

FRENCH SLANG & IDIOMS

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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A

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
amérloque	Yank

âne	
peser un âne mort	(<i>La Fontaine fable</i>) to weigh a ton
Apache	
c'est Fort Apache	(unconfirmed) it's open season
ardoise	
il a une ardoise	he has a (criminal) record
arme blanche	knife, bladed weapon (<i>as opposed to firearm</i>)
armoire à glace	(to be built like a) tank, brick shithouse
assiette	
ne pas être dans son assiette	to be (<i>physically</i>) under the weather, (<i>mentally</i>) ill at ease, unhappy
assommer	to knock out
avocat	defence lawyer (<i>as opposed to procureur</i>)

B

bâclé	sloppy, botched
baguette	
partir en baguette	to go horribly awry
bailloner	(<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> mouchard
balancer	to grass up, denounce, inform on
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 (<i>unconfirmed</i>)
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
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
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>)
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
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 placard
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
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 (<i>f.</i>)	ball (<i>testicle</i>)
boule à zero	shaven head, buzzcut, "number 1"
boule (<i>m.</i>)	arse
bourde	blunder, slip-up
bourdin	moron; ?liar (<i>unconfirmed: possibly 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
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

c'est tout comme	as good as, near enough
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 mouchard
cagnotte	fundraiser
ça caille	it's freezing cold
caillou	rock (<i>gemstone</i>)
caisse	1. car, (<i>set of</i>) wheels; 2. room
caler	
je cale	I'm stuffed (<i>food</i>)
câlin	hug, cuddle
faire un câlin	to have/give a cuddle
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
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
mains cassées	(unconfirmed) hands apart
cause	
hors cause	in the clear, above suspicion
cavale	
en cavale	on the run
Cerbère	guard dog (<i>ironic</i>)
(se) chamailler	to squabble
chambouler	to mess up, turn upside down (<i>lit. & 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
chanter	
si ça te chante	if you like
chapeau	
chapeau bas!	hats off!
faire porter le chapeau	to pin the blame on someone
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	contrived, hard to believe
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
cloppe	fag (<i>cigarette</i>)
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.)	(unconfirmed) safe house
coucherie	casual (sexual) encounter, one-night stand
coucou!	hi!
faire un coucou	to drop by
couf	bush (<i>female pubic hair</i>)
couper à	to escape, dodge
couquette	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
crapuleux	sordid, shabby
craque	lie (<i>untruth</i>)

craquer	
je craque	go on then, you've convinced me
créneau	(time) slot
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
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

dale	
que dalle!	zilch, absolutely nothing
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
débolle	(<i>unconfirmed</i>) hideout
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!
dégobiller	to puke, throw up
(se) dégonfler	to chicken out
dégriser	
cellule de dégrisement	"drunk tank", sobering-up (prison) cell
(se) démerder	to sort things out, manage
demi-mots	
à demi-mots	without having to spell it out

(se) dénoncer	to give oneself up
dérailler	to be losing it
déraper	to spiral out of control
deessoûler	to sober up
dessus	
on est dessus!	we're on it!
détention provisoire	remand
détraqué	crazy
dévaliser	to rob
DI	déficience intellectuelle (<i>of person, deprecated</i>) "retard"
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
écorché	(literally) grazed, tormented
écoute	phone tap
s'emballer	to get carried away (emotions), to pack up (heart e.g.)
emballé	keen on, thrilled by
embarquer	
se laisser embarquer	to get carried away
éméché	squiffy, tipsy
emplâtrer	to thump (someone)
encanailler	to slum it
enceinte	
mettre enceinte	to make pregnant
encloquer	= engrosser
enfariné	
la gueule enfarinée	foolishly overconfident
enfoiré	bastard, jerk
engrosser	to knock up
enfumer	to bullshit
entaille	gash, deep cut
entourloupe	dirty trick, skullduggery
éponge	boozier, heavy drinker
passer l'éponge	forgive and forget, dismiss (a grudge)
escamoter	to snatch (off the street, e.g.)
s'éterniser	to dally, linger, drag one's feet
étouffer	to hush up
étriqué	narrow-minded

F

fabuler	to fantasise
fadette	mobile phone record
fauché	skint, flat broke
faucheur	
grand faucheur	Death, the Grim Reaper
fesses	
ocuvez-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
flan	
c'est du flan	that's bullshit
flasher sur quelqu'un	to fancy (<i>someone</i>)
flécher avec	(unconfirmed) to hook up with, hit it off with
fleur	
à fleur de peau	hypersensitive (<i>e.g. to beauty</i>); on edge, nery; running high (<i>emotions</i>)
fleurette	
conter fleurette	whisper sweet nothings
flingue	gun, "piece"
flippant	scary
flipper	to freak out

foin	
faire du foin	cause a stir, cause a scandal
foirade	cock-up, disaster
foirer	to screw up
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 couf
fouineuse	(<i>female</i>) nosey parker
foulage	raised imprint, embossed text
fourrer	to screw, fuck
fourrière	(<i>dog, vehicle</i>) pound
foutoir	mess, shambles; (<i>place</i>) dump
franc-tireur	maverick
frangin(e)	brother, sister
fricoter avec	to have it off with someone
frileux	chilly (<i>reception</i>), cagey, hesitant
fringues	clothes
froid	
batter froid à quelqu'un	to cold-shoulder someone
frotter	
se frotter 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
galipette	rumpy pumpy
galoche	French kiss
gallon	
prendre du gallon	to rise, get promoted
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>)
gérer	
on va gérer	we'll manage
glauque	sinister, sordid, shabby
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
griller un feu	run a red light
grincheux	grumpy
gueule	
faire la gueule	to be sulking
guibolles	pins (<i>legs</i>)

H

haricot

clitoris

hic

snag, problem

I

îlotier	community policeman
illuminé	lunatic
IML	(institut medico-légal) = morgue, forensic institute
immonde	vile, disgusting
indic	see mouchard
insu	
à mon insu	unbeknownst to me

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>)
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
coup de lapin	whiplash
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	1. to pong, to have B.O.; 2. (<i>unconfirmed</i>) to have one foot in the grave
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

M

mac	see maquereau
(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
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
maton	screw (<i>prison guard</i>)
matos	stuff, junk
mauviette	wimp
mèche	
vendre la mèche	to let the cat out of the bag
médiatique	(<i>of person</i>) high-profile (<i>in media</i>), media-savvy
merder	to screw up
mesquin(e)	petty

meuf	woman, “bird”
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 chatte
mousser	
se faire mousser	to show off, talk up one’s own importance
musique	
réglé comme du papier à musique	organised to a T

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

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 galoche
papillon	flyer (<i>leaflet</i>)
papoter	to chat
paquet lâcher son paquet mettre le paquet	“lunchbox” (<i>male genitalia</i>) to get things off one’s chest to pull out all the stops
parages	environs
parfum mettre au parfum	to put in the picture
partir partir ventre à terre	to leg it, scuttle off
passade	whim, passing fancy
passer faire des passes	to turn tricks
passer-montagne	balaclava
porteur	(<i>things or people</i>) smuggler
patate	thousand euros
patelin	little place, village
patte folle	gammy leg
paumé	lost, confused
peau avoir quelqu’un dans la peau faire la peau à quelqu’un faire peau neuve	 to love someone kill someone 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
péloter	to grope, paw
perché	high (<i>on drugs</i>)
petard	
mettre en petard	to annoy
se mettre en petard	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
pétitement	(unconfirmed) scuffle
pétrin	
dans le pétrin	in a pickle, jam
petzouille	see plouc
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, ease up
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 one's rocks off
piéger	to frame (<i>someone</i>)
piètre	pitiful, pathetic
pif	
au pif	off the top of one's head
pige	year
pile	
mettre une pile	to beat hands down

pinailler	to nitpick
pincés	handcuffs
pioche	deck of cards
faire une mauvaise pioche	make the wrong choice
piole	see piaule
pipe	
casser sa pipe	to kick the bucket
pipés	loaded (<i>dice</i>)
piqué	nutcase
PJ	see Police Judiciaire
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 go down (<i>to jail</i>)
(se) pointer	to show up
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
pompette	tipsy
pompier	blow job; oral sex
porc	
Balance Ton Porc	FR equivalent of the MeToo movement
portable de guerre	burner phone
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
puce	
ma puce	little one (<i>affectionate</i>)
puceau, pucelle	virgin

Q

quadriller	to patrol
quéquette	willy (<i>childish</i>)
question insidieuse	leading question

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 fauché
ramer	to struggle (<i>to achieve something</i>)
(se) ranger	to go straight
ratisser	scour, comb
rebours	
compte à rebours	countdown
recel	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	nerd (<i>person</i>), old hat (<i>thing</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
roucoulades	billing and cooing
roupiller	to kip, sleep
route	
tenir la route	to hold up (<i>theory</i>)

S

sabot	
ne pas se trouver sous le sabot d'un cheval	to be rare, hard to find
sainte nitouche	(female) goody-goody, holier than thou person
salades	nonsense, rubbish
salon (de prostitution)	brothel (Swiss)
sang	
coup de sang	fit of rage
saouler	see soûler
sape	clothes, gear
bien sapé	all dolled up
schlinguer	to stink
schmitt; schmidt	cop
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

sort	
jeter un sort à quelqu'un	cast a spell on someone
sosie	double, lookalike
soudoyer	to bribe
(se) soulager	to relieve oneself
soûler	
tu me soûles	you piss me off
sous-marin	watcher, spy
souteneur	see proxénète
surnom	nickname
surplomber	overlook, overhang
survolté	worked up, (over-)excited

T

tabasser	beat up
taf	work
taguer	to write, draw, graffiti
tante	fairy, queer
tantouse	see tante
(se) taper	to shag
tapiner	to be on the game
tapineuse	hooker
tapuscrit	typewritten manuscript
taquet	
au taquet	flat out
taré	crazy, nuts, stupid
taudis	pigsty, shithole
taule	clink, jail
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
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
tôle	see taule
tomber	to go down (<i>i.e. to prison</i>)
toquade	infatuation
toubib	doctor (<i>Arabic</i>)
touche	
mettre sur la touche	to sideline
trac	stage fright
tracasser	to bother
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 th 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
velours	
jouer sur du velours	to play it safe; (<i>of an action</i>) to be a safe bet
vérole (grosse vérole)	pox, syphilis
verrou	key (<i>to e.g. a puzzle</i>)
sous les verrous	under lock and key
vif	
à vif	uptight, on edge
vinaigre	
tourner au vinaigre	to turn sour
violon	cooler (<i>old-fashioned</i>)
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 youpin

Z

zazou

hippie, weirdo

zib; zob

prick, cock



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