

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
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
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
mendacious: lying or false
mens sana in corpore sano: sound of body, sound of mind
mentor: a counselor or teacher
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

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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
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
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
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

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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