

10 Charming & Essential French Words

Expand your vocabulary beyond the basics.

Welcome to today's micro-lesson! We will explore 10 uniquely delightful words that French locals use every day. Learning these quirky expressions will help you sound much more natural than standard textbook French.





Les Expressions

Estival

Summery / During the summer season

J'adore la météo estivale ! - I love summer weather!

Choupinou

Too cute, Very sweet

Ce petit café est trop choupinou - This small coffeeshop is way too cute

Gnognotte

Of no value, Rubbish, Cheap

Il n'achète plus de souvenirs, c'est souvent de la gnognotte ! - He doesn't buy souvenirs anymore, they're cheap and rubbish.

Fada (de)

Cuckoo, Nut / To be crazy about

Elle, elle est fada de chocolat noir - She is crazy about dark chocolate.

Chipper

To swipe, to steal, to take away

Qui a chipé mon chargeur ? - Who swiped/took away my charger?



Les Noms

Une Pantoufle

Slippers

Ces pantoufles sont très jolies ! - These slippers are very pretty!

Un Tohu-bohu

Hubbub, Commotion, Hustle and Bustle

C'était un vrai tohu-bohu à l'aéroport - It was a real commotion at the airport.

Une Coquillette

Elbow Pasta, Elbow Macaroni

*Les coquillettes au beurre sont les pâtes que je préfère ! -
Mac and butter is what I prefer.*

Un méli-mélo

A mix, a jumble, a hodgepodge - des morceaux de pommes
*Cette salade est un méli-mélo de laitue, mâche, et roquette avec des morceas -
This salad is a jumble of lettuce, lambs lettuce, arugula with some pieces of apples.*

Une Gambette

A leg

*On a fait de l'escalade et maintenant on a mal aux gambettes. - We did some rock
legs hurt now.*

À vous de jouer !

Draw a line between the French word and its English meaning.

1. Gambette
2. Coquillette
3. Pantoufle

- A. Elbow Pasta
- B. Slipper
- C. Leg

Use context to find the missing word.

Ce petit café est trop _____ ! (Too cute!)
Qui a _____ mon chargeur ? (Swiped!)

Select the correct meaning.

What does the phrase 'un tohu-bohu' describe?

- [A] A summery day
- [B] A noisy commotion or hubbub
- [C] A type of French salad

