

Nota Bene: M

M

macabre: horrifying; reminiscent of death

machination: a conniving plot

macrocosm: a representation on a large scale

magna cum laude: with great honor

magnanimous: noble, generous

Magna Charta: the great charter

magnate: an industrial leader

magnum opus: masterpiece (a great work)

maladroit: inept, awkward

malady: an illness or unwholesome condition

maleficence: the undertaking of evil or harmful acts

malevolent: malicious

malice: the desire to commit harmful or unjust acts

malignant: posing a serious threat or harm; death causing

malinger: to pretend illness to avoid work

malleable: easily adaptable or tractable

malodorous: having an unpleasant or offensive odor

mandate: command from one in authority

maniacal: insane; overly emphatic or nervous

manuscriptum, -a: manuscript(s) - abbreviated MS/MSS

maraud: to wander in search of booty; to loot for treasure

marginal: at the outer edge or fringe; of minimal quality or acceptability

martial: related to military or wartime life

martyr: to witness to truth or one's convictions by life or, more commonly understood, by death

masticate: to chew

matriarch: a woman who presides over a family or group

Marxism: dialectical materialism (the sole reality, matter, develops through history according to the pattern of thesis/antithesis and then synthesis or resolution at a higher level), leading to revolution and then the stateless society

material conditional: not both (... and not ...)

materialism: the view that the whole of reality consists of matter

mathesis: (Greek) learning or disciple

maverick: free and independent of outside association or contact

mawkish: overly sentimental

maximum: the greatest

mea culpa: through my fault; a formal acknowledgment of personal fault or error

meander: to follow a turning and winding path

mediate: to reconcile differences between two parties

megalomania: delusions of wealth and/or power

melancholy: sadness or depression

mellifluous: flowing sweetly and smoothly

melodious: pleasant or agreeable to the ear

memento mori: be mindful of death

mendacious: lying or false

mens sana in corpore sano: sound of body, sound of mind

mentor: a counselor or teacher

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mercenary: doing something only for pay or for personal advantage
mercurial: from Mercury, swift messenger of the Roman gods; changing quickly and unpredictably
mesmerize: to hypnotize
metaethics: the study of the meaning and justification of fundamental moral terms and judgments
metamorphose: to undergo a striking transformation
metaphysics: the study of the nature, structure, and origin of what exists
meticulous: very careful with details
mettle: strength of spirit; stamina
microcosm: a model that reflects a larger thing
millennium: one thousand years
mimicry: imitation
minatory: menacing, threatening
mince: to chop into small pieces; to speak with decorum and restraint
minimum: the smallest
mirabile dictu: wonderful to tell
misanthrope: someone who hates or distrusts all people
miscegenation: interbreeding between members of different racial groups
misconstrue: to misinterpret
miscreant: unbelieving, heretical; evil, villainous
misogamy: hatred of marriage
misogyny: hatred of women
mitigate: to make less severe; to relieve
mnemonic: meant to aid in memory
mobilis in mobile: moving in a moving thing; changing through a changing medium; the motto of the Nautilus, piloted by Captain Nemo, as reported by Jules Verne's *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*
modal operator: a phrase attaching to a sentence, to form another sentence expressing the way in which the first sentence is true or false (e.g., possibly, necessarily, etc.)
modern logic: the logical theories and techniques arising out of the revolution in logic around the turn of the 20th century
modulate: to vary
modus ponendi: means of proposing, way of affirming
modus ponens: a rule of inference according to which, if the truth of a hypothetical premise is assumed, and the truth of the antecedent of that premise is also assumed, one may conclude that the consequent of that premise is true; in symbols $p \Rightarrow q, p$, therefore q
modus tollens: a rule of inference according to which, if the truth of a hypothetical premise is assumed, and the falsity of the consequent of that premise is also assumed, one may conclude that the antecedent of that premise is false (the law of contraposition); in symbols $p \Rightarrow q, \sim q$, therefore $\sim p$
mollify: to allay someone's anger
monergism: in theology, the doctrine that the Holy Spirit acts preveniently on the human will in the work of regeneration
monism: the view that reality consists of only one kind of substance
monopoly: a condition in which there is only one seller of a certain commodity
monochromatic: of a single color
monogamy: the practice of being faithful to a single married partner
monograph: a scholarly article or essay on a certain topic
monolithic: unwieldy or cumbersome
monorail: a train that moves on a single rail
monotonous: tediously uniform, unchanging

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moribund: about to die

morose: gloomy, sullen

mortify: to humiliate

motley: of diverse composition

multifaceted: possessing many facets or dimensions

multifarious: made of many components

multum in parvo: much in a small compass

mundane: ordinary or everyday

mundum: the world

munificent: generous

muse: to meditate

muses: nine female Greek divinities, patronesses of the arts; a systematic inventory of knowledge;

museum (Latin) is derived from this word

mutation: a significant change; in biology, a permanent change in hereditary material

myopia: inability to see close things clearly

myriad: ten thousand (ancient Greeks); a great number or innumerable

mysticism: the view that reality is ineffable and transcends precise conceptual schemes; thus it is known by non-rational means