

Coffee Break **French**

Season 4, Episode 39

Language Study



CoffeeBreak
French

SEASON 4

Mark: Salut tout le monde ! Vous êtes de retour avec Pierre-Benoît et Mark, c'est pour, aujourd'hui, notre podcast supplémentaire pour la leçon 39.

PB: C'est donc l'avant-dernier.

Mark: L'avant-dernier !

PB: L'avant-dernier épisode. Oh là là.

Mark: Oh là là ! Donc nous allons écouter le texte, et écouter le premier paragraphe pour commencer.

PB: C'est parti !

l'avant-dernier
the penultimate

Salut Matthieu, Bon tu vas arrêter de me faire languir. Je veux des détails!!! Tous les détails! Dans ton dernier e-mail, tu me parles à peine de Sylvie. Qu'est-ce que cela signifie? Votre dernier rendez-vous s'est-il mal passé? Je n'aime pas ne pas savoir car je me fais des films ! Et puis au fait, n'aie pas peur, je ne vais pas venir chez toi à l'improviste ! Allez, tiens-moi au jus !

Mark: Ok, we've got Gabrielle's text here and our first paragraph begins:

PB: *Salut Matthieu, bon tu vas arrêter de me faire languir.*

Mark: Now, we've already spoken about this in our other episode; *me faire languir*, so *se languir* is to long for something, to languish over something and so are you going to stop making me wait for all these details because:

PB: *Je veux des détails!!!*

Mark: I want the details!

PB: *Tous les détails!*

Mark: All the details!

PB: *Dans ton dernier e-mail, tu me parles à peine de Sylvie. Qu'est-ce que cela signifie? Votre dernier rendez-vous s'est-il mal passé?*

Mark: In your last email, *dans ton dernier e-mail* and just notice the link there, *dernier*, it's a masculine, but it links into *email*. *Dans ton dernier e-mail*. Of course, she could have said *dans ton dernier mail*. Because the word for mail could be mail or email or *courriel* or.

PB: *Courriel, oui.*

Mark: Whatever. *Tu me parles à peine de Sylvie*. You hardly even mention Sylvie. You scarcely talk about Sylvie; *à peine*, hardly, so you hardly talk about Sylvie. *Qu'est-ce que cela signifie?* What does that mean? Did your last date go badly?

Votre dernier rendez-vous s'est-il mal passé?

It's quite tricky the question form there.

PB: Mal se passer ou bien se passer. That's the expression; se passer bien ou se passer mal.

You notice here that the mal is before the passer because it's a question as well.

Mark: And we've also got an inversion in there, so Votre dernier rendez-vous s'est-il mal passé? If it were a statement it would be:

PB: Votre dernier rendez-vous s'est mal passé.

Mark: But when it becomes a question we are using an inversion, but when we use this inversion we have to bring in this additional subject pronoun there, il which doesn't really mean anything. It's just in there to help us form the question, so, Votre dernier rendez-vous s'est-il mal passé?

PB: I suppose it's the same in English if you said "about your date, did it go wrong or did anything about it go wrong?" So, you have to recall the subject, if you want.

Mark: Votre dernier rendez-vous s'est-il mal passé? Or we could swap it round; s'est-il mal passé, votre dernier rendez-vous?

PB: Oui, très très bien.

Mark: Ok, now Gabrielle admits something here.

PB: Je n'aime pas ne pas savoir car je me fais des films !

Mark: Now, we've seen se faire des films before. Je n'aime pas ne pas savoir and that's a good

example of a negative infinitive. We have to put in both the **ne** and the **pas, ne pas savoir**, not to know. **Je n'aime pas ne pas savoir**. I don't like not knowing, I don't like not to know **car je me fais des films**, because I start inventing things. My mind runs away with itself.

PB: Yes, and before we move on Mark, let's not forget that we have there the **ne pas** which is before the infinitive.

Mark: Exactly.

PB: We've got the **ne** before it and the **pas** after.

Mark: Afterwards. But in this case because we are using an infinitive it's **ne pas savoir**.

PB: **Très bien.**

Mark: Could we have another example of that, perhaps a negative infinitive in something like, in a sentence?

PB: **Oui, j'habite en Écosse et je n'aime pas ne pas donner de nouvelles à mon père pendant plus de deux semaines.**

Mark: Well, you live in Scotland and you don't like not giving news to your father, getting in touch with your father for more than two weeks. Ok.

PB: More than two weeks.

Mark: **Ok bon exemple. Donc notre texte continue.**

Et puis au fait, n'aie pas peur, je ne vais pas venir chez toi à l'improviste !

Mark: This is quite interesting because it is a negative command form here. And it's quite irregular; *n'aies pas peur*. It is using the irregular form of the imperative of *avoir*.

PB: *Oui* which is like a subjunctive.

Mark: *N'aie pas peur*. In this case it would be spelt A-I-E.

PB: *Très bien*.

Mark: *N'aie pas peur. N'aie pas peur, je ne vais pas venir chez toi à l'improviste !* Don't worry. I'm going to come to your house, come and visit you unannounced, *à l'improviste, improviste*, literally improvised or something like that, but basically unannounced or uninvited or maybe?

PB: Unexpected.

Mark: Unexpected. *Improviste, à l'improviste*. So, she's not going to turn up unannounced at his house

PB: *Allez, tiens-moi au jus !*

Mark: *Tiens-moi au jus*. A nice expression. Keep me posted.

PB: A nice expression but I think our listeners need to know that I have never used that expression in my life. But hey. *Je ne suis pas la seule référence quand même, heureusement*. I tend to use *tiens-moi au courant, tenir au courant*.

Mark: *Tenir quelqu'un au courant*. To keep someone abreast of things, to keep someone posted.

PB: And you can actually make it reflexive; *se tenir au courant de quelque chose*. You're basically keeping in touch with what's happening, keeping abreast of what's happening.

Mark: Exactly. With *tiens-moi au jus* this is definitely something that is said by some speakers in France. Perhaps it was something that wasn't said by cool, young people when you were cool and young.

PB: No, I do believe there's a difference in terms of register of language. I do believe *tenir au jus* is more spoken French, I would say there.

Mark: And of course, language changes.

PB: *Bien sûr.*

Mark: One of the best things about language.

PB: *L'année prochaine ce sera tiens-moi au thé ou un truc comme ça.*

Mark: *Ok donc on va continuer avec notre deuxième paragraphe.*

Autrement, je suis contente pour ton boulot. Les dossiers sont peut-être un challenge pour toi mais si on te les confie, c'est que l'on te fait confiance. Et ça, c'est une très bonne chose n'est-ce pas ? En plus, un voyage à Dubaï, ce n'est pas donné à tout le monde ! Je sais que ce sera un voyage d'affaires mais quand même, c'est un voyage tous frais payés à plus de 5000kms de Paris. Tu n'auras peut-être pas

une minute à toi mais je suis sûre que tes clients te feront tout de même visiter les meilleurs endroits de la ville. Tiens-moi au courant pour cela aussi!

Mark: D'accord. Encore un paragraphe intéressant.

PB: Oui avec de jolis pronoms dont nous avons déjà parlé la dernière fois.

Mark: Exactement, exactement. Donc elle commence:

PB: Autrement, je suis contente pour ton boulot.

Mark: So, otherwise, or in other news, I am happy for your work. Literally, she's happy that things are going well with his work.

PB: Les dossiers sont peut-être un challenge pour toi mais si on te les confie, c'est que l'on te fait confiance.

Mark: Ok, so another example of changing language here. You probably wouldn't have heard of people talking about un challenge, il y a 20 ans en France?

PB: Non, mais même moi je n'utilise pas beaucoup ce mot, un challenge. Je dis un défi, un...

Mark: Un défi, oui. Parce que le mot défi existe en français donc... Un challenge par contre ça se dit.

PB: On l'utilise.

Mark: So les dossiers, the clients, these new jobs that he's taking on, the projects.

PB: The files, the new files.

Mark: They are perhaps a challenge for you, but *si on te les confie*. Literally, if one of them to you confides, in a sense, gives, grants them, *si on te les confie*.

PB: Or trusts you with them.

Mark: If someone trusts you with them, *c'est que l'on te fait confiance*; it's because one trusts you. *faire confiance à quelqu'un*.

PB: *Oui*.

Mark: To trust someone, *confier quelque chose à quelqu'un*, to trust someone with something.

PB: To give something to someone and know that they are going to be able to deal with it and they know that you can trust them in order to do this thing.

Mark: So, in a sense it's the difference between entrust and to trust in English. So, *confier quelque chose à quelqu'un* would be to entrust something to someone and *faire confiance à quelqu'un* would be to trust someone. *Très bien*.

PB: *C'est pas facile !*

Mark: *Non*. One little thing here, it's...Let's listen to the sentence again. Can you say this again?

PB: *Les dossiers sont peut-être un challenge pour toi mais si on te les confie, c'est que l'on te fait confiance*.

Mark: So, listen again to this part: *si on te les confie, c'est que l'on te fait confiance*. And it's that

whole idea of adding that l'- in there; *c'est que l'on te fait confiance*. As opposed to *c'est qu'on te fait confiance*. However, I can see Pierre-Benoît nodding away here and making funny faces because...

PB: No. it's the evolution of the language. The person is talking, but if you look at the rules you should have the *l'on* with both.

Mark: With the *si* as well. That's exactly what I was going to say!

PB: Both clauses if you want.

Mark: For balance.

PB: Rather than one and the other hasn't got it, or vice versa. And that's the case here. So, either you say *mais si on te les confie, c'est qu'on te fait confiance*, and in that case it would be *Q-U'-O-N*. If you want to be a wee bit, it's not posh, it's just another register of language; *mais si l'on te les confie, c'est que l'on te fait confiance*.

Mark: The balance there if you have both is nice, but it's spoken, so we make mistakes when we speak. It's perfectly natural.

PB: Unless you are making a speech, do not use *L'ON*. I think or else it becomes a bit, people will look at you and go ooooooooooh!

Mark: We don't want to be pretentious when we're speaking in French.

PB: *Surtout pas mon cher Mark.*

Mark: And of course if they are trusting Matthieu with this new client, it must be a good thing.

PB: Et ça, c'est une très bonne chose n'est-ce pas ?
En plus, un voyage à Dubaï, ce n'est pas donné à tout le monde !

Mark: And if you're going on this trip to Dubai, that's not something they'll give to everyone. It's not an opportunity that everyone will get.

PB: Je sais que ce sera un voyage d'affaires mais quand même, c'est un voyage tous frais payés à plus de 5000kms de Paris.

Mark: Gabrielle knows that it is a business trip, un voyage d'affaires mais quand même, c'est un voyage tous frais payés. So, it's an all expenses paid trip à plus de 5000kms de Paris. So, it's more than 5000km from Paris

PB: I love the way you said cinq mille Mark.

Mark: Pourquoi?

PB: Because it's good. You could also say cinq mille .

Mark: Cinq mille.

PB: But I think when French people talk very fast they say cinq (not pronouncing the -q) mille.

Mark: Cinq mille

PB: And I do believe, in me few years of teaching, all the experience I have acquired now, even with young classes, I always try to get them with dix personnes, six personnes, deux ans, douze ans, trois ans, treize ans and I think that is sometimes quite difficult for a learner to get.

Mark: I think the problem with numbers is that we learn numbers so early on and then you kind of forget them, especially when you are confronted with a long number and you're thinking, oh no, I've forgotten all my rules with numbers. Ok, so Gabrielle continues:

PB: Tu n'auras peut-être pas une minute à toi mais je suis sûre que tes clients te feront tout de même visiter les meilleurs endroits de la ville.

Mark: So, you will not have a minute to yourself, mais je suis sûre que tes clients, I'm sure that your customers, your clients, te feront tout de même, they will make you all the same, visiter les meilleurs endroits de la ville, They will make you visit the best places in the town.

PB: Faire + infinitive, ok.

Mark: Yes.

PB: Remember, if it's not an infinitive, if it's an adjective we can't use faire.

Mark: Because we have to use another verb.

PB: Which is?

Mark: Rendre.

PB: Bravo!

Mark: Faire + an infinitive. Rendre + an adjective.
Let's give a quick couple of examples of this.

PB: Par exemple, il y a un programme à la télévision qui me fait pleurer.

Mark: Oui. There's a programme on the television that makes me cry.

PB: Ou j'aurais pu dire: il y a un programme à la télévision qui me rend triste.

Mark: Qui me rend triste, which makes me sad.

PB: Très bien.

Mark: Both times in English we use make, it makes me cry, it makes me sad. In French we've got two separate verbs rendre for adjective, to render someone, in this case, sad, then faire+ the verb, the infinitive, in this case it would be to make someone cry. To make someone smile, to make someone sing or dance or whatever it may be. Right, the final sentence of this paragraph is as follows:

PB: Tiens-moi au courant pour cela aussi!

Mark: So, this time she is saying tiens-moi au courant, keep me posted for that too.

PB: And she could have said:

Mark: Tiens-moi au jus !

PB: Très bien.

Mark: Actually, before we go on, I'm just thinking about tenir quelqu'un au courant or tenir quelqu'un au jus. Is there not some expression with the word jour in it? Something about keeping up-to-date?

PB: Aah! Se mettre à jour. It's reflexive, yes, se mettre à jour.

Mark: So, it's keeping yourself, or getting yourself up-to-date.

PB: Up-to-date, très bien.

Mark: Of course, that's where the computer update would come in too.

PB: *Oui, oui, excellent! Faire une mise à jour.*

Mark: *Mise à jour.*

PB: Yes, so that would be to make sure you are doing updates with the computer. So you keep it on.

Mark: If you were to send someone an update, could you send someone *une mise à jour*?

PB: It doesn't sound right.

Mark: Ok. What word would you use then in that case?

PB: *On fait un petit bilan. C'est ce qu'on dit souvent dans les compagnies.*

Mark: *Un bilan.*

PB: *Faire un bilan, bilan, B-I-L-A-N.*

Mark: *BILAN, donc un bilan.*

PB: *Faire un bilan.*

Mark: It's quite a technical word in a sense.

PB: Yes, it's quite technical. You could use it for a company. For example, if you are doing the accounts, that would be *faire le bilan pour une année, pour cette année 2015.*

Mark: So, it's like your balance sheet, your statement of accounts. But we can use it in other senses as well.

PB: Yes for, *oui pour la santé*, for your health *pour un bilan de santé, faire un bilan de santé ou un examen de santé. Un bilan, un examen* that's more like your?

Mark: Well I wonder if our listeners can work out what this would be. *Un bilan de santé?* It would be a check-up.

PB: Because you are being updated about your health.

Mark: *Très bien, excellent. Donc maintenant nous pouvons continuer avec notre troisième paragraphe. Écoutons-le!*

Je te remercie pour ton soutien. J'ai suivi ton conseil et je te joins le brouillon de ce que je voudrais écrire dans mon profil. C'est assez compliqué en fait car il faut réussir à intéresser et aussi retenir l'attention des gens tout en restant soi-même et sans trop exagérer. Enfin, quand tu as 5 minutes, lis-le et dis-moi ce que tu en penses? Je te l'envoie à toi car tu es de loin la personne qui me connaît le mieux. Surtout n'hésite pas à être honnête ! Vas-y, sois franc! En plus, je t'envoie quelques photos. Lesquelles choisirais-tu ? Et quelles sont celles qui me mettent le plus en valeur ?

Mark: Ok, now there quite a few interesting things in this paragraph.

PB: And they are really quite complex.

Mark: We've already spoken about a few of them, but we'll come back to these anyway. Ok, so Gabrielle begins:

PB: *Je te remercie pour ton soutien.*

Mark: I thank you for your support.

PB: *J'ai suivi ton conseil et je te joins le brouillon de ce que je voudrais écrire dans mon profil.*

Mark: I've followed your advice, *j'ai suivi ton conseil et je te joins le brouillon*. Now that's not normal vocabulary, it's not everyday words here.

PB: *Joindre.*

Mark: *Joindre*, an interesting verb, an interesting conjugation, we'll come back to that in a moment. *Je te joins le brouillon*. She's attaching the draft, *le brouillon* is the draft, the first draft, a first copy if you like, of that which I would like to write in my profile. She's talking here about the dating site. So *je te joins le brouillon*.

PB: I love that word *brouillon*.

Mark: *Brouillon*. It's quite tricky to say.

PB: It takes me back to my childhood when class we used to have *un cahier de brouillon*.

Mark: Yes.

PB: That was basically, you were writing in it, mistakes and whatever, and then you had to transfer everything into the right jotter.

Mark: Was there a, I should explain that "jotter" is a Scottish word. We only use it in Scotland. A

notebook perhaps, an exercise book. Did you not know that?

PB: Non, on en apprend tous les jours et ça c'est bien.

Mark: Donc a jotter, un cahier. So, you had your cahier de brouillon. Was there a name for the other cahier?

PB: C'était un cahier normal, je ne sais plus ce qu'on disait, je ne sais plus j'ai oublié. And if someone is quite brouillon they are messy.

Mark: Ah, ok.

PB: Here it means a draft, or the first shot at it she's had. But you would say the first draft.
Un brouillon.

Mark: Let's just come back to verb joindre, to join.
How would we conjugate this? Vas-y!

PB: Je joins.

Mark: Tu joins.

PB: Il joint.

Mark: Nous joignons.

PB: Vous joignez.

Mark: Ils joignent.

PB: Ils joignent, très bien.

Mark: Ok, so let's think about the spelling here. The je form: JOINS.

PB: Je joins.

Mark: The tu form?

PB: Same thing, tu joins.

Mark: JOINS.

PB: Maybe our listeners will know what happens with **il** or **elle**?

Mark: In that case of course the -S turns to a T, **JOINT**.

PB: **Il** or **elle joint**.

Mark: And then when it comes to the **nous** form we've got **JOIGNONS**.

PB: **Oui, nous joignons**.

Mark: So, we've got a -G that comes in there **JOIGNONS**. J-O-I-G-N-O-N-S. That stays for the **vous** form.

PB: **Vous joignez**.

Mark: And also for the **ils** plural form.

PB: **Ils joignent**.

Mark: And that also therefore means, looking at that **ils** form, that's the form that were are going to take for our subjunctive.

PB: Yes, that will be the stem, **le radical**.

Mark: So, we take off the -E-N-T at the end of **joigne** and that gives us **bien que je joigne le brouillon** and so on. So, J-O-I-G-N-E and the subjunctive goes as you would expect. So coming back to our text, she says **je te joins le brouillon de ce que je voudrais écrire dans mon profil**, I am enclosing the draft of what I would like to write in my profile. Just before we leave **joindre** we can use a slightly different verb, but uses the same conjugation, the same forms and that's **rejoindre**.

PB: Now that's very interesting, Mark with the use of **re** + an infinitive and our listeners are au fait with this because they say **je lis** or **je relis**.

Mark: Of course, if we were doing something again, **rejoindre**, to join again.

PB: But it's got, I would say, a different meaning. It would be like meeting up with someone. Two people are doing some shopping say and they split up and they say **je te rejoins à 5h devant le café**.

Mark: **Ok parfait**. So, I'll meet you at 5 o'clock in front of the café and it's that idea of meeting up with someone again when you're making arrangements. It's not meeting someone for the first time or going to a meeting with someone.

PB: Yes! You've been together, you split up and you get back together again, or else it doesn't work. Use **rejoindre**.

Mark: **Je te rejoins devant le café à 5h**.

PB: **Exactement**.

Mark: Let's continue on with the next sentence in our paragraph.

C'est assez compliqué en fait car il faut réussir à intéresser et aussi retenir l'attention des gens tout en restant soi-même et sans trop exagérer.

Mark: That's a nice sentence there.

PB: Yes.

Mark: Well-constructed, although there is one thing I am slightly confused about. I think you know what it is!

PB: Is it the *à*?

Mark: It's the *à*.

PB: I would have put it in. It goes back to what I was saying earlier. It's spoken.

Mark: It's spoken, so there's a, when we write an email we tend to write as spoken French, although sometimes we try our best to express ourselves well. Ok, let's have a think about this. *C'est assez compliqué en fait*. It's quite complicated in fact, because?

PB: *Il faut réussir à*.

Mark: So, it is necessary to succeed in something.

PB: *Intéresser et aussi retenir l'attention des gens*.

Mark: It is necessary to interest people, keep people's interest *et aussi retenir l'attention* and to keep the attention of people. So it's necessary to both interest people.

PB: Engage them and then keep them interested.

Mark: Engage them and keep them interested. The whole *à* thing we were mentioning there. I kind of felt we needed to say *il faut réussir à intéresser et aussi à retenir l'attention*.

PB: Yes, I think we've seen that before, whereas in English where you would not use the *à* before

the infinitive for the second verb. In French you should use it.

Mark: Now we also have in this sentence a nice expression with **tout en restant soi-même**.

PB: The use of the?

Mark: The gerund.

PB: **Oui et on a vu ça la dernière fois je crois.**

Mark: **Oui exactement. Cette fois-ci c'est avec tout: tout en restant.** And that really reinforces the fact that it's really at the same time. So, not only do you have to engage people and keep their attention, at the same time, **tout en restant soi-même**, you've got to stay being yourself, you've got to continue being yourself and not exaggerate too much.

PB: So, what would be the best translation for **tout** + a gerund here?

Mark: I think it would probably be while, while doing something. So you have to succeed in engaging and keeping peoples' attention, while at the same time remaining yourself and not exaggerating too much. Something like that. Let's continue on.

PB: **Enfin, quand tu as 5 minutes, lis-le et dis-moi ce que tu en penses?**

Mark: So, when you've got five minutes, read it, **lis-le et dis-moi** and tell me what you think.

PB: **Je te l'envoie à toi car tu es de loin la personne qui me connaît le mieux.**

Mark: This is nice. *Je te l'envoie à toi*. So we've got a double there.

PB: *À toi* is actually redundant there. It's there to make a point. I can only send it to you.

Mark: I am choosing to send it to you, straight to you because you are by far the person who knows me the best. You are far and away the person who knows me the best. And let's think about this, if you are not reading the transcription here, *tu es de loin la personne qui me connaît le mieux*. How do you spell *connaît*? PB, how would you spell *connaît*?

PB: It starts with a C-.

Mark: *Bravo*.

PB: C-O-N-N-A-I-T.

Mark: I'm thinking more of the ending.

PB: C-O-N-N-A-I-T.

Mark: And why is it -A-I-T and not A-I-S because we are talking to *tu*.

PB: Because it's *la personne*.

Mark: *Bravo. La personne*.

PB: That's very tricky because we've been hammering the idea of *c'est moi qui + suis* because we've got to agree with *moi*. But it doesn't work this way.

Mark: So, if it had been *parce que c'est toi qui me connais le mieux*.

PB: Then *connais* would have to agree with *toi*, with *tu* so therefore you would have -A-I-S. Is that clear, our dear listeners, yes?

Mark: That is crystal clear, *très bien*. Ok, then she says:

PB: *Surtout n'hésite pas à être honnête!*

Mark: Above all, don't hesitate in being honest.
Don't be afraid to be honest.

PB: *Vas-y, sois franc!*

Mark: I love this! Early we had *n'aie pas peur*, an irregular command form of *avoir*. Here we've got *sois franc*, which is, of course, the irregular command form in the *tu*, the imperative. It's *sois* to be frank. Now she's not telling him to change his name to *Franck*! But here it's *sois franc*. *Franc*, be frank, be honest, be authentic.

PB: *De plus, je t'envoie quelques photos. Lesquelles choisirais-tu ? Et quelles sont celles qui me mettent le plus en valeur ?*

Mark: Of course, we've already spoken about this part, this phrase; *De plus, je t'envoie quelques photos*. And I'm also sending you some photos. *Lesquelles choisirais-tu ?* Which ones would you choose? *Et quelles sont celles qui me mettent le plus en valeur ?* And which are the ones that make me look the best? It's important for a dating site, I'm sure. Ok, let's listen to our final paragraph now.

Ne te fais pas de soucis pour moi, je ne vais pas rencontrer toutes les personnes avec lesquelles je vais parler. Si j'en rencontre

certaines, ce sera dans un lieu public. Tu sais, je suis courageuse mais pas téméraire ! Et puis non, je ne suis pas désespérée au point de me jeter sur le premier venu. Je suis d'accord avec toi, le célibat n'est pas plus mal des fois ! Dès que j'aurai une réponse de ta part sur mon profil, je le mettrai en ligne et on verra bien ce qui se passera. Oh j'allais oublier, j'ai fait des folies cette semaine ! Je me suis acheté un iPad. Je détestais lire mes e-mails sur mon portable, je trouve l'iPad beaucoup plus facile. En plus maintenant, on peut se parler sur Facetime ! A très bientôt. Bises, Gabrielle.

Mark: Now, of course, we should say that there are other tablets available. It doesn't need to be an iPad. We'll just get that out there. So she begins here with another sentence that we've looked at in great detail in our other episode.

PB: *Ne te fais pas de soucis pour moi, je ne vais pas rencontrer toutes les personnes avec lesquelles je vais parler.*

Mark: So, don't worry about me. I'm not going to meet every single person with whom I am going to speak.

PB: *Si j'en rencontre certaines, ce sera dans un lieu public.*

Mark: So **certaines** here. It's a feminine version
certain - certaine because of course we are
talking about?

PB: **Une personne ou les personnes.**

Mark: **Oui, une personne. Toutes les personnes avec
lesquelles je vais parler si j'en rencontre
certaines**, if I of them meet some. So, if I meet
some of them it will be in a public space, out
in the open.

PB: To go back to **personne**. Let's remind our
listeners, although **personne** is feminine, that
person could be male.

Mark: Of course.

PB: **Et ça me fait penser justement, le mot
personne me fait penser à une histoire!**

Mark: **Laquelle?**

PB: **Une des nombreuses histoires que mon père
racontait et raconte encore.**

Mark: **Je t'en prie, vas-y!**

PB: **Voilà donc il y a trois personnes qui font du
vélo.**

Mark: **Oui, ok.**

PB: **L'une est le père du fils de l'autre. Alors donc,
je te demande, parmi ces trois personnes,
enfin pour ces trois personnes, quel est leur
lien de parenté?** We may want to explain this
to our listeners.

Mark: Ok. Just go through the main parts of it
again. **Il y a trois personnes qui font du vélo.**

PB: **Trois personnes qui font du vélo.**

parmi

among

lien (m) de parenté

relation, family relationship

Mark: Three people are on their bikes, they are cycling.

PB: *L'une est le père du fils de l'autre.*

Mark: So, one of them, and *l'une* here is suggesting *une personne*. So, *l'une est le père du fils de l'autre*. One is the father of the son of the other one. What is the family relationship? *Quel est leur lien de parenté?*

PB: *...de parenté?*

Mark: *Alors moi je pense que l'une est le père, l'autre est le fils et l'autre c'est la mère.*

PB: *Très bien, mais ce n'est pas évident en français. C'est moins facile en français.*

Mark: That's the lovely thing about telling jokes in other languages. Sometimes they only work in those other languages. The fact is that the word *personne* being feminine is perhaps confusing. Or, perhaps if you thought about it, though a French person wouldn't think about it. They would just think the *l'une* is referring to the *une personne*. If you thought about it, perhaps it could give you a clue as to the fact that one of them is the mother. Otherwise I was thinking initially, is it the grandfather?

PB: I know. Exactly. People say that usually. The grandson, the father and the grandfather.

Mark: Let's hear the whole thing again.

PB: *Trois personnes font du vélo. L'une est le père du fils de l'autre. Quel est leur lien de parenté?*

Mark: So, you can test out your fellow French speakers with that little riddle in the coming weeks. Ok, let's come back to our text. And Gabrielle continues with a lovely expression:

PB: *Tu sais, je suis courageuse mais pas téméraire !*

Mark: So, I'm courageous, I'm brave

PB: Yes.

Mark: But I am not that brave. I'm not going to make a fool of myself.

PB: It comes from, you've got the same word in English. Am I right?

Mark: We've got temerity in English. That's maybe a different sense here. A slightly different sense, or a sense that's taken it on a little, in the sense that he had the temerity to say to me, the audacity.

PB: The cheek.

Mark: The cheek. But here we're looking at, I maybe be brave, but I'm not reckless. I may be brave, but I'm not daft.

PB: In French, temerity has got that same connotation of audacity or cheek.

Mark: Ok, so Gabrielle goes on:

PB: *Et puis non, je ne suis pas désespérée au point de me jeter sur le premier venu.*

Mark: And I am not desperate to the extent that I would throw myself on the first person who came along.

PB: Yes, I love that expression, Mark, **au point de** + an infinitive.

Mark: Can you give us another example of it?

PB: **J'aime faire des activités sportives et physiques mais pas au point de passer des heures dans une salle de muscu.**

Mark: Ok, I like keeping myself fit, but not to the extent of spending, and again we're translating and infinitive with a gerund in English, of spending hours in the gym. Ok, let's continue on:

PB: **Je suis d'accord avec toi, le célibat n'est pas plus mal des fois !**

Mark: I agree with you; **Je suis d'accord avec toi, le célibat**, here, would be being single, **n'est pas plus mal des fois !**

PB: Is not that bad.

Mark: Is not bad. It's not bad enough to make her want to do that. Ok, so as soon as she gets a response from Matthieu, she will update her profile.

PB: **Dès que j'aurai une réponse de ta part sur mon profil, je le mettrai en ligne et on verra bien ce qui se passera.**

Mark: Some nice future tenses here; **Dès que j'aurai une réponse**. As soon as I will have, it's that idea of **quand j'aurai**, a future tense. So as soon as I've got a response from you about my profile, **je le mettrai en ligne**, I'll put it up

online *et on verra bien ce qui se passera* and
we'll see what happens.

PB: *Que sera sera.*

Mark: Exactly! So the next phrase we've already
heard:

PB: *Oh j'allais oublier, j'ai fait des folies cette
semaine ! Je me suis acheté un iPad.*

Mark: And so she's treated herself this week to an
iPad. She's bought herself an iPad and
therefore *je me suis acheté* does not have an
agreement. *Je me suis acheté un iPad*. The *me*
is indirect there and that's why there is no
agreement on *acheté*. And she goes on to
explain why she bought an iPad:

PB: *Je détestais lire mes e-mails sur mon portable,
je trouve l'iPad beaucoup plus facile.*

Mark: So, I hated reading my emails on my phone,
my mobile phone. I find the iPad much easier.

PB: *En plus maintenant, on peut se parler sur
Facetime !*

Mark: And we can talk to each other on Facetime.
We can keep in touch on FaceTime.

PB: *À très bientôt. Bises, Gabrielle.*

Mark: *Et voilà, encore un texte très intéressant.*

PB: *Oui avec des expressions que, j'espère, nos
auditeurs réutiliseront.*

Mark: *Tout à fait. Et beaucoup de pronoms cette
semaine.*

PB: *Oui, oui, oui.*

Mark: Très bien. Donc c'est tout pour cet épisode de
Coffee Break French.

PB: Alors à la prochaine!

Mark: Merci beaucoup et à plus!

PB: Au revoir!



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