

**decay****1. [dɪˈkeɪ] n**

1) 1) гниение, разложение; увядание

the decay of leaves - увядание листьев

2) порча; разрушение

the decay of a building - разрушение /обветшание/ здания

the decay of information - *информ.* разрушение информацииto fall into decay - ветшать [*см. тж.* 2, 1)]

to preserve smth. from decay - уберечь что-л. от порчи

2. 1) ослабление, упадок, расстройство; распад; загнивание

moral decay - моральное разложение

senile decay - дряхлость, старческая немощь

the decay of intellectual power - ослабление интеллектуальных способностей

the decay of health - расстройство здоровья

the decay of family - распад семьи

to be in (a state of) decay - разрушаться

to fall into decay, *редк.* to go to decay - приходить в упадок /запустение/ [*см. тж.* 1, 2)]2) *лингв. редк.* падение (звуков)3) *спец.* спад, ослабление

pressure decay - спад давления

3. 1) *хим.* распад2) *физ.* радиоактивный распад

alpha [beta, gamma] decay - альфа [бета-, гамма-] распад

decay time - время распада

4. *физ.* затухание, спад (*свечения и т. п.*)5. *тлв.* послесвечение экрана (*электронно-лучевой трубки*)6. *уст.* уменьшение, сокращение**2. [dɪˈkeɪ] v**1. 1) гнить, разлагаться; портиться (*тж. о зубах*)2) ветшать, разрушаться (*о зданиях*)3) увядать (*о растениях*)2. 1) хиреть, слабеть, чахнуть, сдавать, угасать; приходить в упадок, распадаться (*о государстве*)

his powers are beginning to decay - он начинает сдавать

village life is decaying - сельская жизнь приходит в упадок

2) приводить в упадок; подрывать (*здоровье*); губить (*красоту*)3. опуститься (*о человеке*)4. *физ.* распадаться5. *физ.* спадать, затухать6. *уст.* уменьшаться, сокращаться**decay**

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

**decay** [decay decays decayed decaying] noun, verb BrE [dɪˈkeɪ] <sup>u</sup> NAmE[dɪˈkeɪ] <sup>u</sup>

noun uncountable

**1.** the process or result of being destroyed by natural causes or by not being cared for (= of decaying)

- tooth decay
- The landlord had let the building **fall into decay** .
- The smell of death and decay hung over the town.
- The decay of the wood will spread if it is not removed

**2.** the gradual destruction of a society, an institution, a system, etc

- **economic/moral/urban decay**
- the decay of the old industries

Word Origin:late Middle English: from Old French **decair**, based on Latin **decidere** 'fall down or off', from **de-** 'from' + **cadere** 'fall' .Example Bank:

- Bacteria stick to food debris in the teeth, causing decay.
- My dentist could not find any signs of decay.
- Smoking accelerates age-related decay in the heart and arteries.
- The derelict buildings are the signs of a town in decay.
- The wood is treated with preservative to prevent decay.
- This government promises to reverse industrial decay.
- Without a lot of money, the mayor won't be able to stop urban decay.
- old buildings that had fallen into decay
- the slow decay of the castle and the surrounding buildings

**verb****1. intransitive, transitive ~ (sth)** to be destroyed gradually by natural processes; to destroy sth in this way

**Syn:** †rot

• decaying leaves/teeth/food

2. **intransitive** if a building or an area decays, its condition slowly becomes worse

• decaying inner city areas

3. **intransitive** to become less powerful and lose influence over people, society, etc

• decaying standards of morality

Verb forms:

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we / they	decay
	BrE /dɪˈkeɪz/
	NAmE /dɪˈkeɪz/
he / she / it	decays
	BrE /dɪˈkeɪz/
	NAmE /dɪˈkeɪz/
past simple, past participle	decayed
	BrE /dɪˈkeɪd/
	NAmE /dɪˈkeɪd/
-ing form	decaying
	BrE /dɪˈkeɪɪŋ/
	NAmE /dɪˈkeɪɪŋ/

Word Origin:

late Middle English: from Old French **decair**, based on Latin **decidere** ‘fall down or off’, from **de-** ‘from’ + **cadere** ‘fall’.

## decay

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

I. **de**ˈcay<sup>1</sup> /dɪˈkeɪ/ BrE<sup>ˈ</sup> AmE<sup>ˈ</sup> verb

[Date: 1400-1500; Language: Old North French; Origin: **decair**, from Late Latin **decadere** ‘to fall, sink’]

1. **[intransitive and transitive]** to be slowly destroyed by a natural chemical process, or to make something do this:

▪ Her body was already starting to decay.

▪ Most archaeological finds are broken, damaged, or decayed.

▪ decaying organic matter

### REGISTER

In everyday English, people usually say **rot** rather than **decay** when talking about food:

▪ There was a smell of **rotting** vegetables.

2. **[intransitive]** if buildings, structures, or areas decay, their condition gradually becomes worse:

▪ Hundreds of historic buildings are being allowed to decay.

▪ Britain’s decaying inner cities

3. **[intransitive]** if traditional beliefs, standards etc decay, people do not believe in them or support them any more **SYN decline**:

▪ In Orthodox Europe, mass religion seems to have decayed less.

• • •

### THESAURUS

▪ **decay** to be slowly destroyed by a natural chemical process – use this especially about natural things such as wood or plants, or about teeth: The leaves decay and enrich the soil. | He had bad breath and decaying teeth. | The fabric slowly began to decay.

▪ **rot** to decay. **Rot** is less formal than **decay** and is more common in everyday English: The fruit was left to rot on the ground. | rotting teeth | Most of the wood under the paint had rotted. | the smell of rotting vegetation (=decaying leaves and plants)

▪ **go off** *British English* if food goes off, it starts to smell bad and is no longer safe to eat: I think the milk’s gone off. | The meat smells as if it’s gone off.

▪ **spoil** if food spoils, it starts to decay, so that it is no longer safe to eat. **Spoil** is more formal and is less common in everyday British English than **go off**: Food left in the sun will quickly start to spoil.

▪ **go mouldy** *British English*, **moldy** *American English* to begin to have a soft green or black substance growing on the surface of the food, so that it is not good to eat any more: Ugh, the cheese has gone mouldy!

▪ **decompose** *formal* to decay – use this especially about dead plants or flesh: leaves decomposing on the forest floor

▪ **putrefy** *formal* to decay and have a very bad smell – use this especially about flesh or plants: After two days, the body was already beginning to putrefy. | putrefying meat

▪ **biodegrade** to decay naturally into substances that do not harm the environment – use this especially about man-made materials and chemicals: Unlike many other materials, plastic does not biodegrade.

II. **decay**<sup>2</sup> BrE<sup>ˈ</sup> AmE<sup>ˈ</sup> noun [uncountable]

1. the natural chemical change that causes the slow destruction of something:

▪ old cars in various stages of decay

▪ tooth decay

2. the gradual destruction of buildings, structures etc because they have not been cared for:

▪ poverty and urban decay

**fall into (a state of) decay**

▪ During the war, the area fell into decay.

3. the gradual destruction of ideas, beliefs, social or political systems etc:

▪ moral decay

• • •

### COLLOCATIONS

#### ■ verbs

▪ **cause decay** Bacteria stick to food and cause decay.

▪ **prevent decay** You can use a preservative on the wood to prevent further decay.

■ **ADJECTIVES/NOUN + decay**

- **tooth/dental decay** Eating too much sugar causes tooth decay.
- **natural decay** Everything in our environment is subject to natural decay.

■ **phrases**

- **the process of decay** The natural processes of decay gradually destroys archaeological sites.
- **a sign of decay** I couldn't see any signs of decay on the fruit.

---

## decay

Freakuency Pack

12500 **6991**<sup>MCW</sup>

15000 **4321**<sup>COCA</sup>

RANGE: **4k** **DECAY** 4236

decay 2749

decayed 351

decaying 924

decays 212

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

1579 **12462**<sup>2258</sup> *nn1*

241 **45860**<sup>261</sup> *vvi*

179 **50844**<sup>216</sup> *vv0*

10 **258777**<sup>10</sup> *nnu*

4 **427060**<sup>4</sup> *jj*

---