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Foreign Words & Phrases

SN.	Words	Origin	Definition
1	ab initio	<i>Latin</i>	from the beginning
2	ad hoc	<i>Latin</i>	made or done for a particular purpose
3	ad infinitum	<i>Latin</i>	endlessly; forever
4	ad interim	<i>Latin</i>	for the meantime
5	ad nauseam	<i>Latin</i>	to a tiresomely excessive degree
6	a fortiori	<i>Latin</i>	more conclusively
7	annus mirabilis	<i>Latin</i>	a remarkable or auspicious year
8	a posteriori	<i>Latin</i>	based on reasoning from known facts or past events rather than on assumptions or predictions
9	a priori	<i>Latin</i>	based on deduction rather than experience
10	bona fide	<i>Latin</i>	genuine; real
11	carpe diem	<i>Latin</i>	make the most of the present time
12	caveat emptor	<i>Latin</i>	the buyer is responsible for checking the quality of goods before purchasing them
13	compos mentis	<i>Latin</i>	sane; in full control of one's mind
14	cui bono?	<i>Latin</i>	who stands to gain?
15	de facto	<i>Latin</i>	in fact, whether by right or not
16	dei gratia	<i>Latin</i>	by the grace of God
17	de jure	<i>Latin</i>	rightful; by right
18	deo gratias	<i>Latin</i>	thanks be to God
19	deo volente	<i>Latin</i>	God willing
20	de profundis	<i>Latin</i>	expressing one's deepest feelings
21	deus ex machina	<i>Latin</i>	an unexpected event that saves an apparently hopeless situation
22	dramatis personae	<i>Latin</i>	the characters in a play
23	ex gratia	<i>Latin</i>	(with reference to payment) done from a sense of moral obligation rather than because of any legal requirement
24	ex officio	<i>Latin</i>	by virtue of one's position or status
25	in absentia	<i>Latin</i>	while not present
26	in camera	<i>Latin</i>	in private
27	in extremis	<i>Latin</i>	in an extremely difficult situation; at the point of death
28	in loco parentis	<i>Latin</i>	in the place of a parent
29	in medias res	<i>Latin</i>	in or into the middle of things
30	in propria persona	<i>Latin</i>	in his or her own person
31	in situ	<i>Latin</i>	in the original or appropriate position
32	inter alia	<i>Latin</i>	among other things
33	in toto	<i>Latin</i>	as a whole
34	ipso facto	<i>Latin</i>	by that very fact or act
35	locum tenens	<i>Latin</i>	a temporary deputy or stand-in

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36	locus classicus	<i>Latin</i>	the best known or most authoritative passage on a subject
37	magnum opus	<i>Latin</i>	the most important work of an artist, writer, etc.
38	mea culpa	<i>Latin</i>	an acknowledgement that something is one's fault
39	memento mori	<i>Latin</i>	something kept as a reminder that death is inevitable
40	modus operandi	<i>Latin</i>	a way of doing something
41	modus vivendi	<i>Latin</i>	an arrangement that allows conflicting parties to coexist peacefully
42	ne plus ultra	<i>Latin</i>	the best example of something
43	nil desperandum	<i>Latin</i>	do not despair
44	nolens volens	<i>Latin</i>	whether one wants or likes something or not
45	non sequitur	<i>Latin</i>	a conclusion or statement that does not logically follow from the previous statement
46	per annum	<i>Latin</i>	for each year
47	per capita	<i>Latin</i>	for each person
48	per se	<i>Latin</i>	by or in itself or themselves
49	persona non grata	<i>Latin</i>	a person who is not welcome somewhere
50	prima facie	<i>Latin</i>	accepted as so until proved otherwise
51	primus inter pares	<i>Latin</i>	the senior or representative member of a group
52	pro rata	<i>Latin</i>	proportional; proportionally
53	proxime accessit	<i>Latin</i>	the person who comes second in an examination or is runner-up for an award
54	quid pro quo	<i>Latin</i>	a favour or advantage given in return for something
55	reductio ad absurdum	<i>Latin</i>	a method of disproving a premise by showing that its logical conclusion is absurd
56	sine die	<i>Latin</i>	no appointed date for resumption
57	sine qua non	<i>Latin</i>	a thing that is absolutely essential
58	sub judice	<i>Latin</i>	being considered by a court of law and therefore not to be publicly discussed elsewhere
59	sub rosa	<i>Latin</i>	happening or done in secret
60	sui generis	<i>Latin</i>	unique
61	terra firma	<i>Latin</i>	dry land; the ground
62	terra incognita	<i>Latin</i>	unknown territory
63	via media	<i>Latin</i>	a compromise
64	victor ludorum	<i>Latin</i>	the overall champion in a sports competition
65	vox populi	<i>Latin</i>	public opinion
66	a cappella	<i>Italian</i>	sung without instrumental accompaniment
67	al dente	<i>Italian</i>	(of food, typically pasta) cooked so as to be still firm when bitten

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68	alfresco	<i>Italian</i>	in the open air
69	cognoscenti	<i>Italian</i>	people who are well informed about something
70	cosa nostra	<i>Italian</i>	a US criminal organization related to the Mafia
71	dolce far niente	<i>Italian</i>	pleasant idleness
72	dolce vita	<i>Italian</i>	a life of pleasure and luxury
73	papabile	<i>Italian</i>	worthy or eligible to be elected pope
74	pococurante	<i>Italian</i>	careless or nonchalant
75	sotto voce	<i>Italian</i>	in a quiet voice
76	blitzkrieg	<i>German</i>	an intense, violent military campaign intended to bring about a swift victory
77	doppelgänger	<i>German</i>	an apparition or double of a living person
78	katzenjammer	<i>German</i>	a hangover or a severe headache accompanying a hangover
79	unheimlich	<i>German</i>	uncanny or weird
80	verboten	<i>German</i>	forbidden
81	zeitgeist	<i>German</i>	the characteristic spirit or mood of a particular historical period
82	à deux	<i>French</i>	for or involving two people
83	agent provocateur	<i>French</i>	a person who tempts a suspected criminal to commit a crime so that they can be caught and convicted
84	à huis clos	<i>French</i>	in private
85	amour propre	<i>French</i>	self-respect
86	au courant	<i>French</i>	well informed; up to date
87	au fait	<i>French</i>	having a good or detailed knowledge
88	au fond	<i>French</i>	basically; in essence
89	au naturel	<i>French</i>	in the most simple or natural way
90	beau geste	<i>French</i>	a noble and generous act
91	beau idéal	<i>French</i>	the highest standard of excellence
92	beau monde	<i>French</i>	fashionable society
93	beaux arts	<i>French</i>	the fine arts
94	bête noire	<i>French</i>	a person or thing one particularly dislikes
95	belles-lettres	<i>French</i>	literary works written and read for their elegant style
96	billet-doux	<i>French</i>	a love letter
97	bon mot	<i>French</i>	a clever or witty remark
98	bon vivant	<i>French</i>	a person with a sociable and luxurious lifestyle
99	brasserie	<i>French</i>	an informal or inexpensive restaurant
100	carte blanche	<i>French</i>	complete freedom to act as one wishes
101	cause célèbre	<i>French</i>	a controversial issue attracting much public attention

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102	c'est la guerre	French	used as an expression of resigned acceptance
103	chacun à son gout	French	everyone to their own taste
104	chef-d'œuvre	French	a masterpiece
105	cherchez la femme	French	there is certain to be a woman at the bottom of a problem or mystery
106	comme il faut	French	correct in behaviour or etiquette
107	cordon sanitaire	French	a guarded line placed around an area infected by disease to prevent anyone from leaving
108	coup de foudre	French	love at first sight
109	coup de grâce	French	a blow by which a mortally wounded person or thing is mercifully killed
110	coup de main	French	a sudden surprise attack
111	coup d'état	French	a sudden violent seizure of power
112	cri de cœur	French	a passionate appeal or protest
113	déjà vu	French	the sense of having experienced the present situation before
114	de nos jours	French	contemporary
115	de rigueur	French	obligatory; required by etiquette or current fashion
116	dernier cri	French	the very latest fashion
117	de trop	French	not wanted; superfluous
118	double entendre	French	a word or phrase with two possible interpretations
119	embarras de richesse	French	more options or resources than one knows what to do with
120	éminence grise	French	a person who has power or influence without holding an official position
121	en famille	French	with one's family; in an informal way
122	enfant terrible	French	a person whose behaviour is unconventional or controversial
123	en masse	French	all together
124	en passant	French	by the way
125	entente cordiale	French	a friendly understanding between states
126	entre nous	French	between ourselves
127	esprit de corps	French	a feeling of pride and loyalty uniting the members of a group
128	fait accompli	French	a thing that has been done or decided and cannot now be altered
129	faute de mieux	French	for want of a better alternative
130	faux pas	French	an embarrassing blunder or indiscretion
131	femme fatale	French	a seductive woman
132	fête champêtre	French	an outdoor entertainment; a garden party

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133	fin de siècle	<i>French</i>	relating to the end of a century
134	force majeure	<i>French</i>	superior strength
135	folie de grandeur	<i>French</i>	delusions of grandeur
136	gîte	<i>French</i>	a small furnished holiday house in France
137	grande dame	<i>French</i>	a woman who is influential within a particular sphere
138	haute couture	<i>French</i>	the designing and making of clothes by leading fashion houses
139	haute cuisine	<i>French</i>	high-quality cooking
140	haut monde	<i>French</i>	fashionable society
141	hors de combat	<i>French</i>	out of action due to injury or damage
142	idée fixe	<i>French</i>	an obsession
143	je ne sais quoi	<i>French</i>	a quality that is hard to describe
144	jeu d'esprit	<i>French</i>	a light-hearted display of wit
145	jeunesse dorée	<i>French</i>	wealthy, fashionable young people
146	joie de vivre	<i>French</i>	exuberant enjoyment of life
147	laissez-faire	<i>French</i>	a non-interventionist policy
148	manqué	<i>French</i>	having failed to become what one might have been
149	ménage à trois	<i>French</i>	an arrangement in which a married couple and the lover of one of them live together
150	mot juste	<i>French</i>	the most appropriate word or expression
151	noblesse oblige	<i>French</i>	privilege entails responsibility
152	nouveau riche	<i>French</i>	people who have recently become rich and who display their wealth ostentatiously
153	objet d'art	<i>French</i>	a small decorative or artistic object
154	on dit	<i>French</i>	a piece of gossip
155	par excellence	<i>French</i>	better or more than all others of the same kind
156	parti pris	<i>French</i>	a preconceived view; a bias
157	pièce de résistance	<i>French</i>	the most important or impressive item
158	pied-à-terre	<i>French</i>	a small flat or house kept for occasional use
159	pis aller	<i>French</i>	a last resort
160	plat du jour	<i>French</i>	a special dish prepared by a restaurant on a particular day
161	plus ça change	<i>French</i>	used to express resigned acknowledgement of the fact that certain things never change
162	raison d'être	<i>French</i>	the most important reason for someone or something's existence
163	roman-à-clef	<i>French</i>	a novel in which real people or events appear with invented names
164	sangfroid	<i>French</i>	the ability to stay calm in difficult circumstances

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165	savoir faire	<i>French</i>	the ability to act appropriately in social situations
166	soi-disant	<i>French</i>	self-styled; so-called
167	table d'hôte	<i>French</i>	a restaurant meal offered at a fixed price, with few if any choices
168	tant mieux	<i>French</i>	so much the better
169	tant pis	<i>French</i>	so much the worse; too bad
170	tête-à-tête	<i>French</i>	a private conversation
171	tour de force	<i>French</i>	a thing accomplished with great skill
172	tout de suite	<i>French</i>	at once
173	vis-à-vis	<i>French</i>	in relation to; as compared with

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