

IDIOMS WITH AVOIR

J'ai <i>honte de</i> le dire.	I am ashamed to say so.
J'ai <i>peur de</i> rester ici.	I am afraid to stay here.
J'ai <i>regret d'avoir</i> di' cela.	I am sorry for having said that.
J'ai <i>tort de</i> parler ainsi.	I am wrong in speaking thus.
J'avais <i>raison de</i> venir.	I was right in coming.
J'ai <i>hâte de</i> partir.	I am in a hurry to leave.
J'ai <i>envie de</i> rire. (1)	I have an inclination to laugh.
J'ai <i>envie de</i> rester ici.	I have a mind (notion) to stay here.
Ai-je <i>besoin de</i> vous dire de partir?	Have I need to tell you to leave?
J'ai <i>soin de</i> prendre mon livre.	I have care to take my book.
J'ai <i>sujet d'avoir</i> peur de vous.	I have reason for being afraid of you.
J'ai <i>lieu de</i> vous craindre.	I have ground (occasion) to fear you.
Je signerai cela <i>s'il y a lieu</i> .	I will sign that if there is occasion.
Le concert <i>aura lieu</i> ce soir.	The concert will have place (take place) to-night.
J'ai <i>coutume de</i> faire une promenade le soir.	I usually take a walk in the evening.
Vous <i>avez beau</i> parler, on ne vous <i>entend</i> pas. (2)	Speak all you like, they don't hear you.
Je n'ai ni le <i>temps</i> ni l' <i>intention de</i> vous répondre.	I have neither the time nor the intention of replying to you.
J'ai l' <i>honneur d'accuser</i> réception de votre lettre du dix courant.	I have the honor of acknowledgin receipt of your letter of the tenth inst.
On peut dire de même: j'ai la <i>patience de</i> , le <i>courage de</i> , l' <i>habitude de</i> , l' <i>occasion de</i> , etc. (3)	We can say similarly: I have the patience to, the courage to, the habit of, the occasion to.

(1) *Envie* means *envy* or *longing for something*, hence *desire*, *inclination*. FAIRE ENVIE = to cause *envy*. So FAIRE PITIÉ means to cause *pity*.

(2) *Avoir beau* (to have a fine opportunity) is used ironically, implying that the act is useless, or in vain, much like the English; *you may speak all you like* (there is nothing to prevent you). Notice that this expression, unlike the others, omits *de* before the Infinitive.

(3) Observe that these latter expressions, unlike the first given, require the article *le*. *J'ai coutume de*, but *j'ai l'habitude de*. The expressions which omit the article are few and should be learned by heart.