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Ma·dame  (mə-dām , mād əm)

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n. pl. Mes·dames (mā-dām , -dām) *Abbr. Mme*

1. Used as a courtesy title before the surname or full name of a woman, especially a married woman, in a French-speaking area: *Madame Cartier*; *Madame Jacqueline Cartier*. See Usage Note at [miss](#)².
2. **madame** Used as a form of polite address for a woman in a French-speaking area.

[French, from Old French *ma dame* : *ma*, my (from Latin *mea*, feminine of *meus*; see **me**-¹ in the Appendix of Indo-European roots) + *dame*, lady (from Latin *domina*, feminine of *dominus*, lord, master of a household; see **dem**- in the Appendix of Indo-European roots).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

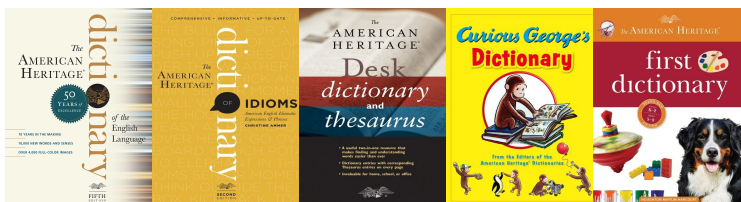
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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