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de·cide  (dĭ-sīd)

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v. **de·cid·ed**, **de·cid·ing**, **de·cides**

v.tr.

1.

a. To reach a conclusion or form a judgment or opinion about (something) by reasoning or consideration: *decide what to do.*

b. To cause to make or reach a decision: *"The presence of so many witnesses decided him at once to flee" (Robert Louis Stevenson).*

2. To settle conclusively all contention or uncertainty about: *decide a case; decided the dispute in favor of the workers.*

3. To influence or determine the outcome of: *A few votes decided the election.*

v.intr.

1. To pronounce a judgment; announce a verdict.

2. To reach a decision; make up one's mind.

[Middle English *deciden*, from Old French *decider*, from Latin *dēcīdere*, to cut off, decide : *dē-*, *de-* + *caedere*, to cut; see **kaa-id-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

de·cid·a·bil i·ty *n.*

de·cid a·ble *adj.*

de·cid er *n.*

Synonyms: **decide, determine, settle, rule, conclude, resolve**

These verbs mean to come to a decision about. *Decide* has the broadest range: *The judge will decide the case on its merits. We decided to postpone our vacation for a week.*

Determine has a similar range but often involves somewhat narrower issues: *The doctor determined the cause of the infection. The jury will determine the fate of the defendant.*

Settle stresses finality of decision: *"The lama waved a hand to show that the matter was finally settled in his mind" (Rudyard Kipling).*

Rule implies that the decision is handed down by someone in authority: *The committee ruled that changes in the curriculum should be implemented.*

Conclude suggests that a decision, opinion, or judgment has been arrived at after careful consideration: *She concluded that the criticism was unjust.*

Resolve stresses the exercise of choice in making a firm decision: *I resolved to lose weight.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

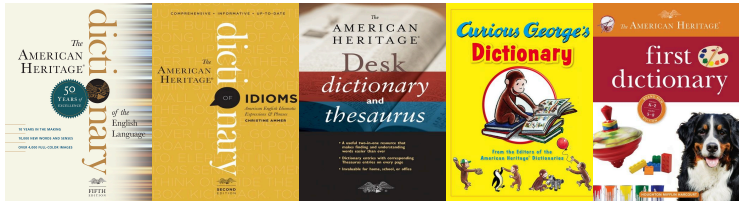
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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