

As the following words and phrases, from the French, and Latin, frequently occur in English authors, an explanation of them has been inserted here, for the convenience of those who are unacquainted with these languages. Let none, however, imagine, that by doing this I intend to encourage the use of them in English composition. On the contrary, I disapprove of it, and aver, that to express an idea in a foreign language, which can be expressed with equal perspicuity in our own, is not only pedantic, but highly improper. Such words and phrases, by being frequently used, may, notwithstanding the uncouthness of their sound and appearance, gradually incorporate with our language, and ultimately diminish its original excellence, and impair its native beauty.

Aide de-camp, *âd-de-kong', an assistant to a general.

A la bonne heure, a la bon oor', luckily; in good time.

Affair de cœur, af-fâr' de koor', a love affair; an amour.

A la mode, a la môd', according to the fashion.

Al fin, a fing', to the end.

A propos, ap-prô-pô', to the purpose; opportunely.

Au fond, â fong', to the bottom, or main point.

Auto da fé, â to-da-fâ; (Portuguese) burning of heretics.

Bagatelle, bag-a-tel', a trifle.

Beau monde, hô môngd', the gay world, people of fashion.

Beaux esprits, bôz es-prê, men of wit.

Billet doux, bil-le-dû', a love letter.

Bon-mot, bong mô', a piece of wit; a jest; a quibble.

Bon ton, bong tong', in high fashion.

Bon gré, mal gré, bong grâ, &c., with a good, or ill grace; whether the party will or not.

Bon jour, bong zhûr, good day; good morning.

Boudoir, bû-dwâr', a small private apartment.

Carte blanche, kart blangsh', a blank; unconditional terms.

Chateau, sha-tô', a country seat.

Chef d'œuvre, she doo-ver, a master-piece.

Ci-devant, sê-de-vang', formerly.

Comme il faut, com-il fô, as it should be.

Short vowels are left unmarked;—û is equal to u in rule;—â to a in art; oo, as used here, has no correspondent sound in English; it is equal to u, as pronounced by the common people in many counties of Scotland, in the words use, soot, &c.—â is equal to a in all.

* A is not exactly a long here; it is perhaps as near e in met as a in make, but a will not be so readily mistaken. It is impossible to convey the pronunciation accurately without the tongue.

Con
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Coup
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Coup
Coup
Debu
Dern
Depo
Doub
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Dou
Dieu
Ecl
Elèv
En t
En m
En p
Enn
Fau
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Frac
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