

**ebb**

1. [eb] *n*

- 1. 1) (морской) отлив
  - 2) отливное течение
  - 2. упадок, регресс; ухудшение
- to be at an ebb - а) находиться в упадке; б) быть в затруднительном положении  
 his fortunes were at a low ebb - дела у него шли плохо  
 our relations reached their lowest ebb - наши отношения совсем испортились

- 3. снижение
- to be on the ebb - снижаться  
 ◇ ebb and flow - а) превратности судьбы; б) быстрая смена (*настроения и т. п.*)

2. [eb] *v*

- 1. отступать (*о море при отливе*); убывать (*о воде*)
  - 2. ослабевать, угасать (*тж. ebb away*)
- daylight is ebbing away - день угасает  
 his life is ebbing - его жизнь кончена, он умирает
- 3. ловить (*рыбу*) во время отлива

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

**ebb** [ebb ebbs ebbed ebbing] *noun, verb* *BrE* [eb] <sup>m</sup> *NAmE* [eb] <sup>m</sup>

**noun** the ebb usually singular  
 the period of time when the sea flows away from the land  
 • the ebb tide  
**more at** at a low ebb **at** ↑low *adj.*

Word Origin:

Old English ebba (noun), ebbian (verb), of West Germanic origin; related to Dutch *ebbe* (noun), *ebben* (verb), and ultimately to ↑of which had the primary sense 'away from'.

Example Bank:

- It was difficult sailing upstream against a strong ebb.
- They left port on the ebb tide.
- They went out to sea with the ebb.
- We floated away from the beach on the ebb.
- We see a constant ebb and flow of jobs.
- the natural ebb and flow of water

Idiom: ↑ebb and flow

**verb**

- 1. **intransitive** (formal) (*of the ↑tide in the sea*) to move away from the land  
**Syn:** ↑go out, **Opp:** ↑flow
- 2. **intransitive** ~ (**away**) to become gradually weaker or less  
**Syn:** ↑decrease

- The pain was ebbing.
- As night fell, our enthusiasm began to ebb away.

Verb forms:

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we /they	ebb
	BrE /eb/
	NAmE /eb/
he / she /it	ebbs
	BrE /ebz/
	NAmE /ebz/
past simple, past participle	ebbed
	BrE /ebd/
	NAmE /ebd/
-ing form	ebbing
	BrE /ebɪŋ/
	NAmE /ebɪŋ/

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Example Bank:

- Calla felt her fear slowly ebbing away.
- He knew that his life was ebbing away.
- Her strength began to ebb.

**ebb**I. **ebb**<sup>1</sup> /eb/ *BrE* <sup>1</sup> *AmE* <sup>1</sup> *noun*

[Language: Old English; Origin: ebba]

1. [singular] (also **ebb tide**) the flow of the sea away from the shore, when the ↑**tide** goes out **OPP flood tide**
2. **be at a low ebb** to be in a bad state or condition:
  - His confidence is at a low ebb.
3. **ebb and flow** a situation or state in which something increases and decreases in a kind of pattern:
  - the ebb and flow of the conversation
  - the ebb and flow of passengers in the station

II. **ebb**<sup>2</sup> *BrE* <sup>2</sup> *AmE* <sup>2</sup> *verb* [intransitive]

1. if the ↑**tide** ebbs, it flows away from the shore
2. (also **ebb away**) to gradually decrease:
  - Linda's enthusiasm began to ebb away.

**ebb**

Frequency Pack

12500 **10449**<sup>MCW</sup>15000 **7442**<sup>COCA</sup>RANGE: **10k** **EBB** 1385

ebb 733

ebbs 173

ebbing 214

ebbed 265

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

477 **29534**<sup>571</sup> *nn1*86 **81475**<sup>87</sup> *vvi*68 **88201**<sup>75</sup> *vv0*