



Le coin des branchés

A few strange words or expressions using X, Y or Z

Rayons X = X rays.

Film X/classé X = X rated movie.

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Yoyo/yo-yo = yo-yo. Often used in a figurative sense, particularly about losing or gaining weight. *J'en ai marre de faire du yoyo, j'ai déjà repris 5 kg!* One also says that the price of oil plays yo-yo, etc.

Zapper = to skip quickly from one TV channel to another without taking the time to see a full programme.

Zèbre = literally zebra, but also means a "guy" in a slightly pejorative sense. *C'est un drôle de zèbre, ce mec, tu sais qu'il a encore changé de métier?*

Zigoto = another word to designate the same type of man. A bit outdated nowadays.

Zozo = a man who is a bit stupid. Still used by adults but a bit outdated. *Quel zozo celui-là!*

Zen = cool, relaxed. Very commonly used without any particular link to any Buddhism practice. *Moi je reste très zen quand mon mari s'énerve!*

Tes zigs = that guy. *Regarde-le, il est dingue de sa voiture, tes zigs!*

Zigzag/zigzaguer = same as zigzag in English.

Zinc = *café* or *bistrot* (the countertops in such establishments used to be covered with zinc). Used more in Paris than in other parts of France, and has become a bit outdated today, but several restaurants now bear the name of *Petit zinc*.

Zip = common word for zipper (the real word being *fermeture éclair*).

Zipper = to zip up.

Zizanie = dissension in a group. *S'il vient ce soir, il va encore semer la zizanie!*

Zizi = male sexual organ/dick. Became popular after a song by French singer Pierre Perret: *Le zizi*.

Zone = a part of a city; often used to designate the part of the city which is the most destitute, the territory of people who aren't very recommendable. *Ne va pas là-bas, c'est la zone!*

Zoner = to wander or roam about with no specific goal or purpose.

Zonard = young person living on the fringes of society, *un marginal*.

Zut = damn. *Oh zut, ils ne passent plus le film que je voulais voir!* (Oh damn, the film I wanted to see isn't playing anymore!)

Abbreviations

Several official French abbreviations, used to designate administrative subdivisions, start with Z:

ZAC (zone d'aménagement concerté) = housing zone designed according to a concerted agreement.

ZEP (zone d'éducation prioritaire) = priority education zone.

ZUP (zone à urbaniser en priorité) = priority housing zone (usually low-income housing).



Zapper d'une chaîne à l'autre...

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