

Vocabulaire 2-17

Groupe 1

Mots à apprendre

Mot	Sens	Équivalent	Exemple
polite (adj)	behaving in a respectful, well-mannered way	poli, courtois	<i>A lady who is polite never raises her voice.</i>
rude (adj)	not polite; offensive	impoli, grossier	<i>Higgins, who is brilliant, is also terribly rude.</i>
posh (adj)	elegant and upper-class	chic, huppé, BCBG	<i>He lives in a posh part of London.</i>
manners (n)	polite ways of behaving	manières, savoir-vivre	<i>Eliza's manners shock the elegant guests.</i>
upper-class (adj)	belonging to the highest social class	de la haute société	<i>The upper-class ladies whisper behind their fans.</i>
speech (n)	the way a person speaks; spoken language	parole, élocution	<i>It is her speech that gives her away.</i>
vain (adj)	too proud of oneself	vaniteux, prétentieux	<i>The vain young man admires his own reflection.</i>
graceful (adj)	moving in an elegant, pleasing way	gracieux, élégant	<i>She learns a graceful way to enter a room.</i>
common (adj)	ordinary; (of people) lacking refinement	ordinaire ; vulgaire, du commun	<i>They call anyone who drops their 'h's common.</i>
proper (adj)	correct and socially acceptable	convenable, comme il faut	<i>Higgins insists on proper English at all times.</i>
wealth (n)	a large amount of money and possessions	richesse, fortune	<i>Wealth, which he has plenty of, cannot buy manners.</i>
servant (n)	a person employed to work in someone's house	domestique, serviteur	<i>The servants who run the house watch it all.</i>
to behave (v)	to act in a particular, especially correct, way	se comporter, se tenir	<i>At the ball, Eliza must behave perfectly.</i>
tongue (n)	a language or way of speaking	langue, parler	<i>Her sharp tongue often gets her into trouble.</i>
background (n)	a person's social origins and upbringing	origine, milieu (social)	<i>No one must guess her humble background.</i>

Expressions

Expression	Sens	Exemple
to look down on someone	to think you are better than them — mépriser, regarder de haut	<i>The duchess looks down on Eliza.</i>
to put on airs	to behave as if you are superior — se donner de grands airs	<i>He puts on airs to impress the ladies.</i>
to mind your manners	to behave politely — bien se tenir, surveiller ses manières	<i>Mind your manners at the table, Eliza.</i>

Mots à reconnaître

Mot	Sens
gentleman (n)	gentleman, monsieur
lady (n)	dame, lady
snob (n)	snob
accent (n)	accent
class (n)	classe (sociale)
society (n)	société, le grand monde
rich (adj)	riche
poor (adj)	pauvre
noble (adj)	noble
vulgar (adj)	vulgaire
refined (adj)	raffiné
elegant (adj)	élégant
charming (adj)	charmant
humble (adj)	humble, modeste
fancy (adj)	chic, sophistiqué

Groupe 2

Mots à apprendre

Mot	Sens	Équivalent	Exemple
genteel (adj)	polite and refined, often self-consciously	distingué, comme il faut	<i>She copies the genteel ways of the rich.</i>
haughty (adj)	arrogantly proud and superior	hautain, arrogant	<i>The haughty duchess barely nods at them.</i>
well-spoken (adj)	speaking in an educated, refined way	à l'élocution soignée	<i>Higgins makes her a well-spoken lady.</i>
coarse (adj)	rough and unrefined; vulgar	grossier, vulgaire	<i>Her coarse accent betrays her origins.</i>
upbringing (n)	the way a child is raised	éducation (reçue)	<i>His snobbery springs from a privileged upbringing.</i>
poise (n)	calm, graceful self-assurance	assurance, aisance, maintien	<i>Eliza gains the poise of a true lady.</i>
to patronise (v)	to treat as if superior; to talk down to	traiter avec condescendance	<i>Higgins loves to patronise those beneath him.</i>
lowly (adj)	low in rank or importance	humble, modeste, de bas rang	<i>She rises from lowly flower-girl to fine lady.</i>
highborn (adj)	born into a noble family	de haute naissance, bien né	<i>The highborn guests suspect nothing.</i>
to groom (v)	to prepare or train someone for a role	préparer, former, façonner	<i>Higgins grooms Eliza for high society.</i>
demeanour (n)	a person's outward behaviour or bearing	attitude, maintien	<i>Her calm demeanour fools the whole room.</i>
uncouth (adj)	lacking good manners; crude	fruste, grossier, mal dégrossi	<i>Her father is loud and uncouth.</i>
polished (adj)	refined and accomplished	raffiné, soigné, accompli	<i>By the ball, her manners are polished.</i>
scorn (n)	strong contempt	mépris, dédain	<i>She endures the scorn of the upper classes.</i>
dapper (adj)	(of a man) neat and stylish in dress	pimant, tiré à quatre épingles	<i>Higgins looks dapper in his evening suit.</i>

Expressions

Expression	Sens	Exemple
to climb the social ladder	to rise to a higher social position — gravir l'échelle sociale	<i>Eliza dreams of climbing the social ladder.</i>
born with a silver spoon in one's mouth	born into a wealthy family — né avec une cuillère d'argent dans la bouche	<i>Higgins was born with a silver spoon in his mouth.</i>
to know one's place	to accept one's (lower) social position — rester à sa place	<i>The poor were told to know their place.</i>

Mots à reconnaître

Mot	Sens
aristocracy (n)	aristocratie
nobility (n)	noblesse
gentry (n)	petite noblesse, notables
commoner (n)	roturier
peasant (n)	paysan
etiquette (n)	étiquette, bienséance
propriety (n)	bienséance, convenances
refinement (n)	raffinement
sophistication (n)	sophistication
vulgarity (n)	vulgarité
pedigree (n)	ascendance, pedigree
heritage (n)	héritage, patrimoine
breeding (n)	éducation, savoir-vivre
snobbish (adj)	snob
gentility (n)	distinction, bonnes manières

Groupe 3

Mots à apprendre

Mot	Sens	Équivalent	Exemple
mien (n)	a person's look or manner	mine, air, allure	<i>She adopts the calm mien of a noblewoman.</i>
supercilious (adj)	behaving as though superior to others	hautain, dédaigneux	<i>He wears a supercilious, mocking smile.</i>
parlance (n)	a particular way of speaking or wording	langage, parler, jargon	<i>In society parlance, she is 'a nobody'.</i>
boorish (adj)	rough and bad-mannered	rustre, grossier, mufle	<i>Her father's boorish jokes appall the guests.</i>
loftiness (n)	proud, superior manner	hauteur, arrogance, morgue	<i>The duchess treats them with cold loftiness.</i>
upstart (n)	a person newly risen who acts above their rank	parvenu, arriviste	<i>To the snobs, Eliza is a vulgar upstart.</i>
blue-blooded (adj)	of noble or aristocratic birth	de sang bleu, aristocratique	<i>The blue-blooded family traces its name for centuries.</i>
to burnish (v)	to polish; to improve (an image, reputation)	polir, peaufiner, redorer	<i>Higgins burnishes her image for the ball.</i>
fawning (adj)	trying to please by flattery and servility	flagorneur, servile	<i>Fawning servants flatter every rich guest.</i>
well-bred (adj)	brought up to have good manners	bien élevé, de bonne éducation	<i>She must seem perfectly well-bred.</i>
prim (adj)	stiffly formal and proper	guindé, collet monté, compassé	<i>Mrs Pearce is prim and disapproving.</i>
stock (n)	the family or social class one comes from	souche, lignée, extraction	<i>He boasts of coming from noble stock.</i>
effete (adj)	weak, over-refined and lacking vigour	mou, décadent, efféminé	<i>The effete young lords lounge about idly.</i>
cut-glass (adj)	(of an accent) very refined and upper-class	(accent) très distingué, aristocratique	<i>She perfects a cut-glass, aristocratic accent.</i>
highbrow (adj)	intellectual and highly cultured	intellectuel, cultivé, élitiste	<i>Higgins enjoys highbrow talk of phonetics.</i>

Expressions

Expression	Sens	Exemple
to the manner born	naturally suited to a high position — fait pour cela, comme né dedans	<i>She wears the gown as if to the manner born.</i>
above one's station	higher than one's social rank allows — au-dessus de sa condition	<i>A flower-girl at a ball is above her station.</i>
to put someone in their place	to remind someone of their lower status — remettre quelqu'un à sa place	<i>The duchess tries to put Eliza in her place.</i>

Mots à reconnaître

Mot	Sens
bourgeoisie (n)	bourgeoisie
proletariat (n)	prolétariat
hierarchy (n)	hiérarchie
stratum (n)	strate, couche sociale
caste (n)	caste
echelon (n)	échelon
milieu (n)	milieu (social)
provenance (n)	provenance, origine
comportment (n)	tenue, comportement
deportment (n)	maintien, tenue
bearing (n)	maintien, allure
sophisticate (n)	personne raffinée
aesthete (n)	esthète
dandy (n)	dandy
social-climber (n)	arriviste