

FRENCH

Early French loan-words

<i>OF/ONF</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>MnE</i>
arbaleste	1100	arbalest
capun	1000	capon
castel	1075	castle

capelain	1100	chaplain
prud	1050	proud
sot	1000	sot (foolish)
tor/tur	1100	tower

12th century

<i>OF</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>MnE</i>
abbat	1123	abbot
cardinal	1125	cardinal
canceler	1131	chancellor
charité	1175	charity
clerc	1129	clerk
cuncile	1125	council
cuntesse	1154	countess
cort/curt	1154	court
duc	1129	duke
emperice	1154	empress
fruit	1175	fruit
grace	1175	grace
jouglere	1175	juggler
justice	1154	justice
legat	1154	legate
market	1154	market
merci	1175	mercy

<i>OF</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>MnE</i>
miracle	1154	miracle
olie	1175	oil
palefrei	1175	palfrey
paradis	1175	paradise
passiun	1175	passion
pais	1154	peace
prior	1123	prior
prisun	1123	prison
prover	1175	prove
rente	1154	rent
sacrement	1175	sacrament
saint	1122	saint
estandard	1154	standard
table	1175	table
tresor	1154	treasure
werre	1154	war

13th century

<i>OF</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>MnE</i>
abbesse	1297	abbess
abaie	1250	abbey
absolution	1200	absolution
acuser	1297	accuse
aquiter	1230	acquit
aliance	1297	alliance
ametiste	1290	amethyst
archer	1297	archer
armer	1205	arm (vb)
art	1225	art
asair	1230	assail
asaut	1297	assault (n)
asigner	1297	assign
atirer	1250	attire
baillif	1297	bailiff
basme	1220	balm
banere	1230	banner
barun	1200	baron
bacin	1220	basin
bataille	1297	battle
bealte	1275	beauty
blasmer	1200	blame
boillir	1225	boil
broche	1225	brooch
cape	1205	cape (cloak)
cachier	1205	catch

<i>OF</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>MnE</i>
celier	1225	cellar
censier	1250	censer
chamberlain	1297	chamberlain
champion	1225	champion
cheance	1297	chance
changer	1230	change
chapele	1225	chapel
chapitre	1225	chapter
charger	1297	charge (vb)
chaste	1225	chaste
chatel	1225	chattel
chef/chief	1297	chief
chois	1297	choice
cuier	1297	choir
clause	1225	clause
clergie	1275	clergy
cloke	1275	cloak
coler	1297	collar
color	1290	colour
cunestable	1240	constable
covent	1225	convent
cuntrée	1275	country
corteur	1290	courtier
creatour	1290	creator
crucefix	1225	crucifix
cruete	1290	cruet

<i>OF</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>MnE</i>
deis	1259	dais
dame	1225	dame
date	1290	date (fruit)
defendre	1250	defend
devocion	1225	devotion
devot	1225	devout
digneté	1225	dignity
dîner	1297	dinner
duc	1205	duke
empire	1297	empire
hermine	1200	ermine
estat	1225	estate
executour	1280	executor
faucon	1250	falcon
feste	1200	feast
feignant	1297	feign
felon	1297	felon
fige	1225	fig
figure	1250	figure (n)
fin	1200	fine (n)
fol	1275	fool
forest	1297	forest
frere	1290	friar
frire	1290	fry
gaiole/ jaiole	1275	gaol/jail
garison	1297	garrison
gentil	1225	gentle
goute	1290	gout
governer	1297	govern
grape	1290	grape
habit	1225	habit
hanche	1225	haunch
heir	1275	heir
erbe	1290	herb
heresie	1225	heresy
heritage	1225	heritage
hermite	1205	hermit
ommage	1290	homage
hu/cri	1275	hue and cry
image	1225	image
emprisoner	1297	imprison
encens	1290	incense
enquête	1290	inquest
juel	1290	jewel
giste	1294	joist
juger	1290	judge
jugement	1290	judgement
lampe	1200	lamp
lance	1290	lance
largesse	1225	largesse
lepre	1250	leper
lecon	1225	lesson
letter	1225	letter
libel	1297	libel
ma dame	1297	madam
maladie	1250	malady
manoir	1290	manor
marbre	1290	marble
mareschal	1258	marshal

<i>OF</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>MnE</i>
medecine	1225	medicine
melodie	1290	melody
messagier	1225	messenger
menestre	1290	minister
menestral	1225	minstrel
musique	1250	music
moustarde	1289	mustard
moton	1290	mutton
noble	1225	noble
obédience	1200	obedience
oignement	1290	ointment
olive	1200	olive
ordener	1290	ordain
ornement	1225	ornament
peine	1297	pain
peindre	1290	painting
palais	1290	palace
pardon	1290	pardon.
parc	1260	park
parlement	1290	parliament
parlur	1225	parlour
persone	1250	parson
perdriz	1290	partridge
paveillon	1297	pavilion
peneance	1290	penance
pénitence	1200	penitence
perche	1290	perch (stick)
fisicien	1225	physician
piler	1225	pillar
pellori	1275	pillory
pitet	1225	pity
place	1225	place
plate	1290	plate
plaidier	1250	plead
puison	1230	poison
poure	1200	poor
poure	1205	poor
porche	1290	porch
porc	1290	pork
preier	1290	pray
prechier	1225	preach
prince	1225	prince
prueve	1225	proof
rançon	1225	ransom
realme	1290	realm
rebelle	1297	rebel (n)
regne	1272	reign
religiun	1200	religion
remedie	1225	remedy
remission	1225	remission
repentir	1290	repent
reverence	1290	reverence
ribauld	1240	ribald
rime	1200	rime
rostir	1297	roast
robe	1275	robe
rousset	1275	russet
sacrifice	1250	sacrifice
sauf	1290	safe

<i>OF</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>MnE</i>
sauvacion	1225	salvation
safir	1272	sapphire
escarlate	1250	scarlet
second	1297	second
saisir	1290	seize
sentence	1290	sentence
sergent)	1200	sergeant
sermun	1200	sermon
servant	1225	servant
serfise	1200	service
servise	1230	service
sege	1225	siege
simonie	1225	simony
sire	1297	sir
esclaundre	1290	slander
esclave	1290	slave
solas	1290	solace
souverain	1290	sovereign
espice	1225	spice
espier	1250	spy (vb)
esquier	1290	squire
estat	1225	state
statut	1290	statute
estorie	1225	story

<i>OF</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>MnE</i>
siwte	1297	suit
sumunse	1290	summons
soper	1275	supper
surpliz	1290	surplice
sustenaunce	1290	sustenance
taster	1290	taste
taxer	1290	tax (vb)
temptaciun	1225	temptation
torneiment	1225	tournament
traître	1225	traitor
treison	1225	treason
trinite	1225	trinity
tyrant	1290	tyrant
veile	1225	veil
venesoun	1290	venison
verdit	1297	verdict
virgine	1200	virgin
vertu	1250	virtue
waitier	1200	wait
wardéin	1225	warden
warrant	1225	warrant
wiket	1296	wicket

14th century

<i>OF</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>MnE</i>
ajorner	1330	adjourn
aministrer	1374	administer
aorer	1305	adore
aorner	1374	adorn
avouterie	1366	adultery
avocat	1340	advocate (n)
ague	1377	ague
alcali < Arabic al-qaliy	1386	alkali
ligeance	1399	allegiance
almande	1300	almond
alum	1325	alum
embusche	1380	ambush
enoint	1303	anoint
apotecaire	1366	apothecary
aparail	1330	apparel
apetit	1366	appetite
apurtenance	1377	appurtenances
armée	1386	army
arainer	1325	arraign
Arras	1397	arras
arayer	1325	array
arester	1325	arrest
arsenic	1386	arsenic
asise	1303	assize
atourné	1303	attorney
autorité	1375	authority
award	1300	award (n)
bacon	1330	bacon
banissir	1375	banish
baptisme	1325	baptism
barre	1388	bar

<i>OF</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>MnE</i>
baie	1385	bay
boef	1300	beef
bille	1377	bill (document)
bescuit	1330	biscuit
blanchir	1398	blanch
blankete	1300	blanket
bleu	1300	blue
bonet	1375	bonnet
bote	1325	boot
brandissir	1325	brandish
brême	1386	bream
brocher	1330	broach (vb)
boucle	1340	buckle (n)
boton	1320	button
caitif	1300	caitiff
capitaine	1375	captain
celer + -ing	1380	ceiling
chaere	1300	chair
chambre	1300	chamber
chancel	1303	chancel
chanter	1386	chant (vb)
chacier	1314	chase
eshec	1314	check
eshec	1384	check
cherise	1350	cherry
esches	1300	chess
chevron	1395	chevron
cheminée	1330	chimney
chevalerie	1300	chivalry
cronicle	1303	chronicle
cinnamome	1386	cinnamon

<i>OF</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>MnE</i>
closet	1340	closet
cote	1300	coat
communion	1382	communion
complandre	1374	complain
condemner	1300	condemn
confection	1387	confection
confesser	1386	confess
contagion	1386	contagion
contriciun	1300	contrition
conversacion	1340	conversation
convertir	1382	convert
copier	1387	copy
coruner	1325	coroner
couche	1340	couch
covrelit	1300	coverlet
creme	1332	cream
crime	1382	crime
coupable	1303	culpable
cortine	1300	curtain
coissin, coussin	1340	cushion
dalliance	1340	dalliance
dampnacion	1300	damnation
dancer	1300	dance (vb)
dart	1314	dart (n)
deien	1330	dean
decré	1303	decree
demesne	1300	demesne
époser	1300	depose
désolation	1382	desolation
diamant	1310	diamond
devin	1374	divine
dresser	1330	dress
duchesse	1300	duchess
embellissir	1340	embellish
embroder	1393	embroidery
emeraude	1300	emerald
enamayller	1325	enamel
enamourer	1303	enamour
encombrance	1314	encumbrance
enemi	1300	enemy
equité	1315	equity
évidence	1300	evidence
eschequier	1300	exchequer
exil	1300	exile
espondre	1300	expound
feid	1300	faith
façon	1300	fashion
fleute	1384	flute
forfet	1300	forfeit
fraude	1330	fraud
froc	1350	frock
ferrer (vb)	1300	fur (n)
galoche	1377	galosh(es)
garniment	1300	garment
gernat	1310	garnet
garite	1300	garret
gartier	1350	garter
gendre	1300	gender
gobelet	1300	goblet

<i>OF</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>MnE</i>
gramaire	1362	grammar
gruel	1362	gruel
harneis	1330	harness
hairon	1302	heron
homicide	1382	homicide
omelie	1386	homily
(h)orrible	1303	horrible
idiot	1300	idiot
immortalité	1340	immortality
enditer	1303	indict
innocent	1340	innocent
yvoire	1300	ivory
jaunice	1303	jaundice
jolivete	1300	jollity
juste	1374	just
kenil	1300	kennel
las	1300	lace
lanterne	1300	lantern
lache	1331	latch
lattis	1382	lattice
lai	1330	lay
lesse	1300	leash
lettrun	1325	lectern
legacie	1375	legacy
leisir	1303	leisure
liberté	1374	liberty
lieutenant	1375	lieutenant
lintel	1388	lintel
littérature	1375	literature
logique	1362	logic
loigne	1302	loin
lut	1386	lute
makerel	1300	mackerel
magique	1384	magic
majesté	1300	majesty
malart	1314	mallard
mansion	1340	mansion
majorane	1390	marjoram
marchis	1330	marquess
merveille	1303	marvel
mastin	1330	mastiff
mincier	1390	mince (vb)
mirour	1315	mirror
maistresse	1320	mistress
mitre	1380	mitre
mitaine	1386	mitten
mote	1362	moat
misterie	1315	mystery
navie	1330	navy
noun	1398	noun
novisse	1300	novice
nois mugue	1300	nutmeg
officier	1325	officer
oposer	1386	oppose
oppresser	1340	oppress
orenge	1300	orange
ordenance	1390	ordnance
oistre	1357	oyster
oistre	1357	oyster

<i>OF</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>MnE</i>
paralisie	1300	palsy
panel	1300	panel
panetrie	1300	pantry
papir	1341	paper
parchemin	1300	parchment
pastour	1362	pastor
pastée	1300	pasty
patreinoie	1340	patrimony
peche	1366	peach
perle	1300	pearl
per	1300	peer
pelote	1362	pellet
penne	1377	pen (writing)
perjurie	1387	perjury
pestilence	1303	pestilence
peticiun	1330	petition
fesant	1320	pheasant
pinacle	1330	pinnacle
plage	1382	plague
plege	1386	pledge (n)
pleurisie	1398	pleurisy
plover	1312	plover
plume	1399	plume
poete	1300	poet
porpeis	1309	porpoise
porte coleice	1330	portcullis
pouletrie	1386	poultry
préface	1386	preface
prérogative	1387	prerogative
prologue	1300	prologue
propriété	1300	property
prose	1330	prose
poulet	1362	pullet
quaille	1300	quail
question	1375	question
reisin	1300	raisin
record	1300	record
récréation	1390	recreation
rédemption	1340	redemption
rene	1300	rein
remember	1330	remember
retenue	1375	retinue
retret	1300	retreat
reveler	1325	revel
reward	1340	reward
romanz	1300	romance
roial	1374	royal
rubi	1310	ruby
sacrilege	1300	sacrilege
salade	1390	salad
salarie	1377	salary
samoun	1300	salmon
saintité	1394	sanctity
saintuarie	1340	sanctuary
satin	1366	satin
saussier	1300	saucer
sauveour	1300	saviour
sent	1375	scent
ceptre	1300	sceptre

<i>OF</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>MnE</i>
escuelerie	1330	scullery
cerchier	1330	search
saisonner	1375	season (vb)
secret	1399	secret
segerstaine	1330	sexton
single	1303	single
escarmoche	1300	skirmish
sobre	1338	sober
soudier	1300	soldier
sole	1347	sole (fish)
solempne	1315	solemn
espagnol	1386	spaniel
esquiel	1366	squirrel
estalon	1305	stallion
estomac	1300	stomach
estudier	1300	study (vb)
esturgeoun	1300	sturgeon
suget	1340	subject (n)
subsidie	1380	subsidy
sulfere	1300	sulphur
surgien	1300	surgeon
taffetas	1373	taffeta
tasel	1300	tassel
tenant	1325	tenant
tenement	1325	tenement
théologie	1362	theology
thym	1398	thyme
title	1300	title
toster	1398	toast (vb)
touaille	1300	towel
tragedie	1374	tragedy
triacle	1340	treacle
tretiz	1374	treatise
treté	1382	treaty
trespasser	1303	trespass (vb)
tripe	1300	tripe
trotter	1362	trot
turquoise	1398	turquoise
torete	1300	turret
usurper	1325	usurp
vencus	1330	vanquish
vassal	1300	vassal
vel	1386	veal
vestment	1300	vestment
vicare	1300	vicar
vitaile	1303	victual(s)
yn egre	1300	vinegar
viscounte	1387	viscount
volum	1380	volume
waitteor	1382	waiter
warderobe	1387	wardrobe
warene	1377	warren

15th century

<i>French</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>MnE</i>
abhorrer	1449	abhor
assemblee	1413	assembly
bail	1400	bail
columpne	1481	column
compilation	1426	compilation
condiment	1420	condiment
courbe	1477	curb (n)
en + habler	1460	enable
garde	1426	guard (n)
juree	1400	jury
larcin + -y	1460	larceny
limon	1400	lemon
loialté	1400	loyalty
manuvrer	1479	manoeuvre
nitre	1400	nitre
nutritif	1400	nutritive
paisant	1475	peasant

<i>French</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>MnE</i>
plaintif	1400	plaintiff
public	1436	public
punisement	1413	punishment
repel	1483	repeal
resonance	1491	resonance
retrouver	1410	retrieve
revenu	1422	revenue
sable	1423	sable
saussiche	1400	sausage
estuver	1400	stew (vb)
tarte	1400	tart
terrier	1440	terrier (dog)
umbrage	1426	umbrage
velin	1430	vellum
viril	1490	virile

16th century

<i>French</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>MnE</i>
anatomie	1540	anatomy
bâton	1548	baton
chamois	1560	chamois
coronnel	1548	colonel
combat	1567	combat
gaze	1561	gauze
gentile	1599	genteel
crottesque	1561	grotesque.

<i>French</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>MnE</i>
machine	1549	machine
mignon	1501	minion
pilotte	1530	pilot
pionnier	1523	pioneer
saillie	1542	sally (n)
scène	1540	scene
trophée	1513	trophy
vase	1563	vase

Shakespeare's use of the following words is the earliest recorded in the *Oxford English Dictionary*:

1588 *pedant* (*Fr* *pédant* < *Ital* *pedante*)
Loves Labours Lost iii. i. 179 I that haue beene... A domineering **pedant** ore the Boy.

1607 *reliance* (*rely* < *OF* *relier*, + *-iance*)
Timon of Athens ii. i. 22 My **reliances** on his fracted dates
Haue smit my credit ...

Other 1600-49 adoptions from French included:

<i>French</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>MnE</i>
dessert	1600	dessert
invalide	1642	invalid
meslee	1648	mêlée
repartie	1645	repartee
reveillée	1644	reveillé

1650-1699

The evidence of these loan-words and those adopted in the following centuries suggests that French words taken into English from this time tend to retain both their French spelling and, to some extent, pronunciation. The degree of “authentic” French pronunciation by English speakers seems to depend upon the social class of the speaker.

<i>French</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>MnE</i>
aide-de-camp	1670	aide-de-camp
ballet	1667	ballet
beau	1687	beau (n)
champagne	1664	champagne
chandelier	1663	chandelier
commandant	1687	commandant
envoi	1664	envoy
gentil	1663	jaunty

<i>French</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>MnE</i>
ménage	1698	ménage
naïve	1654	naïve
penchant	1672	penchant
rappporter	1662	rappport
salon	1699	salon
soupe	1653	soup
tête-d-tête	1697	tête-d-tête

18th century

The pronunciation of most of these loan-words has not been assimilated into English like earlier ME borrowings. They are spoken with varying degrees of approximation to French, but with English stress patterns.

amateur	1784
bouillon	1725
boulevard	1769
brochure	1765
brunette	1712
bureau	1720
chaperon	1720
chiffon	1765
chignon	1783
chute	1725
connoisseur	1714
crêpe	1797
débris	1708

début	1751
dénouement	1752
détour	1738
douche	1766
encore (n)	1712
entrée	1762
etiquette	1750
genre	1770
glacier	1744
hors d'oeuvre	1742
morale	1752
négligée	1756
nuance	1781

passé	1775
picnic	1748
plateau	1796
police	1716
protégé	1778
ration (n)	1720
ravine	1781
reservoir	1705
rouge	1753
souvenir	1775
vignette	1751
vis-à-vis	1757

19th century

café
chef
chic
cigarette
cliché
communiqué

coupé
coupon
crochet
de luxe
décor
élite

fiancé(e)
finest herbes
flair
foyer
hangar
impasse

laissez-faire
liaison
lingerie
massage
matinee
menu

première (n)
repertoire
restaurant
revue
risqué
suède

surveillance
chauffeur

20th century

camouflage
collage
courgette
déjà vu
fuselage
haute couture
limousine
rôtisserie