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Language



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ef·fort  (ěf ər't)

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- n.*
1. The use of physical or mental energy to do something; exertion.
 2. A difficult exertion of strength or will: *It was an effort to get up.*
 3. A usually earnest attempt: *Make an effort to arrive promptly.*
 4. Something done or produced through exertion; an achievement: *a play that was his finest effort.*
 5. *Physics*
 - a. Force applied against inertia.
 - b. The force needed by a machine to accomplish work on a load.

[Middle English, from Old French *esfort*, from *esforcier*, to force, exert, from Medieval Latin *exfortiāre* : Latin *ex-*, *ex-* + Latin *fortis*, strong; see **bhergh-**² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.](#)]

ef fort·ful *adj.*
ef fort·ful·ly *adv.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

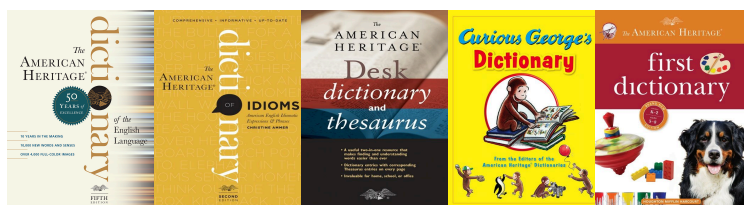
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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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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