

IIT Madras BSc Degree

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Advanced Vocabulary

Rajesh Kumar

Words from Latin

WORDS	MEANING
Bona fide	Authentic (She has established her position as a bona fide celebrity).
De facto	Existing but not accepted (He has established himself as the defacto leader of the party).
Impromptu	Spontaneous/ without preparation (He made an impromptu speech about honor and responsibility).
Quid pro quo	Something for something in exchange (The CEO was sued over a quid pro quo sexual harassment case).
Ad hoc	For time being/ a specific case (The judge appointed an ad hoc committee to study the project).
Pro rata	Proportionately (Fees are calculated on a pro rata basis).
Modus operandi	A specific way of doing something (Bad bosses often have a recognizable modus operandi!)
Status Quo	Current situation (There is no desire to change the current status quo).

Words from French

WORDS	MEANING
A-la-carte	Individual items on a list which are not a part of a pre-decided package (It was more expensive to eat a-la-carte).
Faux pax	A socially inappropriate behaviour (He was a master of the faux pax).
En masse	In a large group all together (The people marched en masse)
Chauffeur	A driver specifically for a rich person or celebrity (Her father's car and chauffeur are waiting).
Deja vu	A feeling that you have already seen or experienced the current situation. (When the car broke down again, it was déjà vu).
Bouquet	A bunch of flowers (She placed a bouquet of rosses on the table).
Souvenir	Something kept as a reminder as of a place one has visited (He bought a model of red London bus as a souvenir of his trip to London.

Words from Italian

WORDS	MEANING
Zucchini	A vegetable (Zucchini grows during summer).
Vendetta	A long lasting revenge (Jim was arrested for acting on a vendetta against the man who killed his wife).
Inferno	Hell, a large fire (Can you believe a lit cigar started the inferno that consumed the public library?)
Pizza	Food item of Italian origin (She cancelled her order for a pizza).
Pasta	Food item of Italian origin (Pour the sauce over the pasta).

Words from Japanese

WORDS	MEANING
Typhoon/tsunami	Weather phenomena (After the earthquake shook the ocean, a tsunami wave roared towards the coastline).
Karaoke	Sing-along-songs (If you have a karaoke machine, we can have even more fun).
Anime	Japanese style cartoons (The anime consists of 50 episodes).
Emoji	Digital images expressing emotions (The emoji's primary function is to fill in emotional cues otherwise missing from typed conversations).
Karate, judo, sumo	Martial art forms of Japan (Tony is good at Judo and sumo).
Ninja	Japanese sword fighter/ a person highly skilled in a particular activity. (The BSc programme of IIT Madras will produce a lot of ninja programmers.)