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dictionary

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English
Language



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for·ti·fy  (fôr tă-fī')

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v. **for·ti·fied**, **for·ti·fy·ing**, **for·ti·fies**

v. *tr.*

1. To make strong, as:

a. To strengthen and secure (a position) with fortifications.

b. To reinforce by adding material: *fortified the riverbank against erosion.*

c. To impart physical strength or endurance to; invigorate: *felt fortified by a good night's sleep.*

d. To give emotional, moral, or mental strength to; encourage: *Prayer fortified us during our crisis.*

2. To enrich (food, for example), as by adding vitamins.

v. *intr.*

To build fortifications.

[Middle English *fortifien*, from Old French *fortifier*, from Late Latin *fortificāre* : Latin *fortis*, strong; see **bhergh**-² in the Appendix of Indo-European roots + Latin *-ficāre*, *-fy*.]

for ti·fi·a·ble *adj.*

for ti·fi·er *n.*

for ti·fy·ing·ly *adv.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

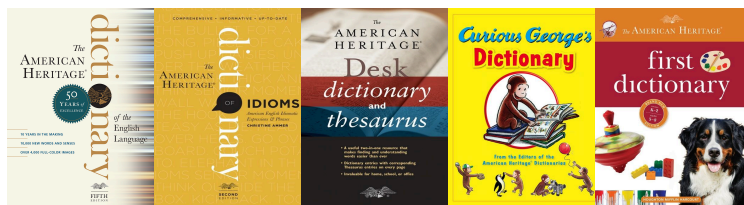
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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