

**DECLINABLE**, *a.* That may be declined; changing its termination in the oblique cases; as a *declinable* noun.

**DECLINATE**, *v. i.* [*L. declinatus.*] In botany, bending or bent downwards, in a curve; declining. *Martyn.*

**DECLINATION**, *n.* A leaning; the act of bending down; as a *declination* of the head.

2. A declining, or falling into a worse state; change from a better to a worse condition; decay; deterioration; gradual failure or diminution of strength, soundness, vigor or excellence.

3. A deviation from a right line, in a literal sense; oblique motion; as the *declination* of a descending body. *Bentley.*

4. Deviation from rectitude in behavior or morals; obliquity of conduct; as a *declination* from the path of integrity.

5. In astronomy, a variation from a fixed point or line. The distance of any celestial object from the equinoctial line, or equator, either northward or southward. *Encyc.*

6. *Declination of the compass or needle*, is the variation of the needle from the true meridian of a place. *Encyc.*

7. In dialing, the declination of a wall or plane, is an arch of the horizon, contained between the plane and the prime vertical circle, if reckoned from the east or west, or between the meridian and the plane, if you reckon from the north or south. *Bailey.*

8. In grammar, declension; or the inflection of a noun through its various terminations. *Johnson.*

**DECLINATOR**, *{ n.* An instrument for  
**DECLINATORY**, *{ taking the declination,  
or inclination of a plane; an instrument in dialing. *Encyc. Chambers.**

*Declinatory plea*, in law, a plea before trial or conviction, intended to show that the party was not liable to the penalty of the law, or was specially exempted from the jurisdiction of the court. The plea of benefit of clergy is a *declinatory plea*. *Blackstone.*

**DECLINE**, *v. i.* [*L. declino; de and clino, to lean.*] See *Lean*.

1. To lean downward; as, the head *declines* towards the earth.

2. To lean from a right line; to deviate; *in a literal sense.*

3. To lean or deviate from rectitude, *in a moral sense*; to leave the path of truth or justice, or the course prescribed.

Yet do I not decline from thy testimonies. Ps. cxvi. 157.

4. To fall; to tend or draw towards the close; as, the day *declines*.

5. To avoid or shun; to refuse; not to comply; not to do; as, he *declined* to take any part in the concern.

6. To fall; to fail; to sink; to decay; to be impaired; to tend to a less perfect state; as, the vigor of youth *declines* in age; health *declines*; virtue *declines*; religion *declines*; national credit and prosperity *decline*, under a corrupt administration.

7. To sink; to diminish; to fall in value; as, the prices of land and goods *decline* at the close of a war.

**DECLINE**, *v. t.* To bend downward; to bring down.

In melancholy deep, with head *declined*.

*Thomson.*

2. To bend to one side; to move from a fixed point or right line.

3. To shun or avoid; to refuse; not to engage in; to be cautious not to do or interfere; not to accept or comply with; as, he *declined* the contest; he *declined* the offer; he *declined* the business or pursuit.

4. To inflect; to change the termination of a word, for forming the oblique cases; as, *Dominus, Domini, Domino, Dominum, Domine.*

**DECLINE**, *n.* Literally, a leaning from; hence, a falling off; a tendency to a worse state; diminution or decay; deterioration; as the *decline* of life; the *decline* of strength; the *decline* of virtue and religion; the *decline* of revenues; the *decline* of agriculture, commerce or manufactures; the *decline* of learning.

**DECLINED**, *pp.* Bent downward or from; inflected.

**DECLINING**, *ppr.* Leaning; deviating; falling; decaying; tending to a worse state; avoiding; refusing; inflecting.

**DECLIVITY**, *n.* [*L. declivitas, from declivis, sloping; de and clivus. See Cliff.*]

Declination from a horizontal line; descent of land; inclination downward; a slope; a gradual descent of the earth, of a rock or other thing; chiefly used of the earth, and opposed to *acclivity*, or ascent; the same slope, considered as *descending*, being a *declivity*, and considered as *ascending*, an *acclivity*.

**DECLIVITOUS**, *{ a.* Gradually descending  
**DECLIVTIOUS**, *{ ing; not precipitous;  
sloping.*

**DECOCT**, *v. t.* [*L. decoquo, decoctum; de and coquo, to cook, to boil.*]

1. To prepare by boiling; to digest in hot or boiling water. *Bacon.*

2. To digest by the heat of the stomach; to prepare as food for nourishing the body. *Darwin.*

3. To boil in water, for extracting the principles or virtues of a substance. *Bacon.*

4. To boil up to a consistence; to invigorate. *Shak.*

[*This verb is little used, and in its last sense, is hardly proper.*]

**DECOCTIBLE**, *a.* That may be boiled or digested.

**DECOCTION**, *n.* [*Fr. decoction; It. decozione. See Decoct.*]

1. The act of boiling a substance in water, for extracting its virtues.

2. The liquor in which a substance has been boiled; water impregnated with the principles of any animal or vegetable substance boiled in it; as a weak or a strong *decoction* of Peruvian bark.

**DECOCTIVE**, *a.* That may be easily decocted.

**DECOCTURE**, *n.* A substance drawn by decoction.

**DECOLLATE**, *v. t.* [*L. decollo.*] To behead. *Burke.*

**DECOLLATED**, *pp.* Beheaded.

**DECOLLATION**, *n.* [*L. decollatio, from decollo, to behead; de and collum, the neck.*]

The act of beheading; the act of cutting off the neck of an animal, and severing the

head from the body. It is especially used of St. John the Baptist, and of a painting which represents his beheading.

**DECOLORATION**, *n.* [*L. decoloratio.*] Absence of color. *Ferrand.*

**DECOMPLEX**, *a.* [*de and complex.*] Compounded of complex ideas.

*Gregory. Locke.*

**DECOMPOSABLE**, *a.* s as z. [See *Decompose*.]

That may be decomposed; capable of being resolved into its constituent elements. *Darby.*

**DECOMPOSE**, *v. t.* s as z. [*Fr. decomposer; de and composer, to compose, from L. compono, compositus.*]

To separate the constituent parts of a body or substance; to disunite elementary particles combined by affinity or chemical attraction; to resolve into original elements.

**DECOMPOSED**, *pp.* Separated or resolved into the constituent parts.

**DECOMPOSING**, *ppr.* Separating into constituent parts.

**DECOMPOSITE**, *a.* decompos'it. [*L. de and compositus. See Compose.*]

Compounded a second time; compounded with things already composite. *Bacon.*

**DECOMPOSITION**, *n.* Analysis; the act of separating the constituent parts of a substance, which are chemically combined. Decomposition differs from mechanical division, as the latter effects no change in the properties of the body divided, whereas the parts chemically decomposed have properties very different from those of the substance itself.

2. A second composition. [*In this sense, not now used.*] *Boyle.*

**DECOMPOUND**, *v. t.* [*de and compound.*]

To compound a second time; to compound or mix with that which is already compounded; to form by a second composition. *Boyle. Locke. Newton.*

2. To decompose. [*Little used, or not at all.*]

**DECOMPOUND**, *a.* Composed of things or words already compounded; compounded a second time. *Boyle.*

2. A *decomposed leaf*, in botany, is when the primary petiole is so divided that each part forms a compound leaf. A *decomposed flower* is formed of compound flowers, or containing, within a common calyx, smaller calyxes, common to several flowers. *Martyn.*

**DECOMPOUNDABLE**, *a.* That may be decomposed.

**DECOMPOUNDED**, *pp.* Compounded a second time; composed of things already compounded.

**DECOMPOUNDING**, *ppr.* Compounding a second time.

**DECORATE**, *v. t.* [*L. decoro, from decus, decor, comeliness, grace. See Decency.*]

1. To adorn; to beautify; to embellish; used of external ornaments or apparel; as, to *decorate* the person; to *decorate* an edifice; to *decorate* a lawn with flowers.

2. To adorn with internal grace or beauty; to render lovely; as, to *decorate* the mind with virtue.

3. To adorn or beautify with any thing agreeable; to embellish; as, to *decorate* a hero with honors, or a lady with accomplishments.