

7/19/26

# Foreign Phrases

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Estimated play time: Approximately 15 minutes

Number of players: Unlimited

Supplies needed: Scoring board/pad; noisemakers

## Overview:

English borrows many phrases from other languages. How many do you know? In this game, we provide the foreign phrase, and you must give a definition or translation of the phrase. Extra kudos if you can use the phrase correctly in a sentence.

## Instructions:

1. This game can be played by individuals or in teams.
2. Read the first foreign phrase. (In case your pronunciation isn't 100%, you should write the phrase out on a white board or large pad of paper that all players can see.) Discussion is permitted among teammates. Prior to the start of the game, a method to signal when a team is ready to answer must be determined. Ringing bells and New Year's blowers are just two inexpensive noisemakers. Raised hands work, but the host must be vigilant to watch for whose hand went up first. The host always has the final say in any disputes.
3. After a player/team is recognized as the first to signal, they may give an answer. If the first answer is incorrect, the other teams may 'buzz' in and answer.
4. Scoring: Give 10 points for each correct answer – and give an extra 5 points if they use the phrase correctly in a sentence.

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## QUESTIONS

1. Mea culpa (Latin)
2. Carpe diem (Latin)
3. Ad infinitum (Latin)
4. Verboten (German)
5. Al dente (Italian)
6. Carte blanche (French)
7. Per capita (Latin)
8. Coup d'état (French)
9. La dolce vita (Italian)
10. Doppelgänger (German)
11. Double entendre (French)
12. Entre nous (French)
13. In loco parentis (Latin)
14. Raison d'être (French)

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## ANSWERS

1. An acknowledgement of fault; accepting blame (literally, “by my fault”)
2. To make the most of the present time (literally, “sieve the day”)
3. Endlessly; forever (literally, “to infinity”)
4. Forbidden
5. Cooked, but still firm when bitten (literally, “to the tooth”)
6. Complete freedom to act as one wishes (literally, “blank paper”)
7. For each person (literally, “by heads”)
8. A sudden, violent seizure of power (literally, “blow against the state”)
9. A life of pleasure and luxury (literally, “the sweet life”)
10. An apparition or double of a living person; an evil twin (literally, “double-goer”)
11. A word or phrase with two possible interpretations (literally, “double understanding”)
12. Between ourselves
13. In the place of a parent
14. The most important reason for someone or something's existence (literally, “reason for being”)