

CALLING A CAT A CAT

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Of course the French have some slang words and expressions borrowed from English or translating the English: **tu parles** (you said it) or **avoir deux cordes a son arc** (to have two strings to one's bow). But really to know a language is to be able to come up with the appropriate word - and that may not be the one they taught you in school. Find someone who claims to speak French fluently as well as English, and ask them for the French word for each of the following. If they get most of them right, they know colloquial French. Translating the French literally back into English may also give you an insight into the French character: our **fresh as a daisy** corresponds to their **frais comme une rose**, and to **call a spade a spade** is **appeller un chat un chat!**

1. plastered (drunk)
2. jilt
3. hustle
4. dogs (feet)
5. noggin (head)
6. weirdo
7. Silly Willie
8. equalizer (pistol)
9. plainclothes dick
10. big job
11. schnozz (nose)
12. bullshit
13. get knocked up
14. have a screw loose
15. traffic ticket
16. knee-high to a grasshopper
17. stand the gaff
18. sharp eye
19. prole
20. old as the hills
21. kick the bucket
22. get the Bronx cheer
23. motorcycle cop
24. rotgut
25. go-for
26. (from) the word go
27. well-tanned
28. stop play-acting
29. chrome dome (bald head)
30. say "cheese"