

**stumble**

1. ['stʌmb(ə)] *n*

- 1. спотыкание; запинка; задержка
  - 2. ложный шаг; ошибка; проступок
- ◇ a stumble may prevent a fall - *посл.* ≅ лучше споткнуться, чем упасть

2. ['stʌmb(ə)] *v*

- 1. 1) спотыкаться, оступаться
  - to stumble over a stone - споткнуться о камень
  - the horse stumbling threw him - лошадь, споткнувшись, сбросила его
  - to stumble over a difficulty - застрять из-за какой-л. трудности
  - that is where all stumble - на этом месте все спотыкаются
- 2) заставлять споткнуться; ставить подножку
- 2. идти спотыкаясь, ковылять (*мж.* stumble along)
  - he stumbled across the room - он проковылял по комнате
  - I stumbled after him - я поплёлся за ним
- 3. запинаться
  - to stumble in one's speech - запинаться во время речи
  - to stumble through one's lesson - отвечать урок с запинками
  - to stumble over words [pronunciation] - спотыкаться на словах [произношении]
- 4. случайно наткнуться, наталкиваться
  - to stumble across / (up)on/ smth. - случайно натолкнуться /наткнуться/ на что-л.
  - to stumble upon a rare book - случайно напасть на редкую книгу
  - to stumble on the enemy - *воен.* наткнуться на противника
  - to stumble on the hurdle - задеть барьер, коснуться барьера (*лёгкая атлетика*)
  - I stumbled onto the truth - я ненароком открыл истину
- 5. совершить ошибку, проступок *или* прегрешение; сбиться с пути
- 6. сомневаться, колебаться
  - to stumble at smth. - усомниться в чём-л.
- 7. озадачивать, смущать; обескураживать
  - ◇ to stumble at /on/ the threshold - натолкнуться на трудности в самом начале (*какой-л. деятельности*)
  - it's a good horse that never stumbles - *посл.* ≅ конь о четырёх ногах, да и то спотыкается

**stumble**

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

▪ **stumble** [stumble stumbles stumbled stumbling] *BrE* ['stʌmbəl] <sup>4</sup> *NAmE* ['stʌmbəl] <sup>4</sup> *verb*

- 1. **intransitive** to hit your foot against sth while you are walking or running and almost fall
  - Syn:** ↑trip
  - The child stumbled and fell.
  - ~ **over/on sth** I stumbled over a rock.
- 2. **intransitive + adv./prep.** to walk or move in an unsteady way
  - Max stumbled out of bed sleepily.
  - We were stumbling around in the dark looking for a candle.
- 3. **intransitive ~ (over/through sth)** to make a mistake or mistakes and stop while you are speaking, reading to sb or playing music
  - In her nervousness she stumbled over her words.
  - I stumbled through the piano piece with difficulty.

Derived ↑stumble into something ▪ ↑stumble on somebody

Verb forms:

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we / they	stumble
	<i>BrE</i> / 'stʌmbəl/
	<i>NAmE</i> / 'stʌmbəl/
he / she / it	stumbles
	<i>BrE</i> / 'stʌmbəlz/
	<i>NAmE</i> / 'stʌmbəlz/
past simple, past participle	stumbled
	<i>BrE</i> / 'stʌmbld/
	<i>NAmE</i> / 'stʌmbld/
-ing form	stumbling
	<i>BrE</i> / 'stʌmbliŋ/
	<i>NAmE</i> / 'stʌmbliŋ/

Word Origin:

Middle English (as a verb): from Old Norse, from the Germanic base of ↑stammer.

Example Bank:

- I stumbled across the place quite by chance.
- Josh was nervous and stumbled over his words.
- She stumbled a little on the uneven path.
- The economy stumbled badly at the end of 2000.
- The train stopped, and several passengers stumbled to their feet.

- They stumbled over the field.
- Half asleep, she stumbled into the bathroom.
- He stumbled drunkenly across the road.
- The old man stumbled out into the night.
- We stumbled around in the dark, looking for a light switch.

▪ **II. stum-ble** **noun**  
 Main entry: **↑stumble** derived

**stumble**

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

**stum|ble** /'stʌmbəl/ *BrE* " *AmE* " **verb** [intransitive]

[Date: 1300-1400; Origin: Probably from a Scandinavian language]

1. to hit your foot against something or put your foot down awkwardly while you are walking or running, so that you almost fall **SYN** trip:

" In her hurry, she stumbled and spilled the milk all over the floor.

**stumble over/on**

" Vic stumbled over the step as he came in.

2. to walk in an unsteady way and often almost fall **SYN** stagger

**stumble in/out/across etc**

" He stumbled upstairs and into bed.

3. to stop or make a mistake when you are reading to people or speaking

**stumble over/at/through**

" I hope I don't stumble over any of the long words.

—**stumble** **noun** [countable]

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**THESAURUS**

- **fall** (also **fall over, fall down**) to suddenly go down onto the floor when standing, walking, or running: She fell on the stairs and broke her ankle. | Children are always falling over.
- **trip on/over something** to fall or almost fall when you hit your foot against something: Someone might trip over those toys. | I tripped on a piece of wood.
- **slip** to fall or almost fall when you are walking on a wet or very smooth surface: She slipped and hurt her ankle. | I was scared I would slip on the highly polished floor.
- **stumble** to almost fall when you put your foot down in an awkward way: He stumbled and almost fell. | One of our porters stumbled on the rough ground.
- **collapse** to fall suddenly and heavily to the ground, especially when you become unconscious: One of the runners collapsed halfway through the race.
- **lose your balance** to become unsteady so that you start to fall over: She lost her balance on the first step and fell down the stairs. | Have something to hold onto, in case you lose your balance.
- **fall flat on your face** to fall forwards so you are lying on your front on the ground: She fell flat on her face getting out of the car.

**stumble on/across/upon something** *phrasal verb*

to find or discover something by chance and unexpectedly **SYN** come across:

" Researchers have stumbled across a drug that may help patients with Parkinson's disease.

**stumble**

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 stumblers 0  
 COCA 500k Unlemmatized  
 674 **26188** 700 vvi  
 551 **29212** 582 vv0  
 249 **45851** 261 nn1