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wane  (wān)

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intr.v. **waned**, **wan·ing**, **wanes**

1. To decrease gradually in size, number, strength, or intensity: *Interest in the subject waned.*
2. To show a progressively smaller illuminated area, as the moon does in passing from full to new.
3. To approach an end: *The day began to wane.*

n.

1. The act or process of gradually declining or diminishing.
2.
 - a. A time or phase of gradual decrease.
 - b. The period of the decrease of the moon's illuminated visible surface.
3. A defective edge of a board caused by remaining bark or a beveled end.

Idiom:

on the wane

In a period of decline or decrease: "*The tide was near the turn and already the day was on the wane*" (*James Joyce*).

[Middle English *wanen*, from Old English *wanian*; see **euə-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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