

# Coffee Break **French**

## Season 4, Episode 37

Language Study



CoffeeBreak  
**French**

**SEASON 4**

PBH: Bonjour à tous et bienvenue à votre podcast adoré!

Mark: Oui tout à fait, on est de retour avec votre podcast supplémentaire pour cette semaine. Nous allons parler du texte et cette semaine c'est un texte de Monique. Donc nous allons commencer maintenant.

PBH: Oui. Elle parle avec sa fille Sylvie.

Mark: Exactement. Allez, on y va!  
Comme d'habitude nous allons commencer avec le premier paragraphe.

Oh Sylvie, je viens juste de lire ton message. Désolée du retard mais avec le départ de ton frère je n'ai pas eu une minute à moi pour lire mes e-mails. Je suis très contente que tout se soit bien passé entre vous. Pour un premier rendez-vous, vous avez fait beaucoup de choses! Ce n'est pas comme de mon temps où nous allions boire un café et c'était tout! Ce qui est bien en plus, c'est qu'il t'a fait découvrir d'autres coins de Paris. C'est important cela

aussi quand on débarque dans une nouvelle ville! Il est apparemment mignon, intelligent, il a donc tout pour plaire ! Et vous avez beaucoup de points en commun ? Et sinon, tu penses que je vais l'aimer ?! Je devrais peut-être organiser un petit séjour sur Paris pour le rencontrer !! Qu'en penses-tu ? Mais, je viens de penser à un truc, nous sommes jeudi donc vous vous êtes revus hier soir ! Comment s'est finie votre soirée ? Et le film, il était bien ?

PBH: *Que de questions! Mais qu'est-ce qu'elle est curieuse cette maman!*

**que de questions**  
nothing but questions

Mark: *Elle est quand même un tout petit peu curieuse. Nous allons parler du texte et du langage dedans. Donc nous allons commencer, et Monique a commencé:*

PBH: *Oh Sylvie, je viens juste de lire ton message.*

Mark: I have just finished reading your message. *Je viens juste de lire ton message.* Now we've talked about this before. The idea that we don't really need the *juste*.

PBH: No, because *venir de* + infinitive has this imminence or recently, something that happened recently.

Mark: Exactly. So, to have just done something: *venir de faire quelque chose*. So, she's really just reinforcing that idea that she's just read the message: *je viens juste de lire ton message*.

PBH: I would say now in spoken French, Mark we tend to do that. We tend to add the *juste*. Sometimes you even hear people saying *tout juste, je viens tout juste*. That really has just happened about a second ago!

Mark: A second ago. Ok.

PBH: *Désolée du retard mais avec le départ de ton frère je n'ai pas eu une minute à moi pour lire mes e-mails.*

Mark: So. *Désolée du retard*. Remember it's *désolé(e) de quelque chose*. So it's *je suis désolée du retard*, I am sorry for the delay, *mais avec le départ de ton frère*, but with the departure of your brother, *je n'ai pas eu une minute à moi pour lire mes e-mails*, I've not had a single minute to read my emails. *Elle continue:*

PBH: *Je suis très contente que tout se soit bien passé entre vous.*

Mark: Another lovely subjunctive there. *Je suis très contente*, I'm very happy, *que tout se soit bien passé*. Normally, it would be *tout s'est bien passé*, everything went well. But here, I am happy that needs to be followed by the subjunctive. She is passing her opinion. *Je suis très contente que tout se soit bien passé entre vous.*

PBH: *Pour un premier rendez-vous, vous avez fait beaucoup de choses !*

Mark: For a first date, *pour un premier rendez-vous vous avez fait beaucoup de choses!* You did see lots of parts of Paris.

PBH: *Ce n'est pas comme de mon temps où nous allions boire un café et c'était tout !*

Mark: Of course, we have already spoken about this phrase; it's not like in my days when all we did was go for a coffee. And that was it.

PBH: *Ce qui est bien en plus, c'est qu'il t'a fait découvrir d'autres coins de Paris.*

Mark: And what's more, the thing that's good, *ce qui est bien en plus, c'est qu'il t'a fait découvrir d'autres coins de Paris.* The thing that's good is that he has made you discover other parts of Paris. Really, what's good is that you've been able to discover other parts of Paris as a result of the date with Matthieu.

PBH: *C'est important cela aussi quand on débarque dans une nouvelle ville !*

Mark: That's a nice little verb there, *débarquer*.

PBH: It means?

Mark: To disembark.

PBH: But I don't think here Sylvie is disembarking.

Mark: She's not just off the boat or the plane or whatever. She's setting herself up in Paris and she has been for sometime if you consider these episodes have been published over the course of about eighteen months, then she's had time to *débarquer*.

PBH: She hasn't had time yet to settle down into some kind of routine. Paris is still new to her.

Mark: It's important when you just arrived in a new town.

PBH: And **débarquer** has got this new, this kind of a slang meaning as well. If you were having a conversation and someone is not following and he is asking stupid questions, they might say: **tu débarques toi!** Have you just arrived here?

Mark: Ah, that's nice! Stick with it, that kind of idea.  
**Débarquer. Tu débarques!**

PBH: And obviously we have **embarquer** as well.

Mark: Of course, the opposite. To embark, to get on a mode of transport.

PBH: Yes. There's also a reflexive verb; **s'embarquer dans quelque chose** and it means like, where are you going with this? **Dans quoi tu t'embarques?**

Mark: That's nice.

PBH: If, for example, you get a new job, and people can see, but they might not want to tell you that this might not be the best job for you; **je ne sais pas dans quoi il s'est embarqué, ou dans quoi il s'embarque, je ne suis pas sûr.** It could be as well for a relationship.

Mark: So, getting involved in something, mixed up in something perhaps.

PBH: Yes, not see the signs when other people can. They would pass this comment: **mais dans**

quoi il s'embarque? Je me demande dans  
quoi il s'embarque?

Mark: Dans quoi il s'embarque?

PBH: It's nice, isn't it?

Mark: All that from just one word.

PBH: It just came up and I thought I would share  
that with our listeners.

Mark: Merci beaucoup. Ok, let's continue on. We'll  
listen to the next expression here which is  
interesting.

Il est apparemment mignon, intelligent, il a  
donc tout pour plaire !

Mark: Ah, the verb *plaire*. The verb *plaire* is  
interesting because it's tricky to translate. We  
couldn't really say he's apparently cute,  
intelligent. He has everything to please. It  
doesn't work.

PBH: I think we still get the message.

Mark: Of course, we understand it. It's more about  
the questions of how best to translate this. Il a  
tout pour plaire. Everything that you could ask  
for.

PBH: It's like the idea of perfection basically,  
because everything in him would please you.  
He's perfect.

Mark: Of course, we come across **plaire** very regularly in the expressions **s'il vous plaît, s'il te plaît**, if it pleases you. And here we're using **plaire** in the infinitive form: **il a tout pour plaire**. One other thing to mention here just before we go on is the pronunciation of the word apparently in French. Let's hear it again:

PBH: **Apparemment.**

Mark: So, this word is spelled A-P-P-A-R-E-M-M-E-N-T. Listen again to that middle section:

PBH: **Apparemment.**

Mark: **Apparemment.** So, the E-M-M- is pronounced -am- **apparemment**.

PBH: As if it were and -A.

Mark: Yes. And there's another we're very familiar with where the same thing happens.

PBH: **Femme.**

Mark: **Une femme.** F-E-M-M-E. The word for a woman. **Une femme**. But it's an -E that's pronounced as an -A. Or an -E sound that's pronounced as -AH, as in **apparemment**. Let's listen to the phrase again:

Il est apparemment mignon, intelligent, il a donc tout pour plaire !

PBH: Remember, just a wee reminder to our listeners it's because we have the -MM after it.

Mark: The -MM. *Très bien, nous allons donc continuer avec notre texte.*

PBH: *Et vous avez beaucoup de points en commun ?*

Mark: And do you have, literally, points in common, but that doesn't sound quite right in English. Do you have lots of things in common with each other?

PBH: *Très très bien.* You could have said *vous avez beaucoup de choses en commun?*

Mark: Ok.

PBH: And that's the word for things.

Mark: Perfect translation there - yes.

PBH: The one I like to use is using the word for the same, which is?

Mark: *Les mêmes.*

PBH: *Est-ce que vous avez les mêmes centres d'intérêts?*

Mark: So, the same centres of interest? *On ne peut pas dire: vous avez les mêmes intérêts?*

PBH: No.

Mark: Ok.

PBH: It's not possible. So, you have to say, where we say in English we have the same interests, in French you need to have, *nous avons les mêmes centres d'intérêts.*

Mark: *Très bien, merci beaucoup! On en apprend aujourd'hui, c'est bien! Excellent!*

PBH: It's a wee bit like when you say it's the same. In French you can't say *c'est la même.*



Mark: C'est la même chose.

PBVH: So, sometimes the expressions kind of vary a wee bit. This is one of these.

Mark: Très bien. Monique then moves on to the key question:

PBH: Et sinon, tu penses que je vais l'aimer ?!

Mark: Ok. We'll come back to the *sinon* in just a moment, but the key question is do you think I'm going to like him? Tu penses que je vais l'aimer ? Now, let's now talk about that *sinon* because it's really useful here. It's kind of vital in the conversation.

PBH: And it's difficult to translate.

Mark: It is. Because what's happening here is, she's asked all the questions, but she wants to stay on the same subject, but she kind of wants to come to the really important question that she's kind of been waiting on. Translated, *sinon*, is otherwise and things like that in the past, but here, that doesn't work.

PBH: No.

Mark: What is the best translation?

PBH: Because she stays on the same topic but she hasn't asked the question she wants to ask. It's like straight to the point now, or, more importantly, or the thing...

Mark: The thing I really want to know is - get to that key question here - do you think I am going to like him?

PBH: And you could get that with the tone: **et sinon...**

Mark: **Tu penses que je vais l'aimer ?!** Do you think I am going to like him?

PBH: I like the verb **aimer**.

Mark: As do I. In fact, I was just thinking about a song the other day, which is the song by **Cabrel « Je t'aimais, je t'aime et je t'aimerai »**.

**Link:** watch Francis Cabrel perform this song here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IkWqQfdv86o>

PBH: That's spooky Mark because I was actually playing it last night on the guitar and singing it - promise! It's true. It's quite nice and I'm sure that our listeners know that sense, that specific meaning of love. And it's good to remember that, when you have this strong feeling for someone we don't use, we don't have a word. We don't use **adore**. We don't say **je t'adore**. We actually use **je t'aime**. And although to adore is stronger than to like, when it comes to the love, the feeling of love, French people use the word to like, they use **aimer**, rather than **adorer**. And **adorer** tends to be kept, I think the real cause is the religious meaning. My gran used to say to me: **on adore que Dieu**.

Mark: Ok, so we only love God. **On adore que Dieu**.

PBH: So, we are human beings so we've got to come down a wee bit. So, it's not **adorer**, it's **aimer**.

Mark: Ok, **très bien**. We'll put a link to the **Cabrel** song.

PBH: Oh, please do. It's a beautiful song.

Mark: Very nice. Remember that with **aimer**. You can use **aimer** in the sense of to like something **j'aime aller au cinéma** but also that would be the word that you would choose if you want to talk about a strong love. Ok. **Très bien**.

PBH: The phrase is **je t'aime**.

Mark: Absolutely. So, let's get on with this and we continue with Monique who says:

PBH: **Je devrais peut-être organiser un petit séjour sur Paris pour le rencontrer !!**

Mark: **Oh la la!** Monique is as bad as Gabrielle I think in this respect. She wants to meet Matthieu and she asks, what do you think of this?

PBH: **Qu'en penses-tu?**

Mark: So, let's just go back there; **je devrais peut-être organiser**, I ought to, or I should organise a little stay in the Paris area, **sur Paris pour le rencontrer**, for to meet him. I should really organise myself a little visit to Paris to meet him, meaning Matthieu. What do you think of this?

PBH: Yes, and here the use of **pour**, in order to.

Mark: In order to. **Pour le rencontrer**. And then she realises that she has just thought of something:

PBH: **Mais, je viens de penser à un truc, nous sommes jeudi donc vous vous êtes revus hier soir !**

Mark: So, of course we know that they were heading out on their second date on Wednesday, and she has just realised *je viens de penser à un truc*. I've just thought of something. *À un truc*, which is literally a thing. *Un truc*.

PBH: Yes.

Mark: It also makes me think of a column you sometimes see in magazines. I often read a particular technology magazine in French and there's a column *trucs et astuces*.

PBH: *Trucs et astuces* like the...

Mark: Tips and tricks.

PBH: Yes, that's it, tips and tricks. Well done, Mark.  
*Trucs et astuces*.

Mark: So, there we go. Anyway, *je viens de penser à un truc*, I've just thought of something, *nous sommes jeudi*. Literally, we are Thursday. *Donc vous vous êtes revus hier soir!* So, you saw each other again last night. So, it's Thursday today, *nous sommes jeudi, on est jeudi donc vous vous êtes revus hier soir!* You saw each other last night. And she asks:

PBH: *Comment s'est finie votre soirée ?*

Mark: How did the evening go?

PBH: *Et le film? Il était bien?*

Mark: And what about the film? Was it good? So, they went to see the Great Gatsby film as we know. Ok, let's listen to our second paragraph now:

J'arrête de te bombarder de questions. Je suis juste tellement heureuse pour toi. Après ton aventure avec Pierre, je suis ravie que tu aies enfin tourné la page et que tu sois prête à te lancer dans une nouvelle histoire d'amour. Tu le mérites. Et puis, ton horloge biologique tourne, tu n'as pas toute la vie devant toi ! Je te taquine !

Mark: Mais elle est incroyable cette femme!

PBH: Eh oui! Là c'est vrai que la maman de Sylvie pousse le bouchon, elle pousse un petit peu.

Mark: Mais quand même elle dit qu'elle la taquine.

PBH: C'est de l'humour.

Mark: C'est de l'humour. L'humour des mamans. So, she begins by saying I'll stop bombarding you with questions.

PBH: Bombarder de questions. J'arrête de te bombarder de questions. We have this expression as well in French, Mark.

Mark: Ok. Monique does admit that she is very happy for Sylvie.

PBH: Je suis juste tellement heureuse pour toi.

Mark: I am just so happy for you. And of course the reason for this is do to do with Sylvie's previous relationship with Pierre.

PBH: Après ton aventure avec Pierre, je suis ravie que tu aies enfin tourné la page et que tu sois prête à te lancer dans une nouvelle histoire d'amour.

Mark: Now when we were talking about what phrases to discuss in this particular lesson earlier, PBH said let's leave them without subjunctives this week. Let's not go over more subjunctives.

PBH: Because in the first paragraph we already have *je suis très contente que tout se soit bien passé entre vous*. So, here *contente* is basically interchangeable with *ravie*.

Mark: *Ravie*, being delighted in a sense. *Je suis ravie que tu aies enfin tourné la page*. That you've finally turned over a new leaf, that you've moved on.

PBH: And our listeners will have noticed that it's *tourné*, normal passé composé with *avoir*, so *aies* is spelt?

Mark: A-I-E-S.

PBH: *Très bien*. Whereas the next bit is *que tu soies prête à te lancer*. So, it's using a...?

Mark: A present subjunctive. The present subjunctive of *être*, of course, *que tu sois prête à te lancer* to launch yourself, *dans une nouvelle histoire d'amour*, in a new love story. After all, she says, you deserve it.

PBH: *Tu le mérites*.

Mark: And she starts doing her, well, she just starts being Monique.

PBH: *Et puis, ton horloge biologique tourne*.

Mark: Your biological clock is ticking.

PBH: *Tu n'as pas toute la vie devant toi !*

Mark: Literally, you've not got your whole life in front of you. We would probably say something more like?

PBH: Well, time is marching on.

Mark: Time is marching on. And of course, she admits that she is just teasing. She's being a pain actually. She is being quite annoying to her daughter.

PBH: *Je te taquine !*

Mark: *Taquiner*, a verb that we've seen before. *Je te taquine*, I'm teasing you.

PBH: The adjective is *taquin*. Ok. -U-I-N at the end and for a girl it's *taquine*.

Mark: So, that's someone who is doing the teasing.

PBH: Yes, it could be someone who is cheeky, someone who keeps annoying someone.

Mark: Annoying perhaps, rather than...

PBH: It's usually associated with little boys, little girls, you know, young age, just kidding and annoying each other.

Mark: Pestering.

PBH: Yes, *that's it*.

Mark: *Très bien, donc notre troisième paragraphe!*

PBH: *C'est parti!*

Sinon, ben la maison est bien vide à nouveau.  
Ton frère est reparti hier. Ton père et moi  
l'avons emmené à l'aéroport pour quatorze  
heures. Son avion décollait à seize heures. Il  
avait un changement à Dubaï. Il devrait être

arrivé à l'heure où j'écris. Ce n'est pas la porte à côté le Japon quand tu y penses. Je crois que nous allons nous renseigner pour aller lui rendre visite l'année prochaine. Il faut qu'on en profite tant qu'il est là-bas. Et toi, n'as-tu jamais pensé à y aller ?

Mark: So, as we start this new paragraph, Monique uses *sinon* again. This time it is for a change of subject.

PBH: Yes, it's the conventional one.

Mark: So, otherwise, or in other news or something like that. *Sinon, la maison est bien vide à nouveau.* The house is empty once more.

PBH: *Ton frère est reparti hier. Ton père et moi l'avons emmené à l'aéroport pour quatorze heures.*

Mark: We've already discussed this in our other episode, your brother left yesterday and your father and I took him to the airport for two o'clock in the afternoon.

PBH: *Son avion décollait à seize heures. Il avait un changement à Dubaï.*

Mark: So, his plane was taking off, *son avion décollait*. So, *décoller*, the verb to take off. *Son avion décollait à seize heures.* It was depressing at 16h00, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon and he had to change in Dubai. If it were a few weeks down the line, perhaps he



would have bumped into Matthieu in the airport. Anyway, so Monique goes on:

PBH: *Il devrait être arrivé à l'heure où j'écris.*

Mark: That is a tricky phrase even for a native speaker.

PBH: *Trop facile, il n'y a même pas de R!*

Mark: *Il devrait être arrivé.* He, literally, should have arrived at the hour where I am writing. Again, we've spoken about it before, so, he'll be there by the time I am writing this to you.

PBH: And even, by now.

Mark: By now. Makes more sense.

PBH: *Ce n'est pas la porte à côté le Japon quand tu y penses.*

Mark: Another of Monique's favourite phrases. She's definitely said it a couple of times. It's not next door Japan, you know, Japan's not down the road. It's quite far away when you think about it.

PBH: *Je crois que nous allons nous renseigner pour aller lui rendre visite l'année prochaine.*

Mark: I like this because *nous renseigner, se renseigner* is to get some information, to prepare, to inform oneself about something. And here, she's saying we're going to inform ourselves in order to visit him. We're going to find out about going to visit him. *Je crois que nous allons nous renseigner pour aller lui rendre visite.*

PBH: Yes, we've spoken about that before; **rendre visite à une personne**.

Mark: **L'année prochaine** - so they are going next year. And she says in fact it's worth taking advantage of the fact that he's over there. Let's listen to this phrase:

Il faut qu'on en profite tant qu'il est là-bas.

Mark: **Tant qu'il est là-bas**, that's lovely. Here it would just be translated as while he's there.

PBH: Yes. Usually **tant que** would be translated as?

Mark: As long as.

PBH: But I think you're right. I think while he's there we've got to make the most of it.

Mark: Yes. Absolutely. Ok. So, she also asks Sylvie if she ever thought about going to Japan to visit her brother.

PBH: **Et toi, n'as-tu jamais pensé à y aller ?**

Mark: Now that's interesting because **penser à quelque chose** and then it's **aller à quelque part**. So, **aller au Japon; n'as-tu jamais pensé à y aller**. So, the **y** is to go there. Have you never thought about going there, or have ever thought about going there? **Et toi, n'as-tu jamais pensé à y aller ?** Ok, très bien, donc il nous reste notre quatrième paragraphe.

PBH: **C'est parti pour le dernier paragraphe**.

Et au fait, comment se passe ton boulot ? Ton projet avance bien ? Aujourd'hui, mon programme est tout trouvé, c'est ménage ! Il faut que je remette la maison en état ! Je n'en ai pas fait lourd quand ton frère était là. Demain, comme ton père ne travaille pas, je pense que nous allons bouger un peu. Ce week-end, nous sommes invités chez les Martin pour faire un barbecue. Au fait, as-tu eu des nouvelles de Claire ? Et la semaine prochaine je reprendrai mes petites habitudes. J'ai déjà prévu d'aller chez Mme Gauthier mardi prochain. On va s'organiser pour aller faire de la randonnée. Allez, je te laisse mais j'attends avec impatience de tes nouvelles. Bisous, Maman.

Mark: Très bien. Donc, d'autres informations, d'autres renseignements dans ce dernier paragraphe.  
Elle commence:

PBH: Et au fait, comment se passe ton boulot ?

Mark: So, how is your job going by the way?

PBH: It's quite nice here. She could have said *et sinon, comment se passe ton boulot?*

Mark: But then I think she would have started every paragraph with *sinon*.

PBH: But it is quite nice to see that *sinon* and *au fait* can be interchangeable.

Mark: Absolutely. *Et au fait, comment se passe ton boulot ?* Is your project going well?

PBH: *Ton projet avance bien ?*

Mark: And as far as Monique is concerned, she's only got one thing on the cards today. Let's have a listen as to what that is:

Aujourd'hui, mon programme est tout trouvé,  
c'est ménage !

Mark: She's saying that today, literally, my programme is all found; *mon programme est tout trouvé, c'est ménage !* She is focusing on her housework today. *Mon programme est tout trouvé.*

PBH: *Trouvé* is like it's all sorted, it's all planned.

Mark: I know exactly what I've got on the schedule for today.

PBH: And it's *c'est* and you could imagine the two dots. What do you call that again?

Mark: A colon.

PBH: A colon. *C'est: ménage.* As if it were written on a wee list of chores.

Mark: I did wonder why she didn't say *c'est le ménage.*

PBH: I think that originally, you should have *c'est.*

Mark: Colon.

PBH: Yes, and then *ménage.*

Mark: Ok.

PBH: As one chore to do.

Mark: Et la question c'est pourquoi?

PBH: Il faut que je remette la maison en état !

Mark: To get the house back in order. Il faut que je remette, from the verb mettre or remettre in this case. Il faut que je remette, subjunctive, la maison en état! Back into order.

PBH: She could have said en ordre.

Mark: En ordre. En état. En ordre.

PBH: Peut-être que le frère de Sylvie a mis beaucoup de désordre dans la maison.

Mark: Peut-être. Our next sentence we've already spoken about again, so let's have a listen:

PBH: Je n'en ai pas fait lourd quand ton frère était là.

Mark: I didn't do a stroke of work when your brother was there. And we hear what their plans are for the next day:

PBH: Demain, comme ton père ne travaille pas, je pense que nous allons bouger un peu.

Mark: Ils vont bouger un peu, I like that. Tomorrow, since your father's not working, we are going to move a little, to go out.

PBH: Yes, and it's this idea of getting out of the house.

Mark: So, if she's doing her housework all day today then by the time it gets to tomorrow she will be wanting to get out; elle voudra bouger.

PBH: Bouger, bouger un peu, faire quelque chose de différent.

Mark: And indeed she's got some pans for the weekend too.

PBH: Ce week-end, nous sommes invités chez les Martin pour faire un barbecue.

Mark: This weekend we've got an invitations to the Martin to take part in a barbecue.

PBH: Très bien. And can we just remind our listeners here, it's not un barbeCOO.

Mark: No, it's not. It's?

PBH: Un barbecue.

Mark: Cue. SO the -que sound that we would use in English is used in French there. Un barbecue. Ok. Talking about the Martin, Monique asks a question to Sylvie:

PBH: Au fait, as-tu eu des nouvelles de Claire ?

Mark: So, have you, literally, had any news from Claire? Have you heard from Claire?

PBH: Yes. Heard from Claire. I think we need to remind our listeners here avoir des nouvelles de quelqu'un.

Mark: To hear from someone.

PBH: Yes, or recevoir des nouvelles de quelqu'un.

Mark: Yes, or to get news about someone.

PBH: Also you have prendre des nouvelles de quelqu'un.

Mark: So, prendre des nouvelles to ask for someone or to ask about someone.

PBH: Exactement.

Mark: Can we also say *demander des nouvelles*?

PBH: Oui; *je voulais demander des nouvelles de ton père, par exemple*. That's fine as well. *Prendre des nouvelles ou demander des nouvelles de quelqu'un, d'une personne*.

Mark: To ask for news of someone, to ask for someone.

PBH: Yes, now there's something else and I'd like to see if our listeners can remember that.

Mark: I think I know where you are going!

PBH: Yes, it's the idea in English when we say tell your Dad I was asking for him. Now it would be very tempting here to use *prendre des nouvelles*.

Mark: That I was asking for some news of him.

PBH: Yes, but that doesn't work. There's a simpler phrase. And you've seen that.

Mark: We've definitely talked about this one. I wonder if our listeners can remember. We'll give you a couple of moments to think about this. Think of the word *bonjour*.

PBH: Yes.

Mark: That's your clue. *Alors, cette expression?*

PBH: We use the expression, the infinitive is *passer, -ER, le bonjour à quelqu'un*.

Mark: *Passe le bonjour à ton père de ma part*.

PBH: *De ma part*.

Mark: On my behalf. Say hello to your Dad for me. tell him I'm asking for him.

PBH: Très bien. De ma part can actually be, you don't have to say it. You can just say passe le bonjour à ton père!

Mark: Exactement.

PBH: Obviously, if you are saying it, it's on your behalf.

Mark: Très bien. Ok, so there we were talking a little about the nouvelles that Monique was asking Sylvie if she had had any news from Claire. She goes on:

PBH: Et la semaine prochaine je reprendrai mes petites habitudes.

Mark: So, next week things get back to normal. Literally, she will pick up again her little habits, get back into her old routine.

PBH: It's one of these expressions I mentioned before where you have to say them quite quickly: petites habitudes.

Mark: Petites habitudes.

PBH: Yes! I think it would sound quite strange to say je vais reprendre mes petites habitudes.

Mark: Ok, petites habitudes. Mes petites habitudes.

PBH: Très bien.

Mark: C'est difficile quand même pour les non-Français.

PBH: It sounds more French, if you want to sound a wee bit more French.

Mark: On fera de notre mieux.

PBH: Très bien. On fera de notre mieux.

Mark: Oh la la, tu me taquines!



PBH: Non...

Mark: We'll do our best.

PBH: Très bien. très bien. If you want to sound more French.

Mark: Of course we want to sound more French, but it's sometimes quite difficult.

PBH: Mais non!

Mark: Mais si! Ok donc elle continue:

PBH: J'ai déjà prévu d'aller chez Mme Gauthier mardi prochain.

Mark: So, she's already planned to go and see Mme Gauthier on the Tuesday of the following week.

PBH: Yes, so remember prévu from prévoir. And prévoir uses de + an infinitive. Just to remind our listeners.

Mark: And they are going to get organised to go and do some walking.

PBH: On va s'organiser pour aller faire de la randonnée.

Mark: Randonnée is walking in the hills and in the countryside. And then she finishes off:

PBH: Allez, je te laisse mais j'attends avec impatience de tes nouvelles.

Mark: So, more nouvelles here. I'll leave you here but I'm looking forward to hearing all your news. And once more I'm sure she's referring to Matthieu.

PBH: The latest basically.

Mark: I'm looking forward to hearing the latest. Et voilà, encore un texte très riche.

PBH: Très riche. Il y a beaucoup d'expressions, du vocabulaire très intéressant.

Mark: And of course our challenge to you is to try and use some of that vocabulary in your French speaking or writing this week. Voilà, c'est tout pour aujourd'hui, merci beaucoup!

PBH: Et puis à la prochaine, au revoir!

Mark: À la prochaine!



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