

UNIT NINE

FORT

Latin FORTIS, "strong"

I built a strong fort

■ Something effortless may mean "to require little work," but we also use the word to mean "seemingly easy." If a figure skater glides effortlessly across the ice, the audience may not see any hard work being done, but the skater could actually be using a lot of energy.

EFFORTLESS (ef' ort las) *adj.* Not requiring much work
One of the gymnasts struggled through his performance, while the other completed his routine with *effortless* grace.
syn: easy *ant:* difficult

FORTIFY (fōr' tī fī) *v.* To make stronger
Most cereal makers *fortify* their products with extra vitamins.
syn: build up *ant:* weaken

FORTITUDE (fōr' tī tū d) *n.* Strength of mind or character
Spending a month in the wilderness camp requires a *fortitude* that many people do not possess.
syn: courage *ant:* cowardice

TEG

Latin INTEGER, "whole, unbroken"

The whole class played teg.

INTEGRATE (in' tē grāt) *v.* 1. To bring together
2. To work something into

1. The new comic's routine *integrate* material from several of his previous shows.
2. Ingrid tries hard to *integrate* her doctor's recommendations into her daily activities.
syn: blend *ant:* separate

INTEGRITY (in teg' rī tē) *n.* Honesty; moral soundness
Bobby's *integrity* is such that he once returned a briefcase worth hundreds of dollars to the owner instead of keeping it.
syn: goodness

DISINTEGRATE (dis in' tē grāt) *v.* To fall apart
L. dis, "not," + integer = not whole
Lisa's relationship with Jeremy began to *disintegrate* as soon as she saw his terrible table manners.
syn: crumble *ant:* hold up

FIRM

Latin FIRMARE, FIRMATUM, "to strengthen, give strength"
FIRMUS, "firm"

the firm walls strengthened the house

Also study:
Liter = letter
Log = word, speech, idea, reason
Gram, graph = letter, writing; to write.
Script, scrib = to write
Cess = to go; to yield
Cress = to go; progress
It = to go
Cur, cours = to run

AFFIRMATIVE (ə firm' ə tiv) *adj.* Agreeing with; supporting
L. ad, "to," + firmatum = give strength to
An *affirmative* vote helped the bill become a law.
syn: confirming *ant:* denying

CONFIRM (kən firm') *v.* To settle as true
L. con, "completely," + firmare = to completely strengthen
The names of people who died in the earthquake could not be *confirmed* until those who were injured were identified.
syn: verify

INFIRM (in firm') *adj.* Not in good health; not well
L. in, "not," + firmus = not strong
Roberto thought his grandfather looked too *infirm* to do much, but the elderly man certainly could throw a ball accurately.
syn: frail *ant:* strong

to have value is to be valuable something

VAL, VALID

Latin VALERE, VALITURUS, "to be strong; be worth"
VALIDUS, "strong"

INVALUABLE (in val' yə bəl) *adj.* Very helpful or useful
L. in, "not," + valere = beyond value
Clark's advice about using the computer was *invaluable* to us.
syn: priceless *ant:* worthless

EVALUATE (ē val' ū āt) *v.* To judge; to size up
The judges barely had time to *evaluate* one performer before the next one began singing.
syn: analyze

INVALID (in val' əd) *adj.* Not good enough; not correct
L. in, "not," + validus = not strong
If that answer is *invalid*, what is the right one?

VALIDATE (val' i dāt) *v.* To declare good; to accept as good
The teacher tries to *validate* her students' ideas because she wants them to be confident.
syn: approve *ant:* refuse



Christmas is a VALID DATE to travel, so we'll VALIDATE your ticket.

■ In addition to these words, we get the English value from the Latin "valere." Value is a measure of how strong or good something is; the value of a book can be measured by the good it does you, for instance, and the value of a shelter by how much it protects you from the rain. To evaluate is to judge the strength or goodness of something, while invaluable means "so good that its worth cannot be evaluated."