

Words from Other Languages

In “Passports to Understanding,” Maya Angelou expresses her opinion concerning the importance of seeing other lands and hearing other languages. The following words are “loan words” that English has borrowed from other languages. Read the words and their meanings.

alfresco	outdoors (Italian)
chutzpah	boldness (Hebrew)
debut	the first public appearance (French)
hibachi	a small charcoal-burning grill for cooking (Japanese)
smorgasbord	a buffet meal with a variety of dishes (Swedish)
wanderlust	a very strong desire to travel (German)

Choose the correct word from the word box to complete each sentence.

- Family vacations to destinations all around the world developed a sense of _____ in me.
- Maria walked right up to the movie star and asked for his autograph! I admire her _____.
- The steaks smelled delicious as they sizzled on the _____.
- There are so many dishes at a _____ that it is easy to overeat.
- The waiter asked if we would like a table inside or preferred to dine _____.
- Maki made her _____ playing her guitar at the talent show.

Challenge



Look up these words in a dictionary: *amateur*, *marimba*, *futon*, and *succotash*. In addition to each word’s meaning, note the language from which it comes. Write a sentence using each word, and include context clues to the word’s meaning.