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dame  (dām)

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n.

1. Used formerly as a courtesy title for a woman in authority or a mistress of a household.

2.

a. A married woman; a matron.

b. An elderly woman.

3. *Often Offensive Slang* A woman.

4. *Chiefly British*

a. A woman holding a nonhereditary title conferred by a sovereign in recognition of personal merit or service to the country.

b. The wife or widow of a knight.

c. Used as the title for such a woman.

[Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *domina*, feminine of *dominus*, lord, master; see **dem-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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