

Reading II

Borrowed words



Borrowed words

Pre-Reading

1. Do you know of any English words that are used in your native language?
2. Do you know any English words that came from other languages?
3. Why do you think a language borrows words from another language?

Vocabulary-Preview

Write the letter of the word or phrase with the same meaning as the underlined word.

a. taste	d. not private; for any person
b. people who play sports	e. tell about; explain
c. in the beginning	f. in most cases

1. _____ Originally, many English words came from German.
2. _____ The flavor of ketchup is like sweet tomatoes.
3. _____ Anyone can use public restrooms.
4. _____ Professional athletes in Finland relaxed in saunas after training.
5. _____ In general, I like Italian food very much.
6. _____ "Can you describe him?" "Well, he's very tall."

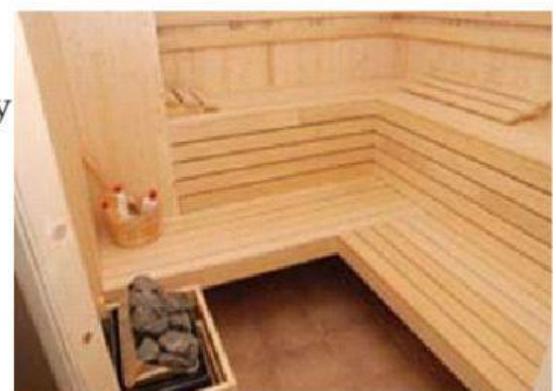
Borrowed words!

Do you often use shampoo or put ketchup on your food? Have you ever visited a sauna? If you think these words are originally English, you'd better think again. In fact, each of these words comes from a different language!

Shampoo, for example, is actually a word from the Hindi language in India. This

word originally meant "massage." In hair shops in India, barbers massage your head while washing your hair. Over time, British people in India used this word to mean a liquid that cleans hair.

Almost everyone knows what ketchup is. People all over the world like to pour this tomato sauce on French fries or sandwiches. This word is originally Chinese (from ketsiap, a fish sauce). In the 1600s, British and Dutch sailors brought this fish sauce to Europe. Over time, people changed the sauce by adding tomato flavor to it, but the name basically stayed the same. Sauna, a popular type of public steam room and shower facility, comes from the Finnish language. During one of the European Olympics, athletes from Britain and Germany saw Finnish athletes use saunas after training. Later, the general public all over Europe started using this style of bathing, too. Now, we still use this word to describe all kinds of steam rooms. English is full of many wonderful borrowed words from many languages. Perhaps English should change its name to Eng-hin-chi-fin-fre-ger-ital-span-ish!



massage: to rub the body in order to relax it
barber: a person who cuts and styles hair, especially for men
liquid: a fluid substance
Dutch: of or relating to the Netherlands

steam: hot water vapor
facility: a place for some service
Finnish: of or relating to Finland

Choose the best answer.

1. ***What is the main idea of this reading?***

- a. English words in other languages
- b. Words from India
- c. Usage of words from other languages in English
- d. The most popular borrowed words

2. ***Which of the following words is from Hindi?***

- a. Shampoo
- b. Sauna
- c. Ketchup
- d. Massage

3. ***What did the original word for ketchup mean?***

- a. A red tomato sauce
- b. A hair shop
- c. Fish
- d. A kind of fish sauce

4. ***Why did people start to use the word “sauna”?***

- a. Athletes made it popular at home.
- b. The public liked the Olympics.
- c. The Finnish traveled a lot.
- d. It was good after training.

5. ***What does “ital” probably mean in “Eng-hin-chi-fin-fre-ger-ital-span-ish”?***

- a. The name of a country
- b. The name of a language
- c. The name of a group of people
- d. The name of people who speak English