

FRENCH SLANG IN LITERAL TRANSLATION

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I hate to agrafer (buttonhole) you with some problems which are not du sucre (duck soup), but here are some French slang phrases translated literally into English. Your problem is to deduce the English equivalent of the meaning conveyed to a Frenchman by the slang expression. Some are tough dans les grandes largeurs (with a vengeance), but others can be deciphered even if your French is la plume de ma tante. Try to mettre le doigt dessus (hit the nail on the head); but if they are too much for you, see Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue.

1. That will make me a nice leg
2. Don't trouble yourself about the young girl's hat
3. You run on my green bean
4. To hand out the hair dressing
5. To give into the trap
6. To make an arrow out of any wood
7. ... and your sister?
8. In two times and three movements
9. I see you coming with your big wooden shoes
10. Ingres' violin
11. He's using System D
12. Administrative chinoiserie
13. Drink like a Swiss
14. To roll in the flour
15. He paid me in monkey money
16. In the molasses
17. Like a Dane!
18. He breaks my feet
19. Work for prunes
20. I'm not on my plate
21. To go like a zebra
22. To put it to the left
23. Like a cow pissing
24. Snuff his candle
25. I've lost my Latin