

I was surprised when I visited New York City that many people were selling counterfeit merchandise on the streets. Counterfeit goods, look like the real thing, but aren't. Some of my friends wanted to scoop up the counterfeit purses. They looked like the brands that cost several hundred dollars, but were for sale for five or ten dollars. Counterfeiting can be a big problem. What do you think about counterfeiting? Would you buy a counterfeit watch or purse?

The root of counterfeit is "count". Let's look at some other words with "count" as the root.

1. When you **count**, you say the numbers in order. When you "count up" something, you add it up. Ex: **Count up** all the hours of overtime the employees have earned. If someone "counts for" something, they are valuable. Ex: The fact that she loves my son **counts for** a lot. Experience **counts for** a lot in poker. All my work **counts for** nothing since they decided not to build the high rise.

2. If you "keep count" of something, you keep a record of something. If you "lose count" you cannot remember the count. Ex: I have **lost count** of the times my sister has gone on a diet.

3. If someone "counts on you" they depend on you. Ex: Mother **counts on me** to get her to her doctor appointments.

4. **Countenance** has two meanings. Your **countenance** is your facial expression. Ex: Sara is friendly with everyone and has a smiling countenance. **Countenance** used as a verb means permit. Ex: He would not **countenance** her dating until she was 18.

5. A **counter** can be a long flat surface where people do business. Ex: Place the goods you want to buy on the **counter**. Let's eat at the lunch counter because the service is faster there.

6. If you **counter** something or someone, you act to stop them. Ex: The police are working to **counter** drug use in the schools. If something is **counter** to a thing it is opposite. Ex: Your plan is **counter** to what the boss asked for.

7. When you buy a house, you give the seller an offer. The seller than **counter offers**. You can then counter that offer. Eventually you agree on a price. Ex: I made a low offer, but I was expecting the seller to **counter**.

8. If you **counteract** something you act against it. Ex: Drinking lots of water **counteracts** the effects of traveling to high altitudes. Some herbs **counteract** the effectiveness of prescription medicines.

9. When an army **counterattacks**, it attacks the army that first attacked it.

10. If you walk **counterclockwise** you walk opposite of the way the hands of the clock turn.

11. A **counterpart** is a person that has a similar function as you in a different place. Ex: My **counterpart** in Germany gets paid more than I do because the cost of living is so high there. The ambassador phoned his **counterpart** in Russia to explain our policy.

12. If something is **counterproductive** it is the opposite of productive. It doesn't work. Ex: Violence is usually **counterproductive** in winning the hearts of the people.

Questions:

1. When you were young, who did you count on to help you with homework?
2. What do your parents count on you to do for them?
3. Who will you count on in your old age?

4. Can you tell from someone's countenance how they are feeling?
5. Can you tell if someone is honest from their countenance?
6. Have you ever negotiated the price of a car? Did you make counter offers?
7. Are you a good negotiator?
8. Who is the counterpart to President Obama in your country?
9. What do you do to counteract jet lag when you fly?
10. What is the best way to counteract bullying in schools?
11. If your husband argued that your family should remain in the U.S. instead of returning home, how would you counter his argument?

Count Idioms:

Read these conversations and explain in your own words the meaning of the underlined idiom.

A: Do you want to play cards with us tonight?

B: No, thanks. I'm really tired. You'd better count me out tonight.

A: If my husband gets a raise, we'll be able to buy a new car.

B: Don't count your chickens before they're hatched.

A: It's time to go.

B: OK, you round up the children and I'll count heads.

A: Would you like to have lunch with me?

B: I don't have time to go to lunch today. We have a deadline and every minute counts.

A: My child complains about school every day.

B: He should count his blessings. When I was young, we went to school for 10 hours a day.