

FRENCH IDIOMS

PART ONE

“Avoir un cœur de pierre.”

Literal translation/English equivalent:

“To have a heart of stone”

Meaning: ‘To be cold and emotionless, or stern.’

“Faire d’une pierre deux coups.”

Literal translation: “Make two strikes with one stone.”

English equivalent: **“To kill two birds with one stone.”**

Meaning: ‘To achieve two aims at once.’

“Jeter la pierre à quelqu’un.”

Literal translation: “To throw someone the stone.”

English equivalent: **“To point the finger at someone”**

Meaning: ‘To blame or accuse somebody.’

“Apporter sa pierre à l’édifice.”

Literal translation: “To bring your stone to the building.”

English equivalent: **“To be part of the story.”**

Meaning: ‘To play your part, to do your bit.’

“Marquer quelque chose d’une pierre blanche.”

Literal translation: “Mark something with a white stone.”

English equivalent: **“To be a red-letter day.”**

Meaning: ‘A landmark event, or a special day to remember.’

“Geler à pierre fendre.”

Literal translation: “To freeze and crack a stone.”

English equivalent: **“Bone splitting cold”**

Meaning: ‘To be very cold.’

“Manger au lance-pierre.”

Literal translation: “Eat with a slingshot.”

English equivalent: **“Grab a quick bite to eat.”**

Meaning: ‘To have a small meal or snack when you don't have much time.’



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PART TWO

“Se faire rouler dans la farine.”

Literal translation: “To be rolled in flour.”

English equivalent: “To get ripped off.”

Meaning: ‘To be charged too much money for something, or be sold something that is faulty or poor quality.’

“Casser les pieds à quelqu’un.”

Literal translation: “To break someone’s feet.”

English equivalent: “To drive somebody up the wall.”

Meaning: ‘To be very annoying, or to bother someone.’

“Poser un lapin à quelqu’un.”

Literal translation: “Put a rabbit to somebody.”

English equivalent: “To stand somebody up.”

Meaning: ‘To fail to meet someone when you said you would.’

“Revenons à nos moutons.”

Literal translation: “Let’s return to our sheep.”

English equivalent: “Let’s get back to the topic at hand.”

Meaning: ‘Let’s get back to what we were talking about.’

“Un de ces quatre matins.”

Literal translation: “One of these four mornings.”

English equivalent: “One of these days.”

Meaning: ‘Sometime soon’

“Il fait un froid de canard.”

Literal translation: “It is a duck’s cold.”

English equivalent: “It’s freezing!”

Meaning: ‘It is very cold.’

“Je n’ai pas un radis.”

Literal translation: “I haven’t got one radish.”

English equivalent: “I haven’t got a penny.”

Meaning: ‘I haven’t got any money’

