Dirty French

Everyday Slang from "What's Up?" to "F*%# Off!"

Adrien Clautrier & Henry Rowe
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Using this Book</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Howdy French</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Friendly French</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Party French</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Body French</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Horny French</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Angry French</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Poppy French</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Sporty French</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Hungry French</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>About the Authors</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
USING THIS BOOK

If your entire experience in French class was limited to fantasizing over Mireille (you know, the hot chick from those old *French in Action* instruction videos), you’ll have a hard time doing much with this book. *Dirty French* was written with the assumption that you already know enough French to get by. After all, this is a slang book, and slang tends to be the last thing you learn after getting down all the basic (and relatively useless) sayings, such as “I live in the red house” and “Yes, I like the library very much, thank you.” So, this isn’t a beginner’s grammar book. This is a book designed to take your French to the next level.

The chapters and explanations are set up, however, so that even with just a little French in your murky past, you should be able to call out any Jean-Pierre who starts killing your buzz with some Merlot-induced rant about how the CIA really blew up the Twin Towers. You’ll find all your ammunition here, arranged by subject, chapter after chapter.

The slang included here is totally up to date, the kind of stuff you’d hear on the streets of Paris today. Except in special cases, the English is given first, followed by the French. Sometimes the French is given with alternatives—*laid(e)*, *mon/ma*—to
**PRONOUNCING FRENCH**

Here’s a brief refresher on pronunciation. This is not how to name the letters of the alphabet but how to pronounce them when they appear in words.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A, à</td>
<td>ah</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>bay</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>kah (before “a, o, u”), say (before “e, i”)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ç</td>
<td>say</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>day</td>
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<tr>
<td>E, è</td>
<td>euh (like the second “e” in “telephone”)</td>
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<tr>
<td>É</td>
<td>ay</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>eff</td>
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<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>gg (before “a, o, u”), zhee (before “e, i”)</td>
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<td>H</td>
<td>[silent]</td>
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<td>I</td>
<td>ee</td>
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<td>J</td>
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<td>K</td>
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<td>N</td>
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<td>O, ô</td>
<td>oh</td>
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<td>P</td>
<td>pay</td>
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<td>Q</td>
<td>keww</td>
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<td>R</td>
<td>arr</td>
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<td>S</td>
<td>esse</td>
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<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>tay</td>
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<tr>
<td>U</td>
<td>eww (shape your mouth like a chicken’s asshole — <em>un cul de poule</em> — and you’ll say it right)</td>
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<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>vay</td>
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<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>eeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>ee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Z</td>
<td>z</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Je</td>
<td>zheuh (like the “ge” in “garage”)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tu</td>
<td>tew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Il, ils</td>
<td>eel (they’re pronounced exactly the same; context is what let’s people know when it’s plural)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elle,</td>
<td><em>elle</em> (you might want elles to check the explanation right above)</td>
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The hardest thing for Americans to pronounce is the vowels. That’s because we Americans flatline our sentences in monotones, and aren’t used to pronouncing words with different emphasis. To get the hang of a good French pronunciation, you’ll have to start by getting in touch with your inner Jean-Claude Broussard and speaking with a dramatic French accent: “Hey dude, ya wanna go get high?” would become “hAAY dewwwd, yooow waaahn toooo gooo geeet hill?” Don’t worry, you’ll get the hang of it.
account for gender differences. As we said before, this isn’t a grammar book and you’re not an idiot, so we expect that you’ll be able to figure it out without any more explanation than that.

One important reminder: Slang is situational, and the slang in this book can get pretty hard-core. Use it at the wrong time or place and you’ll find yourself in a bad situation (think Eddie Murphy walking into the biker bar in 48 Hours and yelling out, “Whey’ all da white wimmin at?”). So only use these expressions with people your own age, in situations where you know what’s going on.

Now take your Dirty French and get dirty with it!
Hello

Bonjour

You probably shouldn’t use French slang with strangers, especially if they’re over 30, unless you want to get on their nerves right away. So when in doubt stick with the classic “Bonjour.” After you get to know someone a little better, feel free to use some of these slangier expressions. (As for women, you’ll get all kinds of attention if you try these with people you don’t know.)

Hi
Salut

Hey!/Yo!
Ho!

Hey, you/Hey, baby
Coucou

Yo, dudes/guys!
Oh, les gars!
Yo, girls!
Oh, les filles!

On the telephone:

Hello?
Âllo?

Hey!
Salut!

-----Good morning/Good evening
Bonjour/Bonsoir

In French there are a bunch of informal variations on “good morning” and “good evening” for you to choose from.

Mornin’, honey!
Bonjour, mon chéri (to a man)/Bonjour, ma chérie (to a woman)

Hey, babe—good morning!
Bonjour, toi!

Mornin’!
’Jour!

Evenin’!
’Soir!

Night!
Bonne nuit!

-----The hello kiss
La bise

You probably know that the French greet each other with little pecks on the cheek, like pigeons doing a mating dance. This is the local equivalent of the American “college hug” (which the French think is weird—they’ll feel like you’re coming on to them if you even try it).
Text messaging has led to whole new ways of writing things by abbreviation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Later</th>
<th>A+</th>
<th>(à plus)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Catch you later</td>
<td>A12C4</td>
<td>(à un de ces quatre)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOL</td>
<td>MDR</td>
<td>(Mort de rire; “dying laughing”)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screw you</td>
<td>T6</td>
<td>(Ta gueule)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My ass</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>(Mon cul)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiss my ass</td>
<td>JTD</td>
<td>(Je t’emmêle)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Go fuck yourself</td>
<td>VTFF</td>
<td>(Va te faire foutre)</td>
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</table>

Women exchange these kisses with all friends, male and female, when seeing them for the first time each day. If you kiss one person in a group, you should kiss them all (as long as they’re roughly your age). And just go cheek to cheek and smooch the air; don’t actually touch your lips to them.

Things are a bit different for men, who only use this kiss to greet female friends and their family. Among male friends, they simply shake hands.

**Let’s shake.**
*On se serre la main.*

**Should we hug?**
*On s’embrasse?*

**I’ll kiss “hello.”**
*Je te fais la bise.*

**“Kisses”** (like on the phone or a postcard)
*Bisous; bises*

**Kiss me on the mouth.**
*Embrasse-moi sur la bouche.*
Do you wanna French kiss?
On se roule une pelle?
Literally, “to roll in a shovel.” The word baiser is a real problem in French. Traditional dictionaries will tell you that it’s a kiss—but that’s only in older French. Today, baiser means to fuck or to screw, both in the sexual sense (“I fucked your mom”) or in the mess-someone-up sense (“I fucked up your face”).

-----What’s up?
Quoi de neuf?

In English, when asked “what’s up?” we usually give a one-word answer because, let’s face it, over here nobody really cares. But in France they’ll assume you actually want to know how they’re doing, and they’ll expect you to give a real answer, too. But stop short of mentioning how much it burns when you pee.

How’s it goin’?
Ça va?

How you doin’?
Tu vas bien?

You doin’ good today?
T’es en forme?

Long time, no see!
Ça fait longtemps, dis donc!

Watcha up to?
Qu’est-ce que tu me racontes?

Nothing much.
Pas grand chose.

Same shit, different day.
Comme d’hab’.

How you been?
Alors, qu’est-ce que tu deviens?

So-so.
Comme ci, comme ça.
Same as always, man.
Ben, toujours pareille.

Good!
Ça roule!

Great!
Ça gaze!

Just peachy.
J'ai la pêche!

Awesome!
Ça baigne!

Unstoppable!
Je pète le feu
Literally, “I’m fartin’ fire”

How’s it hanging?
Qu’est-ce que tu fabriques?

It’s hanging.
On se débrouille.

What’s the word?
Quelles sont les nouvelles?

Same old bullshit.
Toujours le même bordel.

What the hell are you up to?
Qu’est-ce que tu fous?

What the hell are you doing here?
Qu’est-ce que tu fous là?

----

Bye!
Au revoir!

There are a bunch of slangy ways to tell someone that you’re taking off.

Bye.
Bye; Salut.
See ya.
Ciao.
Young people often use the Italian phrase.

Later.
À plus.

Catch you later.
À un de ces quatre.

See ya on the flip side.
À demain.

Call me.
On s’appelle.

Let’s roll.
On bouge; On y va.

I’m out of here.
Je me casse.

Send me an e-mail/an IM.
Balance-moi un mél/un SMS; un texto.

-----Yo!

Oh!

The following expressions work really well to get people’s attention.

Look!
Regarde!

Check that out!
Regarde-moi ça!

Hey, kid!
Oh, jeune!
In the South around Marseille people say, “Oh, minot!”

Hey, babe!
Salut, ma beauté!

C’mere for a sec.
Viens voir une minute.
In this case, the French generally use “minute” instead of “second.”
I gotta tell you something.
J’ai un truc à te dire.

If you are sitting outside (on “la terrasse”) at a nice café and want to get the waiter’s attention, we strongly recommend:

Please, Sir/Madam
Monsieur/Madame, s’il vous plaît!

If you want them to know that you’re an American traveling in France for the first time and you’d like crappy, endlessly slow service, we strongly recommend:

Boy!/Dude!
Garçon!

Hey, get your fat ass over here!
Ho, tu te ramènes avec ton gros cul?

Sorry
Désolé(e)

French people aren’t as quick to apologize as Americans, because the French would rather die (“plutôt crever!”) than admit any wrongdoing. But if they do apologize, they will say the following (though deep inside they probably won’t mean a word of it).

I’m sorry.
Je suis désolé(e).

I’m truly sorry.
Je suis vraiment désolé(e); Je suis navré(e).

Sorry I’m late.
Je suis désolé(e) d’être en retard.

Sorry for crapping in your bidet.
Désolé d’avoir chié dans le bidet.

Pardon me.
Pardon.
My bad.
Désolé.; Autant pour moi.

Apologies.
Toutes mes excuses.

I fucked up!
J’ai merdé!

In the true French way, if you want to commiserate with someone without admitting any wrongdoing, try out one of these phrases:

That’s the way it goes.
Ben, c’est comme ça.

That sucks!
Ça craint!

That’s fucked up!
C’est dégueulasse!

INTRODUCING YOURSELF

SE PRÉSENTER

What’s your name?
C’est quoi, ton nom?, Comment tu t’appelles?

My name’s Jen. Je m’appelle Jen.
I’m from the U.S. Je suis américaine.
Yes, these are real breasts, Oui, ce sont de vrais seins,
and stop staring at them et arrête de les mater
before I slam your face. avant que je t’en mette une.

****

I’m Brad. Je suis Brad.
I’m from Colorado, and I’m Je viens du Colorado, et je suis
hung like a horse. pendu comme un âne.

The French believe that donkeys [ânes] have bigger dicks than horses [chevaux]. Why they’ve spent time thinking about this, we don’t know.
But I only slept with her once!
Mais je ne l’ai baisée qu’une fois!

Whoops! You’re not my boyfriend.
Zut! T’es pas mon mec.

You poor thing.
Pauvre petit(e).

Shitty luck!
Pas de bol; Manque de bol!

Ouch!
Aïe!

Oh, shit!
Merde!

***** Excuse me
Excusez-moi

Politeness in France is mostly for work situations, between strangers, or when there’s an age difference. With friends you can usually assume everything’s fine. But between foreign languages and new cultures, misunderstandings happen pretty easily. So, without being a total dweeb about it, you might want to keep some of these tension-defusing phrases handy.

’Scuse me.
Excusez-moi. (formal or plural)/Excuse-moi. (casual)

Don’t worry ’bout it.
T’inquiète.

Don’t worry ’bout him/her.
Ignore-le/la.

Drop it, let’s drop it.
Laisse béton.

’Scuse my shitty French.
Excuse mon français merdique.

Pardon my French!
Pardon, ça m’a échappé.
Can I get by here?
Ça te dérange pas si je passe?

Ever notice how nothing gets somebody angrier than asking them why they’re so upset? So if you want to get somebody all worked up, just point out how unreasonable they’re being.

Chill out!
Du calme!; Calmos!

Chill! I didn’t do it on purpose!
Putain, ça va, j’ai pas fait exprès.

Don’t get all worked up.
Te monte pas le mou!

Get over it.
C’est bon, y’a pas mort d’homme.

Don’t get your panties in a wad!
On va pas en faire tout un fromage.

Don’t shit your pants!
Te chie pas!

Can I at least get a word in?
Je peux en placer une?

-----Please
S’il te plaît/S’il vous plaît

If you need something, there are many ways of asking—some more polite than others.

Yo! Over here!
S’iouplait!

Can I get a little help?
Y a quelqu’un?

Why don’t you call me sometime?
Appelle-moi. ; Téléphone-moi.

I’m on my knees.
Je suis à tes pieds.
I won’t forget.
Je m’en rappellerai.

I owe you one.
Je te revaudrai ça.

I’m begging you.
Je t’en supplie.

I’m begging you to get your knee off my balls.
Je te supplie d’enlever ton genou de mes couilles.

Could you do me a favor?
J’ai un service à te demander.

Could you do me a favor and tell your friend I think she’s hot?
Tu pourrais pas me rendre service et dire à ta copine que je la trouve hyper bonne?

Later, you can drop the niceties and tell them what you really want:

Do the dishes.
Fais la vaisselle.

Fix me something to eat.
Fais-moi à bouffer.

Clean up this mess.
Nettoie-moi ce bordel.

You should...
Tu devrais...

buy another round
payer une autre tournée

try a cocktail
essayer un cocktail

go topless
enlever le haut

not wear those shorts in public
pas porter ce short en public
Making friends
Soyons amis

Unlike in America, where it’s common to talk to strangers in a bar or at school, in France people aren’t used to this and will probably get a bit creeped out if you try it. Of course, this only applies to men—women are always welcome to walk up and introduce themselves. It just makes things so much easier. But generally in France, the best way to meet people is through groups rather than trying to go solo.

Nice to meet you.
Enchanté(e).

This is my first time in France.
C’est la première fois que je viens en France.

I’d like to meet some French people.
Je veux rencontrer des Français.

I don’t understand French.
Je capte rien en français.

I don’t understand a word you’re saying.
Je pìge que dalle.

This is my buddy.
C’est mon pote.

Can you please tell your buddy that I think he’s cute.
Tu peux dire à ton pote que je le trouve mignon.

Your girlfriend’s hot.
Ta copine est vraiment bonne.

I love your boyfriend’s hairy chest.
J’adore la poitrine poilue de ton mec.

Are you by yourself?
T’es toute seule?

What do you do in your free time?
Qu’est-ce que t’aimes faire?

Teach me some cuss words.
Apprends-moi des gros mots.
I like hanging with you.
J’aime passer du temps avec toi.

Can I bum a smoke?
Tu peux me filer une clope?

Is that your dad?
C’est ton père, ce mec?

How old are you?
T’as quel âge?

Me, 30!? No way, it’s just that we slept in the train station last night.
Moi, trente ans?!” Mais non, c’est qu’on a craché à la gare hier soir!

Do you come here often?
Tu viens souvent ici?

----- Tourist gadgets
Matos du touriste

The French aren’t all that camera crazy, and have some negative stereotypes about people who take tons of pictures in public places. But this attitude is starting to change, especially among the younger, tech-savvy crowd. Here are some useful terms and phrases.

A camera
Un appareil-photo

A digital camera
Un appareil-photo numérique; un numérique

A photo album
Un album photo

A camcorder
Un camescope

A DVD player
Un lecteur DVD

A cell phone
Un portable
Let’s take a picture.
On prend une photo?

Can you take a picture of me?
Tu peux me prendre en photo?

I’m a photographer for a top model agency and would like to photograph you.
Je suis photographe de mode et je travaille pour de grandes agences. Je peux te prendre en photo?

Nudity is really trendy right now!
La nudité c’est vraiment tendance!

No thanks, porn doesn’t do it for me.
Non merci, les photos de cul, c’est pas mon truc.

Don’t ask your models in France to say “cheese!” Instead, tell them that a little bird is about to come out of the camera—this goes back to the early days when cameras looked like magician’s boxes. But beware of French guys who randomly tell you that the big bird (le gros oiseau) is about to come out. They’re not talking about photography.

Get ready! The little bird is about to come out!
Attention! Le petit oiseau va sortir!
You can say the same thing to tell someone that their fly is down.
Friends

Les amis

Unlike in America, where the best way to make “friends” is by telling someone that their MySpace pic is totally hot!!!, in France the people are old-fashioned or antisocial or something, and they want to, like, actually know you first. Whatever. But if you do break through and make a French friend, they’ll stick with you.

A buddy, a pal
un/une copain(e); un/une pote
Copain and copine can be confusing. “Mon copain” means “boyfriend,” while “un copain” just means “a buddy.”

My buddy lives around here.
Mon pote habite près d’ici.

A friend
Un/une ami(e)

Good friends are hard to find.
De bons amis sont difficiles à trouver.
Best friend
Meilleur ami/meilleure amie

Who’s your best friend?
C’est qui, ton meilleur ami?

A school friend
Un/une camarade de classe

Do you keep in touch with your old school friends?
Tu gardes le contact avec tes anciens camarades de classe?

An acquaintance
Un/une connaissance

There’s this acquaintance I want you to meet.
J’ai une connaissance à te présenter.

My boyfriend
Mon mec; mon copain

My boyfriend has huge feet.
Mon mec a d’énormes pattes.

My man
Mon homme

My man can’t clean the dishes to save his life.
Mon homme pourrait pas faire la vaisselle si sa vie en dépendait.

My girlfriend
Mon amie; ma poule; ma nana; ma copine

My girlfriend is the sweetest thing.
Ma copine, elle est la plus adorable de toutes.

My dear
Mon chéri/ma chérie

Cup o’ tea, my dear?
Une tasse de thé, mon chéri?

Roommate
Camarade de chambre

My roommate is a smelly asshole.
Mon camarade de chambre est un connard infect.
Dorms in France are mostly for foreign students. In big cities, though, high rents mean that more and more young people are
sharing apartments. It’s just like *Friends* — only poor, French, and not funny.

**Housemate**  
*Un/une colocataire; un/une coloc’*

*Your housemate is cute.*  
*Ton/Ta coloc’ est mignon(ne).*

**Coworker**  
*Un/une collègue de travail*

*Do you have any French coworkers?*  
*Avez-vous des collègues français?*

---

**Cool, funny shit**  
*Des trucs fendards et cool’s*

These expressions may be used in various contexts for things you like or think are funny, though the French don’t laugh in public as much (or as loudly) as most Americans.

I know a **nice** little restaurant.  
*Je connais un petit restau *sympa.*

That bar has a **cool** dub band.  
*Cé bar a un groupe de dub *cool*.*

Your little brother can **hold his own**.  
*Ton frangin *assure comme mec.*

Your kid sister can **hold her own**.  
*Ta frangine *assure comme nana.*

Daft Punk’s last album is **great**.  
*Le dernier disque de Daft Punk est *géant.*

The production is **perfect**.  
*La prod’ est *impec’.*

Your roommate is a **crack-up**.  
*Ton/Ta camarade de chambre est *rigolo(te).*

Your stupid jokes are **hysterical**.  
*Tes blagues à la con sont * hilarantes.*

That commercial makes me **lose my shit**!  
*Cette pub me fait *délier grave!*
You crazy asshole! Stop with the jokes! I’m gonna piss my pants.
Enfoiré! Arrête tes conneries! Je vais pisser dans mon froc.

*****Conversation starters
*Briser la glace*

While the French may have a centuries-old elite culture, highbrow references to Voltaire and Rimbaud won’t get you very far if you’re trying to make friends or get laid. Much better to settle for good ol’ flattery and inane conversation.

*I love your accent.*
*J’adore ton accent.*

*What’s that perfume you’re wearing?*
*C’est quoi, ton parfum?*

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### French Gossip

The French love to chill out at cafés and gossip about people. It’s sort of a national sport, and slang plays a big part in it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>He/She is...</th>
<th>Il/Elle est...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a stand-up guy</td>
<td>un mec droit; un type correct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a sweet girl</td>
<td>une nano gentille</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a skank</td>
<td>une pouffiasse; une salope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a moron</td>
<td>un abrutti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>an airhead</td>
<td>une conne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a kiss-ass</td>
<td>un/une fayot(te)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a brown-noser</td>
<td>un lèche-cul [literally, “a butt-licker”]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a show-off</td>
<td>un frimeur/une frimeuse; un m’as-tu vu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a whiner</td>
<td>un/une geignarde(e)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a manic-depressive</td>
<td>un/une cyclothymique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a good-for-nothing</td>
<td>un/une vaurien(ne); un/une fainéant(e)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>filthy rich</td>
<td>plein[e] aux as; bourré[e] de fric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dirt poor</td>
<td>crève-la-dèche</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
You look great in those jeans.
Comme tu t’assures dans ces jeans.

Do you prefer steak or seafood?
Tu préfères un steak ou des fruits de mer?

Can I buy you a drink?
Je peux t’offrir un verre?

Have we met before?
On s’est déjà rencontré?

You have the most beautiful eyes.
T’as les plus beaux yeux que j’ai jamais vus.

Want to see my tattoo?
Tu veux voir mon tatouage?

Would you like to come back to my place?
Tu veux rentrer avec moi?

Our babies would be gorgeous.
On ferait vraiment de très beaux bébés.

Are you sure you’re 18?
T’es sûr/sure que tu as dix-huit ans?
Formalities

Les formalités

Watch out for a few cultural differences here. First, only medical doctors use “Dr.” with their names; a Ph.D. in ceramics won’t get you any special title. Second, there is no French equivalent to “Ms.”; there are only “Mademoiselle” and “Madame.” So the rule of thumb is to use “Mademoiselle” for every woman who looks under thirty; that won’t get you into trouble.

Sir
Monsieur

Ma’am
Madame

Miss, Ms.
Mademoiselle

Dr.
Docteur

Mr. President
Monsieur le président

Judge
Monsieur/Madame le juge

When you get on better terms, you have some more informal options, too.

The doc
Le toubibi

A cop
Un flic; un keuf

Ol’ man Dumas
Le père Dumas

The boss
Le patron; le chef
Captain (sarcastic)

Le commandant

As in Oui, mon commandant, when your boyfriend orders you around as if you were actually gonna listen.

-----Family

La famille

The concept of family remains pretty strong in France, especially in the South. People tend to be close to their entire family, including all the extended relatives, and kids often live with their parents well into adulthood until they get married or finally move in with their partners. But the French are slowly Americanizing: More and more they come home after a few years, divorced and with a couple of kids in tow, to move back with their folks. Isn’t it nice to see how much we have in common?

Daddy

Papa

My daddy’s a fireman.

Mon papa est pompier.

Mommy

Maman

My mommy likes to tickle me.

Ma maman aime me faire des chatouilles.

My old man

Mon vieux; mon vioque

My old man farts like a bastard.

Mon vieux pète comme un salaud.

My old lady

Ma vieille; ma vioque

My old lady’s got a tough life.

Ma vioque a la vie dure.

In the U.S., “my old lady” refers to your wife; in France, it’s your mom. In both countries, it’s best when they’re not the same person.
Stepdad/Stepmom
Beau-père/Belle-mère
These are the same words for “father-in-law” and “mother-in-law.”

My stepdad really cramps my style.
Mon beau-père me pourrit vraiment la vie.

My bro’
Mon frangin

My brother doesn’t do shit.
Mon frangin est un glandeur.

My sis’
Ma frangine

Call my sis’ a whore again and I’ll kill you.
Si tu traites encore ma frangine de pute, je te tue.

-----Characters
Figures

Kids
Les enfants

Kids are so cute.
Les enfants sont tellement mignons.

Teens
Les ados

Teens smell bad.
Les ados puent grave.

Wino
Le pochetron; le poivrot

Don’t let the wino puke on you.
Fais gaffe que le pochetron te vomisse pas dessus.

Bum
Le/la clochard(e); le/la clodo; le/la SDF

It’s good karma to give money to bums.
Ça porte bonheur de donner des sous aux clodos.

Dirty old man
Le vieux dégueulasse
That dirty old man honked my boob on the subway.
*Ce vieux dégueulasse m’a empoigné le nibard dans le métro.*

A badass
*Le loubard*

**He’s a real badass.**
*Cça c’est un vrai loubard.*

A thug
*Un voyou*

**Your brother’s a thug.**
*Ton frère est un voyou.*

Spoiled rich kid
*Un fils/une fille à papa*

**I hate spoiled rich kids.**
*Je déteste les fils à papa.*

Ladies’ man
*Un tombeur; un homme à femmes*

**That idiot thinks he’s a ladies’ man.**
*Cet idiot se prend pour un tombeur.*

Good ol’ boy (in a positive sense)
*Un bon bougre*

**He’s a regular good ol’ boy.**
*C’est un vrai bon bougre.*

Redneck
*Un pequenot; un blaireau*

From the animal “badger”

**Goddamn racist redneck!**
*Putain de pequenot raciste!*

Country hick
*Un plouc*

**That country hick knows culture about as well as my dog.**
*C’est plouc est aussi cultivé que mon chien.*

Jock
*Le sportif/la sportive*
That jock has a soccer ball for a brain.

Ce sportif a un ballon de foot à la place du cerveau.

Horndog

Le queutard

That horndog has a dick where his brain should be.

Ce queutard a une bite à la place du cerveau.

Horny slut

La traînée

That horny slut is always ready to go.

Cette traînée a toujours le feu au cul.

-----

Everyday folks

Le commun des mortels

Each country has its own stereotypes that the media and public use all the time. Here are a few clues about French stereotypes, so that you’ll recognize whom you’re dealing with.

White trash

Les beaufs

Being white trash isn’t so much a question of money as it is of style—though usually they don’t have much of either. For the guys, they have only one obsession that doesn’t involve alcohol or ass: their car. The “beauf” has a strong preference for French automakers and cars (especially the old, boxy Renault 12 of the ’70s, or a used Peugeot 405 from the ’90s). He spends most of his salary (if he works at all) on accessories to make his car “unique,” many of which are borrowed from the U.S.: hanging dice, fake fur covering the steering wheel, top-of-the-line car stereo with speakers taking up the entire trunk. When he hits his midlife crisis, he’ll prefer a ponytail to the American
mullet, but he'll unbutton his shirt to show tufts of hair and fake gold chains, and will sport some bun-hugger pants. He's convinced he's a player, so he goes heavy on the French version of Old Spice (Drakkar Noir). He usually can't be bothered to talk to his girlfriend, but he'll start a fight if anybody else tries to. He has a favorite bar, and is incredibly loyal in friendship...when he's not drunk and trying to bust a bottle over your head.

The Bible-thumpers
Les culs bénis
Literally, these are the "holy asses," also known as "les bigots" (fire and brimstone dads) and "les bigotes" (church ladies). These French believers, usually Catholic, are fanatical in their faith. They're starting to make a comeback, though percentage-wise there are more atheists in France than in the U.S., and the fastest-growing religion is Islam. The culs bénis go to mass every week, prepare for Communion, volunteer at their parish, attend private Catholic schools, and join the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts.

The commuters
Les métro-boulot-dodo
Making fun of these people is kind of harsh, because it's a hard life. You wake up at 5 a.m. in your small, suburban apartment while it's still dark outside. You get dressed, grab a coffee, walk 15 minutes to the regional train, stand in the onboard crowd for 30 minutes, transfer to the subway (métro), take it for another 45, and soon you're at your desk for another day at the job (boulot). Nine hours later, reverse paths, microwave a frozen dinner, watch the news, and hit the sack to snooze (dodo, from "dormir," to sleep). At the same time, though, when you see them asleep on the train with their heads all the way back and their mouths wide open, it's tempting to imagine what would happen if you dropped a goldfish down the hatch.

Hippies
Les baba cool
The '60s were a big deal in France, probably even more so than in the U.S. The student movement of May 1968 almost brought down the government. Many of the kids who participated in and drove the movement are still around today, easily recognizable by their hippy
accessories (incense, beads, tie-dye dresses, long hair). But you probably won’t see too many because they avoid the cities.

**The cow pies**

*Les bouseux*

These are the farmers who come into town and stand next to you in line at the bank. Even if you don’t see them coming, you can smell them: “*Une bouse*” is a cow pie, so they’re called “*bouseux*” because of the cow shit splashed all the way up their rubber boots. They’re the last symbols of old France, with accents that make a barefoot Kentucky minister sound like an Oxford grad, and driving habits that make a tractor on the highway seem fast.

**The bo-hos**

*Les bobos*

Most of these bohemian “68ers” (“*soixante-huitards*”) did eventually get tired of eating grain cereals, grooving on sitar music, and living out of a VW bus. And, surprisingly, many of them ended up getting quite wealthy. They’ve been divorced several times, and the moms want to be best friends with their daughters, and the dads want to sleep with girls their daughters’ age. At the same time, though, they see themselves as enlightened and cultured, with esoteric spiritual beliefs and an absolute devotion to recycling. The politically conscious *bobos* usually have an eccentric signature, like Rollerblading to work, and they belong to what’s known as the “Gauche caviar”—left-wingers who speak with great passion about the suffering of the poor...while eating caviar in their spectacular Parisian duplex apartments.

**The rich folk**

*Les costume-cracate*

Literally the “suit and ties,” who often are graduates of French or American business schools, they are executives (“*les cadres*”) employed by corporations. It’s never been terribly cool to talk about how much money you make or to splash it around in people’s faces, but *les costume-cravate* are trying to change that. Often pretentious, individualist, and driven by money only, they are so wrapped up in their success that they won’t notice (or won’t care) if you bang their wife or husband.
GET DIRTY

Next time you’re in France or just chattin’ in French with your friends, drop the textbook formality and bust out with expressions they never teach you in school, including:

- cool slang
- funny insults
- explicit sex terms
- raw swear words

Dirty French teaches the casual expressions heard every day on the streets of France:

What’s up?
He’s totally hot.
That brie smells funky.
I’m gonna get ripped!
I gotta piss.
The ref is a fucking asshole!
Wanna try doggy-style?

Ça va?
Il est un gravure de mode.
Ce brie sent putain de drôle.
Je vais me fracasser!
Je dois pisser.
L’arbitre est un gros enaélé!
Veux-tu faire l’amour en levrette?


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