

19 The Norman conquest

The Normans came to Britain from France in 1066. Norman French, or Old French, became the language spoken in the king's court; but ordinary people continued to speak a form of English. However, between 1066 and 1350 over 10,000 words came from Norman French, and about 75% remain in modern English.



GETTING STARTED

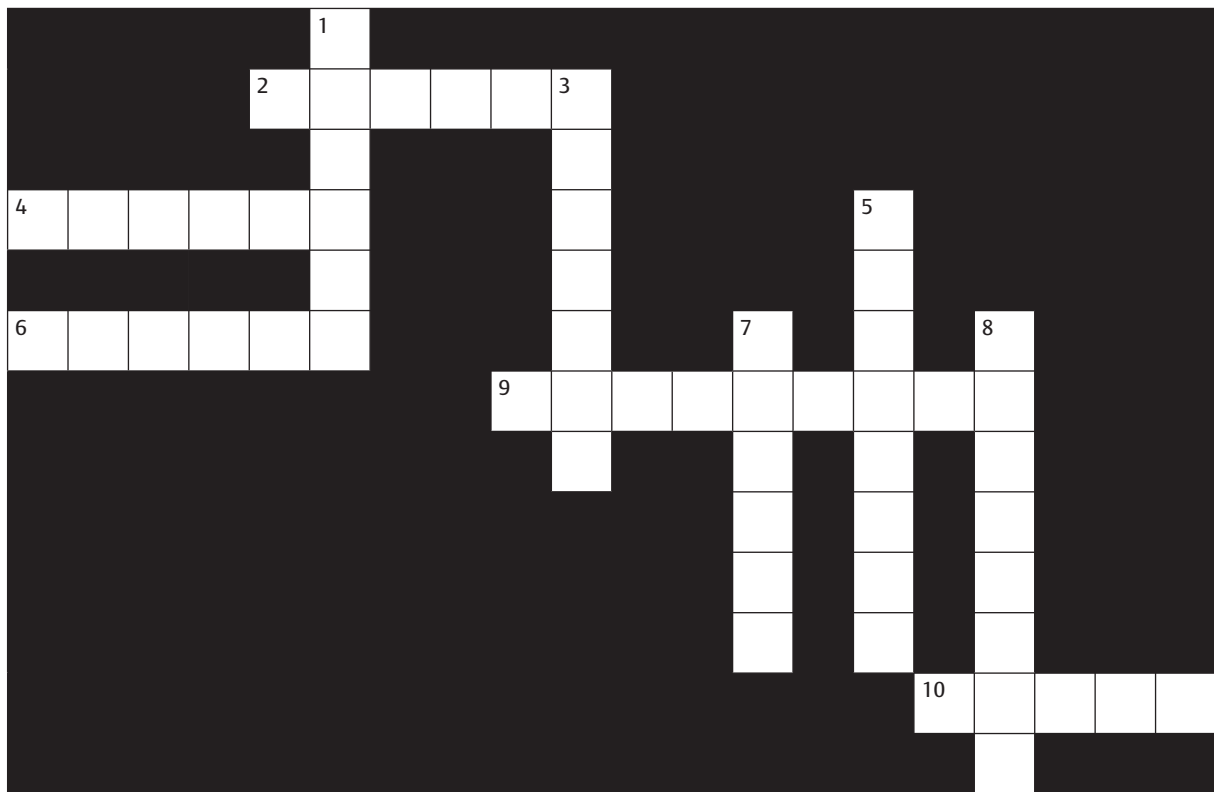
Can you find the Old French origins of these words?

1. butler _____
2. portcullis _____
3. parliament _____



MOVING ON

Try this crossword by finding the modern English meaning of the Old French words in the clues.



ACROSS

2. From the Old French *balade* meaning a poem or song to dance to.
4. A small ornamental case for holding a portrait or lock of hair, worn on a chain round the neck, from Old French *locquet* meaning a small latch or lock.
6. From the Old French *pijon* meaning 'young bird'.
9. From the Old French *porc espin* which means 'spiny pig'.
10. To act as a scout or search an area thoroughly, from Old French *escouter* meaning to listen.

DOWN

1. Woollen cloth woven in a pattern of coloured stripes crossing at right angles, from Old French *tertaine*.
3. An underground prison cell.
5. From the Old French word *pé de grue* which means 'foot of a crane'.
7. An animal or person that is being hunted, from the Old French *cuiree* meaning 'entrails'.
8. From the Old French word *recerche* which means 'careful search'.

How many did you get right?

2 = NOVICE

5 = EXPERT

10 = MAESTRO