

## L'EGAL FRANGLAIS

HARRY MATHEWS

Paris, France

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 Littérature 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 E sort is clearly the equivalent of F 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.

a	case	fade	lecher	pal	rot
ache	cause	fat	lecture	palace	rude
ail	caution	fee	l'egal	pan	
allege	chair	fend	legs	pane	sale
amends	champ	fin	Lent	par	sang
an	chat	fit	lice	pare	saucer
ante	choir	fond	lie	pat	scare
appoint	chose	font	l'imitation	pate	signet
are	coin	for	l'ion	pays	singe
as	collier	forage	lit	pester	son
at one	comment	fore	l'izard	pet	sort
attend	con	fort	location	Peter	sot
audit	confection	four	loin	pie	spire
averse	corner	fur	longer	pied	stage
axe	cote		l'oser	pin	stance
	courtier	gale	love	pincer	store
Bade	crane	gate		pine	sue
bail	crisper	gave	ma	plains	suit
Bade	cure	gaze	mail	plate	super
ballot		gene	main	plier	supplier
barber	dam	gent	mange	plies	
bard	D'ane	gourd	manger	plot	tale
baste	d'are	gout	mare	pour	tape
bat	d'art	grief	mariner	pries	tenant
be	defiance	grime	men	prone	the
beat	defile	groin	mien		these
bee	dent	guise	mince	rang	tiers
Ben	derive		mire	range	tin
bide	design	hair	miser	ranger	tine
bled	d'etaïn	hale	moult	rape	tint
blinder	dime	harder	mute	rate	tire
bond	dire	hate		rave	ton
bore	dive	have	n'est	rayon	tooper
borne	don	here	net	rebut	tort
bout	don't	hurler	Nil	reel	tot
bribes	dot		noise	regain	tout
bride	dresser	if	n'ose	regal	tries
but	drill		n'ote	rein	
butter	d'un	jars		relent	van
	d'une		oil	rend	vent
can		labour	on	report	venue
cane	edit	lad	once	ride	verge
canner	emu	laid	or	ripe	verse
cap	engraver	l'air	ours	river	vie
car	enter	lame		robin	viol
carrier	entraïn	l'ane	pain	rogue	
carter	ere	layer	pair	Roman	