

Lesson 77

Notes

Ils sont en train de mijoter un truc!

They're up to something!

Programme Notes

Welcome to Coffee Break French, the podcast aimed at independent learners of French. Our regular podcasts will introduce you to the French language in easy steps. These programme notes will help you get more out of each episode by explaining how words are written and giving you more information about each phrase along with some bonus vocabulary where appropriate.

Conversation

Jean-Jacques	Que faites-vous demain?
David	En principe nous allons en Italie. On nous a dit que la ville de San Remo est très jolie.
Sophie	Oh oui! Tu vas bien aimer, Christina.
Christina	S'il fait trop chaud nous resterons ici, je pense. Il y a une piscine à l'hôtel ou peut-être qu'on ira à la plage.
David	Oh, pas à la plage. Je n'aime pas rester toute la journée sur la plage. Si tu veux aller à la plage, d'accord, mais moi j'irai faire des photos dans la vieille ville peut-être.
Jean-Jacques	Tu aimes la photographie? Moi aussi. Tu as vu le nouveau Canon qu'ils viennent de sortir? 18 megapixels! Tu te rends compte!?
Sophie	Oh là là...il est reparti! Ça y est, on ne vas pas parler d'autre chose!
Christina	Je crois que David s'est fait un ami, je pense! Ils vont parler de photo toute la soirée!
David	J'ai lu une critique dans un magazine l'autre jour. Il est vraiment impressionnant cet appareil!
Jean-Jacques	J'en achèterai un dès que je pourrai!
Sophie	Tu achèteras quoi, chéri?
Jean-Jacques	Rien du tout. Enfin...Je t'achèterai ce sac à main dont tu parlais hier comme petit cadeau parce que je t'aime...
Sophie	Toi, tu me caches quelque chose!
Christina	<i>I don't know how to say this in French, but it sounds like they're up to something!</i>
Sophie	Exactement! Ils sont en train de mijoter un truc!
Jean-Jacques	Si tu vas faire des photos dans la vieille ville, tu devras aller à la Chappelle Sainte-Pierre, David. Il y a des tableaux de Jean Cocteau à l'intérieur qui sont impressionnants.
Christina	Nous avons vu des tableaux de Cocteau à Menton aussi.
Jean-Jacques	Ah, dans la salle des mariages?
David	Oui, c'est ça.

Conversation

Jean-Jacques	Écoute, David, si tu veux je peux t'accompagner.
David	Oui, enfin, ça dépend je suppose. S'il fait pas trop chaud on ira en Italie.
Jean-Jacques	Sophie, tu sais quel temps il fera demain?
Sophie	Je suis pas sûre, mais je ne pense pas qu'il fasse trop trop chaud. Peut-être dans les 26-27 degrés.
David	Pour nous c'est déjà la canicule!
Jean-Jacques	On en reparlera, d'accord?
David	OK. Voilà le pistou qui arrive!

The notes below will help you understand the dialogue.

Language Notes

en principe	theoretically	This phrase can also mean "in principle", but the translation "theoretically" fits the meaning better here
on nous a dit que	we were told that...	Literally "one to us has said that..."
tu vas bien aimer	you will really like it	<i>Bien</i> is used for emphasis here. You are really going to like it" The present tense of <i>aller</i> + infinitive (<i>aimer</i> in this case) to express the future. "It" (the town of San Remo) is only implied and no word need be used to refer to it.
peut-être que	perhaps/maybe	Remember that <i>peut-être</i> must be followed by <i>que</i> when followed by a phrase
on ira à la plage	we will go to the beach	The word <i>ira</i> is part of the future tense of the irregular verb <i>aller</i> ("to go"). See below for further information on the future tense.
si tu veux aller, d'accord	if you want to go that's ok/fine	
j'irai faire des photos	I will take photos	Future tense again here: <i>j'irai</i> , "I will go".
la vieille ville	the old town	
ils viennent de sortir	they have just brought out	Remember <i>venir de</i> + infinitive. Here "they" refers to the people at the company Canon.
tu te rends compte?	can you believe it?	<i>se rendre compte</i> = to realise/be aware of something
il est reparti!	"here he goes again" / "there he goes again"	Literally "he has left again".
oh là là!		used as an exclamation of surprise
Ça y est	That's it then	Used as an emphatic expression to show that all other conversation is finished in this case

Language Notes

on ne va pas parler d'autre chose	We are not going to talk about anything else	
David s'est fait un ami	David has made a friend	Here <i>se faire</i> means "to make oneself".
la photo(graphie)	photography	Note that "a photo" is <i>une photo</i> and a photographer is <i>un photographe</i> .
l'autre jour	the other day	
vraiment impressionnant	really impressive	
cet appareil	this camera	<i>Appareil</i> is most commonly used to mean camera, whereas <i>caméra</i> usually refers to video camera
J'en achèterai	I will buy one of them	<i>En</i> is the pronoun which refers to the camera to save repeating the noun again. This is the future tense of "to buy". See the note that follows on its formation.
dès que je pourrai	as soon as I am able to	Here is the future tense again. This time the verb is an irregular one, <i>pouvoir</i> . See the note below on its formation.
tu achèteras quoi, chéri?	What will you buy, darling?	Here is the future tense again with the verb <i>acheter</i> . Note also a term of endearment, <i>chéri</i> , here in the masculine form as Sophie is talking to her husband. Add an -e for the feminine form.
rien du tout	nothing at all	
enfin	well...	Jean-Jacques says <i>enfin...</i> to give himself some time to think about a suitable answer.
je t'achèterai	I will buy one	Future tense again of <i>acheter</i>
dont	of which / about which	
tu parlais	you were speaking	Note the imperfect tense of the verb <i>parler</i>
comme petit cadeau	as a little present	
tu me caches quelque chose	you are hiding something from me	From <i>cacher</i> , meaning "to hide".
être en train de faire quelque chose	to be in the middle of doing something	
mijoter un truc	to be up to something/plot/scheme	
tu devras aller	you will have to go	<i>Devras</i> is the future tense of <i>devoir</i> .
des tableaux de Jean Cocteau	pictures by Jean Cocteau	
impressionnants	impressive	Don't be fooled into thinking this means they are Impressionist paintings!

Language Notes

la salle des mariages	room where weddings take place	This is usually within the town hall and is particular to the French system. In France when a couple gets married, they have a civil ceremony in a <i>salle des mariages</i> . If they wish they can also have a church ceremony.
je peux t'accompagner	I can come with you	Literally "I can accompany you" but less formal than in English.
s'il fait pas trop chaud	if it is not too hot	This is another example of the present tense being used to refer to the future, in this case about tomorrow's weather. Note also that <i>ne</i> is omitted.
on ira	we will go	The future tense of <i>aller</i> again.
quel temps il fera demain	what the weather will be like tomorrow?	The future tense again this time using <i>faire</i>
je suis pas sûre	I am not sure	Note again that <i>ne</i> is omitted.
je ne pense pas qu'il fasse trop trop chaud	I don't think it will be too hot	We saw an example of the subjunctive last week - <i>bien que je sois</i> , meaning "although I am". Here <i>fasse</i> is the subjunctive form of the verb <i>faire</i> and it is triggered by the expression <i>je ne pense pas que...</i> Again, don't worry about this for now - treat it as an item of vocabulary.
la canicule	heat wave	
on en reparlera	we will talk about it again	<i>En</i> stands for "about it".

In this week's lesson we've encountered a number of examples of the Future tense. Just as the Conditional keyword was "would", the keyword for the Future tense is "will", so the future tense is used to translate "I will do something" or "he will talk" or "they will come", and so on.

We've already learned that the Conditional is formed by adding endings to the future stem. It makes sense therefore that the starting point for the Future tense is also the future stem. As we found out last week, the future stem of most verbs is the same as the infinitive. We then add the following endings to this stem:

Future endings	
-ai	-ons
-as	-ez
-a	-ont

It may help you to remember these endings if you think about the verb *avoir* in the present tense: *j'ai, tu as, il a* and so on. You'll notice that the *je, tu, il/elle/on* and *ils/elles* forms of *avoir* are actually the same as the endings of the future tense. This isn't the case for *nous avons* and *vous avez*, but you'll remember that the *nous* and *vous* forms of a verb are often the exception to the rule anyway. Note that any similarity to *avoir* is really coincidental, so you may prefer just to learn these endings and forget any link to *avoir* which may be a bit confusing. Let's conjugate *parler* in the future:

parler (to speak) - future tense	
je parlerai	nous parlerons
tu parleras	vous parlerez
il/elle parlera	ils/elles parleront

So the above verb would be translated as “I will speak”, “you will speak”, “he/she will speak”, and so on.

Verbs which have an irregular future stem for the Conditional as we learned them last week follow exactly the same rules in the Future, adding the Future endings rather than the Conditional. The common verbs and the *je* and *tu* forms of the future are listed below:

Common verbs with irregular future stems		
aller	ir-	<i>j'irai, tu iras ...</i>
avoir	aur-	<i>j'aurai, tu auras ...</i>
devoir	devr-	<i>je devrai, tu devras ...</i>
être	ser-	<i>je serai, tu seras ...</i>
faire	fer-	<i>je ferai, tu feras ...</i>
falloir	faudr-	<i>il faudra</i>
pouvoir	pourr-	<i>je pourrai, tu pourras ...</i>
savoir	saur-	<i>je saurai, tu sauras ...</i>
venir	viendr-	<i>je viendrai, tu viendras ...</i>
voir	verr-	<i>je verrai, tu verras ...</i>
vouloir	voudr-	<i>je voudrai, tu voudras ...</i>



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