



November Word-of-the-Day '09 (Mot du jour!)

To celebrate National French Week, this month's list consists of French terms and expressions commonly used in English. **About.com: French Language** was a major source for this list compiled by French Honor Society member Anne Oti. Phonetic hints are provided so that will have a general idea of the sounds without using formal phonetic symbols. Accentuated syllables are in **bold face**.

Nov. 4	Coup de grace- [kood grass] mercy blow; death blow, decisive stroke
Nov. 5	Sabotage – [sabotahge] From the French “sabot” meaning wooden shoe (clog); term was coined when French peasants kicked and ruined newly introduced machinery to protest losing their jobs to machines during the Industrial Revolution.
Nov. 6	Faux pas- [fopa] something that should not be done, a foolish mistake. (literally- false step, trip)
Nov. 9	Touché - [tooshay] remark acknowledging an opponent's scoring a point in an argument (literally- touched, a term from the sport of fencing)
Nov. 10	Mal de Mer- [mal deh maihr] Seasickness (literally, evil of the sea)
Nov. 11	Petit-four- [petee fouhr] small dessert, especially cake (literally- little oven)
Nov. 12	Soirée – [swahrhay] an elegant party (literally- duration of an evening, which is like the English word journey – also based on the duration of a day, “jour” in French).
Nov. 13	Tableau vivant- [tablo veevahn] a scene made of silent, motionless actors (literally- living picture)
Nov. 16	Tête-à-tête- [tetatet] a private talk or visit with another person
Nov. 17	Vis-à-vis – [veezavee] in relation to (literally- face-to-face)
Nov. 18	Sans – [sahn] preposition often used in English meaning without
Nov. 19	Avant-garde- [avahngard] Innovative, especially in the arts (literally- before guard)
Nov. 20	Debut – [dayboo] entry, appearance (literally – beginning)
Nov. 23	Esprit de corps- [ehspree deh kohr] team spirit or morale
Nov. 24	Haute couture- [oht kootoohr] high-class, fancy and expensive clothing styles (literally high sewing)
Nov. 25	Pièce-de-resistance- [peeehss deh rayzistahns] main course- the test of your stomach's stamina (literally- piece of stamina)
Nov. 26	Soi-disant- [swadeezahn] “so called” - what one says about oneself (literally- self-saying)
Nov. 27	Soupçon- [soopsohn] used figuratively like hint – e.g. a soupçon of garlic (literally - suspicion)
Nov. 30	Trompe l'oeil- [trohmp loy] painting style that makes a flat surface appear to have different properties like 3 dimensions (literally - trick the eye)