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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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Mad·e·moi·selle  (mäd'ə-mə-zěl , mäd-mwä-zěl)

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n. pl. **Mad·e·moi·selles** (-zělz) or **Mes·de·moi·selles** (mäd'mwä-zěl) *Abbr.* **Mlle**

1. Used as a courtesy title before the surname or full name of a girl or an unmarried woman in a French-speaking area: *Mademoiselle Turot; Mademoiselle Isabelle Turot*. See Usage Note at [miss](#)².
2. **mademoiselle** Used as a form of polite address for a girl or young woman in a French-speaking area.
3. **mademoiselle** *pl. mademoiselles* A French governess.

[French, from Old French *ma demoiselle* : *ma*, my; see [MADAME](#) + *demoiselle*, young lady (from *damisele*, from Vulgar Latin **dominicella*, diminutive of Latin *domina*, lady; see [MADAME](#)).]

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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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