

FLUENT WITH RYAN

Import/Export Jargon

Term	Part of Speech	Definition	Pronunciation	Example Sentence	Synonym	Antonym
Bill of Lading	Noun	A legal document between the shipper and carrier detailing the type and quantity of goods being shipped.	/ˈbɪl əv ˈleɪdɪŋ/	"The bill of lading must be signed before the goods can be shipped."	Shipping document	-
Customs Clearance	Noun	The process of passing goods through customs so they can enter or leave the country.	/ˈkʌstəmz ˈklɪərəns/	"Delays in customs clearance can significantly impact the delivery timeline."	Import/export processing	-
Tariff	Noun	A tax imposed on imported or exported goods.	/ˈtærɪf/	"The new tariff on steel imports has increased costs for manufacturers."	Duty, tax	Subsidy
Incoterms	Noun	International commercial terms published by the International Chamber of Commerce that define the responsibilities of buyers and sellers.	/ˈɪnkəʊtɜːmz/	"Understanding Incoterms is crucial for negotiating international sales contracts."	International terms	-
Freight Forwarder	Noun	An agent who arranges the transport of goods on behalf of shippers.	/freɪt ˈfɔːwərdər/	"We hired a freight forwarder to manage the logistics of our overseas shipment."	Shipping agent	-
Bill of Exchange	Noun	A written order used in international trade that binds one party to pay a fixed sum of money to another party on demand or at a predetermined date.	/bɪl əv ɪksˈt∫eɪndʒ/	"The exporter used a bill of exchange to ensure payment for the shipped goods."	Draft, promissory note	
Certificate of Origin	Noun	A document that certifies the country in which the goods were manufactured, used in	/sərˈtɪfɪkət əv ˈɔːrɪdʒɪn/	"The certificate of origin was required by customs to determine tariff rates."	Origin document	-

international trade.

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Demurrage	Noun	A charge payable to the owner of a chartered ship on failure to load or discharge the ship within the time agreed.	/dɪˈmʌrɪdʒ/	"The company incurred demurrage charges due to delays in unloading the cargo."	Delay charge	-
FOB (Free on Board)	Adjective	An Incoterm that means the seller is responsible for delivering goods on board a vessel chosen by the buyer.	/εf oʊ bi/	"The contract was agreed under FOB terms, meaning the seller's responsibility ends once the goods are on board."	-	-
Quarantine	Noun	A restriction placed on the movement of goods that may carry pests or diseases, usually at borders.	/ˈkwɒrənˌtiːn/	"The shipment was held in quarantine until it was cleared by health authorities."	Isolation	Release
Manifest	Noun	A document listing the cargo, passengers, and crew of a ship, aircraft, or vehicle.	/ˈmænɪfɛst/	"The ship's manifest detailed all the cargo being transported to the port."	Cargo list	-
Cargo Insurance	Noun	A policy that provides financial protection against the loss or damage of goods during transit.	/ˈkɑːgoʊ ɪnˈ∫ʊərəns/	"We purchased cargo insurance to cover any potential losses during shipping."	Freight insurance	-
Drawback	Noun	A refund of duties paid on imported goods when they are later exported.	/ˈdrɔːbæk/	"The company applied for a drawback on the imported materials that were used for manufacturing exports."	Refund, rebate	-
Wharfage	Noun	The fee charged for the use of a wharf to load or unload cargo.	/'wo:fidʒ/	"The wharfage fees were included in the overall shipping costs."	Dockage fee	-
Bill of Sight	Noun	A customs document submitted when the full details of the cargo are not known at the time of importation.	/bɪl əv saɪt/	"A bill of sight was issued because the exact nature of the goods was unclear at the time of arrival."	Preliminary bill	Final bill

Mnemonic Devices

Tariff: "Think Tariff sounds like "Tax if", reminding you it's a type of tax on goods."

Bill of Exchange: "Think of a bill that guarantees exchange of money between parties."

Visual Aids



Bill of Lading



Manifest

Quarantine





Cargo Insurance

READING COMPREHENSION

In the complex world of international trade, understanding the essential documents and terms is crucial for smooth operations. A bill of lading serves as both a receipt and a contract between the shipper and carrier, ensuring that the details of the cargo are accurately documented. Before goods can be cleared for entry or exit, they must undergo customs clearance, which often involves determining applicable tariffs and other duties. If goods are delayed at the port, demurrage fees may apply, adding to the overall cost of shipping. To manage these logistics, many companies employ a freight forwarder who coordinates the shipment and ensures all necessary documents, such as the certificate of origin and bill of exchange, are in order. Additionally, understanding Incoterms like FOB (Free on Board) is crucial for defining the responsibilities of buyers and sellers. Goods that may carry risks, such as pests or diseases, are often placed in quarantine until cleared by health authorities. To protect against financial loss, businesses commonly purchase cargo insurance, which covers potential damages or losses during transit. Another important aspect is the drawback process, where companies can obtain a refund of duties paid on imported goods that are later exported. Ensuring all these elements are managed properly is key to successful import/export operations.

Questions:

- 1. What role does a bill of lading play in international trade?
- 2. Why is customs clearance essential in the import/export process?
- 3. Explain the term FOB and its significance in international shipping.
- 4. How does demurrage impact the cost of shipping?
- 5. What is the purpose of cargo insurance during transit?