

Vocabulaire 1-21

Groupe 1

Mots à apprendre

Mot	Classe	Sens	Exemple en contexte
knock off	<i>v. part.</i>	to finish work for the day · finir le boulot, débaucher	<i>They knocked off at five and made for the pub.</i>
clock in	<i>v. part.</i>	to record one's arrival at work · pointer (à l'arrivée)	<i>He clocked in late again on Monday.</i>
get by	<i>v. part.</i>	to manage with difficulty · s'en sortir, se débrouiller	<i>On those wages you could barely get by.</i>
save up	<i>v. part.</i>	to set money aside over time · économiser, mettre de côté	<i>She was saving up to get married.</i>
go out	<i>v. part.</i>	to leave home for entertainment · sortir (le soir)	<i>He went out every Saturday night.</i>
hang around	<i>v. part.</i>	to loiter idly · traîner, glander	<i>Lads hung around the street corner.</i>
show up	<i>v. part.</i>	to arrive, esp. late or unexpectedly · se pointer, rappliquer	<i>He showed up at the dance half-drunk.</i>
fall out	<i>v. part.</i>	to quarrel and stop being friends · se brouiller, se fâcher	<i>He fell out with his cousin over a girl.</i>
make up	<i>v. part.</i>	to become friends again · se réconcilier	<i>They argued, then made up by closing time.</i>
tell off	<i>v. part.</i>	to scold · réprimander, engueuler	<i>The gaffer told him off for slacking.</i>
answer back	<i>v. part.</i>	to reply rudely to authority · répondre avec insolence	<i>He answered back and got a warning.</i>
give in	<i>v. part.</i>	to stop resisting; to yield · céder, capituler	<i>He never gave in to their nagging.</i>
settle down	<i>v. part.</i>	to adopt a stable, calm life · se ranger, se poser	<i>He had no wish to settle down and marry.</i>
get up	<i>v. part.</i>	to rise from bed · se lever	<i>He could hardly get up after Saturday night.</i>
end up	<i>v. part.</i>	to reach a final state or place · finir par, se retrouver	<i>He didn't want to end up like his father.</i>

Expressions idiomatiques

Expression idiomatique	Sens
to bring home the bacon	ramener la paie, faire bouillir la marmite
to be on the dole	être au chômage, toucher les allocs
to live from hand to mouth	vivre au jour le jour

Mots à reconnaître

Mot	Classe	Sens	Exemple en contexte
shift	<i>n.</i>	a fixed period of work · poste, équipe	<i>He worked the early shift all week.</i>
wage	<i>n.</i>	money paid for labour · salaire, paie	<i>His wage barely covered the rent.</i>
factory	<i>n.</i>	a building where goods are made · usine	<i>The factory swallowed his whole week.</i>
machine	<i>n.</i>	a powered mechanical device · machine	<i>He fed the same machine for years.</i>
pub	<i>n.</i>	a public house serving drink · pub, bistrot	<i>The pub was his second home.</i>
pint	<i>n.</i>	a measure of beer · pinte, demi-litre	<i>He sank pint after pint.</i>
mate	<i>n.</i>	a friend or workmate · pote, copain	<i>He stood his mates a round.</i>
lad	<i>n.</i>	a young man · gars, jeune	<i>A cocky young lad from the lathes.</i>
foreman	<i>n.</i>	a worker who supervises others · contremaître	<i>The foreman watched his every move.</i>
overtime	<i>n.</i>	extra hours of paid work · heures supplémentaires	<i>He took overtime to fund his nights out.</i>
payday	<i>n.</i>	the day wages are paid · jour de paie	<i>Payday meant the pub and the dance.</i>
terrace	<i>n.</i>	a row of joined houses · maison mitoyenne	<i>He grew up in a back terrace.</i>
street	<i>n.</i>	a public road in a town · rue	<i>The whole street knew his business.</i>
weekend	<i>n.</i>	Saturday and Sunday · week-end	<i>The weekend was all that he lived for.</i>
bench	<i>n.</i>	a worker's worktable · établi	<i>He bent over his bench all day.</i>

Groupe 2

Mots à apprendre

Mot	Classe	Sens	Exemple en contexte
knock back	<i>v. part.</i>	to drink quickly · descendre (un verre)	<i>He knocked back three pints in a row.</i>
chat up	<i>v. part.</i>	to talk flirtatiously to · draguer, baratiner	<i>He chatted up a girl at the bar.</i>
splash out	<i>v. part.</i>	to spend freely on a treat · claquer de l'argent, faire une folie	<i>On payday he splashed out on a new suit.</i>
scrape by	<i>v. part.</i>	to manage with barely enough · s'en sortir tout juste	<i>The family scraped by from week to week.</i>
lay off	<i>v. part.</i>	to dismiss for lack of work · licencier	<i>The firm laid off a dozen men.</i>
pack in	<i>v. part.</i>	to give up (a job or habit) · plaquer, laisser tomber	<i>He threatened to pack in the factory.</i>
crack on	<i>v. part.</i>	to get on with work briskly · s'y mettre, avancer	<i>Less talk — crack on with the order.</i>
muck about	<i>v. part.</i>	to waste time fooling around · glander, faire l'imbécile	<i>They mucked about instead of working.</i>
stand up to	<i>v. part.</i>	to confront bravely · tenir tête à	<i>He stood up to the foreman openly.</i>
back down	<i>v. part.</i>	to withdraw from a position · reculer, faire marche arrière	<i>Neither man would back down.</i>
put up with	<i>v. part.</i>	to tolerate · supporter, tolérer	<i>He wouldn't put up with being ordered about.</i>
gang up	<i>v. part.</i>	to unite against someone · se liguier (contre)	<i>The older men ganged up on the new lad.</i>
wear out	<i>v. part.</i>	to exhaust; to use up · épuiser, user	<i>The long shifts wore him out.</i>
doze off	<i>v. part.</i>	to fall lightly asleep · s'assoupir	<i>He dozed off at his bench after lunch.</i>
fork out	<i>v. part.</i>	to pay reluctantly · casquer, déboursier	<i>He had to fork out for a round.</i>

Expressions idiomatiques

Expression idiomatique	Sens
to graft for a living	trimer pour gagner sa vie
to be worth one's salt	valoir son pesant d'or (au travail)
to knuckle down to it	s'atteler à la tâche

Mots à reconnaître

Mot	Classe	Sens	Exemple en contexte
graft	<i>n.</i>	hard, sustained work · boulot , turbin	<i>Honest graft earned little reward.</i>
lathe	<i>n.</i>	a machine for shaping metal · tour (machine)	<i>He stood at the lathe twelve hours a day.</i>
assembly	<i>n.</i>	the putting-together of parts · montage , assemblage	<i>Assembly work numbed the mind.</i>
conveyor	<i>n.</i>	a moving belt carrying goods · convoyeur , tapis roulant	<i>Parts crawled down the conveyor.</i>
landlady	<i>n.</i>	a woman who lets rooms or runs a pub · logeuse ; patronne	<i>The landlady eyed his unpaid tab.</i>
lodger	<i>n.</i>	a person who rents a room · locataire , pensionnaire	<i>A quiet lodger took the back room.</i>
betting	<i>n.</i>	the placing of wagers · paris	<i>Betting ate up half his wages.</i>
darts	<i>n.</i>	a pub game of throwing darts · fléchettes	<i>He was a dab hand at darts.</i>
dancehall	<i>n.</i>	a public hall for dancing · salle de bal , dancing	<i>They met at the Saturday dancehall.</i>
courting	<i>n.</i>	the seeking of a romantic partner · fréquentation , parade amoureuse	<i>His courting caused plenty of talk.</i>
rent	<i>n.</i>	payment for the use of housing · loyer	<i>The rent was always a week behind.</i>
sack	<i>n.</i>	dismissal from a job (the sack) · renvoi , mise à pied	<i>He lived in fear of the sack.</i>
gaffer	<i>n.</i>	a boss or foreman (informal) · chef , patron	<i>The gaffer docked his pay.</i>
brass	<i>n.</i>	money (informal) · fric , pognon	<i>He'd no brass left by Sunday.</i>
packet	<i>n.</i>	a wage packet; a lot of money · paie ; petite fortune	<i>He spent his whole packet by Monday.</i>

Groupe 3

Mots à apprendre

Mot	Classe	Sens	Exemple en contexte
knuckle down	<i>v. part.</i>	to apply oneself seriously · s'y mettre pour de bon	<i>After the warning he finally knuckled down.</i>
knuckle under	<i>v. part.</i>	to submit to authority · se soumettre, filer doux	<i>He refused to knuckle under to anyone.</i>
jack in	<i>v. part.</i>	to quit (a job) abruptly · plaquer, laisser tomber	<i>He jacked in the job and went drinking.</i>
plug away	<i>v. part.</i>	to keep working doggedly · bosser sans relâche	<i>He plugged away at the lathe all week.</i>
lark about	<i>v. part.</i>	to play around boisterously · faire le fou, chahuter	<i>The apprentices larked about by the canal.</i>
knock about	<i>v. part.</i>	to spend time idly; to frequent · traîner, fréquenter	<i>He knocked about with a rough crowd.</i>
live it up	<i>v. part.</i>	to enjoy oneself extravagantly · mener la grande vie, faire la noce	<i>He lived it up till his wages ran out.</i>
make do	<i>v. part.</i>	to manage with what one has · se contenter de, faire avec	<i>They made do with bread and dripping.</i>
tide over	<i>v. part.</i>	to help through a hard time · dépanner, aider à tenir	<i>A few bob to tide him over till Friday.</i>
lay into	<i>v. part.</i>	to attack fiercely (words or blows) · rentrer dedans, s'en prendre à	<i>She laid into him for coming home drunk.</i>
have it out	<i>v. part.</i>	to settle a dispute openly · s'expliquer, vider l'abcès	<i>He decided to have it out with the gaffer.</i>
rough up	<i>v. part.</i>	to handle violently · malmener, tabasser	<i>They roughed him up behind the pub.</i>
square up	<i>v. part.</i>	to prepare to fight; to settle up · se mettre en garde ; régler	<i>The two men squared up outside.</i>
kick off	<i>v. part.</i>	to start angrily; to cause a scene · se déchaîner, faire un scandale	<i>It all kicked off when the band stopped.</i>
wind down	<i>v. part.</i>	to relax after effort · décompresser, lever le pied	<i>Sunday was for winding down.</i>

Expressions idiomatiques

Expression idiomatique	Sens
to keep the wolf from the door	éloigner la misère, joindre les deux bouts
a hard day's graft	une grosse journée de boulot
to be down on one's luck	traverser une mauvaise passe

Mots à reconnaître

Mot	Classe	Sens	Exemple en contexte
piecework	<i>n.</i>	work paid by the amount produced · travail à la pièce	<i>Piecework drove the men to rush.</i>
breadwinner	<i>n.</i>	the chief earner in a family · soutien de famille	<i>He resented being the breadwinner.</i>
proletarian	<i>adj.</i>	of the industrial working class · prolétarien	<i>A proletarian world of grime and graft.</i>
blue-collar	<i>adj.</i>	of manual or industrial work · ouvrier, col bleu	<i>A blue-collar life with no way up.</i>
tenement	<i>n.</i>	a run-down rented building · immeuble vétuste, taudis	<i>Families crammed into damp tenements.</i>
slum	<i>n.</i>	an overcrowded, squalid district · taudis, bas-quartier	<i>He had clawed his way out of the slums.</i>
destitution	<i>n.</i>	extreme poverty · dénuement, misère noire	<i>Destitution loomed one wage away.</i>
hardship	<i>n.</i>	severe suffering or want · épreuve, privation	<i>Hardship had hardened his parents.</i>
skiver	<i>n.</i>	a person who avoids work (BrE) · tire-au-flanc	<i>The gaffer branded him a skiver.</i>
layabout	<i>n.</i>	an idle, lazy person · fainéant, glandeur	<i>His father called him a layabout.</i>
scrounger	<i>n.</i>	one who lives off others · parasite, pique-assiette	<i>No one liked a scrounger at the bar.</i>
hard-up	<i>adj.</i>	short of money · fauché, à court d'argent	<i>Hard-up by Wednesday, as ever.</i>
down-at-heel	<i>adj.</i>	shabby through poverty · miteux, déguenillé	<i>A down-at-heel district of soot and rain.</i>
drudge	<i>n.</i>	one who does dull, hard work · bête de somme, tâcheron	<i>He refused to be a lifelong drudge.</i>
penury	<i>n.</i>	extreme poverty · misère, indigence	<i>Penury was always one slip away.</i>