Decidability and Undecidability

Recursive Language:

- A language 'L' is said to be recursive if there exists a Turing machine which will accept all the strings in 'L' and reject all the strings not in 'L'.
- The Turing machine will halt every time and give an answer (accepted or rejected) for each and every string input.

Recursively Enumerable Language:

- A language 'L' is said to be a recursively enumerable language if there exists a Turing machine which will accept (and therefore halt) for all the input strings which are in 'L'.
- But may or may not halt for all input strings which are not in 'L'.

Decidable Language:

A language 'L' is decidable if it is a recursive language. All decidable languages are recursive languages and vice-versa.

Partially Decidable Language:

A language 'L' is partially decidable if 'L' is a recursively enumerable language.

Undecidable Language:

- A language is undecidable if it is not decidable.
- An undecidable language may sometimes be partially decidable but not decidable.
- If a language is not even partially decidable, then there exists no Turing machine for that language

Recursive Language	TM will always Halt
Recursively Enumerable Language	TM will halt sometimes & may not halt sometimes
Decidable Language	Recursive Language
Partially Decidable Language	Recursively Enumerable Language
UNDECIDABLE	No TM for that language