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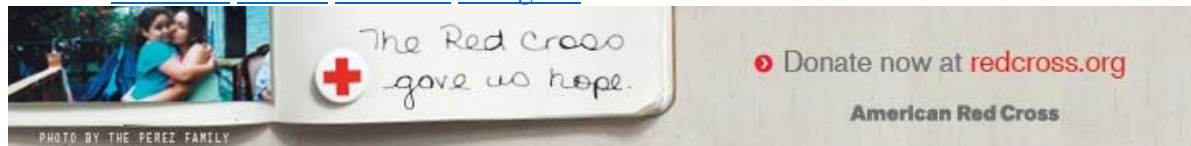
decay



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decay

[verb](#)

de·cay | \ di-'kā  \

decayed; decaying; decays

Definition of *decay*

(Entry 1 of 2)

[intransitive verb](#)

1 : to decline from a sound or prosperous condition a decaying empire

2 : to decrease usually gradually in size, quantity, activity, or force The three voices ... decayed and died out upon her ear.— Thomas Hardy

3 : to fall into ruin the city's decaying neighborhoods

4 : to decline in health, strength, or vigor Her mind is beginning to decay with age. believes that the moral fiber of our society is decaying

5 : to undergo decomposition decaying fruit Her teeth were decaying. ... most isotopes of copper decay quickly, but two are stable: Cu-63 and Cu-65.— David E. Thomas

[transitive verb](#)

1 obsolete : to cause to decay : [impair](#) infirmity that decays the wise— William Shakespeare

2 : to destroy by decomposition wood decayed by bacteria

decay

[noun](#)

Definition of *decay* (Entry 2 of 2)

1 : gradual decline in strength, soundness, or prosperity or in degree of excellence or perfection the decay of the public school system

2 : a wasting or wearing away : [ruin](#) a neighborhood that had fallen into decay

3 obsolete : [destruction](#), [death](#) ... sullen presage of your own decay.— Shakespeare

4a : [rot](#) The material is ... resistant to fire, decay and termites ...— Jack McClintock specifically : [aerobic](#) decomposition of proteins chiefly by bacteria

b : the product of decay tooth decay

5 : a decline in health or vigor mental decay

6 : decrease in quantity, activity, or force: such as

a chemistry : spontaneous decrease in the number of [radioactive](#) atoms in radioactive material

b physics : spontaneous disintegration (as of an atom or a particle)

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Other Words from *decay*

Verb

decayer noun

Synonyms & Antonyms for *decay*

Synonyms: Verb

[break down](#), [corrupt](#), [decompose](#), [disintegrate](#), [fester](#), [foul](#), [mold](#), [molder](#), [perish](#) [chiefly British], [putrefy](#), [rot](#), [spoil](#)

Synonyms: Noun

[debilitation](#), [decaying](#), [declension](#), [decline](#), [degeneration](#), [descent](#), [deterioration](#), [ebbing](#), [enfeeblement](#), [weakening](#)

Antonyms: Noun

[comeback](#), [improvement](#), [rally](#), [recovery](#), [recuperation](#), [rehabilitation](#), [revitalization](#), [snapback](#)

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Choose the Right Synonym for *decay*

Verb

[decay](#), [decompose](#), [rot](#), [putrefy](#), [spoil](#) mean to undergo destructive dissolution. [decay](#) implies a slow change from a state of soundness or perfection: a *decaying* mansion [decompose](#) stresses a breaking down by chemical change and when applied to organic matter a corruption. the strong odor of *decomposing* vegetation [rot](#) is a close synonym of [decompose](#) and often connotes foulness. fruit was left to *rot* in warehouses [putrefy](#) implies the rotting of animal matter and offensiveness to sight and smell. corpses *putrefying* on the battlefield [spoil](#) applies chiefly to the decomposition of foods. keep the ham from *spoiling*

Examples of *decay* in a Sentence

Verb

the smell of *decaying* rubbish dead plants and leaves *decayed* by bacteria

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Recent Examples on the Web: Verb

The strong magnetic field allows the axion to *decay* into a photon.— [Chris Lee, *Ars Technica*, "Pulsars could convert dark matter into something we could see," 20 Dec. 2018](#) And employment growth doesn't necessarily vary among firms based on how many workers are in unions, so there's no reason for union membership to *decay* as firms with more union members do worse.— [Dylan Matthews, *Vox*, "The emerging plan to save the American labor movement," 9 Apr. 2018](#)

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First Known Use of *decay*

Verb

15th century, in the meaning defined at [intransitive sense 1](#)

Noun

15th century, in the meaning defined at [sense 1](#)

History and Etymology for *decay*

Verb and Noun

Middle English, from Anglo-French *decair*, from Late Latin *decadere* to fall, sink, from Latin *de-* + *cadere* to fall — more at [chance](#)

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decay

[verb](#)



English Language Learners Definition of *decay*

(Entry 1 of 2)

: to be slowly destroyed by natural processes : to be slowly broken down by the natural processes that destroy a dead plant or body

: to slowly lose strength, health, etc.

of a building, area, etc. : to go slowly from a bad condition to a worse condition : to slowly enter a state of ruin

decay

[noun](#)

English Language Learners Definition of *decay* (Entry 2 of 2)

: the process or result of being slowly destroyed by natural processes


: the slow loss of strength, health, etc.

of a building, area, etc. : the process or result of going slowly from a bad condition to a worse condition

[See the full definition for *decay* in the English Language Learners Dictionary](#)

decay

[verb](#)

de·cay | \ di-'kā  \
decayed; decaying

Kids Definition of *decay*

(Entry 1 of 2)

1 : to break down or cause to break down slowly by natural processes Fruit *decayed* on the ground. Sugar *decays* teeth.

2 : to slowly worsen in condition The old theater *decayed*.

decay

[noun](#)

Kids Definition of *decay* (Entry 2 of 2)


1 : the process or result of slowly breaking down by natural processes The schoolhouse being deserted soon fell to *decay* ...— Washington Irving, “Sleepy Hollow”

2 : a gradual worsening in condition a *decay* in manners

3 : a natural change of a radioactive element into another form of the same element or into a different element

decay

[intransitive verb](#)

de·cay | \ di-'kā  \
decayed; decaying

Medical Definition of *decay*

(Entry 1 of 2)

: to undergo decomposition

[transitive verb](#)

: to destroy by decomposition

decay

[noun](#)

Medical Definition of *decay* (Entry 2 of 2)

1a : [rot sense 1](#) specifically : aerobic decomposition of proteins chiefly by bacteria

b : the product of decay

2a : spontaneous decrease in the number of radioactive atoms in radioactive material

b : spontaneous disintegration (as of an atom or a nuclear particle)

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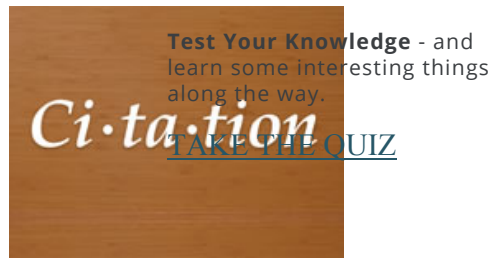
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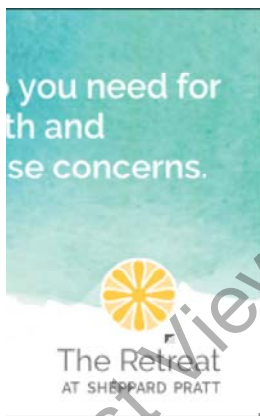
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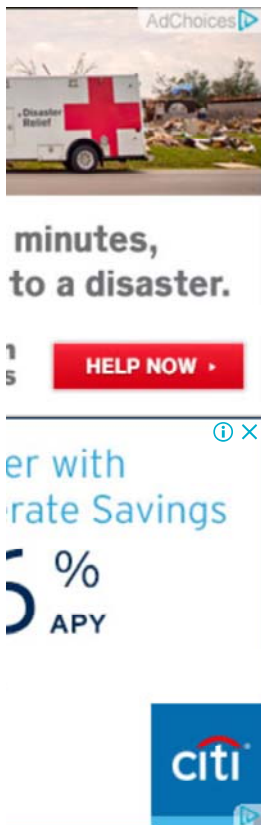
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WORD GAMES



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