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## France shuns use of Twitter "hashtag"

**30th January, 2013**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1301/130130-hashtag.html>

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# THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130130-hashtag.html>

French authorities have declared war on the English word “hashtag” in its continuing drive to keep its language as free as possible from English loan words. France’s government has a special department that oversees the purity of its language and issues recommendations regarding outside influences. The General Commission for Terminology and Neologisms has decided that “hashtag” will no longer be used in government documents and public statements. Instead, it will use the new, French term “mot-dièse,” which is translated as “sharp word”. The Commission also encouraged users of social media, especially people on Twitter, to use the new word.

“Hashtag” is the latest English word to fall foul of the French authorities. Officials recently released a list of words and terms they want removed. These include “e-mail”, “blog”, “supermodel”, “take-away”, “chewing gum”, “parking”, “weekend” and “low-cost airline”. Schoolteachers in France have been urged to discourage students from using them. Many Twitter users pointed out that “mot-dièse” refers to the wrong symbol as the word “dièse” denotes the sharp symbol from music, which looks similar to the hashtag symbol. One comment on the Huffington Post website suggested France needed to accept new words. It said: “Many languages use loan words and society hasn't fallen apart because of it.”

Sources: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/01/24/french-government-hashtag-new-term-twitter\\_n\\_2544848.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/01/24/french-government-hashtag-new-term-twitter_n_2544848.html)  
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2268722/Zut-alors-The-French-banned-world-hashtag-email-blog-English-intrusions-beloved-language.html#ixzz2JL7JnOuz>

# WARM-UPS

**1. LOAN WORDS:** Walk around the class and talk to other students about loan words. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*authorities / declared war / purity / influences / government documents / social media / fall foul of / supermodel / schoolteachers / symbol / loan word / fallen apart*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. ENGLISH:** What are your thoughts? Complete this table and share what you wrote with your partner(s).

English...	Good points (and why)	Bad points (and why)
in your language		
as a global language		
movies		
spelling		
British or American		
songs		

**4. CHINESE:** Students A **strongly** believe Chinese will soon replace English as the world's #1 language; Students B **strongly** believe not. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. WORDS:** Which of these English words do you like best? Rank them and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- weekend
- chocolate
- love
- money
- success
- I
- international
- yes

**6. HASHTAG:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'hashtag'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130130-hashtag.html>

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| a. France has launched an attack on the word "hashtag".                   | T / F |
| b. The French has a special department that protects its language.        | T / F |
| c. France has banned all French people from using the word "hashtag".     | T / F |
| d. France will block French Twitter accounts that use the word "hashtag". | T / F |
| e. France's government made a list of English words it wants removed.     | T / F |
| f. France has banned schoolteachers from using the word "hashtag".        | T / F |
| g. France's new term for "hashtag" does not refer to the hashtag symbol.  | T / F |
| h. A Huffington Post reader sympathized with the French government.       | T / F |

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article.

- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. drive         | a. made available  |
| 2. oversees      | b. talks about     |
| 3. issues        | c. encouraged      |
| 4. neologisms    | d. matters         |
| 5. translated    | e. campaign        |
| 6. released      | f. stands for      |
| 7. urged         | g. interpreted     |
| 8. refers to     | h. keeps an eye on |
| 9. denotes       | i. disintegrated   |
| 10. fallen apart | j. new words       |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. declared                              | a. social media            |
| 2. keep its language as free as possible | b. of its language         |
| 3. the purity                            | c. terms they want removed |
| 4. used in government documents          | d. war on the English word |
| 5. users of                              | e. apart because of it     |
| 6. a list of words and                   | f. from English loan words |
| 7. urged to discourage                   | g. symbol from music       |
| 8. refers                                | h. students                |
| 9. the word "dièse" denotes the sharp    | i. and public statements   |
| 10. society hasn't fallen                | j. to the wrong symbol     |

# GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130130-hashtag.html>

French authorities have (1) \_\_\_\_\_ war on the English word "hashtag" in its continuing (2) \_\_\_\_\_ to keep its language as free as possible from English loanwords. France's government has a special department that oversees the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of its language and (4) \_\_\_\_\_ recommendations regarding outside (5) \_\_\_\_\_. The General Commission for Terminology and Neologisms has decided that "hashtag" will no longer be used in government documents and public statements. Instead, it will use the new, French (6) \_\_\_\_\_ "mot- dièse," which is (7) \_\_\_\_\_ as "sharp word". The Commission also (8) \_\_\_\_\_ users of social media, especially people on Twitter, to use the new word.

*term*  
*purity*  
*translated*  
*issues*  
*declared*  
*drive*  
*encouraged*  
*influences*

"Hashtag" is the latest English word to fall (9) \_\_\_\_\_ of the French authorities. Officials recently released a list of words and (10) \_\_\_\_\_ they want removed. These include "e-mail", "blog", "supermodel", "take-away", "chewing gum", "parking", "weekend" and "low-(11) \_\_\_\_\_ airline". Schoolteachers in France have been urged to (12) \_\_\_\_\_ students from using them. Many Twitter users pointed out that "mot-dièse" (13) \_\_\_\_\_ to the wrong symbol as the word "dièse" denotes the sharp symbol from (14) \_\_\_\_\_, which looks similar to the hashtag symbol. One comment on the Huffington Post website suggested France needed to accept new words. It said: "Many languages use (15) \_\_\_\_\_ words and society hasn't (16) \_\_\_\_\_ apart because of it."

*music*  
*cost*  
*refers*  
*foul*  
*fallen*  
*terms*  
*discourage*  
*loan*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130130-hashtag.html>

- 1) French authorities have declared war on \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the English words
  - b. the English
  - c. the English wording
  - d. the English word
- 2) its continuing drive to keep its language as free as possible from English \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. lend words
  - b. borrow words
  - c. loan words
  - d. rent words
- 3) oversees the purity of its language and issues recommendations regarding \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. inside influences
  - b. outsider influences
  - c. offside influences
  - d. outside influences
- 4) "hashtag" will no longer be used in government documents and \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. public statements
  - b. publicity statements
  - c. publicly statements
  - d. publication statements
- 5) The Commission also \_\_\_\_\_ social media, especially people on Twitter, to use the new word
  - a. encouraged users by
  - b. encouraged users off
  - c. encouraged users for
  - d. encouraged users of
- 6) "Hashtag" is the latest English word \_\_\_\_\_ the French authorities.
  - a. to fail foul of
  - b. tofu foul of
  - c. to fall foul off
  - d. to fall foul of
- 7) Officials recently released a list of \_\_\_\_\_ they want removed.
  - a. times and worlds
  - b. terms and words
  - c. worlds and times
  - d. words and terms
- 8) the sharp symbol \_\_\_\_\_, which looks similar to the hashtag symbol
  - a. from music
  - b. for music
  - c. from musicals
  - d. of music
- 9) One comment on the Huffington Post website suggested France \_\_\_\_\_ new words.
  - a. needs to accept
  - b. need to accept
  - c. needed to accept
  - d. needing to accept
- 10) Many languages use loan words and society hasn't \_\_\_\_\_ because of it.
  - a. torn apart
  - b. come apart
  - c. fallen apart
  - d. ripped apart

France shuns use of Twitter "hashtag" – 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2013

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# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130130-hashtag.html>

French authorities (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the English word "hashtag" in its (2) \_\_\_\_\_ its language as free as possible from English loanwords. France's government has a special department that (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of its language and issues recommendations (4) \_\_\_\_\_. The General Commission for Terminology and Neologisms has decided that "hashtag" will no longer be used in government documents and public statements. Instead, it will use the new, French term "mot- dièse," (5) \_\_\_\_\_ "sharp word". The Commission also (6) \_\_\_\_\_ media, especially people on Twitter, to use the new word.

"Hashtag" is the latest English word (7) \_\_\_\_\_ French authorities. Officials (8) \_\_\_\_\_ of words and terms they want removed. These include "e-mail", "blog", "supermodel", "take-away", "chewing gum", "parking", "weekend" and "low-cost airline". Schoolteachers in France have been (9) \_\_\_\_\_ students from using them. Many Twitter users pointed out that "mot-dièse" (10) \_\_\_\_\_ as the word "dièse" denotes the sharp symbol from music, which looks (11) \_\_\_\_\_. One comment on the Huffington Post website suggested France needed to accept new words. It said: "Many languages use loan words and society hasn't (12) \_\_\_\_\_."

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130130-hashtag.html>

1. What has France declared war on?

---

2. What does the French government want to keep out of French?

---

3. What does the Commission look at besides terminology?

---

4. What does the French term "mot-dièse" mean?

---

5. Who in particular does France want not to use the word "hashtag"?

---

6. What did French officials release recently?

---

7. What adjective is used before the word "airline"?

---

8. Who has been discouraged from using English loan words?

---

9. In what publication was there a comment about this issue?

---

10. What hasn't happened to many societies that use loan words?

---

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130130-hashtag.html>

1. What have French authorities declared war on?
  - a) hashtags
  - b) the English
  - c) an English word
  - d) the English language
2. What does France want to keep English free from?
  - a) English loan words
  - b) English loans
  - c) hashtags
  - d) all loans
3. What does the General Commission do?
  - a) delete words from French textbooks
  - b) keep the French language pure
  - c) write dictionaries
  - d) attack hashtags
4. In what will the French government stop using the word "hashtag"?
  - a) TV shows and radios
  - b) In general
  - c) French computers
  - d) government documents
5. Which social media users does France want to stop using the word "hashtag"?
  - a) those on Google+
  - b) those on Skype
  - c) those on Twitter
  - d) those on Facebook
6. Which of these words was not mentioned as being on a list of words?
  - a) blog
  - b) balloon
  - c) gum
  - d) parking
7. What adjective was used with the word "airline"?
  - a) sky-high
  - b) up-in-the-air
  - c) fly-by-night
  - d) low-cost
8. What does the article say resembles the hashtag symbol?
  - a) a barcode
  - b) the sharp sign from music
  - c) a tic-tac-toe board
  - d) an addition symbol
9. In what publication was there a comment about this story?
  - a) Washington Post
  - b) Huffington Post
  - c) Le Monde
  - d) The Twitter Times
10. What hasn't happened to societies that use loan words?
  - a) they haven't disintegrated
  - b) they haven't disengaged
  - c) they haven't deviated
  - d) they haven't devolved

# ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130130-hashtag.html>

## **Role A – French linguist**

You want to maintain the purity of the French language. Tell the others three reasons why. You think French is superior to English. Tell the others three reasons why. You disagree with everything anyone says. Tell them all they are uncultured. Tell them English will kill all languages one day.

## **Role B – British Prime Minister**

You are very proud of the English language. Tell the others three reasons why. You think it's fantastic English is full of loan words. Tell the French linguist a language becomes richer with loan words. Also tell him/her that Shakespeare is greater than any French writer.

## **Role C – Twitter boss**

You think the French linguist is very strange. Tell him the new French word for "hashtag" is very bad for French Twitter users. Tell him English loan words are very important for social media and that France will go backwards if it keeps blocking loan words.

## **Role D – French teenager**

You think the linguist is totally wrong. You love using English words when you speak French. You think English is cool. Tell the others three reasons why. You disagree with the Twitter boss that English is important for social media. Tell the British Prime Minister Shakespeare is dead and out of date.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130130-hashtag.html>

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'hash and 'tag'.

hash	tag

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• war</li><li>• special</li><li>• outside</li><li>• longer</li><li>• sharp</li><li>• social</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• fall</li><li>• low</li><li>• students</li><li>• pointed</li><li>• comment</li><li>• apart</li></ul>
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# LOAN WORDS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130130-hashtag.html>

Write five GOOD questions about loan words in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.  
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

# LOAN WORDS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'hashtag'?
- c) When do you use hashtags?
- d) Do you agree with France shunning the English word 'hashtag'?
- e) What do you think of English words entering your language?
- f) How much do you like your language?
- g) What loan words from your language are part of the English language?
- h) Is English a good world language?
- i) Will there only be one language in the world one day?
- j) What neologisms (new words) in your language do you like?

*France shuns use of Twitter "hashtag" – 30th January, 2013*  
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# LOAN WORDS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) Would French be better with or without English words?
- c) What English words do you dislike?
- d) Do you think each language should have its own word for computer terms, like "mouse", "software", "Internet", "keyboard", etc.?
- e) Would you tell your children to keep English words out of their native language when they speak or write?
- f) What do you think of the French referring to the sharp symbol from music instead of the hashtag symbol?
- g) Do you agree with the comment from the Huffington Post reader?
- h) How different would your language be without loan words?
- i) When do you think Chinese loan words will enter the world's languages?
- j) What questions would you like to ask the General Commission?

# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - LANGUAGE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130130-hashtag.html>

French authorities have declared war (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the English word "hashtag" in its continuing (2) \_\_\_\_\_ to keep its language as free as possible from English loanwords. France's government has a special department that (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the purity of its language and issues recommendations regarding (4) \_\_\_\_\_ influences. The General Commission for Terminology and Neologisms has decided that "hashtag" will no longer be used in government documents and public statements. (5) \_\_\_\_\_, it will use the new, French term "mot- dièse," which is translated as "sharp word". The Commission also encouraged (6) \_\_\_\_\_ of social media, especially people on Twitter, to use the new word.

"Hashtag" is the latest English word to fall (7) \_\_\_\_\_ of the French authorities. Officials recently released a list of words and terms they want removed. These (8) \_\_\_\_\_ "e-mail", "blog", "supermodel", "take-away", "chewing gum", "parking", "weekend" and "low-cost airline". Schoolteachers in France have been (9) \_\_\_\_\_ to discourage students from using them. Many Twitter users pointed out that "mot-dièse" refers to the wrong symbol as the word "dièse" (10) \_\_\_\_\_ the sharp symbol from music, which looks (11) \_\_\_\_\_ to the hashtag symbol. One comment on the Huffington Post website suggested France needed to accept new words. It said: "Many languages use loan words and society hasn't (12) \_\_\_\_\_ apart because of it."

## Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |                   |                   |               |              |
|-----|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1.  | (a) by            | (b) on            | (c) at        | (d) in       |
| 2.  | (a) jaunt         | (b) drive         | (c) trip      | (d) tour     |
| 3.  | (a) overtime      | (b) overseers     | (c) oversight | (d) oversees |
| 4.  | (a) out-of-bounds | (b) outside       | (c) outdoor   | (d) outing   |
| 5.  | (a) Substitute    | (b) Prefer        | (c) Place     | (d) Instead  |
| 6.  | (a) usages        | (b) uses          | (c) users     | (d) us       |
| 7.  | (a) foul          | (b) fail          | (c) feel      | (d) fool     |
| 8.  | (a) part          | (b) comprehensive | (c) include   | (d) replace  |
| 9.  | (a) dirge         | (b) surge         | (c) purge     | (d) urge     |
| 10. | (a) denotes       | (b) updates       | (c) remotes   | (d) computes |
| 11. | (a) similar       | (b) same          | (c) likeness  | (d) image    |
| 12. | (a) fallen        | (b) ripped        | (c) blown     | (d) seen     |

# SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130130-hashtag.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. French utshrteiaio have declared war
2. the uirytp of its language
3. nnmsciroeadmote regarding outside influences
4. terminology and oensiomslg
5. ereagdncuo users of social media
6. pclesyiela people on Twitter

## Paragraph 2

7. fall fluo of
8. letynecr released
9. edugicsora students
10. stondee the sharp symbol
11. One tmeconm on the Huffington Post
12. tyeocsi hasn't fallen apart

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130130-hashtag.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) its language as free as possible from English loan words. France's government has a special
- ( ) longer be used in government documents and public statements. Instead, it will use the new, French
- ( ) gum", "parking", "weekend" and "low-cost airline". Schoolteachers in France have been urged to discourage
- ( ) users of social media, especially people on Twitter, to use the new word.
- ( ) term "mot-dièse," which is translated as "sharp word". The Commission also encouraged
- ( ) on the Huffington Post website suggested France needed to accept new words. It said: "Many
- ( ) symbol as the word "dièse" denotes the sharp symbol from music, which looks similar to the hashtag symbol. One comment
- ( ) students from using them. Many Twitter users pointed out that "mot-dièse" refers to the wrong
- ( ) a list of words and terms they want removed. These include "e-mail", "blog", "supermodel", "take-away", "chewing
- ( **1** ) French authorities have declared war on the English word "hashtag" in its continuing drive to keep
- ( ) "Hashtag" is the latest English word to fall foul of the French authorities. Officials recently released
- ( ) regarding outside influences. The General Commission for Terminology and Neologisms has decided that "hashtag" will no
- ( ) department that oversees the purity of its language and issues recommendations
- ( ) languages use loan words and society hasn't fallen apart because of it."

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130130-hashtag.html>

1. war on Authorities the have English declared word.

---

2. as English its free from Keep as possible language.

---

3. that oversees the purity of its language A special department.

---

4. outside regarding recommendations Issues influences.

---

5. documents government "Hashtag" in used be longer no will.

---

6. of foul fall to word English latest The authorities French the.

---

7. and terms they want removed Released a list of words.

---

8. to Urged them using from students discourage.

---

9. sharp music "Dièse" the from denotes symbol .

---

10. because apart fallen hasn't Society it of.

---

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130130-hashtag.html>

French authorities have *declare / declared* war on the English word "hashtag" in its continuing *drive / driving* to keep its language as *free / freely* as possible from English loanwords. France's government has a special department that *oversees / oversights* the purity of its language and *reissues / issues* recommendations regarding *inside / outside* influences. The General Commission for Terminology and Neologisms has decided that "hashtag" will no *larger / longer* be used in government documents and *public / publicity* statements. Instead, it will use the new, French term "mot-dièse," which is *translating / translated* as "sharp word". The Commission also encouraged *users / usages* of social media, especially people on Twitter, to use the new word.

"Hashtag" is the latest English word to fall *foul / fail* of the French authorities. Officials *recently / recent* released a list of words and terms they want *removed / removal*. These include "e-mail", "blog", "supermodel", "take-away", "*chewed / chewing* gum", "parking", "weekend" and "low-cost airline". Schoolteachers in France have been *purged / urged* to discourage students from using them. Many Twitter users pointed *out / in* that "mot-dièse" refers to the wrong symbol *as / has* the word "dièse" denotes the *sharp / blunt* symbol from music, which looks *similarly / similar* to the hashtag symbol. One comment on the Huffington Post website suggested France needed to accept new words. It said: "Many languages use loan words and society hasn't fallen *part / apart* because of it."

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130130-hashtag.html>

Fr\_nch \_\_th\_r\_t\_\_s h\_v\_ d\_cl\_r\_d w\_r \_n th\_ \_ngl\_sh  
w\_rd "h\_sht\_g" \_n \_ts c\_nt\_n\_\_ng dr\_v\_ t\_ k\_\_p \_ts  
l\_ng\_\_g\_ \_s fr\_\_ \_s p\_ss\_bl\_ fr\_m \_ngl\_sh l\_\_nw\_rds.  
Fr\_nc\_'s g\_v\_rnm\_nt h\_s \_ sp\_c\_\_l d\_p\_rtm\_nt th\_t  
\_v\_rs\_\_s th\_ p\_r\_ty \_f \_ts l\_ng\_\_g\_ \_nd \_ss\_\_s  
r\_c\_mm\_nd\_t\_\_ns r\_g\_rd\_ng \_\_ts\_d\_ \_nfl\_\_nc\_s. Th\_  
G\_n\_r\_l C\_mm\_ss\_\_n f\_r T\_rm\_n\_l\_gy \_nd N\_\_l\_g\_sms  
h\_s d\_c\_d\_d th\_t "h\_sht\_g" w\_ll n\_ l\_ng\_r b\_\_s\_d \_n  
g\_v\_rnm\_nt d\_c\_m\_nts \_nd p\_bl\_c st\_t\_m\_nts.  
\_nst\_d, \_t w\_ll \_s th\_ n\_w, Fr\_nch t\_rm "m\_t-  
d\_ès\_," wh\_ch \_s tr\_nsl\_t\_d \_s "sh\_rp w\_rd". Th\_  
C\_mm\_ss\_\_n \_ls \_nc\_\_r\_g\_d \_s\_rs \_f s\_c\_\_l m\_d\_\_,  
\_sp\_c\_\_lly p\_\_pl\_ \_n Tw\_tt\_r, t\_ \_s th\_ n\_w w\_rd.

"H\_sht\_g" \_s th\_ l\_t\_st \_ngl\_sh w\_rd t\_f\_ll\_f\_\_l\_f th\_  
Fr\_nch \_\_th\_r\_t\_\_s. \_ff\_c\_\_ls r\_c\_ntly r\_l\_\_s\_d \_l\_st  
\_f w\_rds \_nd t\_rms th\_y w\_nt r\_m\_v\_d. Th\_s \_ncl\_d\_  
"-m\_\_l", "bl\_g", "s\_p\_rm\_d\_l", "t\_k\_-\_w\_y", "ch\_w\_ng  
g\_m", "p\_rk\_ng", "w\_\_k\_nd" \_nd "l\_w-c\_st \_\_rl\_n".  
Sch\_\_lt\_\_ch\_rs \_n Fr\_nc\_ h\_v\_ b\_\_n \_rg\_d t\_  
d\_sc\_\_r\_g\_ st\_d\_nts fr\_m \_s\_ng th\_m. M\_ny Tw\_tt\_r  
\_s\_rs p\_\_nt\_d \_\_t th\_t "m\_t-d\_ès\_" r\_f\_rs t\_ th\_  
wr\_ng symb\_l \_s th\_ w\_rd "d\_ès\_" d\_n\_t\_s th\_ sh\_rp  
symb\_l fr\_m m\_s\_c, wh\_ch l\_\_ks s\_m\_l\_r t\_ th\_  
h\_sht\_g symb\_l. \_n\_c\_mm\_nt \_n th\_ H\_ff\_ngt\_n P\_st  
w\_bs\_t\_s\_gg\_st\_d Fr\_nc\_ n\_\_d\_d\_t\_ \_cc\_pt\_n\_w\_w\_rds.  
\_t\_s\_\_d: "M\_ny l\_ng\_\_g\_s \_s\_l\_\_n w\_rds \_nd s\_c\_\_ty  
h\_sn't f\_ll\_n \_p\_rt b\_c\_\_s\_ \_f\_t."

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130130-hashtag.html>

french authorities have declared war on the english word "hashtag" in its continuing drive to keep its language as free as possible from english loanwords france's government has a special department that oversees the purity of its language and issues recommendations regarding outside influences the general commission for terminology and neologisms has decided that "hashtag" will no longer be used in government documents and public statements instead it will use the new french term "mot- dièse" which is translated as "sharp word" the commission also encouraged users of social media especially people on twitter to use the new word

"hashtag" is the latest english word to fall foul of the french authorities officials recently released a list of words and terms they want removed these include "e-mail" "blog" "supermodel" "take-away" "chewing gum" "parking" "weekend" and "low-cost airline" schoolteachers in france have been urged to discourage students from using them many twitter users pointed out that "mot-dièse" refers to the wrong symbol as the word "dièse" denotes the sharp symbol from music which looks similar to the hashtag symbol one comment on the huffington post website suggested france needed to accept new words it said "many languages use loan words and society hasn't fallen apart because of it"

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130130-hashtag.html>

French authorities have declared war on the English word "hashtag" in its continuing drive to keep its language as free as possible from English loanwords. France's government has a special department that oversees the purity of its language and issues recommendations regarding outside influences. The General Commission for Terminology and Neologisms has decided that "hashtag" will no longer be used in government documents and public statements. Instead, it will use the new, French term "mot-dièse," which is translated as "sharp word". The Commission also encouraged users of social media, especially people on Twitter, to use the new word. "Hashtag" is the latest English word to fall foul of the French authorities. Officials recently released a list of words and terms they want removed. These include "e-mail", "blog", "supermodel", "take-away", "chewing gum", "parking", "weekend" and "low-cost airline". School teachers in France have been urged to discourage students from using them. Many Twitter users pointed out that "mot-dièse" refers to the wrong symbol as the word "dièse" denotes the sharp symbol from music, which looks similar to the hashtag symbol. One comment on the Huffington Post website suggested France needed to accept new words. It said: "Many languages use loanwords and society hasn't fallen apart because of it."





# HOMework

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about loan words. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. LOAN WORDS:** Make a poster about loan words. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. ENGLISH:** Write a magazine article about the influence of English around the world. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against it.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to the boss of the General Commission for Terminology and Neologisms in France. Ask him/her three questions about English loan words. Give him/her three of your opinions. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a T    b T    c F    d F    e T    f F    g T    h F

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. drive         | a. campaign        |
| 2. oversees      | b. keeps an eye on |
| 3. issues        | c. matters         |
| 4. neologisms    | d. new words       |
| 5. translated    | e. interpreted     |
| 6. released      | f. made available  |
| 7. urged         | g. encouraged      |
| 8. refers to     | h. talks about     |
| 9. denotes       | i. stands for      |
| 10. fallen apart | j. disintegrated   |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. The English word "hashtag"
2. English loan words
3. Neologisms (new words)
4. Sharp word
5. Twitter users
6. A list of words and terms they want removed
7. Low-cost
8. Schoolchildren
9. The Huffington Post
10. They haven't fallen apart

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. c    2. a    3. b    4. d    5. c    6. b    7. d    8. b    9. b    10. a

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)