

LOANWORDS DICTIONARY

A Lexicon of More Than 6,500 Words
and Phrases Encountered in English Contexts
That Are Not Fully Assimilated into English
and Retain a Measure of Their Foreign Orthography,
Pronunciation, or Flavor

FIRST EDITION

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LOANWORDS DICTIONARY

外來語詞典

Related Gale Titles

Allusions—Cultural, Literary, Biblical, and Historical: A Thematic Dictionary. 2nd edition. More than 8,700 literary, biblical, and cultural allusions and metaphors are identified by source in this dictionary. Entries are arranged alphabetically under more than 700 thematic headings.

Dictionary of Collective Nouns and Group Terms. 2nd edition. Furnishes definitions, usage examples, and source notes for 1,800 terms. Ancient phrases, general terms, modern punning terms, and terms of quantity and number are covered.

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Picturesque Expressions: A Thematic Dictionary. 2nd edition. Explains 7,000 expressions. Entries give the expression, an explanation of its origin, its approximate date of appearance in written English, and, in most cases, usage notes and illustrative quotations.

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The Private Lives of English Words. Identifies and explains the etymologies of some 400 words that exemplify various processes of linguistic change. Most of these words have had their meanings drastically changed over the course of their history.

Slogans. This work collects more than 6,000 slogans, rallying cries, and other exhortations from such fields as advertising, politics, and everyday speech, and arranges them under appropriate thematic headings, along with a discussion of each slogan's origin and use.

Suffixes and Other Word-Final Elements of English. Provides definitions, usage notes, examples, and variant and related forms of 1,500 suffixes.

Preface

The English language has by far the largest stock of words of any language ever known. Users of English have freely and copiously borrowed terms from foreign tongues whenever their own vocabulary, imaginations, or circumstances seemed to suggest that “native” possibilities were wanting. Evidence of borrowing can be found throughout the historical record of English, as speakers and writers sought to capture the essence of a phenomenon or some facet of experience. Hence, the lexicon of the language bears witness to the diverse cultural contacts and influences that have shaped it.

Borrowings from other languages into English manifest themselves in various guises. A great proportion—particularly those many thousands of words adopted from Latin and Greek since the 16th century, known as “inkhorn terms”—were assimilated into English at or very near to the time of borrowing, taking on simplified spelling and English morphology. These words look, sound, and feel English, and do not, without study, manifest their foreign origin. Examples, from words used above, are *copiously*, *vocabulary*, *circumstances*, *experience*, *proportion*, *lexicon*, and *morphology*.

Another class of derivatives are those, from several sources, that have been in the language so long that they no longer can be deemed foreign. Such words as *wine*, *wall*, *vale*, *camp*, *bishop* (all from Latin, or, for *bishop*, Greek via Latin); *skirt* and *kindle* (from Old Norse); or *admiral*, *shampoo*, *canoe*, and *boss* ‘supervisor’ (from Arabic, Hindi, Cariban, and Dutch, respectively), all were borrowed into English, but have become so familiar and natural that they give no one pause.

Focusing on Loanwords

A third group of borrowings are **loanwords**, the subject of this dictionary. Like other derivatives, they have a foreign source, and many have been used in English for centuries. What distinguishes the loanwords, however,

and allows treatment of them as a subset of the English lexicon, is that despite their use in English contexts, they still, in some regard, *seem* or *feel* foreign. Clearly, this determination can be subjective, so the editors of *Loanwords Dictionary* have striven to follow certain criteria in the selection of terms to be defined:

1. The term maintains some measure of its foreign orthography, pronunciation, or flavor. Put differently, the term has a widely recognized association with a specific non-English language or culture.
2. The term is freely and commonly used in English contexts; that is, it is employed by users of English as if it were part of their language.
3. The term, if originally specialized or technical, has become generalized in application or is from a field that attracts broad general interest (such as cookery or literature).

The first criterion is inclusive—many thousands more terms than are defined in this dictionary fit this description. When speaking or writing about another country or culture, it is natural if not necessary to use foreign words that describe things not naturally encountered in the experience of English speakers. Examples abound in the pages of many popular periodicals whenever they focus on foreign culture: Brazilian barbecue restaurants known as *churrascaria* (*National Geographic*, March 1987, p. 370); *palabras*, a Filipino word for ostentatiousness (*New York Review of Books*, June 11, 1987, p. 10); *makiwara*, a punching post used in karate training (*The Atlantic*, April 1987, p. 80). Many such uses are essential in their contexts but can be regarded as nonce words—not, as far as English is concerned, a customary part of the lexicon.

This leads to the second and third criteria, which are excluding or exclusive in nature. The constant intention of the editors in compiling *Loanwords Dictionary* was to create a dictionary that is essentially English, one containing words that are used in English contexts with some degree of naturalness or frequency, so that a wide-reading and curious English speaker likely to encounter them in English sources may use them. These criteria exclude highly technical or specialized terms of occasional interest mainly to experts or aficionados in certain fields. Also excluded were many words from widely studied languages—French, German, Italian, Spanish—that are of high frequency in those particular languages (and hence well known to anyone who has studied them), but not common in English.

We have tried to focus on those terms that are likely to be encountered, either in speech or in writing, by a person who is attuned to literature, culture, and society. We have included loanwords from certain technical areas, such as cookery and music, on the grounds that these and other such areas are familiar to a broader audience than terms from, say, medieval philosophy and pharmacology.

We have avoided including the thousands of botanical and zoological taxonomic names, many based on Latin and Greek, as these were felt to be

technical, of low frequency, and better covered by other sorts of dictionaries. Also generally avoided were short quotations, mottoes, and proverbs (common in some collections of foreign expressions), as these were deemed to be outside our chosen area of focus.

The Development of Loanwords

How do loanwords develop and grow in use so that they merit lexicographic attention? There are several ways. Perhaps most telling is the fact that many terms for conceptions, devices, institutions, and other products of culture are so closely associated with or well denoted by their "native" term that they can be only lamely, gracelessly, or verbosely expressed using English words. Examples of such loanwords would be *cursus honorum*, *objet d'art*, and *Weltanschauung*. Literal translations of such terms into English simply do not carry the same connotations as the originals. English has traditionally been liberal in borrowing words from other languages, and speakers of English have had intimate (if not always peaceful) dealings with people in all quarters of the globe—factors that have led to the burgeoning of loanwords in English.

Another, perhaps more subjective reason for the wide use of loanwords in English has to do with simple vanity. Familiarity with a foreign culture and language, whether directly or through education, is taken by some as a mark of sophistication, refinement, even erudition. Terms from French and Italian (particularly the former) have been so used and exploited for centuries by speakers of English (and of other languages, as well). So, to address one's beloved as *mon cheri* or *bellissima* (with whom one might have an *intime* conversation), to speak familiarly (perhaps with an imitative pronunciation) of such things as *la dolce vita* and *vin de table*, to be able to use such terms as *raison d'être* and *poco a poco*, these are signs of one's background and character. Whether used pretentiously or, as often they can be, naturally and gracefully (out of an effort to find the *mot juste*), loanwords impart a certain cachet to a conversation or passage, an air of the exotic and the cosmopolitan.

Certain loanwords or phrases have survived because they capture, with economy and grace, a bit of the human condition. Such are:

embarras de richesses
esprit d'escalier
mutatis mutandis

One would be hard pressed to capture the full sense of these phrases in pure English terms of equivalent pith and moment. Similar are expressions that, owing to their familiarity in certain contexts, are pregnant with (metaphorical) meaning, hence difficult to paraphrase:

papparazzo
alma mater
Realpolitik

As loanwords grow in general use and usefulness, they tend to become partially assimilated into their new language, such that they are subsumed into the new language's rules of pronunciation, syntax, and word formation. Words such as *data*, *criterion*, and *media* are used by some writers and speakers with scrupulous attention paid to their native singular or plural form. Are they any less English for this? How many native speakers of English would consider *finesse*, *venue*, *morgue*, or *naive* to be loanwords from French? What are we to say about *cameo*, *macaroni*, *casino*, or *confetti*, from Italian? Is there any German-ness remaining in *kindergarten*, *kitsch*, or *zwieback*? *Smorgasbord* may retain a slight Swedish air for some, but can it be anything but English when shortened to *smorgie*? In English, *laissez-faire* is an adjective, usually hyphenated, the plural of *concerto* is *concertos*, and practically no one would nasalize the *os* in *bonbon*. Such is the result of assimilation. We could mention hundreds of other examples of words that are felt by some to be more or less assimilated, but by others to be totally foreign. Our selection for *Loanwords Dictionary* has tended to be a bit open-ended, in that we have included terms such as *adobe*, *naïveté*, *aloha*, *de facto*, and *junta*, words that still bear some hint of their foreignness, though they are quite familiar and widely used in English. With such borderline cases, inclusion was based on a sense that a good proportion of potential users may attach specific cultural connotations to the terms.

Loanwords and Cultural Influence

The contributions of loanwords from particular languages into English offer insights into cultural influence. Although a large percentage of American English speakers claim some German ancestry, the influx of German loanwords is not nearly as great as that of terms from French. Reasons for this are difficult to argue scientifically, but we might surmise that the far greater contribution of French than German can be attributed to the following:

1. The direct infusion of Norman French into the English court, law, and manners.
2. The long supremacy of French as the language of diplomacy worldwide (though now having given way to English).
3. The close ties with France in the history of the development of the North American continent.
4. The remarkably large contribution of the French to Western culture in general—in lifestyle, fine and applied arts, cookery, wine, literature, fashion—far more influential than German culture in European-based societies.

Latin, too, has contributed a great number of loanwords to English, but the circumstances are notably different from the situation with French. Many of the Latin terms used in English, like *et cetera*, *bona fide*, *de facto*, *per diem*, and others, have been in use for centuries, but still seem to be recognized by most educated speakers as from Latin. Latin stands, of course,

as a linguistic heritage common to much of Europe, and it was the *lingua franca* in the West into the 17th and 18th centuries. Its influence is long and deep, yet many of the terms Latin has contributed still seem unassimilated, like memorials graven in stone. No doubt the influence of Latin on the law—an area known for linguistic stability—can explain in part why Latin terms survive so long in their original form. Nor can we forget that Latin was the official language of the Roman Catholic Church and its liturgy for many centuries. Latin, because of its associations, seems to have an aura of permanence and an air of solemnity. And it is precisely to evoke these qualities that English speakers make use of loanwords from Latin.

The contributions of loanwords from two other Romance languages, Italian and Spanish, are also significant, with certain areas of particular influence from each. Italian loanwords are most notable in the realm of music, with a strong influx, too, from art and cookery—again, as with so many French loanwords, fields of cultural sophistication.

Increasingly important, especially in American English, are contributions from Spanish, particularly Spanish-speaking America. True, many of the loanwords from bullfighting can be said to be from Spain itself, but in other categories—cookery, dance and music, cattle ranching, and landscape and vegetation—entry was via Spanish colonial influence on America, especially the western and southwestern regions of the United States. A unique quality about the Spanish contribution of loanwords is that the influence remains strong today and very likely will continue into the future, owing to the close relations of the United States with Hispanic countries and peoples. Indeed, Spanish is the second most common language among U. S. citizens (by a comfortable margin over French), and the continuing presence of Hispanic language and culture suggests that there may be an ever-growing number of Spanish loanwords in the future.

Style and General Features of Loanwords Dictionary

Each entry begins with the headword or entry word in boldface type, along with common alternate forms, if any. Thus, plural forms of nouns (labeled *pl.*), and gender-specific forms of nouns and adjectives (labeled *fem.* or *masc.*) are given for feminine and masculine forms in the headword, as are any other frequently used alternate forms.

The language of origin is shown in parentheses after each headword.

Where it was felt to be instructive or interesting, the literal meaning of the entry in its language of origin is shown in parentheses, preceding the definition(s).

To delineate specialized or technical terms and senses, restrictive labels, such as *Law*, *Cookery*, and *Music*, are frequently used, in each case immediately preceding the definition(s), with the label in italic type and followed by a period.

Each entry is defined according to its typical sense in English. In cases where multiple senses are clearly distinguishable, definitions are numbered.

The great preponderance of loanwords are phrasal elements or nouns, with quite a few adjectives and nouns that are used attributively. There is a smattering of other parts of speech, with verbs and prepositions being the rarest of all. Where essential for clarity, definitions are accompanied by a label for the part of speech (*n.* = noun; *adj.* = adjective; *adv.* = adverb; *interj.* = interjection; *v.* = verb; *conj.* = conjunction; *prep.* = preposition).

If a term used in a definition is in boldface type, that item is itself an entry in the dictionary, and the user may consult further under that entry.

Other features, found in many entries, are cross references, abbreviations, and alternative spellings.

Cross references are of two types. Some entries are simply cross references to another entry where a definition is given. In these, the headword is immediately followed by a period. The cross reference reads, "See [**other entry**]"; the user is directed to that entry for a definition. Another type of cross reference follows a full, defined entry and directs the user to another entry for further or related information. These cross references read "See also [**other entry**]."

Abbreviations are given for those entries where they apply. They are preceded by the label *Abbr.*, and the abbreviated form is shown in boldface type.

Please note that, as an added convenience, all abbreviations for loanwords found in this dictionary have been compiled into a single alphabetic list, with reference to the fully spelled-out form for each. The List of Abbreviations follows this Preface.

Alternative spellings are shown in boldface type at the end of the entry or with the definition to which they apply. They are preceded by the word "Also." In most cases the differences are slight, involving a difference of a letter or the presence or absence of hyphens and diacritical marks.

Entries have been arranged and defined for simplicity and ease of use, with *usage in English* or *among English speakers* being the overriding principle. Alphabetic placement and definition are according to English usage. The standard practice in alphabetization is to ignore *all* articles, but in the case of loanwords the editors felt that technicalities of foreign grammar are of little concern to an English speaker when trying to look up the term. Hence, the full entry for **La Belle Epoque**, for example, is in the *Ls*, because that is the form of the term most often encountered in English contexts. In the interest of convenience, a cross reference to the full entry is also given in the *Bs*, at **Belle Epoque**, **La**, serving those users who might first look there.

Alphabetic order is according to the standard English alphabet, using the letter-by-letter method. All loanwords are shown with English spellings; items taken from languages that employ non-Roman alphabets have been transliterated.

One of the most obvious distinguishing features of many a loanword—often a strong suggestion that the term has not been fully assimilated—is the presence of diacritical marks. Use of diacritics is quite rare in English

generally, so loanwords that do have them tend to stand out. Aside from making this observation, we add that, in this dictionary, alphabetization involving diacritics is on the tried-and-true principle “Nothing precedes something.” This means that of two words spelled identically, except for diacritics, the one *without* diacritics precedes the one *with* them.

For loanwords from Latin, the post-classical convention of using *v* for consonantal *u* has been maintained throughout this dictionary. Also, *j* has generally been used for consonantal *i*; cross references are provided as needed. As for Latin word order, which is much freer than in English, loanwords have been defined under their most common form, as determined by the editors. Thus, there is a definition at **jacta alea est**; for convenience, there are cross references to it from **alea jacta est** and **iacta alea est**.

Precedence has been given to senses as used in English, both in individual definitions and in the ordering of multiple senses. Thus, at **alma mater**, **maître d’hôtel**, and **sine qua non**, it is the English sense (frequently metaphorical) that is given prominence, with parenthetical reference to the literal meaning.

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Suggestions Welcome

A dictionary, however modest or narrowly defined its subject area, is a compilation of many thousands of bits of information from numerous sources, dependent on the technical and administrative talents of many for its success. But it is the judgment, experience, and human limitations of the editor that are manifest in the final product. Hence, responsibility for any errors on these pages must rest with the editor, who can only hope that the concept and presentation will prove valuable in general use. The comments and suggestions of users of this dictionary are welcome, with the further hope that such improvements as may be noted will see their way into future editions.

Frank R. Abate

Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in the definitions:

<i>Abbr.</i>	abbreviation	<i>lit.</i>	literal meaning
<i>adj.</i>	adjective	<i>masc.</i>	masculine form
<i>cap.</i>	with initial capital letter(s)	<i>n.</i>	noun
<i>conj.</i>	conjunction	<i>pl.</i>	plural form
<i>fem.</i>	feminine form	<i>prep.</i>	preposition
<i>interj.</i>	interjection	<i>sing.</i>	singular form
<i>l.c.</i>	with initial lower case letter(s)	<i>v.</i>	verb

The following are common abbreviations for entries that are fully defined in the text:

A.B. See Artium Baccalaureus.

ab ex. See ab extra.

ab init. See ab initio.

abs. feb. See absente febre.

abs. re. See absente reo.

A.C. See ante Christum.

a.c. See ante cibos.

A.D. See Anno Domini.

ad ex. See ad extremum.

ad inf. See ad infinitum.

ad int. See ad interim.

ad part. dolent. See ad partes dolentes.

ad val. See ad valorem.

aet., aetat. See anno aetatis suae.

Ag See argentum.

A.G. See Aktiengesellschaft.

a.h.c. See ad hanc vocem.

a.h.l. See ad hunc locem.

A.H. See Anno Hebraico.

A.H. See Anno Hegirae.

Abbreviations

A.H.S. See Anno Humanae Salutis.
 A.L. See Anno Lucis.
 alt. hor. See alternis horis.
 A.M. See Anno Mundi.
 a.m.; A.M. See ante meridiem.
 A.M. See Artium Magister.
 A.M.D.G. See ad maiorem Dei gloriam.
 A.O.C. See appellation d'origine contrôlée.
 A.R. See Anno Regni.
 Au See aurum.
 A.U.C. See ab urbe condita.
 B.A. See Baccalaureus Artium.
 b.i.d. See bis in die.
 c. See circa.
 Cantab. See Cantabrigiensis.
 cant. See cantoris.
 cf. See confer.
 cito disp! See cito dispensetur!
 Cu See cuprum.
 cum div. See cum dividendo.
 C.V. See curriculum vitae.
 D.D. See Doctor Divinitatis.
 dec. See decani.
 D.F. See Distrito Federal.
 dieb. alt. See diebus alternis.
 dieb. secund. See diebus secundis.
 DIN See Deutsche Industrie-Norm.
 div. See divisi.
 D.O. See denominaciones del origen.
 D.O.C. See denominazione di origine controllata.
 D.O.M. See Domino Optimo Maximo.
 D.V. See Deo volente.
 e.g. See exempli gratia.

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et al. See et alii.
 etc. See et cetera.
 et seq.; et seqq.; et sqq. See et sequentia.
 et ux. See et uxor.
 excud. See excudit.
 ex div. See ex dividendo.
 f. See forte.
 Fe See ferrum.
 fec. See fecit.
 ff. See forte forte.
 fl. See floruit.
 fp. See forte-piano.
 f.v. See folio verso.
 fz. See forzando.
 GmbH See Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung.
 GT See gran turismo.
 h.c. See hors concours.
 Hg See hydrargyrum.
 h.s. See hora somni.
 ibid. See ibidem.
 i.c. See inter cibos.
 id. See idem.
 i.e. See id est.
 I.H.S. See Iesus Hominum Salvator.
 imp. See imperator.
 infra dig. See infra dignitatem.
 in pr. See in principio.
 I.N.R.I. See Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum.
 J.D. See Juris Doctor.
 J.U.D. See Juris Utriusque Doctor.
 ktl. See kai ta loipa.
 Litt. D. See Litterarum Doctor.
 loc. cit. See loco citato.
 loq. See loquitur.
 L.S. See locus sigilli.
 m. See mane.

M.A. See Magister Artium.
 m.d. See mano destra.
 M.D. See Medicinae Doctor.
 mf. See mezzo forte.
 m.o. See modus operandi.
 mod. See moderato.
 more dict.; mor.dict. See more dictu.
 mp. See mezzo piano.
 m.s.p. See mortuus sine prole.
 Na See natrium.
 n.b.; N.B. See nota bene.
 nem. con. See nemine contradicente.
 nem. diss. See nemine dissentiente.
 n. et m. See nocte et mane.
 n.l. See non liquet.
 noct. See nocte.
 nol. pros. See nolle prosequi.
 non cul. See non culpabilis.
 non pros. See non prosequitur.
 non rep. See non repetatur.
 non seq. See non sequitur.
 ob. See obiit.
 omn. hor. See omni hora.
 omn. man. See omni mane.
 op. cit. See opere citato.
 o.s.p. See obiit sine prole.
 Oxon. See Oxoniensis.
 p. See partim.
 p. See piano.
 p.a.; per an. See per annum.
 Pb See plumbum.
 p.c. See post cibos.
 pf. See pianoforte.
 Ph.D See Philosophiae Doctor.
 pinx. See pinxit.
 p.m.; P.M. See post meridiem.
 p.o. See per os.

p.p. See per procurationem.
 pp. See pianissimo.
 p.r.n. See pro re nata.
 pro et con. See pro et contra.
 pro tem. See pro tempore.
 prox. See proximo.
 P.S. See post scriptum.
 pt. See perstetur.
 PX. See Pedro Ximénez.
 q.; qq. See quisque.
 Q.E.D. See quod erat demonstrandum.
 Q.E.F. See quod erat faciendum.
 q.i.d. See quater in die.
 q.l.; q. lib. See quantum libet.
 q. pl.; q.p. See quantum placet.
 qq. hor. See quaque hora.
 q.s.; quant. suff. See quantum sufficit.
 quot. op. sit See quoties opus sit.
 q.v. See quod vide.
 q.v., qq.v. See quae vide.
 ren. sem. See renovetur semel.
 rept. See repetatur.
 R.I.P. See requiescat in pace.
 R.S.V.P. See répondez, s'il vous plaît.
 S.A. See Société Anonyme.
 S.A. See Sturmabteilung.
 s.a. See sub anno.
 Sb See stibium.
 sc. See scilicet.
 s.d. See sine die.
 seq. See sequens.
 sesquih. See sesquihora.
 sf. See sforzando.
 s.l.a.n. See sine loco, anno, vel nomine.

Abbreviations

s.l.p. See sine legitima prole.
smorz. See smorzando.
s.n. See sine nomine.
Sn See stannum.
s.o.s. See si opus sit.
s.p. See sine prole.
S.P.Q.R. See Senatus Popu-
lusque Romanus.
Sr. See señor.
Sra. See señora.
Srta. See señorita.
S.S. See Schutzstaffel.
ss. See semis.
stat. See statim.
s.v. See sub verbo.

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S.V.P. See s'il vous plaît.
TGV See train à grande vitesse.
t.i.d. See ter in die.
trid. See triduum.
ult. See ultime.
ult.; ulto. See ultimo.
u.s. See ubi supra.
usw. See und so weiter.
V.D.M. See Verbi Dei Minister.
verb(um) sap.; verb(um) sat. See
verbum sapienti sat(is) est.
vesp. See vespera.
viz. See videlicet.
vox pop. See vox populi.
z.B. See zum Beispiel.

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