

# FRENCH SLANG & IDIOMS

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This glossary was prompted largely by my new-found addiction to French *policier* films and TV series... I thought I knew French pretty well, but found myself constantly having to look up a lot of words that I certainly never learned as part of my formal education or years working as a translator. A lot of them are colourful, earthy and – whisper it – perhaps best avoided in conversation with your maiden aunt... So rather fun. *Ça alors! Désolée* for any offence caused...

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<b>A</b>	
abaler	to shoot down ( <i>regional, dialect?</i> )
abois	
aux abois	desperate ( <i>lit. "at bay"</i> )
accrocher	( <i>intrans. vb.</i> ) to take to ( <i>something</i> )
on a accroché	we hit it off
accouche!	spit it out!
s'affoler	to panic
agneau immolé	sacrificial lamb
air	
changer d'air	to disappear
tu ne manques	
pas d'air	you've got a nerve
aise	
à votre aise	suit yourself
allumer	to turn someone on

allumette	
taillé comme une	
allumette	short and skinny
âme	
rendre l'âme	to give up the ghost
amérloque	Yank
âne	
peser un âne mort	<i>(La Fontaine fable)</i> to weigh a ton
Apache	
Fort Apache	lawless territory <i>(after the 1948 John Ford Western)</i>
c'est Fort Apache	it's a jungle out there
ardoise	
il a une ardoise	he has a <i>(criminal)</i> record
arme blanche	knife, bladed weapon <i>(as opposed to firearm)</i>
armoire à glace	<i>(to be built like a)</i> tank, brick shithouse
arrache	
à l'arrache	on the fly ("winging it")
arracher	
on s'arrache!	let's go, we're out of here!
assiette	
ne pas être dans	to be <i>(physically)</i> under the weather,
son assiette	<i>(mentally)</i> ill at ease, unhappy
assommer	to knock out
avocat	defence lawyer <i>(as opposed to procureur)</i>

## B

bâche	tarp, tarpaulin
bâclé	sloppy, botched
baguette	
partir en baguette	to go horribly awry
avoir en baguettes	( <b>unconfirmed</b> ) to have in spades
baïlloner	( <i>trans.vb.</i> ) to gag
balader	to string someone along
on nous balade	we're being taken for a ride
balance	grass, snitch <i>see also</i> <a href="#">mouchard</a>
balancer	to grass up, denounce, inform on, drop someone in it ( <i>person</i> ); to dump, chuck away ( <i>object</i> )
balèze	tough, hard, brawny
balise	tag, tracker ( <i>on vehicle, person</i> )
ballon	prison
barbouze; barbouzard	(undercover) agent, spy ( <i>source: the Barbouzes were counterinsurgents working for the French secret police in Algeria, early 1960s</i> )
barge	mad
barjot	nutter
barre	penis
barré	crazy
(se) barrer	to push off, leave
baskets, basquettes	trainers ( <i>shoes</i> )
bateau	
c'est bateau	it's old hat, stating the obvious
mener en bateau	to take someone for a ride
battage	ballyhoo, (media) frenzy
batté	stoned, high
battue	
faire une battue	to organise a search party

bec	kiss
prise de bec	spat, tiff
béguin	crush
bête	
chercher la petite bête	to split hairs
béton ( <i>as adj.</i> )	rock solid ( <i>e.g. alibi</i> )
beuguer	to not work, pose a problem ( <i>from Eng. bug</i> )
bidouillage	tinkering, fiddling, tampering
bidouille	cheap fix, botched job
bignole	concierge ( <i>old-fashioned</i> )
bique	old bag ( <i>woman</i> )
bisbille	squabble, bickering
biscuit	
tremper son biscuit	to dip one's wick
biscuits	nuggets of ( <i>useful</i> ) information
bite ( <i>f.</i> )	knob ( <i>penis</i> )
blairer	
je ne peux pas	
le blairer	I can't stand him
blanc	
mariage blanc	unconsummated marriage
blanc-bleu	( <i>person</i> ) whiter than white, 100% honest
blé	dosh
bled	village (= <i>the sticks, rural location</i> )
bleu	rookie
blinde	
coûter une blinde	to cost a fortune
bluffé	blown away, impressed
bois	
cheque en bois	rubber cheque
fait du même bois	cut from the same cloth
langue de bois	bullshit, weasel words
sortir du bois	see <a href="#">placard</a>
bol	
avoir du bol	to be lucky
bombe	stunner, looker ( <i>of a woman</i> )

bonbon	
coûter bonbon	to cost a packet
bond	
faire faux bond à quelqu'un	to stand someone up; let someone down
bondieuseries	cheap ( <i>religious</i> ) tat
bordélique	shambolic, messy
borne	police call box
bouchon	
pousser le bouchon un peu loin	to exaggerate
bouclé	under lock and key
bouclier	
levée des boucliers	general outcry
boudin	fatty ( <i>person</i> )
boue	
tas de boue	old banger ( <i>car</i> )
bouffer	
bouffer du lion	to be full of beans, on fire
se bouffer le nez	be at each other's throats
bougnoul; -lle	"dirty Arab" ( <i>very pejorative</i> )
boule (f.)	ball ( <i>testicle</i> )
boule à zero	shaven head, buzzcut, "number 1"
perdre la boule	to lose one's marbles
boule (m.)	arse
boulette	blunder
bourde	blunder, slip-up
bourdin	1. moron; 2. liar ( <i>possibly from Old French bourde, or a reference to Frédéric Bourdin, real-life character in 2 films, Le Caméléon and The Imposter</i> )
bourrer	to humiliate, to trash someone
bourses	balls (= <i>testicles</i> )
bousiller	to screw up, botch
bout	
à bout portant	at point blank range
joinder les deux bouts	to make ends meet
box	lock-up ( <i>garage, e.g.</i> )

boxon	brothel
bracage/braquage	hold-up, raid
(se) braquer	to clam up, to turn hostile
braqueur	gunman, armed robber
(se) branler	to wank
branlette	wank, hand job
(se) braquer	to clam up, dig one's heels in, rebel, be hostile
bras	
avoir le bras long	to have influence
avoir sur les bras	to have on one's hands
baisser les bras	to throw in the towel
à tour de bras	at every turn
bras d'honneur	the finger ( <i>insulting gesture</i> )
BRB	Brigade de Répression du Banditisme (= serious crime squad)
brebis galeuse	black sheep
brêle	idiot
bricoles	bits & bobs
brique	ten grand ( <i>euros, dollars etc. = 10,000</i> )
brouiller	
brouiller les pistes	to muddy the waters, cover one's tracks
buter	to take out, kill
butin	loot, haul

## C

cabossé	bashed up, dented ( <i>car. e.g.</i> )
cachette	stash
cadavre	
cadavre dans le placard	skeleton in the cupboard
cadre	
sortir du cadre	to think outside the box
cafteur/-euse	see <a href="#">mouchard</a>
cagade	foul-up, mess
cagnotte	fundraiser
ça caille	it's freezing cold
caillou	rock ( <i>gemstone</i> )
caisse	1. car, ( <i>set of</i> ) wheels; 2. Room
caisse noire	slush fund
caler	
je cale	I'm stuffed ( <i>food</i> )
calibré	armed
câlin	hug, cuddle
faire un câlin	to have/give a cuddle
came	dope, drugs
canard	
canard boiteux	lame duck
cela ne casse pas trois pattes à un canard	nothing to write home about
froid de canard	freezing cold weather
être un canard; faire le canard	to be a pushover ( <i>in a relationship</i> )
canassons	gee-gees ( <i>betting</i> )
canon	attractive, sexy
canular	prank, hoax
capter	to understand

carré	straightforward ( <i>of person</i> )
c'est carré	clear, fine, hunky dory
carton	
faire un carton	have a bestseller, hit
cash/cache	
être cash/cache	be short ( <i>with someone</i> )
casser	
casse-couilles	pain in the ass
casse-toi	piss off ( <i>v. rude!</i> )
(se) casser	to take off, get out
(se) casser le nez	to embarrass oneself
bras cassé	powerless, useless ( <i>person</i> )
main cassée	with the fingers spread
cause	
hors cause	in the clear, above suspicion
cavale	
en cavale	on the run
Cerbère	guard dog ( <i>ironic</i> )
cerise sur la gâteau	icing on the cake
c'est tout comme	as good as, near enough
(se) chamailler	to squabble
chambouler	to mess up, turn upside down ( <i>lit. &amp; fig.</i> )
champignon	
appuyer sur le champignon	to step on it ( <i>source: old-style car accelerator</i> )
chance	
la chance sourit aux audacieux	fortune favours the brave
chansonnette	
pousser la chansonnette	to start talking, to spill the beans
chanter	
si ça te chante	if you like
chapeau	
chapeau bas!	hats off!
porter le chapeau	to take the rap
faire porter le chapeau	to pin the blame on someone
char	
arrête ton char	come off it, don't exaggerate



charogne	1. ( <i>pop.</i> ) corpse (= <i>carrion</i> ); 2. ( <i>as insult</i> ) bastard
chasse gardée	off limits
chatte	pussy (= <i>female genitalia</i> )
chaud	
t'as eu chaud!	that was a close call!
chauffard	road hog, hit-and-run driver
chauffer	
on chauffe!	we're getting warm!
chelou	(Verlan = <i>louche</i> ) dodgy
cheum	(Verlan = <i>moche</i> ) ugly, horrid
cheval	
être à cheval sur	to be a stickler for
cheveux	
mal au cheveux	hangover
tiré par les cheveux	far-fetched, hard to believe
cheville	
arriver à la cheville de	to hold a candle to, to measure up to
chienlit	mess, havoc ( <i>cf. De Gaulle, 1968</i> )
chiffon	( <i>person</i> ) drip, weed
chiffonner	to bother, trouble
chiqué	pretence, sham, airs & graces
cirage	
dans le cirage	<i>groggy (sleepy, drunk, injured...)</i>
choper	to nab, catch, ( <i>sexually</i> ) to pick up, score with
chou	
faire chou blanc	to draw a blank
circulez!	keep moving!
claque	brothel
claquer	to snuff it
cloche	idiot
se taper la cloche	to pig out, have a good feed
cloche	
entendre le même son de cloche	to sing from the same hymn sheet

clocher	
il y a quelque chose qui cloche	something's not right
clodo	(= <i>clochard</i> ) homeless person, vagrant
cloppe	fag ( <i>cigarette</i> )
cloque	
en cloque	up the duff
clou	
rester dans les clous en dehors des clous	( <i>image of pedestrian crossing</i> ) to do things by the book out of sync with, not in keeping with
coeur	
avoir le coeur bien accroché	to have nerves of steel
coffrer	to put someone away, lock someone up
cogne	cop
cohue	bustle, crowd
coincer	to nab
coller	
ça colle	that fits, that all checks out
coloc, colocataire	room-mate
commanditaire	client, principal ( <i>instigator of a hit or other crime</i> )
commanditer	to commission, instigate, be behind ( <i>a crime</i> )
commission rogatoire	( <i>search</i> ) warrant
conasse	bitch, cow
conclure	
t'as conclu?	did you score?
contondant	
objet contondant	blunt instrument
conviction	
l'intime conviction	beyond reasonable doubt
pièce à conviction	exhibit, piece of ( <i>usually incriminating</i> ) evidence
copinage	cronyism
coque (f.)	(safe) house
cornage	dog ear ( <i>turned-down corner of page</i> )
corner une page	to dog-ear a page
coucherie	casual (sexual) encounter, one-night stand

coucou!	hi!
faire un coucou	to drop by
couf	bush ( <i>female pubic hair</i> )
coup d'achat	dummy deal ( <i>e.g. to entrap drugs dealer</i> )
couper à	to escape, dodge
coupette	drinkie
courant d'air	( <i>person</i> ) will o'the wisp
courbettes	bowing and scraping, accolades
course	
en bout de course	on one's last legs
cradingue	dirty, mucky
cramé	burnt to a scrip; wasted ( <i>drunk</i> ); crazy
cramer	
se faire cramer	to get caught, to be nicked
cramponner	
se cramponner à	to latch on to
cran	
avoir le cran	to have the guts to
cran d'arrêt, couteau à	switchblade, flick knife
crapuleux	sordid, shabby
craque	lie ( <i>untruth</i> )
craquer	
je craque	go on then, you've convinced me
craquer une allumette	to strike a match
créneau	(time) slot
creuser	to look into, check out
crevure	piece of shit
crispé	tense
crochet	detour
crocs	fangs
croqueuse de diamant	gold digger, fortune hunter ( <i>woman</i> )
cruche	stupid
cueillir	to collar, bust

cuire	
on est cuit	we're f***ed, we've had it
cuisiner	grill ( <i>interrogate</i> )
cul	
avoir le cul entre	
deux chaises	to fall between two stools, face difficult choices
cul et chemise	thick as thieves
cutter	Stanley knife

## D

dalle	
que dalle!	zilch, absolutely nothing
j'ai la dalle	I'm famished
danseuse	( <i>expensive</i> ) passion, obsession, interest
dater	
ça date	(we go) way back
(se) déballer	to squeal, spill one's guts
(se) déballoner	to chicken out
débandade	rout, disarray
débloquer	to be nuts
débol	( <i>contrast bol</i> ) misfortune, disaster, bad luck
déboulonner	to debunk, demystify
débraillé	scruffy
dèche	
dans la dèche	skint
déconner	to talk crap, screw up
sans déconner	no kidding!
tu déconnes?	are you nuts?
décrocher	to help someone out ( <i>trans. vb</i> ); to knock off, go off duty
(se) décrocher	( <i>of plane</i> ) fall out of the sky, stall ( <i>intrans. vb.</i> )
défoncé	stoned ( <i>drugs</i> )
(se) défoncer	to freak out ( <i>esp. on drugs</i> )
dégage!	bugger off!
dégénérer	to get out of hand
dégobiller	to puke, throw up
(se) dégonfler	to chicken out
dégriser	
cellule de	
dégrisement	"drunk tank", sobering-up (prison) cell
délirer	to talk rubbish, to be crazy

(se) démerder	to sort things out, manage
demi-mots	
à demi-mots	without having to spell it out
(se) dénoncer	to give oneself up
dents	
faire grincer des dents	
dents	to ruffle feathers
sur les dents	very nervous
dérailler	to be losing it
déraper	to spiral out of control
dessoûler	to sober up
dessus	
on est dessus!	we're on it!
détente	
presser la détente	to pull the trigger
détention provisoire	remand
détraqué	crazy
dévaliser	to rob
DI	déficience intellectuelle ( <i>of person, deprecated</i> ) "retard"
disjoncter	to go crazy
doigt	
doigts dans le nez	a piece of cake
à deux doigts de	within an inch of
mon petit doigt m'a dit	a little bird told me
donnant, donnant	fair's fair, you scratch my back...
dormir	
histoire à dormir debout	tall tale, cock-and-bull story
dos	
mettre sur le dos de quelqu'un	to frame someone
dose	
j'eu ma dose	I've had enough
doubler	to double-cross
douille	shell, casing ( <i>bullet</i> )

drap

dans de beaux draps in a fine mess, in a right pickle

## E

échanges musclés	heated debate
écoper de	to get, be on the receiving end of ( <i>fine, sentence, cf. "to cop"</i> )
écorché	( <i>literally</i> ) grazed, tormented
écoute	phone tap
effraction	break-in
s'emballer	to get carried away ( <i>emotions</i> ), to pack up ( <i>heart e.g.</i> )
emballé	keen on, thrilled by
embarquer	
se laisser embarquer	to get carried away
embobiner	to hoodwink
éméché	squiffy, tipsy
emplâtrer	to thump ( <i>someone</i> )
encanailler	to slum it
enceinte	
mettre enceinte	to make pregnant
encloquer	= <a href="#"><u>engrosser</u></a>
enfariné	
la gueule enfarinée	foolishly overconfident
enfoiré	bastard, jerk
enfonce	to denigrate, do down
engrosser	to knock up
enfumer	to bullshit
entaille	gash, deep cut
entourloupe	dirty trick, skullduggery
éponge	boozer, heavy drinker
passer l'éponge	forgive and forget, dismiss ( <i>a grudge</i> ), wipe the slate clean
escamoter	to snatch ( <i>off the street, e.g.</i> )
s'éterniser	to dally, linger, drag one's feet
étouffer	to hush up



étriqué

narrow-minded

## F

fabuler	to fantasise
fadette	mobile phone record
faits divers	crime ( <i>e.g. as heading in media</i> )
fauché	skint, flat broke
faucheur	
grand faucheur	Death, the Grim Reaper
fesses	
ocupez-vous de vos fesses	mind your own business
feu	
il n'y a pas le feu	there's no rush
fier	
faire le fier	to be haughty, to be up oneself
fil rouge	lead ( <i>in investigation e.g.</i> )
filature	tail
filer	to tail, shadow
laisser filer quelqu'un	let someone off the hook
filet	
coup de filet	crackdown
filocher	to tail
fissa	( <i>Arabic</i> )
faire fissa	to get a move on
fissa fissa!	chop chop!
flan	
c'est du flan	that's bullshit
flasher sur quelqu'un	to fancy ( <i>someone</i> )
flécher avec	to team up with, ( <b>unconfirmed</b> ) hit it off with
fleur	
à fleur de peau	hypersensitive ( <i>e.g. to beauty</i> ); on edge, nervy; running high ( <i>emotions</i> )
fleurette	
conter fleurette	whisper sweet nothings

flingue	gun, "piece"
flippant	scary
flipper	to freak out
fliquer	to watch like a hawk (e.g. parent, of a child – like a flic)
foin	
faire du foin	cause a stir, cause a scandal
foirade	cock-up, disaster
foirer	to screw up
folichon	not much fun
fonce! fonce!	go! go! (police raid)
fond	
de fond en comble	from top to bottom
force	
par la force	
des choses	by force of circumstance
fort aux fesses	virile ( <i>vulg.</i> )
fouetter	
pas de quoi	
fouetter un chat	nothing much to worry about, no big deal
foufoune	see <a href="#">couf</a>
fouineuse	( <i>female</i> ) nosey parker
foulage	raised imprint, embossed text
fouerrer	to screw, fuck
fourrière	( <i>dog, vehicle</i> ) pound
foutaise	bullshit
foutoir	mess, shambles; ( <i>place</i> ) dump
franc-tireur	maverick
frangin(e)	brother, sister
frappe	( <i>high-grade</i> ) cannabis
frappé	crazy
fricoter avec	to hobnob with, cosy up to, cook up plans with, ( <i>sexually</i> ) have it off with
frileux	chilly ( <i>reception</i> ), cagey, hesitant
frimer	to show off

fringues	clothes
(se) fritter; fritter	to fall out
froid	
battre froid à quelqu'un	to cold-shoulder someone
frotter	
se froter à quelqu'un	to mess with, tangle with someone, to ruffle someone's feathers
fumer	to blow away, gun down, kill
être fumé	to be put in prison; to be stuffed
furax	livid
fusionnels	inseparable, joined at the hip

## G

galère	mess, nuisance
gâteux, gâteuse	old dodderer
galipette	rumpy pumpy
galoche	French kiss
gallon	
prendre du gallon	to rise, get promoted
grace	bitch
garde à vue	(police) custody
gateau	
c'est du gateau	it's a piece of cake
gêner	
ne vous gênez pas	feel free, don't mind me ( <i>ironic</i> )
gerber	to puke
gérer	
on va gérer	we'll manage
glace	
ça m'a glacé	it gave me the shivers
glauque	creepy, sordid, shabby
gnole	booze
gonfler	
t'es gonflé	you've got a nerve
(se) gourer de	to get something wrong, screw up
goutte	
goutte d'eau	the last straw
grain	
avoir un grain	to be special ( <i>positive</i> ), or weird ( <i>negative</i> )
gratte	guitar
gratter	to scrimp and save
griller	
être grillé	to be rumbled, blown, discredited
griller un feu	run a red light

grincheux	grumpy
gueule	
faire la gueule	to be sulking
guibolles	pins ( <i>legs</i> )

## H

haricot

clitoris

herbe

couper l'herbe

sous le pied à

quelqu'un

to pull the rug out from under someone

hic

snag, problem

I

îlotier	community policeman
illuminé	lunatic
IML	(institut medico-légal) = morgue, forensic institute
inculper	to charge
immonde	vile, disgusting
indic	see <a href="#">mouchard</a>
insu	
à mon insu	unbeknownst to me
interrogatoire	transcript ( <i>of suspect's, witness's statement</i> )



## J

jacquette	
de la jacquette	gay
jaser	
faire jaser	to set tongues wagging
jeter	
ça en jette	that's great!
jour pour jour	to the day ( <i>time of an event</i> )
jus	
se tenir au jus	to keep one another informed ( <i>pun: jus = courant</i> )
juter	to come ( <i>orgasm</i> )

# K

keuf

cop

kiffer

to like, fancy, be into, get off on

## L

lambda	ordinary, normal
lapin	kid, child
chaud lapin	womaniser, skirt chaser
ne pas valoir un pet de lapin	to be not worth tuppence
poser un lapin à quelqu'un	to stand someone up
sentir le lapin	to pong, to have B.O.
vieux lapin	sly old fox ( <i>of a man</i> )
larguer	to dump ( <i>someone</i> )
lascar	rogue, rascal
léger	unorthodox, dubious
légiste	(= <i>médecin légiste</i> ) (forensic) pathologist
lésiner sur	to skimp on
lettre	
passer comme une lettre à la poste	to go unnoticed, happen very easily
loloches, lolos	tits, boobs
loques	rags, old clothes
louche	
à la louche	roughly, approximately
loup	
faire sortir le loup du bois	to flush out, draw out
quand on parle du loup	talk of the devil
lunaire	crackers, nuts

## M

mac	see <a href="#">maquereau</a>
(se) magner	to get a move on
magot	stash ( <i>of loot</i> )
magouiller	scheme, wrangle, engage in wheeler-dealing
main	
main baladeuse	wandering hands
main courante	report to police ( <i>of event experienced or witnessed, where the person does not seek prosecution, unlike with the lodging of a plainte</i> )
mal	
un mal pour un bien	a blessing in disguise
manche	
faire la manche	to beg
c'est une autre paire de manches	it's a whole different ball game
maquereau	pimp
maquerelle	( <i>female</i> ) pimp, "madam"
marcher	
faire marcher	to wind up
mariole	smartass
marlou	pimp
(se) marrer	to have a good laugh
matador	stun gun ( <i>early German brand of animal slaughter gun</i> )
mater	to check out, watch covertly
matinée	
faire la grasse matinée	to have a lie-in
maton	screw ( <i>prison guard</i> )
matos	stuff, junk
mauviette	wimp

mèche	
vendre la mèche	to let the cat out of the bag
de mèche avec	hand in glove with
médiatique	( <i>of person</i> ) high-profile ( <i>in media</i> ), media-savvy
merder	to screw up
merdique	shitty
mesquine, miskine	poor wretch ( <i>Arabic</i> )
mesquin(e)	petty
meuf	woman, “bird”
mexicaine	police action of dubious legitimacy, justified after the event
micmacs	jiggery-pokery, shenanigans
mille	
mettre dans le mille	to be spot on
minable	pathetic, despicable
mirobolant	extraordinary, amazing
môme	kid, (young) guy
morceau	
cracher le morceau	to come clean, fess up
mordu	smitten
mouchard	1. ( <i>police</i> ) informant, grass, snout, snitch; 2. bug ( <i>tracking device</i> )
moucharder	to squeal, grass, snitch
moucher	to put someone in their place, cut someone down to size
se mouiller	to stick one’s neck out
moulant	tight-fitting ( <i>clothes</i> )
moule	see <a href="#">chatte</a>
moulin	
apporter de l’eau au moulin	to add grist to the mill
mouillé	involved in
mousser	
se faire mousser	to show off, talk up one’s own importance
musique	
réglé comme du papier à musique	organised to a T
mystificateur	fraud, charlatan



## N

narguer	to taunt ( <i>person</i> ); flout ( <i>authority</i> )
nature	
dans la nature	on the loose
naver	to taunt
né sous X	said of a ( <i>usually illegitimate</i> ) child, often given up for adoption
niquer	fuck; screw
nuage	
sur un petit nuage	on cloud nine
nues	
tomber des nues	to be flabbergasted

## O

œuf

va te faire

cuire un œuf                    get stuffed!

oignon

j'ai un oignon à

peler avec toi                    I've a bone to pick with you

oreilles

j'ai les oreilles

qui sifflent                    my ears are burning

os

tomber sur un os                hit a snag

oseille

dosh

ouf

truc de ouf                    (Verlan = fou) awesome, something amazing, crazy (*pos. or neg.*)



## P

paille, mettre sur la paille	to ruin
palot	see <a href="#">galoche</a>
panier à salade	Black Maria
papillon	flyer ( <i>leaflet</i> )
papoter	to chat
paquet	"lunchbox" ( <i>male genitalia</i> )
lâcher son paquet	to get things off one's chest
mettre le paquet	to pull out all the stops
parages	environs
parfum	
mettre au parfum	to put in the picture
parler	
ça vous parle?	ring any bells?
partie civile	claimant, plaintiff
partir	
partir ventre à terre	to leg it, scuttle off
passade	whim, passing fancy
passe	
faire des passes	to turn tricks
passe-montagne	balaclava
passeur	( <i>things or people</i> ) smuggler
passif	( <i>criminal</i> ) record
patate	thousand euros
patelin	little place, village
patte folle	gammy leg
paumé	lost, confused
peau	
avoir quelqu'un dans la peau	to love someone
faire la peau à	

quelqu'un	kill someone
faire peau neuve	to be completely transformed
pédales	
perdre les pédales	freak out, lose it
pédé (P.D.)	= pédéraste
pègre	lowlife, criminal underworld
peinard	
être peinard	to enjoy some peace and quiet
pelle	cf. <a href="#">galoche</a>
rouler une pelle	to French-kiss
péloter	to grope, paw
perché	1. batty, nuts; 2. high ( <i>on drugs</i> )
petard	joint, spliff; ( <i>attractive person</i> ) cracker
mettre en pétard	to annoy
se mettre en pétard	to lose one's rag
péter	
péter les plombs,	
péter un câble	freak out, blow a fuse, lose it
faire péter la scène	to put on a great show
pétrin	
dans le pétrin	in a pickle, jam
petzouille	see <a href="#">plouc</a>
peur	
avoir une peur bleue	to be scared stiff
phase	
être en phase avec	to be on the same wavelength as, to connect with
piaule	room, modest lodging, gaff
picoler	to tipple, booze
pied	
avoir les pieds et poings liés	to have one's hands tied
lever le pied	to go easy, slow down
se lever du pied gauche	to get out of bed the wrong side
mettre à pied	suspend ( <i>someone</i> )
mettre les pieds dans le plat	to put one's foot in it
prendre son pied	to get one's kicks, get offon

piéger	to frame ( <i>someone</i> )
piétinement	scuffle
piètre	pitiful, pathetic
pif	
au pif	off the top of one's head
pige	year
pile	
mettre une pile	to beat hands down
pile à l'heure	bang on time
pinaiter	to nitpick
pinces	handcuffs
pioche	deck of cards
faire une mauvaise pioche	make the wrong choice
piole	see <a href="#">piaule</a>
pion	
damer le pion à	to steal a march on, to put one over on ( <i>someone</i> ) ( <i>image from draughts</i> )
pipe	blow job
casser sa pipe	to kick the bucket
pipés	loaded ( <i>dice</i> )
piqué	nutcase
pirater	( <i>with direct object</i> ) to hack into
pistolet	
drôle de pistolet	queer fish, weirdo
PJ	see <a href="#">Police Judiciaire</a>
placard	
sortir du placard	appear out of nowhere, pop up; ( <i>of gays</i> ) come out of the closet
sortir quelqu'un du placard	pick someone's chestnuts out of the fire
mettre quelqu'un au placard	sideline someone
plafonner	to just about manage
planer	to be high, stoned
planque	stake-out, hiding-place

(se) planquer	to hide
planter	to fail, not be working
(se) planter	to screw up
plaque	money
être à côté du plaque	to be way off the mark
plaquer	to dump ( <i>someone</i> )
plastiquer	to blow up ( <i>with plastic explosives</i> )
plat	
faire tout un plat de	to make a drama out of
plier	
plier l'affaire	to get something done
plomb	
avoir un sommeil de plomb	to sleep like a log
plomber	
ça me plombe	it gets me down
plonger	to take the rap, go down ( <i>to jail</i> )
(se) pointer	to show up
Plotter	to feel up, grope
plouc	peasant ( <i>uncouth person</i> ), country bumpkin
plume	
voler dans les plumes de quelqu'un	to go for, to fly at ( <i>origin cock-fighting</i> )
poche ( <i>adj.</i> )	crap, rubbish ( <i>e.g. un job poche</i> )
poche	
connaître comme sa poche	to know like the back of one's hand
pognon	dough, cash
point	
mal en point	in a bad way
poisse	( <i>repeated</i> ) bad luck
poisson	
noyer le poisson	to muddy the waters
polar	(= <i>policier</i> ) detective novel ( <i>or film</i> ), whodunnit
Police Judiciaire	equates to British CID (criminal investigation department)

pompe	
sucrer la pompe	to suck up to; ( <i>vulg.</i> ) go down on
pompe funèbre	fellatrix
pompes	shoes
pompette	tipsy
pompier	blow job; oral sex
porc	
Balance Ton Porc	FR equivalent of the MeToo movement
portable de guerre	burner phone
porter	
je me laisse porter	I'll go with the flow
pot	
tourner autour du pot	to beat about the bush
pote	buddy, mate
pote bourré	drinking buddy
pouf; poufiasse	bitch
poulet	cop
poussière	
et des poussières	and a bit ( <i>when naming a sum or figure</i> )
proxénète	pimp
proxénétisme	pimping, procurement
prune	
ne pas avoir une prune	to have nothing, be flat broke
pruneau	slug, bullet
PTS	Police Technique et Scientifique, see <a href="#">scientifique</a>
puce	
ma puce	little one ( <i>affectionate</i> )
puceau, pucelle	virgin

## Q

quadriller	to patrol
quéquette	willy ( <i>childish</i> )
question insidieuse	leading question
quiche	
je suis une quiche	I'm an idiot

## R

rabaisser	to belittle, put ( <i>someone</i> ) down
rabat-joie	killjoy
racaille	riffraff
raclure	bitch ( <i>f</i> ); creep ( <i>m</i> )
racolage	soliciting
racoleur	sensationalist, tacky
rafiot	old tub ( <i>boat</i> )
rafle	police raid
ragot	gossip, tittle tattle
raide	see <a href="#">fauché</a>
ramer	to work like a dog, struggle ( <i>to achieve something</i> )
(se) ranger	to go straight
rateau	
se prendre un rateau	to be turned down, rejected
ratisser	scour, comb
rebondir	to get over ( <i>someone</i> )
rebours	
compte à rebours	countdown
recl	receiving ( <i>stolen goods</i> )
reconstitution	reconstruction ( <i>of crime scene</i> )
réfractaire	objector ( <i>political</i> )
réglo	fair, decent
relou	a drag, pain
remontant	pick-me-up
rencard	date ( <i>romantic</i> )
replonger	reoffend, lapse
retourner quelqu'un	to shake someone up

rien	
je n'en ai rien à faire, moi	I couldn't care less
ringard	tacky, cheesy, old hat ( <i>thing</i> ), nerd ( <i>person</i> )
riboul ( <i>Breton</i> )	
aller en riboul	to go out partying, to out on the town
ripou	bent, corrupt
rixé	fight, brawl
rodeur	prowler
roman de gare	airport novel
roucoulares	billing and cooing
roupiller	to kip, sleep
route	
tenir la route	to hold up ( <i>theory</i> )
rupin	filthy rich



## S

sabot	
ne pas se trouver sous le sabot d'un cheval	to be rare, hard to find
sage comme un image	as good as gold
sainte nitouche	(female) goody-goody, holier than thou person
salades	nonsense, rubbish
salon (de prostitution)	brothel (Swiss)
salopaud	see <a href="#">salopiot</a>
salopiot	little bugger ( <i>affectionate dimin. of salaud</i> )
sang	
coup de sang	fit of rage
saouler	see <a href="#">soûler</a>
sape	clothes, gear
bien sapé	all dolled up
sapin	
sentir le sapin	to have one foot in the grave
schlinguer	to stink
schmitt; schmidt	cop
scientifique	
"la Scientifique"	Forensics ( <i>department</i> )
SDF	<i>sans domicile fixe</i> = homeless
sèche	fag, cigarette
sécher	
je sèche	I haven't a clue, I'm stumped
selle	
en selle!	let's go!
semaine	
faire queleque chose à la petite semaine	to dabble in something
semer	to shake off ( <i>pursuers</i> )

sentir	
je ne peux pas le sentir	I can't stand him
série	
tueur en série	serial killer
serrer	
se serrer les coudes	to stick together
shit	weed ( <i>cannabis</i> )
sonnette	( <i>criminal</i> ) look-out
sort	
jeter un sort à/sur quelqu'un	cast a spell on someone
sosie	double, lookalike
soudoyer	to bribe
souffler	
se faire souffler dans les bronches	to be hauled over the coals, told off
(se) soulager	to relieve oneself
soûler	
tu me soûles	you piss me off
soupe au lait	( <i>used adjectivally</i> ) touchy, on a short fuse
sous-marin	watcher, spy
souteneur	see <a href="#">proxénète</a>
surnom	nickname
surplomber	overlook, overhang
survolté	worked up, (over-)excited

## T

tabac	
passer à tabac	to beat up ( <i>corruption of tabas, cf <a href="#">tabasser</a></i> )
tabasser	beat up
taf	work
taguer	to write, draw, graffiti
tante	fairy, queer
tantouse	see <a href="#">tante</a>
taper	
on va taper	we're going in! ( <i>police raid</i> )
s'en taper de	to not give a damn about
(se) taper	to shag
tapette	fairy, homosexual
tapiner	to be on the game
tapineuse	hooker
tapuscrit	typewritten manuscript
taquet	
au taquet	flat out
taré	crazy, nuts, stupid
tasse	
boire la tasse	to go under, lose heavily ( <i>money, sport</i> )
taudis	pigsty, shithole
taule	clink, jail
temps	
j'ai tout mon temps	I've plenty of time
tendron	sweet young thing ( <i>girl</i> )
tenir	
ça tient	that makes sense
terrasser	
terrasser un boeuf	to fell an ox
tête	
avoir toute sa tête	to be all there

thune	money
tilter	to get it
j'ai tilté	the penny dropped
timbré	cracked, crazy
tire-au-flanc	slacker, bum
tirer	
(se) tirer	to take off, to get out
tire-toi!	get lost!
tirer sur la corde	wear oneself out; push one's luck
tituber	to reel, stagger ( <i>gait</i> )
tizi	ass
toc	cheap tat ( <i>jewellery etc.</i> )
tocard	loser, useless person
tôle	see <a href="#">taule</a>
tomber	to go down ( <i>i.e. to prison</i> )
top départ	go-ahead, green light
toquade	infatuation
toubib	doctor ( <i>Arabic</i> )
touche	
mettre sur la touche	to sideline
trac	stage fright
tracasser	to bother
trafiquer	( <i>direct object</i> ) to tamper with; ( <i>indirect object</i> ) to be up to
traînée	trollop
transpirer	
laisser transpirer	to leak ( <i>info, etc</i> )
tronche	face
trot	
au trot!	at the double!
trou perdu	( <i>place</i> ) dump
trouille	fear, concern
truand	crook
truffe	twit

tueur à gages	hitman, hired killer
Turc "jaloux comme un Turc"	(?old-fashioned, esp. 17-18 <sup>th</sup> century)
turluter	go down on ( <i>fellatio</i> )
tuyau	a lead, tip-off ( <i>information</i> ); tip

## V

vacarme	din, racket
vague	
pas de vagues!	don't rock the boat!
vanné	exhausted
vape	
dans les vapes	out cold, unconscious
va-vite	
à la va-vite	in a hurry
velours	
jouer sur du velours	to play it safe; ( <i>of an action</i> ) to be a safe bet
véreux	bent, crooked
vérole (grosse vérole)	pox, syphilis
verrou	key ( <i>to e.g. a puzzle</i> )
sous les verrous	under lock and key
videur	bouncer
vif	
à vif	uptight, on edge
vinaigre	
tourner au vinaigre	to turn sour
violon	cooler ( <i>old-fashioned</i> )
pisser dans un violon	to do something futile, pointless
virer	to fire, kick out
voile	
en avoir, avoir du vent, dans les voiles	to be three sheets to the wind
volage	fickle, unfaithful
(se) volatiliser	to vanish into thin air

## Y

yaourter, chanter en yaourt	to sing in an unfamiliar language, cf. Asian pop stars singing in “English”
youpin	Yid, kike, Jew
youtre	see <a href="#">youpin</a>

## Z

zazou	hippie, weirdo
zib; zob	prick, cock
zouz	hottie ( <i>girl</i> )



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