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qual·i·fy  (kwŏl ə-fī')

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v. qual·i·fied, qual·i·fy·ing, qual·i·fies

v.tr.

1.

a. To make competent or eligible for an office, position, or task: *Your experience qualifies you for this job.*

b. To declare competent or capable, as to practice a profession; certify: *This diploma qualifies you to teach in public schools.*

c. To render deserving of a descriptor by having or enumerating certain necessary characteristics: *Do the student's ongoing difficulties in class qualify his situation as a medical problem?*

2.

a. To modify, limit, or restrict, as by listing exceptions or reservations: *I would qualify my praise of his enthusiasm with a warning about rashness.*

b. To make less harsh or severe; moderate: *I qualified my criticism to avoid offending anyone.* See Synonyms at [moderate](#).

3. Grammar To modify the meaning of (a noun, for example).

v.intr.

1. To be or become qualified: *The performance qualifies as one of the best I've ever seen.*

2. To reach the later stages of a selection process or contest by competing successfully in earlier rounds.

[From French *qualifier* (from Old French) and from Middle English *qualifien*, to specify the time and place of a document's execution, both from Medieval Latin *quālificāre*, to attribute a quality to : Latin *quālis*, of such a kind; see [QUALITY](#) + Latin *-ficāre*, *-fy*.]

qual i·fi'a·ble *adj.*

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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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