



dans les

Rues de Paris

How to win the hearts of Parisians as a visitor

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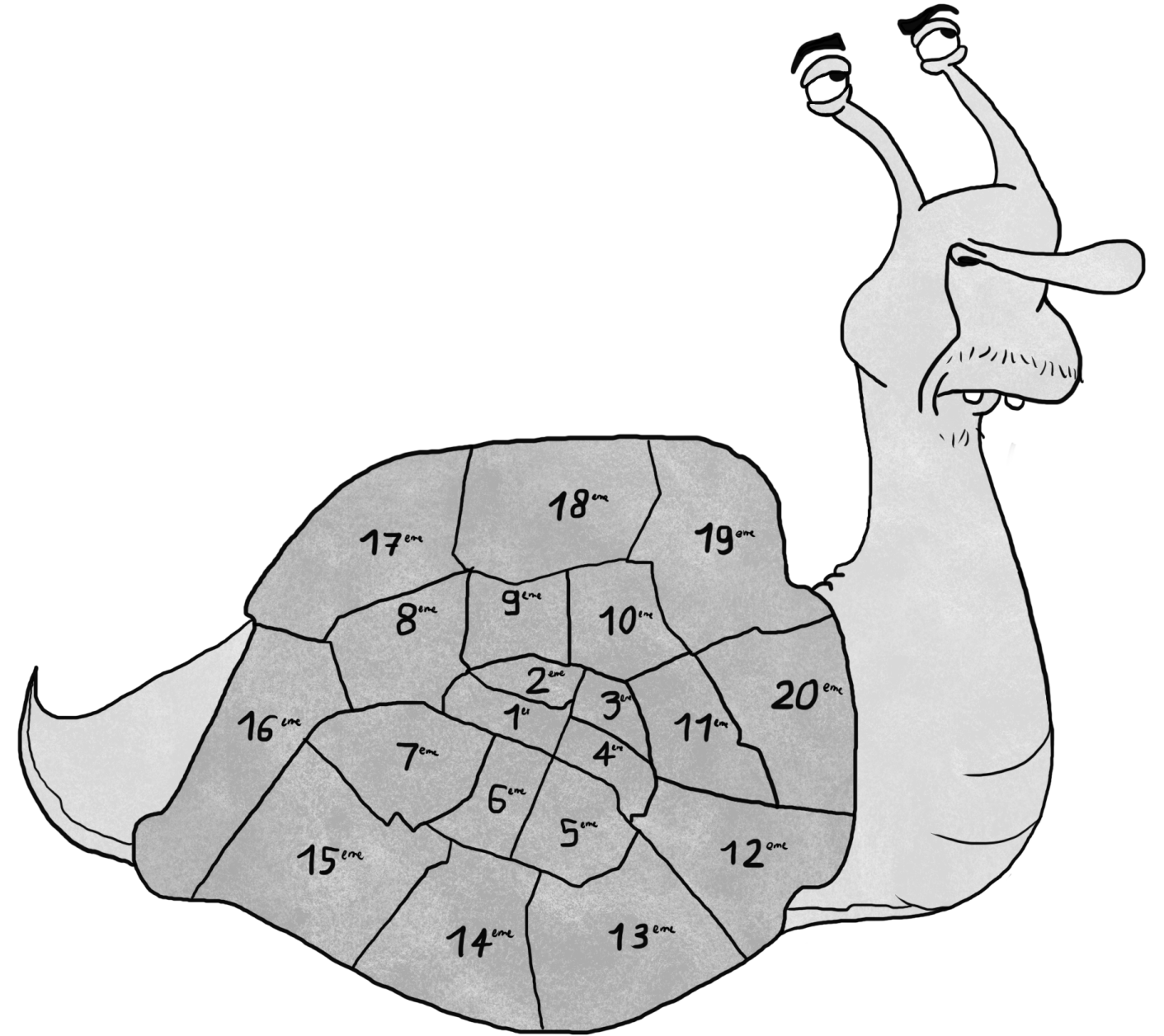
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A

is for...

Arrondissements

Paris is divided into twenty districts, also called *arrondissements*. Depending on the district, Parisians often judge each other for the *arrondissement* that they grew up in.





B

is for...

Brasserie

A *brasserie* is a type of restaurant found on almost every street corner of Paris. Different from a *bistro*, a *brasserie* is open all day, every day and serves the same traditional and often cheap dishes everyday.

C

is for...

CDG 1 & 2

CDG, or Charles de Gaulle, is the main airport in Paris. When leaving Paris on the RER B, which is the main line going from Paris to the airport, CDG is divided into Terminals 1 and 2, depending on the destination of the flight. Make sure to check on your boarding pass which Terminal is yours in order to avoid a last minute panic on the RER.





D

is for...

Dimanche

French people prioritize rest more than Americans, which means that like any other city in France, most shops are closed on Sundays in Paris. Keep this in mind when planning your shopping.

E

is for...

Étages

French people (and most other Europeans) don't count the ground floor of a building when numbering its stories like Americans do. In France, the ground floor is called the *rez-de-chaussée*, and the floor above is called the *1^{er} étage*.





F

is for...

Fluctuat nec mergitur

Meaning *“He/she is rocked by waves, but does not sink”*, this is the motto for the city of Paris. Although it was first used in the 14th century, it has recently been revived (often in the form of street art) as a means to reflect the resilience of the city in the face of tragedy and adversity.

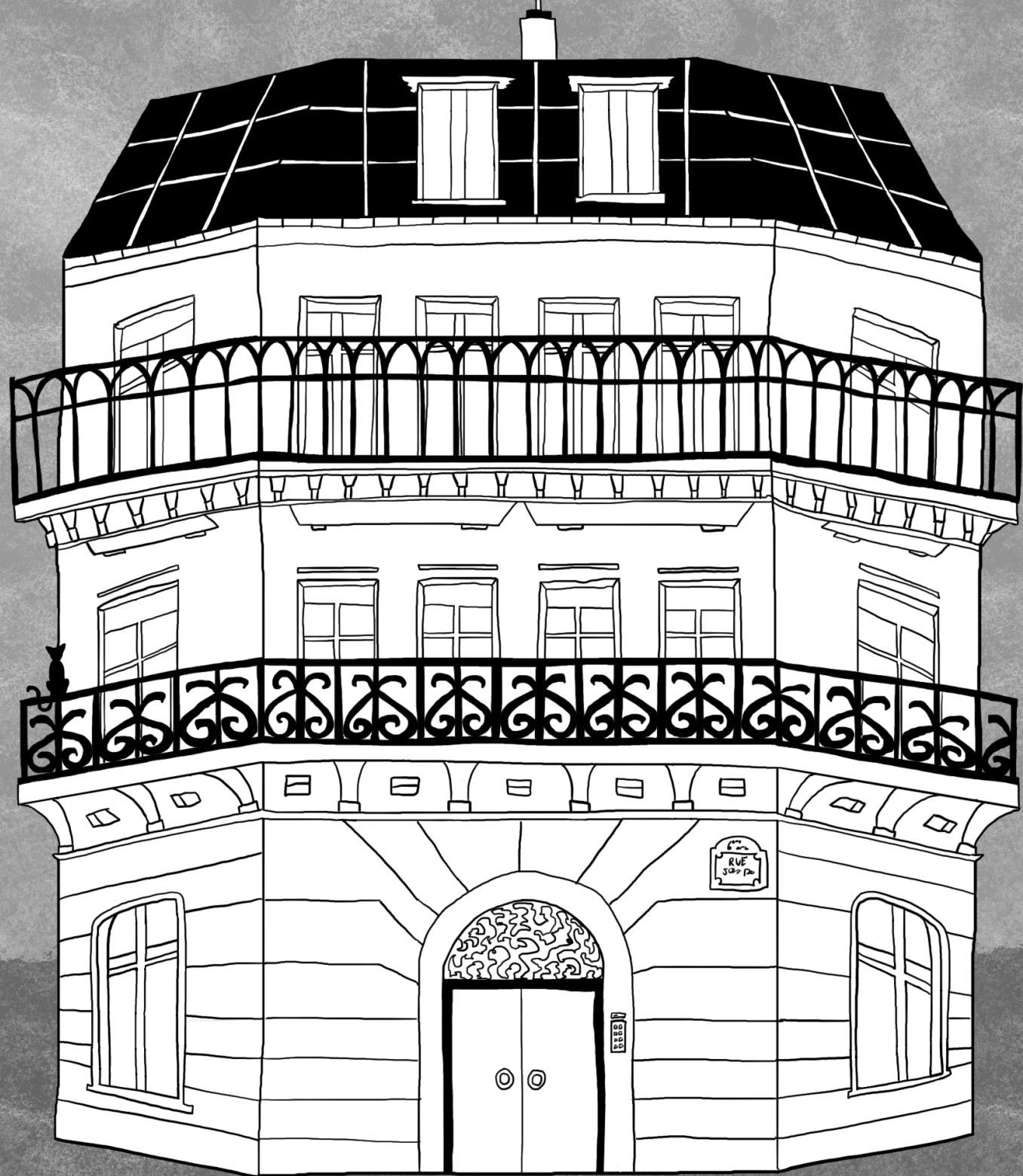
G

is for...

Groceries

In Paris, the clerks will never bag your groceries for you, and you are expected to do it as your items are scanned. Try to be quick so you don't hold the line. Also, shopkeepers in Paris will also always ask you: "*Par carte ou par espèce?*" or: "*By card or cash?*" so be sure to know those two words.





H

is for...

Haussmann

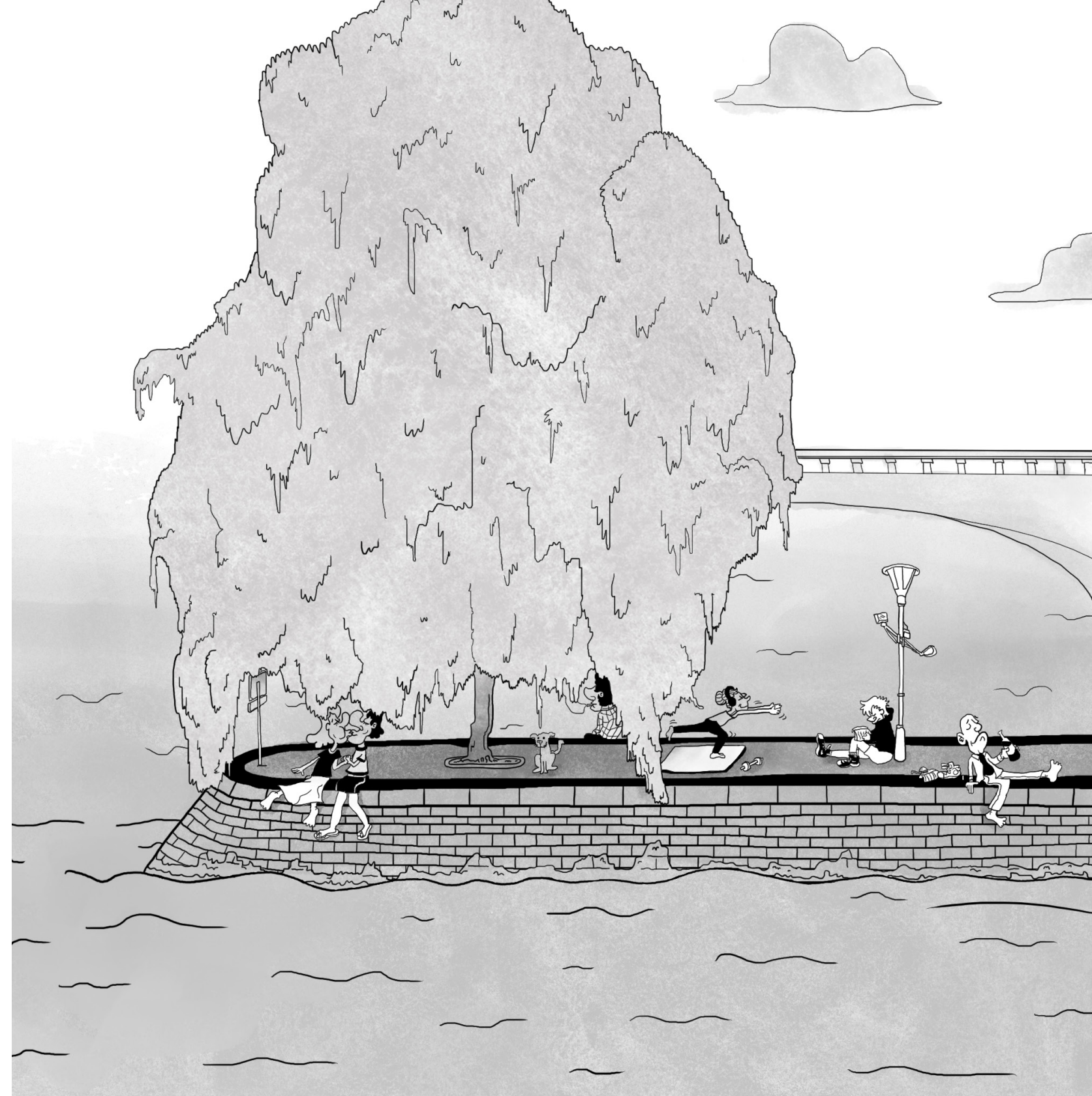
In the 19th century, the architect Georges-Eugène Haussmann was hired by Napoleon III to revamp the city of Paris. Haussmann changed the old medieval streets of Paris into the large boulevards and viaducts that we know today. Most famously, he is known for designing the uniform facades of today's Parisian apartments, with their light gray tone and small outdoor terraces.

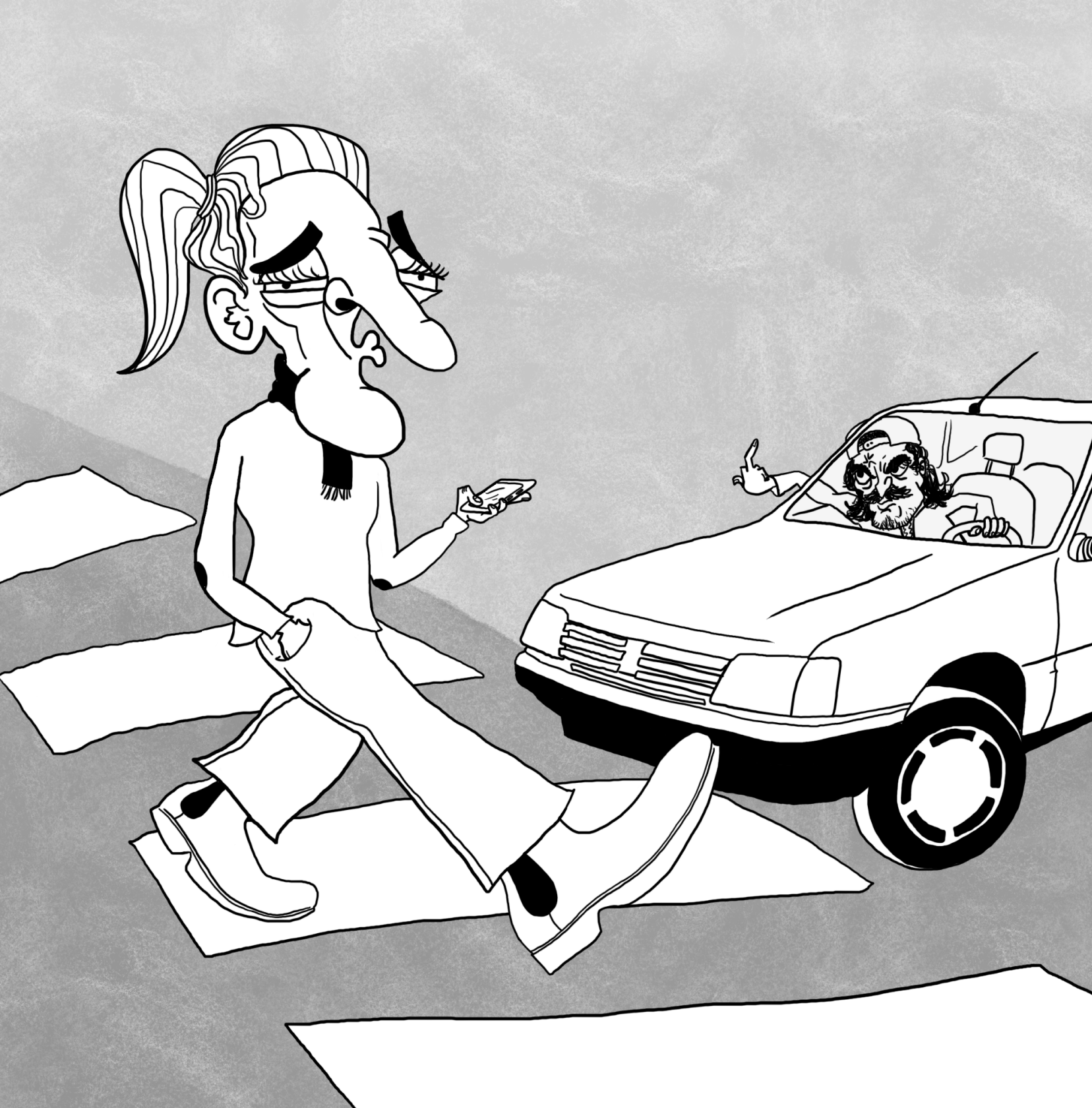
I

is for...

Île de la Cité

L'île de la Cité is an island located in the heart of Paris. It has a lot of history, but it's mainly known for being the home of the *Notre Dame Cathedral*. Young people mainly come to the island to hang out beneath one of the many giant willow trees found at the edge of the island.





J

is for...

Jaywalking

In Paris, if there are no cars or bikes coming towards you, you cross the street, regardless of the crossing light.

K

is for...

Kiosques

Along the river Seine you can find many newspaper kiosks. These have been a staple in Paris for centuries, and can be a good way to learn more about current Parisian events and culture.





L

is for...

La Bise

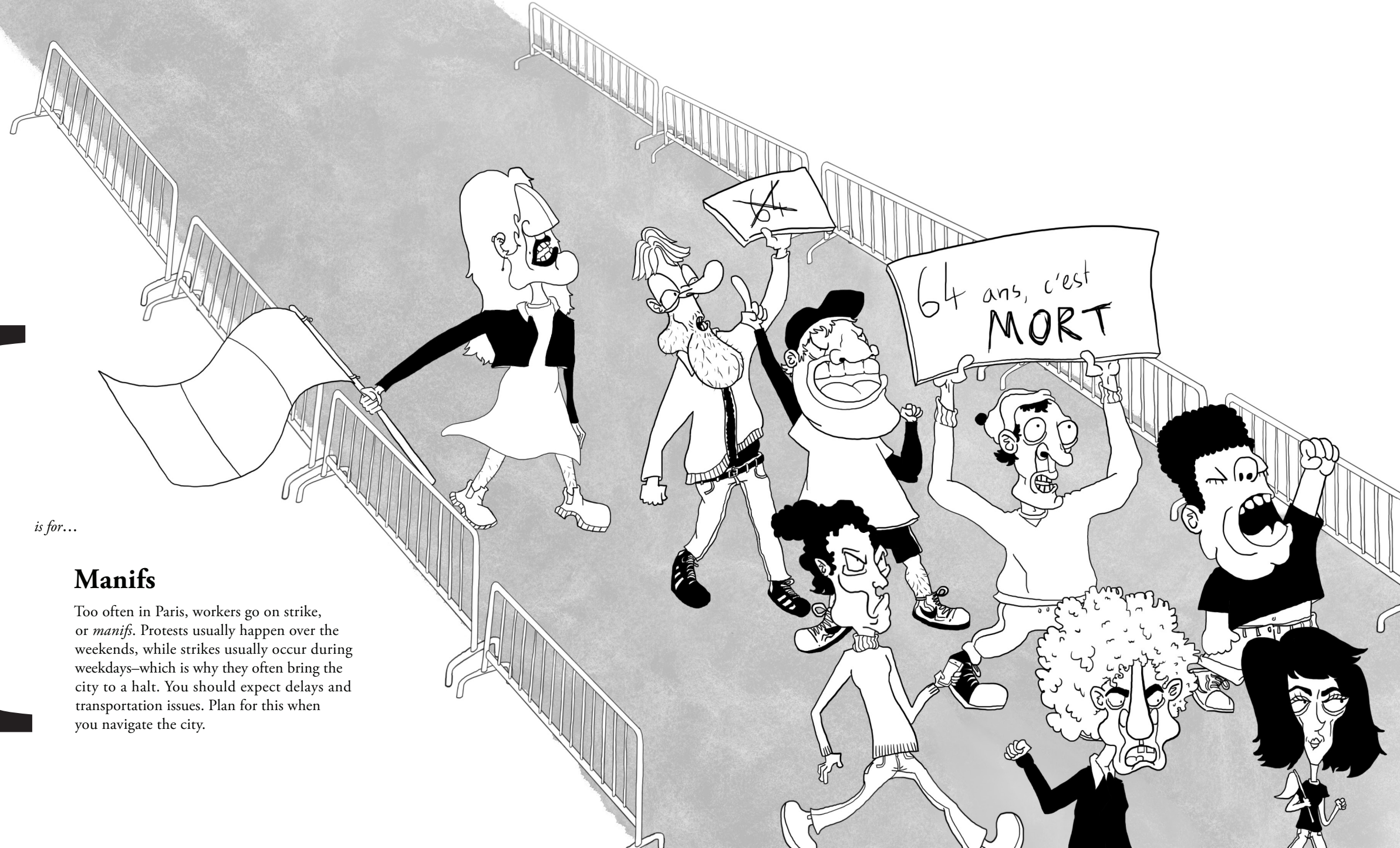
In France, it is the norm to greet people by touching your cheek to theirs and making a little kissing noise. However, depending on the region, the amount of times you touch cheeks can differ. In Paris, you do it twice, left side first, then right.

M

is for...

Manifs

Too often in Paris, workers go on strike, or *manifs*. Protests usually happen over the weekends, while strikes usually occur during weekdays—which is why they often bring the city to a halt. You should expect delays and transportation issues. Plan for this when you navigate the city.



this is the part of the book where
you can take your...

Pause Clope

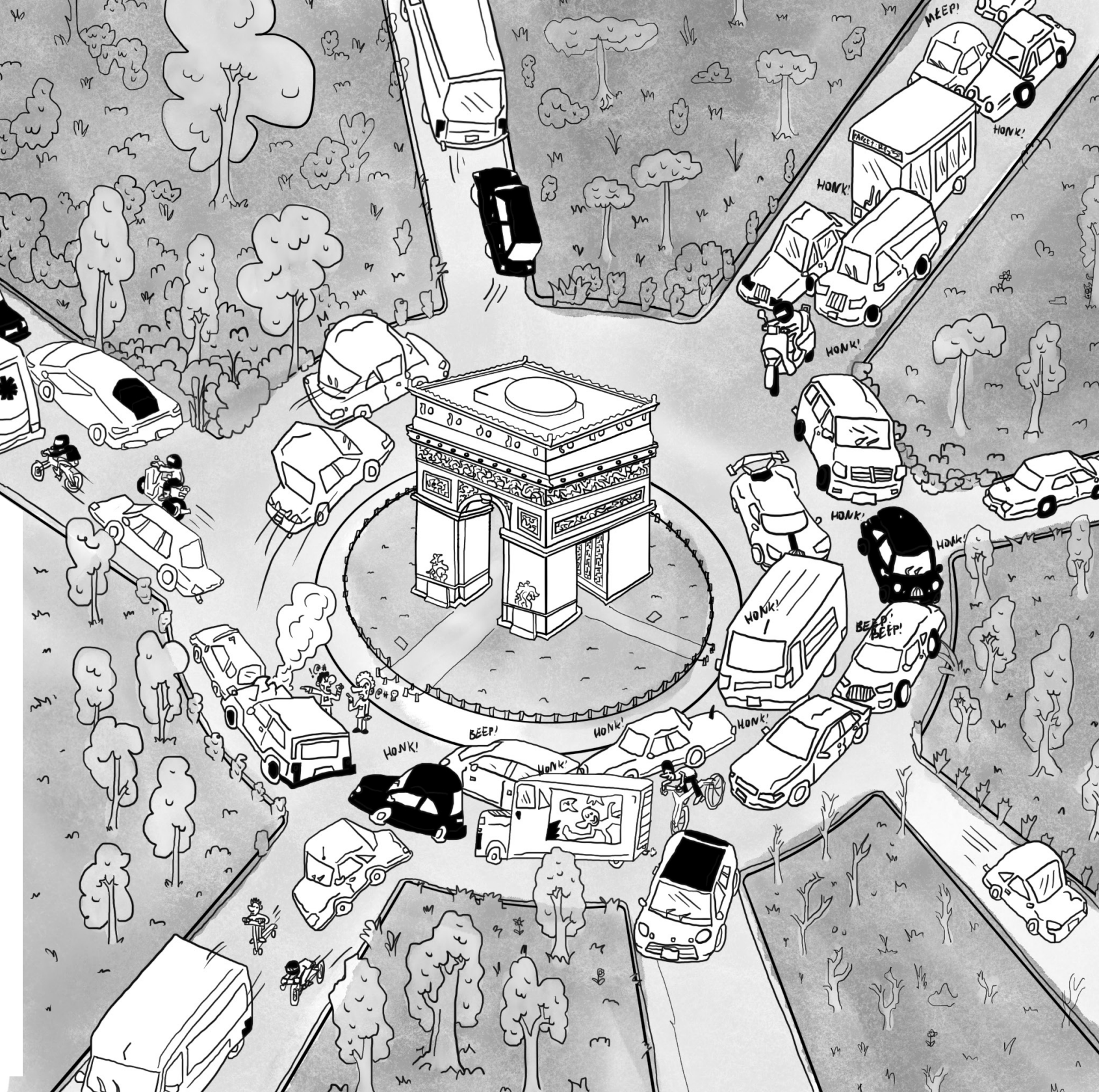


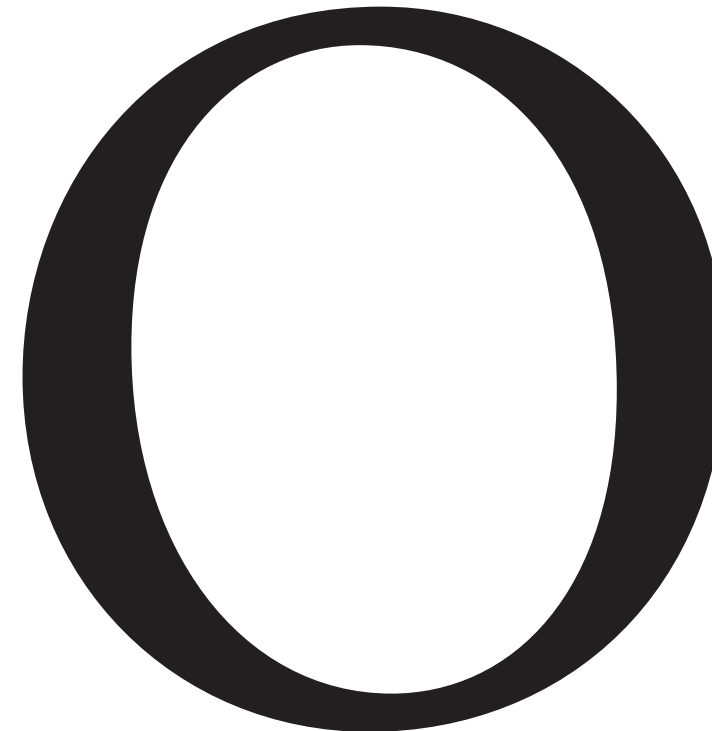
N

is for...

Never drive a car

Paris is the most visited city in the world and it doesn't help that it's a city with many tight alleys. Traffic, especially during holiday seasons, can get really bad. Also, the drivers are quite aggressive and crazy. Sometimes, driving a car in Paris can be daunting, but public transportation systems are extremely well designed and somewhat inexpensive to use. Or, you can always walk.





is for...

On va se prendre un...?

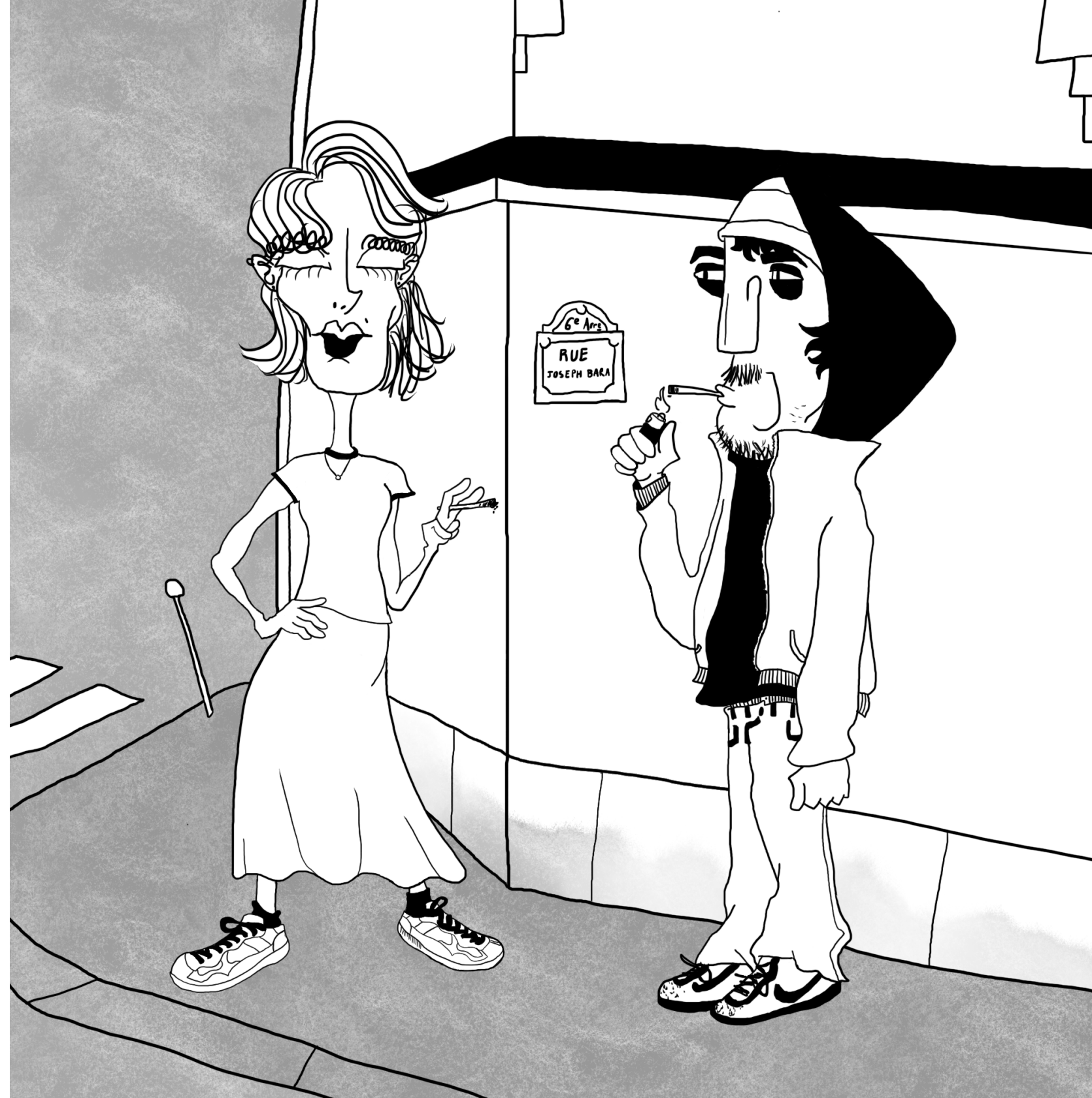
In Paris, some common social activities to do with friends are to get coffee (*On va se prendre un café?*) or get drinks (*On va se prendre un verre?*). The coffee is usually a morning or afternoon activity, while the drinks are saved for the evenings or nights. It's important to know these two sayings.

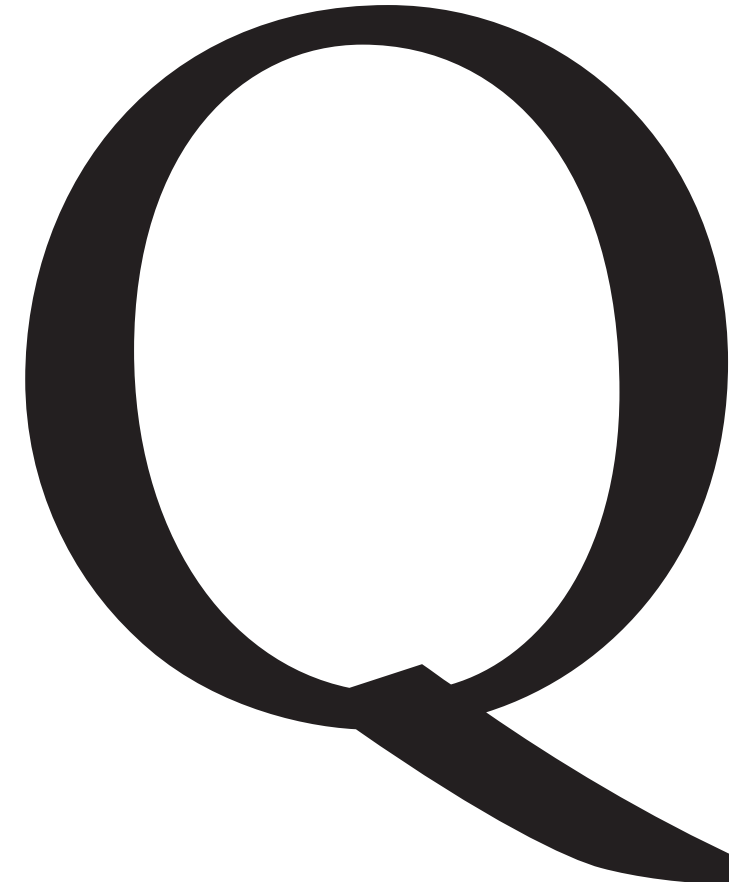
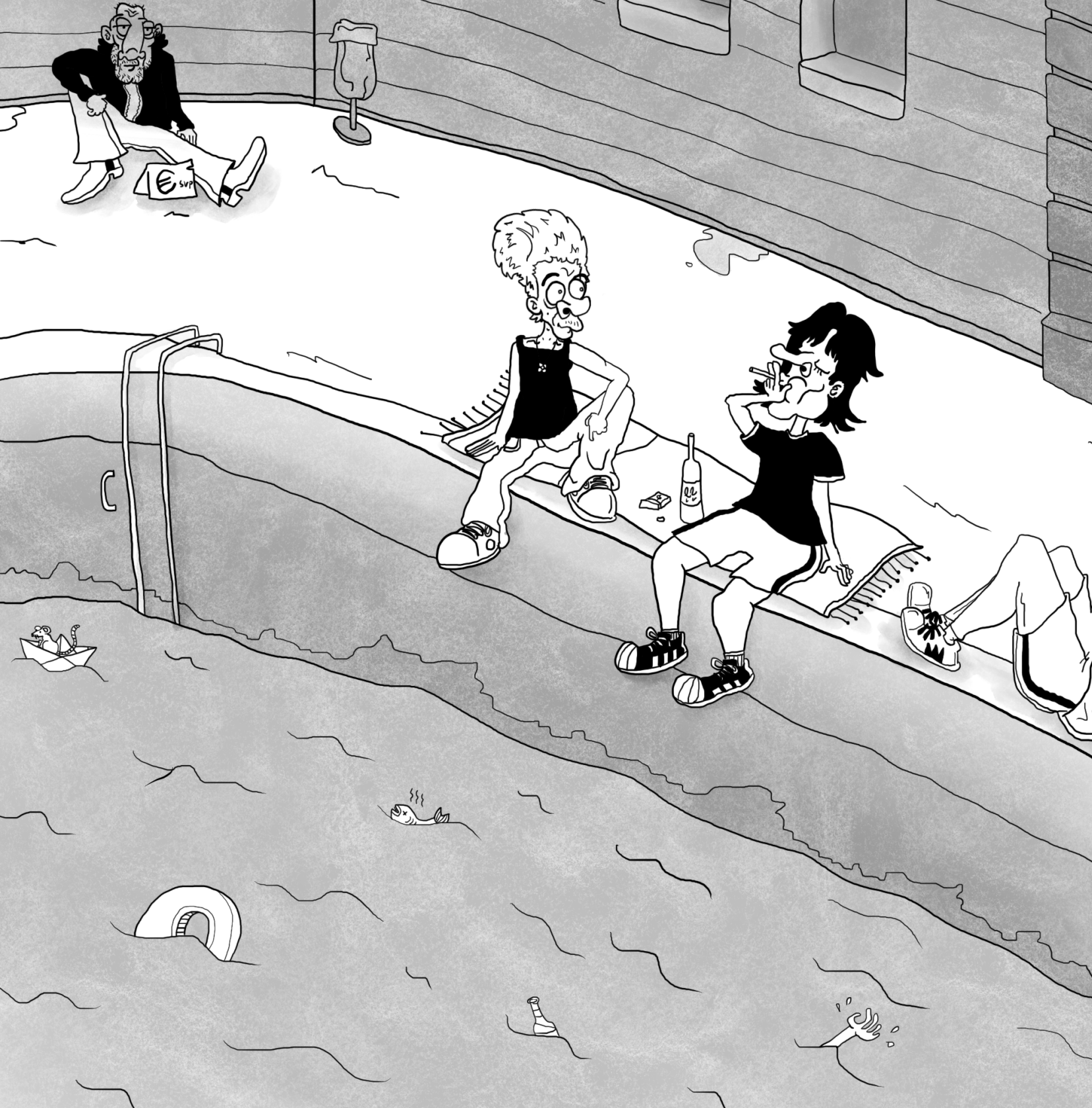
P

is for...

Pause Clope

French people smoke. Everyone knows that. However, smoking indoors isn't usually permitted (even in Paris). Because of this, it's common for people to take routine smoke breaks, or *pauses clope*. Parisians take many, all the time. Even if you aren't a smoker, you may join and stand in the freezing cold along with a group of smokers. It can be a good opportunity to socialize and meet new people!





is for...

Les Quais de la Seine

The banks of the River Seine are known as a good place for a stroll in the winter, and a popular hangout spot for young people in the summer. When the *terrasses* are too full, young people go sit by the quais de Seine for a drink and an *apero* (appetizer). Careful though, there are no chairs or benches, so you will be sitting on the pavement.

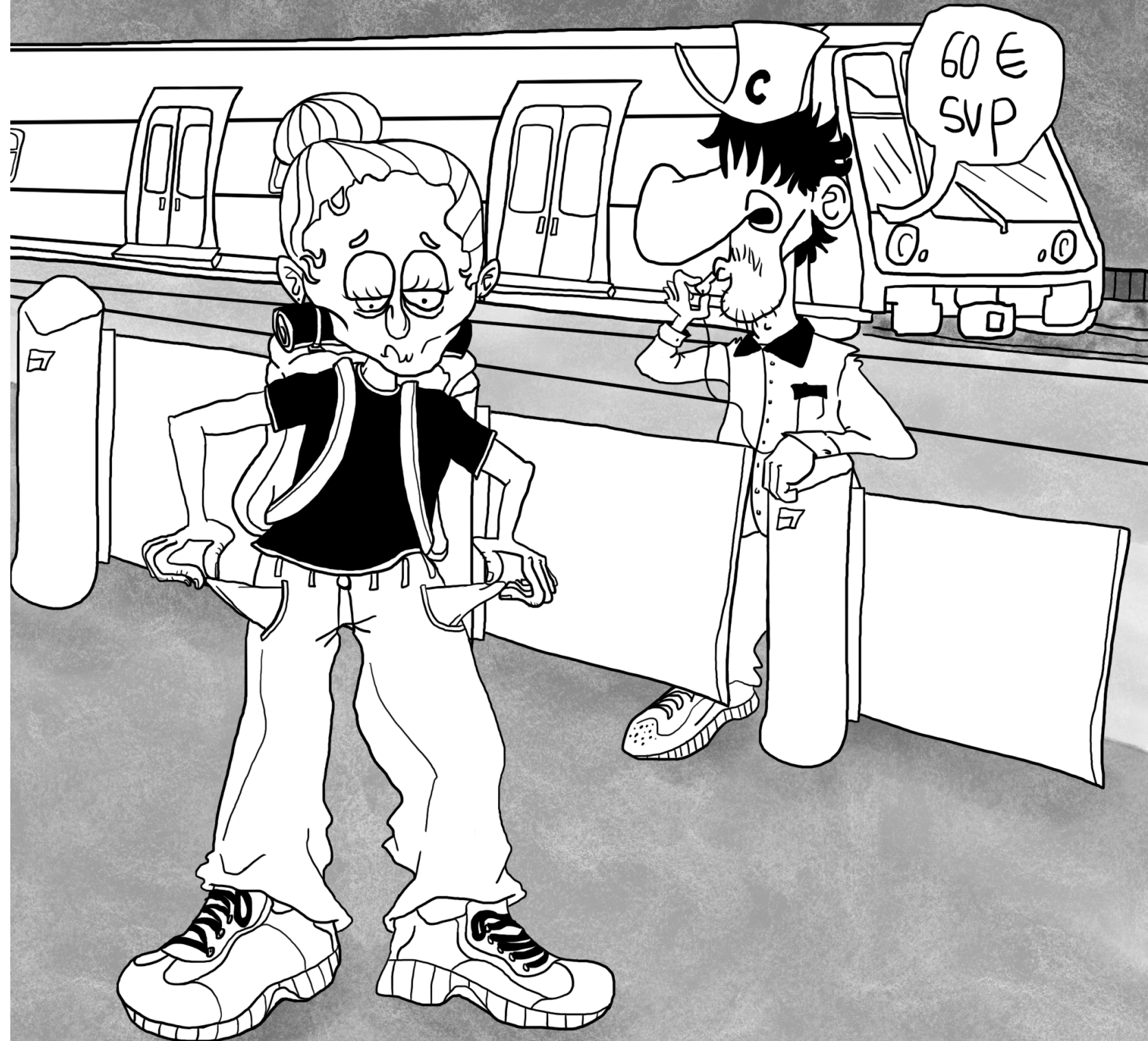
R

is for...

RER

The *RER* is a line of 5 express trains that connect the Paris city center to its many surrounding suburbs. Something to note when making use of this train is that after purchasing a paper ticket from a kiosk and putting it through the checkpoint, **keep your ticket**.

If you lose or throw away your ticket before you reach your destination, there is a good chance that you will not be able to leave the station without repurchasing another ticket. Or, even worse, a ticket inspector will catch you and you will be forced to pay a 60 euro fine.





S

is for...

Style

The fashion standards in Paris are higher than in the US, and visiting Paris can be a good time to try to put a bit more thought into your outfit. Commonly, people wear muted colors.

T

is for...

Tips

Restaurant work in France is not seen as a low-paid, thankless temporary job for those waiting to find a job somewhere else. Instead, waiters are well respected, and their professions are considered as valid careers. A good reflection of that is seen in the 12-15% service charge that all restaurants in France include, which is why most local Parisians don't tip (or tip very little).

French waiters also won't periodically come to your table and will instead leave you to enjoy your meal. So, if you need something, be sure to flag them down.





U

is for...

Un café

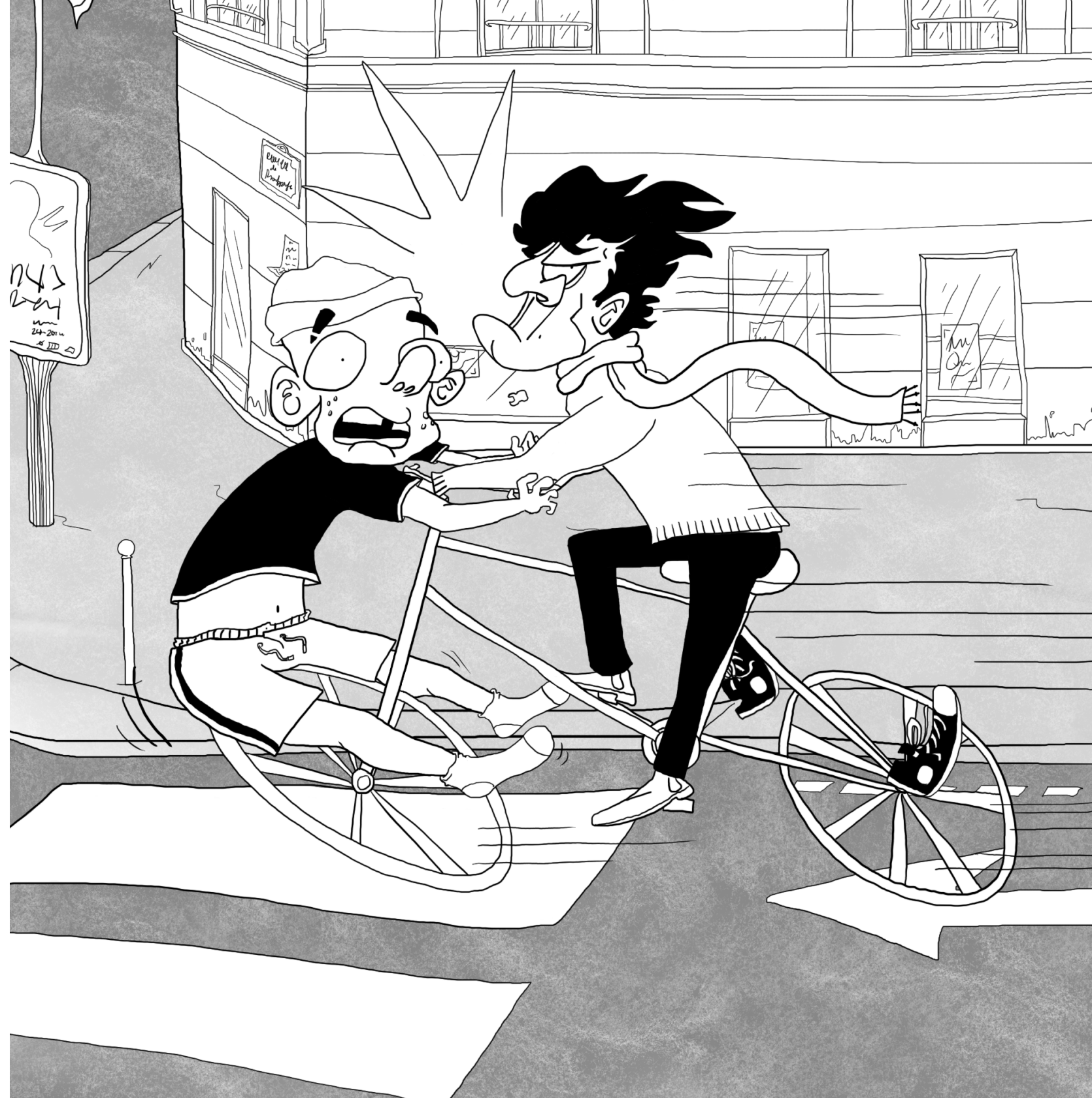
Ordering coffee in Paris can be daunting at first glance, but it is actually a lot simpler than in the US. Most of the time, you won't even be offered a menu but you can always ask for one or know your order beforehand. If you are looking for a drip coffee, order an *allongé*. If you just ask for *un café*, you'll get a shot of espresso.

V

is for...

Vélo

Because Paris isn't a car-friendly city, bike lanes can be found on every street. The Parisian bikes, or *vélos*, are known to be even more dangerous than the cars, and the bike lanes themselves can easily be mistaken as a part of the sidewalk, so keep your eyes open when crossing the street.





W

is for...

Watch your step!

Parisians don't frequently pick up after their dogs, so be sure to watch your step, otherwise you might spend the rest of the day smelling like dog feces...

X

is for...

XIX^{eme} siècle

The period from 1789—1914 is dubbed in France as the "long 19th century" as it consisted of some of the most impactful events in French history. These include the French Revolution and the founding of the First French Republic, both of which were largely based in Paris and had long lasting effects on the city.

French culture overall became dominated by ideas of nationalism, social unity and egalitarianism. This was seen in the rejection of certain formal modes of address and clothing which formed the Parisian identity today.





Y

is for...

Yelling "Ta gueule!"

Ta gueule is French for shut up.

Z

is for...

Zut!

In French, *Zut* means Shoot. You can use it in many situations, ranging from stepping in a pile of Parisian dog poop to learning of your grandmother's passing. Just be sure to add a *RÔÔÔH* before the *Zut*.



Acknowledgements



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