

SINKING



vs

SUNKEN

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"Sinking" describes the ongoing action of descending, while "sunken" is primarily used as an adjective to describe something that has completely gone down or is lying at a lower level.

SINKING

In the process of going down . it's currently happening (in progress):

- The ship is sinking to the bottom of the ocean.
- The sun was sinking in the west.

SUNKEN

Sunken : at a lower level than the surrounding area:

- It was a luxurious bathroom, with a sunken bath.
- She looked old and thin with sunken cheeks and hollow eyes.

SUNK

Form: Past participle (used with "have," "was," "been")

Something that has already gone down or been made to go down.

Used for: Perfect tenses or passive voice.

- By the time help arrived, the boat had already sunk.
- The hole was so deep it felt like we had sunk into the earth.

SINKING vs SUNKEN

✓ If it's currently happening (in progress), use sinking :

- “There might be a leak or structural issue — the floor is sinking in the corner.”

Meaning: The floor is actively or gradually lowering/drooping in that area.

✓ If it's already happened (result/state), use sunken:

- “You can see where the foundation failed — the floor is sunken in the corner.”

Meaning: The floor has already dipped or settled and now remains lower in that area.

SAGGING vs SINKING

“Sinking” means moving deeply downward, often completely or into something (like water or soft ground) , while “sagging” means drooping or bending downward slightly due to weight, age, or lack of support. Use "sag" when describing drooping, bending, or soft deformation from weight.

- The mattress that was beginning to sag in the middle.
- The tent began to sag under the weight of the rain.