

**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 vwoir) 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 \_\_\_\_\_.