

## WORDS IN ENGLISH WHICH ARE NOT ENGLISH WORDS ORIGINALLY

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All languages in the world enrich their vocabulary by borrowing words from foreign languages, in addition to their own lexicon. This increases the vitality of the language and keeps it updated.

Therefore, English is not exempt from this phenomenon, but is also recognized as the language that has used it most effectively and adopted the most words and names. Modern English words, as we know them, have an interesting background. In that case you have a right question that so where do so many of the foreign words in English actually come from? The English language has a long history of borrowing words from other languages. These “borrowings” can usually be traced back to specific periods in history. It is estimated that the origins of modern English can be broken down as follows:

Latin	29%
French(included Anglo-french)	29
Germanic words(Old,Middle English, Old Norse Dutch)	26%
Greek	6%
Other languages unknown	6%
Drived from proper names	4%

It may surprise you that some of English most common words are borrowed.

*They/their* – This common pronoun comes from the Old Norse word “Peir”.

*Person* – This comes from the Latin “persona”. It was adopted by the French language and then eventually made its way into English.

*Very* – This despised yet commonly used adjective comes from the Old French “verai”, which means “true”.

*Dollar* – This comes from Czech through Dutch. Its roots are connected to the origins of the mint itself: a factory where coins and currency is produced.

*War* – This comes from the Old French “werre”.

*Leg and Skin* – Both words come from Old Norse and replaced “shank” and “hide” upon their arrival. Although the words still exist in English, they are used only for animals once slaughtered.

*Slaughter* – This comes from the Old Norse “slatr”.

*Skipper* – This comes from the Dutch “schipper”. Many of our nautical terms are derived from Dutch due to the trade links that existed.

*Court* – In French this means the king’s residence and was often the place to which someone was called in order to respond to accusations.

*Zero* – This comes from Arabic. In fact, many of our words related to numeracy, mathematics and trade can be traced back to Arabic.

Today, English is one of the most spoken languages in the world. Almost 1.5 billion people use it as their native or second language. But when it just appeared hundreds of years ago, it wasn't so widespread. And, of course, it wasn't that rich. Throughout history, English has been highly affected by various cultures, countries, and languages. And that is when the borrowed words came into view.

According to the Cambridge Dictionary, a loanword is a word taken from one language and used in another during particular circumstances. Most English words emerged under the influence of French and Latin languages. You can also hear some terms and phrases that originally belonged to Italian, Spanish, Scandinavian, Greek, and even Russian languages. To understand how it happened, we need to dive into history.

Before becoming a major state, England was often subjected to conquests and attacks by other nations. And as we know, society has the most significant influence on vocabulary formation. Thus, Latin loanwords appeared as a consequence of the conquest of England by the Roman Empire and after the Christianization of Central Europe.

The Scandinavian words are connected with the year 870, when the Scandinavian conquerors overpowered England. French loan words in English appeared in the XI century in connection with the Norman Conquest. Now they make up almost 30% of the English vocabulary. Other countries also had their impact – for example, many German words appeared in English vocabulary during the World War.

Now that you know a little about history, it is time to discuss some grammar details. You might not even realize that some words you've been using daily initially appeared in foreign languages. And to understand them better, let's find out how exactly they've become common English words. There are three main ways of vocabulary transitions from one language to another.

## **Transcription.**

It is the phonetic way of borrowing vocabulary units in which the original pronunciation of the word is preserved. Vivid examples of borrowed words created by transcription are the words "bouquet" and "ballet," which come from French.

## **Transliteration.**

This method means borrowing the word's written form; English letters replace the original ones, and the word is pronounced according to the English rules. You can see examples of transliteration in "audience" (from the Latin word audio) and "democracy" (from the Greek word demos).

## **Loan translation.**

This borrowing method involves copying foreign words, phrases, and expressions according to their literal meanings. For example, the term below one's dignity came from the Latin phrase *infra dignitatem*. Another illustration of this borrowing method is the expression vicious circle – initially, it was the Latin term *circulus vitiosus*.

These are three main ways of borrowing English words from other languages. They are rare nowadays since most of the modern vocabulary was established hundreds of years ago. But now that you know their origins and ways of creating, it is time to learn the most common loanwords in English.

Conclusion



All in all, what was a loanword a hundred years ago, is now just a regular part of our speeches. Today borrowed words have become an integral part of the English language - we eat chocolate, walk our children to kindergarten, discuss the agenda at work, and go to bed before 12 PM. But it is important to know the origins; we hope this article will help you with that. Please share your favorite borrowed words in the comments - we will be happy to learn something new!

## Used literature

- 1 A History of Loanwords in English. Philip Durkin.
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