



20 French Expressions You'll use every day

These aren't the phrases you learned in class. They're the ones native speakers use every single day, and the ones that will make you sound truly fluent.

Native speakers use expressions that rarely translate word for word but carry a lot of meaning in real conversations.

The 20 expressions in this presentation are used constantly in everyday spoken French. Learn them and you'll immediately sound more like a native speaker and less like a language textbook.

- ⓘ Don't try to learn all 20 at once. Pick **3 expressions**, use them daily for a week, then add more. Small steps build real fluency.

Reacting Naturally

These expressions let you respond to things the way French people actually do. Ditch "oui, oui" and try these instead.

Ça marche

Meaning: Sure, works for me, sounds good

Example: "On se retrouve à 18h ?" - "**Ça marche !**"

-> "Meet at 6pm?" - "Works for me!"

Carrément

Meaning: Totally, absolutely, 100%

Example: "C'était bon ce film !" - "**Carrément**, j'ai adoré."

-> "That film was good!" - "Totally, I loved it."

Oui...mais non

Meaning: I hear you...but no

Example: "On va courir à 6h demain ?" - "**Oui...mais non !**"

-> "Do you want to go run at 6 am tomorrow" - "Good idea but I'll pass."

Pas faux

Meaning: That's not wrong / fair point

Example: "On pourrait y aller à pied." - "**Pas faux.**"

-> "We could walk there." - "Fair point."

📌 ⚠️ **These expressions are** informal - great for friends, and coworkers but not for job interviews!

Softening & Being Less Direct

These expressions help you hedge, express mild opinions, and avoid sounding overly enthusiastic or negative, a very French social skill.

Bof

Meaning: Meh, not really, I'm not that into it

Example: "Tu as aimé le repas ?" - "**Bof**, c'était pas terrible."

-> "Did you like the meal?" - "Meh, it wasn't great."

Ça va

Meaning: kind of

Example: "Tu parles espagnol ?" - "**ça va**, je me débrouille"

-> "Do you speak Spanish?" - "Kind of, I get by"

Pas trop

Meaning: Not really

Example: "J'ai **pas trop** aimé le film."

-> "I didn't really like the movie."

Pas ouf

Meaning: Not that great, nothing special

Example: "C'était comment la soirée ?" - "**Pas ouf**."

-> "How was the party?" - "Nothing special."

Sounding Natural - Connectors & Fillers

These little words are the glue of spoken French. Native speakers use them constantly to connect ideas, pause, or frame what they're saying. Without them, speech can sound choppy or overly formal.

Du coup

Meaning: So, as a result

Example: "Il pleuvait, **du coup** on est restés à la maison."

-> "It was raining, so we stayed home."

En fait

Meaning: Actually, in fact

Example: "**En fait**, je pensais pas que c'était si loin."

-> "Actually, I didn't think it was that far."

Genre

Meaning: Like, kind of, sort of (filler)

Example: "Il était **genre** super stressé."


-> "He was like, super stressed."

Voilà

Meaning: There you go, exactly, that's it

Example: "Tu veux qu'on parte à 8h ?" — "**Voilà**, c'est ça."

-> "You want to leave at 8?" - "Exactly, that's it."

🗉  **Du coup** and **En fait** are so common that you'll hear them in almost every conversation. Start noticing them - you'll be amazed how often they pop up!

Keeping Conversations Flowing

These expressions help you stay engaged, buy time, check for understanding, and wrap up naturally. They're the small phrases that make a conversation feel real - not rehearsed.

Tu vois ?

Meaning: You know what I'm saying, you get what I mean

Example: "C'est compliqué, **tu vois ?**"

-> "It's complicated, you know what I mean?"

Deux secondes

Meaning: Just a minute

Example: "**Deux secondes**, je cherche mes clés."

-> "Two seconds, I'm looking for my keys."

Ça te dit ?

Meaning: Are you into it? Does that sound good?

Example: "On va au cinéma ce soir, **ça te dit ?**"

-> "We're going to the movies tonight, you in?"

À toute

Meaning: See you later!

Example: "Ok je file, **à toute !**"

-> "Ok I'm off, see you later!"

Expressing Emotions

These phrases capture real frustration, enthusiasm, and exhaustion with flair. They're very common in casual speech and texting.

Ça me saoule

Meaning: It's driving me crazy, it's so annoying

Example: "Cette musique **me saoule**."

→ "This music is driving me crazy."

J'en ai marre

Meaning: I'm fed up, I've had enough

Example: "**J'en ai marre** de travailler autant."

→ "I'm fed up with working so much."

Ça me gonfle

Meaning: It bothers me, it gets on my nerves

Example: "Il est toujours en retard, **ça me gonfle**."

→ "He's always late, it gets on my nerves."

Je suis partant

Meaning: I'm up for it, I'm keen, I'm ready

Example: "On fait une randonnée demain?" - "**Je suis partant!**"

→ "Hike tomorrow?" - "I'm up for it!"

📌 ⚠️ **Ça me saoule** and **Ça me gonfle** are very informal. Use them with friends, not in professional settings.

You Don't Need to Memorize All 20

Fluency isn't about knowing every expression, it's about **actually using the ones you know**. Even 5 well-used expressions will make you sound dramatically more natural in French.

This Week

Pick **3 expressions** from Group 1 or whichever group resonates most. Write them down and use them today.

Next Week

Review your 3 expressions. Are they starting to feel natural? Add 3 more. Build one layer at a time.

The Goal

Speak French the way real people speak it, relaxed, expressive, and natural.
Voilà, c'est ça.

Bonne chance et surtout, amusez-vous !
Good luck, and most importantly, have fun with it!



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