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We examine conditions on the degree sequence of a graph G that guarantee that G is at least t -tough, for some $t > 0$. Most degree sequence theorems guaranteeing G has some graphical property (e.g. hamiltonicity, k -connectedness) are monotone, meaning when a degree sequence satisfies the condition of the theorem, then any ‘larger’ degree sequence does too. For $t \geq 1$ we give a monotone theorem for a graph to be t -tough, and show that it is the best possible monotone theorem. On the other hand, we show that when $r \geq 1$, then a best monotone theorem for $t = \frac{1}{r} < 1$ requires at least $f(r)|V(G)|$ nonredundant conditions, where $f(r)$ grows superpolynomially as $r \rightarrow \infty$. (Received September 16, 2009)