

Coffee Break **French**

Season 4, Episode 21

Language Study



CoffeeBreak
French

SEASON 4

Mark: Salut tout le monde ! On est de retour avec votre épisode supplémentaire de cette semaine. We are going to be taking a closer look at the language in this week's text. It was of course the email from Monique to Sylvie. Et comme d'habitude je suis ici avec Pierre-Benoît.

PB : Eh oui ! Ravi d'être avec vous encore une fois.

Mark: Et voilà. Donc on va commencer avec le texte et nous allons l'attaquer directement. Écoutons donc le premier paragraphe.

ravi de + infinitive

delighted to + infinitive

attaquer

to attack, to get straight on with something

Salut ma fille, bon je pense que tu vas toujours bien depuis ce matin ! On ne se sera jamais envoyé autant de messages dans un laps de temps si rapproché ! Bon, super pour ce week-end. Je viens à l'instant de le dire à ton frangin, et oui il vient juste de se lever, le décalage horaire soi-disant ! Enfin il est aux anges. Il lui tarde vraiment de te revoir. Il dit que toutes ces nouvelles technologies telles que Facebook, Skype ou même les e-mails, sont super mais ce n'est tout de même pas la

même chose que de se voir en personne.
Enfin c'est très pratique pour rester en contact
quand on habite loin.

Mark: Eh oui ! C'est bien pratique de rester en
contact avec toutes ces nouvelles
technologies et aussi d'apprendre le français.

PB : Oui.

Mark: Avec toutes ces nouvelles technologies.

PB : Oui, j'en sais quelque chose. Oui.

Mark: OK, so she begins by saying, 'I think that
everything's fine since this morning'?

PB : Bon je pense que tu vas toujours bien depuis
ce matin !

Mark: And of course she's referring there to the fact
that this is quite a recent email: basically they
are continuing their email exchange and
indeed her next sentence explains this further.

On ne se sera jamais envoyé autant de
messages dans un laps de temps si
rapproché !

Mark : Let's split this up a little. Dans un laps de
temps si rapproché ! So un laps is a...

PB : It's an amount of time. Can you say 'à bout' of...? You know when you do something for 'à bout'.

Mark: A bout of time? Yes.

PB : A bout.

Mark: Yeah.

PB : Yeah.

Mark: We can use the word, lapse in English. When there's a time lapse.

PB : Good. Of course, yeah.

Mark: But *un laps* is spelled slightly different in French, *L-A-P-S* is a little space of time.

PB : Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Mark: So, I'm just thinking of what you said about 'à bout of time', *un bout de temps* ?

PB : *Un bout de temps*.

Mark: Does it come directly from French?

PB : Yeah, or vice versa. I don't want to, I don't want to appear too French if you know what I mean!

Mark: Okay, so let's stick with *laps*, *un laps de temps si rapproché* . If two things are *rapproché* then they are close together. The word *proche* is in there. So *un laps de temps si rapproché* in a very short, in such a short space of time.

PB : Yeah, that's a good translation.

Mark: And now let's go back to the slightly more complicated verb in there. And I wonder if our listeners can work out what tense we're using here. Listen carefully to this.

PB : On ne se sera jamais envoyé autant de messages.

Mark: Now, we've got a *se* in there. So it must be reflexive.

PB : Yeah.

Mark: Or a kind of reciprocal nature here. Because we are talking about envoyer, to send. And if it's *s'envoyer*, it's to send to each other.

PB : Yeah, yeah.

Mark: So it's got to be reflexive. And if it's reflexive, what do we know about the auxiliary verb? So can you tell us, Pierre-Benoît?

PB : Yes. It's *être*!

Mark: Of course, it has to be *être* when we are talking about a reflexive verb. So breaking this down, a normal reflexive verb something like *se lever*, to get up in the morning, *je me suis levé* - I got up. Now listen again to the sentence.

PB : On ne se sera jamais envoyé [...].

Mark: Now here we are not using *je me suis levé* in a perfect tense.

PB : Non.

Mark: It's a little more complex than that. We're actually looking at a future perfect here.

PB : Uhuh.

Mark: So, *on ne se sera jamais envoyé*. And the *sera* is the future tense of *être*. So, we never will have sent each other - *on ne se sera jamais envoyé autant de messages*. Let's take the *ne*

and **jamais** out of there: we will have sent each other many messages. How will we say that? Let's try working that out. We will have sent each other lots of messages.

PB : **On se sera envoyé beaucoup de messages.**

Mark: **Très bien.** So we will have sent each other lots of messages. Now if we're making that negative, we will not have sent each other.

PB : **On ne se sera pas envoyé beaucoup de messages.**

Mark: And if it's 'we will never have sent each other so many messages' in this case.

PB : **On ne se sera jamais envoyé autant de messages .**

Mark: So there, we've broken it down and hopefully you've understood why it's **être** first of all, where the reflexive part comes in and where the **ne... jamais** is coming in. There's one other thing that we need to think about. And that would be?

PB : The agreement.

Mark: Of course! Because that's where the real question is here: does **envoyer** have to agree with the **on** here? The plural sense of **on**. **On ne se sera jamais envoyé autant de messages.** And if we compare this to 'we spoke to each other'. Would there be an agreement there?

PB : **Non.**

Mark: So, **on s'est parlé, nous nous sommes parlé, ils se sont parlé, elles se sont parlé.** Here, there is

no agreement with **parlé** because, of course, it's indirect.

PB : Although you are using an **être** verb which can, which can lead to some confusion.

Mark: Absolutely!

PB : OK, but remember it's because it's indirect.

Mark: OK. So in this case, **on ne se sera jamais envoyé autant de messages** . There is no agreement on the **envoyé** . OK, we are two sentences in to our text and we are already in 7 minutes of our show. We better move on.

PB : **Allez, on continue.**

Mark: So she goes on...

PB : **Bon super pour ce week-end.**

Mark: Everything's great for this weekend.

PB : **Je viens à l'instant de le dire à ton frangin, et oui il vient juste de se lever, le décalage horaire soi-disant !**

Mark: Of course we have already spoken about this sentence in our other episode. I have just this minute told your brother and yes, he just got up, using **se lever**, a nice reflexive verb there that we have already seen. And of course this is as a result of the time difference, as a result of the jet lag apparently. OK, she goes on...

PB: **Enfin il est aux anges.**

Mark: That's a lovely expression! **Être aux anges**. Literally 'to be at the angels', 'to be with the angels', I suppose.

PB: How would you translate that?

Mark: To be in seventh heaven, perhaps?

PB: Yes. I heard another one and I loved it. 'To be on cloud nine'.

Mark: Oh yeah, yeah. That's a good one!

PB: And technically you can't say it anymore because, since that discovery you've got another type of cloud and then you could say, you should say cloud ten or eleven or twelve.

Mark: I'll take your word for that!

PB: Yes, yes!

Mark: **Enfin il est aux anges.** We don't need to count the number of angels. You can just say **il est aux anges.**

PB : Yeah.

Mark: He is really looking forward to seeing Sylvie.

PB : **Il lui tarde vraiment de te revoir.**

Mark: So he is really looking forward to seeing you or **il lui tarde** - it to him is delaying to see you again. Really good English there.

PB : **Il dit que toutes ces nouvelles technologies telles que Facebook, Skype ou même les e-mails, sont super mais ce n'est tout de même pas la même chose que de se voir en personne.**

Mark: So quite a long sentence there. Coming back to the beginning. **Il dit que...** he says that, **toutes ces nouvelles technologies** , all these new technologies, **telles que** , we have seen that before, such as. And it has to agree with **les nouvelles technologies** which are feminine

plural. *Telles que, T-E-L-L-E-S* , *telles que Facebook, Skype ou même les e-mails* or even emails, *sont super*; they are super! Super is an interesting word because *super* although it's kind of used as an adjective here, it doesn't agree.

PB : I know, and many French people including me at times, we forget that and we will be tempted and may add a wee S if it's a plural.

Mark: Wee S, yeah. Now in this case *les nouvelles technologies sont super* there is no agreement.

PB : *Non.*

Mark: And it's because basically super is like a prefix because you can say *super cool, super...*

PB : *Intéressant.*

Mark: *Super intéressant, voilà.* So in that case *toutes ces nouvelles technologies sont super importantes* with your agreement *E-S* at the end of *importantes*. But when you just use *super* on it's own it's used as a prefix to an adjective and you don't agree.

PB : And actually your example is perfect Mark when you said *super importantes* . Then we remember that *importantes* has to agree but *super* stays on its own.

Mark: Of course.

PB : And really looks like *invariable* like it doesn't change. So that's good.

Mark: Any other examples of that? We've got **hyper** of course. Anything else?

PB : **Hyper**. Hmm, **extra**?

Mark: Good one, yeah. **Extra**. Again, when you are coming at this from the point of view of a non native speaker and you hear someone say **c'est extra !** you kind of think it's extra what?

PB : I know.

Mark: Where we can... that's a difference between **extra** and **super** because in English, obviously **super** can be used as an adjective. But with **extra** in French, **c'est extra, ça !**

PB : I thought... I suppose it's short for **extraordinaire**.

Mark: **Voilà**.

PB: OK it comes from that. But in Scottish we say, it's fab.

Mark: We do indeed.

PB : Don't we ?

Mark: It's totally fab.

PB : It's fab by the way.

Mark: OK, before we get on, so **toutes ces nouvelles technologies [...]** sont **super** mais ce n'est tout **de même pas la même chose**. It's not at all the same thing. **Ce n'est tout de même pas, tout de même**, even so.

PB : "Still" here as well.

Mark: Still yeah, still not the same. **La même chose**; again, we would say, the same as opposed to the same thing.

PB : Yeah, I was going to say that, in English we don't use the word, thing after same.

Mark: Yeah. So *ce n'est tout de même pas la même chose que de se voir en personne*. It's not the same thing as seeing someone in person.

PB : Yeah, for real.

Mark: For real.

PB : That's good.

Mark: OK, and she finishes this paragraph with...

PB : *Enfin c'est très pratique pour rester en contact quand on habite loin*.

Mark: *Enfin* well, even so, it's quite practical, it's very practical to stay in touch when you live far away from someone, *quand on habite loin*. And in French, you don't really need to say *loin de quelqu'un*.

PB : *Non, non. Quand on habite loin*. It's just a general statement.

Mark: When you live far away.

PB : Yeah.

Mark: OK! *On va écouter maintenant le deuxième paragraphe*.

Oui oui il se remet tout doucement de son voyage. Il se couche encore très tard et il n'est donc pas matinal, mais bon, cela commence à changer. Il devrait être en pleine forme pour ce week-end quand tu arriveras. Tu t'es bien organisée pour ton voyage je trouve ! J'en parlerai à ton père ce soir quand il rentrera du

boulot mais c'est un jour où il ne travaille pas
donc il pourra venir te chercher. Au pire, ton
frère prendra la vieille Clio et il descendra te
chercher. Je te tiendrai au courant mais ne
t'inquiète pas, quelqu'un sera là pour
t'attendre à ta descente du train.

Mark : So, Monique is getting all organized for
Sylvie's trip to Epinal to visit the family. And in
reference to her brother, she begins by
saying...

PB : *Oui, oui, il se remet tout doucement de son
voyage.*

Mark: So he's getting over his long journey from
Japan.

PB : *Il se couche encore très tard et il n'est donc
pas matinal, mais bon, cela commence à
changer.*

Mark: So *se coucher* to go to bed, and he is going to
bed still very late because he is kind of living
in a Japanese time zone. *Et il n'est donc pas
matinal*; he's not a morning person, at least a
morning person in French time. *Mais bon, cela
commence à changer*, that's beginning to
change. And remember, *commencer* is one of
those verbs that needs a particular preposition
afterwards. *Commencer à faire quelque chose*,
to start to do something. So Monique goes
on...

PB : Il devrait être en pleine forme pour ce week-end quand tu arriveras.

Mark: So this is a nice use of the verb *devoir*. *Devoir* in the conditional tense where it is translated as, 'he should' or 'he ought to be'. *Il devrait être en pleine forme*; he should be fighting fit by the time the weekend comes, for this weekend. *Quand tu arriveras*. And of course we've got a nice future tense there after the *quand* referring to the future.

PB : Whereas in English?

Mark: When you arrive, when you get here.

PB : It's like a present tense because you take it for granted.

Mark: OK, so we will continue.

PB : Tu t'es bien organisée pour ton voyage je trouve !

Mark: So Monique thinks Sylvie's all sorted out for her journey, *tu t'es bien organisée*. You got yourself well organised. You have organised yourself well for your journey, for your trip. And her next sentence is quite an interesting one because we're really focusing on the future tenses again. Let's have a listen.

J'en parlerai à ton père ce soir quand il rentrera du boulot mais c'est un jour où il ne travaille pas donc il pourra venir te chercher.

Mark : There's nothing hugely difficult in there but it's just nice to hear those different future tenses. Let's think about it. We'll break it down.

PB : *J'en parlerai à ton père ce soir .*

Mark: So we've got an *en* in there, about it or of it. And she's saying *j'en parlerai*, I will speak about it, *à ton père*, to your father, *ce soir*, this evening.

PB : Will it be something you say, I will mention that... I'll mention it to your father.

Mark: It pretty much depends on the context because what I'm thinking here, I think this is quite possibly the kind of thing that a French parent might say to their child: *j'en parlerai à ton père ce soir quand il rentrera du boulot* - I'll speak to your father when he gets home from work.

PB : Yeah, it's a different context then, yes. Good.

Mark: So *quand il rentrera*, when he will get home. Again it's one of those futures following the word *quand*, when he gets home.

PB : *Mais c'est un jour où il ne travaille pas .*

Mark: So, the thing is, it's a day when he doesn't work. But listen carefully to the word that's used in French there: *mais c'est un jour où il ne travaille pas*, it's a day, literally, where he doesn't work, and would it be right to say there, it's a day **when** he doesn't work *c'est un jour quand il ne travaille pas*?

PB : **Non**, it's always **où**. I think the explanation would be, it's like you are visualising it, you are putting yourself in that situation. You are in that place, at that time.

Mark: OK .

PB : So, that's the best way to explain it, there's no, there's no grammatical explanation there except it's **où** rather than **quand**.

Mark: And never **que**?

PB : **Un jour que... oh non !** You will hear it.

Mark: That's what I'm saying it.

PB : You will hear it.

Mark: So the day I arrived in Paris, **le jour où je suis arrivé à Paris**.

PB : **Oui** or **quand je suis arrivée**, bah oui il y a **deux jours**.

Mark: And **le jour dans lequel je suis arrivé**?

PB : **Non**. **Le jour où tu arriveras**, **le jour où je suis né**.

Mark: Always **le jour où**, **le jour où...** OK, **le jour où il ne travaille pas**. C'est un jour où il ne travaille pas, it's a day he's not working. **Donc il pourra venir te chercher**, he will be able to come to get you. **Chercher** in that sense of fetching you, to get you at the station.

PB : I think we've covered that before **chercher une personne**, OK.

Mark: And of course just to also mention **pourra**, **il pourra**; a nice irregular future of **pouvoir**.

PB : **Oui**.

Mark: Je pourrais, tu pourras, il pourra.

PB : Nous pourrons, vous pourrez, ils pourront.

Mark: Très bien. OK, let's continue!

PB : Au pire, ton frère prendra la vieille Clio et il descendra te chercher.

Mark: More future tenses, au pire, worst case scenario, perhaps?

PB : Yeah, I like that, I like that au pire .

Mark: In the worst case or au pire, in the worst situation, but I think you're more likely to say these days 'worst case scenario'.

PB : It's interesting when earlier we had la même chose and it's the English that's more succinct.

Mark: Yeah.

PB : But here it's the French that's more succinct.

Mark: Au pire and then we've got to our worst case scenario.

PB : Ah superbe !

Mark: Ton frère prendra la vieille Clio; now a Clio is a type of car made by Renault. Une Clio and it's une for any car. Une Clio. Une Volvo.

PB : Une Mazda.

Mark: Voilà. Une Mazda.

PB: Une Vauxhall. Une Opel parce que Vauxhall n'existe pas, c'est Opel.

Mark: D'accord, et en fait c'est parce que c'est une voiture.

PB: Oui !

Mark: Donc une Clio. La vieille Clio . Worst case scenario your brother will take the old Clio et il

la vieille Clio

the old (Renault) Clio

Note that all car brands are referred to as feminine.

descendra te chercher. And he'll come down to get you at the station.

PB : I like the venir te chercher and then descendre te chercher. That's nice, that's nice.

Mark: Tout à fait. OK.

PB : Je te tiendrai au courant mais ne t'inquiète pas, quelqu'un sera là pour t'attendre à ta descente du train.

Mark: OK, yet more futures here. Je te tiendrai au courant. I will keep you posted.

PB : Yeah, I like... It comes from tenir au courant and our listeners have already seen être au courant.

Mark: Yes. So, to be in the know about something, to be aware of something.

PB : Yeah, to be aware... tenir au courant and then you also have rester au courant.

Mark: Yep.

PB : To keep abreast of something

Mark: With... to keep abreast with, of...

PB : With, of... I don't know...

Mark: You are making me think now. To keep abreast of things. I think.

PB : D'accord.

Mark: To keep abreast of... yeah, abreast of. But tenir quelqu'un au courant, rester au courant de quelque chose. And...

PB : Être au courant.

Mark: Mettre quelqu'un au courant aussi.

PB : Nice wee expressions there.

Mark: So *je te tiendrai au courant*, I'll keep you posted. *Mais ne t'inquiètes pas*, don't worry, *quelqu'un sera là pour t'attendre*, someone will be there to get you, to be waiting for you *à ta descente du train*, at your descent from the train, literally, when you get off the train. OK, lots of future tenses in the paragraph. There's really some nice stuff in there. Let's continue with our third paragraph now.

Ouh la la il me tarde d'être en week-end, je vais avoir mes deux enfants réunis, il va falloir marquer ce jour d'une pierre blanche ! Je viens de regarder la météo sur Internet, il devrait faire beau ce week-end. Peut-être pourrions-nous faire un barbecue dans le jardin ! Je vais contacter Mme Gauthier pour voir s'ils sont disponibles. Malheureusement Gérard et Michèle Martin ne sont pas libres, ils partent faire le tour des fjords en Norvège. Ils sont venus hier soir boire l'apéritif à la maison, ils voulaient discuter avec ton frère car ils ont pour projet d'aller visiter le Japon donc ils sont venus à la pêche à l'information ! Ils te passent le bonjour et sont très déçus de te louper encore une fois. Ils ont pris ton numéro de portable au cas où ils viendraient sur Paris.

Mark : So, in this paragraph, Monique is talking about friends again and the fact that they are going

to be doing a BBQ this weekend, especially for Sylvie's arrival to come see her brother. So she begins by saying...

PB : Ouh la la.

Mark: And I'm just going to stop you there before you go any further because I think... We've talked about this expression before but I think it's an interesting one because I think in English, we sometimes hear that expression Ouh la la. And perhaps there's a kind of slightly romantic or a... hmm... ouh la la, love is in the air!

PB : Yeah, that's it, that's it.

Mark: But in French it's not like that.

PB : Non, non. It's like... if I nearly spilled my coffee, it's ouh la la ! Ouh la la ! Attention avec mon café ! It's really like... it has got a different meaning.

Mark: And we could equally say ouh la ! it doesn't need the second la.

PB : No, we don't need it.

Mark: And likewise we could ouh la la la la la.

PB : Yeah.

Mark: Oh, je suis fatigué aujourd'hui ouh la la la la la.

PB : Ouh la la mais attention on va rater le train.

Mark : Oui.

PB : That's so French!

Mark: And that's I think... perhaps something that native English speakers or learners of French

might feel they don't want to use a phrase like *ouh la la* because they see it as so...
hmm... cliché! But it's very French. Very very authentic.

PB : Very French, very French. It's like jings! Could you say jings.

Mark: Jings, yeah. I think jings could certainly be a Scottish expression. My goodness!

PB : My goodness!

Mark: Yes, sometimes we don't even say words, it's more of the sharp intakes of breath and so on.

OK, so *ouh la la il me tarde d'être en week-end*. Oh my goodness me! I am really looking forward to being... to the weekend arriving!

PB : *Je vais avoir mes deux enfants réunis*.

Mark: Like every mother, she will be delighted to have both her children back together reunited.

PB : So here it could have been *ouh la la*, it could be *ho ho!* something like that.

Mark: Exactly, yeah!

PB : You know, yippee!

Mark: Yippee! Probably... personally, I would not say yippee, I would probably say...

PB : No, that's a French expression, *youpi*.

Mark: *Youpi*, yeah.

PB : And it just came out.

Mark: I think I might say something like woohoo or something like that. But it's quite a personal thing, it's a question of idiolect.

PB : Ooh !

Mark: Every person's own expression in their language, I believe.

PB : Et bien je vais rentrer chez moi plus intelligent car je ne connaissais pas cette expression.
Merci Mark !

Mark: De rien. Tu m'apprends des choses aussi des fois.

PB : Ah tu vois ! On est quitte.

Mark: We're quits... I have not heard of that expression either. OK, let's get back to our text. We have already talked about this next expression, *il va falloir marquer ce jour d'une pierre blanche* ! So you already know what that means! Let's continue straight on.

PB : Je viens de regarder la météo sur Internet, il devrait faire beau ce week-end.

Mark: So, I have just looked at the weather forecast on the internet, *sur Internet*, not *sur l'Internet* in French. *Sur Internet*, on the internet. *Il devrait faire beau ce week-end*; another use of *devoir* in the conditional. So it should be nice this weekend.

PB : Peut-être pourrions-nous faire un barbecue dans le jardin !

Mark: Remember with *peut-être* which means 'maybe' or 'perhaps', it's followed by either an inversion or *que*. So either *peut-être pourrions-nous* or *peut-être que nous*

pourrions... So, perhaps we could do a BBQ
or have a BBQ in the garden.

PB : **Je vais contacter Mme Gauthier pour voir s'ils
sont disponibles.**

Mark: So I'm going to contact Madam Gauthier to
see if they are available.

PB : **Malheureusement Gérard et Michèle Martin
ne sont pas libres, ils partent faire le tour des
fjords en Norvège.**

Mark: So, unfortunately Gérard and Michèle Martin
are not available, they are not free, because
they are off to do a tour of the Norwegian
fjords.

PB : I like that, OK **partir faire le tour des fjords** and
you said they are off to.

Mark: Yeah.

PB : It's so... it's quite tricky to translate all these...
kind of a movement verbs like that.

Mark: Yeah, absolutely! OK.

PB : **Ils sont venus hier soir boire l'apéritif à la
maison .**

Mark: Another example there of **venir faire quelque
chose, partir faire quelque chose**. So **ils sont
venus hier soir** not **pour boire** but just **ils sont
venus [...] boire** . They came to have the
apéritif, a very French tradition.

PB: They came over. They...

Mark: So they came over for the **apéritif** in the house
because...

PB: **Ils voulaient discuter avec ton frère car ils ont**

apéritif (m)

aperitif

This can refer to the drink itself, or
the time where families or friends
come together to enjoy a drink and a
small snack.

pour projet d'aller visiter le Japon donc ils sont
venus à la pêche à l'information !

Mark: So, they wanted to talk to your brother
because... I believe we've seen this phrase
already, they are planning to go and visit
Japan. So they came fishing for some
information.

PB: Ils te passent le bonjour et sont très déçus de
te louper encore une fois.

Mark: So, they say hello... We have seen that phrase
many times. Et sont because we already had
the ils, [ils] sont très déçus, they are very
disappointed de te louper encore une
fois. They are disappointed to miss you again.
However, being world wide travellers and
always looking for opportunities I think, the
Martins or the Martin have taken Sylvie's
number just in case they happen to be in Paris.

Ils ont pris ton numéro de portable au cas où
ils viendraient sur Paris.

Mark: And au cas où is a nice expression. Again we
have talked about that before. It's interesting
because these phrases keep coming up. They
are very very common phrases in French. Au
cas où in case, in case they happen to be in
Paris. And that's perhaps where the
conditional tense comes in there.

PB : Yeah.

Mark: In case they happen to be in Paris.

PB : And in English, it would not be a conditional.

Mark: Exactly! In English, it would be a present - in case they are in Paris. Or in case they happen to be.

PB : I like it.

Mark: I like it!

PB: I quite like the 'happen to be' cause it leaves the wee doubt that we're having our conditional.

Mark: Indeed. OK, it's time for our fourth and final paragraph.

Bon et sinon, je change de sujet mais toujours pas de nouvelles côté cœur ? On ne sait jamais si ce matin tu étais encore en retard et si tu étais encore entrée en collision avec un charmant jeune homme ! Bon, allez, je vais aller voir si ton frère veut aller se balader un peu, c'est dommage de rester enfermé par un beau temps pareil ! Je te tiens au courant ce soir pour ce weekend. Bonne après-midi.
Bisous, Maman

Mark : So, Monique is changing the subject here. But she wants to ask one final question.

PB : *Bon et sinon, je change de sujet mais toujours pas de nouvelles côté cœur ?*

Mark: So, are there still no news, actually I'm using a plural verb form here, it should of course be a singular verb because we talked about 'there is news' or 'is there still no news on the love side of things'? We don't say that in English.

PB : Love front?

Mark: Yeah, on the love front, yeah.

PB : While in French it's on the side.

Mark: It's interesting! So again we have talked about this next sentence already.

PB : *On ne sait jamais si ce matin tu étais encore en retard et si tu étais encore entrée en collision avec un charmant jeune homme !*

Mark: Yes, so we never know. Perhaps this morning you were running late again and you happen to bump into a charming young man at the station.

PB: *Bon, allez, je vais aller voir si ton frère veut aller se balader un peu .*

Mark: So, OK. I am going to see if your brother wants to go out for a walk a little bit.

PB: *C'est dommage de rester enfermé par un beau temps pareil !*

Mark: That's nice. *C'est dommage de*, it's a pity, it's a shame to stay enclosed, to stay inside *par un beau temps pareil*, when it's so nice outside.
Let's listen to it one more time.

C'est dommage de rester enfermé par un beau temps pareil !

Mark: And one of the reasons I like is that it's *c'est dommage de* + an infinitive, but of course if you are making that a more specific phrase afterwards, *c'est dommage que* will be followed by?

PB: A subjunctive.

Mark: *C'est dommage que nous soyons à la fin de cet épisode, enfin presque.*

PB : Oh !

Mark: So *c'est dommage* + a subjunctive.

PB : I like *rester enfermé*.

Mark: Absolutely! *Rester enfermé*, to stay in.

PB : Yeah, nearly indoors. It's so much... it's more precise in English.

Mark: Yeah. *Enfermé* of course, meaning closed in, of course. But...

PB : *Enfermé*.

Mark: In this case we can just say, to stay in, it's a pity to stay in on such a nice day *par un beau temps pareil !*

PB : Yeah. I like the *pareil* at the end. And in English?

Mark: Such nice weather. Such a nice day.

PB : Good. Just before we move on, *fermer* as you said, which means...

Mark: To close.

PB : Yeah. *Enfermer* here.

Mark: To enclose.

PB : Yeah, so to be inside, to be indoors. And then if you talk about someone else's personality, **renfermé?**

Mark: To be a kind of introverted person?

PB : Yeah, yeah, yeah. So it's quite...

Mark: And even if you didn't know these words, you could probably guess them.

PB : Yes. It's nice.

Mark: **Une personne renfermée.** OK, final sentence.

PB : **Je te tiens au courant ce soir pour ce weekend.**

Mark: Very straightforward, I'll keep you posted this evening for this weekend. So as far as this weekend is concerned. OK.

PB : Yeah. **Bonne après-midi. Bisous. Maman.**

Mark: Before we finish there, **bonne après-midi** we are not going to fly past that one. We were having a bit of an argument earlier because **après-midi** is an interesting word. It's a feminine or masculine word. And I have to be honest, I tend to go with the feminine version: **une après-midi, une bonne après-midi.**

PB : And I tend to go for the masculine version but Mark, you seem to say that could be a... kind of a north-south...

Mark: Potentially! I'm not entirely sure. Maybe it's something we should try to find out. I am fairly certain that in Belgium that you would say, **une après-midi** but I may be wrong. We should

check this out definitely. It's perfectly acceptable to use both.

PB : That's good. But does it make the afternoon longer?

Mark: There's probably a philosophical discussion to be had there.

PB : That would be for *une autre fois*.

Mark: *Une autre fois et pas un autre fois*.

PB : *Non*.

Mark: *Toujours une autre fois. Bon pour cette après-midi...*

PB : *On ne va pas passer l'après-midi là-dessus !*

Mark: *Oui, exactement.*

PB: It's easier! *L'après-midi* is just the apostrophe!

Mark: Yeah. And *cette après-midi* would it be *C-E-T* or *C-E-T-T-E*?

PB : Both are acceptable. I tend to go for *C-E-T*.
How about you?

Mark: I would tend to go for *C-E-T-T-E*!

PB : Hmm, does it mean I'm more masculine than you, Mark?

Mark: I have no idea, I don't really want to go there.
Let's listen to the text again.

on ne va passer l'après-midi là-dessus

we're not going to spend the entire afternoon on it

Salut ma fille, bon, je pense que tu vas toujours bien depuis ce matin ! On ne se sera jamais envoyé autant de messages dans un laps de temps si rapproché ! Bon, super pour ce week-end. Je viens à l'instant de le dire à ton frangin, et oui il vient juste de se lever, le

décalage horaire soi-disant ! Enfin il est aux anges. Il lui tarde vraiment de te revoir. Il dit que toutes ces nouvelles technologies telles que Facebook, Skype ou même les e-mails, sont super mais ce n'est tout de même pas la même chose que de se voir en personne. Enfin c'est très pratique pour rester en contact quand on habite loin.

Oui oui il se remet tout doucement de son voyage. Il se couche encore très tard et il n'est donc pas matinal, mais bon, cela commence à changer. Il devrait être en pleine forme pour ce week-end quand tu arriveras. Tu t'es bien organisée pour ton voyage je trouve ! J'en parlerai à ton père ce soir quand il rentrera du boulot mais c'est un jour où il ne travaille pas donc il pourra venir te chercher. Au pire, ton frère prendra la vieille Clio et il descendra te chercher. Je te tiendrai au courant mais ne t'inquiète pas, quelqu'un sera là pour t'attendre à ta descente du train.

Ouh la la il me tarde d'être en week-end, je vais avoir mes deux enfants réunis, il va falloir marquer ce jour d'une pierre blanche ! Je viens de regarder la météo sur Internet, il devrait faire beau ce week-end. Peut-être pourrions-nous faire un barbecue dans le jardin ! Je vais contacter Mme Gauthier pour

voir s'ils sont disponibles. Malheureusement Gérard et Michèle Martin ne sont pas libres, ils partent faire le tour des fjords en Norvège. Ils sont venus hier soir boire l'apéritif à la maison, ils voulaient discuter avec ton frère car ils ont pour projet d'aller visiter le Japon donc ils sont venus à la pêche à l'information! Ils te passent le bonjour et sont très déçus de te louper encore une fois. Ils ont pris ton numéro de portable au cas où ils viendraient sur Paris.

Bon et sinon, je change de sujet mais toujours pas de nouvelles côté cœur ? On ne sait jamais si ce matin tu étais encore en retard et si tu étais encore entrée en collision avec un charmant jeune homme ! Bon, allez, je vais aller voir si ton frère veut aller se balader un peu, c'est dommage de rester enfermé par un beau temps pareil ! Je te tiens au courant ce soir pour ce weekend.

Bonne après-midi.

Bisous

Maman

Mark : [Et voilà !](#) Hopefully this time, when you've listened to the text, you have understood pretty much everything. Having gone through all the language with us in this episode.

PB : Very rich indeed!

Mark: Lots of things to think about. OK, we are going to leave it there. [Merci beaucoup comme d'habitude et à la prochaine !](#)

PB : [Allez salut !](#)



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