

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)

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

Answers on last page

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 on) 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 marvellous hat with roses of the same colour 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.

Answers on last page

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)

<p><u>Au fait</u> (oh fay): well acquainted with, knowledgeable about.</p> <p><u>Au pair</u> (oh pair): now used for a foreign student staying with a family to mind the children while learning English.</p> <p><u>Au revoir</u> (oh reh vvoir) goodbye till we meet again.</p> <p><u>Bon voyage</u>: happy journey, goodbye</p> <p><u>Blasé</u>: (blah say) weary from too much pleasure,</p> <p><u>Boutique</u>: small specialist shop, usually fashion</p> <p><u>Cul de sac</u>: used in English for a street with no exit (not used in France)</p> <p><u>Connoisseur</u>: (con neh sir) a person of judgement in matters of taste</p>
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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 - - - - -.

Answers on last page

Exercise 4 - Word Find: Foreign Imports

Find the words in the grid. The words can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal, and forwards or backwards.

1. Duvet
2. Ballet
3. Bouquet
4. Racquet*
5. Encore
6. Entourage
7. Boutique
8. Connoisseur
9. Buffet
10. Suite
11. bon voyage
12. Crochet

*racquet is pronounced like “racket” though the spelling pattern is like the others. All the others, taken from French have -et pronounced like -ay

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R T E L L A B F T R Q B
B E N Q S R L E E S A O
C U C T O P T T B Q O U
T Q O G G I C U D L T T
E U R D U V E T T L E I
H O E S B O A T E W U Q
C B O N V O Y A G E Q U
O E N T O U R A G E C E
R T E F F U B S S W A I
C R B O U Q U E T E R R
B C O N N O I S S E U R
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Need some help?

1. duvet - horizontal l to r
2. ballet - horizontal, right to left
3. bouquet - horizontal l to r.
4. racquet - vertical up
5. encore - vertical down
6. entourage - horizontal, l to r
7. boutique - vertical down
8. connoisseur - horizontal l to r.
9. buffet - horizontal r to l
10. suite - diagonal up l to r.
11. bon voyage - horizontal l to r
12. crochet - vertical up

Remember:

Horizontal means in a straight line across. Could be from left to right (as in reading) or from right to left - (l to r, r to l).

Vertical means in a straight line up or down.

Diagonal means at an angle, can be up or down and from left to right or from right to left.

Answers:

Exercise 1

1. A duvet is a puffy quilt used instead of blankets
2. Artistic dancing and mime to music = ballet
3. A bouquet is a bunch of flowers, especially a large one
4. A buffet is a counter where food and drink is served.
5. A gourmet is a person with a discriminating taste for good food and drink, a connoisseur of (one who knows about) food and drink.
6. Used usually of a bullet or missile, to rebound at an angle from the surface is to ricochet.
7. A valet is a man's personal servant who takes care of his clothes.
8. Crochet is a form of sewing in which a hook is used.

Exercise 2 :

1. en suite
2. en fete
3. entourage
4. ensemble
5. encore
6. en masse
7. en passant
8. en bloc.

Exercise 3

1. Connoisseur
2. Boutique
3. Au pair
4. Blasé
5. Au revoir
6. Au fait
7. Bon voyage.
8. Cul de sac

Exercise 4

R T E L L A B F T R Q B
B E N Q S R L E E S A O
C U C T O P T T B Q O U
T Q O G G I C U D L T T
E U R D U V E T T L E I
H O E S B O A T E W U Q
C B O N V O Y A G E Q U
O E N T O U R A G E C E
R T E F F U B S S W A I
C R B O U Q U E T E R R
B C O N N O I S S E U R