

A few pleasantries that may be different from what you learnt at school...

Ça va?

Ça roule (ma poule)? Lit. Is it rolling (my hen)

Equivalent: **Alright (me duck/pet)?**

Addressed to ladies only – caution may elicit a slap!

Ça gaze? Lit: Is it gassing?

Equivalent: **How's tricks?**

Ça boume! Lit. It's thumping!

Equivalent: **Life's great**

Ça marche! It's working!

Equivalent: **Smashing/Great/ Ace!**

Ça carbure! Lit. It's mixing the fuel

Equivalent: **Things are great!**

You can use all of these as either questions or responses. Questions have rising intonation just as if you were asking the question "All right?"

Hot and cold

Il fait chaud, il fait froid Lit. It's doing hot, it's doing cold

Equivalent: **The weather's/it's hot, the weather's/it's cold***

Il fait frisquet - It's chilly

Ça caille! (pron /sa kai/ as in kayak) Lit. It's curdling!

Equivalent: **It's perishing!/brass monkey weather/freezing!**

Il pleut des cordes Lit. it's raining string

Equivalent: **It's throwing it down**

J'ai chaud. J'ai froid – Lit. I have hot, I have cold

Equivalent: **I'm hot, I'm cold**

Watch out! Never use **Je suis chaud(e)** – it has a fruitier meaning!

In the bar

Pardon - je suis nul (nulle) en Français! Lit. Sorry I'm a zero in French

Equivalent: **Sorry, I'm rubbish at French!**

(always gets a sympathetic 'Mais non! Mais non...')

Je vous invite Lit. I'm inviting you

Equivalent **It's my treat/I'm paying**

A la vôtre! Lit. To yours (health)

Equivalent: **Cheers!**

Cul sec! – Lit. Dry bottom (of the glass)!

Equivalent: **Down in one!**

Merci mille fois Lit. Thanks a thousand times

Equivalent: **Thanks a million!**

Tu te soûles à quoi? Lit. You intoxicate yourself with what?

Equivalent: **What's your poison?**

Say Hello, wave Goodbye

Re-bonjour Lit. Re-hello

(Daft way of saying) **Hi again!**

Salut! Lit. Hail!

Equivalent: **Hi there!** or in fact also **Cheerio!**

Ciao (and no, you don't sound like a yuppy...)

A plus tard! Lit. Until later

Equivalent: **See you later!**

A plus! if you're trendy & please pronounce 's' in plus)

Equivalent: **(Cheers! See you! Later! ??)**

Hence **A+** at end of emails – **it's not a score they're giving you!**

A plus any time element

A demain, à tout à l'heure*, à ce soir

Equivalent: **See you tomorrow, see you in a bit, see you this evening**

*It's where we pinched the expression **Toodle-loo** from...

Adieu Lit. Until God (ie The next time I expect to meet you, matey, is in front of our maker) **To be used sparingly**

Equivalent: **Farewell**

Terms of Endearment

Mon pote

Equivalent **My mate**

Ma biche Lit. My doe

Equivalent; **My schnubbly-dubbly pumpkin**, or whatever you say to your female partner

Mon chou Lit. My cabbage

Equivalent: **My schnubbly-dubbly pumpkin**, or whatever you say to your male partner

Ma bourgeoise Lit. My middle-class lady

Equivalent: **My missus** **caution may elicit a slap!**

Mon petit mari Lit. My little husband

Equivalent: **My hubby**

Ma moitié Lit. My half (male or female)

Equivalent: **My other/better half**

Mes gosses

Equivalent: **My kids**