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judge  (jűj)

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v. **judged**, **judg-ing**, **judg-es**

v.tr.

1. To form an opinion or estimation of after careful consideration: *judge heights; judging character.*

2.

a. *Law* To hear and decide on in a court of law: *judge a case.*

b. To pass sentence on; condemn.

c. To act as one appointed to decide the winners of: *judge an essay contest.*

3. To determine or declare after consideration or deliberation: *Most people judged him negligent in performing his duties as a parent.*

4. *Informal* To have as an opinion or assumption; suppose: *I judge you're right.*

5. *Bible* To govern; rule. Used of an ancient Israelite leader.

v.intr.

1. To form an opinion or evaluation.

2. To act or decide as a judge.

n.

1. One who judges, especially:

a. One who makes estimates as to worth, quality, or fitness: *a good judge of used cars; a poor judge of character.*

b. *Law* A public official who hears and decides cases brought in court.

c. *Law* A public official who hears and decides cases or matters in a forum other than a court, such as an administrative proceeding.

d. One appointed to decide the winners of a contest or competition.

2. *Bible*

a. A leader of the Israelites during a period of about 400 years between the death of Joshua and the accession of Saul.

b. **Judges** (*used with a sing. verb*) See Table at [Bible](#).

[Middle English *jugen*, from Anglo-Norman *juger*, from Latin *iūdicāre*, from *iūdex*, *iūdic-*, judge; see **deik-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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