

Sixty Selections from the Foreign Words and Phrases List (Linked to Long term Vocab on Website)
that I'd Really Like for You to Know and Use

1. gourmand—somebody who loves food and may eat excessively
2. finesse-- elegant ability and dexterity, refinement
3. bravado—boldness or courage often to the point of foolhardiness
4. fait accompli—something that is already done or decided and seems unalterable
5. nonchalant—calm and unconcerned, indifferent
6. ennui—boredom, lack of interest
7. mélange—a collection of things of different kinds, an assortment
8. de rigueur—required by the current fashion or custom, socially obligatory, absolutely necessary
9. bonanza—sudden wealth, a source yielding great riches or success
10. rendezvous—prearranged meeting place
11. wanderlust—strong desire to travel
12. pique (n)—a bad mood or feeling of resentment
(v) to arouse interest
13. savant—a wise person, usually in one area such as music or math
14. façade—false front, the way something or someone appears on the surface
15. bête noire—your worst nightmare, something or someone particularly disliked or to be avoided
16. malaise—a general feeling of worry, discontent, dissatisfaction, decline
17. debacle—something that becomes a disaster, defeat, or humiliating failure
18. gauche—socially awkward, unmannerly
19. gaffe—a clumsy social mistake or breach of etiquette
20. faux pas—an embarrassing blunder that breaks a social convention
21. peccadillo—a petty or unimportant offense or fault
22. raison d' être—reason or justification for living
23. sine qua non—essential condition, that which you can't live without
24. magnum opus—a great work of art or literature
25. je ne sais quoi—that certain something
26. crème de la crème—elite, the best of the best
27. éclat—great brilliance as in performance or achievement, skill
28. piece de resistance—an outstanding accomplishment
29. tour de force—something done with supreme skill or brilliance
30. joie de vivre—energy and joy of life
31. panache—a sense or display of spirited style and self-confidence, verve, élan
32. quixotic—tending to act on whims or impulses, capricious
33. maladroit—clumsy or insensitive in speech or behavior
34. sans—without, lacking
35. canard—hoax, false story, joke
36. mountebank—someone who deceives others, fraud
37. zeitgeist—the ideas prevalent in a period and place, the spirit of the times
38. milieu—surroundings
39. ambience—the typical atmosphere or mood of a place
40. c'est la vie—used to express resignation (that's life, oh well)
41. déjà vu—the sensation you are doing something you have done before
42. hoi polloi—ordinary people as opposed to the elite and well-educated
43. bourgeoisie—middle class
44. peon—laborer, low-paid worker
45. avant garde—the cutting edge, artistically new, experimental, unconventional
46. nouveaux riches—somebody with newly acquired wealth
47. rapport—an emotional bond or friendly relationship
48. tete-a-tete—a private conversation between two people
49. devotee—an ardent enthusiast or follower of something, someone totally devoted to something
50. aficionado—a fan, someone enthusiastic and knowledgeable about something
51. dilettante—somebody who dabbles in the fine arts, has a passing interest in them
52. raconteur—an entertaining story teller
53. nom de plume—pen name, false name used by a writer
54. vignette—brief scene from a movie or play
55. bon mot—a witty comment, clever response
56. alter ego, alternative personality, your other self
57. protégé—apprentice, learner, someone under patronage of another
58. naïve—extremely simple and trusting
59. queue—waiting line
60. persona non grata—somebody who is unwelcome or unacceptable