

# Foreign words in English

English has assimilated a large number of words from different languages. Although these are essentially foreign, they are now used freely as part of English language.

## LATIN WORDS

**A FORTIORI** – For a more compelling reason; all the more

**A POSTERIORI** – Reasoning based on observed facts

**A PRIORI** – Reasoning based on general principles, not facts; self-evident

**AB INITIO** – from the beginning

**AB OVO** – from the very beginning

**AD HOC** – for a particular purpose

**AD HOC** – For a special reason or purpose

**AD HOMINEM** – Personal criticism

**AD INFINITUM** – without limit, for ever

**AD INTERIM** – meanwhile

**AD INFINITUM** – to an excessive or disgusting degree

**AD LIBITUM** – Freely

**AD NAUSEAM** – To an extent that is sickening or disgusting

**ALMA MATER** – Fostering mother; the school, college or university one attended

**ALTER EGO** – The other self, a very close friend, trusted friend

**ANNUS MIRABILIS** – A wonderful year; an year characterised by great happenings, a remarkable or auspicious year

**BONA FIDE** – In good faith; without fraud; honestly

**CAVEAT** – Warning; formal notice filed with court to suspend proceedings pending hearing

**CAVEAT EMPTOR** – Let the buyer beware; a commercial principle that without a warranty the buyer takes the risk, the buyer alone is responsible for the consequences

**CURRICULUM** – Outline, layout or course of action; a set of courses

**CURRICULUM VITAE** – Summary of academic and work history prepared typically to apply for a position

**DE FACTO** – Existing; in reality or fact

**DEUS EX MACHINA** – A person or thing that appears unexpectedly to solve a difficult problem

**DRAMATIS PERSONAE** – Actors in a drama; participants in an event

**EX CATHEDRA** – By the authority of one's position

**EX GRATIA** – Out of goodwill, not legally binding, as a favor rather than from obligation

**EX NIHILO** – out of nothing

**EX OFFICIO** – By virtue of one's office

**IN TOTO** – Entirely; in full

**INFRA DIGNITATEM** – Beneath one's dignity; often colloquially shortened as **INFRA DIG**

**INTER ALIA** – Among other things

**IPSO FACTO** – By the fact itself

**LINGUA FRANCA** – Language of the masses; common language

**MAGNUM OPUS** – A great work; masterpiece; crowning achievement

**MEA CULPA** – Acknowledgment of one's own fault or guilt

**MODUS OPERANDI** – Method of procedure; distinct pattern of operation

**MODUS VIVENDI** – Way of life; feasible arrangement

**NIL DESPERANDUM** – never give up hope

**NON SEQUITUR** – Conclusion that does not follow logically; response unrelated to circumstances; inappropriate remark, an illogical conclusion

**PARI PASSU** – Side by side; at equal rate or pace

**PERSONA GRATA** – An acceptable person

**PERSONA NON GRATA** – An unacceptable person

**PRIMA FACIE** – At first sight; on first appearance

**POST FACTUM** – After the fact

**PRO RATA** – In proportion

**POST PARTUM** – after childbirth

**QUID PRO QUO** – Something for something, something given in fair exchange, barter

**RARA AVIS** – a rare kind of person or thing

**REDUCTIO AD ABSURDUM** – A reduction to the absurd

**SANCTUM SANCTORUM** – Place of inviolable privacy or great sanctity

**SINE DIE** – Without a date set (for the next meeting), adjourned indefinitely (esp. parliament)

**SINE QUA NON** – Without which not; something indispensable, an indispensable requirement

**STATUS QUO** – Existing state of affairs

**SUB ROSA** – Secretly; in confidence

**SUI GENERIS** – Unique; in a class of its own

**TERRA INCOGNITA** – Unknown territory; unexplored field of knowledge

**ULTRA VIRES** – Beyond the power possessed; beyond the scope

**VOX POPULI** – Voice of the people; popular sentiment, public opinion

## FRENCH WORDS

**A LA CARTE** – According to a menu that prices each item separately, ordered separately from the menu

**A LA MODE** – According to the fashion; topped with ice cream

**AMOUR** – A usually illicit love affair

**AMOUR PROPRE** – self-respect

**AU COURANT** – well-informed

**AU FAIT** – Familiar with latest developments or facts

**AU FOND** – At bottom; fundamentally, basically, essentially

**AU NATUREL** – raw, cooked in the simplest way

**AVANT-GARDE** – Radically new or original; a creative group active in innovation and application of new concepts and techniques, innovators, especially in art or literature

**BEAUX-ARTS** – The fine arts

**BEAU GESTE** – a noble gesture

**BEAU IDEAL** – the highest type of excellence or beauty, paragon

**BETE NOIRE** – one's particular aversion, a bugbear, nemesis

**BELLES-LETTRES** – Literary work valued for aesthetic content rather than information

**BILLET-DOUX** – A love letter

**BIJOU** – jewel, trinket

**BONA FIDE** – genuine, sincere

**BON MOT** – A clever saying; witticism, witty saying

**BON VIVANT** – A person who enjoys good food and has luxurious social tastes, someone indulging in good living

**BON VOYAGE** – Expression of goodwill at the start of a new journey or venture

**CARTE BLANCHE** – Complete freedom or authority to act

**CAFÉ AU LAIT** – white coffee i.e. coffee with cream

**CAFÉ NOIR** – black coffee

**CAUSE CELEBRE** – An incident or event that attracts great public attention; a notorious person, thing, incident or episode

**CHERCHEZ LA FEMME** – there is a woman at the bottom of it

**COUP** – A brilliant and notable success; a sudden, illegal change of government by force

**COUP DE GRACE** – a finishing stroke, to kill a wounded creature

**COUP D'ETAT** – a violent seizure of power

**COUP DE GRACE** – The mortal or finishing stroke delivered to someone mortally wounded; a decisive finishing blow, act or event

**COUP DE MAIN** – A sudden action undertaken to surprise an enemy

**COUP D'ÉTAT** – A sudden overthrowing of government and seizure of power by others

**CRIME PASSIONNEL** – A crime provoked by passion, usually sexual jealousy

**DEJA VU** – The feeling of having already experienced something actually being experienced first time

**DEMODE** – Outmoded; no longer in fashion, out of fashion

**DEMOISELLE** – A young unmarried woman

**DE RIGUEUR** – Required by the current fashion or social custom; socially obligatory

**EN BLOC** – as a group, wholesale

**ENFANT TERRIBLE** – unruly person

**EN MASSE** – all together

**ENTENTE CORDIALE** – a friendly understanding between states

**ENTRE NOUS** – between you and me

**EMINENCE GRISE** – A person who exercises his power or influence without holding an official position

**ENFANT TERRIBLE** – A person whose shocking remarks or outrageous behaviour causes embarrassment to others

**ESPRIT DE CORPS** – A spirit of devotion among members of a group for one another and the group as a whole, devotion to one's group

**FAIT ACCOMPLI** – An accomplished and presumably irreversible fact, something that has been done and is beyond alteration

**FAUX PAS** – A disastrous mistake; a socially awkward or tactless blunder; a breach of etiquette, indiscretion

**GARÇON** – a waiter in a French restaurant

**HAUTE COUTURE** – High-class dressmaking; trendsetting fashions, high fashion

**HAUTE CUISINE** – Artful and elaborate cuisine

**HORS DE COMBAT** – out of the action, disabled

**IDEE FIXE** – A fixed idea; an obsession

**JOIE DE VIVRE** – The energy and love of life; keen enjoyment of living

**JE NE SAIS QUOI** – an undefinable something, some emotion that can't be defined

**LAISSEZ-FAIRE** – The doctrine of abstaining from direction of or interference with individual freedom of choice and action

**MAL DE MER** – seasickness

**MOT** – a witty saying

**MOT JUSTE** – The most appropriate word or expression

**NOBLESSE** – Noble birth or condition; the aristocracy

**NOBLESSE OBLIGE** – Benevolent behaviour considered to be responsibility of persons of high birth or rank

**NOM DE PLUME** – an assumed name under which someone writes

**NOUVEAU RICHE** – A derogatory term meaning one who has lately become ostentatiously rich

**PAR EXCELLENCE** – To the highest degree; the best of a kind

**PASSE** – Outdated

**PAR AVION** – by airmail

**PAS DE DEUX** – a dance for two people

**PAS SEUL** – a solo dance

**RAISON D'ETRE** – the purpose that justifies a things existence, The reason or justification for existence

**RISQUE** – Suggestive or bordering on indecency or impropriety

**SANG-FROID** – composure in agitating circumstances

**SOIGNÉ** – well-groomed

**TANT PIS** – so much the worse

**TETE-A-TETE** – An private conversation between two people, an intimate, one-on-one conversation

**TOUR DE FORCE** – A feat of strength or virtuosity; masterly or brilliant feat, a feat of strength or skill

**TROUVAILLE** – a lucky find, windfall

**VIEUX JEU** – old fashioned, hackneyed

**VIS-A-VIS** – In relation to, compared with; face-to-face with

**VOLTE-FACE** – A sudden policy reversal

## GERMAN WORDS

**ANGST** – Feeling of anxiety, apprehension or insecurity  
**BLITZ** – An intense campaign or effort  
**BLITZKRIEG** – A swift, sudden military offensive, usually by combined air and land forces  
**DACHSHUND** – A small dog of a breed developed in Germany  
**GESUNDHEIT** – Used to wish good health to a person who has just sneezed, meaning "Bless you !"  
**HAUSFRAU** – A housewife  
**HINTERLAND** – The land lying inland from a coast; region away from urban areas  
**KAISER** – An emperor  
**KINDERGARTEN** – A school or class for children between the age of four and six  
**KITSCH** – Appealing to popular or lowbrow taste, usually of poor quality  
**LEBENSRAUM** – Space needed for life, growth or activity  
**LOAFER** – One who does no work; low leather step-in shoe  
**LUFTWAFFE** – The German air force  
**MENSCH** – a person of integrity and honor  
**PUTSCH** – Sudden and decisive change of government illegally or by force  
**REALPOLITIK** – Politics based on practical rather than moral or ideological considerations  
**REICH** – The German state or empire  
**RUCKSACK** – A bag carried by a strap around the back or shoulder  
**SCHMALTZ** – Excessive sentimentality, especially in music or art  
**SWINDLE** – To take or obtain money or property by deceit or fraud  
**UBERMENSCH** – a superman  
**UNTERMENSCH** – a racially inferior person (as per the Nazi terms)  
**WALTZ** – A smooth flowing ballroom dance  
**WELTANSCHAUUNG** – A comprehensive view of the world and human life  
**WELTSCHMERZ** – Sadness on thinking about the evils of the world  
**ZEITGEIST** – The spirit of the times; the taste characteristic of a generation

## ITALIAN WORDS

**ALFRESCO** – In the open air  
**ARCADE** – A series of arches supported by columns, piers or pillars; common passageway with shops or stalls  
**ARRIVEDERCI** – A farewell remark; goodbye for now  
**BANDIT** – Crook, criminal, brigand  
**CAMEO** – A technique of engraving in relief on gem, stone; a small but noticeable role in a play or a film  
**CANTO** – Any of the principal divisions of a long poem  
**CAPRICE** – Sudden impulsive notion or action; sudden, unpredictable change

**CARESS** – Gentle affectionate touching or stroking  
**CARICATURE** – Exaggerated representation for comic effect  
**CARNIVAL** – Season or festival or merrymaking  
**CASINO** – A place for gambling  
**CHE SARA, SARA** – Whatever will be, will be  
**CICERONE** – A guide who conducts and informs sightseers  
**COGNOSCENTE** – A person of expert knowledge; connoisseur  
**DILETTANTE** – Amateur, nonprofessional, beginner; a dabbler in fine arts  
**DOLCE VITA** – A life of comfort or luxury and lazy self-indulgence, a life of pleasure and luxury  
**FIASCO** – Failure, disaster  
**MACARONI** – A pasta in the form of slender tubes  
**NEPOTISM** – Favouritism based on kinship  
**PARAPET** – A low protective wall or railing along the edge of a roof  
**PIAZZA** – Public square in Italy  
**PRIMA DONNA** – The leading female singer in an opera; vain and temperamental person  
**REGATTA** – A series of boat races  
**SENTINEL** – Guard, picket, sentry  
**SEQUIN** – A small shiny ornamental disc of metal or plastic  
**SONATA** – A musical composition in three or four parts, usually for the piano  
**SONNET** – A 14-line poem with a particular pattern of rhyme  
**SOTTO VOCE** – Very softly so as not to be heard; in an undertone, mutter  
**SPAGHETTI** – A pasta in the form of long strings  
**STILETTO** – A small dagger with tapering blade; woman's shoe with narrow high heel  
**STUCCO** – A plaster for ceilings and walls, which can be formed into decorative patterns  
**TARANTULA** – A large, hairy tropical spider

## SPANISH WORDS

**AFICIONADO** – An enthusiastic admirer or follower of something, especially a sport  
**ALCAZAR** – A Spanish palace or fortress  
**ARMADA** – A large fleet of warships  
**ARMADILLO** – An omnivorous burrowing mammal with body and head covered by an armour of small, bony plates  
**BONANZA** – Fortune, blessing, gain; something very valuable, profitable or rewarding  
**BRAVADO** – False bravery; foolhardy  
**CABALLERO** – A gentleman, a cavalier, a knight  
**CANTINA** – A bar or a wine shop  
**CAUDILLO** – A Spanish or Latin American military dictator  
**COCHINEAL** – A South American insect; a bright red dye made from the dried bodies of these insects  
**CORTES** – Two houses constituting the national legislative body of Spain or Portugal  
**DESPERADO** – Someone who does risky, dangerous and often criminal things

**EL DORADO** – A place of fabulous wealth or opportunity

**EMBARGO** – Ban, prohibition; order to stop something, usually trading or giving of information; to officially stop trading with another country

**FIESTA** – A holiday; a public celebration with entertainments and activities

**FLOTILLA** – A fleet of small ships

**GRANDEE** – A gentleman of the highest rank

**LASSO** – A long rope with a running noose at one end used to catch cattle, horses etc.

**MANANA** – Sometime in the future; later

**MARIJUANA** – Commonly used illicit drug; the source plant of this drug

**MERINO** – A type of sheep known for its fine wool

**OMERTA** – code of silence, as practiced by the Mafia

**PECCADILLO** – A small sin or fault

**PLAZA** – A public square

**QUE SERA, SERA** – Whatever will be, will be

**RANCH** – Spread, farm

**RODEO** – An enclosure for cattle; exhibition of cowboy skill

**SIESTA** – Afternoon sleep

**STAMPEDE** – Sudden uncontrolled movement of animals or people, usually in the same direction, caused by panic

## JAPANESE WORDS

**AIKIDO** – A Japanese martial art

**BONSAI** – The art of growing dwarfed trees; dwarfed ornamental tree or shrub

**GEISHA** – A Japanese woman trained to entertain men with conversation, singing and dancing

**HAIKU** – A short Japanese poem with 17 syllables

**HARA-KIRI** – Ritual suicide by cutting open the stomach with a sword

**IKEBANA** – The art of formal flower arrangements

**JUJITSU** – A method of unarmed self-defence

**KAMIKAZE** – A suicide pilot or plane of the Second World War

**KENDO** – Fencing with bamboo swords

**KIMONO** – A traditional Japanese dress

**MIKADO** – A Japanese emperor

**SAMURAI** – A warrior belonging to the military aristocracy of feudal Japan

**SAYONARA** – Goodbye

**SHINTO** – A Japanese religion

**SHOGUN** – Military rulers of Japan under the Japanese emperor

**SOGO SHOSHA** – A large diverse Japanese company

**SUMO** – An elaborate ritualised form of wrestling

**ZAIBATSU** – Large Japanese industrial combine usually controlled by a single family or a few families

## LATIN ADVERBS AND PREPOSITIONS

*This list contains some Latin adverbs (with some prepositions and conjunctions hiding away too) that have found their way into English unchanged in form or meaning. Though some of them are extraordinarily obscure, others are regularly found in academic papers, though often abbreviated (ibidem = ibid.; videlicet = viz.).*

**ALTERNATIM** – alternately

**ANA** – in equal quantities

**BIS** – twice; in two places

**CIRCA** – About; around

**ERGO** – therefore; hence

**GRATIS** – without charge; for free

**IBIDEM** – in the same place

**IDEM** – the same word as mentioned before

**INFRA** – Below; later in a text

**INTERIM** – meanwhile

**ITEM** – likewise; also

**JURE** – by law

**PER** – through; according to; by means or agency of

**PRIMO** – in the first place

**PRO** – in favour of; for

**PROXIMO** – of next month

**QUA** – in the capacity of

**QUASI** – as if; seemingly; in a manner

**SEMPER** – always

**SIC** – thus

**SINE** – without

**SOLUS** – alone

**STATIM** – immediately; at once

**SUPRA** – Above; earlier in a text

**TEMPORE** – in the time of

**UBIQUE** – everywhere

**ULTIMO** – of last month

**VARIORUM** – including the notes of earlier scholars or editors

**VERBATIM** – word for word

**VERSUS** – against; in contrast to

**VICE** – in place of; rather than

**VIDELICET** – to wit; namely (shortened as **viz.**)

**VULGO** – commonly; popularly

## WORDS FROM ANCIENT LEGENDS

**ANTAEAN** – having superhuman strength; **ANTAEUS** was a giant athlete overcome by Hercules

**ARGONAUTS** – engaged in dangerous but rewarding adventure; in Greek mythology, the Argonauts were a band of heroes who accompanied Jason to Colchis in his quest for the Golden Fleece

**ARGUS-EYED** – having very keen vision; careful, watchful; in Greek mythology, Argus was a giant with a 100 eyes

**ASTRONAUT** – trained for travelling in spacecraft (one from Russia is called a cosmonaut); the Greek expression means star sailor

**ATLAS** – from Atlas who was made to uphold the pillars of heaven as punishment for leading the Titans in the war against the Olympian gods; a collection of maps in a volume -- the first by Flemish geographer Gerhardus Mercator had a picture of Atlas holding up the world on the front

**BACCHANALIAN** – marked by excessive drinking and frenzy; bacchanalia is an ancient Greek festival in celebration of Bacchus, the god of wine

**CALLIOPE** – a keyboard musical instrument consisting of a series of whistles sounded by steam or compressed air; Calliope is the Greek Muse of epic poetry

**CHIMERICAL** – from Greek chimaira, a fabulous monster with a lion's head, goat's body and serpent's tail, the name means wild fantasy; pertaining to a hope or dream unlikely to ever come true; wildly fanciful imagination

**CORNUCOPIA** – a large amount or great supply of something; from the Latin "horn of plenty"

**CYCLOPEAN** – Huge, massive; Cyclops are a race of giants in Greek mythology with a single eye in the middle of the forehead

**EROTIC** – sexually arousing; Eros is the Greek god of love

**GORDIAN KNOT** – from King Gordius of Phrygia who tied a complicated knot which no one could make loose, until Alexander the Great cut it with his sword; a very tough problem; intricate

**GORGON** – a woman whose appearance and behaviour causes fear; one of three sisters in ancient Greek stories who had snakes on their heads instead of hair, and who turned anyone who looked at them into stone

**HARPY** – a cruel, unpleasant woman who shouts a lot; in Greek mythology, a creature with the head of a woman and the body of a bird

**HECTOR** – from the provocative Trojan hero Hector, in Greek mythology; to talk and behave in a loud and unpleasantly forceful way, to get someone to act or think as you want; be bossy

**HERCULEAN** – from Roman mythological hero, Hercules, noted for his courage and great strength; with superhuman strength or power; task of extreme difficulty

**JANUS-FACED** – Two-faced, having two contrasting aspects; Janus is the Roman god of doorways and passages

**JOVIAL** – Merry, joyous, happy; from the Latin Jovius, meaning Jupiter, the Roman god of the sky

**MENTOR** – a teacher or a wise counsellor; coach; in Greek mythology, the friend whom Odysseus left in charge of the household while he was at Troy and who was the teacher and protector of Telemachus, son of Odysseus

**MERCURIAL** – liable to sudden unpredictable change; lively and quick; in Roman mythology, the god of commerce and rhetoric, who also acted as a messenger between humans and gods; those born under the planet Mercury are supposed to be sprightly, volatile and quick

**NARCISSISM** – self-love and admiration; in Greek mythology, Narcissus was a beautiful young man who fell in love with his own reflection

**NEMESIS** – something that causes misery or death; the goddess of divine retribution and vengeance in Greek mythology

**ODYSSEY** – a long, exciting and eventful journey; a Greek epic poem describing the 10-year journey of Odysseus after the fall of Troy

**OLYMPIAN** – majestic, awe-inspiring; far beyond the usual; Olympus is a mountain in Thessaly that in Greek mythology is the abode of the gods

**PAEAN** – a song or work of praise; Paeon was the Greek physician of the gods; a hymn of praise, especially one sung in ancient Greece to invoke or thank a deity

**PALLADIUM** – a safeguard; a statue of Pallas whose preservation was believed to ensure the safety of Troy

**PHOENIX** – a symbol of immortality, rebirth; an imaginary bird which set fire to itself every 500 years and was born again, rising from its ashes

**PROCRUSTEAN** – from Procrustes, a robber in Greek mythology, who abducted strangers and forced them to fit perfectly into a bed by either cutting off or stretching their limbs; trying to establish conformity by using any means, including violence; ruthless disregard of individual differences and special circumstances

**PROTEAN** – easily and continually changing; Proteus was a Greek sea god who could change his form

**SATURNINE** – bitter, scornful; heavy, dull, gloomy, serious, morose; once these qualities were attributed to being born under the influence of the planet Saturn, considered the coldest and the slowest

**STENTORIAN** – using a very loud voice; Stentor was a legendary Greek herald in the Trojan War, whose voice was as loud as that of 50 men

**STYGIAN** – gloomy, dark, infernal; relating to the Styx, the river in Greek mythology that the souls of the dead were ferried across into Hades

## WORDS DERIVED FROM NAMES OF PEOPLE AND PLACES

**AMERICA** – from the navigator Amerigo Vaspucci who made two trips to the New World and claimed to have discovered it; the two continents of North America and South America

**AMPERE** – from the French physicist Andre Ampere; unit of electric current one volt can send through one ohm

**BOWDLERIZE** – from Thomas Bowdler, English editor who published a cleaned-up Shakespeare, appropriate to be read aloud in a family; to make a book readable by deleting offensive portions

**BOYCOTT** – from Captain Charles Boycott of Ireland, the estate agent of an absentee landlord who refused to lower rents, evicted tenants and was ostracised by the community; ostracise; refusal to trade or deal with a person, an organisation or a country

**BRaille** – from Louis Braille, French musician and teacher, blind from the age of three, inventor of system of writing and printing for the sightless; a system of writing in which patterns of raised dots represent letters and numerals

**CHAUVINISM** – from Nicholas Chauvin, soldier of Napoleon's Grand Armee, notoriously attached to the Empire long after it ceased to be; exaggerated loyalty or patriotism; belief in superiority of men over women

**COLOGNE** – from the German city of Cologne; the French name "eau de Cologne" means water from the cologne; a lightly-scented liquid

**DERRICK** – from the surname of a hangman in London; a simple crane; a structure that facilitates lowering and raising of drill tubes over an oil well

**FAHRENHEIT** – from the German physicist Gabriel Fahrenheit, inventor of the mercury thermometer; a nonmetric temperature scale

**FRANKENSTEIN** – from the monster created from parts of corpses by Baron Frankenstein in the novel by Mary Shelley; something that destroys or harms its creator

**GALVANISE** – from the Italian scientist Luigi Galvani who discovered the production of electricity by chemical action; to stimulate by administering a shock; to stir into action; to coat with zinc

**GARGANTUAN** – from the large-mouthed giant in the novels written by François Rabelais; anything on a large scale; massive

**GUY** – from Guy Fawkes, leader of the Gunpowder Plot to blow up British king and Parliament; an informal term for a youth or man; a rope or cable used to support something

**HOBSON'S CHOICE** – from Thomas Hobson who rented out horses and would let his customers take only the horse nearest the door; no real choice

**JINGOISM** – from the refrain of a music hall song supporting aggressive British policy toward Russia at a time of international tension ("**WE DON'T WANT TO FIGHT, BUT BY JINGO! IF WE DO, WE'VE GOT THE SHIPS, WE'VE GOT THE MEN, WE'VE GOT THE MONEY TOO.**") ; extreme, aggressive patriotism

**LILLIPUTIAN** – from Lilliput, the island inhabited by six-inch tall people, from the novel **GULLIVER'S TRAVELS** written by Jonathan Swift; very small, miniature, diminutive

**LOTHARIO** – from Lothario, the principal male character of Nicholas Rowe's tragedy **THE FAIR PENITENT**; a flirt; seducer of women

**MACADAM** – from John McAdam, Scottish civil engineer, inventor of road surfacing method; paved road surface having compressed layers of broken rocks held together with tar

**MACHIAVELLIAN** – from Niccolo Machiavelli, Florentine statesman and author, who advised rulers to place advantage above morality; cunning and unscrupulous

**MALAPROPISM** – from Mrs. Malaprop, character in Richard Sheridan's play **THE RIVALS**, noted for her ridiculous misuse of large words; unintentional misuse of a similar sounding word with amusing results, like saying "we have comprehended the thief" instead "we have apprehended the thief"

**MARTINET** – from the name of Col. Jean Martinet a drillmaster of the French army during the reign of Louis XIV; a person very strict about discipline; someone who demands exact conformity to rules and forms

**MASOCHISM** – from the German word **MASOCHISMUS**, coined by neurologist Richard von Krafft-Ebing from the name of the Austrian novelist Leopold von Sacher-Masoch; obtaining pleasure from receiving physical or psychological punishment

**MAVERICK** – from Samuel Maverick, Texas cattle owner who was negligent in branding his calves; independent thinker; unbranded animal

**NEMESIS** – from Nemesis, the Greek goddess of vengeance; unbeatable opponent; source of harm; avenger; deserved punishment

**NICOTINE** – from Jean Nicot, French ambassador to Portugal, who sent tobacco seeds and powdered leaves back to France; poisonous alkaloid found in tobacco

**OHM** – from German physicist Georg Ohm, who determined the law of the flow of electricity; unit of electrical resistance

**QUIXOTIC** – from Don Quixote, hero of a novel by Miguel de Cervantes, who pursued hopeless causes; unrealistic visionary; impractical and impulsive; excessively romantic

**ROBOT** – from Czech "robotnik" meaning slave, "robota" meaning forced labour and "robotiti" meaning to work, drudge; word popularised by a machine or a totally mechanised human; programmable machine for performing tasks

**RODOMONTADE** – from King Rodomonte, the boastful king of Italian long poems; vain and empty boasting; pretentious, self-important

**SOLECISM** – from the people of Greek province Soloi whose dialect was considered barbarous; blunder in speech or writing; socially awkward or tactless act

**SPOONERISM** – from Reverend William Spooner, British educator, who was famous for such verbal accidents; an accidental transposition of initial consonant sounds or parts of words, especially in an amusing way like "well-boiled icicle" instead of "well-oiled bicycle"

**THESPIAN** – from Thespis, the father of Greek tragedy; an actor

**UTOPIAN** – from book titled **UTOPIA** written by Thomas Moore, about an imaginary island enjoying perfect legal, social, and political systems; idealistic but impractical; pertaining to a perfect society in which everyone works well with each other and is happy

**VOLT** – from Italian physicist Alessandro Volta, who perfected a chemical process used in batteries; a unit of electric potential

**YAHOO** – from a race of brutish human creatures called Yahoos in Jonathan Swift's book, **GULLIVER'S TRAVELS**; a degraded human specimen; rude, loud and unpleasant person especially one without education

## TYPICAL WORDS: WORDS RELATED TO SPECIFIC FIELDS

### ANATOMY (THE HUMAN BODY)

**ABLATION (N)** surgical removal of a body part or tissue

**AMBULATORY (ADJ)** able to walk or move about

**AURAL (ADJ)** pertaining to the ear or to the sense of hearing

**LACUNA (N)** hollow cavity or small pit; defect or gap

**MANDIBLE (N)** horseshoe-shaped bone forming the lower jaw

**MYOPIC (ADJ)** nearsighted; unable to see distant objects clearly

**OLFACTORY (ADJ)** pertaining to the sense of smell

**PALATE (N)** the roof of the mouth

**PERISTALSIS (N)** involuntary contractions that move food through the digestive system

**SOMATIC (ADJ)** pertaining to the body

**SURDITY (N)** deafness

**TACTILE (ADJ)** pertaining to the sense of touch

### ARCHITECTURE

**ARCADE (N)** a set of arches supporting or set along a wall

**BASTILLE (N)** a French fortification or castle, typically used as a prison

**BASTION (N)** a projection from an outer wall of a fortification designed to defend the adjacent perimeter

**BULWARK (N)** a strong defensive wall structure

**BUTTRESS (N)** an extra thickness or projection in a wall designed to strengthen it

**CANTILEVER (N)** a projecting structure that is attached or supported only at one end

**CONCOURSE (N)** a large open space where people can meet

**CUPOLA (N)** a rounded dome forming a roof or ceiling

**EDIFICE (N)** a large, impressive building

**FACADE (N)** the exterior front or face of a building

**FENESTRATION (N)** the arrangements of windows in a building

**KEystone (N)** the central stone at the top of the arch, that holds the whole structure together; most important

**MAUSOLEUM (N)** a large burial chamber, usually above ground

**OBELISK (N)** a tall stone column with four sloping sides and a pointed top

**PLINTH (N)** the lower square slab at the base of a column

**STUCCO (N)** plaster or cement used for coating wall surfaces

**VAULT (N)** arched roof; a continuous arch

### ASTRONOMY

**APHELION (N)** farthest point from the sun

**APOGEE (N)** farthest point from the earth

**ASTERISM (N)** cluster of stars

**AURORA (N)** bands of light produced by an atmospheric phenomenon

**AZIMUTH (N)** measurement of direction, expressed as an angle and measured clockwise from a celestial reference point

**CORONA (N)** the outermost portion of the sun's atmosphere

**COSMOGONY (N)** the study of the origin of the universe

**FACULA (N)** a large, bright spot on the sun's surface, most easily seen near the edge

**NADIR (N)** the point on the celestial sphere directly below the observer and directly opposite the zenith

**NEBULA (N)** an immense irregular, diffuse interstellar cloud of gas and dust

**NOVA (N)** star showing a sudden flash of brightness and then subsiding

**ORRERY (N)** a model of the solar system

**PENUMBRA (N)** a partial outer shadow lighter than the darker inner shadow

**PERIHELION (N)** nearest point from the sun

**PERIGEE (N)** nearest point from the earth

**PULSAR (N)** a small dense star that emits brief intense bursts of visible radiation, radio waves and X-rays

**SYZYGy (N)** conjunction / opposition of the moon and the sun

**UMBRA (N)** the region of total shadow in an eclipse; the inner, darker area of a sunspot

**VESPERTINE (N)** sunset time; very close to sunset

**ZENITH (N)** the point of the celestial sphere directly over the observer

### CIVIL LAW

**AFFIDAVIT (N)** written declaration of fact, made under oath (or affirmation) of the party making it

**AGENCY (N)** a relationship in which one party is legally authorised to act on behalf of another

**AMERCE (V)** to punish by fine

**ANNUL (V)** to make or declare invalid or void

**ATTEST (V)** to state a fact in writing and swear to its truthfulness

**BARRISTER (N)** in Canada, a lawyer who represents clients in any court; in England and Wales, lawyer who represents clients in higher law courts

**BEQUEATH (V)** to leave property to someone after death by means of will; hand down knowledge or practice to posterity

**BREACH (V)** to break a law or contractual promise

**CODICIL (N)** an addition to a will that explains, modifies or revokes a part of or the entire will

**COMMON LAW (N)** law derived from custom and precedents rather than statutes

**CONSERVATOR (N)** one authorised to protect interests of another who is legally incompetent

**DECEDENT (N)** a deceased person

**DECREE (N)** an official legal order

**DEMUR (V)** to claim that even if another party's facts are true there is no legitimate claim or legal recourse

**DEPOSITION (N)** the process of giving a sworn evidence; testimony

**ESCROW (N)** money, property, or a written bond that is kept in the custody of a third party until a specified condition has been fulfilled

**FELONY (N)** a crime, usually involving violence and regarded by the law as grave

**FIDUCIARY (N)** trustee charged with the legal responsibility for administering and/or managing another's assets

**FORENSIC (N)** of or used in connection with courts of law

**FRANCHISE (N)** a right or privilege granted by authority (especially, suffrage – the right to vote)

**HABEAS CORPUS (N)** a writ requiring a person to be produced in court to investigate the legality of his / her detention

**IMPEACH (V)** to discredit; to charge somebody with a crime or misdemeanour

**INDEMNIFY (V)** to restore a victim of a loss to the same position as before the loss occurred

**INDEMNITY (N)** legal exemption from penalties etc. incurred

**INDICTMENT (N)** a formal accusation

**INTESTATE (ADJ)** dying without making a will

**IN FLAGRANTE DELICTO (ADJ)** in the very act of committing a crime; red-handed

**JURISDICTION (N)** the authority (usually of a court) to hear and decide legal disputes

**LIBEL (N)** slander or malign

**MITIGATE (V)** to minimise or lessen the severity of damage

**NOTARY (N)** a person who is officially authorised to authenticate legal documents (contracts, deeds, etc.)

**PAROLE (N)** temporary (or permanent) release of a prisoner before time on the promise of (and based on) good behaviour

**PLAINTIFF (N)** a person who brings a case against another in a court of law

**PROBATE (V)** the official proving of a will

**PROXY (N)** authority to act (for example, to vote) for another

**QUITCLAIM (V)** to transfer or relinquish title, right or claim to another; to declare somebody to be no longer legally liable for something

**REMISE (V)** to surrender or make over a right or property

**RESCIND (V)** to cancel, nullify, revoke; retract; annul; to invalidate by subsequent action

**REVOCABLE (ADJ)** capable of being revoked or cancelled

**SEQUESTERATE (V)** to take temporary possession of a debtor's estate etc.

**STATUTE (N)** a written law passed by a legislative body

**STIPULATE (V)** to specify, require or set forth a particular fact as a condition of an agreement

**SUBPOENA (N)** a court order compelling a witness to provide information or to be present at a court hearing

**SUBROGATE (V)** to substitute one party (e.g., a creditor) for another in transferring a right or claim

**TESTATOR (N)** one who has made a will

**TORT (N)** a wrongful act for which damages can be sought by the injured party

**TRAVERSE (V)** deny an allegation by pleading

**ULTRA VIRES (ADJ)** beyond one's legal power or authority

**VEST (V)** to settle or confer, or be a part of somebody's property, power or rights

**WAIVE (V)** to voluntarily give up or surrender a right or privilege

## GEOGRAPHY

**ACCRETION (N)** gradual addition of new layers of land to the old by alluvial deposits or water-borne sediment

**AGGRADE (V)** to build up a grade or slope by the deposit of sediment

**ALLUVIAL (ADJ)** pertaining to sediment deposited by flowing water, usually at the bottom of a body of water

**ALPINE (ADJ)** pertaining to the Alps; living or growing above timber line

**APEX (N)** tip, point or angular summit (of a mountain)

**AVULSION (N)** rapid erosion of a shoreline during a flood or change in course of body of water

**BENTHAL (ADJ)** pertaining to the deepest zone or region of the ocean; relating to or happening on the bottom under a body of water

**CALDERA (N)** a crater formed at the top of a volcanic mountain

**CATARACT (N)** a waterfall of great volume in which the vertical flow is concentrated in one sheer drop

**CONFLUENCE (N)** the point of convergence and uniting of two streams

**EDDY (N)** circular movement of water produced by counter currents

**ESTUARY (N)** arm of sea that extends inland to meet the mouth of a river; river basin affected by ocean tides, having a mixture of fresh and salt water

**FJORD (N)** a long narrow body of water sheltered by high cliffs on both sides

**MERIDIAN (N)** an imaginary circle, passing through both north and south poles

**SEDIMENTARY (ADJ)** describing accumulation of material deposited by water, wind or glaciers

**STEPPE (N)** vast, open land with no green cover; a characteristic of Eastern Europe and Central Russia

**TUNDRA (N)** a vast, cold treeless region between the icecap and the treeline of Arctic regions

**VELD (N)** open grassland with grasses and shrubs; a characteristic of South Africa

## GOVERNMENT / POLITICS

**AMNESTY (N)** a general pardon by a government for past offences

**DESPOT (N)** cruel and oppressive dictator

**HEGEMONY (N)** domination by one state over others

**INSURGENCY (N)** a minor revolt against a local government; uprising

**MANDATE (N)** authority conferred on an elected official by the electorate

**MORATORIUM (N)** a legally authorised period of delay in the performance of a legal obligation or the payment of a debt; a waiting period set by an authority; a suspension of activity

**POLITY (N)** a system or form of government

**POTENTATE (N)** a monarch, dictator; person possessing great power

**RATIFY (V)** to approve officially; sanction; confirm

**REFERENDUM (N)** popular vote on either proposed legislation or a popular initiative

**REGIME (N)** the government of a specific leader; administration

**SECEDE (N)** to separate from an organised body of government

**SUBJUGATE (V)** to conquer or dominate a people or territory

**SUBVERT (V)** to overthrow, ruin, corrupt or otherwise undermine the stability or order of a government

**SUFFRAGE (N)** the right to vote

**THRALLDOM (N)** slavery; serfdom

**TITULAR (ADJ)** in title only (e.g. a monarch or president); nominal and without actual power or authority

**TYRANNY (N)** absolute authority, usually exercised oppressively

**USURP (V)** to assume political power or office by force or without right

## LINGUISTICS

**ANACHRONISM (N)** a word or expression not corresponding to the language of a given period of history; anything seemingly from another time

**ANAGRAM (N)** a word or group of words made by rearranging the letters of another word or group of words

**APHASIA (N)** loss of the ability to understand or produce speech, as a result of brain damage

**ARGOT (N)** specialised language and idioms of a group

**CANT (V)** hypocritical talk

**COLLOQUIAL (ADJ)** informal spoken or written expression

**DIALECT (N)** a distinctive regional variety of a language

**EUPHONIC (ADJ)** having an agreeable or pleasing sound

**IDIOM (N)** an expression which has a special meaning different from the meaning of the individual words that make up the expression

**LEXICON (N)** collection of words arranged alphabetically and their definitions

**LOCUTION (N)** a particular form of expression or a peculiarity of phrasing

**PATOIS (N)** regional form of a language

**PEJORATIVE (ADJ)** negative in connotation; belittling

**PERORATION (N)** the concluding part of a public address or speech (especially, summing up and recapitulating key points and/or exhorting and uplifting the audience)

**PHONETIC (ADJ)** based on sounds (e.g. the phonetic spelling of a word)

**RHETORIC (N)** study of the technique and rules of effective usage of language; using language effectively to please or persuade

**ROSTRUM (N)** a platform for public speaking; dais

**SEMANTIC (ADJ)** connected with the meanings of words

**SYNTAX (N)** grammatical arrangement of words in a sentence

**TRANSCRIBE (V)** to reduce speech to a written form

## LITERATURE

**ALLEGORY (N)** a style that uses fictional characters and events to describe something; use of extended metaphors as a device for teaching a lesson

**ALLUSION (N)** reference in a literary work to an identifiable person, event, place or passage

**ANTHOLOGY (N)** a collection selections from the writing of one or more authors

**APOCRYPHAL (ADJ)** of unknown authorship or doubtful integrity

**DENOUEMENT (N)** the final unfolding of a plot; the final resolution or outcome following the climax

**DOGGEREL (N)** poetic verse of generally poor quality; verse characterised by a crude, rough or irregular style

**ELEGY (N)** poem (or song) of mourning; a lament

**EPIC (N)** a long narrative poem about a hero's deeds; very imposing or impressive

**EUPHEMISM (N)** a pleasant or complimentary word or phrase used instead of one that is harsh or derogatory

**FIGURATIVE (ADJ)** words and phrases used not with their basic meaning but a more imaginative meaning

**LIMERICK (N)** a somewhat humorous poem of 5 lines in which the first, second and fifth lines rhyme and the third and fourth lines which are shorter than the other three, form a rhymed couplet

**METAPHOR (N)** a comparison between two unlike things that is not so apparent, yet very suggestive and forceful, as in "she has a heart of stone"

**MOTIF (N)** a dominant idea of central theme; a design that consists of recurring shapes or colours

**PASTICHE (N)** a literary, artistic, musical or architectural work that is a stylistic imitation of a previous work; a literary, artistic or musical work made up of selections from different works

**PSEUDONYM (N)** a fictitious name used by an author

**SATIRE (N)** a literary form employing irony, ridicule and sarcasm

**SIMILE (N)** a comparison of two unlike things using 'like' or 'as'.

**SCHOLIAST (N)** an ancient commentator or annotator of classic texts

**TREATISE (N)** a comprehensive and systematic literary examination of a particular subject

**VIGNETTE (N)** a short piece of writing, music or acting; small illustrative sketch; a photograph with edges that shade off gradually

## PHILOSOPHY AND LOGIC

**AUTONOMY (N)** independence from external constraints; self-determination

**CANON (N)** a rule, norm, tenet or principle that is logically consistent

**CORPOREAL (ADJ)** relating to the body or to physical matter

**DIALECTIC (N)** a formal system of reasoning that arrives at the truth by the exchange of logical arguments; a way of discovering what is true by considering opposite theories

**EMPIRICAL (N)** based on direct or practical observation and experience

**FALLACIOUS (ADJ)** logically unsound; misleading or deceptive

**HEURISTIC (ADJ)** serving to persuade through discovery and revelation rather than through logic or rhetoric; allowing to learn by discovering from own experiences rather than by telling

**METAPHYSICS (N)** the part of philosophy about understanding existence and knowledge

**NIHILISM (N)** the belief that there is no purpose to existence; rejection of established laws and institutions

**NON SEQUITUR (N)** that which does not follow logically

**ONTOLOGY (N)** a branch of metaphysics dealing with the nature and relations of being

**PARADOX (N)** a seemingly contradictory assertion that may nevertheless be true or valid

**POSTULATE (N)** a hypothesis that cannot be demonstrated; a proposition accepted as true in order to provide a basis for logical reasoning

**TAUTOLOGY (N)** an unnecessary repetition of a word or phrase that does not add to the clarity of the term. An example would be "widow woman" or "he will either win or not win"

## THEATRE, ARTS AND PUBLIC SPEAKING

**DEBUT (N)** an actor's first performance; appear for the first time in public

**HISTRIONICS (N)** acting in highly theatrical or overly dramatic, exaggerated style; very emotional and energetic behaviour but lacking in sincerity and real meaning

**IMPRESARIO (N)** a manager, promoter or sponsor for performing artists; a sponsor who books and stages public entertainments

**LIBRETTIST (N)** a person who writes the words for an opera or a musical

**MARQUEE (N)** covering like roof, often of metal and glass projecting out over the entrance to a hotel or theatre; a large tent used for social or commercial functions; a scrolling screen message

**ODEUM (N)** small theatre or concert hall

**PANTOMIME (N)** performance using gestures and body movements without words

**PERIPETEIA (N)** a sudden or unexpected reversal of circumstances or situation, especially in a literary work

**REPERTORY (N)** a theatrical company that presents several different plays, operas or pieces in the course of a season at one theatre; one's entire range of skills, aptitudes or devices

**TABLEAU (N)** a stage picture created by actors posing motionless

## COLLECTIVE NOUNS

### COLLECTION OF ANIMALS/BIRDS

- an **ASCENSION/EXALTATION** of larks
- a **BARREN/RAKE** of mules
- a **BED** of clams
- a **BED** of oysters
- a **BEVY** of larks or quails
- a **BEVY/BANK** of swans
- a **BROOD** of chickens
- a **BUILDING/CLAMOUR** of rooks
- a **BUSINESS** of ferrets
- a **CAST** of hawks
- a **CATCH/HAUL/SOAL/SCHOOL** of fish
- a **CETE** of badgers
- a **CHARM** of finches
- a **CLOUD** of locusts
- a **CLUSTER** of cats
- a **CLUTTER/CLUSTER** of spiders
- a **COLONY/BURY/NEST** of rabbits
- a **COMPANY** of parrots
- a **CONGREGATION** of plovers
- a **CONVOCATION** of eagles
- a **COVEY** of partridges
- a **COVEY/NYE/BOUQUET** of pheasants
- a **CRASH** of rhinoceroses
- a **CRECHE/HUDDLE/COLONY** of penguins
- a **DEN/BED/PIT/NEST/SLITHER** of snakes
- a **DESERT/DECEIT** of lapwings
- a **DESCENT** of woodpeckers
- a **DRAY** of squirrels
- a **DROVE** of cattle/horses/ponies (driven together)
- a **DROVE/HERD/SOUNDER** of pigs
- an **EXALTATION** of larks
- a **FALL** of lambs
- a **FLIGHT** of birds, bees or insects
- a **FLOCK/GAGGLE** of geese/swans
- a **FLOCK** of seagulls
- a **FLOCK** of sheep/bird
- a **FLOCK/TRIP** of sheep
- a **FLUTHER/SMACK** of jellyfish
- a **GAZE** of raccoons
- a **HERD** of cattle/deer/swine/elephants/antelopes/horses
- a **KINDLE** of kittens
- a **KNOT** of frogs

- a **LABOUR/COMPANY/MOVEMENT** of moles
- a **LEAP** of leopards
- a **LITTER** of pigs/dogs/cats (brought forth at one birth)
- a **LITTER** of piglets
- a **LOFT/FARROW** of pigeons
- a **MOB/TROOP** of kangaroos
- a **MUSTER** of storks
- an **OSTENTATION** of peacocks
- a **NIDE** of pheasants
- a **NEST/MISCHIEF** of mice
- a **NEST** of vipers
- a **PACK/COLONY/SWARM/RABBLE** of rats
- a **PACK** of asses/hounds
- a **PACK/ROUT** of wolves
- a **PADDLING** of ducks
- a **PARCEL/PASSEL** of hogs
- a **PARLIAMENT** of owls
- a **PARTY/BAND** of jays
- a **PLAGUE** of locusts
- a **PLUMP** of wildfowls
- a **POD** of whales/dolphins
- a **PRIDE/SPAN** of peacocks
- a **PRIDE/SOWSE/SAULT** of lions
- a **ROOKERY** of penguins
- a **ROUT** of snails
- a **RUN/BIND** of salmon
- a **SCHOOL/HERD/POD/GAM** of whales
- a **SIEGE** of herons
- a **SKEIN** of geese
- a **SOUNDER** of pigs
- a **SPRING/POD** of seals
- a **STRING** of camels
- a **STARE** of owls
- a **STREAK/An AMBUSH** of tigers
- a **SWARM** of bees
- a **TEAM/YOKE/SPAN** of oxen
- a **TIDINGS** of magpies
- a **TROOP** of monkeys
- a **TRIBE/MISSION** of monkeys
- a **TURN/DULE/BALE** of turtles
- an **UBIQUITY/QUARREL/HOST** of sparrows
- an **UNKINDNESS/CONSPIRACY** of ravens
- a **WATCH** of nightingales
- a **WEDGE** of swans (flying)
- a **WISP** of snipes
- a **WRACK** of kittens (rabbits)
- a **ZEAL/HERD** of zebra

## COLLECTION OF THINGS

- an **AGENDA** of tasks
- an **ANTHOLOGY** of poems/prose
- an **ARCHIPELAGO** of islands
- an **ATLAS** of maps
- a **BALE** of cotton/wool
- a **BANK** of monitors
- a **BASKET** of fruits
- a **BATTERY** of tests
- a **BOOK** of wagers
- a **BRACE** of pistols
- a **BUDGET** of letters
- a **BUNCH/BOUQUET** of flowers
- a **BUNCH** of things
- a **BUNCH** of keys/grapes/plantains
- a **BUNDLE** of sticks/hay
- a **CARILLON** of bells
- a **CHAIN** of mountains
- a **CHAIN/An ARCHIPELAGO** of islands
- a **CACHE** of jewels
- a **CHEST** of drawers
- a **CLUMP/FOREST/GROVE** of trees
- a **CLUSTER/GALAXY/CONSTELLATION** of stars
- a **CLUSTER** of nuts/grapes on a bunch
- a **CLUTCH** of eggs
- a **CODE** of law
- a **COLLECTION** of objects
- a **CONSIGNMENT** of goods
- a **CONVOY** of merchant ships
- a **CONVOY** of trucks
- a **COURSE** of lectures
- a **CRATE** of fruit/crockery
- a **FAGOT** of sticks
- a **FALL** of snow
- a **FIELD** of athletes
- a **FLEET** of ships
- a **FLIGHT** of stairs
- a **FLOTILLA/FLEET/ARMADA** of ships
- a **GALAXY** of stars
- a **GARLAND** of flowers
- a **GROVE/THICKET/STAND** of trees
- a **HAMLET** of houses (in a village)
- a **HEAP** of stones/sand
- a **HEAP** of trash
- a **HERBARIUM** of dried plants
- a **LEAGUE** of nations
- a **LIBRARY/PILE** of books

- a **LOCK** of hair
- a **NEST** of machine-guns
- a **PAIR** of shoes/scissors
- a **PACK** of submarines
- a **PEAL** of bells
- a **PENCIL** of rays
- a **PURSE** of winnings
- a **QUIVER** of rebuttals
- a **RANGE** of mountains
- a **RING** of keys
- a **ROPE** of pearls
- a **SERIES** of events
- a **SET** of tools
- a **SET** of tennis games
- a **SHEAF** of corn
- a **SHOWER** of rains/arrows
- a **SKEIN** of woollen thread
- a **STACK/TRUSS** of hay
- a **SUITE** of wood/corn piled together
- a **TRAIN** of wagons and carriages
- a **VOLLEY/BARRAGE/BATTERY** of questions
- a **WAD** of money
- a **WREATH/ROSARY** of flowers
- a **WEALTH** of information
- a **CREW** of sailors
- a **CROWD** of onlookers
- a **DEN** of thieves
- a **FLOCK** of tourists
- a **GANG** of prisoners/robbers/thieves/convicts
- a **GATHERING/SOCIETY** of people
- a **HORDE** of savages
- a **HOST** of angels
- a **HOUSE** of senators
- a **JURY/PANEL** of jurymen engaged in a case
- a **NEVERTHRIVING** of jugglers
- a **NUMBER/SET** of mathematicians
- a **PONDER** of philosophers
- a **POSSE** of constables called to enforce the law
- a **ROUT/BANNER** of knights
- a **SUPERFLUITY** of nuns
- a **STAFF** of officials/servants
- a **TEAM** of players
- a **TROUPE** of artists/dancers/acrobats
- a **TRIBE** of natives

### COLLECTION OF PEOPLE

- an **ARMY** of soldiers
- a **BAND** of musicians
- a **BAND** of (merry) men
- a **BATTALION/REGIMENT** of soldiers
- a **BENCH** of judges or bishops
- a **BEVY** of girls
- a **BOARD** of directors/trustees
- a **BEVY** of ladies
- a **CARAVAN** of merchants/pilgrims/travellers
- a **CLASS/BATCH** of students
- a **COMPANY** of soldiers/merchants/actors/friends
- **COMPANY/BRIGADE/SQUAD/PLATOON/DIVISION** of soldiers
- a **CONCOURSE / THRONG / ASSEMBLY / CROWD / MULTITUDE** of people
- a **COLONY** of lepers
- **CONGREGATION** of worshippers
- a **CONGRESS** of representatives
- a **COUNCIL** of advisors/lawyers
- a **CONVERTING** of preachers
- **COVEN** of witches

## FAMILY TIES

| Animal       | Male          | Female     | Young                             |
|--------------|---------------|------------|-----------------------------------|
| ■ Antelope   | buck          | doe        | kid                               |
| ■ Ass/donkey | jackass       | jenny      | colt (male), filly (female)       |
| ■ Bear       | boar          | sow        | cub                               |
| ■ Buffalo    | bull          | cow        | calf                              |
| ■ Camel      | bull          | cow        | calf                              |
| ■ Cat        | tom           | queen      | kitten                            |
| ■ Cattle     | bull          | cow        | calf/heifer                       |
| ■ Deer       | stag/buck     | doe        | fawn/kid                          |
| ■ Dog        | dog           | bitch      | pup/whelp                         |
| ■ Fox        | dog           | vixen      | cub                               |
| ■ Goat       | billy-goat    | nanny-goat | kid                               |
| ■ Goose      | gander        | goose      | gosling                           |
| ■ Hare       | buck          | doe        | leveret                           |
| ■ Horse      | stallion      | mare       | foal, colt (male), filly (female) |
| ■ Kangaroo   | buck / boomer | doe        | joey                              |
| ■ Leopard    | leopard       | leopardess | cub                               |
| ■ Lion       | lion          | lioness    | cub                               |
| ■ Peacock    | peacock       | peahen     | peachick                          |
| ■ Pig        | boar/hog      | sow/gilt   | piglet                            |
| ■ Sheep      | ram/tup       | ewe        | lamb                              |
| ■ Swan       | cob           | pen        | cygnet                            |
| ■ Tiger      | tiger         | tigress    | cub                               |
| ■ Whale      | bull          | cow        | calf                              |
| ■ Wolf       | dog           | bitch      | pup / cub / whelp                 |
| ■ Zebra      | stallion      | mare       | foal, Colt (male), Filly (female) |

## ADJECTIVES DERIVED FROM ANIMAL LIFE

| Animal       | Related Adjective                      |
|--------------|--|
| ■ Ape/monkey | simian / pongid                        |
| ■ Ass/donkey | asinine                                |
| ■ Bear       | ursine                                 |
| ■ Bee        | apian                                  |
| ■ Cat        | feline                                 |
| ■ Cattle     | bovine / taurine (male)                |
| ■ Crab       | crustacean                             |
| ■ Crow       | corvine                                |
| ■ Deer       | cervine                                |
| ■ Dog        | canine                                 |
| ■ Eagle      | aquiline                               |
| ■ Fox        | vulpine                                |
| ■ Goat       | caprine / hircine                      |
| ■ Horse      | equine                                 |
| ■ Kangaroo   | macropine                              |
| ■ Leopard    | pardine                                |
| ■ Lion       | leonine                                |
| ■ Lizard     | saurian                                |
| ■ Mouse/Rat  | murine                                 |
| ■ Parrot     | psittacine                             |
| ■ Pig        | porcine/suilline                       |
| ■ Sheep      | ovine                                  |
| ■ Snake      | anguine/colubrine, ophidian/serpentine |
| ■ Sparrow    | passerine                              |
| ■ Spider     | arachnoid                              |
| ■ Tiger      | tigrine                                |
| ■ Whale      | cetacean                               |
| ■ Wolf       | lupine                                 |
| ■ Zebra      | zebrine                                |