

## Découverte

### • La langue française

#### *Le français et l'anglais: deux langues amies?*

English and French may be two separate languages but the proximity of the countries, a lot of shared history, and wars and invasions have led to the two languages having a great deal in common, especially in vocabulary as the two languages have borrowed, taken and swapped words for centuries. Some words disappear as quickly as they came, others stay forever.

You hear a lot about *faux amis* in English and French, that is words that look or sound the same in the two languages but which have a totally different meaning. In reality, there are far, far more *bons amis* between English and French. So an English speaker learning French, or vice versa, already has a vocabulary of thousands of words without even knowing it.

Look at the newspaper extract. Highlight or underline all the words you think you recognise or can guess.

### Violence...

DÉSIREUX de mieux combattre la violence à l'école, le ministre de l'Éducation nationale vient de proposer douze nouvelles mesures dont on espère pour le moins qu'elles permettent d'évoquer désormais au passé les dramatiques incidents que l'on a connus récemment.

Ainsi, s'appuyant sur l'éducation civique, une formation plus adéquate des enseignants en milieu sensibles, une coopération plus étroite entre les fonctionnaires de son ministère et ceux de la police

et de la justice, espère-t-il accomplir de louables progrès.

Nous serait-il permis toutefois d'ajouter à ce programme une initiative supplémentaire, nous inciterions — bien que d'en parler passe aujourd'hui pour une banalité — le ministre de l'Éducation à peaufiner sa copie et à mener, dans le même temps, une croisade contre certaines productions de télévision. Car leur rabachage au quotidien, pour les jeunes esprits qui s'en délectent, n'est rien d'autre, reconnaissons-le, qu'une... école de la violence.

Centre France  
La Montagne



## CULTUROSCOPE

- L'Académie française

The *Académie française* was founded in 1635 to defend and improve the French language. It is made up of 40 members (known as '*Les Immortels*') who are appointed for life.

- Les anglicismes

To prevent the invasion of English words into French, the *Académie* regularly publishes lists of French words which they want the French people to use instead of their '*franglais*' equivalent.

### Did you know that...?

After the Norman Conquest, the English peasants raised the animals, the Norman lords cooked and ate them. So, while in today's English the animal names have an Anglo-Saxon origin, the meats that come from them have a French origin.

French		English	
Animal + Meat	Meat	Animal	Animal
<i>porc</i>	pork	pig	
<i>bœuf</i>	beef	cow	
<i>mouton</i>	mutton	sheep	
<i>veau</i>	veal	calf	

Notice also 'poultry' from *poulet*.

In recent years, with the growing spread of British and American popular culture, so many words and phrases from English have been picked up by the French, especially the young, that it has led to a 'language backlash'.

1 Look at these two columns of words. The *Académie* does not approve of the ones on the left. Try matching each one to its 'acceptable' equivalent.

- |                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 un barman      | a des achats             |
| 2 un baby-sitter | b un aérogليسeur         |
| 3 le business    | c les affaires           |
| 4 le fast-food   | d un baladeur            |
| 5 un flash-back  | e une boîte de nuit      |
| 6 un hobby       | f un dirigeant           |
| 7 un hovercraft  | g un garde d'enfant      |
| 8 un leader      | h un passe-temps         |
| 9 un night-club  | i la restauration rapide |
| 10 du shopping   | j un retour en arrière   |
| 11 un walkman    | k un serveur             |

*L'Académie française*

