**List of commonly used words (with not so common meanings), we regularly come across in newspapers** (reference: oxford dictionary)

ex gratia |ɛks ˈgreɪʃə|

adverb& adjective

(with reference to payment) done from a sense of moral obligation rather than because of any legal requirement: [ as adj. ] *: an ex gratia payment*.

ex parte |ɛks ˈpɑːteɪ|

adjective& adverbLaw

with respect to or in the interests of one side only

ex silentio |ˌɛks sɪˈlɛnʃɪəʊ|

adjective& adverb

(with reference to an argument or theory) based on lack of contrary evidence.

ex post |ɛks ˈpəʊst|

adjective& adverb

based on actual results rather than forecasts: [ as adj. ] *: the ex post trade balance*.

ex post facto |ˌɛks pəʊst ˈfaktəʊ|

adjective& adverb

with retrospective action or force: [ as adj. ] *: ex post facto laws*.

in vivo |ɪn ˈviːvəʊ|

adverb& adjectiveBiology

(of processes) taking place in a living organism. [ as adv. ] *: fluid transport was measured in vivo*. [ as adj. ] *: in vivo studies in animals*. The opposite of [in vitro](x-dictionary:r:m_en_gb0419970:com.apple.dictionary.ODE).

in vitro |ɪn ˈviːtrəʊ|

adjective& adverbBiology

(of processes or reactions) taking place in a test tube, culture dish, or elsewhere outside a living organism: [ as adj. ] *: in vitro fertilization*. The opposite of [in vivo](x-dictionary:r:m_en_gb0419980:com.apple.dictionary.ODE).

chargé d'affaires |ˌʃɑːʒeɪ daˈfɛː, French ʃaʀze dafɛʀ|(also chargé )

noun ( pl. chargés d'affaires pronunc. same )

an ambassador's deputy.

• a state's diplomatic representative in a minor country.

démarche |deɪˈmɑːʃ|

noun

a political step or initiative: *foreign policy démarches*.

casus belli |ˌkeɪsəs ˈbɛlʌɪ, ˌkɑːsʊs ˈbɛli|

noun ( pl. same )

an act or situation that provokes or justifies a war.

ORIGIN Latin, from *casus* (see [case1](x-dictionary:r:m_en_gb0127090:com.apple.dictionary.ODE)) and *belli*, genitive of *bellum ‘war’*.

ipso facto |ˌɪpsəʊ ˈfaktəʊ|

adverb

by that very fact or act: *the enemy of one's enemy may be ipso facto a friend*.

amicus |aˈmʌɪkəs| (in full amicus curiae |ˈkjʊərɪiː| )

noun (pl.amici |-siː| , amici curiae)

an impartial adviser to a court of law in a particular case. [ as modifier ] *: the Federal Republic of Germany filed an amicus brief arguing that the Convention was exclusive*.

modus vivendi |ˌməʊdəs vɪˈvɛndiː, -dʌɪ|

noun ( pl. modi vivendi |ˌməʊdi| ) [ usu. in sing. ]

an arrangement or agreement allowing conflicting parties to coexist peacefully, either indefinitely or until a final settlement is reached. *the two states have with difficulty reached a modus vivendi, though hardly friendship*.

• a way of living. *the Christian faith and its implications for a modus vivendi*.

ORIGIN Latin, literally *‘way of living’*.

prima facie |ˌprʌɪmə ˈfeɪʃi|

adjective& adverbLaw

based on the first impression; accepted as correct until proved otherwise: [ as adj. ] *: a prima facie case of professional misconduct* | [ as adv. ] *: the original lessee prima facie remains liable for the payment of the rent*.

Rosetta Stone |rə(ʊ)ˈzɛtə|

an inscribed stone found near Rosetta (now called Rashid) in Egypt in1799. Its text is written in three scripts: hieroglyphic, demotic, and Greek. The deciphering of the hieroglyphs by Jean-François Champollion in 1822 led to the interpretation of many other early records of Egyptian civilization.

• (as noun**a Rosetta stone**) a key to some previously undecipherable mystery or unattainable knowledge: *zero point energy could be the Rosetta stone of physics*.

spin doctor

noun informal

a spokesperson employed to give a favourable interpretation of events to the media, especially on behalf of a political party.

lame duck

noun

an ineffectual or unsuccessful person or thing: *most of her boyfriends have been lame ducks*.

• chiefly N. Amer.a politician or administration in the final period of office, after the election of a successor: [ as modifier ] *: a lame-duck president*.

lame dog

noun

a person who is in need or who is the object of charity: *Who do you want the money for? Not another of your lame dogs, is it?*

phytosanitary |ˌfʌɪθəʊˈsanɪt(ə)ri|

adjective

relating to the health of plants, especially with respect to the requirements of international trade.

Procrustean |prə(ʊ)ˈkrʌstɪən|

adjective

(especially of a framework or system) enforcing uniformity or conformity without regard to natural variation or individuality: *a fixed Procrustean rule*.

glass ceiling

noun

an unacknowledged barrier to advancement in a profession, especially affecting women and members of minorities. *the first female to break through the glass ceiling in Engineering*.

prisoner of conscience

noun

a person who has been put in prison for holding political or religious views that are not tolerated in the state in which they live.

strategic |strəˈtiːdʒɪk|

adjective

**1** relating to the identification of long-term or overall aims and interests and the means of achieving them: *strategic planning for the organization is the responsibility of top management*.

• designed or planned to serve a particular purpose: *alarms are positioned at strategic points around the prison*.

**2** relating to the gaining of overall or long-term military advantage: *Newark Castle was of strategic importance* | *British strategic and commercial interests*.

• (of human or material resources) essential in fighting a war: *a large strategic air force*.

• (of bombing or weapons) done or for use against industrial areas and communication centres of enemy territory as a long-term military objective: *strategic nuclear missiles*.

tactical |ˈtaktɪk(ə)l|

adjective

**1** relating to or constituting actions carefully planned to gain a specific military end: *as a tactical officer in the field he had no equal*.

• (of bombing or weapons) done or for use in immediate support of military or naval operations. *NATO already has about 7,000 tactical nuclear weapons in Europe*.

ultra vires |ˌʌltrə ˈvʌɪriːz, ˌʊltrɑː ˈviːreɪz|

adjective& adverbLaw

beyond one's legal power or authority: [ as adj. ] *: jurisdictional errors render the decision ultra vires*.

ORIGIN Latin, literally ***‘beyond the powers’***.

in situ |ɪn ˈsɪtjuː|

adverb& adjective

in the original place: [ as adv. ] *: frescoes have been left in situ* | [ as adj. ] *: a collection of in situ pumping engines*.

• in the appropriate position: [ as adv. ] *: her guests were all in situ*.

ombudsman |ˈɒmbʊdzmən|

noun ( pl. **ombudsmen** )

an official appointed to investigate individuals' complaints against a company or organization, especially a public authority.

bête noire |beɪt ˈnwɑː, bɛt, French bɛt nwaʀ|

noun ( pl. **bêtes noires** pronunc. **same** )

a person or thing that one particularly dislikes. *great-uncle Edward was my father's bête noire*.

fait accompli |ˌfeɪt əˈkɒmpli,Frenchfɛt akɔ̃pli|

noun [ in sing. ]

a thing that has already happened or been decided before those affected hear about it, leaving them with no option but to accept it: *the results were presented to shareholders as a fait accompli*.

ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: from French, literally ***‘accomplished fact’***.

Magna Carta |ˌmagnə ˈkɑːtə|

a charter of liberty and political rights obtained from King John of England by his rebellious barons at Runnymede in 1215, which came to be seen as the seminal document of English constitutional practice.

• (as noun**a Magna Carta**) a document establishing important rights or principles in a specified area.

pièce de résistance |ˌpjɛs də reɪˈzɪstɒ̃s,Frenchpjɛs də ʀezistɑ̃s|

noun [ in sing. ]

(especially with reference to creative work) the most important or remarkable feature: *the pièce de résistance of the meal was flaming ice cream*.

ORIGIN French, literally ***‘piece (i.e. means) of resistance’***.

**AD vs. BC**

usage: *AD* is normally written in small capitals and should be placed before the numerals, as in *AD 375* (not *375 AD* ). The reason for this is that *AD* is an abbreviation of *anno domini*, which means ‘in the year of our Lord’. However, when the date is spelled out, it is normal to write *the third century AD* ( **not** *AD the third century*).

usage: BC is normally written in small capitals and placed **after** the numerals, as in *72 BC* ( **not** *BC 72*).

Yours truly,

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(Please keep my email id, if you decide to share this document. So that, I can be contacted by the readers for corrections/suggestions.)