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con·firm (kən-fûrm)

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tr.v. **con·firm***ed*, **con·firm·ing**, **con·firm**s

1.
 - a. To support or establish the certainty or validity of; verify: *confirm a rumor*.
 - b. To reaffirm the establishment of (a reservation or advance arrangement).
2. To make firmer; strengthen: *Working on the campaign confirmed her intention to go into politics*.
3. To make valid or binding by a formal or legal act; ratify.
4. To administer the religious rite of confirmation to.

[Middle English *confirmen*, from Old French *confermer*, from Latin *cōfirmāre* : *com-*, intensive pref.; see [COM-](#) + *firmāre*, to strengthen (from *firmus*, strong; see **dher-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

con·firm·a·bil i·ty *n.*

con·firm a·ble *adj.*

con·firm a·to·ry (-fûr mə-tôr'ē) *adj.*

con·firm er *n.*

Synonyms: confirm, corroborate, substantiate, authenticate, validate, verify

These verbs mean to establish or support the truth, accuracy, or genuineness of something. *Confirm* implies the establishment of certainty or conviction: *The information confirmed our worst suspicions.*

To *corroborate* something is to strengthen or uphold the evidence that supports it: *The witness is expected to corroborate the plaintiff's testimony.*

To *substantiate* is to establish by presenting solid or reliable evidence: "*What I shall say can be substantiated by the sworn testimony of witnesses*" (Mark Twain).

To *authenticate* something is to establish its genuineness, as by expert testimony or documentary proof: *Never purchase an antique before it has been authenticated.*

Validate refers to establishing the validity of something, such as a theory, claim, or judgment: *The divorce validated my parents' original objection to the marriage.*

Verify implies proving by comparison with an original or with established fact: *The bank refused to cash the check until the signature was verified.*

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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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