

C1 – French word list

High-Level Academic & Formal Vocabulary

1. **Ébranler** (Ay-brahn-lay) - To shake / To undermine
2. **Préconiser** (Pray-ko-nee-zay) - To advocate / To recommend
3. **S'avérer** (Sah-vay-ray) - To prove to be / To turn out
4. **Octroyer** (Ok-trwah-yay) - To grant / To bestow
5. **Entraver** (Ahn-trah-vay) - To hinder / To hamper
6. **Le paradoxe** (Luh pah-rah-doks) - The paradox
7. **L'envergure** (Lahn-vair-goor) - Breadth / Stature / Scale
8. **Désuet** (Day-zoo-ay) - Obsolete / Outdated
9. **Obsolète** (Ob-so-let) - Obsolete
10. **L'apogée** (Lah-po-zhay) - The peak / Zenith
11. **Pérenne** (Pay-ren) - Perennial / Lasting
12. **Mitigé** (Mee-tee-zhay) - Mixed / Qualified (opinion)
13. **Vraisemblable** (Vray-sahm-blah-bluh) - Plausible / Likely
14. **Préjudiciable** (Pray-zhoo-dee-syah-bluh) - Harmful / Detrimental
15. **Inhérent** (An-ay-rahng) - Inherent
16. **Néanmoins** (Nay-ahn-mwan) - Nevertheless
17. **Aborder** (Ah-bor-day) - To approach / To tackle (a subject)
18. **Décortiquer** (Day-kor-tee-kay) - To dissect / To analyze in detail
19. **La dérive** (Lah day-reev) - The downward spiral / Drifting
20. **Le fardeau** (Luh far-doh) - The burden

Advanced Logic & Rhetoric

21. **Nonobstant** (No-nohb-stahng) - Notwithstanding
22. **D'ores et déjà** (Doh-ray-day-zhah) - Already
23. **Force est de constater** (Fors ay duh kohn-stah-tay) - It must be noted
24. **En l'occurrence** (Ahng lo-koo-rahns) - In this case

- 25. **À l'instar de** (Ah lan-star duh) - Just like
- 26. **Pour autant** (Poor oh-tahng) - For all that / Even so
- 27. **En amont** (Ahng ah-mohn) - Upstream / Beforehand
- 28. **En aval** (Ahng ah-val) - Downstream / Afterwards
- 29. **Subséquemment** (Soob-say-kah-mahng) - Subsequently
- 30. **Nonobstant** (No-nohb-stahng) - Notwithstanding

Slang from France (Verlan & Argot)

- 31. **Ouf** (Oof) - Crazy (Verlan of *fou*)
- 32. **Meuf** (Muf) - Woman / Girlfriend (Verlan of *femme*)
- 33. **Keum** (Kum) - Guy / Boyfriend (Verlan of *mec*)
- 34. **Relou** (Ruh-loo) - Annoying / Boring (Verlan of *lourd*)
- 35. **Chelou** (Shuh-loo) - Weird / Sketchy (Verlan of *louche*)
- 36. **Cimer** (See-mair) - Thanks (Verlan of *merci*)
- 37. **Vénère** (Vay-nair) - Angry (Verlan of *énervé*)
- 38. **La thune** (Lah toon) - Money
- 39. **Un taf** (Uhng taf) - A job
- 40. **Bosser** (Bo-say) - To work
- 41. **Kiffer** (Kee-fay) - To like / To love
- 42. **Un truc** (Uhng trook) - A thing
- 43. **Grave** (Grahv) - Totally / Very
- 44. **Nickel** (Nee-kel) - Perfect / Spotless
- 45. **Ça te dit ?** (Sah tuh dee) - Are you up for it?
- 46. **Naze** (Nahz) - Lame / Broken / Exhausted
- 47. **Un gosse** (Uhng goss) - A kid
- 48. **Une clope** (Oon klop) - A cigarette
- 49. **Le pinard** (Luh pee-nar) - Wine (informal)
- 50. **S'arracher** (Sah-rah-shay) - To leave / To head out

Slang from Quebec (Joual & Localisms)

51. **Chum** (Tshum) - Boyfriend / Male friend
52. **Blonde** (Blohnd) - Girlfriend
53. **Char** (Shar) - Car
54. **Dépanneur** (Day-pah-nur) - Convenience store
55. **Magasiner** (Mah-gah-zee-nay) - To go shopping
56. **C'est platte** (Say plat) - It's boring
57. **Lâcher son fou** (Lah-shay sohn foo) - To let loose
58. **Être tanné** (Ett-ruh tah-nay) - To be fed up
59. **Pantoute** (Pahng-toot) - Not at all
60. **Frencher** (Fren-tshay) - To French kiss
61. **Toqué** (To-kay) - Crazy
62. **Fin** (Fang) - Nice / Kind (e.g., *Il est bien fin*)
63. **Gosser** (Go-say) - To annoy / To fiddle with something
64. **Piasse** (Pyass) - Bucks (Money/Dollars)
65. **Tu m'niaises ?** (Too mnyez) - Are you kidding me?

Slang from West Africa (Ivorian Nouchi & Others)

66. **S'enjailler** (Sahn-zhahy-yay) - To have fun / To enjoy oneself
67. **Un gaou** (Uhng gah-oo) - A fool / Someone not in the know
68. **Boucantier** (Boo-kahn-te-ay) - A show-off
69. **Chicoter** (Shee-ko-tay) - To whip / To beat (or metaphorically to win)
70. **Un djo** (Uhng djo) - A guy
71. **Ma go** (Mah go) - My girl / girlfriend
72. **Daba** (Dah-bah) - To eat / A meal
73. **Ambienceur** (Ahm-be-ahn-sur) - Someone who likes to party
74. **Cadeauter** (Kah-doh-tay) - To give a gift
75. **Gâter le coin** (Gah-tay luh kwan) - To party hard / To make a scene

Advanced Idioms (C1)

76. **Avoir le cafard** (Ah-vwahr luh kah-far) - To feel blue / depressed

- 77. **Coûter les yeux de la tête** (Koo-tay lay-zyuh duh lah tet) - To cost an arm and a leg
- 78. **Poser un lapin** (Po-zay uhng lah-pahng) - To stand someone up
- 79. **Raconter des salades** (Rah-kohn-tay day sah-lahd) - To tell lies
- 80. **Appeler un chat un chat** (Ah-play uhng shah uhng shah) - To call a spade a spade
- 81. **Prendre ses jambes à son cou** (Prahnd-ruh say zhahmb ah sohn koo) - To run away quickly
- 82. **Tomber dans les pommes** (Tohm-bay dahng lay pom) - To faint
- 83. **Faire la grasse matinée** (Fair lah grahss mah-tee-nay) - To sleep in late
- 84. **Donner un coup de main** (Doh-nay uhng koo duh mahng) - To lend a hand
- 85. **Mettre son grain de sel** (Met-ruh sohn grahng duh sel) - To put one's two cents in

Nuanced Adverbs & Adjectives

- 86. **Scrupuleusement** (Skroo-poo-luhz-mahng) - Scrupulously
- 87. **Fondamentalement** (Fohn-dah-mahn-tal-mahng) - Fundamentally
- 88. **Paradoxalement** (Pah-rah-dok-sal-mahng) - Paradoxically
- 89. **Manifestement** (Mah-nee-fest-mahng) - Clearly / Obviously
- 90. **Éminemment** (Ay-mee-nah-mahng) - Eminently / Highly
- 91. **Incontestablement** (An-kohn-test-ah-blah-mahng) - Indisputably
- 92. **Obséqueux** (Ob-say-kee-uh) - Obsequious
- 93. **Taciturne** (Tah-see-toorn) - Quiet / Reserved
- 94. **Équivoque** (Ay-kee-vok) - Equivocal / Ambiguous
- 95. **Saugrenu** (Soh-gruh-noo) - Absurd / Ridiculous

Closing Fillers (To sound like a Native)

- 96. **Quoi qu'il en soit** (Kwah keel ahng swah) - Regardless
- 97. **À vrai dire** (Ah vray deer) - To tell the truth
- 98. **Il n'empêche que** (Eel nahm-pesh kuh) - Nevertheless / The fact remains
- 99. **Autant que je sache** (Oh-tahng kuh zhuh sash) - As far as I know
- 100. **Tout compte fait** (Too kohnt fay) - All things considered