Set phrases (2)

Some set phrases can’t be translated word for word – they don’t make sense.

Don’t look up the first word of a set phrase. Look up what looks like the most important word in the phrase. If the phrase isn’t there, look up another word.

E.g. if a French pal tells you “j’aime faire la grasse matinée”, it doesn’t mean he likes fatty mornings! Can you see what it means?

A French pupil has translated word for word

Find the underlined French expressions in your dictionary and write what they really mean in English.

1 J’ai un système audio à la pointe.
I have a sound system at the point.

2 Paul vit au jour le jour.
Paul lives at the day the day.

3 Ça m’est égal.
It’s equal to me.

4 Ma tante se porte à merveille.
My aunt carries herself to a marvel.

The example in the dictionary might not be exactly the same as the phrase you’re looking for. You may have to change it to suit your context.

manquer tu manques I miss you

Change to: Il me manque = I miss him

Adapt the phrases given in the dictionary

Look up the underlined phrases, and write the sentences in English.

1 Je vais me mettre à chanter.

2 Céline a mauvais caractère.

3 Paul vient d’arriver.

4 J’ai fait la bise à ma grand-mère.