

FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION TO ENGLISH

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FRENCH

❖ During the **Middle English period**, extensive borrowings from French - Norman Conquest. Now substantial part of the English language.

❖ French influence - different words or **synonyms** are used to describe a living animal and the meat that comes from it after it's killed.

Native shepherds -

sheep, cow, hen, pig

French cooks -

mutton, beef, chicken, pork



- ❖ **Feudal system** - *demesne, castle, domain, baron, livery*
- ❖ **Legal system** - *trespass, arson, larceny, treason, cheat*. Other law terms - *justice, judge, indict, verdict, licence, prison*
- ❖ **Ecclesiastical system** - elaborate and organized. French terms for offices - *abbot, cardinal, friar, deacon, chapel*
cathedral, convent, altar, aisle



❖ **Renaissance**, the words retained their French pronunciation.

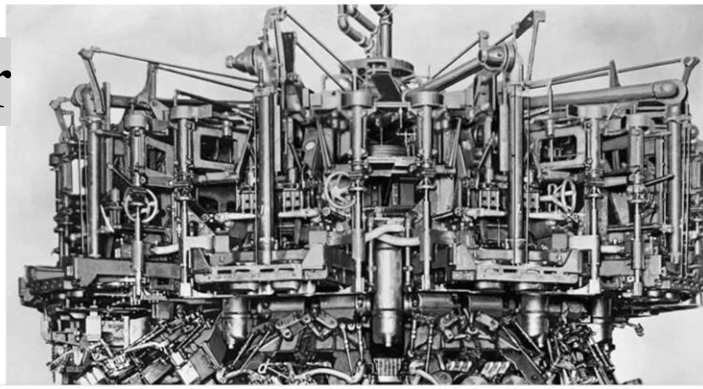
❖ 'ch' was soft - *chef, sachet, chaperon, champagne*

❖ 'i' is long - *machine, élite, clique*

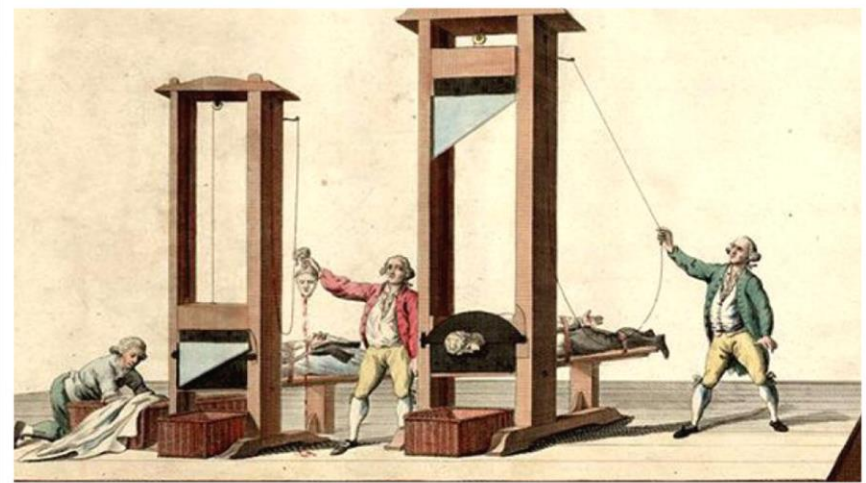
❖ 'g' before a front vowel is soft - *garage, barrage, néglige,*

Other post-Renaissance borrowings which retained their French pronunciation - *coquette, burlesque, cajole, caprice, parasol*

❖ **16th and 17th centuries** - *portmanteau, rendezvous, coquette, parole, and brigade*



- ❖ **Restoration of 1660** - great French influence. Stuart Court returned from the Europe more French than English. **Restoration and 18th century** - words relating to fashionable life and gaming or other pastimes - *ballet, connoisseur, beau, salon, boulevard, cuisine, etiquette, début, souvenir*
- ❖ **End of the 18th century** - the **French Revolution** - many words persisted for a while but disappeared naturally. Only words still part of English vocab. - *régime, tricolour, guillotine*



❖ **19th century** - Most French words since Middle English
Words - art and literature, dress and textiles, furniture,
food and cooking. People went to France for business,
pleasure. Paris - centre of fashion, fine life.

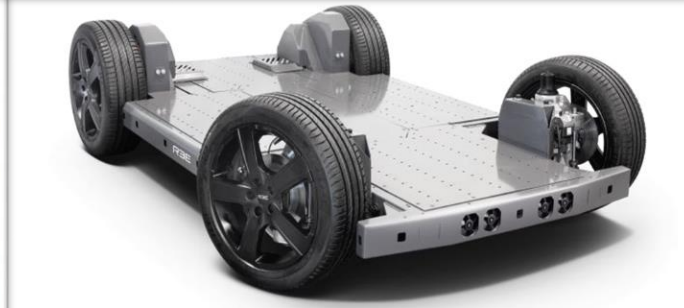
❖ **Food and cooking:** *restaurant, café, menu, bon-bon, mayonnaise* .

❖ **Dress and furnishings:** *blouse, trousseau, rosette, beret, pince-nez*

❖ **Military & political terms:**
barrage, communique, chassis
(originally a gun-carriage), *attache, charge d'affaires*

❖ **Vehicles:** *cabriolet, char-a-banc*

❖ **Social life:** *soiree, fiancé, debutant*



❖ Finally, some phrases which retain their **French form** but are usually **printed in italics** to distinguish their **foreign origin and character**. They have been accepted into the English language and given an **honourable place** because they express ideas for which there is **no equivalent or concise native term**. For example, *coup d'état*, *bête noire*, *savoir-faire*, *hors d'oeuvre*, *letter de cachet*

