



SPELLMASTERS  
OF INDIA



Presents

# Study Guide



f s b o e

# Thank You !

We would like to thank our young, ever enthusiastic & immensely helpful editorial board. Your valuable contributions to the Study Guide will always be remembered as that which completed the success of yet another addition to our endeavour.

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## **Welcome to the world of spellings! Welcome to the SBI Life Spell Bee Season 13 in association with Mirchi!**

This is India's largest school level spelling competition. Having started in 2009, this initiative by Mirchi is currently in its thirteenth consecutive season and has successfully delivered enriched educative experiences to students across the country, year on year.

Welcome to the official study guide for the competition! This guide has been designed to help students learn the art of spelling correctly. Spellings are an essential part of written communication which is vital in today's world. The aim of the competition is to educate and sensitize students to spell correctly, in an entertaining manner. Our team of experts have spent years in understanding the manner in which students both spell and misspell. The content of the competition each year is accordingly crafted, keeping the requirement of students in mind. Each word is researched and added to the word bank, which helps take the competition to a level wherein we actually help students correctly spell words that they commonly misspell.

Over the past twelve seasons, ours has become the quintessential name amongst spelling bees in the country and we endeavor to add value to the lives of Indian students, with interesting edutainment based value additions to our property. This guide is one such addition which explores the fun world of words and spellings.

Get ready for a journey that delves into alphabetical patterns of words, traverses the globe in its hunt to find languages of origins and their nuances, thrills with the phonetics of homophones and entices you to learn new words and meanings. We hope that this becomes an educative and entertaining experience for each reader.



# Misspelled Commonly misspelled words

The simplest of words are often misspelled. In an age aided with 'spell checks' and 'auto correct' features, seldom does one have the time to recollect the correct spelling of a word. But this dependency also leads to gruesome errors that can cause serious miscommunication.

What's more important than recognizing a misspelled word is recognizing the pattern in which it is usually misspelled. This will ensure more often than not that the error does not recur. Given below is a list of commonly misspelled words and the manner in which they are usually misspelled.

The correctly spelled word	The common spelling error	How to remember?
<b>Abscess</b>	<b>Absciss</b>	The pronunciation is often misleading
<b>Abseil</b>	<b>Absail</b>	The ending of abseil is spelled-seil; it is a German word. Follow the pronunciation.
<b>Absence</b>	<b>Absense</b>	The 'c' rules over 's' in this case.
<b>Acceptable</b>	<b>Acceptible</b>	Accept a table.
<b>Accidentally</b>	<b>Accidently</b>	Remember accidental and the fact that there is a double 'l'.
<b>Accommodate</b>	<b>Accomodate</b>	Accommodate is big enough to accommodate two 'c's and 'm's.
<b>Accumulate</b>	<b>Accummulate</b>	Two cups and a mug had accumulated in the bowl.
<b>Achieve</b>	<b>Acheive</b>	'l' before 'e' except after 'c' (as in thief).
<b>Amateur</b>	<b>Amatuer</b>	Amateur is not mature.
<b>Argument</b>	<b>Arguement</b>	Suffix '-ment' removes 'e' from argue.
<b>Benign</b>	<b>Beningn</b>	The end has a distinct 'ign' just like design.
<b>Besiege</b>	<b>Beseige</b>	'l' before 'e' except after 'c' (as in thief).
<b>Believe</b>	<b>Beleive</b>	There is a lie in believe.
<b>Bellwether</b>	<b>Bellweather</b>	Wether is a gelded ram chosen to lead the herd.
<b>Buoyant</b>	<b>Boyant</b>	The language of origin is French also remember the word buoy.
<b>Bizarre</b>	<b>Bizzare</b>	It's one 'z' and 2 'r's.
<b>Broccoli</b>	<b>Brocolli</b>	It's 2 'c's and 1 'l'. The word has Italian origin hence the 'cc' like in fettuccine.
<b>Bureaucracy</b>	<b>Bureaucrasy</b>	The language of origin is Italian. Hence the 'eau' and remember the use of 'c' in the end and not 's'.



## The correctly spelled word

## The common spelling error

## How to remember?

<b>Calendar</b>	<b>Calender</b>	Two 'a's and one 'e'.
<b>Caffeine</b>	<b>Caffine</b>	Caffeine should be spelled with a double f, then -ei-; it does not follow the rule i before e except after c.
<b>Changeable</b>	<b>Changable</b>	Keep the final -e when adding -able to change to make sure that changeable is pronounced with a soft -ge- sound.
<b>Chauffeur</b>	<b>Chauffer</b>	The word originates from French and hence the 'eur' ending.
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Committee</b>	Double 'm,e,t'.
<b>Connoisseur</b>	<b>Connoiseur</b>	Double 'n', double 's'.
<b>Cafeteria</b>	<b>Cafetaria</b>	Remember the use of 'e' as against 'a' at the end.
<b>Cemetery</b>	<b>Cemetary</b>	Consecutive three 'e's.
<b>Correspondence</b>	<b>Correspondance</b>	Don't 'dance' at the end of the word. It ends with an 'ence' and not an 'ance'.
<b>Colonel</b>	<b>Kernel</b>	There's a 'colon' at the start of the word.
<b>Conscientious</b>	<b>Conscientous</b>	There's an 'ious' at the end.
<b>Daiquiri</b>	<b>Diaquiri</b>	Named after the Daiquiri district of Cuba. It's a 'dai' in the beginning and not a 'dia'.
<b>Deceive</b>	<b>Decieve</b>	'l' before e except after 'c' (as in thief).
<b>Definitely</b>	<b>Definitly</b>	It's de + finitely.
<b>Dilemma</b>	<b>Dillemma</b>	It has a single 'l'. Latin from Greek - 'di' which is twice and 'lemma' which is premise.
<b>Diarrhoea</b>	<b>Diarrhea</b>	UK vs American English.
<b>Disappoint</b>	<b>Dissapoint</b>	From old French, disappointer. It has 1 's' and 2 'p's.
<b>Discipline</b>	<b>Disipline</b>	This one has an 'sc' in the middle.
<b>Drunkenness</b>	<b>Drunkeness</b>	It's drunken + ness.
<b>Dumbbell</b>	<b>Dumbell</b>	Remember the double 'b'.
<b>Embarrassment</b>	<b>Embarrasment</b>	It's got a double 'r' and double 's'.
<b>Exercise</b>	<b>Excercise</b>	Due to the pronunciation one tends to add the additional 'c' after the 'x'. Remember not to do so.
<b>Enthral</b>	<b>Enthral</b>	UK vs US English. Double the l when adding endings which begin with a vowel to words which end in a vowel plus l (as in travel):(enthral, enthralling, enthralled).



## The correctly spelled word

## The common spelling error

## How to remember?

<b>Ecstasy</b>	<b>Ecstacy</b>	One just has to remember the use of the 's' in the end.
<b>Entrepreneur</b>	<b>Entreprener</b>	The word is from French origin; hence the use of 'eur' in the end.
<b>Exhilarate</b>	<b>Exhilerate</b>	Latin exhilarat - 'made cheerful'.
<b>Existence</b>	<b>Existance</b>	It's exis + tense.
<b>Fahrenheit</b>	<b>Farenheit</b>	Remember to add the 'h' before the 'r'.
<b>Fiery</b>	<b>Feiry</b>	Follow the pronunciation.
<b>Fluorescent</b>	<b>Florescent</b>	Remember that fluorescent and the related word fluorescence begin with fluor.
<b>Foreign</b>	<b>Foriegn</b>	It's fo + reign.
<b>Guarantee</b>	<b>Guaranty</b>	Remember to tee off at the end.
<b>Gist</b>	<b>Jist</b>	The word starts with a 'g' and not a 'j'.
<b>Government</b>	<b>Government</b>	A government has to govern.
<b>Harass</b>	<b>Harrass</b>	The shorter this word 'id' the better it is. Drop the extra 'r'.
<b>Hierarchy</b>	<b>Heirarchy</b>	There is no heir in hierarchy.
<b>Honorary</b>	<b>Honourary</b>	If a word ends in -our (in this case honour), change -our to -or before adding -ary, -ific, and some other endings: honorary; honorific.
<b>Inoculate</b>	<b>Innoculate</b>	Drop the extra 'n'.
<b>Idiosyncrasy</b>	<b>Idiosyncracy</b>	Spell idiosyncrasy with - 'syn' - in the middle; it ends with - 'asy'.
<b>Judgement</b>	<b>Judgment</b>	Judgement is the British spelling whereas judgment is the American spelling.
<b>Jewellery</b>	<b>Jewelry</b>	Jewellery is the British spelling whereas jewelry is the American spelling.
<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>Knowlege</b>	It's know + ledge.
<b>Leisure</b>	<b>Liesure</b>	Don't lie about your leisures.
<b>Liaison</b>	<b>Laison</b>	Don't forget to to add the extra 'i' in liaison.
<b>Lollipop</b>	<b>Lollypop</b>	Remember that lollipop is spelled with an i in the middle.
<b>Maintenance</b>	<b>Maintainence</b>	Your main tenants.
<b>Manoeuvre</b>	<b>Maneuver</b>	UK v/s US English.



## The correctly spelled word

## The common spelling error

## How to remember?

<b>Mediaeval</b>	<b>Medieval</b>	They gave me a two(dia) evaluations.
<b>Millennium</b>	<b>Millenium</b>	The millennium is large enough to fit in two 's' and two 'n's. Millennium was formed by analogy with words like biennium, while millenary and millenarian were formed from the Latin milleni. Hence the use of the double 'n' is required.
<b>Minuscule</b>	<b>Minuscule</b>	Minus - cule.
<b>Necessary</b>	<b>Neccessary</b>	It's necessary to cut some services.
<b>Neighbour</b>	<b>Neighbor</b>	Neighbour is the British spelling whereas neighbour is the American Spelling
<b>Noticeable</b>	<b>Noticable</b>	It's notice + able
<b>Occurrence</b>	<b>Occurence</b>	It's got a double 'c' and double 'r'.
<b>Pastime</b>	<b>Passtime</b>	Don't pass your time.
<b>Parallel</b>	<b>Paralell</b>	The parallel pillars appear in the middle of the word.
<b>Pavilion</b>	<b>Pavillion</b>	Spell pavilion with a single 'l'.
<b>Playwright</b>	<b>Playright</b>	Don't right your play. Write your play.
<b>Pharaoh</b>	<b>Pharoh</b>	Ends with a 'aoh'.
<b>Pigeon</b>	<b>Pigoen</b>	It's an 'eon' at the end.
<b>Possession</b>	<b>Possesion</b>	It possesses two double 's's.
<b>Privilege</b>	<b>Privilege</b>	From privus 'private' + lex, leg- 'law'.
<b>Pronunciation</b>	<b>Pronounciation</b>	Drop the 'o'. Also follow the pronounciatio
<b>Programme</b>	<b>Program</b>	The British Spelling is 'programme' whereas the American Spelling is 'program'.
<b>Propaganda</b>	<b>Propoganda</b>	Same family as propagation. Hence the use of 'a' instead of 'o' at the end.
<b>Portuguese</b>	<b>Portugese</b>	She welcomed her Portuguese guests.
<b>Questionnaire</b>	<b>Questionnair</b>	A french word hence ends with an 'aire'.
<b>Receive</b>	<b>Recieve</b>	i-before-e except after 'c'.
<b>Resistance</b>	<b>Resistence</b>	Don't get 'tense' at the end of resistance.
<b>Receipt</b>	<b>Reciept</b>	'i' before 'e' except after 'c' (as in receive).
<b>Referred</b>	<b>Refered</b>	Final consonants are often doubled before suffixes (remit: remitted, remitting).



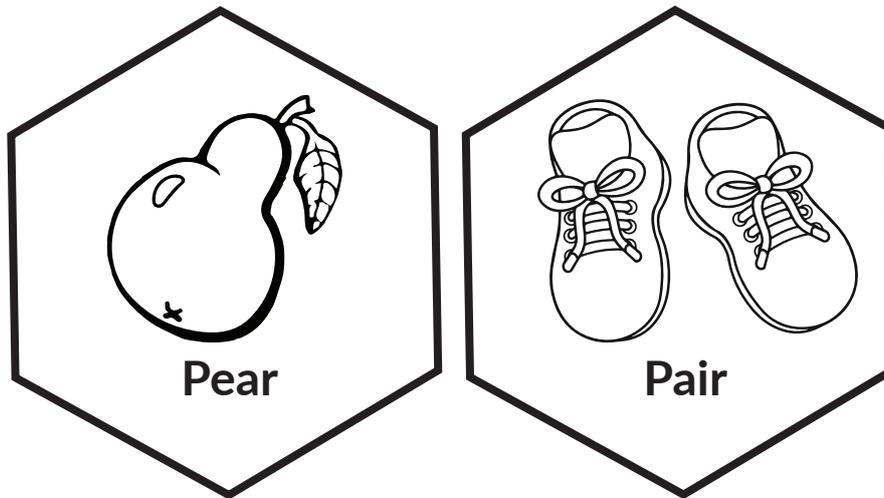
## The correctly spelled word

## The common spelling error

## How to remember?

<b>Separate</b>	<b>Seperate</b>	Separate emerges from to set apart. Hence the use of 'a' as against 'e'.
<b>Siege</b>	<b>Seige</b>	'i' before e except after 'c' (as in thief).
<b>Subpoena</b>	<b>Subpeona/supoena</b>	Remember the silent 'b' and the use of 'oe'.
<b>Supersede</b>	<b>Supercede</b>	Only English word based on this stem spelled - sede.
<b>Surprise</b>	<b>Suprise</b>	Remember that surprise has an 'r' before and after the 'p'.
<b>Sustenance</b>	<b>Sustainance</b>	Same as maintenance.
<b>Tendency</b>	<b>Tendancy</b>	Abolish your tendency to add an 'a' when not required.
<b>Tattoo</b>	<b>Tatoo</b>	The word has a double 't' and a double 'o'.
<b>Truly</b>	<b>Truely</b>	The tendency is think of it as true + ly, which is wrong.
<b>Weird</b>	<b>Wierd</b>	It does not follow the usual rule of i before e except after 'c'.
<b>Until</b>	<b>Untill</b>	The tendency is think of it as un + till, which is wrong.





## Homophones

'Won may not rest in piece if there sole is impure'. As absurd as that statement may appear, spelling errors occur very frequently because of homophones. The study of homophones is per se one of the language's most interesting idiosyncrasy that brings together two similar sounding words, which most often than not have totally different meanings.

So the next time you are attempting to spell out words like 'one', 'peace', 'their' or 'soul', ensure you understand the meaning of the word first. SBI Life Spell Bee Season 13 in association with Mirchi competition lets students understand the meaning of the word first, before they attempt answering it, at all levels. Given below is a list of homophones that should brighten up your day and give you a flavour of just how interesting the English language is!



**Beau**

(A male admirer)

**Beer**

(an alcoholic drink made from yeast-fermented malt flavoured burial with hops).

**Borough**

(a town or district which is an administrative unit).

**Bundt**

(a ring-shaped cake made in a fluted tube pan, called a Bundt pan).

**Complacence**

(a feeling of smug or uncritical satisfaction with oneself or one's achievements).

**Complement**

(a thing that contributes extra features to something else in such a way as to improve or emphasize its quality).

**Council**

(an advisory, deliberative, or administrative body of people formally constituted and meeting regularly).

**Crewel**

(a thin, loosely twisted, worsted yarn used for tapestry and embroidery).

**Cygnets**

(a young swan).

**Cymbal**

(a musical instrument consisting of a slightly concave round brass plate which is either struck against another one or stick to make a ringing or clashing sound).

**Discreet**

(careful and prudent in one's speech or actions, especially in order to keep something confidential or to avoid embarrassment).

**Farrow**

(an act of giving birth to a litter of pigs).

**Ferrate**

(a salt in which the anion contains both iron (typically ferric iron) and oxygen).

**Filter**

(a porous device for removing impurities or solid particles liquid or gas passed through it).

**Bow**

(a weapon for shooting arrows)

**Bier**

(a movable frame on which a coffin or a corpse is placed before or cremation or on which they are carried to the grave).

**Burrow**

(a hole or tunnel dug by a small animal, especially a rabbit, as a dwelling).

**Bunt**

(Baseball (of a batter) gently tap (a pitched ball) without swinging in an attempt to make it more difficult to field).

**Complaisance**

(willingness to please others or to accept what they do or say without protest).

**Compliment**

(a polite expression of praise or admiration).

**Counsel**

(advice, especially that given formally).

**Cruel**

(wilfully causing pain or suffering to others, or feeling no concern about it).

**Signet**

(a small seal, especially one set in a ring, used instead of or with a signature to give authentication to an official document).

**Symbol**

(a mark or character used as a conventional representation of an object, struck function, or process, e.g. the letter or with a letters standing for a chemical element or a character in musical notation).

**Discrete**

(individually separate and distinct).

**Pharaoh**

(a ruler in ancient Egypt).

**Ferret**

(a domesticated polecat used chiefly for catching rabbits. It is typically albino in coloration, but sometimes brown).

**Philter**

(a drink supposed to arouse love and desire for a particular from a person in the drinker; a love potion).



**Fisher**

(a large brown marten valued for its fur, found in North American where it frequently preys on porcupines).

**Flair**

(a special or instinctive aptitude or ability for doing something well).

**Foreword**

(a short introduction to a book, typically by a person other than the author).

**Gild**

(cover thinly with gold).

**Gorilla**

(a powerfully built great ape with a large head and short neck, found in the forests of central Africa. It is the largest living primate).

**Great**

(of an extent, amount, or intensity considerably above average).

**Humerus**

(the bone of the upper arm or forelimb, forming joints at the shoulder and the elbow).

**Kernel**

(a softer, usually edible part of a nut, seed, or fruit stone lieutenant contained within its shell).

**Liar**

(a person who tells lies).

**Lightening**

(a drop in the level of the womb during the last weeks of pregnancy as the head of the fetus engages in the pelvis).

**Manner**

(a way in which a thing is done or happens).

**Marquee**

(chiefly British a large tent used for social or commercial functions).

**Moose**

(a large deer with palmate antlers and a growth of skin hanging the neck, native to northern Eurasia and northern North America. Also called ELK in Britain).

**Muscles**

(a band or bundle of fibrous tissue in a human or animal body that has the ability to contract, producing movement in or maintaining the position of parts of the body).

**Fissure**

(a long, narrow opening or line of breakage made by woodland cracking or splitting, especially in rock or earth).

**Flare**

(a sudden brief burst of bright flame or light).

**Forward**

(in the direction that one is facing or travelling; towards the front).

**Guild**

(a medieval association of craftsmen or merchants, often having considerable power).

**Guerrilla**

(a member of a small independent group taking part in irregular fighting, typically against larger regular forces).

**Grate**

(reduce (food) to small shreds by rubbing it on a grater).

**Humorous**

(causing laughter and amusement; comic).

**Colonel**

(a rank of officer in the army and in the US air force, above a colonel and below a brigadier or brigadier general).

**Lyre**

(a stringed instrument like a small U-shaped harp with strings fixed to a crossbar, used especially in ancient Greece. Modern instruments of this type are found mainly in East Africa).

**Lightning**

(the occurrence of a natural electrical discharge of very short duration and high voltage between a cloud and the ground or within a cloud, accompanied by a bright flash and typically also thunder).

**Manor**

(a large country house with lands).

**Marquis**

(a nobleman ranking above a count and below a duke).

**Mousse**

(a sweet or savoury dish made as a smooth, light mass in which from the main ingredient is whipped with cream and egg white).

**Mussels**

(any of a number of bivalve molluscs with a brown or purplish-black shell).



**Mustard**

(a hot-tasting yellow or brown paste made from the crushed typically eaten with meat or used as a cooking ingredient).

**Ordinance**

(an authoritative order).

**Principle**

(a fundamental truth or proposition that serves as the foundation for a system of belief or behaviour or for a chain of reasoning).

**Quarts**

(a unit of liquid capacity equal to a quarter of a gallon or two pints, equivalent in Britain to approximately 1.13 litres and in the US to approximately 0.94 litre).

**Racket**

(a bat with a round or oval frame strung with catgut, nylon, etc., especially in tennis, badminton, and squash). This is one those special pair of homonyms that mean mean and sound the same.

**Retch**

(make the sound and movement of vomiting).

**Rheumy**

((especially of the eyes) full of rheum; watery).

**Sachet**

(British a small sealed bag or packet containing a small quantity ated of something).

**Staid**

(sedate, respectable, and unadventurous).

**Stair**

(a set of steps leading from one floor of a building to inside the building).

**Stationary**

(not moving or not intended to be moved).

**Step**

(an act or movement of putting one leg in front of the other in walking or running).

**Suite**

(a set of rooms designated for one person's or family's for a particular purpose).

**Tighten**

(make or become tight or tighter).

**Timber**

(wood prepared for use in building and carpentry).

**Mustered**

(assemble (troops), especially for inspection seeds of certain plants, or in preparation for battle).

**Ordnance**

(mounted guns; artillery).

**Principal**

(first in order of importance; main).

**Quartz**

(a unit of liquid capacity equal to a quarter of a gallon or two pints, equivalent in Britain to approximately 1.13 litres and in the US to approximately 0.94 litre).

**Racquet**

(a bat with a round or oval frame strung with catgut, nylon, used etc., used especially in tennis, badminton, and squash). This is one those special pair of homonyms that mean and sound the same.

**Wretch**

(an unfortunate or unhappy person).

**Roomy**

((especially of accommodation) having plenty of room; spacious).

**Sashay**

(walk in an ostentatious yet casual manner, typically with exaggerated movements of the hips and shoulders).

**Stayed**

(remain in the same place).

**Stare**

(look fixedly or vacantly at someone or something another, typically with one's eyes wide open).

**Stationery**

(writing and other office materials).

**Steppe**

(a large area of flat unforested grassland in SE Europe or Siberia).

**Sweet**

(having the pleasant taste characteristic of sugar or honey; use or not salt, sour, or bitter).

**Titan**

(Greek Mythology any of the older gods who preceded the Olympians and were the children of Uranus (Heaven) and Gaia (Earth). Led by Cronus, they overthrew Uranus; Cronus' son, Zeus, then rebelled against his father and eventually defeated the Titans).

**Timbre**

(the character or quality of a musical sound or voice as distinct from its pitch and intensity).



**Warrantee**

(a person to whom a warranty is given).

**Warranty**

(a written guarantee, issued to the purchaser of an article by its manufacturer, promising to repair or replace it if necessary within a specified period of time).

**Whither**

(to what place or state).

**Wither**

((of a plant) become dry and shriveled)



# Etymology

From the time you wake up till you sleep, you say a million words and probably receive a gazillion each day. Some keep the practice going even while they sleep. Such is our love and necessity to live the English language every day. But have you ever stepped back and thought of where in the whole world do these words come from? Where were they born? Were they altered through time? Why are they spelled in a particular manner and not another?

Behold the study of etymology! It is one of the most scientific, effective and fun methodologies to study spellings, and is an art mastered by champion spellers across the globe. The study delves into the languages of origin of a word and sometimes combines the study of phonetics, to reveal alphabetical patterns that traverse through the literature libraries of the oldest languages. Sometimes labyrinthine and sometimes simple, the use of etymology is like following a treasure trail with a magic rainbow of words and languages that lie at the end of it.

In this section we attempt to bring forth the etymology based study of words from varied languages. What's interesting is that etymology is not just for spelling competition aspirants but for everyone. It gives us a better understanding of how a word goes through the beautiful journey of being born of a certain language, passed on to a different one wherein it's probably joined by another word or two, finally being selflessly borrowed by the global language of communication - English.

Etymology makes us believe in the saying

**'The journey's always bigger than the destination.'**



# Words of Latin Origin



Latin is an old language that was spoken by the Romans and others. While we seldom speak the language today, several prominent languages used around the world today have emerged from Latin. It is also the language of the Vatican. People in the Roman Catholic Church sometimes use Latin for communication (if they have different mother tongues) and sometimes in ceremonies.

Latin is also used by zoologists and botanists to name and describe every new species (type of plant or animal). Plants and animals are usually named in writing related to zoology and botany, by giving a Latin name alongside the name in a modern language. The Latin name is the one that has a precise, agreed definition.

Latin was the most important language in most of Europe in the Middle Ages. It was taught in many European schools, and all universities used Latin as the teaching language. Latin began to lose its importance in the Reformation, but it was still often used by authors of scientific books and encyclopedias. Until about 1900 many universities accepted dissertations written in Latin.

Some languages spoken today came from the Latin language. Those languages are called Romance languages. The five largest Romance languages are French, Romanian, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish. Other Indo-European languages are related to Latin. The Romance languages are very close to each other, and it is possible for the speakers of one Romance language to understand another to at least some extent. For example, speakers of Portuguese can well understand Spanish. It can be said that the Romance languages are modern dialects of Latin.

## The following are certain alphabetical patterns that are predominant amongst English words of Latin origin.

- The letter 'c' often has a /k/ sound. Examples:- capricious, innocuous, carnivorous
- The letter 'x' often has the /gz/ sound. Examples: exacerbate.
- When used in the combination 'xious' , for e.g. anxious, it is pronounced as angk-shuhs. The word 'obnoxious' is pronounced as uhb-nok-shuhs.
- Some Latin words have 'gn' as a single syllable. In these words 'g' is silent. The word rhymes with 'nine'. Examples: benign, assign, design.
- An /s/ sound followed by any 'e' sound (long, short or schwa) is usually spelled as c. Examples: exacerbate, access, adjacent, facetious, necessary, etc.
- But look out for words having the /s/ sound but 'sc' spelling. Examples: crescent, disciple, discipline, susceptible, corpuscle.



# Latin Words

- **ACINACEOUS**  
From 'acinous' meaning berry - refers to berry-like properties of an object.
- **ACRIMONIOUS**  
From Acri (Sharp) and Mony (Nature or quality). Related to bitterness or sharpness of speech or manner.
- **AESTIVATION**  
From 'aesta' meaning summer - refers to animal dormancy in summer like hibernation in winter.
- **CAPILLARIES**  
From 'capillus' meaning hair - refers to the hair-like thin blood vessels on the skin.
- **CAPODECINA**  
From 'caput' meaning head - refers to a head of ten families.
- **DECIMATION**  
From 'deca' meaning tenth - refers to a Roman punishment where every tenth soldier of a mutinous group was killed .
- **DEFENESTRATION**  
From De (Removal) and Fenestra (Window). The act of throwing someone out of a window.
- **DIURNALITY**  
From 'die' meaning day - refers to changes taking place during day and night.
- **EMBELLISHMENT**  
From 'bellus' meaning pretty - refers to beautifying something or improving it.
- **EXHUMATION**  
From Ex (Former or Removed) and Humare (To Bury). To dig up something buried, esp a corpse.
- **FALCIFORM**  
From Falcatus (Sickle) and Form (Shape). A sickle-shaped item or organ in the body.
- **FELICITATIONS**  
From 'felix' meaning happy- refers to joyous celebration of someones work or achievements.
- **FIDUCIARY**  
From Fiduci (a Trust) and Ary (Belonging to). A person to whom property or power is entrusted for the benefit of another.
- **IMMACULATE**  
From 'macula' meaning a spot - refers to a spotlessly clean object or behaviour.
- **INDENTURED**  
From In (Part of) and Dentured (Toothlike impression). Refers to a legal contract written in duplicate on the same sheet, with the copies separated by cutting along a jagged (toothed, hence the term 'indenture') line so that the teeth of the two parts could later be refitted to confirm authenticity.
- **LAPIDARY**  
From Lapid (Of stone) and Ary (Belonging to). Refers to the art of converting stones and minerals into decorative items.
- **OBFUSCATE**  
From Ob (Towards) and Fuscus (Dark). It refers to the hiding of intended meaning in communication.
- **PROCRASTINATE**  
From Pro (Before) and Castinare (of Tomorrow). Refers to putting away things to be done for tomorrow.
- **QUATREFOIL**  
From 'folium' meaning leaf - refers to something that has four leaves.
- **REINCARNATE**  
From Re (Again) and Carnal (Related to flesh). To be born again in a new body.



# Words of French origin



French is a Romance language spoken as a first language in France, the Romandy region in Switzerland, Wallonia and Brussels in Belgium, Monaco, the provinces of Quebec, Ontario and New Brunswick (Acadia region) in Canada, the Acadiana region of the U.S. state of Louisiana, the northern parts of the U.S. states of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont in the New England region, and by various communities elsewhere.

French is an Italic language descended from the spoken Latin language of the Roman Empire, as are languages such as Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, Romanian, Lombard, Catalan, Sicilian and Sardinian. Its closest relatives are the other langues d'oïl - languages historically spoken in northern France and in Belgium, which French has largely supplanted.

French is an official language in 29 countries, most of which form la francophonie (in French), the community of French-speaking countries. It is an official language of all United Nations agencies and a large number of international organizations.

French uses the Roman alphabet, with English. There are a few differences, because vowels can have three types of diacritics added on to them. These are the acute accent é; grave accent è and circumflex accent î. A cedilla can also be added onto a c to make ç.

If a word ends with a consonant, this will usually not be pronounced unless the next word starts with a vowel. However, if the word is very short or the last consonant is a c, r, l or f, this is still pronounced.

## The following are certain alphabetical patterns that are predominant amongst English words of French origin.

- 'ch' is usually pronounced as /sh/. Examples: chagrin, chauvinism, chaise, chalet, champagne, chandelier, chaperone, chateau, chef, chiffon, brochure, cache, crochet, machine, parachute, moustache .
- Words containing 'ette' at the end, for e.g., layette, are pronounced as ley-et. Examples: corvette, lunette.
- Words containing 'ie' at the end, for e.g. prairie, are pronounced as prair-ee.
- Words containing 'que' at the end, for e.g. bouquet, are pronounced as boh-kay.
- Words like 'gauche' and 'quiche' are pronounced as /gosh/ and /keesh/ respectively.
- 'que' is usually pronounced as /k/. Examples: boutique, mystique, etiquette, masque, liqueur, critique, plaque.
- 'oire' at the end of the word is usually pronounced as /wahr/. For example: repertoire, armoire, bete noire, escritoire.



# French Words

- **ACCOUTREMENTS**  
From Accoustre (Equip or arrange) and Mend (Sew together). Term used for the equipment, excluding weapons and clothing, of a soldier.
- **BIVOUAC**  
From Bei (By) and Wacht (Watch). It is a temporary encampment with few facilities, as used by soldiers, mountaineers.
- **BOURGEOIS**  
From Burg (Town) and Geois (person). A member of the middle class, an ordinary person.
- **CAMOUFLAGE**  
From Camouflier (To disguise) and Age (A collective set). Used for an act, means, or result of obscuring things to deceive an enemy.
- **CHAMELEON**  
From cameleon or 'on the earth, on the ground' + léōn or 'lion'.
- **CHATEAU**  
From French castel or large house.
- **CHIVALRY**  
From Old French word chevalerie, 'knighthood, chivalry, nobility, cavalry' - thus relating to the strict code of conduct of these men.
- **CINEPHILE**  
From Cine (Cinema) and Phile (Lover). A person who is a lover of movies.
- **CLOISTER**  
From Old French cloistre, 'portion of monastery closed off to laity. An area that is only meant for monks.
- **DEMARCHE**  
From 'to march' - meaning a diplomatic move where you order another nation to watch its move.
- **DÉTENTE**  
From French for 'Relaxation' - A relaxing of tension, especially between countries.
- **DISTINGUISH**  
From Dis (Apart) and Stinguere (To Prick). To recognize as distinct or different; recognize the salient or individual features or characteristics of something.
- **ESPIONAGE**  
From Espionn (To Spy) and Age (process). The act or practice of spying.
- **FRICASSEE**  
From Fri (Fry) and Casser (To break or damage). Used for meat that is browned lightly, stewed and served with a sauce of its own stock.
- **GENDARME**  
From Gens d armes - Gens (People) and Armes (Arms). Used for a police officer in any of several European countries, especially a French police officer.
- **LIEUTENANT**  
From Lieu (Place) and Tenant (Holding). The notion is of a 'substitute' for higher authority. Specific military sense of 'officer next in rank to a captain'.
- **MERINGUE**  
From 'light evening meal', derivative of meren 'to dip or soak bread'. Refers to the process of making the dish.
- **PAVILION**  
From pavilloun or 'butterfly, moth' due to resemblance of tent to a butterfly's wings.



# French Words

- **POTPOURRI**  
From Rotten Pot. Now used for a mixture of dried flower petals, leaves, and spices that is used to make a room smell pleasant.
- **QUATREFOIL**  
From Quatre (Four) and Foil (Leaflets). Refers to a leaf composed of four leaflets.
- **RAPPROCHEMENT**  
From Rapproche (To bring near) and Ment (Action or resulting state). Relates to an establishment or reestablishment of harmonious relations.
- **RECONNAISSANCE**  
From 'recognition'. The act of scouting or exploring - especially military - to gain information.
- **RENDEZVOUS**  
From Rendez (Present) and Vous (Yourself). Now used for a meeting or appointment to meet at specified time and place.
- **SOUFFLE**  
From French souffler or 'to puff'. Describes the state of the cooked sweet.
- **SURVEILLANCE**  
From French surveillance or 'a watching over, overseeing, supervision' and veillier 'to stay awake'.
- **SUZERAIN**  
From Sus (Above) and Reign (Rule). A state exercising some degree of dominion over a dependent state, usually controlling its foreign affairs.
- **TURQUOISE**  
From turquoise or 'Turkish stone'. The stone was originally brought to Europe from Turkestan.



# Words of German origin



German (Deutsch) is a West Germanic language related to and classified alongside Dutch and English. German is one of the world's major languages and is the most widely spoken first language in the European Union.

Most German vocabulary is derived from the Germanic branch of the Indo-European language family. A number of words are derived from Latin and Greek, and fewer from French and English. German is written using the Latin alphabet. In addition to the 26 standard letters, German has three vowels with umlauts (Ä/ä, Ö/ö, and Ü/ü) and the letter ß.

The languages which are most similar to (Standard) German are Luxembourgish, Lorraine Franconian, Alsatian, Afrikaans, Dutch, the Frisian languages and English.

## The following are certain alphabetical patterns that are predominant amongst English words of German origin.

- 'A /k/ sound at the beginning of the word is usually spelled as 'k'. Examples: kitsch, einkorn.
- A /k/ sound at the end of the word is usually spelled as 'ck'. Examples: knapsack, glockenspiel.
- The 'ei' in the word is usually pronounced as /aye/. Examples: fraulein, Meistersinger, zeitgeber.
- The 'ie' in the word is usually pronounced as /ee/ as in 'teeth'. Examples: glockenspiel, blitzkrieg.
- The 'v' in the word is usually pronounced as /f/. Examples: Volkswagen, volkslied, herrenvolk, vorlage.
- The letter 'z' when followed by 't' in a words, is not pronounced as /z/ but as /s/. For example: pretzel, blitzkrieg, spritz.]
- The /sh/ sound is usually spelled as 'sch'. Examples: schadenfreude, schottische.
- The letter 'w' is pronounced as /v/. Examples: bratwurst, weisnichtwo, edelweiss.



# German Words

- **ABSEILING**  
From 'to rope down' - also called rappelling, is the controlled descent down a rock face using a rope.
- **ANSCHLUSS**  
Used for 'connection' or union, political annexation.
- **BLITZKRIEG**  
From Blitz (Lightning) and Krieg (War). A sudden and overwhelming military attack specially used by Germans under Hitler.
- **BRATWURST**  
From Brat (Bake or Roast) and Wurst (Sausage). A sausage made of pork, spices, and herbs, sometimes without a casing, usually served sautéed or broiled.
- **DELICATESSEN**  
From Delikat (Fine or exotic) and Essen (Food). A shop selling various foods, especially unusual or imported foods, already cooked or prepared.
- **DOPPELGANGER**  
From Doppel (Double) and Ganger (Goer). Used for someone who looks like someone else or a ghost that looks like a living person.
- **EDELWEISS**  
From Edel (Noble) and Weiss (White). Refers to a small white Alpine flower.
- **ERSATZ**  
From 'replacement' or substitute, usually implying inferiority to the original.
- **FUHRER**  
Meaning 'leader, guide' - a term that still has Hitler/Nazi connections in English, more than 70 years after it first came into use.
- **GESUNDHEIT**  
From Gesund (Healthy) and Heit (Hood). Used to wish good health, especially to a person who has just sneezed.
- **GLOCKENSPIEL**  
From Glocken (Bell) and Spiel (Play). Refers to a musical instrument played by striking tuned flat metal plates.
- **HINTERLAND**  
From Hinter (Back) and Land (Country). The remote or less developed parts of a country; back country:
- **KINDERGARTEN**  
From Kinder (Children) and Garten (Garden). A new type of school first created in Blankenberg by Friedrich Fröbel in 1839.
- **KITSCHY**  
From 'kitsch' - something gaudy or pretentious, in poor taste relating to art, literature, furnishings etc.
- **LAGER**  
From 'storeroom, warehouse' - lager beer gets its name from the fact that it is stored for aging.
- **LEBENSRAUM**  
From Leben (Living) and Sraum (Space). A territory for political or economic expansion; originally related to German imperialism.
- **LEDERHOSEN**  
From Leder (Leather) and Hosen (Trousers or shorts). Leather shorts, usually with suspenders, worn especially in Bavaria Germany.
- **LEITMOTIV**  
From Leit (Dominant) and Motiv (Theme). Something (such as a short piece of music, an idea, or a phrase) that is repeated many times throughout an opera, book, story, etc.



# German Words

- **OKTOBERFEST**  
From Oktober (October) and Fest (Festival). A traditional festival held in October specially in Munich.
- **POLTERGEIST**  
From Poltern (Noisy) and Geist (Ghost). A ghost or spirit supposed to manifest its presence by noises, knockings etc.
- **REICHSTAG**  
From 'imperial diet' - Der Reichstag was the German parliament prior to WWII.
- **REALPOLITIK**  
From Real (Real) and Politik (Politics). Political realism or practical politics, especially policy based on power rather than on ideals.
- **RUCKSACK**  
From Ruck (Back) and Sack (Sack). a type of knapsack carried by hikers, bicyclists, etc.
- **SAUERKRAUT**  
From Sauer (Sour) and Kraut (Greens). Finely cut and pickled cabbage.
- **SCHADENFREUDE**  
From Schaden (Sadness) and Freude (Joy). A feeling of enjoyment over someone's misfortune.
- **VOLKSWAGON**  
From Volks (People) and Wagon (Car). Prominent brand name meaning People's car that came into prominence during the Nazi regime.
- **WANDERJAHR**  
From "wander year," a year of travel before settling down in one's vocation; The 'Gap Year' of USA.
- **ZEITGEIST**  
From Zeit (Time) and Geist (Spirit). Refers to the general beliefs, ideas, and spirit of a time and place.



# Words of Japanese origin



Japanese is an East Asian language spoken by about 125 million speakers, primarily in Japan, where it is the national language. It is a member of the Japonic (or Japanese-Ryukyuan) language family, whose relation to other language groups, particularly to Korean and the suggested Altaic language family, is debated.

Little is known of the language's prehistory, or when it first appeared in Japan. Chinese documents from the 3rd century recorded a few Japanese words, but substantial texts did not appear until the 8th century. Late Middle Japanese (1185–1600) saw changes in features that brought it closer to the modern language, as well the first appearance of European loanwords. Following the end in 1853 of Japan's self-imposed isolation, the flow of loanwords from European languages increased significantly. English loanwords in particular have become frequent, and Japanese words from English roots have proliferated.

Japanese is a language with simple phonotactics, a pure vowel system, phonemic vowel and consonant length, and a lexically significant pitch-accent. Nouns have no grammatical number or gender, and there are no articles. Verbs are conjugated, primarily for tense and voice, but not person. Japanese equivalents of adjectives are also conjugated. Japanese has a complex system of honorifics with verb forms and vocabulary to indicate the relative status of the speaker, the listener, and the people mentioned.

Japanese has no genealogical relationship with Chinese, but it makes extensive use of Chinese characters, or kanji, in its writing system, and a large portion of its vocabulary is borrowed from Chinese. Along with kanji, the Japanese writing system primarily uses two syllabic (or moraic) scripts, hiragana and katakana. Latin script is used in a limited way, such as for imported acronyms, and the numeral system uses mostly Arabic numerals, alongside traditional Chinese numerals. Japanese was little studied by non-Japanese before the Japanese economic bubble of the 1980s. Since then, along with the spread of Japanese popular culture, the number of students of Japanese has reached the millions.

## The following are certain alphabetical patterns that are predominant amongst English words of Japanese origin.

- The long /e/ sound at the end of the word usually states that the words ends with 'lexamples: sushi, teriyaki, kabuki, origami, nori, takoyaki, tsunami. But, the long /e/ sound could also indicate that the word ends with 'e'. Examples: netsuke, enokitake, matsutake, shitake, etc.
- The /oo/ sound indicates that the word ends with 'u'. Examples: haiku, tofu, fugu, kombu, shoyu, Sudoku, etc.
- The /oh/ sound indicates that the word ends with 'o' Examples: honcho, sumo, inro, kimono, bento, ginkgo, miso, panko, udo, etc.
- /ay/ sound is spelled ei in some words from Japanese. Examples: geisha, issei, sensei, keiretsu, Meiji, etc.



# Japanese Words

- **BONSAI**  
From Bon (Tray) and Sai (Planting). A tree or shrub that has been dwarfed by pruning the roots and is grown in a pot or other container.
- **EDAMAME**  
From Eda (Branch) and Mame (Beans). Refers to soybeans boiled whole in the green pod and served with salt.
- **GEISHA**  
A lady who was trained in many arts; traditional Japanese artist-entertainers.
- **GINGKO**  
From Gin (Silver) and Kyo (Apricot). A widely planted ornamental gymnosperm tree, with fan-shaped deciduous leaves and fleshy yellow fruit. It is used in herbal remedies and as a food supplement.
- **HAIKU**  
From Haikai (Jesting verse) and Ku (Stanza). A major form of Japanese verse, written in 17 syllables divided into 3 lines of 5, 7, and 5 syllables.
- **HARAKIRI**  
From Hara (Belly) and Kiri (Cut). Also called seppuku. ceremonial suicide by ripping open the abdomen with a dagger, practiced by the warrior class when disgraced.
- **IKEBANA**  
From Ike (To make live) and Bana (Flowers). The Japanese art of arranging flowers.
- **KABUKI**  
From Ka (Singing), Bu (Dancing) and Ki (Art). A form of Japanese drama based on popular legends and characterized by elaborate costumes, stylized acting, and the use of male actors for all roles.
- **KAMIKAZE**  
From Kami (God) and Kaze (Wind). English for Japanese World War II suicide pilots; in Japanese, refers to strong winds that twice scuppered Mongol attempts to invade Japan.
- **KARAOKE**  
From Kara (Empty) and Oke (Orchestra). An act of singing along to a music video, especially one from which the original vocals have been electronically eliminated.
- **KARATE**  
From Kara (Empty) and Tai (Hands). a method developed in Japan of defending oneself without the use of weapons by striking sensitive areas on an attacker's body with the hands, elbows, knees, or feet.
- **KAROSHI**  
From Kae (Excess), Ro (Labour) and Shi (Death). In Japan death caused by overwork.
- **KIMONO**  
From Ki (Wear) and Mono (Thing). A loose, wide-sleeved robe, fastened at the waist with a wide sash, characteristic of Japanese costume.
- **ORIGAMI**  
From Ori (Fold) and Kami (Paper). The traditional Japanese art or technique of folding paper into a variety of decorative or representational forms, as of animals or flowers.
- **RICKSHAW**  
From Jinrikishaw meaning Jin (Person) Riki (Power) and Shaw (Vehicle). The contracted form is now used for a small, two-wheeled, cartlike passenger vehicle pulled by one person.
- **SASHIMI**  
From Sashi (Stabbing or piercing) and Myi (Body or flesh). Refers to Japanese dishes of raw fish cut into thin slices.



# Japanese Words

- **SAYONARA**  
From Sayo (That way) and Nara (If)- meaning If it be that way. Term for 'goodbye'; in Japanese it has formal and final connotations: you wouldn't say it if you expect to meet again soon.
- **SEPPUKU**  
Means 'cutting the abdomen'; a form of ritual suicide by disembowelment.
- **SHIATSU**  
From Shi (Fingers) and Ya (Pressure). A Japanese massage technique that includes the use of acupressure.
- **SUDOKU**  
A number placement puzzle, also known as Number Place in the United States.
- **TEPPANYAKI**  
A type of Japanese cuisine that uses a hot iron griddle (teppan) to cook food.
- **TERIYAKI**  
From Teri (Glaze) and Yaki (Broil). A dish of grilled slices of beef, chicken, or fish that have been marinated in soy sauce seasoned with sake, ginger, and sugar.
- **TSUNAMI**  
Literally 'harbour wave'; Large wave caused by earthquakes or other underwater disturbances.
- **TYCOON**  
From Tai (Great) and Kun (Prince). A businessperson of great wealth and power; magnate. Also a title used with reference to the shogun of Japan.
- **WASABI**  
A strongly flavoured green condiment commonly known as Japanese horseradish.
- **YAKITORI**  
From Yaki (Broil) and Tori (Fowl). A dish of small pieces of boneless chicken, usually marinated, skewered, and grilled.



# Words of Arabic origin



Arabic is a name applied to the descendants of the Classical Arabic language of the 6th century AD. Arabic belongs to the Afro-Asiatic language family.

Arabic languages are Central Semitic languages, most closely related to Aramaic, Hebrew, Ugaritic and Phoenician. The standardized written Arabic is distinct from and more conservative than all of the spoken varieties, and the two exist in a state known as diglossia, used side-by-side for different societal functions.

The modern written language (Modern Standard Arabic) is derived from the language of the Quran (known as Classical Arabic or Quranic Arabic). It is widely taught in schools, universities and used to varying degrees in workplaces, government and the media.

Arabic has lent many words to other languages of the Islamic world, like Persian, Turkish, Somali, Swahili, Bosnian, Kazakh, Bengali, Urdu, Hindi, Malay and Hausa. During the Middle Ages, Literary Arabic was a major vehicle of culture in Europe, especially in science, mathematics and philosophy. As a result, many European languages have also borrowed many words from it. Arabic influence, both in vocabulary and grammar, is seen in Romance languages, particularly Spanish, Portuguese, Catalan and Sicilian, owing to both the proximity of Christian European and Muslim Arab civilizations and 900 years of Arabic culture and language in the Iberian Peninsula referred to in Arabic as al-Andalus.

Arabic has also borrowed words from many languages, including Hebrew, Greek, Persian and Syriac in early centuries, Turkish in medieval times and contemporary European languages in modern times, mostly from English and French.

## The following are certain alphabetical patterns that are predominant amongst English words of Arabic origin.

- Double consonants are usually seen in words of Arabic Origin. Examples: carrack, coffee, gazelle, luffa, massicot, mummy, tariff, tarragon, tazza, demitasse.
- Many words begin with 'al' Examples: alfalfa, algebra, alchemy, alcohol, alcove, alembic, algorithm, alizarin, alkali.
- The long /e/ sound can be spelled as 'i' as well as 'y'. Examples (for 'Isafari. Tahini, Examples (for 'y'): alchemy.
- The schwa sound at the end is usually spelled as 'a'. Examples: alfalfa, algebra, henna, tuna, soda, sofa.
- The letter 'g' is sometimes pronounced like a 'j'. Examples: algebra, gazelle, gerbil.



# Arabic Words

- **ALCHEMY**  
From 'al-kimiya' meaning in particular "studies about substances through which the generation of gold and silver may be artificially accomplished".
- **ALEMBIC**  
From 'al-anbiq' meaning a distilling still.
- **ALFALFA**  
From 'al-fifisa' name of a fodder grass. Alfalfa had a reputation as the best fodder for horses in Spain.
- **ALGORITHM**  
From 'al-khwārizmī', a short name for the mathematician Muhammad ibn Mūsā al-Khwārizmī. The Latinization of this name to "Algorismi" gave algorithm.
- **AMBERGRIS**  
From 'anbar' came amber and from there ambergris. It is a waxy material produced in the stomach of sperm whales and used historically for perfumery.
- **ASSASSIN**  
From 'hashāshīn', an Arabic nickname for the Nizari Ismaili religious sect which consumes Hashish and carried out assassinations against chiefs of other sects.
- **AUBERGINE**  
From 'al-bādinjān' a plant native to India. It was introduced to the Mediterranean region by the medieval Arabs.
- **AZIMUTH**  
From 'al-sumūt' the paths, the directions, the azimuths. The word's origin is in medieval Arabic astronomy and especially the Arabic version of the Astrolabe.
- **BEZOAR**  
From 'bāzahr' a type of hard bolus, containing calcium compounds, sometimes formed in the stomachs of goats and other ruminants.
- **COFFEE**  
From 'qahwa' comes coffee. Coffee drinking originated in Yemen in the 15th century and the word Caffè also comes from the same root.
- **DAMASK**  
From 'dimashq', city of Damascus. The damask fabric emerged in the Western languages when Damascus was an Arabic-speaking city.
- **DECIPHER**  
From 'sifr' an arabic word that means zero, came cipher and then decipher from that.
- **HUMMUS**  
From 'himmas', chickpea(s). Chickpeas in medieval Arabic were called himmas and were a frequently eaten food item. Hummus is made from chick peas.
- **JULEP**  
From 'julāb', rose water or gulab = "rose water". In its early use in English it was a syrupy drink. Mint Julep is the official drink of the Indianapolis Horse Racing competition.
- **LUTE**  
From 'al-'aūd' - the oud. Al-'aūd was one of the chief musical instruments of the medieval Arabs. The word became Laud first and then Lute.
- **MAGAZINE**  
From 'makhāzin' or storehouses from Arabic root khazan, to store. More commonly in English a magazine was an arsenal, a gunpowder store, and later in the publishing sense meaning a store of information about military or navigation subjects.
- **MARCASITE**  
From 'marqashīthā' or iron sulfide. In modern English, marcasite jewelry is jewelry made from isometric iron sulfide.



# Arabic Words

- **MATTRESS**

From 'matrah', a large cushion or rug for lying on. In Arabic it evolved out of the sense 'something thrown down' from Arabic root tarah = 'to throw'.

- **MOHAIR**

From 'al-mokhayyar', high-quality cloth made from fine goat hair. From Arabic root khayar = 'choosing, preferring'.

- **MONSOON**

From 'mawsim' or season, used in Arabic for anything that comes round once a year and used by Arab sailors in the East Indies for the seasonal sailing winds.

- **MUSLIN**

From 'mūsīlī' - a fine lightweight fabric made in Mosul in Mesopotamia, usually cotton, sometimes linen.



# Words of Italian origin



Italian is a Romance language spoken mainly in Europe: Italy, Switzerland, San Marino, Vatican City, by minorities in Malta, Monaco, Croatia, Slovenia, France, Somalia, Libya, Ethiopia and Eritrea, and by expatriate communities in the Americas and Australia.

In Switzerland, Italian is one of four official languages; it is studied and learned in all the confederation schools and spoken, as a native language, in the Swiss cantons of Ticino and Grigioni and by the Italian immigrants that are present in large numbers in German- and French-speaking cantons. It is also the official language of San Marino, as well as the primary language of the Vatican City. It is co-official in Slovenian Istria and in Istria County in Croatia.

The Italian language adopted by the state after the unification of Italy is based on Tuscan, which beforehand was a language spoken mostly by the upper class of Florentine society. Its development was also influenced by other Italian languages and by the Germanic languages of the post-Roman invaders.

Italian is descended from Latin. Unlike most other Romance languages, Italian retains Latin's contrast between short and long consonants. As in most Romance languages, stress is distinctive. Among the Romance languages, Italian is the closest to Latin in terms of vocabulary.

## The following are certain alphabetical patterns that are predominant amongst English words of Italian origin.

- Long /ee/ sound at the end of the word is mostly spelled as 'i'. Examples: graffiti, confetti, macaroni.
- The /oh/ sound at the end of the word is spelled as 'o'. Examples: incognito, vibrato, stucco, virtuoso, maestro, intaglio, impasto, brio, impresario, trio, studio, pistachio, fresco, bambino, pesto, paparazzo.
- Latin words do not have the spelling 'sh'. So you can safely assume that the sound /sh/ is spelled as 'ch' or 'sc'. Examples: Machiavellian, maraschino, pistachio, charlatan.
- The /k/ sound can be spelled as 'cc' if it comes before /oh/ sound. Examples: stucco, piccolo, staccato, broccoli, radicchio.
- Another spelling of the /k/ sound is 'ch'. Examples: scherzo, architecture, bruschetta, baldachin, archipelago.
- The /ee-nee/ sound is spelled as 'ini'. Examples: linguini, martini, Panini, tortellini, zucchini.
- The double consonant 'zz' is pronounced as /ts/. Examples: pizza, pizzicato, piazza, mozzarella, mizzen, intermezzo, mezzanine, terrazza, pizzeria.
- Latin words do not use the alphabets – j, k, w, x, and y.



# Italian Words

- **ANTIPASTO**  
From Ante (before) and Pasto (Food). A course of appetizers consisting of an assortment of foods, as olives, anchovies, sliced sausage, peppers, and artichoke hearts.
- **ARCHIPELAGO**  
From Archi (Primitive or leader) and Pelagos (Sea). Any large body of water studded with islands.
- **BALLERINA**  
From Baller (To Dance) and Ina (pertaining to). A principal female dancer in a ballet company.
- **BANK**  
From 'banca' or bench on which financial transactions were conducted in Italy.
- **BANKRUPT**  
From Banka (Bench) and Rotta (Broken). Any insolvent debtor; a person unable to satisfy any just claims made upon him or her.
- **BARISTA**  
It means 'bartender'; A preparer of espresso-based coffee.
- **BARITONE**  
From Bary (Heavy or Low) and Tono (Tone). A male voice or voice part intermediate between tenor and bass.
- **BELVEDERE**  
From Belleus (Fine) and Videre (To see). A building, or architectural feature of a building, designed and situated to look out upon a pleasing scene.
- **BERLINETTA**  
From 'little saloon'. A two-seater sports car.
- **BISCUIT**  
From Bis (Twice) and Cuire (Cooked). Refers to something that is <sup>3</sup>cooked twice. Unlike bread which is cooked once.
- **CAPPUCCINO**  
From 'little Capucin'. A reference to the similarity between the drink's colour and that of the brown hoods of Capuchin friars.
- **CARICATURE**  
From Caricat (Loaded or distorted) and Ure (act). Thus, the word essentially means a 'loaded portrait' & refers only to depictions of real-life people.
- **CASINO**  
From Cassa (House) and Ino (diminutive suffix). A building especially equipped with gambling devices, gambling tables.
- **CHIAROSCURO**  
From Chiaro (Clear) and Oscuro (Dark). It relates to a pictorial representation in terms of light and shade without regard to color.
- **DILETTANTE**  
From D'dilettent' or amateur. A person who enjoys the arts or someone who engages in a field out of casual interest rather than as a profession.
- **FINANCE**  
From 'affinare', meaning 'do something precisely' in economic terms.
- **JEANS**  
After the Italian city of Genoa where this type of trousers originated.
- **MACCHIATO**  
Which means 'stained'. Espresso coffee with a small dash of milk, thus a bit stained.
- **MALARIA**  
From Mal (Bad) and Aria (Air). As the disease was thought to be because of bad air since it was mostly found near marshy polluted areas.
- **MOZZARELLA**  
From 'mozzere' or 'to cut off' - derived from the method of making the cheese - by spinning and cutting.



# Italian Words

- **NEUTRINO**  
From Neuter (Neutral) and Ino (made of). A stable elementary particle with very small or possibly zero rest mass that travels at the speed of light.
- **PAPARAZZI**  
From the name of a character in the film La Dolce Vita who chased celebrities to take their photos.
- **PARTISAN**  
From Parte (Faction) and Ese (Belonging to). An adherent or supporter of a person, group, party, or cause, especially a person who shows a biased, emotional allegiance.
- **PELLAGRA**  
From Pelle (Skin) and Agra (Paroxysm or seizure). A disease caused by a dietary deficiency of nicotinic acid, characterized by burning or itching often followed by scaling of the skin, inflammation of the mouth, diarrhoea, mental impairment.
- **REPLICA**  
From 'repeat performance'; now used for anything that is copied.
- **SEPIA**  
From 'seppia' which means cuttlefish. The colour comes from a type of ink made from cuttlefish secretion.
- **SPAGHETTI**  
From spaghetti meaning 'thin string' or 'twine'. Refers to the shape of the food product.
- **STILETTO**  
In Italian means 'thick dagger', while the shoes are literally called 'needle heels'.
- **TERRACOTTA**  
From Terra (Earth) and Cotta (Baked). A hard unglazed brownish-red earthenware, or the clay from which it is made.
- **UMBRELLA**  
From Umbra (Shade) and Ella (All), a portable device used for protection against rain, snow, etc. and consisting of a light canopy supported on a collapsible metal frame mounted on a central rod.



# Words of Spanish origin



Spanish, also called Castilian, is a Romance language that originated in Castile, a region of Spain. Approximately 406 million people speak Spanish as a native language, making it second only to Mandarin in terms of its number of native speakers worldwide. It also has 60 million speakers as a second language, and 20 million students as a foreign language. Spanish is one of the six official languages of the United Nations, and is used as an official language by the European Union and Mercosur.

Spanish is a part of the Ibero-Romance group of languages, which evolved from several dialects of common Latin in Iberia after the collapse of the Western Roman Empire in the fifth century. It was first documented in central-northern Iberia in the ninth century and gradually spread with the expansion of the Kingdom of Castile into central and southern Iberia. From its beginnings, Spanish vocabulary was influenced by its contact with Basque and by other related Ibero-Romance languages and later absorbed many Arabic words, during the Muslim presence in the Iberian Peninsula. It also adopted many words from non-Iberian languages, particularly the Romance languages Occitan, French, Italian and Sardinian and increasingly from English in modern times, as well as adding its own new words. Spanish was taken to the colonies of the Spanish Empire in the sixteenth century, most notably to the Americas as well as territories in Africa, Oceania and the Philippines.

Spanish is the most widely understood language in the Western Hemisphere, with significant populations of native Spanish speakers ranging from the tip of Patagonia to as far north as New York City and Chicago. Since the early 21st century, it has arguably superseded French in becoming the second-most-studied language and the second language in international communication, after English.

## The following are certain alphabetical patterns that are predominant amongst English words of Italian origin.

The /oh/ sound at the end of the word is spelled as 'o'. Examples: embargo, cilantro, ancho, machismo, bolero, burrito, pueblo, churro.

- The long /ee/ sound is usually spelled as 'i'. Examples: mariachi, daiquiri.
- The /k/ sound is spelled as 'qu' if followed by a lone /ee/, long /a/ or short /i/. Examples: quesadilla, quinoa, quadron, quetzal, quixotism.
- The /k/ sound can also be spelled as 'c' when the vowel sound that follows is a schwa. Examples: flamenco, junco, castanets, canasta, caballero, cafeteria, Caribbean.
- 'll' is pronounced as /y/. Examples: quesadilla, tortilla, camarilla.
- 'j' is pronounced as /h/. Examples: junta, jalapeno, jojoba.



# Spanish Words

- **AFICIONADO**  
From Aficionar (To arouse affection) and Ado (infinitive suffix). An ardent supporter or devotee.
- **ALLIGATOR**  
From Al (The) and Legarto (Lizard). A large crocodile having powerful jaws and sharp teeth and differing from the crocodiles in having a shorter and broader snout.
- **ANCHOVY**  
From Anchoa (Small fishes) and Vies (Plural). Any of various small marine food fishes. They have a salty taste and are often tinned or made into a paste or essence.
- **ARMADILLO**  
From Armad (Armed) and Illo (Diminutive suffix). Any of several burrowing, chiefly nocturnal mammals having strong claws and a protective covering of bony plates.
- **BREEZE**  
From 'brisa' - a cold northeasterly wind.
- **BONANZA**  
From Bon (Good) and Acia (Calm Sea). A source of great and sudden wealth or luck; a spectacular windfall.
- **BURRITO**  
Literally meaning 'little donkeys', originally a dish from Mexico.
- **CAFETERIA**  
From Café (Coffee) and Teria (Place). A restaurant in which patrons wait on themselves, carrying their food to tables from counters where it is displayed and served.
- **CANYON**  
From 'canon' meaning a tube or pipe or gorge.
- **CEDILLA**  
From 'little Z'- elsewhere- it is the small z that is below the letter C and changes its pronunciation to S eg. Curacao.
- **CHOCOLATE**  
From Xococ (Bitter) and Atl (Water). A preparation of the seeds of cacao, roasted, husked, and ground, often sweetened.
- **COLORADO**  
From Colo (Colour) and Rado (Red tinted). U.S. state admitted as a state in 1876, named for the river Rio Colorado.
- **COMRADE**  
From Camara (Room) and Ade (Mate). A fellow member of a political party, especially a fellow Communist or socialist.
- **EMBARGO**  
From 'embargar' - which means 'to sieze' or 'impound'.
- **GUACAMOLE**  
From Ahuaca (Avocado) and Molli (Sauce). A dip of mashed avocado mixed with tomato, onion, and seasonings.
- **HURRICANE**  
From 'huracan' or thunder - now used for massive thunderstorms.
- **INCOMMUNICADO**  
From in (Negative) and Comunicar (Communicate). Deprived of communication with other people, as while in solitary confinement.
- **JALAPENO**  
A type of spicy chilly named after Jalape de Enriquez, a town in Mexico.
- **MAJORDOMO**  
From Major (Main or Head) and Domo (House). A man in charge of a great household, as that of a sovereign; a chief steward.



# Spanish Words

- **MOSQUITO**  
From Mosca (Fly) and Ito (little - diminutive form). Any of numerous insects, the females of which suck the blood of animals and humans, transmitting certain diseases.
- **MULATTO**  
From 'octoroon' - someone with eight different origins. Used for people of mixed European-African descent.
- **MUSTANG**  
From 'mestango' - without known master or owner. More used for a small wild horse in USA.
- **NACHO**  
From 'Ignacio' the inventor of the dish, it consists of tortilla piece with melted cheese and peppers.
- **PECCADILLO**  
From Pecado (Sin) and Dillo (Small or Minor). A petty sin or trifling fault.
- **PEON**  
Meaning 'labourer' - now used for someone who does menial work in an office.
- **PINACOLADA**  
From Pina (Pineapple) and Colada (Strained). A tall mixed drink of cream of coconut, pineapple juice, and ice usually frappéed in a blender.
- **PLATINUM**  
From Platina (Silver plate) and Um (extension word). A ductile malleable silvery-white metallic element, very resistant to heat and chemicals.
- **PONCHO**  
From 'pontho' meaning woollen fabric. A garment made of thick piece of cloth with a slit for the head.
- **QUESADILLA**  
From Queso (Cheese) and Dillo (Diminutive form). A toasted tortilla filled with cheese and sometimes other ingredients.
- **RENEGADE**  
From Re (Again) and Negare (to Deny). Someone who deserts or betrays a nation or organization. A turncoat.
- **SAVANNA**  
From 'sabana' - meaning veld or flat green plains. Used for such region in South America.
- **SIESTA**  
From 'sexta' or sixth hour - which is used to nap or rest.
- **SOMBRERO**  
From 'shade maker' - a large hat that protects from harsh sun.
- **STEVEDORE**  
From Estibar (Packer or loader) and Ator (denoting a human agent). A person employed to load and unload ships.
- **TORNADO**  
From 'tornar' - to turn around. Used for a thunderstorm that spins things around by its sheer force.
- **TORTILLA**  
From Tort (Cake) and Illa (diminutive suffix). Meaning 'small cake' - it's a flat bread made from grounded wheat flour.
- **VANILLA**  
From 'vaina' meaning pod. The pod of the plant is used as a flavoring agent.
- **VIGILANTE**  
Meaning watchman. Used for a member of a group that takes it upon themselves to prevent crime and punish criminals.



