

postpone a decision (=not make a decision until later) *The government has postponed its decision about when to hold the election.*

ADJECTIVES

an important decision *My father made all the important decisions.*

a big decision (=an important decision) *Marriage is a big decision.*

a major decision (=very important) *The government now has some major decisions to make.*

a difficult/hard/tough decision *In the end I took the difficult decision to retire early.*

a good decision *It was a good decision to change the name of the product.*

a bad decision *I think he made a bad decision.*

the right decision *She chose to study Engineering and it was definitely the right decision.*

the wrong decision *I thought I'd made the wrong decision marrying Jeff.*

a conscious/deliberate decision (=one that you have thought about clearly) *Belinda had made a conscious decision to have a baby.*

a clear/firm decision (=a definite one) *It's now time to come to a clear decision on this.*

a final decision (=one that will not be changed) *The council will make a final decision in four months.*

a snap decision (=one that you make extremely quickly) *Police officers often have to make snap decisions on how to act.*

a controversial decision (=that people disagree about) *The history of the law is full of controversial decisions.*

a hasty decision (=one that you make without enough thought) *Don't let yourself be forced into making hasty decisions.*

a joint decision (=one that two people make together) *Jo and I made a joint decision that we should separate.*

de'cision-maker *n* [C usually plural] a person in a large organization who is responsible for making important decisions: *the corporation's key decision-makers*

de'cision-making *n* [U] the process of making important decisions: *attempts to involve workers in decision-making*

de-ci-sive /dr'saɪsɪv/ ●●● *adj*

1 an action, event etc that is decisive has a big effect on the way that something develops: **decisive factor/effect/influence etc** *Women can play a decisive role in the debate over cloning.* | **decisive action/steps** *We will take decisive steps towards political union with Europe.*

2 someone who is decisive is good at making decisions quickly and with confidence **[OPP] indecisive:** *a decisive leader* | *a talent for quick decisive action*

3 definite and clear in a way that leaves no doubt **[OPP] indecisive:** *decisive victory/result/defeat etc* | *The answer was a decisive no.* — **decisively** *adv:* *Yet again, we have failed to act decisively.* — **decisiveness** *n* [U]: *military decisiveness* | *the speed and decisiveness of his victory*

deck¹ /dek/ ●●● **[S3]** *n* [C]

1 ON A SHIP **a)** the outside top level of a ship that you can walk or sit on: *Let's go up on deck.* | *above/below deck* *Peter stayed below deck.* **b)** one of the different levels on a ship: *main/passenger/car etc deck* *a staircase leading to the passenger deck* **THESAURUS** FLOOR

2 ON A BUS, PLANE ETC one of the levels on a bus, plane etc: *lower/upper etc deck* *I managed to find a seat on the upper deck.* | *Eddie returned to the flight deck* (=the part of an aircraft where the pilot sits). → **DOUBLE-DECKER**(1), **SINGLE-DECKER**

3 AT THE BACK OF A HOUSE *AmE* a wooden floor built out from the back of a house, where you can sit and relax outdoors → **decking:** *deck furniture*

4 MUSIC a piece of equipment used for playing music tapes, records etc: *cassette/tape/record deck*

5 CARDS a set of playing cards **[SYN] pack** *BrE:* *Irene shuffled the deck.* | *a deck of cards* → **all hands on deck** at **HAND**¹(39), → **clear the decks** at **CLEAR**²(17), → **hit the deck** at **HIT**¹(17)

deck² *v* [T] **1** (also **deck sth out**) to decorate something with flowers, flags etc: **be decked (out) with sth** *The street was decked with flags for the royal wedding.*

[GRAMMAR] **Deck** is usually passive in this meaning. **2** *informal* to hit someone so hard that they fall over: *Gerry just swung round and decked him.*

deck-chair /dektʃeə \$-tʃer/ *n* [C] *BrE* a folding chair with a long seat made of cloth, used especially on the beach → see picture at **CHAIR**¹

deck-hand /dek'hænd/ *n* [C] someone who works on a ship, cleaning and doing small repairs

deck-ing /'dekɪŋ/ *n* [U] a wooden floor next to a house or in a garden

'deck shoe *n* [C] a flat shoe made of CANVAS (=heavy cloth)

de-claim /dr'kleɪm/ *v* [I,T] written to speak loudly, sometimes with actions, so that people notice you

— **declaration** /dek'lærə'seɪʃən/ *n* [C,U]

de-clam-a-to-ry /dr'klæmə'təri \$-tɔ:ri/ *adj* declamatory speech or writing expresses feelings and opinions very strongly: *a declamatory style*

de-cla-ra-tion /dek'læreɪʃən/ ●●● *n* [C,U]

1 an important official statement about a particular situation or plan, or the act of making this statement: *a ceasefire declaration* | *Under Islamic law it was possible to divorce by simple declaration.* | **[+of]** *the declaration of war*

2 an official or serious statement of what someone believes: **[+of]** *the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights* | *declarations of undying love*

3 a statement in which you officially give information about yourself: *a declaration of taxable earnings*

de-cla-r-a-tive /dr'klærətɪv/ *adj* a declarative sentence has the form of a statement

de-clare /dr'kleə \$-'kler/ ●●● **[W2]** *v*

1 **[STATE OFFICIALLY]** [T] to state officially and publicly that a particular situation exists or that something is true: *A state of emergency has been declared.* | **declare that** *The court declared that Brown's case should be reviewed.* | **declare sb/sth (to be) sb/sth** *Several countries wanted Antarctica to be declared a 'world park'.* | *The city was declared to be in a state of siege.* | *I declare you man and wife.* | **declare sth illegal/invalid etc** *The war was declared illegal by the International Court of Justice.* | *Mr Steel has been declared bankrupt* (=it has been officially stated that he cannot pay his debts). | *We celebrate September 16, the day when Mexico declared independence from Spain* (=officially stated that it was no longer ruled by Spain).

THESAURUS SAY

2 **[STATE WHAT YOU THINK]** [T] to say publicly what you think or feel: *'It's not fair,' Jane declared.* | *He declared his intention to stand for president.* | **declare that** *Carol held a press conference and declared that she was innocent.* | **declare yourself (to be) sth** *Edward declared himself angry and frustrated.*

3 **declare war (on sb/sth)** **a)** to state officially that you are at war with another country **b)** *informal* to say that something is wrong and that you will do everything you can to stop it: *Angry residents have declared war on the owners of the factory.*

4 **[MONEY/PROPERTY ETC]** [T] **a)** to state on an official government form how much money you have earned, what property you own etc: *All tips are counted as part of your earnings and must be declared.* **b)** to tell a CUSTOMS official that you are carrying goods on which you should pay tax when you enter a country

5 **declare an interest** to tell people that you are connected with something that is being discussed: *I should, at this point, declare an interest: I own shares in the company.*

6 **[CRICKET]** [I] to choose to end your team's turn before all your players have BATTED

declare against sb/sth *phr v* to state publicly that you oppose someone or something