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church in the light of modern philosophic and scientific thought. **b.** the liberal theological tendency in 20th-century Protestantism. **4.** sometimes cap.) estrangement or divergence from the past in the arts and literature occurring esp. in the course of the 20th century and taking the form in any of various innovative movements and styles. [1730-40] —**mod/ern-ist**, *n., adj.* —**mod/ern-is'tic**, *adj.*

mod/er-ni-ty (mō dūr'ni tē, mō-), *n., pl. -ties*. **1.** the quality of being modern. **2.** something modern. [1620-30] —**mod/er-ni-ty**, *v.* —**ized, -iz-ing**. —*v.t.* **1.** to make modern; give a new or modern character to. —*v.i.* **2.** to become modern; adopt modern ways. [1740-50] —**mod/ern-i-za'tion**, *n.*

mod/ern pentath/lon, *n.* an athletic contest comprising a freestyle swim, a cross-country run, an equestrian steeplechase, épée fencing, and pistol shooting. [1940-45]

Mod/ern Per/sian, *n.* the Persian language since c900 A.D., written in Arabic script.

mod-est (mōd'ist), *adj.* **1.** having or showing a moderate or humble estimate of one's merits, importance, etc. **2.** free from ostentation: a modest house. **3.** having or showing regard for the decencies of behavior, speech, dress, etc. **4.** limited or moderate in amount, extent, etc. [1555-65; < L *modestus* restrained, decorous = *modes-* (s. of *modus*, akin to *modus mode*) + *-tus* adj. suffix] —**mod/est-ly**, *adv.* —**Syn.** *modest*, *demure*, *prudent* suggest conformity to the recognized standards of propriety and good taste, as in speech, manner, dress, or attitude. *modest* implies a becoming humility and reserve, and a taste for things that are simple and refined: a successful, yet modest, executive. *demure* describes a subdued and proper manner, but often one that seems affected or insincere: a demure glance. *prudent* suggests an exaggerated propriety and an irritatingly self-righteous air: a prudish objection to an off-color remark.

Mod-es-to (mō des'tō), *n.* a city in central California. 178,559.

mod-est-y (mōd'ə stē), *n.* **1.** regard for decency of behavior, speech, dress, etc. **2.** lack of vanity. [1525-35; < L *modestia*. See *modest*, -y]

mod-i-cum (mōd'i kəm), *n.* a moderate or small amount. [1425-75; late ME < L, *n.* use of neut. of *modicus* moderate]

modif., modification.

mod-i-fi-ca-tion (mōd'ə fi kə'shən), *n.* **1.** an act or instance of modifying or the state of being modified. **2.** a modified form; variety. **3.** a change in an organism acquired during its lifetime and not inheritable. **4.** limitation or qualification. **5.** a. the use of modifiers in a construction or language. **b.** the meaning a modifier has, esp. as it affects the meaning of the word or other form modified, as in limitation. **6.** a change in the phonological shape of a morpheme, word, or other form when it functions as an element in a construction, as the change of *not* to *n't* in *doesn't*. [1495-1505; < L]

mod/ified Amer/i-can plan', *n.* (in hotels) a system of paying a single fixed rate that covers room, breakfast, and one other meal, usu. dinner. *Abbr.*: MAP Compare AMERICAN PLAN, EUROPEAN PLAN.

mod-i-fier (mōd'ə fi'ər), *n.* **1.** a person or thing that modifies. **2.** a word, phrase, or sentence element that limits or qualifies the sense of another word, phrase, or element in the same construction. [1575-85]

—**Usage.** See DANCING PARTICIPLE, MISPLACED MODIFIER.

mod-i-fy (mōd'ə fi'), *v., -fied, -fy-ing*. —*v.t.* **1.** to change somewhat the form or qualities of; alter partially; amend: to modify a contract. **2.** (of a word, phrase, or clause) to stand in a syntactically subordinate relation to (another word, phrase, or clause), usu. with descriptive, limiting, or particularizing meaning; act as a modifier: In a good cook, good modifies cook. **3.** to change (a vowel) by umlaut. **4.** to reduce in degree or extent: to modify one's demands. —*v.i.* **5.** to be or become modified. [1350-1400; ME < MF *modifier* < L *modificāre* to regulate, restrain. See *modē*, -r, -ry] —**mod/i-fi/a-ble**, *adj.*

Mod-i-gli-a-ni (mō dē'jē ā'nē, mō'dēl' yā'-), *n.* Amedeo, 1884-1920, Italian painter in France.

mod-i-li-um (mō dil'yən, mō-), *n.* an ornamental block or bracket beneath the corona or similar member of a cornice, stringcourse, etc. [1555-65; < It *modiglione*]

mod-ish (mōd'ish), *adj.* fashionable; stylish. [1650-60] —**mod'-ish-ly**, *adv.* —**mod/ish-ness**, *n.*

mod-iste (mō dēst'), *n.* a woman formerly making or selling women's fashionable attire. [1830-40; < F; see *modē*, -ist]

Mod-doc (mōd'dok), *n., pl. -docs, (esp. collectively) -doc*. **1.** a member of an American Indian people of extreme NE California and S Oregon.

2. the language of the Modoc, closely akin to Klamath.

mod-u-lar (mōj'ə lar), *adj.* **1.** of or pertaining to a module or a modulus. **2.** composed of standardized units or sections for easy construction or flexible arrangement. —**3.** something built or organized in self-contained units or sections. **4.** a self-contained unit or item that can be combined or interchanged with others like it to create different shapes or designs. [1790-1800; < NL]

mod-u-lar-ize (mōj'ə lə rīz'), *v.t., -ized, -iz-ing*. to form or organize into modules, as for flexibility. [1955-60]

mod-u-late (mōj'ə lāt'), *v., -lat-ed, -lat-ing*. —*v.t.* **1.** to regulate by or adjust to a certain measure or proportion. **2.** to alter or adapt (the voice) according to the circumstances, one's listener, etc. **3.** to cause the amplitude, frequency, phase, or intensity of (a carrier wave) to vary in accordance with a sound wave or other signal. —*v.i.* **4.** to modulate a carrier wave. **5.** to move harmonically from one key to a related key. [1550-60; < L *modulātus*, ptp. of *modulārī* to regulate (sounds). See *module*, -ate'] —**mod/u-la-bil/i-ty** (-lə bil'i tē), *n.* —**mod/u-la-to-ry**, *adj.* —**mod/u-la-tor**, *n.*

mod-u-la-tion (mōj'ə lā'shən, mōd'yə-), *n.* **1.** the act of modulating.

modernity to Mohs scale

2. the state of being modulated. **3.** harmonic movement from one key to a related key. **4.** the use of a particular distribution of stress or pitch in an utterance to show meaning, as the use of rising pitch on *here in John is here?* [1350-1400; ME < L]

mod-ule (mōj'66l), *n.* **1.** a separable component, frequently one that is interchangeable with others, for assembly into units of differing size, complexity, or function. **2.** any of the self-contained segments of a spacecraft. **3.** a standard or unit for measuring. **4.** a selected unit of measure used as a basis for the planning and standardization of building materials. [1555-65; < L *modulus*]

mod-u-lo (mōj'ə l6'), *adv. Math.* with respect to a modulus: *6 is congruent to 11, modulo 5*. [1895-1900; < NL *modulō*, abl. of L *modulus* modulus]

mod-u-lus (mōj'ə las), *n., pl. -li* (lī). **1.** a coefficient pertaining to a physical property. **2.** a number by which the logarithms in one system are multiplied to yield the logarithms in another. **b.** a quantity by which two given quantities can be divided to yield the same remainders. **c.** ABSOLUTE VALUE. [1555-65; < L: a unit of measure; see *modē*, -ule]

mod-us op-er-and-i (mō'das op'ə ran'dē, -dī), *n., pl. mod-i ope-ran-dī* (mō'dē, -dī). mode of operating; method of working. [1645-55; < L]

mod-us vi-ven-dī (mō'das vi ven'dē, -dī), *n., pl. mod-i viven-dī* (mō'dē, -dī). **1.** manner of living; way of life; lifestyle. **2.** a temporary arrangement between persons or parties pending a settlement of matters in debate. [1875-80 < L]

Mo-es-si-a (mē'shē ə), *n.* an ancient country in S Europe, S of the Danube and N of ancient Thrace and Macedonia; later a Roman province.

Mo-ga-di-shu (mō'gə dē'shōō), *n.* the capital of Somalia, in the S part. 444,882. Italian. **Mo-ga-di-scio** (mō'gə dē'shō).

Mo-ga-dor (mōg'ə d6r', -d6r'), *n.* former name of ESSAOUIRA.

Mo-gen Da-vid (mō'gən dā'vid, mō'gən d6'vid), *n.* STAR OF DAVID.

Mo-ghul (mō'gəl, -gul, mō gul'), *n., adj.* MUGUL (defs. 1, 3).

Mo-gi-lev (mō'gi lef', -l6f', -l6f'), *n.* a city in E Belorussia, on the Dnieper. 559,000.

Mo-gol-i-on (mō'gə y6n'), *n.* **1.** an extensive plateau or mesa in central Arizona; the SW margin of the Colorado Plateau. **2.** a mountain range in W New Mexico. —*adj.* **3.** of or designating an Indian culture of SE Arizona and SW New Mexico c300 A.D. cl400.

mo-gul (mō'gəl), *n.* a bump or mound of hard snow on a ski slope. [1960-65; < dial. G; cf. Austrian *Mugel* small hill] —**mo'guled**, *adj.*

Mo-gul (mō'gəl, -gul, mō gul'), *n.* **1.** a member of the dynasty of Muslim rulers that dominated N India and parts of the Deccan from the 16th to the early 18th centuries. **2.** (L.C.) a powerful or influential person: a mogul of the movie industry. —*adj.* **3.** of or pertaining to the Moguls or their empire. [1580-90; < Pers *mughul* Mongol]

mo-hair (mō'hār'), *n.* **1.** the hair of an Angora goat. **2.** a fabric made wholly or partly of yarn from this hair. [1560-70; alter. (by folk etym.) of earlier *mocayare* < It *mocaiaro* < Ar *mukhayyar* lit., chosen]

Moham., Mohammadan.

Mo-ham-med (mō ham'id, -hā'mid, mō-), *n.* MUHAMMAD (def. 1).

Mohammed II, *n.* ("the Conqueror") 1430-81, sultan of Turkey 1451-81; conqueror of Constantinople 1453.

Mo-ham-med-an (mō ham'i dā, mō-), *adj.* **1.** of or pertaining to Muhammad or Islam; Islamic; Muslim. —**n.** **2.** an adherent of Islam; Muslim. [1675-85]

Mo-ham-med-an-ism or **Mu-ham-mad-an-ism** (mō ham'i dn-iz'əm, mō-), *n.* ISLAM. —**Usage.** See MUSLIM.

Mo-har-ram or **Mu-har-ram** (mō hār'əm), *n.* the first month of the Islamic calendar. [1605-15; < Ar *muharram* lit., forbidden]

Mo-ha've Des-ert (mō hā've), *n.* MOJAVE DESERT.

Mo-hawk (mō'h6k), *n., pl. -hawks, (esp. collectively) -hawk. **1.** a member of an American Indian people, orig. residing in the middle Mohawk River valley in New York; the easternmost of the Iroquois Five Nations. **2.** the Iroquoian language of the Mohawks. **3.** a river flowing E from central New York to the Hudson. 148 mi. (240 km) long. **4.** (often L.C.) a hairstyle with the scalp shaved except for a center strip of stiff, bluntly cut hair running front to back.*

Mo-he-gan (mō hē'gən), *n., pl. -gans, (esp. collectively) -gan. **1.** a member of an American Indian people of E Connecticut. **2.** the extinct Eastern Algonquian language of the Mohegan.*

Mo-hen-jo-Da-ro (mō hen'jō dār'6), *n.* an archaeological site in Pakistan, near the Indus River; six ancient cities were built here.

Mo-hi-can (mō hē'kən), *n., pl. -cans, (esp. collectively) -can*. MOHEGAN.

Mo-hock (mō'h6k), *n.* one of a group of aristocratic ruffians who attacked people at night on the streets of London in the early 18th century. [1705-15; var. of MOHAWK]

Mo-ho-ro-vi-čić discontinu-i-ty (mō'h6 r6'və chich, -h6-), *n.* the discontinuity between the crust and the mantle of the earth, occurring at depths that average about 22 mi. (35 km) beneath the continents and about 6 mi. (10 km) beneath the ocean floor. Also called, **Moho** (mō'h6). [1935-40; after Andrija Mohorovičić (1857-1936), Croatian geophysicist, who discovered it]

Mohs' scale' (m6z), *n.* a scale of hardness for minerals, consisting of the following degrees, in increasing hardness: talc 1; gypsum 2; calcite 3; fluorite 4; apatite 5; orthoclase 6; quartz 7; topaz 8; corundum 9; diamond 10. [1875-80; after F. Mohs (1773-1839), German mineralogist]