

fathom

1. ['fæð(ə)m] *n*

- 1. фатом морская сажень (мера длины, преим. для измерения глубины воды; = 6 футам, ≈1,83 м)
fathom line - а) мор. лот; б) геогр. изобата
- 2. единица кубатуры древесины (= 6Х6Х6 футов)
- 3. понимание
◇ fathoms deep - глубоко, основательно
to be fathoms deep in love - ≅ быть влюблённым по уши
he sank fathoms deep in my respect - моё уважение к нему сильно поколебалось

2. ['fæð(ə)m] *v*

- 1. измерять глубину (воды); делать промер лотом
- 2. 1) постигать, понимать
to fathom a mystery - постичь тайну
I cannot fathom his intentions - я не могу понять его намерений
- 2) соображать; догадываться (обыкн. fathom out)
I cannot fathom out where my keys have got to - никак не могу сообразить, куда девались мои ключи
let me try to fathom it out for myself - погоди, я постараюсь сам додуматься

fathom

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

fathom [fathom fathoms fathomed fathoming] *verb, noun* BrE ['fæðəm] ^u
NAme ['fæðəm] ^u

verb

- to understand or find an explanation for sth
- ~ **sb/sth (out)** It is hard to fathom the pain felt at the death of a child.
- ~ **(out) what, where, etc...** He couldn't fathom out what the man could possibly mean.

Verb forms:

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we /they	fathom
	BrE / 'fæðəm/
	NAme / 'fæðəm/
he / she /it	fathoms
	BrE / 'fæðənz/
	NAme / 'fæðənz/
past simple, past participle	fathomed
	BrE / 'fæðəmd/
	NAme / 'fæðəmd/
-ing form	fathoming
	BrE / 'fæðəmɪŋ/
	NAme / 'fæðəmɪŋ/

Word Origin:

Old English fæthm, of Germanic origin; related to Dutch **vadem, vaam** and German **Faden 'six feet'**. The original sense was 'something which embraces', (plural) 'the outstretched arms'; hence, a unit of measurement based on the span of the outstretched arms, later standardized to six feet.

Example Bank:

- He couldn't fathom out what the man could possibly mean.
- It's hard to fathom the pain felt at the death of a child.
- She knew he was angry with her, for some reason she couldn't fathom.

noun

- a unit for measuring the depth of water, equal to 6 feet or 1.8 metres
- The ship sank in 20 fathoms.
- (**figurative**) She kept her feelings hidden fathoms deep.

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Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

I. **fath**om¹ /'fæðəm/ BrE ^u AmE ^u *noun* [countable]

[Language: Old English; Origin: fæthm]

a unit for measuring the depth of water, equal to six feet or about 1.8 metres

II. **fathom**² BrE ^u AmE ^u (also **fathom out**) *verb* [transitive]

to understand what something means after thinking about it carefully **SYN work out:**

I still can't fathom out what she meant.

fathom how/why/where etc

Mark couldn't fathom why she resented him so much.

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THESAURUS

■ to understand something difficult

- **grasp** to completely understand an idea or a fact, especially a complicated one: Some of his theories can be rather difficult for the ordinary reader to grasp. | I don't think Stuart really grasped the point I was making.
- **fathom** /'fæðəm/ *formal* to understand what something means or the reasons for something, after thinking carefully about it: She looked at him, puzzled, trying to fathom the reasons for his actions.
- **make sense of something** to understand something that is not easy to understand, especially by thinking about it: People are still trying to make sense of the news.
- **can't make head nor tail of something** *spoken* used when something seems impossible to understand: I can't make head nor tail of his plays, and I'm not sure that anyone else can either.

fathom

Freakuency Pack

12500 **9582**^{MCW}

15000 **7020**^{COCA}

RANGE: **7k** FATHOM 1572

fathom 914

fathoms 108

fathomed 41

fathoming 26

fathomable 9

unfathomable 446

unfathomably 28

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

⁷⁹⁰ **23479**⁸⁴¹ *vvi*

³⁶ **109034**⁵⁰ *nn1*

²³ **163573**²³ *vv0*