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Lesson 18

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Mes compliments au chef!

Restaurant situations

Programme Notes

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

If you have specific questions about the contents of each lesson, why not email us at cbf@radiolingua.com or phone our helpline on 0141 416 2600 (UK) or 408 540 6114 (US), or you can skype *radiolingua*. By recording your question on our voicemail line you may feature on our forthcoming phone-in show, *French Expresso*.

Language Notes

avoir la pêche	to be feeling great	literally "to have the peach"
j'ai la pêche	I'm feeling great	
prêt / prête	ready	note the masculine and feminine forms of this word
végétarien / végétarienne	vegetarian	Females add -ne to the masculine form
végétalien / végétalienne	vegan	Again, note the different forms for masculine and feminine
je suis végétarien(ne)	I am (a) vegetarian	Note the word "a" is not translated, just as with jobs, religions, etc.
je suis végétalien(ne)	I am (a) vegan	
je mange	I eat	
je ne mange pas	I don't eat	
je ne mange pas de frites	I don't eat chips / fries	
je ne mange pas de viande	I don't eat meat	
je ne mange pas de poisson	I don't eat fish	
je ne mange pas de fruits de mer	I don't eat seafood	literally, "fruits of sea"
le porc	pork	
je ne mange pas de porc	I don't eat pork	
je peux ...	I can ...	
je ne peux pas ...	I can't ...	
je peux manger ...	I can eat	
je ne peux pas manger ...	I can't eat	

Language Notes

puer	to smell	
je ne pue pas	"I don't smell"	
je suis allergique à ...	I'm allergic to ...	
je suis allergique aux fruits de mer	I'm allergic to seafood	
je suis allergique aux noix	I'm allergic to nuts	
je suis allergique aux produits laitiers	I'm allergic to dairy products	
c'est froid	It's cold	
excusez-moi, s'il vous plaît, c'est froid	excuse me, please, this is cold	
c'est brûlé	it's burnt	
ce n'est pas cuit	it's not cooked	Remember 'bien cuit'? 'Cuit' means "cooked", so this phrase means "it's not cooked".
c'est délicieux	it's delicious	
ça a été?	"did you enjoy your meal?"	literally, "that has been?"
ça a été délicieux	it was delicious	Note here that this statement answers the question <i>ça a été?</i> using the same tense and construction. However, it is probably more natural in French to say <i>c'était délicieux</i> . This uses a different tense, and is explained further in the bonus podcast for this episode.
mes compliments au chef!	my compliments to the chef!	
nos compliments au chef!	our compliments to the chef!	

Additional vocabulary

je suis allergique à la caféine	I'm allergic to caffeine	Depending on what it is you're allergic to, <i>je suis allergique</i> will be followed by <i>au...</i> , <i>à la...</i> , or <i>aux</i> . Here, <i>caféine</i> is feminine, so it's <i>à la...</i>
je suis allergique aux œufs	I'm allergic to eggs	<i>les œufs</i> are plural, so it's <i>aux</i>
je suis allergique au gluten	I'm allergic to gluten	<i>le gluten</i> is masculine, so use <i>au</i>
je suis diabétique	I'm diabetic	
je peux avoir ... ?	can I have ... ?	
nous pouvons avoir ... ?	can we have ... ?	
une fourchette	a fork	
une cuillère	a spoon	
un couteau	a knife	
un verre	a glass	
une assiette	a plate	