

Ocean waves are most commonly the result of wind, but can also be caused by earthquakes and underwater landslides. The shape of a typical wave is generally described as sine-shaped. The basic parts of a wave are the top of the wave, the crest, and the bottom of the wave, the trough.

- Wave length is the distance between two successive crests (or two successive troughs). The wave length depends on the wave period, which is the time it takes for an entire wave to pass a fixed point, and is generally measured in seconds.
- Wave height is the vertical distance between the crest and the trough. The amplitude of a wave is half the wave height.

