

Names: _____

Foreign Imports - 1

English has been called a “**vacuum**” language because it has sucked in so many words from other languages. These words can cause problems with spellings, as they do not follow normal English spellings of sounds.

The following words come from the French and end with *-et* which is pronounced like *-ay* in words like *play*, *relay*, *display* (no t is sounded). An approximation of the sounds in the words is placed in brackets after each. (To be ignored if you are familiar with the word)

1. Bouquet (boo-kay)	2. Gourmet (goor-may)
3. Buffet (boo-fay)	4. Ricochet (rick-oh-shay)
6. Duvet (do-vay)	5. Ballet (bal ay)
7. Valet (val-ay)	8. Crochet (crow-shay)

Exercise 1 – Definitions: Can you find the word, which matches each of these definitions?

1. A puffy quilt used instead of blankets
2. Artistic dancing and mime to music, to convey a story or mood
3. A bunch of flowers, especially a large one
4. A counter where food and drink is served
5. A person with a discriminating taste for good food and drink
6. To rebound at an angle from the surface. (For a bullet or missile).
7. A man's personal servant who takes care of his clothes
8. A form of sewing in which a hook is used.

Foreign Imports - 2: Beginning with 'en' (sounds like [on])

En suite - (on sweet) as part of a suite of rooms (bathroom en suite)

En fete (on fate) on holiday, in a state of festivity

En masse in a body

En passant - (on pass ong) in passing, by the way

En bloc (on block) - as one unit, wholesale

Encore - call for repetition of song, etc.

Entourage (on toor a-juh) group of people attending someone important

Ensemble (on somm bell) - general effect, used for fashionable outfit.

Exercise 2 – Can you work out into which sentence each should go?

1. The crowd applauded wildly and he had to perform two _____.
2. It was May-Day and the whole village was _____.
3. The entire top floor of the hotel was taken over to accommodate the President and his _____.
4. She wore a pink dress, and a marvelous hat with roses of the same color completed the _____.
5. We need a twin-bedded room with bathroom _____.
6. The audience was getting restless and suddenly a large group marched out _____ in protest.
7. I would never have known about the party but for the fact that he mentioned _____ that he would be seeing you there.
8. If it comes to a vote, they intend to vote _____ against it.

Foreign Imports - 3

Here are some more phrases, which have become familiar in English: (in brackets is a rough approximation of how it would be spelled as it sounds)

Au fait (oh fay): well acquainted with, knowledgeable about.

Au pair (oh pair): now used for a foreign student staying with a family to mind the children while learning English.

Au revoir (oh reh vvoir) goodbye till we meet again.

Bon voyage: happy journey, goodbye

Blasé: (blah say) weary from too much pleasure,

Boutique: small specialist shop, usually fashion

Cul de sac: used in English for a street with no exit (not used in France)

Connoisseur: (con neh sir) a person of judgment in matters of taste

Exercise 3: Can you work out which sentence each should go into?

1. He rather fancies himself as a _____ of fine wines.
2. The clothes are beautiful in that exclusive new _____.
3. Have you seen that gorgeous Swedish _____ staying next door?
4. His bored and _____ attitude to everything really makes me furious.
5. Let's make it _____ instead of goodbye.
6. You would do better to talk to Peter as he is much more _____ with the matter than I am.
7. A large crowd had gathered on the quay to wish them _____.
8. We argued for hours but seemed to have wound up in a total _____.