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BORROWINGS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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The modern English language is the result of a long evolutionary process. Throughout its development, its phonological structure, grammar, and vocabulary have undergone various changes, influenced by diverse factors such as wars, colonization, exploration, trade, and so on. Changes in the language occurred both gradually, influenced by internal linguistic laws, and more rapidly, especially in terms of vocabulary composition, under the influence of external factors. In both cases, these changes affected all aspects of linguistic structure, albeit manifesting differently. Latin and French are two of the most prevalent sources from which words are borrowed into the English language, and they influence various spheres of vocabulary with varying frequencies.

Latin, as the language of ancient Rome and the Roman Catholic Church, has profoundly shaped English across academic, scientific, and legal domains. Many terms in medicine, law, and academia have Latin roots. For example, medical terminology often derives from Latin, with words like "biology," "anatomy," and "physiology" all originating from Latin terms. Legal vocabulary similarly draws heavily from Latin, with words like "jury," "evidence," and "verdict" being common examples. Additionally, Latin has contributed extensively to scientific terminology, with words like "laboratory," "chemistry," and "astronomy" having Latin origins.

French, on the other hand, exerted its influence on English after the Norman Conquest in 1066. French became the language of the court and administration in England, resulting in the adoption of numerous French words into English. French borrowings are prevalent in areas such as cuisine, fashion, government, and the arts. Words like "restaurant," "ballet," "government," "culinary," and "couture" are all borrowed from French. Additionally, French has enriched English with expressions related to diplomacy, etiquette, and social interactions.

The frequency of borrowing from Latin and French varies depending on the domain. In academic and scientific contexts, Latin borrowings are quite common due to the historical influence of Latin as the language of learning in Europe. Legal terminology also frequently draws from Latin roots. On the other hand, French borrowings are prevalent in everyday language, particularly in domains related to culture, cuisine, and social interaction. Overall, both Latin and French continue to contribute significantly to the richness and diversity of the English vocabulary.