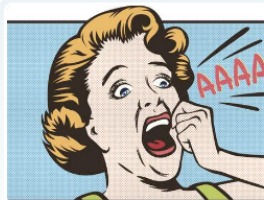
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- **Point B**
- **Point C**

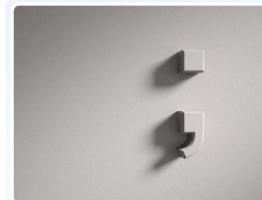
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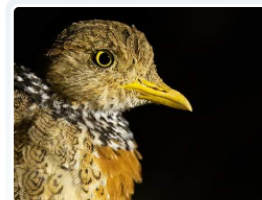
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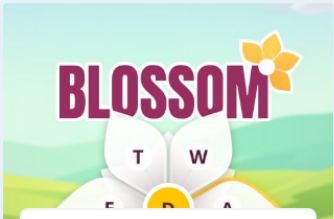
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