

ORIGIN

Old English
feallan

meaning
"to drop, descend, collapse"

Related Germanic words:

- German *fallen*
- Dutch *vallen*



WORD FORMS

VERB

to fall

to move downward
e.g. Temperatures
fall at night.



NOUN

a fall

a drop or decline
e.g. a fall in prices
e.g. a bad fall



ADJECTIVES

fallen

e.g. fallen leaves



falling

e.g. falling
temperatures



DERIVED FORMS

downfall



rainfall



waterfall



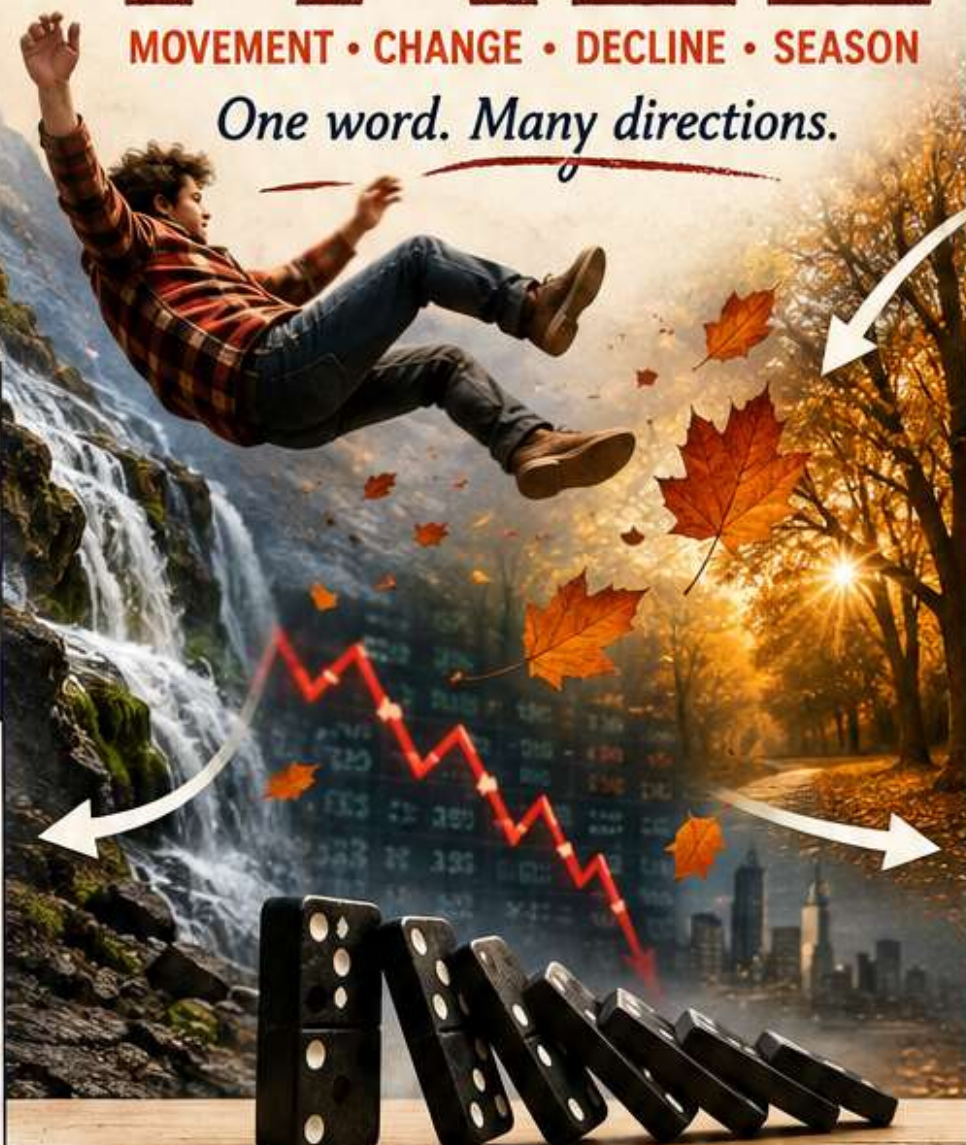
pitfall



FALL

MOVEMENT • CHANGE • DECLINE • SEASON

One word. Many directions.



MAIN MEANINGS

1 MOVE DOWN

The leaves fell
from the tree.



2 DROP ACCIDENTALLY

She fell off
her bike.



3 DECREASE

Prices fell
sharply.



4 AUTUMN (US English)

We visit Canada
every fall.



Fall = Autumn
(mainly North American English)

5 HAPPEN / OCCUR

The meeting
falls on
Monday.



CATEGORIES & CONTEXTS

NATURE

- falling leaves
- waterfalls
- rainfall



BUSINESS

- falling prices
- falling demand
- market fall



HEALTH

- risk of falls
- prevent falls



EMOTIONS

- fall in love
- fall apart



CALENDAR

- fall semester
- fall break



COMMON COLLOCATIONS

PHYSICAL

- fall down
- fall over
- fall off
- fall asleep



BUSINESS

- fall sharply
- fall slightly
- fall by 10%
- fall below



WEATHER / TIME

- night falls
- darkness falls
- rain falls



EDUCATION

- fall semester
- fall term



PHRASAL VERBS & EXPRESSIONS



fall apart

break into
pieces or fail



fall behind

lose progress



fall out

argue;
accidentally
come out



fall through

fail to happen



fall for

be attracted to /
believe something



fall into

begin doing
without planning

EXAMPLES IN CONTEXT

EVERYDAY



Be careful—
you might fall.

BUSINESS



Sales fell by 12%
last month.

NATURE



The leaves fall
every autumn.

RELATIONSHIPS



They fell in love
at university.

EDUCATION



Classes begin
in the fall.

IDIOMS & FIXED EXPRESSIONS



fall in love
become
romantically
involved



fall flat
fail to have
the desired
effect



fall short
fail to reach
a standard
or goal



*fall into
place*
happen
naturally



*fall on
deaf ears*
be ignored



*pride comes
before a fall*
arrogance leads
to failure