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just now, fr. *modus* measure — more at *METE* (1585) 1 a: of, relating to, or characteristic of the present or the immediate past; CONTEMPORARY b: of, relating to, or characteristic of a period extending from a relevant remote past to the present time 2: involving recent techniques, methods, or ideas: UP-TO-DATE 3 cap: of, relating to, or having the characteristics of the present or most recent period of development of a language 4: of or relating to modernism; MODERNIST — *mod-er-ni-ty* \mō-'dər-nē-tē, mō- also -'dər- n — *mod-ern-ly* \mō-'dər-nē- lē, adv — *mod-ern-ness* \-'dər-nəs- n

*modern* n (1587) 1 a: a person of modern times or views b: an adherent of modernism; MODERNIST 2: a style of printing type distinguished by regularity of shape, precise curves, straight hairline serifs, and heavy downstrokes

*mo-dér-ne* \mō-'dər-nē, mō- n. often cap [F. *modern*] (1955); ART DECO

*Modern Hebrew* n (1949); NEW HEBREW

*mod-ern-iza-tion*, *mod-ern-ize* Brit var of MODERNIZATION, MODERNIZE

*mod-ern-ism* \mō-'dər-ni-zəm\ n (1737) 1: a practice, usage, or expression peculiar to modern times 2 often cap: a tendency in theology to accommodate traditional religious teaching to contemporary thought and esp. to devalue supernatural elements 3: modern artistic or literary philosophy and practice; esp: a self-conscious break with the past and a search for new forms of expression — *mod-ern-ist* \-'nist\ n or adj — *mod-ern-is-tic* \mō-'dər-'nis-tik\ adj

*mod-ern-iza-tion* \mō-'dər-nē-'zā-shən\ n (1770) 1: the act of modernizing: the state of being modernized 2: something modernized: a modernized version

*mod-ern-ize* \mō-'dər-'niz\ vb -ized; -iz-ing vt (1748): to make modern (as in taste, style, or usage) ~ vi: to adopt modern ways — *mod-ern-iz-er* n

*modern pentathlon* n (ca. 1912): a composite contest in which all contestants compete in a 300-meter freestyle swim, a 4000-meter cross country run, a 5000-meter 30-jump equestrian steeplechase, épée fencing, and target shooting at 25 meters

*mod-est* \mō-'dɛst\ adj [L. *modestus* moderate; akin to L. *modus* measure] (1565) 1 a: placing a moderate estimate on one's abilities or worth b: neither bold nor self-assertive: tending toward diffidence 2: arising from or characteristic of a modest nature 3: observing the proprieties of dress and behavior: DECENT 4 a: limited in size, amount, or scope b: UNPRETENTIOUS (a ~ cottage) SYN see SHY, CHASTE — *mod-est-ly* adv

*mod-est-y* \mō-'dɛst-ē\ n (1531) 1: freedom from conceit or vanity 2: propriety in dress, speech, or conduct

*mod-er-cum* \mō-'dər-kəm\ also 'mō- n [ME, fr. L. neut. of *modicus* moderate, fr. *modus* measure] (15c): a small portion: a limited quantity

*mod-i-fi-ca-tion* \mō-'dā-fə-'kā-shən\ n (1603) 1: the limiting of a statement: QUALIFICATION 2: 'MOODE 6a 3 a: the making of a limited change in something; also: the result of such a change b: a change in an organism caused by environmental factors 4: a limitation or qualification of the meaning of a word by another word, by an affix, or by internal change

*mod-i-fi-er* \mō-'dā-fī-'ə\ n (1583) 1: one that modifies 2: a word or phrase that makes specific the meaning of another word or phrase 3: a gene that modifies the effect of another

*mod-i-fy* \mō-'dā-fī\ vb -fied; -fy-ing [ME *modifien*, fr. MF *modifier*, fr. L. *modificare* to measure, moderate, fr. *modus*] vt (14c) 1: to make less extreme: MODERATE 2 a: to limit or restrict the meaning of, esp. in a grammatical construction b: to change (a vowel) by umlaut 3 a: to make minor changes in b: to make basic or fundamental changes in often to give new orientation to or to serve a new end (the wing of a bird is an arm modified for flying) ~ vi: to undergo change SYN see CHANGE — *mod-i-fi-abil-i-ty* \mō-'dā-fī-'ə-'bi-lē-tē\ n — *mod-i-fi-able* \mō-'dā-fī-'ə-'bəl\ adj

*mod-er-ni-ty* \mō-'dər-nē-tē\ n [It. *modigliane*] (1563): an ornamental block or bracket under the corona of the cornice (as in the Corinthian order)

*mod-ish* \mō-'dɪʃ\ adj (1660): FASHIONABLE, STYLISH (a ~ hat) (a ~ writer) — *mod-ish-ly* adv — *mod-ish-ness* n

*mo-diste* \mō-'dɛst\ n [F. fr. *mode* style, mode] (ca. 1840): one who makes and sells fashionable dresses and hats for women

*Modred* \mō-'dred\ n: a knight of the Round Table and nephew of King Arthur

*mod-u-lar-i-bil-i-ty* \mō-'jə-lər-'bi-lē-tē\ n (1928): the capability of being modulated

*mod-u-lar* \mō-'jə-lər\ adj (1798) 1: of, relating to, or based on a module or a modulus 2: constructed with standardized units or dimensions for flexibility and variety in use — *mod-u-lar-i-ty* \mō-'jə-lər-ē-tē\ n — *mod-u-lar-ly* \mō-'jə-lər-lē\ adv

*modular arithmetic* n (1939): arithmetic that deals with whole numbers where the numbers are replaced by their remainders after division by a fixed number (in a modular arithmetic with modulus 5, 3 multiplied by 4 is 2)

*mod-u-lar-ized* \mō-'jə-lər-'rīzd\ adj (1959) 1: containing or consisting of modules 2: produced in the form of modules

*mod-u-late* \mō-'jə-lāt\ vb -lat-ed; -lat-ing [L. *modulatus*, pp. of *modulari* to play, sing, fr. *modulus* small measure, rhythm, dim. of *modus* measure — more at *METE*] vt (1615) 1: to tune to a key or pitch 2: to adjust to or keep in proper measure or proportion: TEMPER 3: to vary the amplitude, frequency, or phase of (a carrier wave or a light wave) for the transmission of intelligence (as by radio); also: to vary the velocity of electrons in an electron beam ~ vi: 1: to play or sing with modulation 2: to pass from one musical key into another by means of intermediary chords or notes that have some relation to both keys 3: to pass gradually from one state to another — *mod-u-lat-or* \-'lā-tər\ n — *mod-u-lat-ory* \-'lā-tər-ē-, -tōr-ē\ adj

*mod-u-la-tion* \mō-'jə-lā-shən\ n (1531) 1: a regulating according to measure or proportion: TEMPERING 2: an inflection of the tone or pitch of the voice; specif: the use of stress or pitch to convey meaning 3: a change from one musical key to another by modulating 4: the process of modulating a carrier or signal (as in radio); also: the result of this process

*mod-ule* \mō-'ju(ə)\ n [L. *modulus*] (ca. 1628) 1: a standard or unit of measurement 2: the size of some one part taken as a unit of measure by which the proportions of an architectural composition are

regulated 3 a: any in a series of standardized units for use together; as: (1) a unit of furniture or architecture (2) an educational unit which covers a single subject or topic b: a usu. packaged functional assembly of electronic components for use with other such assemblies 4: an independently operable unit that is a part of the total structure of a space vehicle 5 a: a subset of an additive group that is also a group under addition b: a mathematical set that is a commutative group under addition and that is closed under multiplication which is distributive from the left or right or both by elements of a ring and for which  $a(bx) = (ab)x$  or  $(xb)a = x(ba)$  or both where  $a$  and  $b$  are elements of the ring and  $x$  belongs to the set

*mod-u-lus* \mō-'jə-ləs\ prep [NL, abl. of *modulus*] (1897): with respect to a modulus of (19 and 54 are congruent ~ 7)

*mod-u-lus* \mō-'jə-ləs\ n. pl. -li -li-ē [NL, fr. L. small measure] (1753) 1 a: the factor by which a logarithm of a number to one base is multiplied to obtain the logarithm of the number to a new base b: ABSOLUTE VALUE 2 c (1): the number (as a positive integer) or other mathematical entity (as a polynomial) in a congruence that divides the difference of the two congruent members without leaving a remainder — compare RESIDUE b (2): the number of different numbers used in a system of modular arithmetic 2: a constant or coefficient that expresses usu. numerically the degree to which a body or substance possesses a particular property (as elasticity)

*mo-dus ope-ran-di* \mō-'dus-'ō-pə-'rən-'dē-, -dē\ n. pl. mo-di ope-ran-di \mō-'dē-, 'mō-'di-\ [NL] (1654): a method of procedure

*mo-dus vi-ven-di* \mō-'dus-'vi-'ven-'dē-, -dē\ n. pl. mo-di vi-ven-di \mō-'dē-, 'mō-'di-\ [NL, manner of living] (ca. 1879) 1: a feasible arrangement or practical compromise; esp: one that bypasses difficulties 2: a manner of living; a WAY OF LIFE

*Mogén David* var of MAGEN DAVID

*mog-gy* \mō-'gē-ē\ n. pl. mog-gies [prob. fr. *Moggy*, fr. *Mog*, nickname fr. the name *Margaret*] (ca. 1911) Brit. CAT

*'mo-gul* \mō-'gʊl\ n [Per. *Mughul*, fr. Mongolian *mongγol* Mongol] (1588) 1 or *mo-gʊl* cap: an Indian Muslim or of descended from one of several conquering groups of Muslim, Turkish, and Persian origin; esp: GREAT MOGUL 2: a great personage: MAGNATE — *mogul* adj. often cap

*'mo-gul* \mō-'gʊl\ n [G dial.; akin to G dial. (Viennese) *mugl* small hill] (1959): a bump in a ski run

*mo-hair* \mō-'hər-, -hər\ n [modif. of obs. It. *mocaiarro*, fr. Ar. *mukhayyar*, lit., choice] (1619): a fabric or yarn made wholly or in part of the long silky hair of the Angora goat; also: this hair

*Mo-haw-ke-an* \mō-'həw-ke-ən\ n. pl. MO-HAWK-EE-AN

*Mo-hawk* \mō-'hɔk\ n. pl. MO-HAWK or MOHAWKS [of Algonquian origin; akin to Narraganset or Massachusetts *Mohowawog* Mohawk, Ill. cannibal] (1634) 1: a member of an American Indian people of the Mohawk River valley, New York 2: the Iroquoian language of the Mohawk people 3: a hairstyle with a narrow center strip of upright hair and the sides shaved

*Mo-he-gan* \mō-'hē-gən, mō- or Mo-hi-can \-'hē-kən\ n. pl. Mo-he-gan or Mohegans or Mohican or Mohicans (1660): a member of an American Indian people of southeastern Connecticut

*Mo-hi-can* \mō-'hē-kən, mō- var of MAHICAN

*Mo-ho* \mō-'hō\ n [short for *Mohorovicic discontinuity*, fr. *Andrija Mohorovicic*] (1936 Yugoslavian geologist) (1952): the boundary layer between the earth's crust and mantle whose depth varies from about 3 miles (5 kilometers) beneath the ocean floor to about 25 miles (40 kilometers) beneath the continents

*Mo-hock* \mō-'hɔk\ n [alter. of *Mohawk*] (ca. 1712): one of a gang of antebellum ruffians who assaulted and otherwise maltreated people in London streets in the early 18th century — *Mo-hock-ism* \-'hɔk-'i-zəm\ n

*Mo-ho-ro-vo-ic discontinuity* \mō-'hɔ-'rō-'və-'chik-ē\ n (1936): MOHO

*Mohs' scale* \mōz-, 'mōs-, 'mō-səz-\ n [Friedrich Mohs] (1839 Ger. mineralogist) (1879): a scale of hardness for minerals that ranges from a value of 1 for talc to 10 for diamond

*mo-hur* \mō-'hʊr, mō-'hʊr\ n [Hindi *muhur* gold coin, seal, fr. Per. fr. MPer; akin to Skt. *mudrā* seal] (1690): a former gold coin of India and Persia equal to 15 rupees

*moi-er-ty* \mōi-'tē-ē\ n. pl. -ties [ME *moire*, fr. MF *moiré*, fr. LL *mediat*, *mediatus*, fr. L. *medius* middle — more at *MID*] (15c) 1 a: one of two equal parts: HALF b: one of two approximately equal parts 2: one of the portions into which something is divided: COMPONENT, PART 3: one of two basic complementary tribal subdivisions

*'moil* \mōi(ə)\ vb [ME *moillen*, fr. MF *moillier*, fr. (assumed) VL *molliare*, fr. L. *molliis* soft — more at *MOLLIFY*] vt (15c) chiefly dial: to make wet or dirty ~ vi: 1: to work hard: DRUDGE 2: to be in continuous agitation: CHURN, STIRL — *moil-er* n

*'moil* n (1612) 1: hard work: DRUDGERY 2: CONFUSION, TURMOIL

*moil-ing* \mōi-'liŋ\ adj (1603) 1 a: requiring hard work b: INDUSTRIOUS (~ workers) 2: violently agitated: TURBULENT — *moil-ing-ly* \-'lē\ adv

*Moi-rai* \mōi-'rā\ n pl [Gk. fr. pl. of *moira* lot, fate; akin to Gk. *meros* part — more at *MERT*]; FATE 4

*moire* \mōi-'ɔr, 'mōr, 'mwär\ n [F. fr. E. *moirair*] (1660) archaic: a watered mohair

*moi-ré* \mō-'rē, mwa-' or moire [same or 'mōi(ə)-r, 'mōr, 'mwär\ n [F. *moiré*, fr. *moiré* like *moire*, fr. *moire*] (1818) 1 a: an irregular wavy finish on a fabric b: a ripple pattern on a stamp 2: a fabric having a wavy watered appearance 3: an independent usu. shimmering pattern seen when two geometrically regular patterns (as two sets of parallel lines or two halftone screens) are superimposed esp. at an acute angle — *moiré* or *moiré* adj.

*moist* \mōist\ adj [ME *moist*, fr. MF, perh. fr. (assumed) VL *muscidus*, alter. of L. *muccidus* slimy, fr. *muccus* nasal mucus] (14c) 1: slightly or moderately wet: DAMP 2: TEARFUL 3: characterized by high humidity SYN see WET — *moist-ly* adv — *moist-ness* \mōist-'nəs\ n

*moist-en* \mōis-'sən\ vb moist-ened; moist-en-ing \mōis-'niŋ, 'mōis-'sniŋ\ vt (1580): to make moist ~ vi: to become moist — *moist-en-er* \mōis-'nər, 'mōi-'s-nər\ n

*mois-ture* \mōis-'char, 'mōish-\ n [ME, modif. of MF *moistour*, fr. *moiste*] (14c): liquid diffused or condensed in relatively small quantity