

Foreign Phrases in English

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1. Foreign Phrases in English

Word	Meaning
Ad absurdum	to the point of absurdity.
Ad infinitum	to infinity.
Ad nauseam	to a sickening degree.
Aficionado	an ardent devotee.
Angst	dread and anxiety.
Annus Mirabilis	wonderful year.
A priori	based on theory rather than observation.
Au courant	up-to-date.
Beau Geste	a fine or noble gesture, often futile.
Beau monde	high society.
Bête noire	something or someone particularly disliked.
Bona fide	in good faith; genuine.
Bon mot	a witty remark or comment.
Bon vivant	a person who lives luxuriously and enjoys good food and drink.
Carpe diem	seize the day.
Carte blanche	unrestricted power to act on one's own.
Casus belli	an act justifying war.
Cause célèbre	a widely known controversial case or

	issue.
Caveat emptor	let the buyer beware.
Comme ci comme ça	so-so.
Comme il faut	as it should be; fitting.
Coup de grâce	finishing blow
Cri de cœur	heartfelt appeal.
De rigueur	strictly required, as by etiquette, usage, or fashion
Doppelgänger	a ghostly double or counterpart of a living person.
Ecce homo	behold the man.
Enfant terrible	an incorrigible child; an outrageously outspoken or bold person.
Entre nous	between ourselves; confidentially.
Ex post facto	retroactively.
Fait accompli	an accomplished fact, presumably irreversible.
Faux pas	a social blunder.
Feinschmecker	gourmet.
Flagrante delicto	in the act.
Glasnost	open and frank discussion: initiated by mikhail gorbachev in 1985 in the soviet union.
Hoi polloi	the common people.
In loco parentis	in the place of a parent.

In medias res	in the middle of a sequence of occurrences.
In situ	situated in the original or natural position.
In vino veritas	in wine there is truth.
Ipso facto	by the fact itself.
Je ne sais quoi	i know not what; an elusive quality.
Mano a mano	directly or face-to-face in a confrontation or conflict.
Mea culpa	i am to blame.
Memento mori	a reminder that you must die.
Mise en scene	The stage setting; surroundings.
Mot juste	the exact, appropriate word.
Ne plus ultra	the most intense degree of a quality or state.
Nom de guerre	pseudonym.
Nom de plume	pen name.
Notabene	note well; take notice.
Persona non grata	unacceptable or unwelcome person.
Prima facie	at first sight, clear and evident.
Pro bono	done or donated without charge; free.
Quid pro quo	something for something; an equal exchange.
Sans souci	carefree.
Savoir-faire	the ability to say and do the correct

	thing.
Schadenfreude	pleasure at someone else's misfortunes.
Sic transit gloria mundi	thus passes away the glory of the world.
Sine qua non	indispensable element or condition.
Sotto voce	in a quiet voice, attempting not to be overheard.
Sui generis	unique.
Terra incognita	unknown territory.
Tout le monde	everybody; everyone of importance.
Veni, vidi, vici	i came, i saw, i conquered.
Voxpopuli	the voice of the people.

2. French Words in English

Word	Meaning
Coiffure	A style of arranging the hair, a style of arranging or combing the hair.
Demarche	a move, step, or manoeuvre, esp in diplomatic affairs
Denouement	The final resolution of the intricacies of a plot, as of a drama or novel.

Éclat	brilliance of success, reputation, showy or elaborate display
Élan	dash; impetuous ardor, a combination of style and vigour
Entrepreneur	a person who organizes and manages any enterprise, especially a business, usually with considerable initiative and risk.
Impasse	a situation in which progress is blocked; an insurmountable difficulty; stalemate; deadlock
Ingénue	the role of an artless, innocent, unworldly girl or young woman, esp. as represented on the stage.
Malaise	a condition of general bodily weakness or discomfort, often marking the onset of a disease, a feeling of unease or depression
Mélange	a mixture; confusion
Repartee	a sharp, witty, or aphoristic remark made as a reply
Sangfroid	coolness of mind; calmness; composure
Tete-a-tete	a private conversation or interview, usually between two people, without the intrusion of a third person; in intimate privacy.

Tour de force an exceptional achievement by an artist, author, or the like, a particularly adroit maneuver or technique in handling a difficult situation

Vignette a decorative design or small illustration used on the title page of a book or at the beginning or end of a chapter, a decorative design representing branches, leaves, grapes, or the like, as in a manuscript, an engraving, drawing, photograph, or the like that is shaded off gradually at the edges so as to leave no definite line at the border.

3. German Words in English:

Word	Meaning
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Angst	An acute but unspecific feeling of anxiety; usually reserved for philosophical anxiety about the world or about personal freedom
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Blitz	Attack suddenly and without warning
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Delicatessen	Ready-to-eat food products
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Doppelgänger	A ghostly double of a living person that haunts its living counterpart
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Ersatz	Artificial and inferior
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Flak	Intense adverse criticism
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Gestalt	A configuration or pattern of elements so unified as a whole that it cannot be described merely as a sum of its parts
Hinterland	A remote and undeveloped area
Kitsch	Excessively garish or sentimental art; usually considered in bad taste
Leitmotiv	A melodic phrase that accompanies the reappearance of a person or situation (as in Wagner's operas)
Nazi	A German member of Adolf Hitler's political party
Poltergeist	A ghost that announces its presence with rapping and the creation of disorder
Putsch	A sudden and decisive change of government illegally or by force
Realpolitik	Politics based on practical rather than moral or ideological considerations
Schadenfreude	Delight in another person's misfortune
Zeitgeist	The spirit of the time; the spirit characteristic of an age or generation