

# FRENCH IDIOMS

# PART ONE

**“Avoir un cœur de pierre.”**

**Literal translation/English equivalent: “To have a heart of stone”**

Meaning: ‘To be a cold and emotionless, or stern.’

**“Faire d’une pierre deux coups.”**

Literal translation: “Make two strikes with one stone.”

**English equivalent: “To kill two birds with one stone.”**

Meaning: ‘To achieve two aims at once.’

**“Jeter la pierre à quelqu’un.”**

Literal translation: “To throw someone the stone.”

**English equivalent: “To point the finger at someone”**

Meaning: ‘To blame or accuse somebody.’

**“Apporter sa pierre à l’édifice.”**

Literal translation: “To bring your stone to the building.”

**English equivalent: “To be part of the story.”**

Meaning: ‘To play your part, to do your bit.’

**“Marquer quelque chose d’une pierre blanche.”**

Literal translation: “Mark something with a white stone.”

**English equivalent: “To be a red-letter day.”**

Meaning: ‘A landmark event, or a special day to remember.’

**“Geler à pierre fendre.”**

Literal translation: “To freeze and crack a stone.”

**English equivalent: “Bone splitting cold”**

Meaning: ‘To be very cold.’

**“Manger au lance-pierre.”**

Literal translation: “Eat with a slingshot.”

**English equivalent: “Grab a quick bite to eat.”**

Meaning: ‘To have a small meal or snack when you don't have much time.’



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# PART TWO

**“Se faire rouler dans la farine.”**

Literal translation: “To be rolled in flour.”

**English equivalent: “To get ripped off.”**

Meaning: To be charged too much money for something, or be sold something that is faulty or poor quality.’

**“Casser les pieds à quelqu’un.”**

Literal translation: “To break someone’s feet.”

**English equivalent: “To drive somebody up the wall.”**

Meaning: ‘To be very annoying, or to bother someone.’

**“Poser un lapin à quelqu’un.”**

Literal translation: “Put a rabbit to somebody.”

**English equivalent: “To stand somebody up.”**

Meaning: ‘To fail to meet someone when you said you would.’

**“Revenons à nos moutons.”**

Literal translation: “Let’s return to our sheep.”

**English equivalent: “Let’s get back to the topic at hand.”**

Meaning: ‘Let’s get back to what we were talking about.’

**“Un de ces quatre matins.”**

Literal translation: “One of these four mornings.”

**English equivalent: “One of these days.”**

Meaning: ‘Sometime soon’

**“Il fait un froid de canard.”**

Literal translation: “It is a duck’s cold.”

**English equivalent: “It’s freezing!”**

Meaning: ‘It is very cold.’

**“Je n’ai pas un radis.”**

Literal translation: “I haven’t got one radish.”

**English equivalent: “I haven’t got a penny.”**

Meaning: ‘I haven’t got any money’

