Borrowing

1. Some borrowings in English

(1) *catsup* < *ketjap* (Dutch) < *ke:chap* (Malay) < *kôe-chiap* ‘brine of picked shellfish’ (Chinese)
    *chocolate* < *chocolate* (Spanish) < */gokola:tl/ (Nahuatl)
    *coffee* < *kahveh* (Turkish) < *gahwa* (Arabic)
    *potato* < *patata* (Spanish) < *patata* (Taino)
    *sugar* < *çucre* (Old French) < *sukkar* (Arabic)
    *tomato* < *tomate* (Spanish) < *tomatl* (Nahuatl)

Borrowings because of need:

New items need words to go along with them - accounts for why some words are similar in many languages:

(2) *tobacco*, *tupakka* (Finnish), *tembakau* (Indonesian), *tabako* (Japanese), ... < *taba:q* (Arabic)

Borrowings because of prestige:

For various reasons, another language can have prestige associated with it; borrowings will attest to that prestige, ‘luxury loans’:

(3) Norman French was the language of the ruling class in England from 1066-1300 - many French words were borrowed into English; e.g. *pork* (< *porc* ‘pig’), *beef* (< *bœuf* ‘ox’),
    *cuisine* (< *cuisine* ‘kitchen’).

(4) Anglicisms in Spanish; e.g. *beisbol*, *chatear*, *flipar*, *eslip*, *choped*, ...

(5) Prestige associated with an underclass, e.g. English *pal* < *pal* ‘brother’ (Romani), Bolivian Spanish diminutive /-y/ e.g. *Mamitay* ‘Mommy’ < Quechua, Spanish *chabal* ‘dude’ < Caló.

(6) Negative or pejorative borrowing: French *hâbler* ‘brag’ < *hablar* ‘speak’ (Spanish ),
    Finnish *koni* ‘old horse, nag’ < *konl* ‘horse’ (Russian)

2. How words are borrowed

In short-term, or casual contact, borrowings are adapted to fit the receiving language’s phonology and morphology:

(7) Finnish *parta* ‘beard’ < *bardaz* (Proto-Germanic)  
    Finnish lacks voiced stops
    Sayula Pololuca (Mixe-Zoquean)  *kũnuf < cruz* (Spanish) Sayula Pololuca lacks /r/ and /l/
This can lead to unpacking:

(8) Finnish *pihvi < beef  (English) - Finnish lacks voiced stops, and [f]

Also, accommodation to syllable structure:

(9) Rol (Mayan) *rus < cruz ‘cross’ Spanish – cluster reduction

When there is long-term contact, borrowings can alter the receiving language’s phonology:

(10) English *rouge < French, added the phoneme */ʒ/ to English; English originally had [v] only as an allophone of */f*/ (e.g. *wife ~ wives); loans from French, e.g. *very < vrai, added */v/* and phonemesized [v].

Morphological adaptation:

(11) Arabic *risibou (sg.), *ruʔa:sib (pl.) < Spanish recibo ‘receipt’  
*hbu:b (sg.), buʔa:bir (pl.) < Spanish vapor ‘steamship’

Swahili *kitab (sg.), *vital (pl.) < Arabic *kitab ‘book’ (pl. *kutub)  
*kipilefi (‘roadsign, sg.’), *vipilefti (pl.) < English ‘keep left’

3. How to tell a loanword

Unusual phonological pattern

(12) Nahuatl words don’t begin with */p/* (Proto-Aztecan *p > h > ∅; e.g. *pa > a ‘water) hence, *petla ‘mat’ is a borrowing (< Mixe-Zoquean *pata)

Morphological complexity – clue to the direction of the borrowing:

(13) English *alligator < el lagarto (Spanish)  
English *vinegar < vin+aigre ‘sour wine’ (French)  
English aardvark < aard+vark ‘earth pig’ (Afrikaans)  
Spanish *albondiga < al-bunduqa (Arabic ‘ball)

However, systematic compound reduction:

(14) Spanish *choped < chopped ham (English)  
*Filis < Phillips sole saver (English)
Also, folk etymology, sometimes leading to apparent morphological complexity:

(15) English *crayfish < crevice (French)

Clues from cognates

(16) When a group of cognates is well known, a similar word in another, unrelated, language may well be a borrowing, e.g. Spanish *ganso < Germanic *gans (cf. French oie, Italian oca < Latin ānser)

Geographical and cultural items

When a word refers to an item (e.g. plant, animal) from another geographical region, or a cultural artifact from another culture, it may well be a borrowing:

(17) English impala < Zulu
Spanish aljibe < Arabic

Borrowings can provide clues to earlier sound changes – sometimes out of range of reconstruction.

(18) It turns out that *e > i/__n in Proto-Germanic – since this happened early on, there is no evidence for the earlier *e in any attested Germanic language. However, Finnish rengas ‘ring’ and kuningas ‘king’ provide evidence for an earlier *e/*i contrast.

(19) Up until around the 16th century, Spanish contrasted /b/ and /v/- these merged into a single phoneme /b/. Loan words in some Native American languages show the contrast:

Chol (Mayan) /ʃapum/ ‘soap’ < /ʃabon/ (Old Spanish xabon, Modern Spanish /xabon/ jabón, ‘soap’
/kawaju/ ‘horse’ < kavajo/ Old Spanish cavallo, Modern Spanish /kabajo/ caballo, ‘horse’)

4. Non-lexical borrowings:

(20) Sounds/phonemes (e.g. /ʒ/ in English; phonemicization of /v/)

(21) Clicks in some Bantu languages (from neighboring Khoisan languages)

(22) Rules – e.g. Greek dialects in Asia Minor acquired Turkish-like vowel harmony

(23) Diffused sound changes – a sound change may ‘jump’ genetic lines and diffuse over an area where unrelated languages are spoken (‘areal effect’). E.g. k > g/ Vfront diffused throughout S. India, effecting both Dravidian languages (Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam) as well as Indo-European languages (Marathi).
(24) Calques – loan translations:

**English**
- black market < Schwarzmarkt (German)
- gospel < gōd+spel ‘good news’ (O. English) < evangelium ‘good news’ (Latin) < eu-aggleon ‘good message’ (Greek)

**Spanish**
- rascacielos < skyscraper (English)
- llamar p’trás < call back (English)