

LIST OF FOREIGN WORDS AND PHRASES USED IN ENGLISH

LIST 1 (CONCISE)

1. **ad absurdum** (ad ab-sir'dum) [Latin]: to the point of absurdity. "He tediously [öde, zäh, langweilig] repeated his argument ad absurdum."
2. **ad infinitum** (ad in-fun-eye'tum) [Latin]: to infinity. "The lecture seemed to drone on ad infinitum."
3. **ad nauseam** (ad noz'ee-um) [Latin]: to a sickening degree. "The politician uttered one platitude after another ad nauseam."
4. **aficionado** (uh-fish'ya-nah'doh) [Spanish]: an ardent [leidenschaftlich, vehement] devotee. "I was surprised at what a baseball aficionado she had become."
5. **annus mirabilis** (an'us muh-ra'buh-lis) [Latin]: wonderful year. "Last year was the annus mirabilis for my company."
6. **a priori** (ah pree or'ee) [Latin]: based on theory rather than observation. "The fact that their house is in such disrepair suggests a priori that they are having financial difficulties."
7. **beau monde** (boh' mond') [French]: high society. "Such elegant decor would impress even the beau monde."
8. **bête noire** (bet nwahr') [French]: something or someone particularly disliked. "Talk of the good old college days way back had become his bête noire, and he began to avoid his school friends."
9. **bona fide** (boh'na fide) [Latin]: in good faith; genuine. "He bought the car bona fide, not knowing that it was stolen."; "For all her reticence [Zurückhaltung, Wortkargheit, Schüchternheit] and modesty [Bescheidenheit], it was clear that she was a bona fide expert in her field."
10. **bon mot** (bon moe') [French]: a witty remark or comment. "One bon mot after another flew out of his mouth, charming the audience."
11. **bon vivant** (bon vee-vahnt') [French]: a person who lives luxuriously and enjoys good food and drink. "It's true he's quite the bon vivant, but when he gets down to business he conducts himself like a Spartan."
12. **carpe diem** (kar'pay dee'um) [Latin]: seize the day. "So what if you have an 8:00 a.m. meeting tomorrow and a full day of appointments? Carpe diem!"
13. **carte blanche** (kart blonsh') [French]: unrestricted power to act on one's own. "I may have carte blanche around the office, but at home I'm a slave to my family's demands."
14. **cause célèbre** (koz suh-leb'ruh) [French]: a widely known controversial case or issue. "The Sacco and Vanzetti trial became an international cause célèbre during the 1920s."
15. **caveat emptor** (kav'ee-ot emp'tor) [Latin]: let the buyer beware. "Before you jump to that real estate deal, caveat emptor!" [auch Ausschluss der Gewährleistung]
16. **coup de grâce** (koo de grahss') [French]: finishing blow. "After an already wildly successful day, the coup de grâce came when she won best all-around athlete."
17. **de rigueur** (duh ree-gur') [French]: strictly required, as by etiquette, usage, or fashion. "Loudly proclaiming one's support for radical causes had become de rigueur among the crowd."
18. **deus ex machina** (day'us ex mahk'uh-nuh) [Latin]: a contrived [gestellt, gekünstelt] device to resolve a situation. "Stretching plausibility, the movie concluded with a deus ex machina ending in which everyone was rescued at the last minute."
19. **Doppelgänger** (dop'pul-gang-ur) [German]: a ghostly double or counterpart of a living person. "I could not shake the sense that some shadowy Doppelgänger echoed my every move."
20. **enfant terrible** (ahn-fahn' tay-reeb'luh) [French]: an incorrigible child; an outrageously outspoken or bold person. "He played the role of enfant terrible, jolting us with his blunt assessment."
21. **ex post facto** (ex' post fak'toh) [Latin]: retroactively. "I certainly hope that the change in policy will be honored ex post facto."
22. **fait accompli** (fate ah-kom-plee') [French]: an accomplished fact, presumably irreversible. "There's no use protesting—it's a fait accompli."
23. **faux pas** (foh pah') [French]: a social blunder. "Suddenly, she realized she had unwillingly committed yet another faux pas."
24. **glasnost** (glaz'nohst) [Russian]: open and frank discussion: initiated by Mikhail Gorbachev in 1985 in the Soviet Union. "Once the old chairman retired, the spirit of glasnost pervaded the department."
25. **hoi polloi** (hoy' puh-loi') [Greek]: the common people. "Marie Antoinette recommended cake to the hoi polloi."
26. **in loco parentis** (in loh'koh pa-ren'tiss) [Latin]: in the place of a parent. "The court appointed a guardian for the children, to serve in loco parentis."
27. **in situ** (in sit'too) [Latin]: situated in the original or natural position. "I prefer seeing statues in situ rather than in the confines of a museum."
28. **in vino veritas** (in vee'no vare'i-toss) [Latin]: in wine there is truth. "By the end of the drunken banquet, several of the guests had made a good deal of their private lives public, prompting the host to murmur to his wife, 'in vino veritas.'"
29. **ipso facto** (ip'soh fak'toh) [Latin]: by the fact itself. "An extremist, ipso facto, cannot become part of a coalition."
30. **mea culpa** (may'uh kul'puh) [Latin]: I am to blame. "His mea culpa was so offhand that I hardly think he meant it."

31. **memento mori** (muh-men'toh more'ee) [Latin]: a) a reminder that you must die, b) think of the dead ones. "The skull rested on the mantlepiece as a memento mori."
32. **modus operandi** (moh'dus op-er-an'dee) [Latin]: a method of operating. "Her modus operandi is to sugarcoat the truth so thoroughly that the news almost seems welcome."
33. **mot juste** (moh zhoost') [French]: the exact, appropriate word. "'Rats!' screamed the defiant [vorlaut] three-year-old, immensely proud of his mot juste."
34. **nom de guerre** (nom duh gair') [French]: pseudonym; a name that someone uses instead of their real name, especially someone who is fighting in a war. "He went by his nom de guerre when frequenting trendy nightclubs."
35. **nom de plume** (nom duh ploom') [French]: pen name. "Deciding it was time to sit down and begin a novel, the wouldbe writer spent the first several hours deciding upon a suitably dashing nom de plume."
36. **nota bene** (noh'tuh ben'nee) [Italian]: note well; take notice. "She appended her suggestions to the manuscript, underlining the words nota bene for added emphasis."
37. **persona non grata** (per-soh'nuh non grah'tuh) [Latin]: unacceptable or unwelcome person. "Once I was cut out of the will, I became persona non grata among my relatives."
38. **pro bono** (pro boh'noh) [Latin]: done or donated without charge; free. "The lawyer's pro bono work gave him a sense of value that his work on behalf of the corporation could not."
39. **quid pro quo** (kwid' pro kwoh') [Latin]: something for something; an equal exchange. "She vowed that when she had the means, she would return his favors quid pro quo."
40. **savoir-faire** (sav'wahr fair') [French]: the ability to say and do the correct thing. "She presided over the gathering with impressive savoir-faire."
41. **terra incognita** (tare'uh in-kog-nee'tuh) [Latin]: unknown territory. "When the conversation suddenly switched from contemporary fiction to medieval Albanian playwrights, he felt himself entering terra incognita."
42. **tout le monde** (too luh mond') [French]: everybody; everyone of importance. "Don't miss the event; it's bound to be attended by tout le monde."
43. **veni, vidi, vici** (ven'ee vee'dee vee'chee) [Latin]: I came, I saw, I conquered. "After the takeover the business mogul gloated, 'veni, vidi, vici.'"
44. **vox populi** (voks pop'yoo-lie) [Latin]: the voice of the people. "My sentiments echo those of the vox populi."
45. **Weltanschauung** (velt'an-shou'ung) [German]: a comprehensive conception or image of the universe and of humanity's relation to it. "His Weltanschauung gradually metamorphized from a grim and pessimistic one to a sunny, but no less complex, view."
46. **Zeitgeist** (zite'guyst) [German]: the spirit of the time; general trend of thought or feeling characteristic of a particular period of time. "She blamed it on the Zeitgeist, which encouraged hedonistic excess."
47. **A la carte**: On the menu

LIST 2(DETAILED)

FRENCH WORDS

1. Adieu: Farewell, good bye
2. Aide-de-camp: Camp assistant
3. Aperitif: Cocktail (The actual meaning of apéritif is 'to open' and it has come from Latin originally).
4. Au contraire: On the contrary
5. Blond / blonde: Fair-haired; blond is for a man and blonde for a woman.
6. Bon appétit: Good appetite; Enjoy your meal
7. Bon vivant: A person who lives luxuriously and enjoys good food and drink.
8. Bon voyage: Have a good trip
9. Carte blanche: Unrestricted power to act on one's own.
10. Potpourri: Rotten pot; A scented mixture of dried flowers and spices; a miscellaneous group or collection
11. Rendezvous': Go to; refers to a date or an appointment
12. C'est La Vie: That's life
13. Chef D'oeuvre: Chief work; Masterpiece
14. Creme de la crème: Something superlative; Cream of the cream; refers to the best of the best.
15. Crime passionnel: Passionate crime; Crime of passion
16. Cul-de-sac: Literally it means "bottom of a sack," but generally it refers to a dead-end street. Cul-de-sac can also be used metaphorically to express an action that leads to nowhere or an impasse.
17. De rigueur: Strictly required, as by etiquette, usage, or fashion
18. Debutante: Beginner; débutante is the feminine form of débutant
19. Déjà vu: The experience of perceiving a new situation as if it had occurred before.
20. Enfant terrible: An incorrigible child; an outrageously outspoken or bold person
21. fait accompli: An accomplished fact, presumably irreversible
22. faux: false
23. faux pas: A social blunder
24. femme fatale: Deadly Woman; An alluring, mysterious woman who seduces men into compromising situations
25. gauche: Awkward; Tactless, lacking social grace
26. joie de vivre: Joy of living; The quality in people who live life to the fullest
27. laissez-faire: Let it be - A policy of non-interference.
28. nom de plume: Pen name
29. passé: Old-fashioned, out-of-date, past its prime
30. petit: Small; (law) lesser, minor
31. petite: Small, short

LATIN WORDS

1. Sic): You write (sic) in brackets after a word or expression when you are quoting something that someone else has said or written.
2. A priori: Based on theory rather than observation
3. Ad hoc: As an adjective, it means "formed or created with a specific purpose," and as an adverb, it means "for the specific purpose or situation."
4. Addendum: An item to be added, especially a supplement to a book. The plural is addenda.
5. Alma Mater: One's old school
6. Alter ego: Other (alternative) self
7. Aqua: Water
8. Bona fide: In good faith; genuine
9. Carpe diem: Seize the day
10. Casus belli: An act justifying war
11. Caveat emptor: Let the buyer beware
12. De Facto: "Actual" (if used as an adjective) or "in practice" (if used as an adverb).
13. Dei Gratia: By the grace of God
14. Ex cathedra: With authority; used especially of those pronouncements of the pope that are considered infallible.
15. Ex gratia: From kindness or grace (without recognizing any liability or legal obligation)
16. Ex post facto: Retroactively
17. Habeas corpus: You must have the body (in court); a court order instructing that a person under arrest be brought before a judge
18. In loco parentis: In the place of a parent
19. In medias res: In the middle of a sequence of occurrences
20. In Situ: Situated in the original or natural position
21. Ipso Facto: By the fact itself
22. Magnum opus: A great work
23. Magnus: Big, Great, magnitude
24. Mater: Mother
25. Opus Dei: The work of God
26. Per se: By itself or intrinsically
27. Persona Non Grata: Unacceptable or unwelcome person
28. Post partum: After childbirth
29. Post-mortem: Examination of a body after death; autopsy
30. Prima Facie: At first sight, clear and evident
31. Pro Bono: Done or donated without charge; free
32. Quid Pro Quo: Something for something; an equal exchange
33. R.I.P. (Requiescat in pace): Rest in Peace
34. Sine qua non: Indispensable element or condition
35. Sui Generis: Unique
36. Terra firma: Solid Ground
37. Terra incognita: Unknown territory
38. Trans: Across

39. Vox populi: The voice of the people
40. Acme: The highest point of a structure
41. Amnesia: Oblivion
42. Amphibious/amphibians: Living a double life
43. Anachronism: Wrong time reference
44. Anagram: Transpose the letters of one word so as to form another
Example: Any word or phrase that exactly reproduces the letters in another order is an anagram.
45. Anemia: refers to a condition characterized by a qualitative or quantitative deficiency of the red blood cells (or of the hemoglobin).
46. Anesthesia-: Lack of sensation, insensibility under surgical treatment
47. Anorexia: Lack of appetite
48. Dogma: The established belief or set of principles held by a religion, ideology or by any organization.
49. Genesis: Birth or origin. Genesis is also the name of the first book of the Bible.
50. Halos (Halo in English): Round shape, the disk of the sun, circular disc depicted behind a Saint/ God's head
Example: The picture of Jesus had a halo around the head.
51. Hypnos: Sleep
52. Phobia: Many people wrongly think that a phobia is a fear. In reality it is more than that. Phobia is an irrational and exaggerated fear of something.
53. Plethora: When one goes beyond what is needed or appropriate. It represents an excess or undesired abundance.
54. Pseudo: False, a falsity
55. Angst: Dread and anxiety

GERMAN WORDS

1. Doppelganger: A ghostly double, look-alike, or clone of a person
2. Doppler effect: Apparent change in the frequency of light or sound waves, caused by rapid movement; named for the Austrian physicist C.J. Doppler who discovered the effect
3. Fahrenheit: The Fahrenheit temperature scale is named for its German inventor, Daniel Gabriel Fahrenheit, who invented the alcohol thermometer
4. Kindergarten: A school or class for young children between the ages of four and six years.
5. Schadenfreude: Pleasure at someone else's misfortunes
6. Zeitgeist: The thought or sensibility characteristic of a particular period of time.