

## LE JEU DE LA CHASSE AUX MOTS : LA SANTÉ

**S**ee how well you can do with this game. There are four steps, and you win or lose on only the fourth step. Before starting, you should review the following three basic rules for learning any foreign language, including French:

1. Do not be ashamed about making mistakes. You cannot learn a language without making mistakes, and they simply point out things you should review.
2. There are very few concepts so difficult that they resist the repeated application of the ordinary human mind. In other words, keep going over things and eventually you will master them.
3. Remember the truthful saying that “Other fools have done this, and so can I.”

Keep those in mind as you do the following four steps. You can either work on all 118 French expressions at once or divide the list into a series of “games” with anywhere from ten to fifty words at a time. Good luck!

Step one: Read Professor Colette Dio’s *Chasse aux mots* column on *La Santé* in the December 2014 issue of *Le Canard déchaîné*. Be sure you can understand and can translate into English all the French expressions she uses.

Step two: Go through the list of French expressions from that column and printed on pages 3 and 4 of this document to see if you can understand and translate each. If you come to an expression you do not recognize, either check the *Chasse aux mots* column or the translations on pages 5 and 6. Words inside parentheses (like this) are information for questions, but you should ignore them in answers. Material inside braces {Like this|Or this} are valid alternate expressions. Thus “*en avoir {marre|ras le bol} de*” means either “*en avoir marre de*” or “*en avoir ras le bol de*.” Footnotes give supplementary information but are not part of any answer.

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Here and in the next steps, if you find a word that gives you a problem, use a pencil to put a dot in front of the word or expression. After you have gone through the whole list, review the words you marked with a dot. If you now know the word, you can erase the dot. Otherwise, you might put another dot in front of the word and then work on the multi-dot words. Eventually you should be able to erase all of the dots.

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Step three: Now it becomes a little bit harder. Go to pages 5 and 6 and see if you can orally translate the English words back to the French original. Enunciate your translations clearly, since your basic goal is to make the words part of your active vocabulary. Take the words in groups of ten or twenty (or whatever number you want) and work with those before going on to more words. You may have to cheat in this exercise a bit, but keep working on them until you can clearly say all the French expressions without cheating.

Step four: Here is the acid test. Do step three again, but this time write the translations on paper. No cheating. See if you are able to write them all with no errors. If not, how many errors did you make? Check your work against the words on pages 3 and 4. Since you will probably have more correct words than errors, count only the errors. If you miss a word entirely, that counts as one error. If in a single answer you make a mistake on just one letter or one accent, count it as a half point ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) error. Count the total number of errors and give yourself a grade as follows:

- 1 to 11 errors: A (90% or better right)
- 12 to 23 errors: B (between 80% and 89% right)
- 24 to 35 errors: C (between 70% and 79% right)
- 36 to 47 errors: D (between 60% and 69% right)
- 48 to 118 errors: Fail (less than 60% right)

Actually, however, you cannot fail, because, of course, the real goal of the game is to help you learn new French vocabulary, and that will make you a winner by any definition. You can also repeat Step four several times to boost your score.

You will probably note that the first two of these steps are passive reading skills going from French to English while Steps 3 and 4 are active, going from English to French: Step 3 involves speaking French words and Step 4 involves writing those words. See how your work fits into the four basic language skills:

	Passive	Active
Oral/Aural	Listening	Speaking
Alphabetic	Reading	Writing

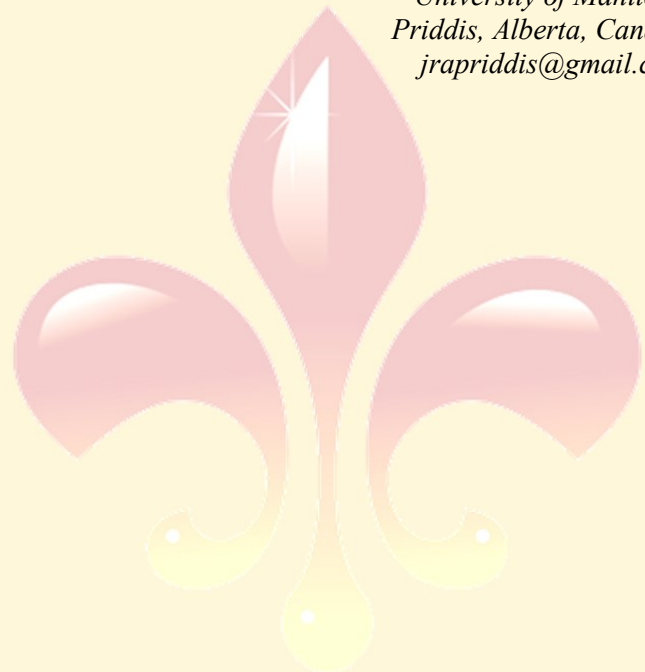
You have practiced the two active skills (speaking and writing) and the two alphabetic skills (reading and writing). The only skill you are missing is the passive/aural one: listening, and if you could get someone who can speak French to help you do step two, then you would have that skill covered too.

I would be very interested in knowing what scores you made in Step 4, both initially and after you have done it a few times. Please let me know if this system helps. My coordinates are below.



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## E X P R E S S I O N S F R A N Ç A I S E S

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| 1. un boulot   | 29. Comme on fait son lit on se couche. <sup>6</sup> |
| 2. se faire vacciner contre la grippe                    | 30. un A.V.C. (accident vasculaire cérébral)         |
| 3. un toxicomane   | 31. le tabagisme passif                              |
| 4. {un aide-soignant une aide soignante} <sup>1</sup>    | 32. l'alcoolisme                                     |
| 5. un/e {alcoolique alcoolo}                             | 33. faire des ravages                                |
| 6. casser sa pipe  | 34. un gros fumeur                                   |
| 7. passer {de vie à trépas l'arme à gauche} <sup>2</sup> | 35. prendre son courage à deux mains                 |
| 8. un pissenlit  | 36. une cigarette électronique                       |
| 9. une marguerite  | 37. vapoter <sup>7</sup>                             |
| 10. manger les pissenlits par la racine                  | 38. un/e {vapoteur vapotrice}                        |
| 11. Cela ne vaut pas un clou. <sup>3</sup>               | 39. les années folles                                |
| 12. Cela ne vaut pas tripette.                           | 40. un fume-cigarette                                |
| 13. mener quelqu'un par le bout du nez <sup>4</sup>      | 41. en travers du chemin                             |
| 14. s'en mettre plein les poches                         | 42. un morveux !                                     |
| 15. Qui vivra verra (et qui mourra saura).               | 43. un trou du cul                                   |
| 16. À Dieu {vat va} !                                    | 44. T'es dingue !                                    |
| 17. un {arrêt de travail congé de maladie}               | 45. le paludisme                                     |
| 18. un médecin traitant                                  | 46. une folie passagère                              |
| 19. une mutuelle de santé                                | 47. T'es {maboul maboule} !                          |
| 20. s'aliter   | 48. une lavette                                      |
| 21. crachouiller   | 49. T'es une lavette !                               |
| 22. frissonner de la tête au pied                        | 50. T'es veule !                                     |
| 23. courbatu   | 51. T'es une ordure !                                |
| 24. à bras raccourcis                                    | 52. des ordures (fem. pl.)                           |
| 25. à tout bout de champ                                 | 53. une pourriture                                   |
| 26. une maladie cardio-vasculaire                        | 54. écœurant   |
| 27. faire tout un plat de <sup>5</sup>                   | 55. une hypertension artérielle                      |
| 28. à juste titre  | 56. le diabète <sup>8</sup>                          |
|  | 57. ce seuil cruel                                   |

<sup>1</sup> Plural: *des aides-soignants* or *des aides-soignantes*.

<sup>2</sup> When soldiers used to load their guns in the seventeenth century, they held their gun in their left hand. It took time to load, and so they were at risk to be killed when they would *passer l'arme à gauche*.

<sup>3</sup> *Des clous !* : 'Nonsense!'

<sup>4</sup> *Se manger le nez* : 'to be at each other's throats'.

<sup>5</sup> *Faire du plat à quelqu'un*: 'to feed a line to someone', 'to make a play for someone'.

<sup>6</sup> *Faire le lit de* : 'to pave the way for'.

<sup>7</sup> The verb "to vape," i.e., 'to inhale or exhale vapor from an electronic cigarette', is the Oxford English Dictionary's choice for the new word of 2014. When it is illegal to "smoke" in a French restaurant, *les fumeurs se mettent tous à vapoter*.

<sup>8</sup> Someone who has this disease is *un/e diabétique*, noun and adjective.

## E X P R E S S I O N S F R A N Ç A I S E S , S U I T E

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|---|--|
| 58. grignoter                                   | 88. à double tranchant                       |
| 59. une sucrerie                                | 89. une fringale                             |
| 60. être comme Saint-Thomas                     | 90. avoir une de ces {fringales dalles} !    |
| 61. néfaste                                     | 91. se remettre à faire                      |
| 62. sauter un repas                             | 92. goinfrer                                 |
| 63. se laver les mains de quelque chose         | 93. bâfrer                                   |
| 64. renvoyer aux calendes grecques <sup>1</sup> | 94. faire ripaille                           |
| 65. suivre un régime strict                     | 95. être maigre comme un {clou coucou}       |
| 66. être pauvre comme Job                       | 96. être gras comme un coucou                |
| 67. une taille <sup>2</sup>                     | 97. dodu                                     |
| 68. I.M.C. (indice de masse corporelle)         | 98. une maladie du siècle                    |
| 69. une bouffe                                  | 99. un dépistage                             |
| 70. une alimentation non équilibrée             | 100. une médecine prédictive                 |
| 71. le nez collé à                              | 101. faire florès                            |
| 72. en avoir sa claque                          | 102. un effet secondaire                     |
| 73. en avoir {marre ras le bol} de <sup>3</sup> | 103. rouler quelqu'un dans la farine         |
| 74. une vie casanière                           | 104. une arthrose                            |
| 75. un ordi                                     | 105. regorger de                             |
| 76. une Bokwa                                   | 106. une station thermale                    |
| 77. brûler les graisses                         | 107. Cela fait des lustres que               |
| 78. muscler                                     | 108. un/e curiste                            |
| 79. les abdominos <sup>4</sup>                  | 109. un bain bouillonnant <sup>5</sup>       |
| 80. les fessiers (masc.)                        | 110. une maladie nosocomiale <sup>6</sup>    |
| 81. s'empâter                                   | 111. le thermalisme                          |
| 82. On redessine sa silhouette.                 | 112. se répandre comme une traînée de poudre |
| 83. boucher                                     | 113. une santé chancelante                   |
| 84. une insuffisance cardiaque                  | 114. les pépins de santé                     |
| 85. une respiration sifflante                   | 115. une santé éclatante                     |
| 86. un gonflement des chevilles                 | 116. avoir {la forme la pêche}               |
| 87. tout un chacun                              | 117. Pétons la forme !                       |
|   | 118. trinquer                                |
|   | 119. Tchîn tchîn !                           |

<sup>1</sup> While the Roman calendar had a "calendes" (the first day of the month from which days were counted backward to the ides, or fifteenth day), the Greeks had none. Therefore postponing something to an inexistent date means postponing it forever.

<sup>2</sup> *Avoir la taille bien prise* : 'to have a good figure'.

<sup>3</sup> *À ras bord* : 'to the brim'.

<sup>4</sup> *Les abdominaux* is always masculine plural. One would never say *un abdominal*.

<sup>5</sup> *Être dans le bain* : 'to be in the swim', 'to be in trouble'.

<sup>6</sup> Nosocomial is also an English word with the same meaning.

## E N G L I S H   E X P R E S S I O N S

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|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. a job (slang)</li> <li>2. to get a flu shot</li> <li>3. a drug addict</li> <li>4. a nurse's aide</li> <li>5. an alcoholic (2 possible answers)</li> <li>6. to kick the bucket (3-word answer)</li> <li>7. to to be dispatched into the next world (2 possible 5-word answers)\</li> <li>8. a dandelion</li> <li>9. a daisy</li> <li>10. to be pushing up the daisies</li> <li>11. That is not worth a tinker's damn.</li> <li>12. That is completely ineffectual.</li> <li>13. to twist someone around one's little finger</li> <li>14. to line one's pockets; to rake in the dough</li> <li>15. Time will tell.</li> <li>16. It's in God's hands (give either spelling)</li> <li>17. a sick leave (2 possible answers)</li> <li>18. a family doctor ; a general practitioner (G.P.)</li> <li>19. a health cooperative</li> <li>20. to take to one's bed</li> <li>21. to splutter</li> <li>22. to shiver from head to foot</li> <li>23. stiff and aching</li> <li>24. {violently ferociously with all one's might}</li> <li>25. {all the time at every turn}</li> <li>26. a cardiovascular disease</li> <li>27. to make a big deal about</li> <li>28. rightly</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>29. As one makes one's bed so must one lie in it.</li> <li>30. a stroke</li> <li>31. the passive smoking</li> <li>32. the alcoholism</li> <li>33. to do damage</li> <li>34. a heavy smoker</li> <li>35. to muster one's courage</li> <li>36. an e-cigarette</li> <li>37. to vape (smoke an e-cigarette)</li> <li>38. an e-cigarette smoker</li> <li>39. the golden years; roaring twenties</li> <li>40. a cigarette holder</li> <li>41. blocking the way</li> <li>42. a snotty-nosed person</li> <li>43. an a**-hole</li> <li>44. You're nuts!</li> <li>45. the malaria (variant of <i>la malaria</i>)</li> <li>46. a passing folly</li> <li>47. You're a weirdo! <sup>1</sup></li> <li>48. a dishcloth</li> <li>49. You're a {drip dope wet blanket}!</li> <li>50. You're spineless, weak!</li> <li>51. You are a pig! a bastard!</li> <li>52. garbage; trash</li> <li>53. a rot</li> <li>54. nauseating</li> <li>55. a high blood pressure</li> <li>56. the diabetes</li> <li>57. this cruel threshold</li> </ol> |
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<sup>1</sup> You can also translate "weirdo" with *taré (tarée)*, *cinglé (cinglée)*, *barjo*, *barge*, *bargeot*, *énergumène*, but Professor Dio used another word for "weirdo" in her column, .

## E N G L I S H   E X P R E S S I O N S ,   S U I T E

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|---|--|
| 58. to nibble   | 88. double-edged; cuts both way                            |
| 59. a candy (not <i>bonbon</i> this time)   | 89. a craving  |
| 60. to doubt (4-word answer)  | 90. to be able to eat a horse ; to be starving (2 ways)    |
| 60. harmful (not <i>nocif</i> , <i>nuisible</i> , or <i>malfaisant</i> this time) | 91. to get back to doing                                   |
| 61. to skip a meal  | 92. to make a pig of oneself                               |
| 63. to wash one's hand of something   | 93. to {have a feast binge binge-eat}                      |
| 64. to postpone indefinitely  | 94. to guzzle, gobble                                      |
| 65. to be on a strict diet  | 95. to {have a feast binge binge-eat}                      |
| 66. to be poor as a church mouse  | 96. to be thin as a {nail rail rake} (2 expressions)       |
| 67. a size, height, figure  | 97. plump; pudgy; tubby                                    |
| 68. B.M.I. (body mass index)  | 98. a (chronic) disease of the (21 <sup>st</sup> ) century |
| 69. a food, grub, meal  | 99. a screening, detection                                 |
| 70. an unbalanced diet  | 100. a preventative medicine                               |
| 71. one's nose stuck to   | 101. to enjoy great success; to flourish                   |
| 72. to be {done in tired of}  | 102. a side effect   |
| 73. to be fed up with (one 4-word and one 6-word answer)                          | 103. to take someone to the cleaners                       |
| 74. a stay-at-home life   | 104. an osteoarthritis                                     |
| 75. a PC (or a Mac)   | 105. to be overflowing with                                |
| 76. an aerobic dance (give the name of that new dance)                            | 106. a spa   |
| 77. to burn off fat   | 107. That's been ages since                                |
| 78. to develop (or build) the muscles   | 108. a person taking the waters at a spa                   |
| 79. the stomach muscles (two similar expressions)                                 | 109. a hot bath  |
| 80. the buttocks  | 110. a hospital-acquired {infection illness}               |
| 81. to get fat; put on weight (reflexive verb)                                    | 111. the hydrotherapy, spa treatment                       |
| 82. One {changes redraws} one's {shape figure}.                                   | 112. to spread like wildfire                               |
| 83. to block (not <i>bloquer</i> this time)                                       | 113. a deteriorating health                                |
| 84. a heart failure   | 114. the (small) health problems; health glitches          |
| 85. a wheezing  | 115. a sparkling health                                    |
| 86. a swelling of the ankles  | 116. to be in good shape, feel great (2 ways)              |
| 87. each and every person   | 117. Let's {get fit shape up}                              |
|   | 118. to {toast drink}                                      |
|   | 119. Skål! Cheers!   |