

Coffee Break **French**

Season 4, Episode 15

Language Study



CoffeeBreak
French

SEASON 4

Mark: Welcome back to Coffee Break French. We're here with our Language Study episode in which we're going to go through the text from this week in full detail. *Alors on y va ?*

PB: *C'est parti !*

Mark: *Et on commence avec le paragraphe numéro un !*

Comment vas-tu ? Je viens de finir de lire ton e-mail à l'instant même, mais dis-moi, qu'est-ce que tu attends pour l'inviter à sortir un soir ? Ne perds pas ton temps ! Rappelle-toi ce qui s'est passé la dernière fois avec Valérie ! Tu as tellement attendu avant de faire le premier pas qu'elle t'est passée sous le nez. Tu ne vas pas te faire avoir encore une fois !

Mark: Ok. so there's some really nice stuff in here.

PB: Indeed.

Mark: Let's go through the whole thing. So, she begins:

PB: *Comment vas-tu ?*

Mark: How are you doing?

PB: Je viens de finir de lire ton e-mail à l'instant même.

finir de faire qc
to finish doing something

Mark: Now, we know what that means. I'm sure we know what that means, but it's perhaps a new expression; à l'instant même, at this very moment.

à l'instant même
at the/this very moment

PB: Oui.

Mark: So, je viens de faire quelque chose, of course, that means I've just done something, in this case de finir de lire ton e-mail ou bien ton mail, on dirait peut-être ton mail.

PB: Oui.

Mark: Ou bien ton email, ton courriel.

PB: Oh ! c'est un peu vieux jeu ça courriel, Mark.

Mark: D'accord. Je viens de finir de lire ton e-mail à l'instant même, I have just this minute finished reading your email. And notice also to finish doing something is:

courriel (m)
email

This is the "official" word for email, according to the Académie Française, and is a combination of **courrier** and **électronique**. It's also the word used most commonly in Canada. However, in everyday speech you're more likely to hear **email** or **mail**.

c'est un peu vieux jeu ça
it's a bit old-fashioned

PB: Finir de, finir de faire quelque chose.

Mark: Exactly, and there are quite a number of infinitives that are governed by a preposition, in this case finir de faire quelque chose to finish doing something. What about "to start doing something"?

PB: Alors, commencer à faire quelque chose.

Mark: Commencer à. Donc je vais commencer à faire mes devoirs mais je finis de faire mes devoirs. I am finishing doing my homework. Any other ones that we can think of?

PB: Très bien. What about you, Mark? How do you say to try to do something?

Mark: A good one there. To try to do something, I wonder if our listeners remember. To try to do something is essayer de faire quelque chose.

PB: Bravo, bravo, bravo.

Mark: And what about to hope to do something?

PB: Ah, that's a tricky one. Actually, it's very easy because you don't need a preposition after it. Hehe!

Mark: Trick question!

PB: Yep, yep, yep. Espérer. So j'espère faire quelque chose.

Mark: So, she continues:

PB: Mais dis-moi, qu'est-ce-que tu attends pour l'inviter à sortir un soir ?

Mark: I like this because it's actually one of those situations where she's really translating it almost literally. It works the same way in French as it does in English; qu'est-ce-que tu attends pour l'inviter à sortir un soir? What are you waiting for? What are you waiting for? To invite her to go out one evening. Qu'est-ce-que tu attends pour l'inviter à sortir un soir ?

PB: Interesting here; inviter à.

Mark: Inviter à sortir, exactement. Inviter quelqu'un à faire quelque chose So, don't get that one mixed up.

PB: Par exemple, Mark m'invite à manger tous les soirs.

Mark: I invite Pierre-Benoît to eat every evening, **tous** les soirs, mais il refuse tout le temps !

PB: C'est pas que je refuse Mark, c'est que j'ai trop de choses à faire, je ne peux pas sortir... moi j'ai pas autant de temps que toi ! Oh là là ! je parle trop vite pour nos auditeurs !

Mark: Eh oui ! Eh oui ! Tu veux bien répéter exactement ce que tu viens de dire mais peut-être plus **doucement**?

doucement

slowly

Literally **doucement** means "quietly" or "softly", but it's commonly used to mean "slowly" in this context.

PB: Plus lentement alors : je n'ai pas autant de temps que toi !

Mark: Je n'ai pas autant d'temps qu'toi !

PB: Ah ! bravo Mark ! Bravo ! Tape-là !

tape-là

high five

Mark: Ouais allez, **check!** Ok, let's get back to our story.

PB: Ne perds pas ton temps !

Mark: Nice, straightforward sentence; **ne perds pas ton temps** ! Don't waste your time!

PB: Yeah, interesting how it's not lose. **Perdre** is to lose.

Mark: Yeah.

PB: But we do not say that in English.

Mark: Yeah, **perdre**. So j'ai **perdu** quelque chose, I've lost something. **Ne perds pas ton temps** ! Don't lose your time, don't waste your time.

PB: **Rappelle-toi ce qui s'est passé la dernière fois avec Valérie** !

Mark: Now, we've already spoken about this phrase and the way in which you say "remember" in

French; rappelle-toi ce qui s'est passé la dernière fois. Remember what happened last time with Valérie

PB: Tu as tellement attendu avant de faire le premier pas qu'elle t'est passée sous le nez.

Mark: Eh oui ! Tu as tellement attendu; You waited so long avant de faire le premier pas before making the first step, before taking the first step. Although, in this case, I think we would say to make the first step in a relationship you make the first step. So, you waited so long before making the first step, qu'elle t'est passée sous le nez. That, literally, she passed you by, under the nose: qu'elle t'est passée sous le nez.

PB: Ouais, j'aime bien cette expression. You could talk about (something) qui t'est passé sous le nez. Par exemple, j'aurais eu la possibilité de rencontrer une personne célèbre mais ça m'est passé sous le nez.

j'aurais eu
I would have had

Mark: It passed by under your nose. It's actually a little more than that. It's kind of the situation where a child maybe has behaved badly and they were wanting perhaps to have a party or something like that, the party's cancelled. You've blown it! Ça t'est passé sous le nez.

PB: Ouais, la fête, hein, ça t'est passé sous le nez. It's quite funny - maybe I remember from childhood, Mark, you don't have to say the whole expression. You can just say la fête

hmmhmm. And with your index finger from right to left, just under their nose and you go....

Mark: And that is the expression that many parents will use to give their children the indication, actually, it's not happening, nae chance! You've blown it!

PB: That's good. Ça t'est passé sous le nez.

Mark: Très bien. Donc ce n'est pas que la langue que vous apprenez avec Coffee Break French, c'est la langue des gestes aussi.

PB: Ouais, c'est... c'est presque... c'est dans la culture même. Actually, French people use their hands a lot. It's very Latin, isn't it?

la langue des gestes

the language of gestures, sign language

Mark: The other expression I was thinking of was when perhaps someone has had a little too much to drink. There's another expression you make with your hands.

PB: You don't need to say oh ! il est bourré or il est saoul which means...

bourré

drunk (familiar)

Mark: ...he's drunk

saoul or soûl

drunk

PB: You can just look at the person and oh ! regarde - look, with your right hand go against your nose, but don't touch your nose, just in front of your nose and you basically just turn your wrist from right to left but inside.

Mark: So, you're kind of bringing your...

PB: Outside in I should say.

Mark: You're taking your wrist and turning it round, round towards the left and that's the expression to say, *ah ! il est saoul...*

PB: *Ouais, il est saoul.*

Mark: *...il est bourré !*

PB: *Il est bourré.*

Mark: Ok, let's come back to our text because we keep getting carried away. And the final phrase of this paragraph is the following:

Tu ne vas pas te faire avoir encore une fois !

Mark: It's a nice one.

PB: *Se faire avoir.*

Mark: Literally, "to make yourself had", as it were.

PB: To get yourself done.

Mark: Done. To get done or deceived or to get caught.

PB: Yeah, to get caught as well.

Mark: So, *je me suis fait avoir.*

PB: *Oui.*

Mark: I got done, got caught, for example, perhaps, if you've bought something and it isn't quite what you were expecting and you parted with your money and somebody's off with your money, but you're left with the fake Rolex or something like that. *Je me suis fait avoir.*

PB: Je me suis fait avoir. Here in this paragraph it's maybe like you're going to get disappointed again.

Mark: You're not going to get taken in or deceived in that sense.

PB: Actually, here, your heart's going to get broken again.

Mark: Yeah, exactly.

PB: Huh huh, huh huh.

Mark: Tu ne vas pas te faire avoir encore une fois ! Ok, continuons avec le paragraphe suivant.

PB: Oui !

Et puis, franchement, qu'est-ce-que tu as à perdre ? Ce n'est pas comme si elle travaillait avec toi et que tu devais affronter son regard tous les jours au bureau. Alors promets-moi de ne pas attendre et d'aller lui parler le plus rapidement possible. Invite-la au restaurant ou simplement prendre un café si tu préfères, enfin peu importe mais parle-lui dès que tu en as l'occasion ! Et puis surtout, n'oublie pas de m'en parler ! Si je suis ta confidente, je dois être la première au courant !

Mark: Now, I like this again because there are two phrases in the first couple of sentences here

which work exactly as they do in English, and they are actually quite idiomatic. She starts:

PB: Et puis, franchement, qu'est-ce-que tu as à perdre ?

Mark: And frankly, what have you got to lose? There **perdre** can be used with a sense of to lose. What have you got to lose? **qu'est-ce-que tu as à perdre ?**

PB: Ce n'est pas comme si elle travaillait avec toi et que tu devais affronter son regard tous les jours au bureau.

Mark: And then we have another phrase which works exactly as in English; **ce n'est pas comme si**, it's not as if, it's not as if she was working with you, or she worked with you and you had to meet her face, meet her eyes everyday at the office, **affronter**, literally to confront, to confront her look **son regard**.

PB: It's actually a wee bit more than that, Mark because we've got **affronter** and you've got the word **front** in it which is your...?

Mark: ...forehead.

PB: Exactly! So, you're going to have to face something, put up with something.

Mark: Yeah.

PB: I think here, he's going to have to put up with her being there and looking at him and he doesn't think he's going to be able to face...

Mark: Uhuh.

PB: ...this situation.

front (m)
forehead

Mark: Yeah. So the idea of *son regard* is the idea of here looking at him. It's a bit more than just her look as it were.

PB: Yeah.

Mark: So, he's got to face up to this, but in actual fact he doesn't because Gabrielle is saying it's not as if she worked with you and you've got to look at her, looking at you everyday in the office. Let's listen to it one more time.

Ce n'est pas comme si elle travaillait avec toi et que tu devais affronter son regard tous les jours au bureau.

Mark: Ok, so then she goes on in a phrase that we've already talked about:

PB: *Alors promets-moi de ne pas attendre et d'aller lui parler le plus rapidement possible.*

Mark: So, promise me that you won't wait anymore and that you'll go and speak to her as quickly as possible.

PB: I like the *promettre, hein, de faire quelque chose* Mark. It's really nice.

Mark: Absolutely.

PB: *Invite-la au restaurant ou simplement [invite-la à] prendre un café si tu préfères.*

Mark: Invite her to the restaurant or simply invite her to have a coffee *si tu préfères* if you prefer.

PB: Enfin peu importe mais parle-lui dès que tu en as l'occasion !

Mark: Och, anyway, it doesn't really matter, just speak to her as soon as you can, as soon as you get the chance. *Peu importe* that's a good phrase.

PB: Yeah, it's really nice. It can be like passing a judgement on something that's been said.

Mark: Ok.

PB: Ok, so, Mark you may say to me, *alors je pense être là à 4h ou 4h15*. And I may say, *ah ! peu importe !* ie: I don't mind, it's not a problem, don't worry about it.

Mark: ...*peu importe*.

PB: But also it could be *peu importe si tu arrives à 4h ou 4h15*. *Peu importe* and then followed by a whole clause.

Mark: So, it doesn't matter if you arrive at 4 or 4.15, *je serai là*, I'll be there.

PB: *Peu importe* is a great, great, great expression, Mark.

Mark: So, *peu importe mais parle-lui dès que tu en as l'occasion !* So, it doesn't matter, but speak to her as soon as you have the chance.

PB: And also it's kind of as soon as you get that chance. Don't let it drag. Go for it.

Mark: Yeah. Go for it straight away.

PB: And that's maybe why *dès que* is followed by the present there and not the future, Mark.

Mark: I'm thinking here why is that not *dès que tu en auras l'occasion*.

PB: It's the idea of the imminency, as in come on, don't waste time, son!

Mark: As soon as you get the chance go for it.

PB: She could be the girl of your dreams.

Mark: Ok, and Gabrielle goes on:

PB: *Et puis surtout, n'oublie pas de m'en parler !*

Mark: And, of course, don't forget to speak to me about it.

PB: *Oh ! Oublier de* + infinitive, Mark.

Mark: *Absolument ! Oublier de faire quelque chose*, to forget to do something. And she goes on to say that if I am your confidante, if you tell me everything, then I need to be the first to know.

PB: *Si je suis ta confidente, je dois être la première au courant !*

Mark: *Être au courant de quelque chose*, to be in the know. I need to be the first to know; *je dois être la première au courant !*

PB: *Oui. Être au courant, rester au courant.*

Mark: Yeah, to stay in the know.

PB: *Se mettre au courant.*

Mark: Literally, to put yourself in the know.

PB: To keep abreast of.

Mark: To keep abreast of something, of course, *se mettre au courant*. Très bien. Ok, allez, on va continuer avec notre paragraphe suivant.

Bon sinon, pas grand-chose de bien nouveau ici à Rennes. Je suis beaucoup moins stressée que la dernière fois. Le travail s'est calmé. Du coup, j'ai beaucoup plus de temps pour sortir, voir du monde et faire des choses un peu plus intéressantes.

Mark: So, a nice quick paragraph here. She starts:

PB: Bon sinon, pas grand-chose de bien nouveau ici à Rennes.

Mark: So, otherwise, nothing much new here in Rennes.

PB: Je suis beaucoup moins stressée que la dernière fois.

Mark: We're pleased to hear that Gabrielle is much less stressed than last time.

PB: Le travail s'est calmé.

Mark: And this is because work has calmed down a little.

PB: Du coup, j'ai beaucoup plus de temps pour sortir, voir du monde et faire des choses un peu plus intéressantes.

Mark: Du coup is something we've seen before; as a result: du coup, j'ai beaucoup plus de temps pour sortir, I've got lots more time to go out and plus because it's more rather than no more. J'ai beaucoup plus de temps pour sortir, voir du monde and we've seen that du monde before, meaning to see people, et

faire des choses un peu plus intéressantes. The agreement of *intéressantes* there. A straightforward paragraph.

PB: It is indeed, Mark.

Mark: Let's move on to the next one. And this is where she starts her little tourist guide of St Malo. Let's have a listen.

Le week-end dernier avec ma sœur, nous sommes parties en escapade. Comme les prévisions météo avaient l'air plutôt clémentes, nous avons pris la voiture le samedi matin et nous sommes allées à Saint Malo. Nous avons passé la journée à nous balader dans la ville. Nous nous sommes fait plaisir en mangeant dans une crêperie pour le déjeuner. Ensuite, nous sommes allées à la plage. Il faisait assez chaud pour que certaines personnes se baignent ! Pas moi bien sûr, tu me connais: il faut que l'eau soit à 19° minimum pour que je me baigne, mais nous avons quand même mis les pieds dans la Manche !

Mark: Ok, a nice paragraph here and one of the things I like about it is that we have two examples of an expression that we have already seen in a slightly different context than

usual, but we'll get to that in just a moment.

She starts this paragraph:

PB: Le week-end dernier avec ma sœur, nous sommes parties en escapade.

Mark: So, last weekend with my sister we set off on an adventure, we went for an outing.

PB: Comme les prévisions météo avaient l'air plutôt clémentes, nous avons pris la voiture le samedi matin et nous sommes allées à Saint Malo.

Mark: Ah ! très bien. Saint-Malo. Saint-Malo is a coastal town in the north of Brittany.

PB: Well done, Mark. It's a beautiful town. I hope you can go and visit it one day.

Mark: I have to admit I have never been to St Malo , so I must go to St Malo. Ok, she starts comme les prévisions météo avaient l'air plutôt clémentes. So les prévisions météo are the meteorological previsions, the weather forecast seemed quite nice, clémentes, mild...

PB: ...promising.

Mark: Promising

PB: Yeah, clément is the idea of clemency.

Mark: So, let's just think about our agreements there because we are talking about les prévisions météo, so, literally, the previsions, the forecasts and it's plural. So as the weather forecast had the air rather clement, which is kind of a bad translation, but you know where

nous sommes parties

we left, set off

Note the agreement of **parties** as Gabrielle is talking about herself and her sister.

nous sommes allées

we went

As above, note the agreement.

we're going with it, as the weather forecast seemed quite nice...

PB: It looked promising...

Mark: We tend to talk about "inclement" weather and not clement in English.

PB: Ah, I didn't know that word.

Mark: Yeah, inclement. Yes inclement weather. However, this was clement weather so the weather forecast seemed quite nice. Perhaps in more normal French we wouldn't say *les prévisions météo?*

PB: No, Mark. We would shorten it down to *la météo*.

Mark: And of course, in that case *la météo* is singular so we don't have *les prévisions avaient A-I-E-N-T l'air plutôt clémentes E-S* at the end. In that case, we would have..?

PB: *Avait* that would be *A-V-A-I-T*

Mark: So...

PB: In that case *clémentes* would sound the same but the *-s* would disappear.

Mark: So, *comme la météo avait (A-I-T) l'air plutôt clémente - E* at the end of *clémente*. So as the weather forecast was quite nice or looked promising, *nous avons pris la voiture le samedi matin*, we took the car on Saturday morning *et nous sommes allées à Saint Malo*, and we went to St Malo.

PB: *Nous avons passé la journée à nous balader dans la ville*.

Mark: We spent the day wandering around the town.
So, *passer la journée à faire quelque chose*.
We've seen that before. Then she goes on to
say a nice phrase:

Nous nous sommes fait plaisir en mangeant
dans une crêperie pour le déjeuner.

Mark: *Nous nous sommes fait plaisir en mangeant
dans une crêperie pour le déjeuner*. We gave
ourselves a treat by eating in crêperie for our
lunch. Now, I have a question here: *nous nous
sommes fait plaisir ...*

PB: *Ah ah ah !*

Mark: You know where I'm going with this.

PB: Oh! yes.

Mark: So *nous nous sommes fait plaisir*, this *nous
nous sommes* suggests a kind of reflexive
situation, doesn't it?

PB: It does, but remember I think we'd seen
something similar with *nous nous sommes
parlé* and you talk to someone in French and
you *faire plaisir* to someone as it were.

Mark: Ok so *nous nous sommes fait plaisir*. This
means that it is not, in the case of Gabrielle
and her sister *nous nous sommes faites plaisir*.

PB: *Non, non, non.*

Mark: There's no agreement there with that.

PB: There's no agreement there. No. This is very hard. This is very *pointu*.

Mark: *Pointu, tout à fait. Oui, c'est bien difficile ça : nous nous sommes fait plaisir*. And it's the kind of thing, I'm sure, that French people would question that too. *Nous nous sommes faites plaisir* you would hear, but theoretically we're going to be sticklers for the grammatical rules: *nous nous sommes fait plaisir*.

PB: I would say a French person, if he or she hesitated would bring it back to *je* and *je me suis fait plaisir* would be what a male or a female would say.

Mark: Ok so...

PB: *Je me suis fait plaisir*, you would never say *je me suis faite plaisir*. Put that back into *nous, vous, ils* or *elles* and being a plural, then you know that you're not agreeing.

Mark: Ok. Great. *Nous nous sommes fait plaisir en mangeant*, by eating, *dans une crêperie pour le déjeuner*.

PB: *Ensuite, nous sommes allées à la plage. Il faisait assez chaud pour que certaines personnes se baignent!*

Mark: We've actually already talked about this; *Il faisait assez chaud pour que certaines personnes se baignent!* So, then we went to the beach and it was hot enough for some people to go swimming, but not Gabrielle or course!

PB: Pas moi bien sûr, tu me connais: il faut que l'eau soit à 19° minimum pour que je me baigne.

Mark: So not me of course. You know me. The water needs to be 19 degrees minimum for me to go swimming, but...

PB: Mais nous avons quand même mis les pieds dans la Manche !

Mark: But even so, literally, we the our feet in the Channel, la Manche, perhaps better English would be we dipped our toes in the Channel.

PB: Yeah.

Mark: Pourquoi tu rigoles ?

PB: I've got a wee smile on my face because you know Manche has got a capital M and it refers to the...?

Mark: The Channel. The English Channel.

PB: But what I was thinking about here was if it was just manche without being a capital, that would have a different meaning.

Mark: It would indeed. It would mean the sleeve.

PB: I don't know, but the French must be very healthy and very supple!

Mark: ..if they can manage to get their feet into their sleeves.

PB: Yeah, that's it!

Mark: Either that or they are wearing their jumpers in a very strange way.

PB: Ah ah ah !

Mark: Ok, nous allons continuer.

manche (f)
sleeve

Le soir nous avons réservé une chambre dans une chambre d'hôte où les propriétaires étaient très accueillants. Le petit déjeuner était un régal ! Le dimanche matin, nous sommes allées dans le village de Rothéneuf. Il se situe non loin de Saint-Malo et c'est un lieu magique ! En bord de mer, on peut voir des centaines de visages, de formes, de figurines et d'animaux taillés dans la pierre. Je te le recommande fortement si tu n'y es jamais allé, c'est superbe !

Mark: It almost seems that this particular paragraph is sponsored by the Brittany tourist board or something like that. With Gabrielle doing her bit!

PB: Oui.

Mark: She goes on saying:

PB: Le soir nous avons réservé une chambre dans une chambre d'hôte.

Mark: We reserved, we had booked a room in a guesthouse.

PB: Yeah, a guesthouse, où les propriétaires étaient très accueillants.

Mark: Where the owners were very welcoming, accueillir the verb to welcome.

PB: Le petit déjeuner était un régal!

Mark: That's the phrase we talked about in our other episode. Breakfast was a delight. It was fantastic.

PB: Le dimanche matin, nous sommes allées dans le village de Rothéneuf.

Mark: Remember when we're talking in French we don't have to say "on" Sunday morning, you just say "the Sunday morning", le dimanche matin we went to the village of Rothéneuf.

PB: It's quite important what you said, Mark, about le plus the day. It's the same with le week-end. I think we've done that before.

Mark: So, at the weekend, we don't need to say "at" in French.

PB: So, it's not "on", it's "at". What about le matin?

Mark: In the morning.

PB: So you've got the three prepositions in English...

Mark: ...in, at and on...

PB: ... and in French it's only...?

Mark: just the actual article le.

PB: Yeah, it's not even a preposition.

Mark: Le matin, le week-end, le dimanche matin. So, where does Rothéneuf find itself, where is it?

PB: Il se situe non loin de Saint-Malo et c'est un lieu magique !

Mark: So, it's not far from St Malo and it's a magical place.

PB: En bord de mer, on peut voir des centaines de visages, de formes, de figurines et d'animaux

se situer

to be found

taillés dans la pierre.

Mark: We'll put a link on the website for this, I think, because it really is quite amazing. You can see from the sea, *on peut voir des centaines de visages* hundreds of faces of shapes, of figures and animals cut into the rock, *taillés dans la pierre*.

PB: Je te le recommande fortement si tu n'y es jamais allé, c'est superbe !

Mark: So, I thoroughly recommend it to you, if you've never been, *si tu n'y es jamais allé* if you have there never been; *si tu n'y es jamais allé, ou, jamais allé*. We could do the liaison or not there. *C'est superbe !* It's wonderful.

PB: Yeah.

Mark: Ok, final paragraph:

En ce qui concerne Thomas, nous sommes allés boire un verre mercredi dernier. Cela s'est bien passé mais depuis c'est silence radio ! Bon dépêche-toi d'aller accoster cette jeune femme et surtout tiens-moi au courant !!

Mark: Ok, quite a specific instruction there that Gabrielle gives Matthieu. But we'll get to that in just a moment; *en ce qui concerne Thomas* so, she's getting back to Thomas, whom we've spoken about before.

**Site officiel de l'Office de
Tourisme de Saint-Malo**

Visit the Saint-Malo tourist information site at the following address: <http://www.saint-malo-tourisme.com/decouvrir/vous-divertir/musees-et-sites/137731-les-rochers-sculptes>

PB: Nous sommes allés boire un verre mercredi dernier.

Mark: So, they went for a drink on last Wednesday and that's actually quite funny because we don't say "on last Wednesday" in English, we just say "last Wednesday", so that one kind of goes against what we were saying earlier.

PB: However, Mark, I'm getting confused here.

Mark: Oh là là !

PB: Bah ouais how come we don't put **le** before **mercredi**? You've been saying you've got to put **le** before the day. I'm not getting it here?

Mark: I think this is maybe referring to the fact that if we say **le mercredi** that would be on Wednesdays in general **le mercredi**. And since we are referring to **mercredi dernier**...

PB: A specific Wednesday?

Mark: Exactly. Ça va ?

PB: Ah ! d'accord, d'accord, d'accord. So, what would be "next Wednesday", then?

Mark: Ce mercredi.

PB: Or mercredi?

Mark: Qui vient !

PB: Or mercredi? Prochain !

Mark: Prochain ! We got there in the end. Ce mercredi...

PB: Yeah, but you would not use **le**!

Mark: No exactly.

PB: That's good. That's the point.

Mark: Ce mercredi, this Wednesday. Le mercredi qui vient, Wednesday that's coming, literally, or le mercredi prochain. So, how did things go when they went for their drink?

PB: Cela s'est bien passé mais depuis c'est silence radio !

Mark: Oh là là ! Cela s'est bien passé. It went well, but ever since mais depuis we would say ever since or since then, c'est silence radio ! »

PB: I love that expression!

Mark: It's radio silence.

PB: It's like no news at all.

Mark: Indeed.

PB: What do you say in English? What the expression for that?

Mark: Well, actually we can say it's radio silence. It's been radio silence.

PB: Really?

Mark: Yeah, I don't know how commonly that would be used but it definitely means the same thing. Radio silence here. All quiet on the Western Front.

PB: Ah ah ah !

Mark: So, Gabrielle doesn't really go any further with that. Instead she focuses the attention on Sylvie. She says, "come on, hurry up and go and speak to that girl!"

Dépêche-toi d'aller accoster cette jeune femme ...

Mark: And above all, keep me posted! *tiens-moi au courant !!* And that's just come back to the *dépêche-toi d'aller accoster cette jeune femme*. Can I just check it's *dépêche-toi de faire quelque chose*, hurry up and do something, in English?

PB: That's correct. It's *se dépêcher de* + infinitive in French.

Mark: Whereas in English we would really use "hurry up and do something". At least we would certainly say that in the UK. I'm not quite sure whether perhaps in America they would have different uses of that. Hurry up **and** do something.

PB: Yeah , exactly. I like *accoster*.

Mark: *Accoster*. Literally to accost. But here?

PB: She's telling him to go up to that girl and speak to her.

Mark: So the *accoster* is a kind of physical thing he has to go up to her and speak to her, not just speak to her, but go up to her.

PB: That's the meaning of *accoster*.

Mark: It's not as strong as *accoster* in the English sense, "to accost"?

PB: *Non, non*. I think *accoster* the idea of *faire le premier pas* I think it's quite like it. We saw *faire le premier pas* didn't we?

Mark: To make that first step.

PB: So, that's it.

Mark: Ok. Well it's time now to have a listen to the whole text once more in French at normal speed.

Comment vas-tu ? Je viens de finir de lire ton e-mail à l'instant même, mais dis-moi, qu'est-ce que tu attends pour l'inviter à sortir un soir ? Ne perds pas ton temps ! Rappelle-toi ce qui s'est passé la dernière fois avec Valérie ! Tu as tellement attendu avant de faire le premier pas qu'elle t'est passée sous le nez. Tu ne vas pas te faire avoir encore une fois !

Et puis, franchement, qu'est-ce que tu as à perdre ? Ce n'est pas comme si elle travaillait avec toi et que tu devais affronter son regard tous les jours au bureau. Alors promets-moi de ne pas attendre et d'aller lui parler le plus rapidement possible. Invite-la au restaurant ou simplement prendre un café si tu préfères, enfin peu importe mais parle-lui dès que tu en as l'occasion ! Et puis surtout, n'oublie pas de m'en parler ! Si je suis ta confidente, je dois être la première au courant !

Bon sinon, pas grand-chose de bien nouveau ici à Rennes. Je suis beaucoup moins stressée que la dernière fois. Le travail s'est calmé. Du coup, j'ai beaucoup plus de temps pour sortir,

voir du monde et faire des choses un peu plus intéressantes.

Le week-end dernier avec ma sœur, nous sommes parties en escapade. Comme les prévisions météo avaient l'air plutôt clémentes, nous avons pris la voiture le samedi matin et nous sommes allées à Saint Malo. Nous avons passé la journée à nous balader dans la ville. Nous nous sommes fait plaisir en mangeant dans une crêperie pour le déjeuner. Ensuite, nous sommes allées à la plage. Il faisait assez chaud pour que certaines personnes se baignent ! Pas moi bien sûr, tu me connais: il faut que l'eau soit à 19° minimum pour que je me baigne, mais nous avons quand même mis les pieds dans la Manche !

Le soir nous avons réservé une chambre dans une chambre d'hôte où les propriétaires étaient très accueillants. Le petit déjeuner était un régal ! Le dimanche matin, nous sommes allées dans le village de Rothéneuf. Il se situe non loin de Saint-Malo et c'est un lieu magique ! En bord de mer, on peut voir des centaines de visages, de formes, de figurines et d'animaux taillés dans la pierre. Je te le recommande fortement si tu n'y es jamais allé, c'est superbe !

En ce qui concerne Thomas, nous sommes allés boire un verre mercredi dernier. Cela s'est bien passé mais depuis c'est silence radio ! Bon dépêche-toi d'aller accoster cette jeune femme et surtout tiens-moi au courant !!

Mark: Et voilà, encore un texte très intéressant.

PB: Oui. Oui, oui, oui Mark, très intéressant avec de bonnes histoires au passé !

Mark: Oui, exactement. Bon, c'est l'heure de dire au revoir et à bientôt !

PB: À la prochaine !

