

Vocabulaire 1-16

Groupe 1

Mots à apprendre

Mot	Classe	Sens	Exemple en contexte
shifty	<i>adj.</i>	looking dishonest or evasive · louche, sournois	<i>There was something shifty about his answers.</i>
shady	<i>adj.</i>	of doubtful honesty · louche, douteux	<i>The deal looked shady from the start.</i>
guarded	<i>adj.</i>	cautious and reserved · sur la réserve, circonspect	<i>She gave a guarded, wary reply.</i>
snoop	<i>v.</i>	to investigate or pry secretly · fouiner, fureter	<i>He caught her snooping in his desk.</i>
ferret	<i>v.</i>	to search out persistently (ferret out) · fouiner, dénicher	<i>Reporters ferreted out her secrets.</i>
loiter	<i>v.</i>	to linger furtively with no purpose · traîner, rôder	<i>A stranger loitered by the gate.</i>
fret	<i>v.</i>	to worry anxiously · se tracasser, se ronger	<i>She fretted about being forgotten.</i>
castoff	<i>n.</i>	a person or thing discarded as useless · laissé-pour-compte, rebut	<i>Hollywood treated her as a castoff.</i>
washed-up	<i>adj.</i>	no longer successful; finished · fini, sur le déclin	<i>The studio thought she was washed-up.</i>
faded	<i>adj.</i>	having lost brightness or fame · fané, défraîchi, terni	<i>A faded star clung to old glory.</i>
revival	<i>n.</i>	a return to popularity or activity · renouveau, retour	<i>She plotted her great revival.</i>
prime	<i>n.</i>	the period of greatest vigour or success · apogée, fleur de l'âge	<i>In her prime she had ruled the screen.</i>
relic	<i>n.</i>	a survival from an earlier time · relique, vestige	<i>The mansion was a relic of silent cinema.</i>
shabby	<i>adj.</i>	worn out and run-down · miteux, défraîchi	<i>Shabby furniture filled the great hall.</i>
downfall	<i>n.</i>	a ruinous loss of status · chute, ruine	<i>Vanity was the cause of her downfall.</i>

Expressions idiomatiques

Expression idiomatique	Sens
to smell a rat	flairer quelque chose de louche
past one's prime	sur le déclin, plus tout jeune
to fade into obscurity	sombrer dans l'oubli

Mots à reconnaître

Mot	Classe	Sens	Exemple en contexte
suspect	<i>v.</i>	to believe likely, esp. something bad · soupçonner	<i>She suspected she was being watched.</i>
wary	<i>adj.</i>	cautious about danger or deceit · méfiant, prudent	<i>He stayed wary of her promises.</i>
doubt	<i>n.</i>	a feeling of uncertainty · doute	<i>A nagging doubt would not leave him.</i>
strange	<i>adj.</i>	unusual or unsettling · étrange	<i>Strange noises came from upstairs.</i>
old	<i>adj.</i>	from long ago; aged · vieux, ancien	<i>She clung to old photographs.</i>
former	<i>adj.</i>	of an earlier time; previous · ancien, d'autrefois	<i>A former star, now forgotten.</i>
past	<i>n.</i>	the time before now · passé	<i>She lived entirely in the past.</i>
glory	<i>n.</i>	great fame and honour · gloire	<i>Her days of glory were long gone.</i>
star	<i>n.</i>	a famous performer · vedette, star	<i>She had been the brightest star.</i>
ruin	<i>n.</i>	a state of decay or collapse · ruine	<i>The estate had fallen into ruin.</i>
dust	<i>n.</i>	fine dry powder of decay · poussière	<i>Dust covered the silent piano.</i>
alone	<i>adj.</i>	without others · seul	<i>She grew old alone.</i>
jealous	<i>adj.</i>	resentful of another's success · jaloux	<i>She was jealous of younger actresses.</i>
vain	<i>adj.</i>	excessively proud of oneself · vaniteux	<i>A vain woman, lost in mirrors.</i>
lonely	<i>adj.</i>	sad from being isolated · solitaire, esseulé	<i>The lonely house echoed with silence.</i>

Groupe 2

Mots à apprendre

Mot	Classe	Sens	Exemple en contexte
ulterior	<i>adj.</i>	hidden and self-interested (motive) · caché, inavoué	<i>She suspected he had an ulterior motive.</i>
angst	<i>n.</i>	deep anxiety or dread · angoisse, mal-être	<i>A creeping angst filled the house.</i>
frippery	<i>n.</i>	showy but worthless finery · colifichets, oripeaux	<i>Faded frippery cluttered every shelf.</i>
pad	<i>v.</i>	to walk with quiet, soft steps · marcher à pas feutrés	<i>The butler padded down the dark hall.</i>
slither	<i>v.</i>	to move with a furtive, gliding motion · se faufiler, ramper	<i>Suspicion slithered into her mind.</i>
bygone	<i>adj.</i>	belonging to an earlier time · révolu, d'autrefois	<i>She lived among bygone splendours.</i>
oblivion	<i>n.</i>	the state of being forgotten · oubli	<i>His name sank into oblivion.</i>
remnant	<i>n.</i>	a small surviving trace · reste, vestige	<i>The party was a remnant of grander days.</i>
waning	<i>adj.</i>	gradually declining · déclinant	<i>Her waning fame haunted her.</i>
conceit	<i>n.</i>	excessive self-pride · vanité, suffisance	<i>Her conceit blinded her to reality.</i>
pomp	<i>n.</i>	showy display and ceremony · faste, appareil	<i>She received guests with absurd pomp.</i>
recluse	<i>n.</i>	a person who lives in seclusion · reclus, ermite	<i>She had become a bitter recluse.</i>
threadbare	<i>adj.</i>	worn until the threads show · élimé, râpé	<i>Threadbare carpets covered the floors.</i>
gaudy	<i>adj.</i>	tastelessly bright or showy · tape-à-l'œil, criard	<i>Gaudy jewels dripped from her wrists.</i>
prominence	<i>n.</i>	the state of being important or famous · notoriété, importance	<i>His prominence had long since faded.</i>

Expressions idiomatiques

Expression idiomatique	Sens
to have seen better days	avoir connu des jours meilleurs
a shadow of one's former self	l'ombre de soi-même
to keep up appearances	sauver les apparences

Mots à reconnaître

Mot	Classe	Sens	Exemple en contexte
suspicious	<i>adj.</i>	arousing or feeling distrust · suspect, méfiant	<i>His suspicious manner unsettled her.</i>
mysterious	<i>adj.</i>	hard to explain or understand · mystérieux	<i>A mysterious visitor called late.</i>
secretive	<i>adj.</i>	inclined to conceal things · cachottier, secret	<i>He was secretive about his past.</i>
decline	<i>n.</i>	a gradual loss of strength or status · déclin	<i>Her decline was painful to watch.</i>
decay	<i>n.</i>	gradual decline or rot · délabrement, décrépitude	<i>The house reeked of slow decay.</i>
fallen	<i>adj.</i>	having lost status or honour · déchu, tombé	<i>A fallen idol, mocked by all.</i>
washed-out	<i>adj.</i>	faded and lacking energy · délavé, sans éclat	<i>His washed-out features looked grey.</i>
obscure	<i>adj.</i>	not known or remembered · obscur, méconnu	<i>He died obscure and poor.</i>
forgotten	<i>adj.</i>	no longer remembered · oublié	<i>A forgotten name on an old poster.</i>
nostalgic	<i>adj.</i>	longing for the past · nostalgique	<i>A nostalgic glow filled her tales.</i>
grandiose	<i>adj.</i>	impressive in a pompous way · grandiose, pompeux	<i>Her grandiose plans came to nothing.</i>
crumbling	<i>adj.</i>	breaking apart with decay · qui s'effrite, délabré	<i>Crumbling walls framed the garden.</i>
dusty	<i>adj.</i>	covered with dust · poussiéreux	<i>Dusty trophies lined the shelves.</i>
ghostly	<i>adj.</i>	resembling a ghost; eerie · spectral, fantomatique	<i>A ghostly silence filled the rooms.</i>
jaded	<i>adj.</i>	tired and lacking enthusiasm · blasé, las	<i>The jaded star sighed at the script.</i>

Groupe 3

Mots à apprendre

Mot	Classe	Sens	Exemple en contexte
cagey	<i>adj.</i>	cautious and uncommunicative · évasif, cachottier	<i>He grew cagey whenever money came up.</i>
dissemble	<i>v.</i>	to hide one's true feelings · dissimuler, masquer	<i>He dissembled his disgust behind a smile.</i>
simper	<i>v.</i>	to smile or speak in a silly, affected way · minauder	<i>She simpered at the young writer.</i>
preen	<i>v.</i>	to groom oneself with vain satisfaction · se pavaner, se rengorger	<i>She preened before the great mirror.</i>
fawn	<i>v.</i>	to flatter and grovel for favour · flagorner, faire des courbettes	<i>Hangers-on fawned over the old star.</i>
grovel	<i>v.</i>	to abase oneself for approval · ramper, s'aplatir	<i>He grovelled for one more chance.</i>
moulder	<i>v.</i>	to decay slowly · moisir, se décomposer	<i>The film reels mouldered in the cellar.</i>
fester	<i>v.</i>	to grow worse while hidden · suppurer; couver (rancœur)	<i>Her resentment festered for years.</i>
wither	<i>v.</i>	to shrivel or fade away · se faner, dépérir	<i>His talent withered in obscurity.</i>
ebb	<i>v.</i>	to decline or fade gradually · décliner, refluer	<i>Her fame ebbed away year by year.</i>
ossify	<i>v.</i>	to become rigid and unable to change · se scléroser, se figer	<i>Her habits had ossified into ritual.</i>
doyenne	<i>n.</i>	the most respected older woman in a field · doyenne, grande dame	<i>The doyenne of silent film held court.</i>
wraithlike	<i>adj.</i>	pale and ghostly · spectral, fantomatique	<i>A wraithlike figure drifted past.</i>
raddled	<i>adj.</i>	worn out by age or excess · décrépit, ravagé	<i>His raddled face shocked old friends.</i>
careworn	<i>adj.</i>	showing the marks of worry · rongé par les soucis	<i>Her careworn eyes told the whole story.</i>

Expressions idiomatiques

Expression idiomatique	Sens
to live in the past	vivre dans le passé
a faded glory	une gloire passée
to be on one's last legs	être à bout de course, sur le déclin

Mots à reconnaître

Mot	Classe	Sens	Exemple en contexte
clandestine	<i>adj.</i>	kept secret, esp. illicitly · clandestin	<i>Clandestine meetings fed the gossip.</i>
furtive	<i>adj.</i>	secretive and stealthy · furtif	<i>A furtive glance betrayed her fear.</i>
conspiratorial	<i>adj.</i>	suggesting secret scheming · de conspirateur	<i>He lowered his voice, conspiratorial.</i>
sepulchral	<i>adj.</i>	gloomy, like a tomb · sépulcral	<i>A sepulchral hush filled the hall.</i>
cadaverous	<i>adj.</i>	gaunt and deathly pale · cadavérique	<i>His cadaverous face frightened her.</i>
dilapidated	<i>adj.</i>	in a state of ruin · délabré	<i>The dilapidated mansion sagged.</i>
decrepit	<i>adj.</i>	worn out by age or neglect · décrépit, vétuste	<i>A decrepit butler answered the door.</i>
anachronistic	<i>adj.</i>	belonging to the wrong time · anachronique	<i>Her manners seemed anachronistic now.</i>
megalomaniac	<i>adj.</i>	obsessed with one's own power · mégalomane	<i>Her megalomaniac dreams swelled.</i>
narcissistic	<i>adj.</i>	excessively self-admiring · narcissique	<i>A narcissistic gaze fixed the mirror.</i>
delusional	<i>adj.</i>	holding false beliefs · délirant, dans l'illusion	<i>Her delusional hopes never died.</i>
solitary	<i>adj.</i>	living alone; isolated · solitaire, isolé	<i>A solitary life behind locked gates.</i>
embittered	<i>adj.</i>	made resentful by hardship · aigri	<i>An embittered ex-star, full of spite.</i>
decadent	<i>adj.</i>	marked by decline and excess · décadent	<i>A decadent glamour clung to it all.</i>
moth-eaten	<i>adj.</i>	damaged and shabby with age · mité, rongé	<i>A moth-eaten fur lay on the chair.</i>