

365 days of **French** **Expressions**

Essential Idioms
for **sounding**
authentically French

Translated in English
Literal Meaning / *Audio*

365 Days of French Expressions

by Frédéric BIBARD

Contents

<u>Introduction:</u>	4
<u>How to download the MP3 ?</u>	256
<u>About the author:</u>	257
<u>Questions about the ebook or French?</u>	257
<u>Others Ebooks:</u>	258
<u>Podcast</u>	264

Introduction:

This short eBook was designed to help you learn some new French expressions and to memorise them.

Each expression has its English Meaning, along with a literal translation, most French Learners find it more engaging and easier to remember the expression this way.

How to use this book:

The book is structured to help you thoroughly understand each idiom and will look like this:

French Expression:

Avoir les chevilles qui enflent

Meaning:

to have one's ankles swell

Literal translation:

To be very full of oneself

Develop a learning habit.

« Quality is not an act, it is a habit. » - Aristotle.

This eBook contains 365 expressions so you can learn a new one every day. You can devour this eBook in few hours if you like, but if you can develop a learning habit by reviewing one expression per day it may be much more beneficial. This book can be the first step needed to create a lasting learning habit.

Reinforce your learning by doing the exercises:

To make sure you memorise the expression, at the end of each week you will have a short quiz based on what you've learned.

Example

1/ Explain this French expression « conduire comme un pied » in English.

2/ Can you translate « That's another story » in French?

You will find the answer in the following page.

These kinds of exercises are much more effective than multiple choice tests.

Bonus - Practice Your Pronunciation with the free MP3s:

You can download the MP3 recordings of the expressions. You will find the link to download the MP3 recordings **at the end of this eBook.**

An audiobook version is also offered with this ebook: Learn On the Go. Duration 92 minutes.

You can read each sentence out loud to practice and perfect pronunciation.

Your feedback is important to me : Do not hesitate to contact me at frederic@talkinfrench.com . If you think there is some room for improvement I will pay attention to your request. I want to be the best phrasebook. Also if you happen to visit France (in particular Paris), contact me perhaps we can have a little chat together.

Week 1

Day 1

... de cochon

Added to make something worse or pejorative

Pig's ...

Example:

Et il avait une haleine de cochon. - His breath was really too bad.

Day 2

Connaître sur le bout des doigts

To know something inside out

To know something like the tip of your fingers

Example:

Profitez du temps qu'il vous reste pour connaître la course sur le bout des doigts. - Use your remaining time to know the race inside out; all the information is here right at your fingertips!

Day 3

Ça ne casse pas des briques

It has nothing to write home about

It doesn't break bricks

Example:

Graphiquement ça ne casse pas des briques. – Visually, it doesn't look that promising.

Day 4

Ça va être pour ma pomme

It's for yours truly

It will be for my apple

Example:

S'il s'enfuit, c'est pour ma pomme. - If he runs, it's on me.

Day 5

Avoir les chevilles qui enflent

To be very full of oneself

To have one's ankles swell

Example:

Il a les chevilles qui enflent. - Getting too big for his britches.

Day 6

À cheval donné on ne regarde pas les dents

Don't look a gift horse in the mouth

One does not look at a given horse's teeth

Example:

Mais je ne suis pas du genre à cheval donné on ne regarde pas les dents. - But I'm not about to look a gift horse in the mouth.

Day 7

Chienne de grippe

A bad flu

Bitch of a flu

Example:

J'ai seulement une chienne de grippe depuis ce matin... - I only have a bad flu since this morning...

Week 1 Recap:

1/ Explain this French expression «Ça ne casse pas des briques» in English.

2/ Can you translate «It's for yours truly» in French?

Answer:

Ça ne casse pas des briques
It has nothing to write home about
It doesn't break bricks

Ça va être pour ma pomme
It's for yours truly
It will be for my apple

Week 2

Day 8

Revenons à nos moutons

To get back on topic, to return to the question at hand

Let us return to our sheep

Example:

Mais revenons à nos moutons et permettez-moi de vous en citer quelques uns. - But getting back to the subject, let me quote them

Day 9

Avoir plusieurs cordes à son arc

To be resourceful

To have more than one string to one's bow

Example:

Je t'ai déjà dit... j'ai plusieurs cordes à mon arc. - I told you. I'm much more capable than you take me for.

Day 10

Coûter la peau du cul

To cost dearly/to cost an arm and a leg

To cost the skin of the arse

Example:

Je ne peux pas acheter cette voiture, elle coûte la peau du cul. - I can't buy that car - it costs an arm and a leg.

Day 11

Plein aux as

Very rich

Full to the ace

Example:

Il voulait avoir l'air plein aux as. - He bought me lots of stuff to look rich.

Day 12

Suer comme un bœuf

To sweat profusely

To sweat like an ox

Example:

Je me suis mis aussitôt à suer comme un boeuf. - I instantly started to sweat profusely

Day 13

Mettre du beurre dans les épinards
To improve your financial situation
Put butter in the spinach

Example:

Jonathan pense que je travaille pour mettre du beurre dans les épinards. - Jonathan thinks I took this job is to help out our finances

Day 14

Tourner sept fois sa langue dans sa bouche avant de parler
Think before you speak
Turn your tongue seven times in your mouth before speaking

Example:

Tu devrais tourner sept fois ta langue dans ta bouche avant de parler, cela t'éviterait beaucoup de soucis et de malentendus. - You really ought to think before you open your mouth, you'd avoid a lot of misunderstanding that way.

Week 2 Recap:

1/ Explain this French expression «Avoir plusieurs cordes à son arc» in English.

2/ Can you translate «Very rich» in French?

Answer:

Avoir plusieurs cordes à son arc

To be resourceful

To have more than one string to one's bow

Plein aux as

Very rich

Full to the ace

Week 3

Day 15

Manger sur le pouce

To eat very hastily / quickly

To eat on the thumb

Example:

Elle a dû manger sur le pouce - She's probably eating fast-food

Day 16

Prendre le large

To leave

To take the open sea

Example:

Maintenant ils peuvent prendre le large dès demain matin - Now they can take the morning off.

Day 17

Avoir une bonne gueule

To be friendly-looking

To have a good muzzle

Example:

Un beau Français, avec une bonne gueule. - A good-looking Frenchman with a sympathetic face.

Day 18

Esprit de l'escalier

When one has a perfect witty rejoinder, yet too late to be of use

Spirit of the stairway (stairway's wit)

Example:

Ca m'énerve d'avoir cet esprit de l'escalier après une dispute avec ma copine. - It annoys me to always have the perfect rejoinder after an argument with my girlfriend.

Day 19

Ânerie

Stupidity, stupid remarks

Donkey thing

Example:

J'avais dit à ton père que le baseball c'était une ânerie. - I told your father, baseball was a stupid idea.

Day 20

Avoir bon dos

To be too easily blamed for things

To have a good back

Example:

Le 11 septembre a bon dos. - it is easy to blame it on 9/11.

Day 21
En un clin d'oeil
In a flash
In the wink of an eye

Example:

Ils envoient des fichiers sur Skype en un clin d'œil. - They send files over Skype in a flash.

Week 3 Recap:

1/ Explain this French expression «Manger sur le pouce» in English.

2/ Can you translate «To be too easily blamed for things» in French?

Answer:

Manger sur le pouce
To eat very hastily / quickly
To eat on the thumb

Avoir bon dos
To be too easily blamed for things
To have a good back

Week 4

Day 22

Être comme l'âne de Buridan

To be unable to choose between options

To be like Buridan's donkey

Example:

Tu es comme l'âne de Buridan, tu ne sais pas prendre de décisions - You are incapable of making decisions

Day 23

Éclairer la lanterne

To enlighten somebody

To lighten the lantern

Example:

Monsieur le Président, pour faire la lumière sur cette question, il faudrait peut-être éclairer la lanterne du député. - Mr. The President, in order to shed some light on this question, I might suggest that the Member of Parliament should be illuminated with the facts.

Day 24

Attaquer bille en tête

He didn't beat about the bush

To attack with a marble in head

Example:

Quand t'as pas ce que tu veux, tu attaques bille en tête, toujours. - Whenever you don't get what you want, you go straight for the jugular, every time.

Day 25

Ça passe ou ça casse

Sink or swim

It passes or it breaks

Example:

J'aime la façon dont tu bosses chaque compte comme ça passe ou ça casse. I love how you work every account like it's make or break.

Day 26

Avoir un cheveu sur la langue
To have a lisp
To have a hair on one's tongue

Example:

C'est comme Lisa mais avec un cheveu sur la langue. - It's like Lisa but with a lisp.

Day 27

Rester bouche bée
To be speechless
To be left open-mouthed

Example:

Il semble que chaque personne qui pose les yeux sur toi reste bouche bée. - It seems like every person that lays eyes on you is just left speechless.

Day 28

L'enfance de l'art
Its child's play
The childhood of art

Example:

La mécanique, c'est l'enfance de l'art. - Oh, great, this car maintenance stuff is so « cinchy »

Week 4 Recap:

1/ Explain this French expression «ça passe ou ça casse» in English.

2/ Can you translate «to be speechless» in French?

Answer:

Ça passe ou ça casse

Sink or swim

It passes or it breaks

Rester bouche bée

To be speechless

(“To be left open-mouthed”)

Week 5

Day 29

C'est kif-kif et bourricot
It's even/it's all the same
It comes down to the same thing

Example:

Pour moi, c'est kif-kif bourricot. - Whatever suits you suits me just fine.

Day 30

Sauter au plafond
To show extreme signs of happiness
Jump to the ceiling

Example:

Excuse moi de ne pas sauter au plafond parce que ma copine extorque un juge. - Excuse me if I can't get jazzed about my girlfriend extorting a judge.

Day 31

Bonne bête
Good-natured person
Good beast

Example:

Jean, c'est une bonne bête - Jean, he is great guy

Day 32

Tenir quelqu'un à l'oeil
To watch someone
To hold someone with one's eye

Example:

Bon, assieds-toi là que je puisse te tenir à l'œil. - Now sit down there so I can keep an eye on you.

Day 33

C'est dans la poche
It's in the bag
It's in the pocket

Example:

C'est dans la poche, les gars. - We've got this one in the bag, boys.

Day 34

Chassez le naturel mais il revient au galop

You can never hide/can rid of your natural tendencies

Chase away the natural and it will come back at a gallop

Example:

Chassez le naturel, il revient au galop. - A leopard never changes its spots.

Day 35

Bête à manger du foin

Dumb enough to eat hay

[so] dumb [as] to eat hay

Example:

Ce gosse est bête à manger du foin. - That boy's dumber than a dead mule.

Week 5 Recap:

1/ Explain this French expression «Chassez le naturel mais il revient au galop» in English.

2/ Can you translate «To watch someone» in French?

Answer:

Chassez le naturel mais il revient au galop
You never hide/can rid of your natural tendencies
Chase away the natural and it will come back at a gallop

Tenir quelqu'un à l'oeil
To watch someone
To hold someone with one's eye

Week 6

Day 36

Ne rien faire de ses dix doigts

To be lazy/useless

To do nothing with one's ten fingers

Example:

Elle ne sait rien faire de ses dix doigts.- She couldn't do anything with her hands,

Day 37

C'est la goutte d'eau qui fait déborder le vase

I can't take it anymore / The straw that breaks the camel's back

That is the drop of water that makes the vase run-over

Example:

Il la rencontre, elle le snobe, c'est la goutte d'eau qui fait déborder le vase. - He meets her, snubbed, it's the last straw.

Day 38

Conduire comme un pied

To drive horribly

To drive like a foot

Example:

Il conduit comme un pied; c'est une cata. - He drives with his feet; it is a mess

Day 39

Prendre son pied

To enjoy/to have pleasure

To take one's foot

Example:

Lisa pourrait vraiment prendre son pied. - Think how much fun Lisa could be having.

Day 40
Fumer comme un sapeur
To smoke like a chimney
To smoke like a fireman

Example:
Il fume comme un sapeur – He chain smoke

Day 41
Faux cul
Hypocrite
Fake ass

Example:
Je crois que t'es un faux cul. - I'm starting to think you're full of shit.

Day 42
Casser du sucre sur le dos de quelqu'un
Say bad things about someone
To break sugar on someone's back

Example:
Et d'ailleurs, je déteste casser du sucre sur le dos de quelqu'un. - Anyway, I don't like talking about people behind their back.

Week 6 Recap:

1/ Explain this French expression «Fumer comme un sapeur» in English.

2/ Can you translate « To enjoy/to have pleasure» in French?

Answer:

Fumer comme un sapeur
To smoke like a chimney
To smoke like a fireman

Prendre son pied
To enjoy/to have pleasure
To take one's foot

Week 7

Day 43

Donner du fil à retordre

To make life difficult for someone

To give threads to twist

Example:

On va leur donner du fil à retordre. - Well, let's not make it easy for them.

Day 44

Avoir le cœur sur la main

To be generous/to give the shirt off one's back

To have the heart in the hand

Example:

Pas besoin d'avoir le cœur sur la main. - Thank you, but we're not looking for a handout.

Day 45

Avoir d'autres chats à fouetter

To have other things to do

To have other cats to whip

Example:

Maintenant, j'ai d'autres chats à fouetter. - Now I've got other things to think about.

Day 46

Avoir du chien

To be a very attractive woman /man

To have dog

Example:

Il a du chien. - He has a little something

Day 47

Trouver chaussure à son pied

To find the right person

To find shoe to one's foot

Example:

On finit toujours par trouver chaussure à son pied. - I always say there's a right one for everyone.

Day 48
Être à la bourre
Being late or pressed for time
To be at the stuffing (to be in a rush)

Example:
Je vais vraiment être à la bourre.- I'm going to be late.

Day 49
A l'arrache
Quickly and without care
By grabbing

Example:
Ils sont partis à l'arrache.- Looks like they moved out in a hurry.

Week 7 Recap:

1/ Explain this French expression «Avoir d'autres chats à fouetter» in English.

2/ Can you translate «To make life difficult to someone» in French?

Answer:

Avoir d'autres chats à fouetter

To have other things to do

To have other cats to whip

Donner du fil à retordre

To make life difficult to someone

To give threads to twist

Week 8

Day 50

Être comme les moutons de Panurge

To act like a bunch of sheep

To be like Panurge's sheep

Example:

Ils suivent Terry comme un mouton de panurge depuis qu'il a atterri. - They've been on terry like a cheap suit since he landed.

Day 51

Être à cheval sur ses principes

To be very strict/to be a martinet

To be on a horse to his/her principles

Example:

Il est très à cheval sur les principes. - He's got such rigid principles.

Day 52

Lever (soulever) un lièvre

Detect an unexpected difficulty before others

To raise (lift up) a hare

Example:

Il y a dix jours, on a levé un lièvre, un compte aux îles Caiman - 10 days ago we found an account in the Cayman Island.

Day 53

Sauter du coq à l'âne

Jump from one thing to another

To jump from the rooster to the donkey

Example:

Je saute du coq à l'âne. - I am going from one thing to the next

Day 54

Avoir un coeur bien accroché

To have nerves of steel

To have one's heart firmly attached

Example:

Il faut avoir le coeur bien accroché. - I wouldn't recommend it for weak hearts.

Day 55

Faire le cochon pendu

To hang one's knees from a bar

To do the hung pig

Example:

J'ai fait le cochon pendu pendant 1 h à une fenêtre pour les piquer à la police. - I had to hang upside down outside a window for an hour to swipe them from the police.

Day 56

Saisir la balle au bond

To seize the opportunity

Catch the ball in its leap

Example:

Le premier ministre du Canada doit saisir la balle au bond. - The Prime Minister of Canada must seize this opportunity.

Week 8 Recap:

1/ Explain this French expression «être à cheval sur ses principes» in English.

2/ Can you translate «to have nerves of steel» in French?

Answer:

Coûter les yeux de la tête

To cost a lot

To cost the eyes of the head

Avoir un coeur bien accroché

To have nerves of steel

To have one's heart firmly attached

Week 9

Day 57

Les couteaux volent bas

Sarcasm has overtaken a conversation

Knives are flying low

Example:

Pendant la réunion, les couteaux volent bas - During the meeting, sarcasm has overtaken the conversation

Day 58

Les doigts dans le nez

Very easy

The fingers in the nose

Example:

J'ai gagné les doigts dans le nez. - I won. Easy, a snap.

Day 59

Fièvre de cheval

High fever/serious illness

Horse's fever

Example:

Une fièvre de cheval est aussi dangereuse qu'une hypothermie- A raging fever is as dangerous as hypothermia

Day 60

Tomber dans les pommes

To faint, loss of consciousness

To fall in the apples

Example:

Je crois que... je vais tomber dans les pommes. - I think... I think I'm gonna faint.

Day 61

Avoir de la gueule

To be attractive

To have a muzzle

Example:

Ça commence à avoir de la gueule. - It is starting to look pretty cool.

Day 62

Se battre contre des moulins à vent

To fight something in vain

To fight against windmills

Example:

Cela ne revient pas à «se battre contre des moulins à vent», comme l'a dit le professeur - This is not 'tilting at windmills', as the teacher put it.

Day 63

Avoir une sale gueule

To be nasty-looking

To have a filthy muzzle

Example:

Tu as une sale gueule aujourd'hui – You look awful today

Week 9 Recap:

- 1/ Explain this French expression «Avoir de la gueule» in English.
- 2/ Can you translate «To faint/loss of consciousness» in French?

Answer:

Avoir de la gueule

To be attractive

To have a muzzle

Tomber dans les pommes

To faint/loss of consciousness

To fall in the apples

Week 10

Day 64

Avoir trois mètres de retard

To be one step behind

To be three metros late

Example:

Ben là, vous avez trois mètres de retard, non? - Well, it seems you are one step behind.

Day 65

Avoir le feu au derrière

To be in a hurry

To have one's bottom on fire

Example:

Quelqu'un a le feu au derrière. - Somebody's got their panties in a twist.

Day 66

Il y a anguille sous roche

There is something going on

There is an eel under the rock

Example:

Il y a anguille sous roche, n'est-ce pas? - There is something fishy, do you not think?

Day 67

Jouer au chat et à la souris

To play cat and mouse

To play at cat and mouse

Example:

Arrêtez de jouer au chat et à la souris. - Stop playing cat and mouse with me.

Day 68

Mettre la puce à l'oreille

To put doubt in one's mind

To put the flea in the ear

Example:

Cela devrait nous mettre la puce à l'oreille. - This should cause us to be pretty suspicious.

Day 69
Avoir un fil à la patte
To be tied down
To have a thread at the leg

Example:

Je ne serai pas un fil à la patte, promis. - I promise I'll never tie you down. I promise.

Day 70
Dose de cheval
Big dose
Horse's dose

Example:

C'est une dose de cheval, mais on a mis du soda. - It's a horse dose, but don't worry, we cut it with some diet soda.

Week 10 Recap:

1/ Explain this French expression «Mettre la puce à l'oreille» in English.

2/ Can you translate «There is something going on» in French?

Answer:

Mettre la puce à l'oreille
To put doubt in one's mind
To put the flea in the ear

Il y a anguille sous roche
There is something going on
There is an eel under the rock

Week 11

Day 71

La cinquième roue du carosse
To be like a spare part / wheel
The fifth wheel of the coach

Example:

Il se sent juste comme la cinquième roue du carrosse. - He just feels like the third wheel.

Day 72

Faire la sourde oreille
To turn a blind eye/ to ignore
To do the deaf ear

Example:

Mais à force de faire la sourde oreille un peu partout, les gens vont se fatiguer. - If he continues to turn a blind eye, people will get tired of it.

Day 73

Le coup du lapin
Whiplash
Hare's blow

Example:

Comme ça, si on a un accident... t'auras pas le coup d lapin. - This way, now if we have an accident, you won't get any whiplash.

Day 74

Avoir une dent contre quelqu'un
To dislike someone
To have a tooth against someone

Example:

Il semble avoir une dent contre mon mari. - Now he seems to have something against my husband.

Day 75

Être un peu long à la détente
To react slowly to something
To have a slow trigger

Example:

Parce qu'il a l'air un peu long à la détente. - Because he looks like he's eaten his share of paint chips.

Day 76
Bourré comme un coing
To be very drunk
Drunk like a quince

Example:
T'es bourré comme un coing, assieds-toi. - You had too much to drink Sit down!

Day 77
Avoir l'estomac dans les talons
To be very hungry
To have the stomach in the heels

Example:
J'ai l'estomac dans les talons... - My stomach is about to eat itself.

Week 11 Recap:

1/ Explain this French expression «La cinquième roue du carrosse» in English.

2/ Can you translate «To dislike someone» in French?

Answer:

La cinquième roue du carrosse
To be like a spare part / wheel
The fifth wheel of the coach

Avoir une dent contre quelqu'un
To dislike someone
To have a tooth against someone

Week 12

Day 78

Gueuler comme un âne

To bray like a donkey

To bray like a donkey

Example:

Il fonçait sur son vélo en gueulant comme un âne. - Always charging up and down the street on his bike screaming.

Day 79

Passer sur le billard

To get an operation

To go on the billard table

Example:

C'est tout ce qu'il a dit avant de passer sur le billard. - That was the only statement he could make before they operated on him

Day 80

Chien qui aboie ne mord pas

Its bark is worse than its bite

Dog that barks does not bite

Example:

Mais sans capacités militaires, sans crédibilité militaire, nous sommes comme un chien qui aboie mais ne mord pas. - But without the military capacity, without military credibility, we are like a dog whose bark is worse than its bite.

Day 81

La vache!

Expletive/exclamation like "hell!" or "damn!"

The cow!

Example:

La vache! On a flippé! - Man, you really creeped us out.

Day 82

Il y a de l'eau dans le gaz

Things aren't running too smoothly

There is water in the gaz

Example:

Il y a de l'eau dans le gaz entre les Beatles. - Wow, seems like there's a rift happening between the Beatles.

Day 83

On ne fait pas d'omelette sans casser des oeufs

Nothing is achieved without a minimum of sacrifice

You can't make an omelette without breaking eggs (same expression in english ☺)

Example:

Mais... on ne fait pas d'omelette sans casser des œufs.- But you can't make an omelet without breaking some eggs.

Day 84

Haut comme trois pommes

About a small person

Tall as three apples

Example:

Quand je pense que j'entendais déjà parler de toi... quand j'étais haut comme trois pommes. - And after the way I've heard people talk about you... ever since I was in short pants.

Week 12 Recap:

- 1/ Explain this French expression «Passer sur le billard» in English.
- 2/ Can you translate «Things aren't running too smoothly» in French?

Answer:

Passer sur le billard
To get an operation
To go on the billard table

Il y a de l'eau dans le gaz
Things aren't running too smoothly
There is water in the gaz

Week 13

Day 85

C'est le pied

That's great

It is the foot

Example:

C'est le pied parce qu'après tant d'efforts, ça vient... et tu récoltes les fruits. - It's a pretty exciting thing because you work on something for so long, and then when it comes, it's...

Day 86

Raser les murs

to go unnoticed

To shave the walls

Example:

Moi je vais juste raser les murs, pour le reste de l'année. - I'm just going to avoid her for the rest of the year.

Day 87

Garder son sang-froid

To keep calm

To keep one's blood cold

Example:

J'ai lu ça dans un magazine à propos de garder son sang-froid. - I read this in a magazine about controlling your temper.

Day 88

Avoir un poil dans la main

To shy away from work, to avoid work at all costs

To have a hair in one's hand

Example:

Surtout ceux qui ont un poil dans la main. - They're just too idle to work.

Day 89

Tomber sur un os

Encounter an unexpected situation

To tumble on a bone

Example:

Vous allez tomber sur un os, je vous avertis. - You'll be dealing with a real tough cookie, I warn you.

Day 90

Être bien / mal luné

To be in a bad mood

To be well / badly mooned

Example:

Je dormirai avec toi, Julien est mal luné. - I need to stay in your room. Julien is in a bad mood.

Day 91
Caractère de chien
Bad attitude/ill temper
Dog's personality

Example:

Non, il est en bonne santé, mais il a un caractère de chien. - No, he's in good health but he has a foul temper.

Week 13 Recap:

1/ Explain this French expression «Avoir un poil dans la main» in English.

2/ Can you translate «To be in a bad mood» in French?

Answer:

Avoir un poil dans la main
To shy away from work/to avoid work at all costs
To have a hair in one's hand

Être bien / mal luné
To be in a bad mood
To be well / badly mooned

Week 14

Day 92

Avoir du pain sur la planche

To have work to do

To have bread on the chopping-board

Example:

Blague à part, l'équipe aura du pain sur la planche. - All kidding aside, the team will have its work cut out for it.

Day 93

Prendre de la bouteille

To be getting old

To take some bottle

Example:

Tu as pris de la bouteille et plus sage - You are getting old

Day 94

Bête curieuse

Strange animal

Curious beast

Example:

Les gens te regardent comme une bête curieuse. - Everybody looks at you like an exhibit

Day 95

Sucrer les fraises

Be struck by uncontrollable trembling due to old age, alcohol or fear

Sweeten the strawberries

Example:

*Pour un million, je veux bien sucrer les fraises. -
For a million dollars, I will shake like a coconut on a tree if I got to.*

Day 96

Brave bête

Good guy

Brave beast

Example:

N'ayez pas peur, c'est une brave bête.- Don't worry, he's a good dog.

Day 97
Sage comme une image
Well-behaved
Well behaved as a picture

Example:
On sera tous sages comme des images. - See, everyone's on their best behaviour.

Day 98
Faits comme des rats
Trapped like rats
Done like rats

Example:
Je ne veux pas être fait comme un rat. - I'm not going to sit there locked up like a rat.

Week 14 Recap:

1/ Explain this French expression «Avoir du pain sur la planche» in English.

2/ Can you translate «To be getting old» in French?

Answer:

Avoir du pain sur la planche

To have work to do

To have bread on the chopping-board

Prendre de la bouteille

To be getting old

To take some bottle

Week 15

Day 99

Être dans la lune

To daydream

To be on the moon

Example:

Désolé, j'étais dans la lune. - I'm sorry, I blacked out for a second.

Day 100

Bouc émissaire

Scapegoat

Emissary goat

Example:

N'en faites pas le bouc émissaire de vos affaires non-résolues. - I hope you're not making him a scapegoat for crimes you can't solve.

Day 101

Avoir le bras long

To be well connected/to have a lot of experience

To have the long arm

Example:

M. Waring a le bras long, même en taule. - Mr. Waring is very well connected, even behind bars.

Day 102

Un roman à l'eau de rose

Sentimental story

Rose water story

Example:

C'est un roman d'amour à l'eau de rose. - It's just a sentimental old love story.

Day 103

Se casser la figure

To fall flat on one's face

To break one's face

Example:

Je n'ai jamais vu la loi se casser la figure! - I never saw the law fall on its face before.

Day 104

À chaque jour suffit sa peine
Take each day as it comes
Each day suffers its pain

Example:

Comme on dit : "À chaque jour suffit sa peine." - Some people say, "One day at a time."

Day 105

Mystère et boule de gomme
It is very mysterious
Mystery and gumdrop

Example:

Pourquoi? -Mystère en boule de gomme. - That will remain a mystery.

Week 15 Recap:

- 1/ Explain this French expression «Être dans la lune» in English.
- 2/ Can you translate «To be well connected, to have a lot of experience» in French?

Answer:

Être dans la lune
To daydream
To be on the moon

Avoir le bras long
To be well-connected / to have a lot of experience
To have the long arm

Week 16

Day 106

Être vache

To be mean/to be nasty

To be [a] cow

Example:

Ce que tu peux être vache ! - You are so mean!

Day 107

En connaître un rayon

To know a lot about the subject

To know a department about something

Example:

T'as l'air d'en connaître un rayon, là-dessus. - You seem to be an expert on the subject.

Day 108

Faire devenir chèvre

To irritate someone to the highest point/to exasperate

Make it become (a) goat

Example:

Si maman voit ça, elle va devenir chèvre.- If mother sees this, she will blow a cow.

Day 109

Laisser tomber quelqu'un comme une vieille chaussette

To jilt somebody

To drop somebody like an old sock

Example:

*Dès le départ d'Isabel, je l'ai laissé tomber comme une vieille chaussette. - As soon as Isabel and Louisa went away...
...I dropped him like a hot potato.*

Day 110

Se creuser la tête

To think hard to remember something/to rack your brains

To dig into one's head

Example:

*On peut se creuser la tête toute la Journée, mais le temps file. - We can head-scratch the semantics of this all day, but
the clock is ticking.*

Day 111
Se casser la tête
Think intently
To break one's head

Example:

Pas besoin de se casser la tête pour vous trouver une idée - Well, we don't have to look very hard to find an idea

Day 112
Être tiré par les cheveux
To be far-fetched
To be pulled (in) by the hairs

Example:

C'est peut-être tiré par les cheveux mais ta voiture était bien une BMW? - Okay, this is a bit of a stretch, but your car was a BMW, right?

Week 16 Recap:

- 1/ Explain this French expression «Laisser tomber quelqu'un comme une vieille chaussette » in English.
- 2/ Can you translate «To be far-fetched» in French?

Answer:

Laisser tomber quelqu'un comme une vieille chaussette

To jilt somebody

To drop somebody like an old sock

Être tiré par les cheveux

To be far-fetched

To be pulled (in) by the hairs

Week 17

Day 113

Nager entre deux eaux

To sit on the fence

To swim between two waters

Example:

Je suis un peu entre deux eaux. - I'm sort of between things right now.

Day 114

Tourner au vinaigre

To turn sour

To turn to vinegar

Example:

Quand notre relation a tourné au vinaigre. - When our relationship took a turn for the worse.

Day 115

Faire une carte de France

To have a wet dream

To make a map of France

Example:

Même pas pour faire vos cartes de France! - You couldn't take care of a wet dream.

Day 116

Dormir en chien de fusil

To sleep curled up / foetal position

To sleep as a firearm cock

Example:

Je dors toujours en chien de fusil - I always sleep in a curled up position

Day 117

En faire tout un fromage

To make a big deal of something

To make a whole cheese about it

Example:

Je ne vais pas faire tout un fromage pour cela. - I won't make a big deal out of it.

Day 118

Battre le fer quand il est (encore) chaud

To act without delay/to seize the opportunity

To strike while the iron while it's hot (same expression in english)

Example:

Faut battre le fer quand il est encore chaud. - You gotta strike while the iron is hot.

Day 119

Faire le poireau

To be kept waiting

To do the leek

Example:

Après, j'étais plus bon à rien, à part faire le poireau... à ses côtés. - I wasn't much good for anything after that except hanging around her.

Week 17 Recap:

- 1/ Explain this French expression «Nager entre deux eaux» in English.
- 2/ Can you translate «To make a big deal about something» in French?

Answer:

Nager entre deux eaux
To sit on the fence.
To swim between two waters

En faire tout un fromage
To make a big deal of something
To make a whole cheese about it

Week 18

Day 120

Enfoncer le clou

To drive the point home

To drive the nail in

Example:

On va préparer le terrain, et laisser Jean enfoncer le clou. - We'll tee it up, let Jean drive it home.

Day 121

Enlever une épine du pied

To take a weight off someone's shoulders

To remove a thorn from the foot

Example:

Tu nous enlèves une épine du pied. - You get us out of a tricky situation.

Day 122

Perdre le nord

To be disorientated/confused

To lose the north

Example:

C'est gênant pour un marin de perdre le nord, mais c'est ainsi. - It's embarrassing for a sailor to lose his bearing, but there you are.

Day 123

Taper sur le système

To annoy someone

To hit on someone's (nervous) system

Example:

Mais, là, tu commences sérieusement à me taper sur le système. - But you're getting dangerously close to crossing the line with me.

Day 124
C'est une autre paire de manches
That's another story
It's another pair of sleeves

Example:
C'est une autre paire de manches aujourd'hui. - It is a different kettle of fish at the moment.

Day 125
Avoir quelqu'un dans le collimateur
To keep an eye on someone
To have someone in the collimator

Example:
Quelqu'un t'a dans le collimateur. - somebody's really got it in for you

Day 126
Avec ma bite et mon couteau
To do something with very few tools (to hustle)
with my dick and my knife

Example:
On vient ici avec sa bite et son couteau! - Here, you've got your head up your ass!

Week 18 Recap:

1/ Explain this French expression «Enfoncer le clou» in English.

2/ Can you translate «To annoy someone» in French?

Answer:

Enfoncer le clou
To drive the point home
To drive the nail in

Taper sur le système
To annoy someone
To hit on someone's (nervous) system

Week 19

Day 127

Louper le coche

To miss an opportunity

To miss the coach

Example:

On a dû louper le coche. - Look, we've probably missed our last opportunity now

Day 128

S'attirer les foudres de quelqu'un

To incur somebody's wrath

To incur somebody's lightning

Example:

On ne peut pas donc pas fouler impunément la propriété d'autrui sans s'attirer les foudres de nos semblables. - Therefore, one cannot intrude on someone else's property with impunity, without incurring the anger of his fellow men.

Day 129

Les bras m'en tombent

I'm stunned

My arms are falling off

Example:

Mais, là, c'est tellement absurde les bras m'en tombent. - But this one is so stupid I just can't believe

Day 130

Dire des messes basses

To whisper

To say soft masses

Example:

Vous avez fait des messes basses toute la soirée - You've been whispering to each other all night.

Day 131

Ne pas être dans son assiette

To feel unwell

To not be in one's plate

Example:

Je suis sûr que ce n'est rien. mais il ne semble juste pas être dans son assiette. - I'm sure it's nothing, but he just seems a little off.

Day 132
Faux jeton
Hypocrite
Fake chip/token

Example:

Je vous cherchais partout, faux jeton. - I've been lookin' all over for you, you double-crosser.

Day 133
Être un chaud lapin
To be horny
To be a hot rabbit

Example:

Il paraît que vous êtes un chaud lapin. - Yeah. We heard you were horny, man.

Week 19 Recap:

1/ Explain this French expression «S'attirer les foudres de quelqu'un» in English.

2/ Can you translate «To feel unwell» in French?

Answer:

S'attirer les foudres de quelqu'un

To incur somebody's wrath

To incur somebody's lightning

Ne pas être dans son assiette

To feel unwell

To not be in one's plate

Week 20

Day 134

Ça ne mange pas de pain
It does not cost anything
That does not eat any bread

Example:

Ça ne mange pas de pain de les interroger. - After all, nothing ventured, nothing gained.

Day 135

Courir sur le haricot
Get one someone's nerves
To run on someone's bean

Example:

Tu commences à me courir sur le haricot. - You're starting to get on my nerves.

Day 136

Faire la grasse matinée
To have a lazy day/to have a lie-in
To do a fat morning

Example:

Le dimanche, j'avais envie de faire la grasse matinée. - I was a bit lazy. I thought I could sleep longer on Sunday.

Day 137

Enfoncer des portes ouvertes
To state the obvious
To break down open doors

Example:

Je ne veux pas enfoncer des portes ouvertes, mais Lucien avait bien peur du noir ? - Sorry, I don't mean to state the obvious, but wasn't Lucien afraid of the dark?

Day 138

Bête comme un âne
Very stupid
Dumb as a donkey

Example:

"Tu es bête comme un âne." - "You have the wits of a donkey."

Day 139

Quand les poules auront des dents

That will never happen

When chickens will have teeth

Example:

Jean vous reparlera quand les poules auront des dents. - But Jean is never talking to you again in a billion years.

Day 140

Ce n'est pas la mer à boire

It is not really difficult

That is not the sea to drink

Example:

Ce n'est pas la mer à boire, Margaret. - It doesn't seem like so much to ask, Margaret.

Week 20 Recap:

1/ Explain this French expression «Ça ne mange pas de pain» in English.

2/ Can you translate «To state the obvious» in French?

Answer:

Ça ne mange pas de pain
It does not cost anything
That does not eat any bread

Enfoncer des portes ouvertes
To state the obvious
To break down open doors

Week 21

Day 141

Être au bout du rouleau
To be at the end of one's tether
To be at the end of the roll

Example:

Faut être au bout du rouleau pour finir ici. - You have to be at the end of your rope to be here.

Day 142

Dire tout et son contraire
To say contradictory things
To say everything and its contrary

Example:

Il faut faire très attention, car si l'on se fonde sur des considérations politiques, on change tout, on peut dire tout et le contraire de tout. - We have to be very careful, because if we act on the basis of political considerations, we change everything, we can keep contradicting ourselves.

Day 143

Jouer des coudes
To elbow your way through
To play with the elbows

Example:

Et alors, tu as dû jouer des coudes. - So, you had to throw a few elbows.

Day 144

Tenir le bon bout
To be close to success
To hold the good end

Example:

Je croyais tenir le bon bout, avoir fait le tour. - I thought I was closing in, putting it all together.

Day 145

Long comme un jour sans pain
Long and boring
Long like a day without bread

Example:

Il est triste comme un jour sans pain. - He is sad

Day 146

Apporter de l'eau au moulin de quelqu'un

To fuel somebody's arguments

To bring water to someone's mill

Example:

Nous ne souhaitons donc pas apporter de l'eau au moulin - We do not therefore wish to bring grist to the mill.

Day 147

Il fait un vent à décorner les boeufs

Bad weather

It's windy enough to dehorn the cows

Example:

Il y a un vent à décorner les bœufs - Wind's blowing up a gale today.

Week 21 Recap:

- 1/ Explain this French expression «Tenir le bon bout» in English.
- 2/ Can you translate «To elbow your way through» in French?

Answer:

Tenir le bon bout
To be close to success
To hold the good end

Jouer des coudes
To elbow your way through
To play with the elbows

Week 22

Day 148

Il pleut comme vaches qui pissent

It's raining heavily

It rains like cows pissing

Example:

Bonjour ! - Il pleut comme vache qui pisse. - It's raining cats and dogs out there!

Day 149

... de chien

Added to make something worse or more pejorative

Dog's ...

Example:

Ça fait un mal de chien. - God, the pain is extraordinary.

Day 150

Soupe au lait

Quickly changes his/her character

(a) milky soup

Example:

Je suis soupe au lait. - I have a short temper.

Day 151

Marcher à côté de ses pompes

To have an off day

To walk beside one's shoes

Example:

Si ça continue, je vais marcher à côté de mes pompes. - If it goes on that way, I'm going to lose it.

Day 152

Sentir le sapin

Feel that death or the end is coming

To smell the pine

Example:

Ça sent le sapin. - It does not sound good

Day 153

Coûter les yeux de la tête

To be very expensive/ to cost an arm and a leg

To cost the eyes of the head

Example:

Tout ça a dû te coûter les yeux de la tête. - They must have cost you a fortune.

Day 154
Avoir un coeur d'artichaut
To fall in love easily
To have the heart of an artichoke

Example:

Les gens qui ont un cœur d'artichaut ne sont jamais heureux. - I think people who lose their hearts too easily are never very happy in life.

Week 22 Recap:

1/ Explain this French expression «Il pleut comme vaches qui pissent» in English.

2/ Can you translate «Quickly changes his/her character» in French?

Answer:

Il pleut comme vaches qui pissent

It's raining heavily

It rains like cows pissing

Soupe au lait

Quickly changes his/her character

(a) milky soup

Week 23

Day 155

Courir deux lièvres à la fois

To do two things at the same time

To run after two hares at the same time

Example:

Mon Lucien, on ne peut pas courir deux lièvres à la fois. - Hey, Lucien, you can't be in two places at the same time.

Day 156

Appuyer sur le champignon

To accelerate (in a car) / To speed up

To press on the mushroom

Example:

Je crois qu'Abby va devoir appuyer sur le champignon. - I think it's fair to say that Abby will have to speed up (the process)

Day 157

Mettre la main à la pâte

To pitch in

To put your hand in the dough

Example:

J'ai la ferme intention de mettre la main à la pâte pour que les sans-voix soient entendus. - I firmly intend to roll up my sleeves and work so that those who have had no voice may be heard.

Day 158

Essuyer les plâtres

To have initial problems/to put up with

To wipe the plasters

Example:

Merci à Manu d'avoir essuyé les plâtres. - Thanks to Manu for being my first victim!

Day 159
Pleurer comme une madeleine
To cry profusely
To cry like a madeleine

Example:

Tu crois qu'Elliot est en train de pleurer comme une madeleine? - Do you think Elliot's somewhere right now, crying her eyes out?

Day 160
Le chien aboie, la caravane passe
Things happen despite what's said about them ?
The dog barks, the caravan passes by

Example:

Les chiens aboient, la caravane passe. - Dogs bark when the caravan passes by.

Day 161
Il n'y a pas un chat
Nobody around/not a soul
There is not a cat

Example:

Ça fait plus de deux semaines qu'il n'y a pas un chat. - Nobody's been in there for more than two weeks now, not a soul.

Week 23 Recap:

- 1/ Explain this French expression «Mettre la main à la pâte» in English.
- 2/ Can you translate «To have initial problems to put up with» in French?

Answer:

Mettre la main à la pâte

To pitch in

To put your hand in the dough

Essuyer les plâtres

To have initial problems to put up with

To wipe the plasters

Week 24

Day 162

Ça ne tient pas debout
It doesn't make any sense
It doesn't stand upright

Example:

Ça ne tient pas debout! Y a un truc qui cloche. - It doesn't make sense, there's something missing

Day 163

Graisser la patte
Bribe
To grease the paw

Example:

Pas besoin de me graisser la patte. Je m'en occupe. - All right you don't have to bribe me, I'll do it

Day 164

Tirer les vers du nez
To get information from someone
To pull the worms from the nose

Example:

Et tu essaies de me tirer les vers du nez. - And you're just trying to get information out of me. Yeah.

Day 165

Laisser pisser le mérinos
Don't react to a provocation
To let the merino piss

Example:

Laisse pisser le mérinos - let it slide

Day 166

Faire une croix sur
To leave something behind/to cancel something/to give up on something
To make a cross on something

Example:

Il faut faire une croix sur certaines choses. - We have to say goodbye to some things.

Day 167

Avoir des atomes crochus avec quelqu'un

To have a lot in common with someone

To have hooked atoms with someone

Example:

Voyez, depuis que nos avis divergent, nous avons des atomes crochus - You must admit that since we disagree, we've got a lot in common.

Day 168

Crier comme un putois

To shout loudly

To scream like a skunk

Example:

Maintenant, je peux en rire, mais je me suis mise à crier comme un putois - Now I laugh when I tell you, but I started to shout loudly

Week 24 Recap:

- 1/ Explain this French expression «Ça ne tient pas debout» in English.
- 2/ Can you translate «To get information from someone» in French?

Answer:

Ça ne tient pas debout
It doesn't make any sense
It doesn't stand upright

Tirer les vers du nez
To get information from someone
To pull the worms from the nose

Week 25

Day 169

Chercher midi à quatorze heures

To make something simple very complicated

To look for noon at two o'clock

Example:

Vous savez, dans un tableau, faut pas chercher midi à quatorze heures. - When you look at a painting, don't complicate matters.

Day 170

Être une fouine

To be nosy

To be a marten

Example:

Tu vas encore pas mal fouiner pour qu'on dénêche ces sœurs. - You got a lot of nosying around to do, till we turn up those sisters.

Day 171

Casser les pieds à quelqu'un

Be annoying

To break the feet of somebody

Example:

Tu commences vraiment à me casser les pieds. - You know, that's really getting annoying.

Day 172

Avoir sur le bout de la langue

To have a word on the tip of your tongue

To have on the tip of the tongue

Example:

Je l'ai sur le bout de la langue. - I have it at the tip of my tongue.

Day 173

Ça me saoule

That annoys me

That makes me drunk

Example:

Bien... ça ma saoule de toute façon. - Well, I'm bored anyway.

Day 174
Avoir chaud aux fesses
To escape danger
To have hot on your bottom

Example:
J'ai eu chaud aux fesses. - That was kind of a tough spot.

Day 175
Gros comme une baleine
Very fat/fat as a whale
Fat like a whale

Example:
Il est gros comme une baleine – He is fat as a whale

Week 25 Recap:

1/ Explain this French expression «être une fouine» in English.

2/ Can you translate «Be annoying» in French?

Answer:

Être une fouine

To be nosy

To be a martens

Casser les pieds à quelqu'un

Be annoying

To break the feet of somebody

Week 26

Day 176

En voir de toutes les couleurs

Give someone a hard time

To see some of all colors

Example:

Tu as dû en voir de toutes les couleurs - You must've been through a lot.

Day 177

C'est pas le Pérou

It's nothing special/ it's nothing to write home about

It's not Peru

Example:

C'est pas le Pérou, mais c'est pas cher. - It's nothing special, but it's cheap.

Day 178

Donner sa langue au chat

To give up trying to guess something/the answer to a riddle

Give his/her tongue to the cat

Example:

Oui, il donne sa langue au chat. - His way of saying he's stuck.

Day 179

Couper l'herbe sous le pied

To pull the rug from under somebody's feet

Cutting the grass right under the foot

Example:

Maintenant, on veut leur couper l'herbe sous le pied en supprimant le programme - Now the government wants to pull the rug out from under them by cutting the program.

Day 180

Comme un manche

Clumsily/hopeless

Like a handle

Example:

Vous vous y êtes pris comme un manche. - You must've botched it!

Day 181

C'est un travail de Romain

It's a big job

It's a Roman's work

Example:

C'est un vrai travail de Romain - This is a truly big work/project

Day 182

Avoir l'air d'une poule qui a trouvé un couteau

To look puzzled or baffled

To look like a hen that has found a knife

Example:

Il a l'air d'une poule qui a trouvé un couteau - He looks puzzled

Week 26 Recap:

- 1/ Explain this French expression «En voir de toutes les couleurs» in English.
- 2/ Can you translate «To pull the rug from under somebody's feet» in French?

Answer:

En voir de toutes les couleurs

Give someone a hard time

To see some of all colors

Couper l'herbe sous le pied

To pull the rug from under somebody's feet

Cutting the grass right under the foot

Week 27

Day 183

Être simple comme «bonjour »

To be as easy as pie

To be as simple as 'hello'

Example:

Il existe en réalité une solution simple comme bonjour. - There is, in fact, a very simple solution.

Day 184

Être tiré à quatre épingles

To be dressed very well

To be drawn to [with] four pins

Example:

J'aime quand un homme est tiré à quatre épingles. - I do so like a man who dresses for the occasion.

Day 185

De la bouillie pour les chats

Poorly done work/incomprehensible/something that will not help

Porridge cat

Example:

C'est cher pour de la bouille pour les chats. - It's still too high for that cheap liquor.

Day 186

Prendre des vessies pour des lanternes

To get things- people wrong/bad judge of character

To take bladders for lanterns

Example:

Qualifier cette chose d'œuvre d'art c'est prendre des vessies pour des lanternes! - Making such a big deal out of such a cheap art, it's treated people like idiots!

Day 187

Entre chien et loup

Dusk

Between dog and wolf

Example:

On déguste une tasse de thé entre chien et loup - We relax over a cup of tea at dusk.

Day 188
Amuser la galerie!
To show off
To amuse the gallery

Example:
Il nous faut un candidat qui amuse la galerie. - We need a candidate that will put on a good show.

Day 189
En prendre pour son grade
To be reprimanded/to be told off
To take it for one's rank

Example:
Chaque pays en prend pour son grade. - Each country has received a good dressing-down.

Week 27 Recap:

1/ Explain this French expression «être tiré à quatre épingles » in English.

2/Can you translate « To get things-people wrong/bad judge of character» in French?

Answer:

Être tiré à quatre épingles

To be well-dressed

To be drawn to [with] four pins

Prendre des vessies pour des lanternes

To get things - people wrong/bad judge of character

To take bladders for lanterns

Week 28

Day 190

Mettre de l'eau dans son vin

Moderate one's demands

To put water in one's wine

Example:

La Chine devra fort probablement trouver une façon de mettre de l'eau dans son vin - There is no doubt that China will have to find a way to compromise

Day 191

Avoir des yeux de merlan frit

Stare dumbly/with surprise

To have fried whiting's eyes

Example:

Ils roulent des yeux de merlan frit et photographient leur bébé. - Making goofball faces and taking pictures of their babies.

Day 192

Jeter de l'huile sur le feu

To stir up an argument

To throw oil on the fire

Example:

Cela pourrait jeter de l'huile sur le feu, et je n'en vois pas l'utilité - This might provoke more reaction and I am not sure this is helpful.

Day 193

Poser un lapin à quelqu'un

To set someone up/not show up/to stand someone up

To pose someone a rabbit

Example:

Vous ne pouvez pas poser un lapin à une fille portant une telle robe. - You don't ever stand up a girl in a dress like that.

Day 194

Les chiens ne font pas des chats

One generally has the same behaviour and tastes as one's parents

Dogs don't breed cats

Example:

Je vois, les chiens ne font pas des chats. - I see the apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

Day 195
Chat échaudé craint l'eau froide
Once bitten, twice shy
A warmed cat fears cold water

Example:

*Si le premier ministre de cette province ne peut le faire, c'est peut-être parce que chat échaudé craint l'eau froide. -
Perhaps one of the reasons the prime minister cannot come to the table is that once bitten, twice shy.*

Day 196
Être de mauvais poil
To be in a bad mood
To be of bad hair

Example:

Toujours de mauvais poil avec ces grèves. - Always in a bad mood with these strikes.

Week 28 Recap:

1/ Explain this French expression «Mettre de l'eau dans son vin» in English.

2/ Can you translate «To stir up a quarrel » in French?

Answer:

Mettre de l'eau dans son vin

Moderate one's demands

To put water in one's wine

Jeter de l'huile sur le feu

To stir up an argument

To throw oil on the fire

Week 29

Day 197

Avoir le cul bordé de nouilles

To be lucky

To have an arse/ass full of noodles

Example:

Vraiment... Ce mec a le cul bordé de nouilles. - He simply doesn't run out of luck!

Day 198

Faire chou blanc

To fail

To make white cabbage

Example:

cette partie du projet de loi a aussi fait chou blanc. - this part of that bill has been a failure as well.

Day 199

Comme un poisson dans l'eau

At ease/like a duck to water

Like a fish in the water

Example:

Oui, comme un poisson dans l'eau. - Yeah, like a duck takes to water.

Day 200

Mettre sa main au feu / mettre sa main à couper

To be sure of something/to bet one's life on it

Put one's hand in the fire/ put one's hand to cut

Example:

Je n'en mettrais pas ma main au feu. - I wouldn't be too sure of that.

Day 201

Faire du lèche-vitrines

To go window shopping

To do window licking

Example:

Faire du lèche-vitrines sans moyens, ça rend triste. - If you go window-shopping, but can't afford anything, it's depressing.

Day 202
Avoir la chair de poule
To have a reflex action caused by cold or fear
To have goose bumps

Example:

J'ai la chair de poule quand je vois le drapeau. - I used to get goose bumps every time I looked at that flag.

Day 203
Rouler quelqu'un dans la farine
To fool someone
Roll someone into flour

Example:

J'aime pas te voir rouler dans la farine par un joli minois. I don't like to see you made a monkey of by a girl with a pretty face.

Week 29 Recap:

1/ Explain this French expression «Mettre sa main au feu / mettre sa main à couper» in English.

2/ Can you translate «To go window shopping» in French?

Answer:

Mettre sa main au feu / mettre sa main à couper
To be sure of something/to bet one's life on it
Put one's hand in the fire/ put one's hand to cut

Faire du lèche-vitrines
To go window shopping
To do window licking

Week 30

Day 204

Jeux de mains, jeux de vilains

It will all end in tears. (Mainly used when children are at play)

Hand games, naughty games

Example:

Jeu de main, jeu de vilain! - Fool around and it'll end in tears!

Day 205

Dire ses quatre vérités

To tell someone a few home truths

To tell the four truths

Example:

Il impose justement un bâillon pour éviter de se faire dire ses quatre vérités. - He is using closure precisely because he does not want to hear the whole truth.

Day 206

Attendre quelqu'un au tournant

Lie in wait

To wait for someone to come from around a bend/a corner

Example:

Tu sais que maintenant, Jean va t'attendre au tournant. - I hope you realise this means now you're on Jean's radar.

Day 207

Engueuler comme du poisson pourri

Call somebody every name under the sun

To be told off like a rotten fish

Example:

Il nous a engueulé comme du poisson pourri - He yelled at us in every possible way.

Day 208

Garder la tête froide

Stay calm and focused in a difficult situation

To keep a cold head

Example:

Nous devons toutefois garder la tête froide. - We must, however, keep a cool head.

Day 209
La fin des haricots
The end of everything/the ultimate end
The end of beans

Example:

Ce n'est pas la fin des haricots... - It's not the end of the world.

Day 210
Ça ne casse pas trois pattes à un canard
It has nothing to write home about
It doesn't break three legs to a duck

Example:

Mouais ça casse pas trois pattes à un canard - This is mediocre on all parts.

Week 30 Recap:

- 1/ Explain this French expression «Dire ses quatre vérités» in English.
- 2/ Can you translate «the end of everything, the ultimate end» in French?

Answer:

Dire ses quatre vérités
To tell someone a few home truths
To tell the four truths

La fin des haricots
The end of everything/ the ultimate end
The end of beans

Week 31

Day 211

Pattes de mouche

Writing that contains poorly formed letters

A fly's legs

Example:

Heureusement j'arrive à lire tes pattes de mouche. - Good thing I can read your sloppy handwriting.

Day 212

Éminence grise

Powerful decision-maker who operates "behind the scenes"

Gray eminence

Example:

Tu seras la façade, et moi, l'éminence grise. - You'll be the front man; I'll be the power behind the throne.

Day 213

Faire d'une pierre deux coups

To kill two birds with one stone

To have two hits with a stone

Example:

Quelqu'un essaie de faire d'une pierre deux coups. - Okay, somebody's trying to kill two birds with one stone.

Day 214

Se mettre le doigt dans l'oeil

To be mistaken/to kid oneself

To put your finger in the eye

Example:

Si le ministre croit que les contribuables vont appuyer une dépense de ce genre, il se met le doigt dans l'oeil jusqu'au coude. - If the minister thinks that the taxpayers will stand for this kind of expenditure, he has been playing without his helmet for too long.

Day 215

Avoir les yeux plus gros que le ventre
To want more food than one can eat
To have eyes bigger than the stomach

Example:

Napoléon a eu les yeux plus gros que le ventre avec la péninsule Ibérique. - I think Napoleon has bitten off more than he can chew in the Spanish peninsula.

Day 216

Avoir une mémoire de poisson rouge
To have a poor memory
To have a goldfish's memory

Example:

Il a une mémoire de poisson rouge - He has a memory like a fish.

Day 217

Avoir le melon
To be sure of oneself
To have the melon

Example:

Il a pris le melon. - He's got a big head

Week 31 Recap:

1/ Explain this French expression «Faire d'une pierre deux coups» in English.

2/Can you translate «To be mistaken; to kid oneself» in French?

Answer:

Faire d'une pierre deux coups
To kill two birds with one stone
To have two hits with a stone

Se mettre le doigt dans l'oeil
To be mistaken/to kid oneself
To put your finger in the eye

Week 32

Day 218

Ça me prend la tête

That drives me crazy/that annoys me

That takes my head

Example:

Ça me prend pas du tout la tête. - Really, not driving me crazy at all.

Day 219

Pleuvoir comme vache qui pisse

To rain a lot

To rain like a pissing cow

Example:

Il pleut comme vache qui pisse. - It's coming down cats and dogs out there.

Day 220

Avaler des couleuvres

To eat crow/to put up with humiliation (depending of the context)

To swallow grass snakes

Example:

Alors c'est d'ici que cette machine de propagande, nous fait avaler des couleuvres. - So this is where that propaganda machine shoves their spin down our throat.

Day 221

Pédaler dans la semoule

To go to pieces

To pedal in semolina

Example:

Je suis une mule, ma manière de travailler consiste à me lever à la même heure chaque jour et suer et ramer et pédaler dans la semoule avec peine. - I'm a mule, and the way that I have to work is that I have to get up at the same time every day, and sweat and labour and barrel through it really awkwardly.

Day 222
Courir comme un lapin
To be scared as a rabbit
To run like a rabbit

Example:

Vous avez détalé comme un lapin après avoir tué Dupont - You ran like a rabbit after you killed Dupont

Day 223
Ce ne sont pas vos oignons
It is none of your business
Those are not your onions

Example:

Ce ne sont vraiment pas vos oignons. - It's really none of your business.

Day 224
Gourmand comme un chat
Greedy but picky
Gourmand like a cat

Example:

Mon fils est gourmand comme un chat - My son is a very picky eater

Week 32 Recap:

1/ Explain this French expression «Ce ne sont pas vos oignons» in English.

2/ Can you translate «To go to pieces» in French?

Answer:

Ce ne sont pas vos oignons
It is none of your business
Those are not your onions

Pédaler dans la semoule
To go to pieces
To pedal in semolina

Week 33

Day 225

Bon an, mal an

Year in, year out

Good year, bad year

Example:

Au cours des 12 dernières années, bon an, mal an, il y a eu, annuellement, entre 2 milliards et 7 milliards de dollars de surplus. - Over the past 12 years, year in and year out, there has been an annual surplus of between \$2 billion and \$7 billion.

Day 226

Savoir où le bât blesse

To know someone's secret weaknesses

To know where the pack-saddle hurts

Example:

Elle savait où le bât blesse. - She knew how to hurt a guy.

Day 227

Ne pas y aller par quatre chemins

Being direct

To not go by four ways

Example:

Je ne vais pas y aller par quatre chemins. - This is difficult, so I'm gonna cut right to it.

Day 228

Remettre les pendules à l'heure

To set the clock right

To set the record straight

Example:

Je voudrais remettre les pendules à l'heure. - I would like to set the record straight.

Day 229

Croquer la vie à belles dents

To experience something to the fullest

To bite with all one's teeth

Example:

Un potager ou un jardin de fines herbes - ne serait-ce que sur le balcon - permet de croquer la fraîcheur à belles dents tous les jours. - A vegetable or herb garden - even a small one on your balcony - lets you add fresh, crisp, homegrown goodness to your everyday menus.

Day 230

Il ne faut jamais dire: fontaine je ne boirai pas de ton eau

One must never swear that one will never do or need something

One must never say "fountain I will not drink your water"

Example:

Il ne faut jamais dire jamais. - Darling, you must never say never.

Day 231

Sonner les cloches

To get a telling-off

To ring the bells

Example:

On va sonner les cloches à l'entrepreneur qui a fait ça. - The builder's in for a dressing down.

Week 33 Recap:

1/ Explain this French expression «Savoir où le bât blesse» in English.

2/ Can you translate «Being direct» in French?

Answer:

Savoir où le bât blesse
To know someone's secret weaknesses
To know where the pack-saddle hurts

Ne pas y aller par quatre chemins
Being direct
To not go by four ways

Week 34

Day 232

Caractère de cochon

Nasty disposition

Pig's personality

Example:

J'avais un caractère de cochon et... je tapais sur les autres. - I always had this kind of temper. I used to beat up on the other kids.

Day 233

Faire la tête

To sulk

To do the head

Example:

Allez, Mariette. Vous n'allez pas faire la tête pour des bananes. - Come on, Mariette, don't sulk over bananas.

Day 234

Nous n'avons pas élevé les cochons ensemble

Your familiarity is not acceptable

We did not raise pigs together

Example:

On n'a pas gardé les cochons ensemble. - I don't know you from Adam's off ox.

Day 235

Faire un tabac

To have great success

To make a tobacco

Example:

Ouais, ça va faire un tabac. - Yeah, it's gonna be a huge hit.

Day 236

Changer de crèmerie

Leaving a place to go to another

Change the creamery

Example:

J'ai dû changer de crèmerie. - I had to go to a new place.

Day 237

Prendre ses jambes à son cou
To run away quickly/to escape
To take one's legs to one's neck

Example:

Je l'ai fait saigner et il a pris ses jambes à son cou. - I drew blood, and he took off as fast as he could.

Day 238

Avoir des casseroles au cul
To be haunted by a scandal
To have saucépans hung on the ass

Example:

Cet homme politique a beaucoup de casseroles au cul - This politician is haunted by scandals

Week 34 Recap:

1/ Explain this French expression «Nous n'avons pas élevé les cochons ensemble» in English.

2/ Can you translate «to have great success» in French?

Answer:

Nous n'avons pas élevé les cochons ensemble

Your familiarity is not acceptable

We did not raise pigs together

Faire un tabac

To have great success

To make a tobacco

Week 35

Day 239

Avoir un chat dans la gorge
To have a frog in your throat
To have a cat in one's throat

Example:

J'ai dû avoir un chat dans la gorge. - Must've been a frog in my throat.

Day 240

Manger à tout les râteliers
To profit from every available source
To eat at all the hayracks

Example:

Tu as mangé à tous les râteliers. - You been raking down out of every pot.

Day 241

Gros comme un cochon
Fat as a pig
Fat like a pig

Example:

Tu es gros comme un cochon. - You are fat as a pig

Day 242

Ça vaut son pesant de cacahuètes
Ironically: That's priceless
It is worth its weight in peanuts

Example:

Cette peinture vaut son pesant d'or. - This painting is worth a great deal of money.

Day 243

Se faire coller
To get detention
To get glued

Example:

Il s'est fait coller- He'd get detention

Day 244

Tourner autour du pot
To go around in circles
To circle around the pot

Example:

Arrête de tourner autour du pot et dis-nous où est Jean. - Stop dancing around and tell us where we can find Jean.

Day 245

Crever comme un chien
To die in an undignified manner/to die like a dog
To burst like a dog

Example:

Ils te laisseraient crever comme un chien au bord de la route! - They'll let you die like a dog on the side of the road!

Week 35 Recap:

1/ Explain this French expression «Avoir un chat dans la gorge » in English.

2/ Can you translate «Ironically: That's priceless» in French?

Answer:

Avoir un chat dans la gorge
To have a frog in your throat
To have a cat in one's throat

Ça vaut son pesant de cacahuètes
Ironically: That's priceless
It is worth its weight in peanuts

Week 36

Day 246

Filer un mauvais coton

To be in a bad way/to go down the wrong road

To spin bad cotton

Example:

Je voudrais pas te voir filer un mauvais coton. - I don't want you to take the wrong path.

Day 247

Jamais deux sans trois

Things always come in threes

Never two without three

Example:

On ne dit jamais deux sans trois, en chance comme en malchance. - Just as luck appears in threes, misfortune also arrives three times.

Day 248

Chargé comme une mule

Heavily loaded

Loaded up like a mule

Example:

Dis moi, tu es chargé comme une mule aujourd'hui - You are heavily loaded today

Day 249

Trois pelés et un tondu

Very few people

Three mangy and one shorn animals

Example:

On est trois pelés et un tondu et vous, vous ramenez un prisonnier... - You could count us on the fingers of one hand and you bring in a prisoner?

Day 250

Passer au peigne fin

To check things meticulously

To go over something with a fine-tooth comb

Example:

La communauté internationale est invitée à passer au peigne fin notre dossier des droits de l'homme. - The international community is welcome to scrutinise our human rights record.

Day 251
Faire le singe
To monkey about/to goof off
To do the monkey

Example:
Arrête de faire le singe - Stop goofing around

Day 252
Gueule
Animal mouth/human face/appearance
Muzzle

Example:
Une belle gueule attire la sympathie - You need a pretty face to attract sympathy

Week 36 Recap:

1/ Explain this French expression «Jamais deux sans trois» in English.

2/ Can you translate «heavily loaded» in French?

Answer:

Jamais deux sans trois
Things always come in threes
Never two without three

Chargé comme une mule
Heavily loaded
Loaded up like a mule

Week 37

Day 253

Rouler sur l'or

To be very rich

To roll on gold

Example:

Il se rémunère en vendant parallèlement des services informatiques. Il est loin de rouler sur l'or. - He makes money by selling IT services alongside; he is far from being super rich.

Day 254

Pousser le bouchon

To push something a bit too far

To push the cork

Example:

On essaie de pousser le bouchon plus loin, pour vraiment clarifier les positions de l'OMC. - I mean, we keep trying to push things further to try to really clarify the positions of the WTO to make them legible.

Day 255

Ne pas pouvoir être au four et au moulin

One can't be in two places at once

One can't be at the oven and at the mill

Example:

On ne peut pas être au four et au moulin. - You can't have your cake and eat it too.

Day 256

Être dans de beaux draps

To be in a bad situation

To find yourself in fine bed sheets

Example:

Ton amie a l'air d'être dans de beaux draps. - Your friend sounds like she's in trouble.

Day 257

Rendre son tablier

To give up/to resign

To give back one's apron

Example:

Certaines dames sont prêtes à rendre leur tablier. - Some of your ladies have already agreed to resign.

Day 258
Faire long feu ici
To leave soon/to stand
Not make long fire

Example:
Je ne vais pas faire long feu ici - I am leaving soon

Day 259
Ne pas avoir les yeux en face des trous
Not seeing something obvious
To not have one's eyes in the right sockets

Example:
Regarde cet arbitre, il n'a pas les yeux en face des trous. - Look at this referee, he cannot see something obvious

Week 37 Recap:

1/ Explain this French expression «Pousser le bouchon» in English.

2/ Can you translate «To be in a bad situation» in French?

Answer:

Pousser le bouchon
To push something a bit too far
To push the cork

Être dans de beaux draps
To be in a bad situation
To find yourself in fine bed sheets

Week 38

Day 260

Être dans le pétrin

To be in trouble /to have problems

To be in a mess

Example:

Je suis dans le pétrin, j'ai besoin d'argent - I'm in trouble, I need money

Day 261

Presser comme un citron

To exploit

To squeeze like a lemon

Example:

Je vais te presser comme un citron. - I'll squeeze the life out of you.

Day 262

Bête comme ses pieds

Very stupid

Dumb as one's feet

Example:

Vous êtes bêtes comme vos pieds! - You are as stupid as you look!

Day 263

Avoir bon dos

To be an easy scapegoat

To have [a] good back

Example:

La grippe aviaire a bon dos. - So much for the bird flu.

Day 264

Avoir les jetons

To be scared/to have the jitters

To have the tokens

Example:

Je commence à avoir les jetons. I'm beginning to become scared shitless.

Day 265
Se regarder le nombril
Being self-centered and pretentious
To look at your navel

Example:

Le gouvernement se regarde le nombril. - This is navel-gazing by the government.

Day 266
Jeter l'éponge
To abandon a cause/ to give up/to throw in the towel
To throw the sponge

Example:

On ne peut pas jeter l'éponge maintenant. - We can't throw in the towel now.

Week 38 Recap:

1/ Explain this French expression «Bête comme ses pieds» in English.

2/ Can you translate «To be scared/to have the jitters» in French?

Answer:

Bête comme ses pieds

Very stupid

Dumb as one's feet

Avoir les jetons

To be scared/to have the jitters

To have the tokens

Week 39

Day 267

Vendre la mèche

Betray a secret

To sell the wick

Example:

Il allait bientôt vendre la mèche. Il devenait urgent de l'éliminer. - He was about to blow the whistle and had to be taken care of.

Day 268

Arriver comme un chien dans un jeu de quille

To turn up when least desired or expected

To arrive like a dog in a bowling game

Example:

Sans vous à ses côtés, il était comme un chien dans un jeu de quilles. - Without you by his side, he was as discomfited as a short dog in tall grass.

Day 269

La tête dans le guidon

Very busy/focused on one goal or task

One's head in the handlebars

Example:

Depuis trois mois, j'ai la tête dans le guidon. - I have been really working hard for the past three months

Day 270

Il n'est pas né de la dernière pluie

He wasn't born yesterday

He wasn't born from the last rain

Example:

On n'est pas né de la dernière pluie. - We haven't been born yesterday, you know.

Day 271

Refiler la patate chaude

Getting rid of an embarrassing business by giving it to somebody else

To pass the hot potato

Example:

T'as pas trouvé mieux pour me refiler la patate chaude? - Is that your lame attempt to try and pass the hot seat/buck to me?

Day 272
Rouler des mécaniques
To walk in a pretentious way (only used for men)
To diddle one's mechanics

Example:

Tommy roule des mécaniques comme s'il était chez lui. - Tommy walks around here like he owns the place.

Day 273
Mettre son grain de sel
To butt in/to give one's two cents
To add one's grain of salt

Example:

Un vieux soldat peut-il venir mettre son grain de sel ici? - Can an old soldier put his two cents worth in here?

Week 39 Recap:

1/ Explain this French expression «Il n'est pas né de la dernière pluie» in English.

2/ Can you translate «Betray a secret» in French?

Answer:

Il n'est pas né de la dernière pluie

He wasn't born yesterday

He wasn't born from the last rain

Vendre la mèche

Betray a secret

To sell the wick

Week 40

Day 274

Arrête ton char!

Stop exaggerating!

Stop your chariot!

Example:

Arrête ton char ou je te casse les bras. - Don't you get smart with me; I'll break both your arms.

Day 275

Perdre son latin

To get confused

To lose one's Latin (language)

Example:

C'est à en perdre son latin. - I cannot make head or tail of it.

Day 276

Être à côté de la plaque

Providing an answer that has no connection with the question asked

To be on the wrong side of the plaque

Example:

J'ai l'impression d'être à côté de la plaque. - I just feel like lately I've fallen off the tracks.

Day 277

Cracher dans la soupe

To treat what's given to you with disdain

To spit in the soup

Example:

Je pense qu'il ne faut pas cracher dans la soupe. - I think people shouldn't bite the hand that feeds them.

Day 278

Veiller au grain

To be on one's guard

To mind the grain

Example:

Durant mon absence avec David, aide Jean à veiller au grain ici. - While I'm out with David, help Jean keep an eye on things around here.

Day 279
Bête à pleurer
So stupid you could cry
[so] dumb [as] to cry

Example:

Tu es vraiment bête à pleurer et têtue comme une mule. - You're so dumb, so dense.

Day 280
Brûler la chandelle par les deux bouts
To live life to the fullest/to spend a lot
To burn the candle from both sides

Example:

Je suis influent dans le monde du cinéma, je brûle la chandelle par les deux bouts. - I'm one of the movers and shakers in the film business now, living life in the fast lane!

Week 40 Recap:

1/ Explain this French expression «Arrête ton char!» in English.

2/ Can you translate «Providing an answer that has no connection with the question asked» in French?

Answer:

Arrête ton char!
Stop exaggerating!
Stop your chariot!

Être à côté de la plaque
Providing an answer that has no connection with the question asked
To be on the wrong side of the plaque

Week 41

Day 281

Chanter comme une casserole

To sing poorly

To sing like a saucepan

Example:

Non, en plus je chante comme une casserole. - No. I can't even carry a tune.

Day 282

La moutarde lui monte au nez

To be impatient and angry

Mustard is going up to his nose

Example:

Elle espère que ça te fera monté la moutarde au nez. - She hopes it rubs it in your face.

Day 283

Mettre des bâtons dans les roues

To cause trouble for someone in order to prevent them from achieving something

To put sticks in the wheels

Example:

C'est seulement mettre des bâtons dans les roues. - That is just putting up roadblocks.

Day 284

Avoir une mémoire d'éléphant

To have a good memory

To have an elephant's memory

Example:

J'ai une mémoire d'éléphant. - I can retain enormous amounts of information.

Day 285

Être une vraie girouette

To often change one's mind/to be very capricious

To be a windwave

Example:

Ce type est une vraie girouette: il change tout le temps d'avis. - That guy is a real weather vane: he constantly changes his mind.

Day 286
Mettre du piment dans sa vie
To spice up one's life
To put spice in one's life

Example:
Il faut mettre du piment dans sa vie de couple. - You have to add spice to your relationship.

Day 287
Bête comme chou
Something very easy to understand or to do
Silly as a cabbage

Example:
Vous reconnaîtrez alors que c'est bête comme chou - Then you will recognise that it is the easiest thing in the world.

Week 41 Recap:

- 1/ Explain this French expression «Mettre des bâtons dans les roues» in English.
- 2/ Can you translate «To often change one's mind/to be very capricious» in French?

Answer:

Mettre des bâtons dans les roues

To give troubles to cause trouble for someone in order to prevent him them from achieving something

To put sticks in the wheels

Être une vraie girouette

To often change one's mind/to be very capricious

To be a windwave

Week 42

Day 288

Jouer à chat perché

To play tag/tig

To play at perched cat

Example:

Jouer à chat perché ne passe pas de mode. - The game of tag never grows old.

Day 289

Vider son sac

To get it off one's chest

To empty one's bag

Example:

Il a juste besoin de vider son sac. - He just needs to get something off his chest.

Day 290

Avoir les dents longues

To be ambitious

To have long teeth

Example:

Il a les dents longues et il a de gros clients. - He's hungry, and he has many accounts.

Day 291

Écrire comme un cochon

To have bad handwriting

To write like a pig

Example:

Tu écris comme un cochon - You have such bad handwriting

Day 292

Tirer son chapeau

To show admiration

To pull one's hat

Example:

Il tire son chapeau à la femme de chambre - He tips his hat to the maid.

Day 293

Dormir sur ses deux oreilles - Dormir comme un loir

To sleep tight

To sleep on your two ears - To sleep like a dormouse

Example:

En tout cas, personne ne va dormir comme un loir ce soir. - I'll tell you one thing; nobody sleeps soundly tonight.

Day 294

A tombeau ouvert

At full speed/very quickly/live dangerously

An open grave

Example:

La cible va vers le nord, sur le boulevard Vernon, à tombeau ouvert.- Target's heading north on Vernon Boulevard at a high rate of speed.

Week 42 Recap:

1/ Explain this French expression «Vider son sac» in English.

2/Can you translate «To be ambitious» in French?

Answer:

Vider son sac
To get it off one's chest
To empty one's bag

Avoir les dents longues
To be ambitious
To have long teeth

Week 43

Day 295

Arriver comme un cheveu sur la soupe

To come/to say something at an awkward moment

To arrive like a hair in the soup

Example:

J'étais en train d'imiter mon chef quand il est arrivé comme un cheveu sur la soupe. - I was doing an impersonation of my boss when he showed up.

Day 296

Couper la poire en deux

To meet halfway

To cut the pear in two

Example:

Je vous demanderais de couper la poire en deux. - I would ask you to meet me halfway.

Day 297

Avoir le cafard

To have the blues/to be down in the dumps

To have the cockroach

Example:

Tu ne peux pas avoir le cafard au delà d'une fois. - You can't get down in the dumps over one.

Day 298

Fier comme un pou

Vain

Proud like a louse

Example:

Tu vois Jean là-bas, fier comme un pou. - You see Jean over there, so full of himself now.

Day 299

L'habit ne fait pas le moine

Do not judge by appearances

The cloth does not make the monk

Example:

L'habit ne fait pas le moine. - You can't judge a book by its cover.

Day 300

Vendre la peau de l'ours avant de l'avoir tué
Don't boast too early of uncertain success
to sell the bear's skin before having killed it

Example:

Il ne faut pas vendre la peau de l'ours avant de l'avoir tué, mais tout semble indiquer que nous obtiendrons 27 ratifications.- We must not count our chickens before they are hatched, but everything would seem to indicate that we will get 27 ratifications.

Day 301

Il n'y a pas le feu
There is no hurry
There is no fire

Example:

Il n'y a pas le feu. - There's no rush

Week 43 Recap:

1/ Explain this French expression «Arriver comme un cheveu sur la soupe» in English.

2/ Can you translate «To meet halfway» in French?

Answer:

Arriver comme un cheveu sur la soupe
To come/to say something at an awkward moment
To arrive like a hair in the soup

Couper la poire en deux
To meet halfway
To cut the pear in two

Week 44

Day 302

Compter pour du beurre

To count for nothing

To count as butter

Example:

D'accord je compte pour du beurre, mais au moins un bonsoir. - Okay, I know I count for nothing, but not even a "good evening"?

Day 303

Malheureux comme les pierres

Very miserable

Unhappy as the stones

Example:

Ils doivent être malheureux comme les pierres! - Do you have any idea how miserable they must be?

Day 304

S'en laver les mains

To decline responsibility/to not care about something anymore

To wash one's hands of something

Example:

On a privatisé le système de transport et, aujourd'hui, le gouvernement s'en lave les mains. - The transportation system has been privatised and now the government is washing its hands of it.

Day 305

Avoir la patate / la pêche

To be in peak condition

To have the potatoe/peach

Example:

J'ai la patate ce matin. - I feel great this morning.

Day 306

Ça va chier des bulles

There'll be one hell of a row

It will shit bubbles

Example:

Sinon, ça va vraiment chier des bulles! - Or else, the shit is going to hit the fan!

Day 307

Devoir une fière chandelle

To be hugely indebted to someone

To owe someone a proud/fine candle

Example:

Il te doit une fière chandelle. - He owes you a debt of gratitude.

Day 308

Être d'un calme olympien

To be imperturbable

To be an Olympian calm

Example:

Je suis resté d'un calme olympien. - I was cool, calm.

Week 44 Recap:

- 1/ Explain this French expression «Compter pour du beurre» in English.
- 2/ Can you translate «There'll be one hell of a row» in French?

Answer:

Compter pour du beurre

To count for nothing

To count as butter

Ça va chier des bulles

There'll be one hell of a row

It will shit bubbles

Week 45

Day 309

Beau comme un camion

Very beautiful

Pretty like a truck

Example:

Papa, tu es beau comme un camion. - Dad, you look sharp as a tack.

Day 310

Parier sur le mauvais cheval

Trust the wrong person

Bet on the bad horse

Example:

On a misé sur le mauvais cheval. - We were barking up the wrong tree,

Day 311

Les vaches maigres

Lack of resources

Thin cows

Example:

Il va se prendre sept années de vaches maigres... - He is about to hit seven years of lean.

Day 312

Rougir jusqu'aux oreilles

To blush

To blush to the ears

Example:

Il a rougi jusqu'aux oreilles. - Didn't you see how he was blushing?

Day 313

Ne pas mâcher ses mots

To not mince one's words

To not chew one's word

Example:

Le texte ne mâche pas ses mots. - The text does not mince words.

Day 314

Faire une queue de poisson (à quelqu'un)

To cut in front of someone while driving

To do a fish tail (to someone)

Example:

Un gamin m'a fait une queue de poisson au feu rouge, alors je l'ai suivi. - Kid in a truck cut me off at the light, so I followed him instead.

Day 315

Prendre la clé des champs

To escape/to run away

To take the key to the fields

Example:

Sarah a pris la clé des champs. - Sarah's grazing in greener pastures.

Week 45 Recap:

1/ Explain this French expression «Faire une queue de poisson» in English.

2/ Can you translate «To not mince one's words» in French?

Answer:

Faire une queue de poisson (à quelqu'un)
To cut in front of someone while driving
To do a fish tail (to someone)

Ne pas mâcher ses mots
To not mince one's words
To not chew one's words

Week 46

Day 316

Fou comme un jeune chien

Crazy

Crazy like a young dog

Example:

Jean est fou comme un jeune chien. - Jean is crazy as a shithouse rat.

Day 317

Être le bourreau des coeurs

To be a Casanova

To be an executioner of hearts

Example:

En tout cas, c'est un bourreau des coeurs. - He's a heartbreaker, that's for sure.

Day 318

Avoir une faim de loup

To be famished

To have a wolf's hunger

Example:

Ouf, une faim de loup! - Wow, I'm really famished!

Day 319

Gueuler

To bawl, to bellow

To muzzle

Example:

Si le ministre des Transports pouvait cesser de gueuler, il comprendrait peut-être une question pour une fois dans sa vie. - If the Minister of Transport would stop bellowing, perhaps for once in his life he would understand a question.

Day 320

Comme ci, comme ça

Neither good nor bad/just so-so

Like this, like that

Example:

Au début surtout, c'était comme ci comme ça entre nous. - Especially at first, things were just so-so between us.

Day 321
Casser la croûte
To eat
To break the crust

Example:

Vous pouvez aussi y savourer un excellent café et même y casser la croûte - You can also enjoy an excellent coffee and even get a bite to eat

Day 322
Entrer comme dans un moulin
To barge in
To enter premises like it is a mill

Example:

On n'entre pas ici comme dans un moulin... - You can't just go barging in during work hours.

Week 46 Recap:

1/ Explain this French expression «Être le bourreau des coeurs» in English.

2/ Can you translate «to be famished» in French?

Answer:

Être le bourreau des cœurs
To be a Casanova
To be an executioner of hearts

Avoir une faim de loup
To be famished
To have a wolf's hunger

Week 47

Day 323

Couper les cheveux en quatre

To split hairs

To cut hairs in four

Example:

Nous ne voulons pas couper les cheveux en quatre. - We do not want to split hairs here

Day 324

Être sous les verrous

To be in prison

To be under lock

Example:

Ne devrais-tu pas être sous les verrous, David? - Aren't you supposed to be in prison, David?

Day 325

Avoir mangé du lion

To have a tiger in one's tank/to have incredible energy

To have eaten lion

Example:

Tu as mangé du lion au petit-déjeuner. - You have nags for breakfast.

Day 326

Tenir la chandelle

To be the third wheel

To hold the candle

Example:

Je vais tenir la chandelle pour le restant de mes jours. - I'm gonna be a third wheel for the rest of my life.

Day 327

Il n'y a pas un chat

There is no one

There is not a single cat

Example:

Il n'y a pas un chat ici, crois-moi. - There's no one within 25 miles, believe me.

Day 328

Prendre la mouche

To get annoyed/angry, usually for a trivial reason

To take the fly

Example:

Il ne va pas prendre la mouche... - He won't be offended.

Day 329

Avoir / Passer une nuit blanche

To have a sleepless night

To have / spend a white night

Example:

Ils passent une nuit blanche. - They spent a sleepless night.

Week 47 Recap:

1/ Explain this French expression «avoir mangé du lion» in English.

2/ Can you translate «To be the third wheel» in French?

Answer:

Avoir mangé du lion

To have a tiger in one's tank/to have incredible energy

To have eaten lion

Tenir la chandelle

To be the third wheel

To hold the candle

Week 48

Day 330

Faire un chèque en bois

A rubbercheque

To do a woodencheque

Example:

Cette appréciation n'est cependant ni un chèque en bois, ni un chèque en blanc. - This positive opinion is not, however, either a rubber cheque, nor a blank cheque.

Day 331

Comme un éléphant dans un magasin de porcelaine

Careless in thought or action/like a bull in a china shop

Like an elephant in a porcelain/china shop

Example:

Parfois je suis comme un éléphant dans un magasin de porcelaine. - I'm like a bull in a china shop.

Day 332

Ça me fait une belle jambe

A fat lot of good that does me!

It makes me a nice leg

Example:

Ça me fait une belle jambe parce que mes mains étaient là. - Yeah, that does me a lot of good, seeing as my hands were here.

Day 333

Raconter des salades

To make things up

To tell salads

Example:

J'ai tendance à me raconter des salades. - I have a tendency to kid myself that everything's OK.

Day 334
Amoureuse comme une chatte
Very affectionate
Loving like a pussycat

Example:

Je me souviens avoir été amoureuse comme une chatte - I remember being in love like that.

Day 335
Laver son linge sale en famille
Do not make a scene in public/ air your dirty laundry in public
To wash your dirty linen within the family

Example:

J'estime qu'il est tout à fait normal de laver son linge sale en privé et non en public. - In my opinion, it is normal to wash your dirty laundry at home and not out in the street.

Day 336
Faire tourner en bourrique
To annoy/to drive crazy
To make [one] turn into donkey

Example:

On veut me faire tourner en bourrique, je ne l'ouvre jamais. - Anybody can push me around all they want to, and I never do anything about it.

Week 48 Recap:

- 1/ Explain this French expression «comme un éléphant dans un magasin de porcelaine» in English.
- 2/ Can you translate «To make things up» in French?

Answer:

Comme un éléphant dans un magasin de porcelaine
Careless in thought or action/like a bull in a china shop
Like an elephant in a porcelain shop

Raconter des salades
To make things up
To tell salads

Week 49

Day 337

Être aux anges

To be ecstatic/to be over the moon

To be with the angels

Example:

Ta maman doit être aux anges depuis ton retour. - I know your mum's thrilled to have you back.

Day 338

Jeter un froid

To put a damper on things

To throw a cold

Example:

Je ne voulais pas jeter un froid. - I didn't mean to throw a damper.

Day 339

Avoir du bol

To be lucky

To have some bowl

Example:

On peut pas tous avoir du bol. - Well, you can't all be lucky.

Day 340

Avoir les dents du fond qui baignent

To be overfed

to have one's back teeth swimming

Example:

J'ai les dents du fond qui baignent. - Oh, I threw up in my mouth a little.

Day 341

Avoir la main verte

Know how to maintain plants harmoniously

To have a green hand

Example:

D'après ma fille, je suis loin d'avoir la main verte - According to my daughter, I have whatever the opposite of a green thumb is.

Day 342
Fauché comme les blés
Broke
Reaped like the wheat

Example:
Je suis fauchée comme les blés. – I'm flat-out dead broke.

Day 343
Hurler avec les loups
To conform/to run with the crowd
To howl with the wolves

Example:
Eh bien, c'est bon parfois, de hurler avec les loups. - Sometimes it's fun to run with the pack.

Week 49 Recap:

1/ Explain this French expression «Jeter un froid» in English.

2/Can you translate «To be lucky» in French?

Answer:

Jeter un froid
To put a damper on things
To throw a cold

Avoir du bol
To be lucky
To have some bowl

Week 50

Day 344

Faire pleurer dans les chaumières

To get sentimental

To make people cry in their cottages

Example:

Ça va faire pleurer dans les chaumières. - The story will rock the country.

Day 345

Faire la pluie et le beau temps

To call the shots

To make rain and good weather

Example:

Ce n'est pas normal qu'on puisse permettre à des gangs criminalisées de faire la pluie et le beau temps - It is not right for criminal gangs to call the shots.

Day 346

Passer un savon

To reprimand

To give a soap

Example:

Mes supérieurs viennent de me passer un savon. - I just had a very unpleasant conversation with my superiors.

Day 347

Faire mouche

To find exactly something, to touch or score the goal

To do a fly

Example:

Il a vraiment fait mouche sur des thèmes très importants. - His intervention really hit on some important themes.

Day 348

Il n'y a pas de quoi fouetter un chat

It's nothing to make a fuss about

There's nothing to whip a cat about

Example:

Jusqu'à maintenant, il n'y a pas de quoi fouetter un chat. - There is nothing so far to make a fuss about here.

Day 349
Dérouler le tapis rouge
To roll out the red carpet
To unroll the red carpet

Example:

Il a promis de dérouler le tapis rouge. - He's promised to roll out the red carpet for us.

Day 350
Chercher la petite bête
To nit-pick
To look for the smallest bug

Example:

Les députés trouveront toujours un moyen de chercher la petite bête. - Members will always find a way to pick a scab.

Week 50 Recap:

1/ Explain this French expression «Faire la pluie et le beau temps» in English.

2/Can you translate «To reprimand» in French?

Answer:

Faire la pluie et le beau temps
To call the shots
To make rain and good weather

Passer un savon
To reprimand
To give a soap

Week 51

Day 351

Casser sa pipe

To die

To break one's pipe

Example:

La vieille a cassé sa pipe... avant-hier. - The old lady just kicked... ..day before yesterday.

Day 352

Faire quelque chose au nez et à la barbe de quelqu'un

To do something in front of someone without them noticing

To do something to someone's nose and beard

Example:

Nous l'avons fait au nez et à la barbe de notre propre opinion publique. - We did this in the face of our own public opinion.

Day 353

Il y a une couille dans le potage

There is a problem here

There is a ball (i.e., testicle) in the soup

Example:

Il y a une couille dans le potage? - There is a fly in the ointment.

Day 354

Avoir une peur bleue

To have a bad scare

To have a blue fear

Example:

C'est la meilleure façon d'avoir une peur bleue. - It's the easiest way of being scared to death that I know of.

Day 355

Bête noire

Nemesis/pet peeve

Black beast

Example:

C'est vraiment ma bête noire, en fait. - It's a big pet peeve, actually.

Day 356
Gueule de bois
Hangover
Wooden muzzle

Example:

Elle avait l'air d'avoir la gueule de bois, ce matin. - Well, she looked pretty hungover this morning.

Day 357
Tenir la jambe à quelqu'un
To prevent someone from leaving by talking to them
To hold somebody's leg

Example:

Tous les ans il me tient la jambe - Every year he corners me

Week 51 Recap:

- 1/ Explain this French expression «faire quelque chose au nez et à la barbe de quelqu'un» in English.
- 2/ Can you translate «To have a bad scare» in French?

Answer:

Faire quelque chose au nez et à la barbe de quelqu'un
To do something in front of someone without them noticing
To do something to someone's nose and beard

Avoir une peur bleue
To have a bad scare
To have a blue fear

Week 52

Day 358

Tailler une bavette

To have a good chat

To carve a flank steak

Example:

J'adorerais tailler une bavette, mais je dois filer. - I wish I could really stay here and chat with you guys, but I'm gonna get away.

Day 359

Muet comme une carpe

Silent

Silent as a carp

Example:

Il est muet comme une carpe. - He is silent as the grave.

Day 360

Ne pas être sorti de l'auberge

Our troubles are not over'

Not to be out of the inn yet

Example:

On est pas sortis de l'auberge. - We're still in trouble, all right?

Day 361

Montrer de quel bois on se chauffe

To show what one is made of

To show with what wood one warms oneself

Example:

Alors, on va leur montrer de quel bois on se chauffe pour qu'ils se souviennent de nous. - So, what do you say we just give them something to remember us.

Day 362

Ramener sa fraise

To stick one's nose in

To bring one's strawberry

Example:

La dernière chose dont il ait envie est que je ramène ma fraise, d'accord ? - The last thing he wants is me rattling his cage, right?

Day 363
En voir des vertes et des pas mûres
To witness shocking things
To see some green and less than ripe things

Example:

Vous devez en voir des vertes et des pas mûres. - These things happen. I bet you see a lot working in a place like this.

Day 364
Une histoire à dormir debout
Impossible/not realistic
A story to sleep standing-up

Example:

Quelqu'un nous raconte une histoire à dormir debout et on l'écoute! - Someone starts telling us fairy tales and we're listening!

Day 365
À bon chat, bon rat
Tit-for-tat
To a good cat, a good rat

Example:

A bon chat, à bon rat - Diamond cuts diamond.

Week 52 Recap:

- 1/ Explain this French expression «Montrer de quel bois on se chauffe » in English.
- 2/ Can you translate «Impossible; not realistic» in French?

Answer:

Montrer de quel bois on se chauffe

To show what one is made of

To show with what wood one warms oneself

Une histoire à dormir debout

Impossible/not realistic

A story to sleep standing-up

How to download the MP3 ?

Please go to this page to download the MP3 :

<http://www.talkin french.com/download-mp3-365-days-french-expressions/>

If you have any issue to download the MP3. Do not hesitate contact me at frederic@talkin french.com

About the author:

Frédéric BIBARD is the founder of Talkinfrench.com. He helps motivated learners to improve their French and create a learning habit.

Questions about the ebook or French?

Contact me via email or through the Facebook page.

Email: Frederic@talkinfrench.com

Facebook: facebook.com/talkinfrench

I want your feedback.

Please write a review.

After reading, please write an honest, unbiased review. I look forward to reading it.

Write a review now.

Thank you so much, merci beaucoup.

Frédéric BIBARD

Others Ebooks:

If you are looking to improve your French. You should definitely check out my other ebooks:

Beginner's French Grammar in 30 Days

“Remove the pain of learning French grammar by building a learning habit with this ebook”

All the essential French Grammar rules for beginners.

1. 1 Day = 1 Short Lesson
2. Simple exercises
3. 78 MP3s (pronunciation) included
4. No more than 15 minutes per day
5. **30 day money back guarantee**
6. 154pages (PDF). **Instant download! No more waiting to study. Carry everywhere: PC / Tablet / Smartphone.**

[Learn more Here](#)

Intermediate French Grammar in 30 Days

All the essential French Grammar rules for beginners.

1. 1 Day = 1 Short Lesson
2. Simple exercises
3. 156 MP3s (pronunciation) included
4. Not more than 15 minutes per day
5. **30 day money back guarantee**
6. 156 pages (PDF). **Instant download! No more waiting to study. Carry everywhere: PC / Tablet / Smartphone.**

[Learn more Here](#)

Never Memorise the Gender of French Nouns again.

Learn it like the French with the revolutionary '30 days to master the gender of French Nouns'

How does it work exactly?

Each day, for 30 days, you will have to listen 20 words (not memorising) several times. There is a checklist of the words of the day; it will help you to verify that you are becoming proficient at gender.

You will find 4 tracks (MP3) per day (total 120 tracks) at different speeds:

1. Normal speed: "Un livre / Le livre"
2. Slow (to allow you repeat the word): Un livre....
3. Random: Again there is a pause to allow you to repeat the word, but in a different order.
4. Quiz: I say the word without saying the gender (for example: "livre") and you have to repeat with the right article ("un livre") - then you will hear the correct answer.

Every 5 days you will have a mini quiz.

Do not hesitate to repeat the Mp3 once or twice to make sure you've got it right.

Learn the Gender of French Words without any memorisation.

New! A bonus ebook with 7 more days to practice the Gender of French Nouns for daily use (Food / Clothes) **for FREE**

[Learn More here](#)

Want to speak like the French?

“All the essential French Slang to speak like French People”

If you want to learn the right way and understand contemporary French on the street or TV/Radio, and not what you learned in your textbooks, then you should definitely check out this **ebook**.

No fluff or filler here. Just a straight to the point list of slang, idioms broken down into 18 sections.

1. 23 topics covered
2. **MP3 (pronunciation) included**
3. **1400 words**
4. Bonus: A second ebook with more than 200 words used by youngsters **for Free**

[Learn more here:](#)

Podcast

Want to learn French culture and language on the go?

Then you should check out my podcast here:

- Weekly Informations about French Culture.
- A list of French Words with English Translation.
- A quick French Grammar Explanation.
- A list of French Expressions and their translation

On iTunes:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/talkinfrenchs-podcast/id866549283?l=en>

Directly on my website:

<http://www.talkinfrench.com/podcast-category/>

Copyright Talk in French - 2014