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re·in·force also **re·en·force** or **re·en·force**  (rē'īn-fôrs)

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tr.v. **re·in·forced**, **re·in·forc·ing**, **re·in·forc·es** also **re·en·forced** or **re·en·forc·ing** or **re·en·forc·es** or **re·en·forced** or **re·en·forc·ing** or **re·en·forc·es**

1. To give more force or effectiveness to; strengthen: *The news reinforced her hopes.*
2. To strengthen (a military force) with additional personnel or equipment.
3. To strengthen by adding extra support or material.
4. To increase the number or amount of; augment.

5. *Psychology*

- a. To reward (an experimental subject, for example) with a reinforcer subsequent to a desired response or performance.
- b. To encourage (a response) by means of a reinforcer.

[**RE-** + *inforce* (variant of **ENFORCE**).]

re'ın·force **a·ble** *adj.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

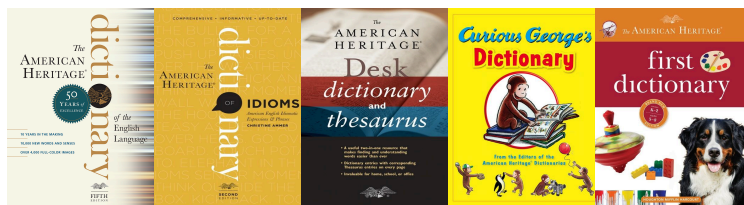
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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