The following list of words that look the same in French and English is a modified form of one made for the members of the Ouvroir de Litterature Potentielle (OuLiPo), a group of eighteen writers and mathematicians based in Paris whose raison d'être is the literary use of constrictive form. Specifically, it was generated to provide material for the composition of heteronymic, ambivalent Anglo-French texts. The list, which is not meant to be exhaustive, has been drawn up according to three principles:

1. The ordinary spellings of a word must be identical in English and French (British forms are admitted). If a word is capitalized or apostrophized in either language, it is so indicated; however, diacritical marks are excepted.

2. The English meaning of a word must be wholly distinct from the French one. So as to avoid any possibility of semantic correspondence, a word is excluded in the following circumstances:
   - if one of its primary meanings is distinct from the other but not from a secondary meaning (court, reporter)
   - if a secondary meaning is common to both languages (rue)
   - if the stem meanings are plainly the same (commander, short, enrage)

   However, words such as sort are included; although semantically English sort is clearly the equivalent of French sorte, there is no semantic coincidence whatsoever between the two sorts.

3. The integrity of the word must be respected. A word cannot be divided, like et cher; further, morphemes or fragments of a word are not admitted (un-).

The chief source of the vocabulary is Harrap's Shorter French and English Dictionary (George G. Harrap, London; Bordas, Paris). However, most of the English words are common enough to appear in Webster's Pocket Dictionary. To the words drawn from it have been added a few proper and place names (Ben, Bale), slang words (con), recent curiosities (design) and familiar inferred words (crisper).

Those who disagree with the options given above can easily extract their own purer vocabularies from this one.