Noun and Verb (Click on the speech icon to hear the pronunciation of the word [weyn])

- **Noun**
  - A gradual decline (in size or strength or power or number)

- **Verb**
  - Grow smaller (interest in the project waned)
  - Become smaller (interest in his novels waned)
  - Decrease in phase (the moon is waning)

Things that wax and wane grow larger and smaller, like the moon. Things that **wane** simply grow smaller. "My initial enthusiasm for helping **waned** when I saw the pile of envelopes that needed licking."

You may have heard the expression "on the **wane**." It means a fad, or a fashion, or a disease, that is on its way out the door. "The face mask fad at school was on the **wane** as new reports of kids infected with a dreaded new fly virus **waned**."

**Other forms:** waned, waning

- **Synonyms**: decline, go down, ebb
- **Antonym**: climb, mount, rise, wax

**Usage:**
- As Facebook was introduced to the public, MySpace eventually **waned** in popularity.
- So the popularity of sundials gradually **waned** through the 1800s.
- Each time they heard it, their courage **waned**, their hopes drooped; they gave up struggling.
  
  Maxwell, W. B. (William Babington)
- Likewise, trying to change because your workplace wellness program is giving you money is a minor, dispensable motivation that will rapidly **wane**.
  
  Forbes Jan 15, 2014

**DIRECTIONS:** Discuss the meaning of the word with your students, with special emphasis on any variations or nuances of the word specific to your discipline. Consider taking it a step further by using one or all of the following ideas as you involve students with the new vocabulary. **Remember to preview all content you intend to share with students. Not all items on the lists provided below are appropriate for all classes or age levels.**
If you want to determine if the moon is Waxing (getting bigger) or Waning (getting smaller) all you have to do is look when you can see it. If it is visible in the evening sky the Moon is Waxing (getting bigger). If the moon is visible at dawn or in the early morning, it is Waning. Here is a rhyme to help you remember it.

If you see the Moon at the end of the day  
A bright Full Moon is on its way  
If you see the Moon in the early dawn  
Look real quick, it will soon be gone.

Another way to identify a Waxing or Waning Moon is to look at which side is "incomplete". When the Moon is illuminated in such a way that the side facing West is "incomplete" the Moon is Waning (getting smaller). It the side to the East is "incomplete" the Moon is Waxing (getting bigger)

Incomplete to the West  
The Moon will disappear and hide in its nest  
Incomplete to the East  
Soon it’s as big as a Christmas feast.

Examples of “incomplete to the West”  
This Moon is Waning (on its way to “hide” in its nest)
Diagram Explanation

Sunlight is shown coming in from the right. The earth, of course, is at the center of the diagram. The moon is shown at 8 key stages during its revolution around the earth. The moon phase name is shown alongside the image. The **dotted line from the earth to the moon represents your line of sight** when looking at the moon. The large moon image shows what you would see at that point in the cycle. For the **waning gibbous, third quarter, and waning crescent phases you have to mentally turn yourself upside down** when imagining the line of sight. When you do this, you'll "see" that the illuminated portion is on your left, just as you see in the large image.

One important thing to notice is that exactly one half of the moon is *always* illuminated by the sun. Of course that is perfectly logical, but you need to visualize it in order to understand the phases. At certain times we see both the sunlit portion and the shadowed portion -- and that creates the various moon phase shapes we are all familiar with. Also note that the shadowed part of the moon is invisible to the naked eye; in the diagram above, it is only shown for clarification purposes. Finally, please realize this diagram is only meant to demonstrate how the phases work; the small inner moons in the diagram do not show the fact that the **same side of the moon** always faces Earth.
#2 Read this article entitled “Changing the Way We Watch TV” from the *Forbes* website (5 March 2014). The author discusses content streaming in comparison with watching traditional television and gives some great statistics for YouTube. His premise is that traditional television’s “glory days have waned—caught in the tangled Web we call the Internet.”

http://www.forbes.com/sites/kevinharrington/2014/03/06/changing-the-way-we-watch-tv/

#3 Read this article from The New York Times (13 Feb. 2014) entitled “A Huge Solar PlantOpens, Facing Doubts about Its Future.” In this article, the authors discuss “the Ivanpah solar power plant [which] stretches over more than five square miles of the Mojave Desert” and the fact that “as federal support has *waned*, so, too, has demand for similar large-scale projects.”

Watch and listen to this YouTube clip of The Captain and Tennille singing “Love Will Keep Us Together.” Then read the 23 January 2014 article from Salon.com: “Farewell, My Muskrat Love: Captain and Tennille Divorce.” The author of the article discusses “why, after four decades, did a pop duo call it quits? And why is it such a big story now?” Throughout the years, “sailed on together, even as times changed and their perky brand of romantic hit-making waned.”


Video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zSwXPIbOdQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zSwXPIbOdQ)

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Read the article “Digital 'Plushies' Battle For Your Child's Heart” from Forbes.com (28 Feb. 2014). “Sparked by waning sales of soft cuddly toys, the industry has responded with an arsenal of aggressively marketed interactive soft play-things.”


Not sure what they are? Watch the YouTube video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IH8zlS8Pcc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IH8zlS8Pcc)

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Hockey or sports fan? Read this article entitled “Brodeur Earns Win in What May Be His Devils Finale” published in The New York Times 4 March 2014. The author of the article discusses the fact that “Martin Brodeur, who has played 21 seasons with the Devils, might be willing to waive his no-trade clause if it means more playing time.” He no longer is happy with “the role [an ‘occasionally-used back-up’] he has unwillingly been thrust into this season, his skills inexorably on the wane, at 41.”

More interested in basketball? Read this article from the March 7th edition of *The Washington Post*: “Andre Miller Brings Old-School Style to His New Team, the Washington Wizards.” The author states that “Miller will be 38 on March 19 but his passion for the game has yet to **waned** even as his physical abilities have diminished.”


**#8**

- What is **waned** in lumber?
- **Wane** is the uncut edge of a board that has been milled from a tree. Essentially it is the 'bark' edge so instead of having a square cut piece of wood you have the contour of the outer edge of the tree on one or both sides of milled board.
- **Have your students write a quick explanation as to why this might be called “waned” in relation to the various definitions and applications provided. Discuss and vote on the best answer(s).**

**#9**

Have your students write a personal response to this quote about true love: Do they agree with it or not? Can they give examples to support their positions?