

# The art of complaining...

Cosmopoli'French, Explore to Learn



Like the French

# The art of...

## Complaining VS Moaning

The French certainly know how to complain and you might either find this trait pretty funny or terribly annoying. Knowing how to complain in 'la langue de Molière' will help you communicate with your French friends and acquaintances so don't hesitate to add a few negative here and there.

However, it is important to make a distinction between two types of expression of frustration: the 'conversational moaning' including the comments about the weather and the 'call to action type of complaints' aiming to rectify a situation the French are not pleased about (sometimes leading to strikes)

Today, we will focus on 'conversational moaning' and will teach you a few expressions to use during your next French dinner or when asked 'Quoi de neuf?' (what's new)



# How to get started!

## General complaints

**J'en ai marre:** I'm fed up

**Je m'ennuie/ Je m'emmerde (fam.)** I'm bored

**Je ne suis pas dans mon assiette aujourd'hui :** I'm not feeling quite myself today  
(lit. I'm not in my plate today)

**C'est chiant (fam.):** It's boring/ annoying

**Y'en a ras le bol! :** enough!

**C'est la galère! C'est toujours la meme galère (fam.):** it is a struggle/ it is always the same struggle.

**C'est incroyable:** it's unbelievable

**Et c'est reparti!** Here we go again!

**C'est une blague!** What a joke!



## Let's put them in practice

Up to the challenge?

We all experience things that annoy us at some stage... If complaining out loud is not part of your nature, try to complain to yourself in French!

**Y'en a ras le bol, ce train est toujours en retard!** That's enough, this train is always late!

**J'en ai marre de ces politiciens, ils ne tiennent jamais leurs promesses!** I'm fed up with those politicians, they never keep their promises!

**Ce film est chiant:** this movie is boring

**Je m'emmerde, il n'y a rien d'intéressant à la télé:** I'm bored, there's nothing interesting on TV.

**C'est galère de trouver un appartement dans cette ville;** It's a real struggle to find an apartment in this city

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# Complaining about the weather

## Some key sentences

Making comments about the forecast is an easy way to start a conversation with people you know very well or people you don't know at all.

**Quel sale temps!** What terrible weather!

**Il fait un temps infernal!** What dreadful weather!

**Il fait un froid de canard!** It is freezing (lit. It makes a duck cold)

**Quelle chaleur!** What heat!

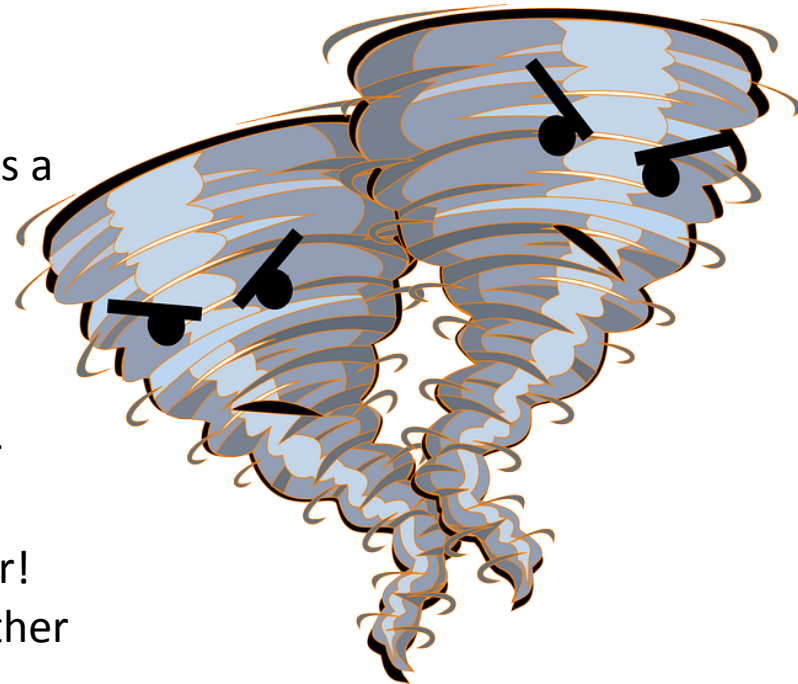
**Quel temps pourri (fam.):** What dreadful weather (lit- what rotten weather)

**Quel temps de merde! (fam.)** What shitty weather!

**Quel temps de chien (fam.) :** What dreadful weather (what a doggy weather)

**Ça caille ici!(fam.)** It is freezing in here

**Il fait trop chaud pour travailler.** (lit.) It is too hot to work ( joke in reference to a 1992 ad for a soft drink)



## Cultural Tips!

### Understand a French Paradox

**Where is the best place to put your new skills in practice!**

When asked about the worst characteristic they find in their colleagues, 36% of the French rank 'continual complainer' as the no. 1 trait. However this figure drops to 29% in Paris and its surrounding suburbs, as if this habit of seeing (almost) everything in a negative light is more accepted and normalised. So if you are planning to practice your complaining skills in French, the best place to do so would probably be in Paris, and the worst place would be in the North-West region where 42% can't stand continuous complaints.

# Want to learn some more?

Join us at Cosmopoli'French, an exciting new concept language school designed in an innovative way to promote French culture while helping Francophiles develop excellent communication skills.

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