

English Words of French Origin

ABBEY, ACCRUE, ACROSTIC, ADROIT, AMBERGRIS, CABAL, CHAUVINISM, CORNICHE, ECHELON, FLAGEOLET, FRACAS, GLISSADE, GUILLOTINE, JETTY, LATRINE, NACELLE, NURTURE, RUSSET, USURP, VOLUTE

Avocabo Unit 62

Exercise 62-1: Fill-in-the-blanks

Fill in the blanks with the best word above that matches each definition. (20 marks)



1. _____
v. To come to gain, addition, or increment.
2. _____
n. A conspiratorial group of plotters or intriguers.
3. _____
n. A small flute-like instrument with a cylindrical mouthpiece, four finger holes and two thumbholes.
4. _____
n. A device consisting of heavy blades held aloft between upright guides, and dropped to behead the victim below.
5. _____
v. Something that nourishes, sustenance.
6. _____
n. A spiral scroll-like ornament such as that used on an Ionic capital.
7. _____
n. A monastery supervised by an abbot.
8. _____
n. Militant devotion to and glorification of one's country; fanatical patriotism
9. _____
v. To seize and hold by force and without legal authority.
10. _____
n. A moderate to strong brown.
11. _____
n. A poem or series of lines in which certain letters, usually the first in each line, form a name, motto, or message, when read in sequence.
12. _____
adj. Skilful and adept under pressing conditions.
13. _____
n. A road that winds along the side of a steep coast or cliff.
14. _____
n. a noisy, disorderly fight or quarrel; a brawl.
15. _____
n. A structure, such as pier, that projects into a body of water to influence the current or tide or to protect a harbour or shoreline from storms or erosion.
16. _____
n. A separate streamlined enclosure on an aircraft for sheltering the crew or cargo or housing an engine.
17. _____
n. A waxy greyish substance formed in the intestines of sperm whales and found floating at the sea or washed ashore.
18. _____
n. A level of responsibility or authority in a hierarchy; a rank.
19. _____
n. A controlled slide, in either a standing or sitting position, used in descending a steep icy or snow incline.
20. _____
n. A communal toilet of a type often used in camp or barracks,

Exercise 62-2: Fill in the blanks

Complete each sentence with the defined list word. (20 marks)

1. With China coming under pressure over the last weekend from the Group of Seven industrialised nations to revalue its currency, which is seen to be causing imbalances in the world economy, the PM's _____ evasion of the issue, saying that how the Chinese manage their currency was their business, helped score more than a few brownie points with Beijing.
2. If you have been keeping up with the calls and letters to the ER, you can see 95 percent of the calls and letters from the _____ opposing the name.
3. One Network Enterprises, Inc. (ONE) and a Fortune 50 retailer have demonstrated the multi-_____ replenishment capabilities of ONE's ondemand supply chain management system.
4. _____ poems are easy to write, and some of the easiest acrostic poems use names. Try this exercise: Write your name vertically on a piece of paper or type it vertically on your computer.
5. Pope Benedict XVI said Monday he felt like a "_____ " was coming down on him when it appeared he might be elected pontiff, saying he prayed to God to be spared but that "evidently this time he didn't listen to me."
6. Motorists parking their cars along the _____ Road will have to pay parking charges on an hourly basis as plans are afoot to install meters. This was disclosed yesterday by a senior civic ministry official.
7. The concert will be held on Friday 22nd April at 7:30 pm in Christ Church Cathedral and will be given by Jordi Vergés, the organist from Tarragona Cathedral, and Jordi Figaró (tenora and _____).
8. The new Opossum Bay _____ will be constructed of durable materials, including steel, aluminium, concrete, and even recycled plastic, to ensure that children will still be fishing from the jetty in 50 years time. "The jetty is an exciting new concept that will cater for recreational boats and ferries and will also provide a great amenity for the local community."
9. Secor apparently lost control during a seated _____ — a manoeuvre that mountaineers use to descend a steep or icy slope — in a snow chute from the top of Baldy Bowl, says a witness, Kathy Wing of Redlands.
10. On Tuesday a woman also discovered the body of the baby boy in a pit _____ at Zamani near Memel.
11. Most of the book concerns the work of 33 members of Scotland Yard. They are working on minutiae, trying to find an old van and using the memory of its former owner to make a sketch of the person who bought it; and visiting shops that sell _____ because some was found on the adolescent victims.
12. The _____-plumed birds have one of the longest migrations on the planet from Tierra del Fuego on the tip of South America to the Arctic.
13. It's something where you _____ yourself and you grow there until you're ready to face the world.
14. All PXPumps pumps have an internal cooling jacket, even at wet pit installation, to optimise cooling at low-level frequency drive in the sump. This feature means the pumps can be run continuously by adjusting the frequency all the way down to the lower part of the pump _____.
15. "I can't fathom being in some other _____," says Father Michael Murray, a resident of the Holy Cross Abbey in Canon City since he was 12. He's now 67.
16. There must be no place for _____, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, or any manifestations of religious intolerance in the world.
17. Marmen needs two plants to fulfill their contract with GE Wind, and both plants will be dedicated to tower fabrication and _____ assembly.
18. They won't be making any decisions because we are not trying to _____ the authority of the Election Commission.
19. Employees on longterm sick leave will not be allowed to _____ holiday pay while they are absent, following a landmark decision at the Court of Appeal.

20. From the right came the noise of a terrific _____
_____. The men cuddled behind the small embankment and
sat in easy attitudes awaiting his turn.

Exercise 62-3: Synonyms

From the three choices, circle the word closest in meaning to the
list word (in boldface) in the context shown. (12 marks)

1. common sense that **accrues** with experience
a) weakens b) decreases c) amasses
2. the **adroit** acrobat
a) dexterous b) awkward c) clumsy
3. a **cabal** of powerful men
a) foe b) rival c) assembly
4. the **chauvinism** of making extraterrestrial life in our own
image
a) liberality b) fanatical patriotism c) impartiality
5. a job in the company's lower **echelon**
a) level b) declassification c) floor
6. the store closing caused a **fracas**
a) peace b) harmony c) brawl
7. to perform a **glissade**
a) one act comedy b) leap c) gliding step
8. to behead with a **guillotine**
a) execution device b) blunt axe c) poison
9. **nurture** a student's talent
a) foster b) neglect c) hide away
10. a **russet** bird
a) predatory b) hazel c) fleeting
11. **usurp** a neighbour's land
a) give in b) relinquish c) appropriate
12. a **volute** gastropod shell
a) spiralling b) uncoiled c) straight

Exercise 62-4: Etymologies

Provide the list word that originates from the word described.
(6 marks)

1. Which word derives from the Old French of *acrenu*?

2. Which list word comes from a French word *à droit*?

3. Which list word derives from the Old French word *jette*?

4. Which word comes from the Old French word
meaning *to blow*?

5. Which word comes from the Old French meaning *to wish*?

6. Which word takes its name after *Nicholas Chauvin, a
legendary soldier famous for his devotion to Napoleon*?

Exercise 62-5: Parts of Speech

Change the given list word to the part of speech that is indicated.
If the word cannot take that form of speech, write 'Ha ha you
cannot trick me' or 'X' for short. (12 marks)

- _____ 1. The adjectival form of *accrue*
- _____ 2. The adverb form of *acrostic*
- _____ 3. The noun form of *adroit*
- _____ 4. The adjectival form of *ambergris*
- _____ 5. The adjectival form of *chauvinism*
- _____ 6. The adverb form of *fracas*
- _____ 7. The noun form of *nurture*
- _____ 8. The verb form of *russet*
- _____ 9. The noun form of *usurp*
- _____ 10. The adjectival form of *volute*
- _____ 11. The verb form of *guillotine*
- _____ 12. The noun form of *glissade*

Exercise 62-6: Making Connections

In a few sentences, describe the relationship between each pair of words. Use a good dictionary to clarify unclear words. (10 marks)

1. Flageolet Fipple

2. Guillotine Maiden

3. Jetty Groin

4. Nurture Actualize

5. Usurp Relinquish

Useful Information

How many words are borrowed from French to English?

There are hundreds of words borrowed from **French** into English only a selection is given here. They can be grouped into several classes: Food and eating (“biscuit”, “menu”), military terms (“camouflage”, “coup d’etat”), diplomatic words (“diplomat”, “regime”), entertainment (“ballet”, “sport”) and many others.



The simple answer is that English has absorbed literally thousands of French words over a period of hundreds of years. We see this on a daily basis, in words like *café* and *entrepreneur*. What many French learners don’t realize is that many higher level English words are also of Gallic origin. Though largely unused in English, they are often spoken or written rather more regularly in their native French. This is a very good reason for French learners to improve their knowledge of higher level English words, as a means of accessing a great diversity of useful French vocabulary!

Avocabo Unit by Carolyn Pichette, May 2005