

Vocabulaire 1-18

Groupe 1

Mots à apprendre

Mot	Classe	Sens	Exemple en contexte
plummet	<i>v.</i>	to fall or drop steeply · chuter, dégringoler	<i>Her once-glittering career plummeted.</i>
tumble	<i>v.</i>	to fall headlong; to decline sharply · dégringoler, chuter	<i>His fortunes tumbled year by year.</i>
topple	<i>v.</i>	to fall or be overthrown · basculer, s'écrouler	<i>The old idol finally toppled.</i>
crumble	<i>v.</i>	to break apart and decay · s'effriter, s'écrouler	<i>The grand mansion was crumbling.</i>
slump	<i>v.</i>	to collapse or decline heavily · s'effondrer, chuter	<i>Ticket sales slumped to nothing.</i>
sink	<i>v.</i>	to descend or decline gradually · sombrer, couler	<i>She sank into bitter obscurity.</i>
slip	<i>v.</i>	to decline or fall gradually · glisser, décliner	<i>He slipped slowly into ruin.</i>
murk	<i>n.</i>	darkness; thick gloom · ténèbres, obscurité	<i>A figure moved in the murk.</i>
gloom	<i>n.</i>	darkness; deep melancholy · pénombre, morosité	<i>Gloom hung over the silent house.</i>
dusk	<i>n.</i>	the darker stage of twilight · crépuscule, tombée du jour	<i>She received guests only at dusk.</i>
doomed	<i>adj.</i>	certain to fail or be destroyed · condamné, voué à l'échec	<i>The comeback was doomed from the start.</i>
grim	<i>adj.</i>	forbidding and gloomy · sinistre, lugubre	<i>A grim silence filled the hall.</i>
bleak	<i>adj.</i>	bare, cold and cheerless · morne, désolé	<i>Her future looked utterly bleak.</i>
dire	<i>adj.</i>	extremely serious or dreadful · terrible, désastreux	<i>The studio was in dire trouble.</i>
cave in	<i>phrasal</i>	to collapse inward; to give way · s'effondrer, céder	<i>The whole scheme caved in.</i>

Expressions idiomatiques

Expression idiomatique	Sens
to go downhill	décliner, aller de mal en pis
to hit rock bottom	toucher le fond
the beginning of the end	le commencement de la fin

Mots à reconnaître

Mot	Classe	Sens	Exemple en contexte
fall	<i>v.</i>	to drop or decline · tomber , chuter	<i>She watched her empire fall.</i>
drop	<i>v.</i>	to fall; to become lower · tomber , baisser	<i>His name dropped from every billing.</i>
decline	<i>n.</i>	a gradual loss of strength or status · déclin	<i>Her decline was long and painful.</i>
end	<i>n.</i>	the final part or conclusion · fin	<i>It was the end of an era.</i>
dark	<i>adj.</i>	with little or no light · sombre , obscur	<i>The house grew dark and cold.</i>
sad	<i>adj.</i>	feeling sorrow · triste	<i>A sad, forgotten figure.</i>
ruin	<i>n.</i>	a state of decay or collapse · ruine	<i>The estate had fallen into ruin.</i>
lost	<i>adj.</i>	no longer possessed or known · perdu	<i>Her best years were lost.</i>
fade	<i>v.</i>	to lose brightness or fame · s'estomper , pâler	<i>The applause faded into silence.</i>
death	<i>n.</i>	the end of life · mort	<i>She feared death less than oblivion.</i>
old	<i>adj.</i>	aged; from long ago · vieux , ancien	<i>An old star in an old house.</i>
shadow	<i>n.</i>	a dark shape; a trace · ombre	<i>Only a shadow of her fame remained.</i>
decay	<i>n.</i>	gradual decline or rot · délabrement , pourriture	<i>Slow decay gripped the mansion.</i>
fail	<i>v.</i>	to be unsuccessful · échouer	<i>The comeback failed completely.</i>
sorrow	<i>n.</i>	deep sadness · chagrin , peine	<i>Sorrow lined her painted face.</i>

Groupe 2

Mots à apprendre

Mot	Classe	Sens	Exemple en contexte
nosedive	<i>v.</i>	to drop or worsen suddenly · piquer du nez, s'effondrer	<i>Her reputation nosedived.</i>
capsize	<i>v.</i>	to overturn; to be ruined · chavirer, sombrer	<i>His careful plans capsized.</i>
buckle	<i>v.</i>	to give way under strain · céder, fléchir	<i>She buckled under the pressure.</i>
dwindle	<i>v.</i>	to shrink gradually · s'amenuiser, diminuer	<i>Her admirers dwindled to none.</i>
unravel	<i>v.</i>	to come apart; to fall to pieces · se défaire, partir en vrille	<i>The whole story began to unravel.</i>
lapse	<i>v.</i>	to decline or fall back into · déchoir, retomber	<i>He lapsed into shabby decline.</i>
overshadow	<i>v.</i>	to dominate and darken · éclipser, assombrir	<i>Scandal overshadowed her last years.</i>
foreshadow	<i>v.</i>	to warn of or suggest beforehand · préfigurer, annoncer	<i>The empty seats foreshadowed disaster.</i>
engulf	<i>v.</i>	to swallow up completely · engloutir, submerger	<i>Despair engulfed her at last.</i>
undoing	<i>n.</i>	the cause of one's ruin · perte, ruine	<i>Her pride was her undoing.</i>
demise	<i>n.</i>	death; the end of something · disparition, fin	<i>The film charts his slow demise.</i>
comedown	<i>n.</i>	a humiliating fall in status · déchéance, dégringolade	<i>It was a cruel comedown for her.</i>
twilight	<i>n.</i>	a period of decline · crépuscule (déclin)	<i>She lived in the twilight of her fame.</i>
sombre	<i>adj.</i>	dark, grave and solemn · sombre, grave	<i>A sombre mood settled over them.</i>
relentless	<i>adj.</i>	never easing; pitiless · implacable, incessant	<i>The decline was slow but relentless.</i>

Expressions idiomatiques

Expression idiomatique	Sens
to be on the way out	être sur le déclin, sur le départ
to fall from grace	tomber en disgrâce
a downward spiral	une spirale infernale

Mots à reconnaître

Mot	Classe	Sens	Exemple en contexte
collapse	<i>v.</i>	to fall down or fail suddenly · s'effondrer	<i>Her world collapsed overnight.</i>
deteriorate	<i>v.</i>	to grow worse · se détériorer	<i>Her health deteriorated fast.</i>
disintegrate	<i>v.</i>	to break into pieces · se désintégrer	<i>Their friendship disintegrated.</i>
degenerate	<i>v.</i>	to decline into a worse state · dégénérer	<i>The talks degenerated into threats.</i>
perish	<i>v.</i>	to die or be destroyed · périr	<i>Her dreams perished one by one.</i>
succumb	<i>v.</i>	to yield or give way · succomber	<i>She succumbed to despair.</i>
descend	<i>v.</i>	to move or sink downward · descendre, sombrer	<i>He descended into ruin.</i>
tragic	<i>adj.</i>	causing great sorrow · tragique	<i>Hers was a tragic decline.</i>
inevitable	<i>adj.</i>	certain to happen · inévitabile	<i>The end seemed inevitable.</i>
irreversible	<i>adj.</i>	impossible to undo · irréversible	<i>The damage was irreversible.</i>
downturn	<i>n.</i>	a decline in activity · baisse, ralentissement	<i>A sharp downturn ended her run.</i>
obscurity	<i>n.</i>	the state of being unknown · obscurité, anonymat	<i>She slid into total obscurity.</i>
wreckage	<i>n.</i>	the remains of something destroyed · débris, épave	<i>Among the wreckage of her career.</i>
demoralised	<i>adj.</i>	having lost confidence or hope · démoralisé	<i>A demoralised, broken woman.</i>
despairing	<i>adj.</i>	showing loss of all hope · désespéré	<i>A despairing cry rang out.</i>

Groupe 3

Mots à apprendre

Mot	Classe	Sens	Exemple en contexte
plight	<i>n.</i>	a difficult, distressing situation · détresse, situation critique	<i>No one cared about her plight.</i>
nemesis	<i>n.</i>	an agent of downfall or just punishment · némésis, châiment	<i>Time was her cruel nemesis.</i>
pall	<i>n.</i>	a dark covering of gloom (cast a pall) · chape funèbre, voile	<i>A pall hung over the dim mansion.</i>
spectre	<i>n.</i>	a haunting threat or fear · spectre, menace	<i>The spectre of oblivion loomed near.</i>
death knell	<i>n.</i>	a sign of imminent end · glas	<i>Sound film was the death knell of her career.</i>
portend	<i>v.</i>	to be a sign of (something bad to come) · présager, annoncer	<i>The hush portended ruin.</i>
baleful	<i>adj.</i>	menacing; full of evil intent · sinistre, menaçant	<i>A baleful glare crossed her face.</i>
portentous	<i>adj.</i>	ominously significant · de mauvais augure	<i>A portentous hush filled the room.</i>
doleful	<i>adj.</i>	expressing deep sorrow · affligé, lugubre	<i>A doleful tune drifted upstairs.</i>
mournful	<i>adj.</i>	feeling or showing grief · lugubre, plaintif	<i>His mournful eyes followed her.</i>
forlorn	<i>adj.</i>	pitifully sad and abandoned · abandonné, désespéré	<i>A forlorn figure at a dusty piano.</i>
ruinous	<i>adj.</i>	causing or marked by ruin · ruineux, désastreux	<i>Her ruinous obsession consumed all.</i>
calamitous	<i>adj.</i>	disastrous · calamiteux, catastrophique	<i>The premiere was calamitous.</i>
star-crossed	<i>adj.</i>	doomed by ill fate · maudit, contrarié par le sort	<i>Theirs was a star-crossed bond.</i>
dismal	<i>adj.</i>	gloomy and miserable · lugubre, morne	<i>A dismal end to a dazzling life.</i>

Expressions idiomatiques

Expression idiomatique	Sens
the writing is on the wall	les signes annonciateurs sont là
to go out with a bang	finir en beauté, en apothéose
one's swan song	son chant du cygne

Mots à reconnaître

Mot	Classe	Sens	Exemple en contexte
inexorable	<i>adj.</i>	impossible to stop or resist · inexorable	<i>An inexorable slide into ruin.</i>
irrevocable	<i>adj.</i>	impossible to reverse · irrévocable	<i>The choice was irrevocable.</i>
catastrophic	<i>adj.</i>	disastrous on a great scale · catastrophique	<i>A catastrophic loss of fame.</i>
cataclysmic	<i>adj.</i>	causing sudden, violent upheaval · cataclysmique	<i>A cataclysmic fall from grace.</i>
apocalyptic	<i>adj.</i>	of total, final disaster · apocalyptique	<i>She spoke in apocalyptic tones.</i>
sepulchral	<i>adj.</i>	gloomy, like a tomb · sépulcral	<i>A sepulchral hush filled the hall.</i>
funereal	<i>adj.</i>	sombre and mournful · funèbre, lugubre	<i>The party had a funereal air.</i>
dolorous	<i>adj.</i>	full of sorrow · douloureux, dolent	<i>A dolorous sigh escaped her.</i>
lugubrious	<i>adj.</i>	exaggeratedly gloomy · lugubre	<i>His lugubrious tone unsettled them.</i>
plangent	<i>adj.</i>	loud, mournful and resonant · plaintif, retentissant	<i>A plangent chord echoed.</i>
elegiac	<i>adj.</i>	expressing sorrow for the past · élégiaque	<i>An elegiac mood hung over it.</i>
valedictory	<i>adj.</i>	serving as a farewell · d'adieu	<i>A valedictory wave to the cameras.</i>
crepuscular	<i>adj.</i>	of or like twilight · crépusculaire	<i>A crepuscular gloom filled the rooms.</i>
moribund	<i>adj.</i>	at the point of death or collapse · moribond, agonisant	<i>A moribund studio clung on.</i>
terminal	<i>adj.</i>	leading inevitably to the end · terminal, fatal	<i>Her career was in terminal decline.</i>