



Our Polyglot Citizenry

Write the letter of the definition that matches each word in the following groups of words. Then tell what the language of origin is. You'll know by the sound, spelling, and even meanings.

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| 1. ersatz | a. a group for coffee and gossip |
| 2. kaput | b. substituted for the real thing |
| 3. leitmotif | c. anxiety, fear |
| 4. kaffee klatch | d. smashed, ruined, finished |
| 5. angst | e. a theme running throughout a musical or literary work |
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| 1. karate | a. a form of Japanese Buddhism, calm |
| 2. sukiyaki | b. a member of the military class |
| 3. Zen | c. a dish prepared from meat and vegetables |
| 4. samurai | d. a method of self defense sans weapons |
| 5. haiku | e. a 5 line 17 syllable poem usually imagistic and unrhymed |
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| 1. kosher | a. a sentimental or florid quality in music, art, or literature |
| 2. kibitzer | b. a hard, chewy doughnut shaped roll |
| 3. schlemiel | c. a giver of unwanted advice |
| 4. schmaltz | d. lawful, proper |
| 5. bagel | e. an unlucky person for whom nothing ever goes right |
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| 1. acme | a. glory, renown |
| 2. apotheosis | b. an exclamation of triumph at a discovery |
| 3. alpha | c. the highest point, peak |
| 4. eureka | d. deification of a person (making godlike) |
| 5. kudos | e. the letter A, hence the beginning |

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| 1. modus operandi | a. with praise |
| 2. ante bellum | b. in good faith, genuine |
| 3. cum laude | c. privately, confidentially |
| 4. persona non grata | d. before the war, esp. the Civil War |
| 5. sine qua non | e. without limit |
| 6. sub rosa | f. time flies |
| 7. status quo | g. an unacceptable person |
| 8. ad infinitum | h. method of operating, esp. for criminals |
| 9. bona fide | i. the existing state of affairs |
| 10. tempus fugit | j. the absolutely necessary thing |
| 11. non sequitur | a. the characters in a play |
| 12. ad hoc | b. my fault, my guilt |
| 13. ex post facto | c. that which does not follow |
| 14. in loco parentis | d. by virtue or reason of an office |
| 15. mea culpa | e. in the place of a parent |
| 16. de facto | f. with retroactive effect |
| 17. non compos mentis | g. not of sound mind, crazy |
| 18. alter ego | h. special, for one purpose only |
| 19. dramatis personae | i. in fact, actually |
| 20. ex officio | j. a second self |

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| 1. piece de resistance | a. having a harmonious relationship |
| 2. au revoir | b. a decisive finishing stroke |
| 3. raison d'etre | c. the best, the chief piece of a collection |
| 4. esprit de corps | d. an understanding, an agreement |
| 5. coup d'état | e. justification for existence |
| 6. carte blanche | f. false step, social blunder |
| 7. en rapport | g. unconditional power (blank check) |
| 8. coup de grace | h. group spirit and enthusiasm |
| 9. entente | i. good-bye, till we meet again |
| 10. faux pas | j. unexpected political move |
| 11. fin de siècle | a. knowing how to do or say the right thing |
| 12. bête noire | b. a person or object feared or hated |
| 13. fait accompli | c. an author's pen name |
| 14. laissez-faire | d. a fixed idea, an obsession |
| 15. savoir faire | e. end of the century (esp. in reference to the 19 th Century) |
| 16. nom de plume | f. have a pleasant trip |
| 17. bon voyage | g. noninterference by the government |
| 18. avant-garde | h. vanguard, leaders (sometimes extremists) |
| 19. cause célèbre | i. a thing accomplished, presumably irrevocable |
| 20. idée fixe | j. celebrated legal case that appeals to the popular imagination and establishes precedent |

You will notice that the answers are repeated a-j. The first set will answer numbers 1-10 and the second set are answers to 11-20. This is to make it go faster and easier on you. (You're welcome)

I did the same thing in this second bunch of words and definitions. So you'll have two answers of each letter a-j. One from the top set and one from the bottom.

- What is the language from which these common phrases have come into our lexicon?
- Why do you think some many more words and phrases have come to us from these two languages?