

# English borrowing: 5+ tips on how to write borrowed words correctly

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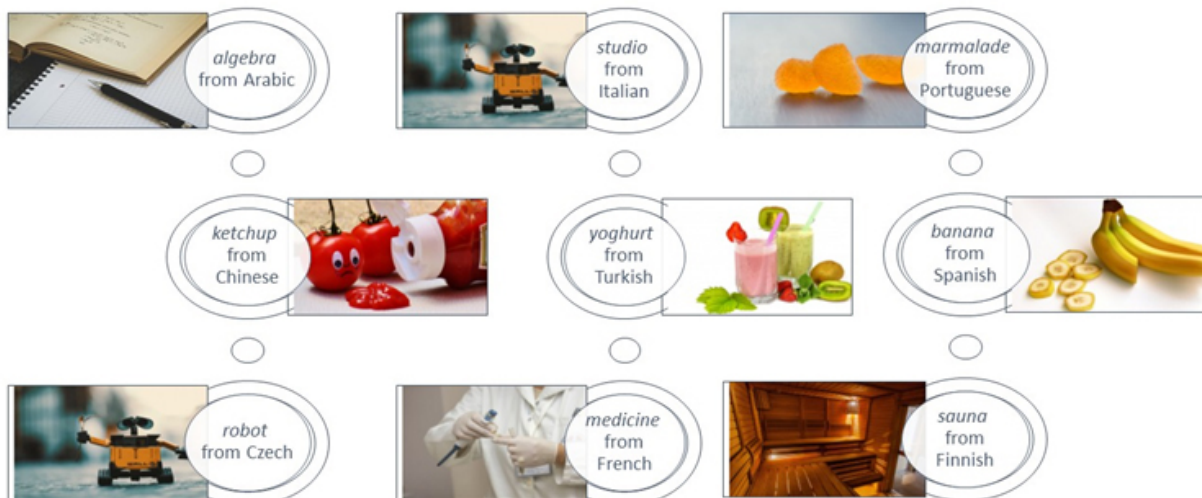
How often do you dig yourself deeper into a hole how to write affect or effect, lay or lie, grey or gray? If it happens to you very often, what to say about spelling such words like Renaissance, anonymous or entrepreneur? All these 'strange' words are usually taken from other languages - French, German, Latin, Italian, Arabic, etc. For example, the word 'ketchup' is borrowed from the Chinese language and the origin of the word 'cartoon' goes back to Italian. The English language has been described by David Crystal as an "insatiable borrower." But not all foreign words are easy to remember and write correctly.

So this article is aimed at helping you write all the problematic words in English correctly. There are some secrets that can help you write words borrowed from the other languages without a moment's hesitation - "Do I need to write 'a' or 'e' here?"

## **What Is Known About English Borrowing?**

The English language has been described by David Crystal as an "insatiable borrower" - more than 120 other languages with which English has been in contact for a long time have served as sources for the contemporary vocabulary of English. Look at the picture below and know that the words you use today without a second thought are taken from the other languages.

## *English Borrowings*



There are different periods of borrowing - it's a process when words are adopted by the speakers of the English language from a different language. In fact, in the age of exploration (that started at the beginning of the 15th century and lasted until the end of the 18th century), the vocabulary of English was noticeably expanded by thousand explorers, traders. Often, it took place in spoken form. Arriving in Scotland, they heard the word 'whisky' and, sure enough, Englishmen apprised this drink and brought it to their motherland. In Germany, they saw such a fairly slow dance as waltz, and, certainly, they liked it and started dancing in England. In Australia, they saw animals jumping and carrying their babies in a pouch called as kangaroos. They didn't take these animals along, but they described them to their friends and relatives. As a result, many thousands of English words have been acquired in this way.

Just open an English dictionary to know the origin of the word you're going to write. Yes, it may seem to you as an insignificant step. But when you deal with difficult words, don't skip this step - make sure that you will spell them correctly. Below we'll explain to you how to avoid possible mistakes in foreign words. Read attentively not to spend more time on spelling words in English.

### ***5 Tips on How to Spell Borrowed Words Correctly***

If you think that it is impossible not to make a mistake in the word 'antidisestablishmentarianism', you're right! But with words like 'conscience' or 'millennium', everything is much easier. There are particular spelling rules relevant to some borrowed words. We are ready to help you by providing top 5 effective tips on how to spell borrowed words properly. Look!

When you hear the sound /us/ on the end of an adjective, it is spelled always as *ous*. So stop wrestling with such words as 'anonymous', 'generous', 'jealous' or 'tremendous'. When you're going to add a Latin prefix like *in-*, *con-*, or *ad-* to a word which starts with the consonant, don't forget to double the consonants in the middle of words. So don't make spelling mistakes in the words 'adduce', 'innocent' or 'connotation'.

Don't omit words with silent letters. What does it mean? For example, many Greek words like 'psychology', 'pneumonia', 'philosophy' have the silent letter 'p' at the start. Look at the list of silent letters in English from A-Z not to make this spelling mistake again and again.

The /k/ sound in English is often represented with the Greek letter combination *ch*. So next time when you'll need to spell the words 'character', 'chronic' or 'chronology', make it correctly.

The most frequent sound that the letter *y* gets in words from Greek is /i/. So write properly the words like 'myth', 'rhyme' or 'synonym'.

### ***All Is Not Lost: A Few General Spelling Tips***

If you are still making mistakes in some words (after all, there are specific words that are unaffected with any spelling rule - *hors d'oeuvre*, *pharaoh*, *rendezvous* or *convalesce*), take the

following steps:

**Read!** It is almost impossible to be a good speller without being a good reader. Find different types of texts in English and increase your knowledge on how words are spelled. The more you read, the more confident you'll be about spelling.

**Rely on an online dictionary!** If you struggle with writing a word, a dictionary is at your service. Luckily, you don't have to go to a library and find out the correct spelling of words. Just open an online thesaurus and find a necessary word in a minute.

**Check written content online as well.** Like with online definition dictionaries, you don't have to go somewhere to make sure you write words correctly. For example, you're done writing a research paper. It is surely meticulous work that takes a lot of time and efforts. Right? Have enough energy to proofread your paper? If no, find the usage of online checkers useful for yourself.

However, there are some complications in any way of checking spelling. For example, if you intend to make sure in spelling with a dictionary in hands, it may take more time than you plan on writing an essay. In the case when you use an online grammar corrector, your texts are checked with a machine. So it is better to find someone competent in editing an academic paper - a qualified editor from [Analyze.AcademicHelp.net](https://Analyze.AcademicHelp.net) is ready to help you with analyzing your written paper in all possible aspects. This online service includes checking for errors in grammar, punctuation, style, organization, citations, and content consistency. And what is more important for you - it is provided by a real expert in editing. So stop making most mistakes in your writing even today!