

But it is used also in reference to speech; as, he discoursed with *decency*.

- Those thousand *decencies*, that daily flow
From all her words and actions. *Milton.*
2. Suitableness to character; propriety.
3. Propriety in speech; modesty; opposed to ribaldry, or obscenity.
Want of *decency* is want of sense. *Pope.*

It may be also used for propriety of speech, opposed to rudeness, or disrespectful language; and for propriety in dress, opposed to raggedness, exposure of nakedness, filthiness, &c.

DECENNARY, n. [*L. decennis, decennium*, from *decem*, ten, and *annus*, a year.]

1. A period of ten years.
2. A titling consisting of ten freeholders and their families. *Blackstone.*

DECENNIAL, a. [*L. decennalis*, as above.] Continuing for ten years; consisting of ten years; or happening every ten years; as a *decennial* period; or *decennial* games.

DECENNOVAL, } a. [*L. decem*, ten, and
DECENNOVARY, } a. [*novalis*, nine.]
Pertaining to the number nineteen; designating a period or circle of nineteen years. [*Little used.*] *Holder.*

DECENT, a. [*L. decens*; Fr. *decent*. See *Decency*.]

1. Becoming; fit; suitable; in words, behavior, dress and ceremony; as *decent* language; *decent* conduct or actions; *decent* ornaments or dress.
2. Comely; not gaudy or ostentatious.

A sable stole of Cyprus lawn
O'er the decent shoulders drawn. *Milton.*

3. Not immodest.
4. In popular language, moderate, but competent; not large; as a *decent* fortune. So a *decent* person is one not highly accomplished, nor offensively rude.

DECENTLY, adv. In a decent or becoming manner; with propriety of behavior or speech.

2. Without immodesty.
Past hope of safety, 'twas his latest care,
Like falling Caesar, *decently* to die. *Dryden.*

DECENTNESS, n. Decency.

DECEPTIBILITY, n. The quality or state of being capable or liable to be deceived. *Glanville.*

DECEPTIBLE, a. That may be deceived. *Brown.*

DECEPTION, n. [*L. deceptio*, from *deceptio*. See *Deceive*.]

1. The act of deceiving or misleading.
All *deception* is a misapplication of the established signs used to communicate thoughts. *Anon.*

2. The state of being deceived or misled. Incautious and inexperienced youth is peculiarly exposed to *deception*.

3. Artifice practiced; cheat; as, a scheme is all a *deception*.

DECEPTIOUS, a. Tending to deceive; deceitful. *Shak.*

DECEPTIVE, a. Tending to deceive; having power to mislead, or impress false opinions; as a *deceptive* countenance or appearance.

DECEPTORY, a. Tending to deceive; containing qualities or means adapted to mislead.

DECERPT, a. [*L. decerptus*.] Cropped. [*Not used.*]

DECERPTION, n. [*L. decerpo*, to pluck off; *de* and *carpo*.] A pulling or plucking off; a cropping. *Glanville.*

DECERTATION, n. [*L. decertatio*; *de* and *certo*, to strive.]

Strife; contest for mastery. [*Little used.*]

DECESSION, n. [*L. decessio*; *de* and *cedo*, to pass.] Departure. [*Little used.*]

DECHEARM, v. t. [*Fr. decharmer*. See *Charm*.]

To remove a spell or enchantment; to disenchant. *Harvey.*

DECHEARMED, pp. Disenchanted.

DECHEARMING, ppr. Removing a spell.

DECHRISTIANIZE, v. t. [*de* and *christianize*.]

To turn from christianity; to banish christian belief and principles from.

DECIDABLE, a. That may be decided. *J. P. Smith.*

DECIDE, v. t. [*L. decido*; *de* and *cedo*, to strike, to cut.] Literally, to cut off, and thus to end. Hence,

1. To end; to determine, as a controversy, by verdict of a jury, or by a judgment of court. We say, the court or the jury *decided* the cause in favor of the plaintiff, or of the defendant.

2. To end or determine, as a dispute or quarrel.

3. To end or determine a combat or battle; as, a body of reserve, brought to the charge, *decided* the contest.

4. To determine; to fix the event of.

The fate of the bill is *decided*.
In *general*, to end; to terminate.

DECIDE, v. i. To determine; to form a definite opinion; to come to a conclusion.

We cannot *decide* how far resistance is lawful or practicable.

The court *decided* in favor of the defendant.

DECIDED, pp. Determined; ended; concluded.

DECIDED, a. That implies decision; clear; unequivocal; that puts an end to doubt.

I find much cause to reproach myself, that I have lived so long, and have given no *decided* and public proofs of my being a christian. *Unsound.*

P. Henry, Wirt's Sketches.

DECIDEDLY, adv. In a decided or determined manner; clearly; indisputably; in a manner to preclude doubt.

DECIDENCE, n. [*L. decidenus*.] A falling off. [*Not in use.*] *Brown.*

DECIDER, n. One who determines a cause or contest.

DECIDING, ppr. Determining; ending; concluding.

DECIDUOUS, a. [*L. deciduus, decido*; *de* and *cedo*, to fall.]

Falling; not perennial or permanent. In botany, a *deciduous* leaf is one which falls in autumn; a *deciduous* calyx, is that which falls after the corol opens; distinguished from *permanant*. *Martyn.*

DECIDUOUSNESS, n. The quality of falling once a year.

DECIGRAM, n. A French weight of one-tenth of a gram.

DECIL, n. An aspect or position of two

planets, when they are distant from each other a tenth part of the zodiac. *Encyc.*

DECILITER, n. A French measure of capacity equal to one tenth of a liter.

DECIMAL, a. [*L. decimus*, tenth, from *decem*, ten; Gr. *deka*; Goth. *tig*, ten, Sax. *ti*.]

1. Numbered by ten; as *decimal* progression.

2. Increasing or diminishing by ten; as *decimal* numbers; *decimal* arithmetic; *decimal* fractions.

3. Tenth; as a *decimal* part.

DECIMAL, n. A tenth.

DECIMALLY, adv. By tens; by means of decimals.

DECIMATE, v. t. [*L. decimo*, from *decem*, ten.]

1. To tithe; to take the tenth part.
2. To select by lot and punish with death every tenth man; a practice in armies, for punishing mutinous or unfaithful troops.

3. To take every tenth. *Milford.*

DECIMATION, n. A titling; a selection of every tenth by lot.

2. The selecting by lot for punishment every tenth man, in a company or regiment, &c.

DECIMATOR, n. One who selects every tenth man for punishment. *South.*

DECIMETER, n. A French measure of length equal to the tenth part of a meter, or 3 inches and 9370 decimals.

DECIMO-SEXTO, n. [*L.*] A book is in *decimo-sexto*, when a sheet is folded into sixteen leaves. *Taylor.*

DECIPHER, v. t. [*Fr. déchiffrer*; *de* and *chiffrer*, a cipher; It. *deciferare*; Sp. *descifrar*; Port. *decifrar*. See *Cipher*.]

1. To find the alphabet of a cipher; to explain what is written in ciphers, by finding what letter each character or mark represents; as, to *decipher* a letter written in ciphers.

2. To unfold; to unravel what is intricate; to explain what is obscure or difficult to be understood; as, to *decipher* an ambiguous speech, or an ancient manuscript or inscription.

3. To write out; to mark down in characters. [*This use is now uncommon, and perhaps improper.*] *Locke.*

4. To stamp; to mark; to characterize. *Shak.*

DECIPHERED, pp. Explained; unraveled; marked.

DECIPHERER, n. One who explains what is written in ciphers.

DECIPHERING, ppr. Explaining; detecting the letters represented by ciphers; unfolding; marking.

DECISION, n. s as z. [*L. decisio*. See *Decide*.]

1. Determination, as of a question or doubt; final judgment or opinion, in a case which has been under deliberation or discussion; as the *decision* of the Supreme Court. He has considered the circumstances of the case and come to a *decision*.

2. Determination of a contest or event; end of a struggle; as the *decision* of a battle by arms.

3. In Scotland, a narrative or report of the proceedings of the Court of Sessions. *Johnson.*

4. Report of the opinions and determinations