ENGLISH IN FOREIGN DRESS

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Now that English of one sort or another (America, British, etc.) is the whole world’s second language, it seems only natural that English words are incorporated into foreign speech. Just as we borrowed from the French their concepts and their words (nuance, restaurant, etc.) so speakers of languages other than English borrow from us. You will be able to pronounce each word (even when the foreign language writes it a different way). I use our alphabet—but can you in each case say what foreign language has adopted it? I won’t tax you with the hardest ones, such as Brazilian Portuguese bondes (where the financing of the street railroad got confused with the streetcars themselves) or Mexican calamazo (a bus such as manufactured in Kalamazoo) or Rebecca (South American Spanish, a cardigan sweater such as worn by the heroine of the film based on Dame Daphne DuMaurier’s novel of the same name). Here are the ones I’d like you to identify.

1. beisbol
2. yu meh
3. rosbife
4. tiener
5. bulldoggi
6. salang
7. motorbiocickl
8. kavehaz
9. vilda västern
10. colcrem
11. mpasketmpall
12. dzhaz
13. huligan
14. beikon
15. usique
16. segling
17. pok-eng-pol
18. redingote
19. kawboj
20. te lu feng
21. jonrón
22. matchi
23. pikknikku
24. telewiza
25. p’u k’e

ANSWERS: 1 Spanish, 2 Chinese, 3 Italian, 4 Dutch (“teener” rather than “teen”), 5 Finnish, 6 Malayan, 7 Yugoslavian (or what formerly was Yugoslavian), 8 Hungarian, 9 Swedish, 10 Italian, 11 Greek, 12 Russian, 13 Polish, 14 Japanese, 15 Brazilian, 16 Swedish, 17 Bulgarian, 18 French, 19 Lithuanian, 20 Chinese, 21 Spanish, 22 Japanese, 23 Japanese, 24 Polish, 25 Chinese (poker, the card game)