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firm¹ (fûrm)

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adj. **firm·er, firm·est**

1. Resistant to externally applied pressure.
2. Marked by or indicating the tone and resiliency of healthy tissue: *firm muscles*.
3. Securely fixed in place: *Despite being hit by the car, the post was still firm*.
4. Indicating or possessed of determination or resolution: *a firm voice*.
5. Constant; steadfast: *a firm ally*.
6.
 - a. Not subject to change; fixed and definite: *a firm bargain; a firm offer*.
 - b. Unfluctuating; steady: *Stock prices are still firm*.
7. Strong and sure: *a firm grasp*.

tr. & intr.v. **firmed, firm·ing, firms**

To make or become firm. Often used with *up*.

adv. **firmer, firmest**

Without wavering; resolutely: *stand firm*.

[Middle English *ferm*, from Old French, from Latin *firmus*; see **dher-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

firm **ly** *adv.*

firm **ness** *n.*

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firm² (fûrm)

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n.

1. A business enterprise.
2. An unincorporated business, particularly a partnership.
3. The name or designation under which a company transacts business.

[Italian *firma*, from *firmare*, to ratify by signature, from Medieval Latin *firmāre*, from Latin, to confirm, from *firmus*, firm; see **dher-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

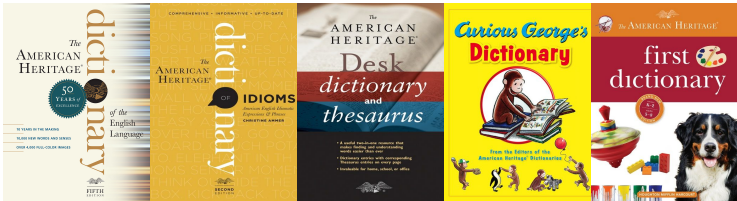
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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