

Foreign words

The Craft of Writing · By Simon Townsend · 1 min read

Regarding the use of foreign words in articles. The English language uses lots of foreign words that become so familiar, they come to be regarded as English words. For instance: cafe, spaghetti bolognese, ad nauseam or bte noire. But writing cafe with the acute above the "e" is a little bit pretentious. My recommendation is plain and simple. Use an English expression if more people would know what it means. If you MUST use a foreign word consider putting it in italics or maybe put a translation in brackets. And forget about foreign punctuation marks like ^ ` ? ? ? ? ? and so on. But, it all depends on the article you're writing. It would be entirely appropriate to use lots of foreign words if the title of your article was WHY DON'T SCHOOLS TEACH MORE FOREIGN WORDS? but maybe inappropriate if your article was about cooking damper for Women's Weekly.

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