

What are Cultural and Idiomatic Expressions?

Worksheet

French idioms are cultural expressions where the figurative meaning differs from the literal words — like avoir un chat dans la gorge (to have a cat in one's throat, meaning to be hoarse) or être sur un nuage (to be on a cloud, meaning to be daydreaming). Idioms reveal culture and nuance.

Questions

1. 'Avoir un chat dans la gorge' means...

- A) to have a pet cat
- B) to be hoarse
- C) to like cats
- D) to adopt a cat

2. What is 'être sur un nuage'?

- A) to climb
- B) to daydream
- C) to fly
- D) to rain

3. 'Avoir le cafard' refers to...

- A) drinking coffee
- B) having insects
- C) feeling down
- D) cooking food

4. Which idiom expresses happiness?

- A) avoir le cafard
- B) être de bonne humeur
- C) être triste
- D) avoir peur

5. Explain the idiom 'avoir un chat dans la gorge'.

6. What does 'être sur un nuage' mean?

7. Explain 'avoir le cafard'.

8. Define: What does 'avoir un chat dans la gorge' mean?

9. Define: What is 'être sur un nuage'?

10. Define: What does 'avoir le cafard' mean?

Answer Key

1. B) to be hoarse — The idiom means to be hoarse or have difficulty speaking — not literally about a cat.
2. B) to daydream — It means to be daydreaming or very happy — distracted and blissful.
3. C) feeling down — It means to feel homesick or depressed — not literally about insects.
4. B) être de bonne humeur — Être de bonne humeur = to be in a good mood. Cafard = down, triste = sad, peur = afraid.
5. Literal: to have a cat in one's throat Meaning: to be hoarse, to have difficulty speaking Usage: 'J'ai un chat dans la gorge ce matin.' (I'm hoarse this morning.)
6. Literal: to be on a cloud Meaning: to be daydreaming, to be distracted or very happy Usage: 'Il est sur un nuage depuis qu'il a rencontré sa nouvelle copine.' (He's been daydreaming since he met his girlfriend.)
7. Literal: to have the cockroach Meaning: to feel down, to be depressed or homesick Usage: 'J'ai le cafard sans ma famille.' (I'm homesick without my family.)
8. To have a cat in one's throat — to be hoarse or unable to speak clearly.
9. To be on a cloud — to be daydreaming, distracted, or very happy.
10. To have the cockroach — to feel down, homesick, or depressed.

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