

French Idioms and expressions

Class Objective: To be able to understand French idioms and expressions

Concept A: Des expressions idiomatiques

1. Coûter les yeux de la tête

Coûter les yeux de la tête literally means that something costs the eyes in your head – it's a price that's unreasonable. The English equivalent is 'to cost an arm and a leg'. Here's an example:

J'aurais aimé acheter un nouvel ordi mais ça coûte les yeux de la tête.

I would have liked to buy a new computer but it costs an arm and a leg.

2. Boire comme un trou

Boire comme un trou literally means to drink like a hole. When you say that someone drinks like a hole, it means that they never stop, even if they should. This expression has a small hint of judgment, so be careful about when you use it. Here's an example:

“Astrid a remarqué que Charles a bu deux bouteilles de vin hier soir. “

“Mon Dieu, il buvait comme un trou.”

“Astrid noticed that Charles drank two bottles of wine last night.”

“Oh my God, he was drinking like a fish. “

3. Ne rien savoir faire de ses dix doigts.

Ne rien savoir faire de ses dix doigts literally means not knowing how to do anything with one's ten fingers. It means that somebody is completely useless. Here's an example:

Laisse tomber, il ne sait rien faire de ses dix doigts, celui-là.

Forget about it, that guy is completely useless.

4. Arriver comme un cheveu sur la soupe

Arriver comme un cheveu sur la soupe literally means to arrive like the hair in a soup. It refers to entering a situation at the most awkward moment possible. Here's an example:



1. *Leucosia* *leucostoma* (Fabricius) (Lepidoptera: Gelechiidae).
2. *Leucosia* *leucostoma* (Fabricius) (Lepidoptera: Gelechiidae).
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19. *Leucosia* *leucostoma* (Fabricius) (Lepidoptera: Gelechiidae).
20. *Leucosia* *leucostoma* (Fabricius) (Lepidoptera: Gelechiidae).





