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dictionary

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English
Language



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de·cree  (dĭ-kreĭ)

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n.

1. An authoritative order having the force of law.

2. *Law*

a. The judgment of a court of equity.

b. The judgment of a court.

3. *Roman Catholic Church*

a. A doctrinal or disciplinary act of an ecclesiastical authority.

b. An administrative act applying or interpreting articles of canon law.

v. **de·creed**, **de·cree·ing**, **de·crees**

v.*tr.*

To order, establish, or decide by decree: *decreed that the two kingdoms would be united.*

v.*intr.*

To issue a decree.

[Middle English *decre*, from Old French *decret*, from Latin *dēcrētum*, principle, decision, from neuter past participle of *dēcernere*, to decide : *dē-*, *de-* + *cernere*, to sift; see **krei-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

de·cree **a·ble** *adj.*

de·cre **er** *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

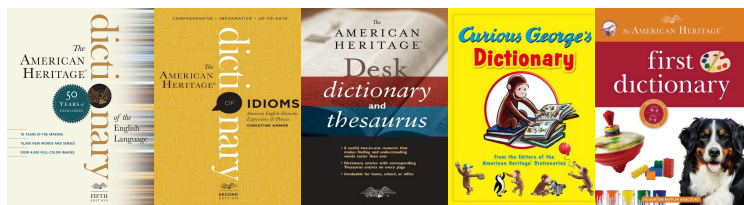
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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