

Coffee Break **French**

Season 4, Episode 25

Language Study



CoffeeBreak
French

SEASON 4

PB: Bonjour à tous et bienvenue pour un nouvel épisode de Coffee Break French.

Mark: Exactement. Nous allons écouter notre texte maintenant. Enfin, on va commencer avec le premier paragraphe.

PB: C'est parti.

Salut ma fille. Un dernier petit message avant que l'on se voie demain! Il me tarde vraiment que nous soyons tous réunis comme au bon vieux temps! Bon c'est bien que l'homme du RER soit venu te parler. Mais au fait, dis-moi comment s'appelle-t-il? Quelle coïncidence qu'il connaisse Claire, j'en parlerai à sa mère quand je la verrai à son retour de Norvège! Et alors, que vas-tu faire maintenant? C'est toi qui es maître de ton destin! Tu me demandes mon avis alors je pense que tu devrais faire comme tu le sens mais un rendez-vous, cela ne te coûte rien d'y aller!

Mark: Quel paragraphe!

PB: Oui, un paragraphe avec quatre subjonctifs.
Enfin, moi j'ai compté quatre subjonctifs, je ne sais pas si c'est correct, on va regarder ça.

Mark: Je pense que tu as bien raison. We sometimes get a little bit over-excited about our subjunctives here in Coffee Break French but yes, maybe we are a little bit obsessed. It's good to be able to master subjunctives and use the subjunctive in your normal, everyday speech in French. It will certainly impress native speakers.

PB: Yes, when you love languages, Mark, you can't be objective when it comes to, you know, you've bound to be subjective with the subjunctive.

Mark: Indeed. OK, let's begin then. In fact, let's just listen to this little, this chain of subjunctives. We have them here.

Un dernier petit message avant que l'on se voie demain! Il me tarde vraiment que nous soyons tous réunis. Bon c'est bien que l'homme du RER soit venu te parler. Quelle coïncidence qu'il connaisse Claire.

Mark: Vous voyez?

PB: J'adore ça! Excellent.

Mark: Un dernier petit message. A last little message.

PB: Avant que l'on se voie demain!

Mark: Before we each other see **demain** tomorrow.
So **avant que** and what do we remember
about **avant que**?

PB: **Avant que**, well, **avant que** is always followed
by the subjunctive.

Mark: Absolutely! And it's also an expression that
can have a little extra **ne** in there.

PB: **Oui, c'est joli.**

Mark: **Avant que je ne parte**, before I leave. The **ne**
has no negative sense. But here, when
Monique is talking, she's not using that extra
ne.

PB: No, because it's a spoken way when we
transcript the word, she said. In a written way
you would have to put in the **ne**.

Mark: OK, if we were putting in the **ne** in here, where
would it go ? Let's listen to the phrase again.

PB: **Avant que l'on se voie demain!**

Mark: Now, there's an added complication in there.
It's not the **L'** isn't it? Because it's the **L'** that we
don't really need in there because it's to help
us sound the **que l'on, qu'on** trying to avoid
that sound. So **avant que l'on se voie demain!**
The **ne** would go in after the **l'on**. **Avant que
l'on ne se voie demain.** However that does
take it up a register, doesn't it ?

PB: Of course it does.

Mark: So, **avant que l'on se voie demain! Un dernier
petit message avant que l'on se voie demain!**
One last little message before we see each

other tomorrow and what do we need to know about **voie**? How is **voie** spelled ? Let's see if our listeners remember how you conjugate **voir** in the subjunctive? It is of course, **en français V-O-I-E**.

PB: **Bravo Mark.**

Mark: **Et pas T?**

PB: **Ah non!**

Mark: **Pas té?**

PB: **Et là par contre je suis vraiment épaté.**

épater

to amaze, impress

Mark: **Bravo, il est fort ce soir. OK, avant que l'on se voie demain!** Before we see each other tomorrow. Then there's another one:

PB: **Il me tarde vraiment que nous soyons tous réunis comme au bon vieux temps!**

Mark: So, we've seen **il me tarde vraiment, il me tarde d'y aller.**

PB: **Oui, il me tarde d'être en vacances.**

Mark: So, I'm really looking forward to something but in this case, it's not the same subject. I am really looking forward to *us* all being together, and of course since the **il me tarde** is using the **il** part of the verb, we've got **il me tarde vraiment que nous soyons tous réunis**. So I am looking forward, or "it is delaying to me" I suppose, **il me tarde vraiment que nous soyons tous réunis** So I'm looking forward to *us* all being together.

PB: The idea of **tarde**, you have to wait as well. I can't wait for us to be, nice translation I think. You have **tarder** and you have wait.

Mark: Waiting. And again the idea of waiting in English, we say, I can't wait for us to be together. We use an infinitive English, that's personalised with a pronoun. I can't wait for us to be together, but in French, **il me tarde vraiment que nous soyons tous réunis comme au bon vieux temps**.

PB: Oh, I love that. Like the good old days!

Mark: The good old days! Yes, we've heard that expression before too.

PB: **Comme au bon vieux temps**.

Mark: Now another one. Another subjunctive in the next sentence.

PB: **Bon c'est bien que l'homme du RER soit venu te parler**.

Mark: Now it's interesting here because **soit venu** is of course, the perfect tense in the subjunctive and sometimes as a learner, we think, oh, or we've heard that the subjunctive isn't really used in the past tenses. For example, we don't have an imperfect subjunctive in regular use.

PB: Exactly, that's totally correct, Mark.

Mark: However here, we are talking about something that happened in the past, but it's perfectly feasible to use a perfect subjunctive, and there we take the present subjunctive form of the auxiliary verb, in this case, **être**.

PB: Être or avoir, depending the case.

Mark: And then add it to the past participle. So it's good that the man from the RER came to speak to you, soit venu. C'est bien que l'homme du RER soit venu te parler. If we were to say, c'est bien que l'homme du RER vienne te parler, how would that be translated?

PB: It would be something that happens regularly.

Mark: So it's a general thing, it's good that that man comes to speak to you on a regular basis

PB: From time to time, on a regular basis, correct.

Mark: So, the fact that he came in the past, in the perfect tense, it's good that he came, c'est bien que l'homme du RER soit venu te parler.

PB: And it's interesting how you wouldn't say in English, that the man came from the RER has come to speak to you. It wouldn't work, would it ?

Mark: Indeed not. He came, in this case.

PB: But in here we have the passé composé, the perfect, well, as far as the soit venu makes it the auxiliary + the past participle.

Mark: Tout à fait. Ensuite Monique a une question.

PB: Mais au fait, dis-moi comment s'appelle-t-il?

Mark: Sans subjonctif cette fois.

PB: Non, il n'y a pas de subjonctif et puis c'est vrai que c'est assez facile.

Mark: But, by the way, tell me what's his name, this man from the RER?

PB: Quelle coïncidence qu'il connaisse Claire.

Mark: A beautiful subjunctive in that one. I love this one; *Quelle coïncidence qu'il connaisse Claire*. I actually love the alliterative sound of all this *Quelle coïncidence qu'il connaisse Claire*. Lots of *que*'s in there.

PB: *Que*.

Mark: So, what a coincidence that he knows Claire. We could probably translate that in other ways too.

PB: Oh thanks, Mark. It's always tricky to translate the subjunctive. But in this case, I would think I would say, what were the odds?

Mark: Yes, what were the odds that he knew Claire, or what were the odds of that.

PB : Or who would have thought, you know.

Mark : Who would have thought that he knew Claire but, *quelle coïncidence qu'il connaisse Claire*; literally, what a coincidence that he knows Claire. And think about the subjunctive here, the subjunctive is there because Monique is passing judgement on this. It's the same as *c'est bien que l'homme du RER soit venu te parler*. It's good that he came. She's giving her opinion something and she's saying here that what a coincidence, how interesting it is! How important it is that something is the case. Each time you would need the subjunctive. So, *quelle coïncidence qu'il connaisse Claire*. What a coincidence that he knows Claire. Now we've already spoken about this sentence in

our other episode, especially the aspect of it that she's going to speak to Claire's parents when they get back from Norway.

PB: J'en parlerai à sa mère quand je la verrai à son retour de Norvège!

Mark: But then Monique asks Sylvie:

PB: Et alors, que vas-tu faire maintenant?

Mark: So, what are you going to do now ?

PB: C'est toi qui es maître de ton destin!

Mark: Again, we've spoken about this phrase. You are the master of your own destiny, you decide your own fate.

PB: Tu me demandes mon avis alors je pense que tu devrais faire comme tu le sens mais un rendez-vous, cela ne coûte rien d'y aller!

Mark: So, literally, you are asking me my opinion; tu me demandes mon avis alors je pense que tu devrais faire comme tu le sens. I like this. I think that you should do as you feel it, you should do what you feel is right. Comme tu le sens, tu devrais faire comme tu le sens mais un rendez-vous; but a date, a meeting cela ne coûte rien d'y aller! It doesn't really cost anything to go there and that's not in terms of finances. It's more about your emotional engagement with it.

PB: Yes, you're not going to lose anything by not doing it.

Mark: Exactly, cela ne coûte rien d'y aller! And d'y aller going there, talking about the date that

she could potentially go on with the **homme du RER**.

PB: Yes, Mark, before we stop and we finish this paragraph, I quite like the **comme tu le sens**, and in spoken French we can say, **c'est comme tu le sens**, as you wish. **C'est comme tu le sens** and I like the **escamoter** bit again; **c'est comme tu l'sens**.

Mark: **Tu le sens**.

PB: **Tu le sens** it's actually an **L-E**, it's **LE**, but you say it very quickly.

Mark: **Comme tu le sens. On a déjà parlé un petit peu de ça je pense. Comme tu le sens**, as you see fit or as it suits you.

PB: **OK c'est super**.

Mark: OK, let's move on to our 2nd paragraph.

Bon sinon, tout est prêt pour ce week-end. Ton père viendra te chercher à la gare. Je pense que l'on restera tranquille le vendredi soir, je cuisinerai sûrement du filet-mignon au Roquefort - il me semble que tu aimes bien cela! Le samedi, ton père et ton frère ont prévu d'aller l'après-midi au tournoi de rugby junior au stade d'Epinal-Golbier. Ton frère aimerait voir s'il retrouve des anciens copains avec qui il jouait. Ton père aime toujours y aller faire un tour et boire un coup. Du coup, j'avais pensé qu'on pourrait se faire une après-midi fille. On pourrait aller en ville se faire un

petit spa. Cela te dirait un petit massage, une séance de sauna ainsi qu'une manucure ou pédicure? Si ça te tente dis-le moi rapidement et je réserverai l'Institut.

Mark: OK, so, in this paragraph, Monique is talking about the weekend that's coming up.

PB: Lovely phrases there. Lovely expressions, Mark.

Mark: Let's have a look at them. She begins by saying:

PB: *Bon sinon, tout est prêt pour ce week-end.*

Mark: So, otherwise, everything is ready for this weekend.

PB: *Ton père viendra te chercher à la gare.*

Mark: Your father will come and pick you up at the station.

PB: *Je pense que l'on restera tranquille le vendredi soir.*

Mark: I think that literally, we will stay quiet on Friday evening. We will have a quite night in.

PB: So, we'll take it easy, we'll take it easy or chill out, something like that; *rester tranquille. Je cuisinerai sûrement du filet-mignon au Roquefort.*

Mark: So, this sounds delicious. I will cook surely, I am very likely to cook some filet-mignon with Roquefort. That *sûrement* can be used to translate likely. I'm likely to do something, I will

likely do something because we would use the future in French.

PB: And here we've got *je cuisinerais sûrement*, I'm likely to cook but if I was to say, *j'irai sûrement à Glasgow ce week-end*.

Mark: I'm likely to go to Glasgow this weekend.

PB: Etc.

Mark: Note there in English we're translating it in the present tense; I am likely to go whereas in French, I will go surely.

PB: *Il ira sûrement au café après son travail*.

Mark: He's likely to go to the cafe after his work. Etc. Ok, so let's come back to the filet-mignon. A filet steak with the Roquefort sauce and then she says:

Another possible translation in this situation is "he is bound to go to the café after work".

je cuisinerais sûrement du filet-mignon au Roquefort - il me semble que tu aimes bien cela!

Mark: That *il me semble que tu aimes bien cela!* I think it's interesting. And the reason I think it's interesting is because we've got *il me semble*.

PB: So, there's a doubt

Mark: *Que tu aimes bien cela!*

PB: *Il me semble* does not trigger the...?

Mark: Subjunctive.

PB: So *il me semble* that seems to be a tiny doubt! I mean anybody would say, well, let's use a

subjunctive. For our listeners, remember after **il me semble que**, do not use the subjunctive!

Mark: However, if you say, **il semble que**, there's less of the **me** and obviously there's no **me** in there. It's more of the general, **il semble que** does normally take the subjunctive. It's actually very difficult to know whether you should take the subjunctive with **il semble que**, or indeed the indicative. And in fact in many grammar books, you'll see 100% **il me semble que** + indicative, **il semble que** + subjunctive.

However, it's not quite clear as all that.

PB: No. And I'm going sit on the fence, Mark.

Mark: We've looked this up to talk further about it and the examples given are: **il me semble que** + indicative: **il me semble que l'ennemi est mieux préparé**. It's seems that the enemy is better prepared.

PB: So, it's **est**, **E-S-T** from the verb to be in the present tense, so it's an indicative.

Mark: Yes, so here we're using the **il me semble**, to give our perception of the certainty, OK. So, **il me semble**, it seems to me that the enemy is well prepared. I've looked at it and my certainty is more on the side of the fence of the enemy being well prepared. However, if we say, **il semble que**, then I'm not giving my opinion, I'm not registering how much I feel that it's certain that they're well prepared or not well prepared, and therefore it's more

general; *il semble que l'ennemi soit mieux préparé* because it's more general.

PB: *Excellent.*

Mark: But it's very grey.

PB: I'm sure our listeners will go to France and they will join in the conversation and they will hear some native speakers, French speakers making a mistake using *il semble* and *il me semble*. And swapping and misusing indicative and subjunctive.

Mark: But it's so slight, it's so grey here. These nuances of the language and that's what we love here on Coffee Break French.

PB: There's a wee word here: *pernickety*, would it work?

Mark: I think we are quite, being *pernickety* about this language. *ça se dit comment en français* *pernickety*?

PB: *Euh oui...*

Mark: *Je t'ai planté là!*

PB: *C'est tellement calé, c'est tellement pointu, c'est tellement subtil* I could even say.

Mark: Ok. Anyway, let's get back to our story. On Saturday what's going to happen?

PB: *Le samedi, ton père et ton frère ont prévu d'aller l'après-midi au tournoi de rugby junior au stade d'Epinal-Golbier.*

Mark: So, this is straight forward enough here. Your father and your brother have planned to go in

the afternoon to the junior rugby tournament at the Epinal-Golbier stadium.

PB: *Ton frère aimerait voir s'il retrouve des anciens copains avec qui il jouait.*

Mark: So, your brother would like to see if he finds some former friends, some old colleagues with whom used to play.

PB: *Retrouver.* I really like *retrouver* here because I love the way you translated it. You said, find.

Mark: Yes, it's similar to *trouver* of course. *Retrouver* has the sense normally of meeting up; *on se retrouve à midi devant l'église* or something like that. We'll meet each other up, we'll meet up at midday in front of the church.

PB: But here it's different because she's not going to meet up anybody because he's going there to basically check whether there are friends who are still there, playing rugby.

Mark: Yes absolutely. She goes on to say about Sylvie's father:

PB: *Ton père aime toujours y aller faire un tour et boire un coup.*

Mark: This makes sense. We know that means but is very difficult to translate *faire un tour* in this sense. Your father likes always to go there and go for a look around, go for a wander around and *et boire un coup*, have a drink.

PB: *Faire un tour.*

Mark: *C'est difficile en fait.*

PB: Oui, usually *faire un tour en voiture* usually
faire un tour en voiture would be going, you
know, going somewhere, just going for a
wee...?

Mark: For a drive.

PB: For a drive, OK. *Faire un tour à pied* would be
basically to go for a walk you know. But here
you are talking about specific place, like here
obviously is the rugby club ok. That's more
basically going for a wee...what would you say
here?

Mark: A wee nosey or something like that.

PB: *Par exemple* ok, and every time Mark, you are
in London, *tu adores faire un tour à la librairie*
qui s'appelle Foyles, c'est ça?

librairie (f)
bookshop

Mark: Foyles yes, one of my favourite places in
London.

PB: Obviously, here you are talking about looking
into books, so it's like the wee nosey fitted
perfectly.

Mark: I always like to pop into Foyles and see if
there's any interesting new books. *J'adore faire*
un petit tour chez Foyles.

PB: *C'est ça. Chez Foyles, d'accord.* I thought it was
quite relevant there; *faire un tour.*

Mark: OK, now our next sentence we've already
heard, we've already discussed.

PB: *Du coup, j'avais pensé qu'on pourrait se faire*
une après-midi fille.

Mark: It's lovely this idea of *se faire*. We can have to ourselves a little, girly afternoon.

PB: *On pourrait aller en ville se faire un petit spa.*

Mark: We could go into town and go to the spa?

PB: Have a wee pamper, we get ourselves pampered.

Mark: Indeed.

PB: *Cela te dirait un petit massage, une séance de sauna ainsi qu'une manucure ou pédicure?*

Mark: *Cela te dirait, cela te dit, ça te dit*, do you fancy or would you fancy in this case, *cela te dirait un petit massage*, a little massage, a sauna; *une séance de sauna*; literally, a session, a sauna session; *ainsi qu'une manucure ou pédicure?* As well as a manicure or a pedicure. I think that's interesting with the word, manicure. Manicure sounds like a French word in English, but in French it's not manicure but...?

PB: *Manucure.*

Mark: *Manucure*. OK, and if that is something Sylvie fancies, then she's going to have to tell her mum immediately and her mum will book places.

PB: *Si ça te tente dis-le moi rapidement et je réserverai l'Institut.*

Mark: *OK, on a passé quand même un petit peu de temps là-dessus.*

PB: *Oui, et moi, en fait, je vais continuer avec une autre expression parce que j'adore, comme tu*

disais, cela te dirait, cela te dit. How would you answer that? Oui ...

Mark: Ça me dit.

PB: Ça me dit. Alors est-ce que tu peux m'inviter à faire un truc comme ça?

Mark: Ça te dirait d'aller faire un tour à Foyles pour voir s'il y a de nouveau bouquins?

PB: Et la réponse c'est: oui ça me dit, samedi.

Mark: Ah oui justement, ça se dit ça me dit - samedi!

PB: C'est mignon. Ça me dit, samedi. If you have a favorite day, make sure it's a Saturday and then you can have a lovely, kind of a effect in this sentence; oui samedi ça me dit or ça me dit samedi.

Mark: OK, so you're getting that ça me dit that to me please or ...?

PB: Appeals to me.

Mark: That talks to me. Samedi, of course the day of the week. Ça me dit, samedi.

PB: Ça me dit samedi. Super.

Mark: Super. OK on va continuer avec le prochain paragraphe.

PB: Si ça te dit.

Le soir, pas de soucis, nous ferons un barbecue. J'ai regardé la météo et ils annoncent beau donc il faut en profiter. Et ne t'inquiète pas, j'ai acheté des merguez et des chipolatas! Par contre, le dimanche midi, nous

avons été invités pour le déjeuner chez les Gauthier. Cela ne te dérange pas j'espère? Madame Gauthier adorerait te revoir. En plus, son fils Patrick sera là. Il revient de Lyon pour passer le week-end chez ses parents. Tu l'aimais bien avant non? Il est apparemment enchanté de te revoir !

Mark: OK there's maybe not quite that much in this paragraph.

PB: **Non.**

Mark: But there's obviously some interesting things. She starts by saying, no problem at all. On Saturday evening we will definitely have our barbecue.

PB: **Le soir, pas de soucis, nous ferons un barbecue.**

Mark: I wonder if our listeners can remember other ways of saying **pas de souci** that we've talked about before. **Pas de souci**, no worries.

PB: **Pas de problème.**

Mark: **Pas de problème**, no problem. What about that famous one that Pierre Benoit uses all the time?

PB: **Pas de lézard.**

Mark: Literally, no lizards; **Pas de lézard**, no worries, **nous ferons un barbecue**. We'll do our barbecue.

PB: J'ai regardé la météo et ils annoncent beau
donc il faut en profiter.

Mark: Again, thinking about the translation of this. If
were going from English into French and you
were trying to say, I've had a look at the
weather forecast and it's looking good. But in
French, we're changing the form somewhat.
We're saying they are announcing good
weather. Ils annoncent beau. And you don't
even need to say ils annoncent beau temps. Ils
annoncent beau, donc il faut en profiter, so,
we need to take advantage of that. It's a nice
expression there.

PB: Et ne t'inquiète pas, j'ai acheté des merguez et
des chipolatas!

Mark: We've heard about these merguez and
chipolatas sausages enough I think, so, don't
worry. I've bought some merguez and
chipolatas.

PB: Par contre, le dimanche midi, nous avons été
invités pour le déjeuner chez les Gauthier.
Cela ne te dérange pas j'espère?

Mark: Now par contre, on the other hand, le
dimanche midi, Sunday lunch time, nous
avons été invités, we have been invited for
lunch to the Gauthier's house. Nous avons été
invités, avec S because it's we have been
invited, pour le déjeuner chez les Gauthier.
Cela ne te dérange pas j'espère? That doesn't

literally, disturb you, you're not bothered are you, I hope?

PB: Madame Gauthier adoreraït te revoir.

Mark: Let's hear that conditional tense again.

PB: Madame Gauthier adoreraït te revoir. I said it in a different way just to put you off here!

Mark: Adoreraït te revoir. It's difficult to hear sometimes adoreraït te revoir.

PB: Yes it's a-do-re-raït, four syllables. But when you speak, ok, you can have again, this word I love, escamoter. You can either skip it, adoreraït, adoreraït. We've got that with acheter: ach'ter. Je suis allé: j'suis allé. We tend to do that in a spoken way.

Mark: Absolutely. So Madame Gauthier we would love to see you again.

PB: En plus, son fils Patrick sera là.

Mark: And what's more, her son Patrick will be there.

PB: Il revient de Lyon pour passer le week-end chez ses parents.

Mark: Tiens c'est intéressant. Quelle coïncidence qu'il revienne de Lyon.

PB: Excellent Mark.

Mark: What a coincidence that he's coming back from Lyon this weekend to see his parents.

PB: Tu l'aimais bien avant non?

Mark: You really liked him before, didn't you?

PB: Il est apparemment enchanté de te revoir!

Mark: So he's apparently, apparemment. Notice the pronunciation of that word, apparemment. It's

spelled as if it was pronounced **apparemment** with an E in there in the middle but we pronounce it **apparemment**. **Il est apparemment enchanté de te revoir!** He's delighted to see her again.

PB: **Revoir**. To see again, to see you again. Not to re-see you, but we've spoken about that many times.

Mark: Absolutely, OK. Not quite as much in that paragraph but still certainly interesting things. Let's have a look at our final paragraph now.

Et sinon pour le lundi, nous avons pensé partir tôt le matin et aller jusqu'à la réserve naturelle des Ballons Comtois. Là-bas, nous pourrions faire une petite randonnée et pique-niquer pour le déjeuner. Cela te fera du bien de respirer un peu d'air frais plutôt que les gaz des pots d'échappement de la ville non? Guillaume est partant si cela te dit. Il m'a dit que depuis qu'il est au Japon, il n'a pas vraiment fait de randonnée en forêt. Cela lui manque beaucoup, il aime tellement la nature et ses secrets! Bon je crois que je t'ai tout dit. Enfin si j'ai oublié quelque-chose cela n'est pas trop grave car nous nous voyons demain!! Bonne fin de journée et bonne soirée.

A demain, Bisous, Maman

Mark: OK, let's have a look at this paragraph in greater detail. She starts by talking about what's happening about on the Monday of the weekend.

PB: Et sinon pour le lundi, nous avions pensé partir tôt le matin et aller jusqu'à la réserve naturelle des Ballons Comtois.

Mark: So, we had thought, a pluperfect tense. We had thought about setting off early in the morning. But remember when *penser* is used in this sense, it is followed immediately by an infinitive, *je pense faire cela*, I'm thinking about doing that; *je pense faire cela*. However, here we're looking at *nous avions pensé partir tôt le matin*, we had thought about heading off early in the morning; *et aller jusqu'à la réserve naturelle des Ballons Comtois*. And going as far as the nature reserve of the Ballons Comtois.

PB: Là-bas, nous pourrions faire une petite randonnée et pique-niquer pour le déjeuner.

Mark: So, *une randonnée* is a walk, a wander, the kind of walk you would do in a forest or something like that; *une randonnée*.

PB: OK, see when I use *randonnée* and I try to explain, I always think it is close to the word, random. So you walk randomly. I'm not saying it comes from that or there's any link but just for you to remember, ok?

Mark: Yes. You're not walking from one place to another. You're going for a walk as it were.
Nous pourrions faire une petite randonnée et pique-niquer pour le déjeuner. So, we can have a picnic for lunch. Let's listen to this next sentence because it's nice. There's some nice vocabulary in here.

Cela te fera du bien de respirer un peu d'air frais plutôt que les gaz des pots d'échappement de la ville non?

Mark: Now it's quite technical vocabulary in a sense in some aspects; *Cela te fera du bien.* It will do you good to do something. *Cela te fera du bien de + an infinitive.* *Cela te fera du bien de respirer un peu d'air frais.* It will do you some good, it will do you good to breathe some fresh air, *d'air frais, plutôt que*, rather than. We know *plutôt* rather, but here, rather than *les gaz des pots d'échappement de la ville.* So *les gaz des pots d'échappement.*

PB: *Un pot d'échappement*, an exhaust.

Mark: Exhaust pipe, yes. So the *échappement*, *échapper* is to escape. And the gases or the fumes escape from your exhaust pipe.

PB: The fumes from the escaping tubes or pipes literally.

Mark: So, it will do you good to breathe some fresh air rather than the nasty exhaust fumes of the city.

PB: *Très bien, excellent Mark.*

Mark: Ok, so we now continue and we hear that Guillaume is up for it if she fancies it.

PB: *Guillaume est partant si cela te dit.*

Mark: Of course we've spoken about that already. It's a lovely phrase. And since Guillaume has been in Japan, he's not really had the chance to go for a walk in the forest.

PB: *Il m'a dit que depuis qu'il est au Japon, il n'a pas vraiment fait de randonnée en forêt.*

Mark: And he misses that quite a bit

PB: *Cela lui manque beaucoup, il aime tellement la nature et ses secrets!*

Mark: So let's think a little more about that. He is missing it. Remember in French, missing happens the opposite way around, so that is missing to me: *ça me manque* or *cela me manque*; that is missing to him, it becomes *ça lui manque* or *cela lui manque*. How would we say, that is missing to her, or she is missing it ?

PB: *Ça lui manque.*

Mark: Yes, trick question. *Ça lui manque*. We use *lui* for both to him and to her. Ok, *ça lui manque beaucoup, il aime tellement la nature et ses secrets!* He so much appreciates nature and all the secrets of nature.

PB: *Bon je crois que je t'ai tout dit.*

Mark: I think I've told you everything.

PB: Enfin si j'ai oublié quelque-chose cela n'est pas trop grave car nous nous voyons demain!!

Mark: So anyway si j'ai oublié quelque-chose, if I've forgotten something, it's not too serious. It's nothing major, car nous nous voyons demain!! Because we see each other or we're going to see each other or we will see each other, in better English, tomorrow. Bonne fin de journée et bonne soirée. She wishes her daughter a good end of the day and a good evening before finishing off the letter.

PB: À demain, Bisous, Maman.

Mark: Et voilà. Now this has been quite a long episode, we've got lots and lots of things to talk about and we hope you found it useful. Please do let us know what you think of this episode and indeed all our other episodes of Coffee Break French. We would love it if you posted a comment either on the website for this episode or indeed on iTunes. Let us know what you think about Coffee Break French.

PB: I really enjoyed this episode, Mark. But maybe I'm being subjective because of all this subjunctives.

Mark: OK, à plus tout le monde et à la prochaine!

PB: Au revoir!