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Language



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mod·i·fy  (mɒd ə-ɪf')

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v. **mod·i·fied**, **mod·i·fy·ing**, **mod·i·fies**

v.tr.

1. To change in form or character; alter.
2. To make less extreme, severe, or strong: *refused to modify her stand on the issue.*
3. *Grammar* To qualify or limit the meaning of. For example, *summer* modifies *day* in the phrase *a summer day*.
4. *Linguistics* To change (a vowel) by umlaut.

v.intr.

To be or become modified; change.

[Middle English *modifien*, from Old French *modifier*, from Latin *modificāre*, to measure, limit : *modus*, measure; see **med-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + *-ficāre*, *-fy*.]

mod'·i·fi'a·bil i·ty *n.*

mod i·fi'a·ble *adj.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

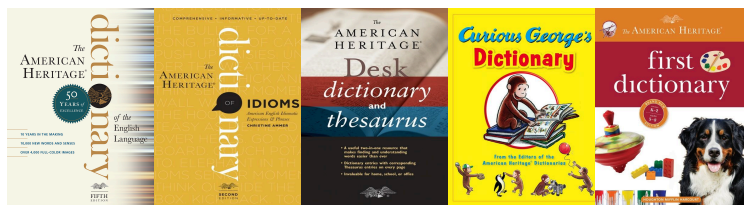
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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