



FOREIGN WORDS

FOREIGN WORDS/PHRASES

| <u>FRENCH</u> | | | |
|--------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|
| affaire d'amour | - a love affair | entourage | - people surrounding an important person. |
| affaire d'honneur | - a matter of honour | entres nous | - between ourselves |
| agent provocateur | - a person employed to detect suspected offenders by tempting them to overt self incriminating action | esprit de corps | - spirit of comradeship |
| aide-de-camp | - a subordinate office acting as a confidential assistant | fait accompli | - irreversible fact |
| aide-memoire | - a reminder | faux pas | - a blunder |
| a la carte | - ordered from a menu | haute couture | - high fashion |
| a la mode | - in the manner of | hors de combat | - out of action |
| amour propre | - self esteem | idée fixe | - an obsession |
| apropos | - to the point | jeu d'esprit | - witty comment |
| au fait | - familiar or conversant with | joie de vivre | - in high spirits |
| avant garde | - ahead of times, pioneers | laissez faire | - non interference |
| beau monde | - fashionable society | melee | - a confused fight, a muddle |
| belle époque | - beautiful period | mot juste | - the right expression |
| belles lettres | - good literature | noblesse oblige | - obligation of rank, privilege entails responsibility |
| bête noir | - special object of dislike | nom de plume | - a pen name/pseudonym |
| billet doux | - love letter | nouveau riche | - a person who has recently acquired wealth |
| bon mot | - a witty saying | par excellence | - to the highest degree |
| bon vivant | - one who loves luxury; a gourmand | parole | - word of honour of a prisoner |
| bon voyage | - pleasant trip | pied-a-terre | - secondary residence |
| bourgeoisie | - the middle classes | pièce de résistance | - the best item |
| cadre | - a basic unit, especially of servicemen | protégé | - a person under the protection, patronage or tutelage of another |
| canard | - a rumour | raison d'être | - purpose of existence |
| carte blanche | - free hand, unconditional authorization | risqué | - something that is suggestive or indelicate |
| c'est la vie | - that's life | sang froid | - controlled temperament |
| cause célèbre | - an issue that attracts a lot of public attention | savoir faire | - ability to act appropriately |
| charge d'affaires | - a subordinate diplomat | tête à tête | - private conversation |
| commit il faut | - as it should be done; proper | tour de force | - a remarkable feat |
| coup d'grace | - a death blow | vis à vis | - in relation to |
| coup d'tat | - violent or illegal seizure of power | volte face | - a complete change in conduct or policy |
| cœur de | - a heartfelt appeal | <u>GERMAN</u> | |
| cuisine | - a style or method of cooking | angst | - anxiety |
| debut | - first public appearance | blitzkrieg | - lightning attack |
| déjà vu | - a feeling of having seen or done it earlier | ersatz | - artificial |
| démodé | - out of fashion | hausfrau | - housewife |
| de rigueur | - customary or fashionable | kaiser | - emperor |
| détente | - relaxation of strained relationship | kaput | - useless |
| detenu | - prisoner | lebensraum | - territory which a nation believes is needed for its development |
| detour | - a roundabout way | realpolitik | - harsh policy of national self interest |
| de trop | - unwanted | zeitgeist | - the spirit of the times |
| double entendre | - open to two interpretations, one usually indecent | <u>IRISH</u> | |
| élan | - style, dash | Banshee | - the wailing of a spirit that warns of impending death |
| éminence grise | - a person who exercises power without holding office | Leprechaun | - mischievous elf |
| enfant terrible | - a person who causes embarrassment by indiscreet behaviour | Shebeen | - illegal drinking house |
| en famille | - as one of the family | <u>ITALIAN</u> | |
| en masse | - in a body, all together | Al fresco | - in the open air |
| ennui | - boredom | Che sarà sarà | - what will be, will be |
| en route | - along the way | Ciao | - Hello/goodbye |
| entente cordiale | - friendly understanding between states | Cicerone | - a guide |
| | | Dolce Vita | - the good life |
| | | Prima donna | - leading female performer |
| | | Sotto voce | - in an undertone |

JAPANESE

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Aikido | - martial art similar to judo |
| Bonsai | - cultivation of miniature trees |
| Geisha | - lady who is a professional entertainer and companion for men |
| Haiku | - poem with 17 syllables |
| Hara-kiri | - ritual suicide by disembowelling |
| Ikebana | - art of flower arrangement |
| Jujitsu | - unarmed self defence |
| Kamikaze | - aircraft with explosives crashing into enemy targets |
| Origami | - art of making decorative shapes from paper |
| Saki | - wine made from rice |
| Samurai | - aristocratic warrior in feudal Japan |
| Sayonara | - goodbye |
| Tanka | - poem of 31 syllables |
| Tatami | - mat or floor covering |

LATIN

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| ab absurdo | - from absurdity |
| ab initio | - from the beginning |
| ab origine | - from the origin |
| addendum | - an appendix |
| ad arbitrium | - at will |
| ad hoc | - for a specific purpose |
| ad hominem | - relating to a particular person |
| ad infinitum | - without limit |
| ad interim | - for the time being |
| as nauseam | - to a disgusting degree |
| ad valorem | - in proportion to the estimated value of the goods |
| ad verbum | - to the last word |
| alias | - a false or assumed name |
| alibi | - proof that you were else where when a crime was committed |
| alma mater | - gracious mother; school or university one went to |
| alpha and omega | - the beginning and the end |
| alter ego | - one's other self |
| alumnus | - former student |
| amor vincit omnia | - love conquers all |
| annus mirabilis | - remarkable or auspicious year |
| a priori | - from cause to effect; deductive |
| bona fide | - in good faith |
| caveat emptor | - warning to buyer that the purchase may not be exactly as hoped |
| corrigendum | - corrections in a book |
| de facto | - in reality |
| de jure | - by right, legally |
| de novo | - starting anew |
| dictum | - a saying or maxim |
| e.g. | - exempli gratia (for example) |
| ex gratia | - as a favour |
| et al | - and others |
| ex officio | - by virtue of one's office |

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| facsimile | - a perfect copy |
| gratis | - free of charge |
| homo sapiens | - modern man |
| in memoriam | - in memory of |
| inter alia | - among other things |
| in toto | - entirely |
| ipso facto | - by that fact |
| ipso jure | - by the law itself |
| lacuna | - gap |
| lapsus calami | - a slip of the pen |
| lapsus lingual | - a slip of the tongue |
| lapsus memorial | - a slip of the memory |
| locus standi | - a recognized status |
| magnum opus | - a great piece of work |
| mala fide | - in bad faith/ with bad intention |
| modus operandi | - the way of working |
| modus vivendi | - way of living |
| non sequitur | - it does not follow |
| per se | - by or in itself |
| persona grata | - a welcome visitor |
| persona non grata | - unacceptable or unwelcome person |
| post mortem | - an examination made after death |
| prima facie | - at first sight |
| pros and cons | - for and against |
| pro rata | - in proportion |
| pro tem/protempore | - for the time being |
| quid pro quo | - return made (for a gift, favour etc) |
| quo vadis | - whither goest thou |
| religio loci | - the spiritual feeling of a place |
| sanctum sanctorum | - the holy of holies |
| sine die | - indefinitely |
| sine quo non | - indispensable condition |
| status quo | - the existing state of affairs |
| sub judice | - under judicial consideration |
| sub rosa | - privately |
| summum bonum | - the highest good |
| terra firma | - dry land, firm ground |
| terra incognita | - an unknown land |
| ultra vires | - beyond one's legal power or authority |
| veni, vidi, vici | - I came, I saw, I conquered |
| via media | - a middle course |
| viz | - namely |

RUSSIAN

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| babushka | - a grand mother; a head scarf |
| dacha | - a country house |
| glasnost | - policy of openness in government |
| gulag | - forced labour camp |
| perestroika | - policy of restructuring |
| samovar | - tea urn |
| sputnik | - artificial satellite |

SPANISH

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
| fiesta | - religious festival, holiday |
| siesta | - afternoon nap |