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in·firm  (in-fûrm)

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adj.

1. Weak in body or mind, especially from old age or disease. See Synonyms at [weak](#).
2. Not strong or stable; shaky: *an infirm foundation*.
3. *Archaic* Lacking firmness of will, character, or purpose; irresolute.

[Middle English *infirm*, from Old French, from Latin *īnfirmitas* : *in-*, not; see [IN](#)¹ + *firmus*, strong, firm; see **dher-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

in·firm *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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