

Coffee Break **French**

Season 4, Episode 28

Language Study



CoffeeBreak
French

SEASON 4

Mark: **Re-bonjour tout le monde et bienvenue à Coffee Break French.** This is your Language Study episode for Lesson 28, in which, of course, we are going to go through the text in great detail, telling you lots of interesting things about the language, included in this.

C'est vrai Pierre-Benoît?

PB: **Oui tout à fait Mark, tu as raison.**

Mark: **Allez, c'est parti!**

Paragraphe numéro un.

Salut Gabrielle ! Bien sûr que c'est trop tôt, cela ne fait même pas un mois que vous vous voyez et tu déménages avec lui. Attention Gabrielle, j'ai peur que tu fonces droit dans le mur. Tu sais, ce n'est ni de la jalousie ni parce que je ne l'apprécie pas mais plutôt car je m'inquiète pour toi. Comme je t'ai déjà dit je crains qu'il te fasse du mal. Je ne veux pas te voir souffrir à nouveau. Je sais que ce qui s'est passé entre vous est très fort mais je trouve que tu as tourné la page beaucoup trop vite. Souviens-toi dans quel état tu étais

quand tu t'es rendu compte qu'il te
trompait? Rappelle-toi comme tu es tombée
de haut. Veux-tu vraiment repasser par là?

Mark: Voilà donc un paragraphe intéressant, avec
Matthieu qui parle très doucement pour que
tout le monde comprenne. Pour que tout le
monde comprenne parce que ce paragraphe,
et en fait tout ce texte, est riche en subjonctif.

doucement

slowly, softly

**pour que tout le monde
comprenne**

so that everyone understands

PB: Oui c'est vrai, il y en a deux ou trois que nous
allons regarder ensemble.

Mark: Tout à fait. Donc il commence:

PB: Salut Gabrielle ! Bien sûr que c'est trop tôt,
cela ne fait même pas un mois que vous vous
voyez et tu déménages avec lui.

Mark: So, bien sûr que c'est trop tôt . Of course it's
too early! Cela ne fait même pas un mois que
vous vous voyez. It's not even been a month
since you have been seeing each other. Listen
again to those tenses there.

PB: Cela ne fait même pas un mois que vous vous
voyez.

Mark: So, everything in the present tense in French,
but in English, of course, we have to be
thinking in the past. You've not even been
seeing each other for a month, cela ne fait
même pas un mois que vous vous voyez and
notice also the vous vous voyez. It's reciprocal,

you're seeing each other. *Et tu déménages avec lui*, and you're moving in with him.

PB: *Attention Gabrielle, j'ai peur que tu fonces droit dans le mur.*

Mark: So we've spoken about this already in our other episode. Be careful Gabrielle! You're heading for, or I'm scared or I'm worried that you're heading for disaster. That you're going to fall flat on your face perhaps.

PB: *Exactement! Tu sais, ce n'est ni de la jalousie ni parce que je ne l'apprécie pas mais plutôt car je m'inquiète pour toi.*

Mark: A lovely *ni... ni* here. *Ce n'est ni de la jalousie*, it's neither, though we would use not in English; it's not jealousy, nor is it because I don't like him, *je ne l'apprécie pas*. *Apprécier quelqu'un*, to like or literally, to appreciate someone. We've seen that before, *apprécier quelqu'un*. *Tu sais, ce n'est ni de la jalousie ni parce que je ne l'apprécie pas mais plutôt car je m'inquiète pour toi*, but rather because I am worried about you. *Je m'inquiète...*

PB: I care for you.

Mark: *Je m'inquiète pour toi.*

PB: *Comme je t'ai déjà dit je crains qu'il te fasse du mal.*

Mark: And, again, we've heard this one before. As I've already told you *je crains qu'il te fasse du mal*, I'm scared that he hurts you.

PB: *Je ne veux pas te voir souffrir à nouveau.*

Mark: I don't want to see you suffer again. *Je ne veux pas te voir souffrir à nouveau.* So, I don't want to see you + an infinitive, *souffrir à nouveau*, once more. I don't want to see you suffer again.

PB: *Je sais que ce qui s'est passé entre vous est très fort mais je trouve que tu as tourné la page beaucoup trop vite.*

Mark: So, this is straightforward enough here. *Je sais que*, I know that; *ce qui s'est passé entre vous* that which happened between you. So, I know that what happened between you, *est très fort* is very strong, it's very powerful. *Mais je trouve que tu as tourné la page beaucoup trop vite.* But I think that you have, literally, turned the page, much too quickly. Now, *tourner la page*, here could be moving on.

PB: Yes.

Mark: If she were moving on to another relationship. But that's not the case here. She's actually moving back to the earlier relationship; *que tu as tourné la page beaucoup trop vite.* I think that you have put that behind you too quickly.

PB: Exactly, like turning a blind eye and saying let's forget this and move on.

Mark: Moving on from whatever went on in the past.

PB: The next stage of the relationship.

Mark: Yes and then Matthieu goes on:

Souviens-toi dans quel état tu étais quand tu t'es rendu compte qu'il te trompait?

Mark: So, *souviens-toi* do you remember, *dans quel état tu étais*, in which state you were, *quand tu t'es rendu compte*, when you realised, *qu'il te trompait?* that he was cheating on you?
Tromper quelqu'un is to cheat on someone.

PB: *Se tromper* is different.

Mark: *Se tromper* is indeed different. It is to make a mistake. And it is not to be confused with *se tremper*, which means to get wet.

PB: *Ah non!* Sorry for my reaction, Mark, but where are you going with this?!

Mark: Nowhere. I'm just saying that *se tromper*, T-R-O-M-P-E-R and *se tremper* obviously do sound different, but when you're a learner, it's sometimes the case that you get mixed up with words that sound similar.

PB: I suppose this is a very good point Mark and I see your point. When you think for French learners, or for French people who are learning English *live* and *to leave*, usually they struggle with that.

Mark: Ok.

PB: You know, I leave on Tuesday and I live in Prestwick. It's the same. I live and I leave.

Mark: *Se tremper* and *se tromper*.

PB: It's a very good point: *tromper, tremper, tremper, tromper*.

Mark: But coming back here we're talking about **tromper quelqu'un** which means to cheat on someone. So, let's go back and talk a little more about this sentence because there are actually a few interesting things in here. First of all, I would think that one of the most important things is the whole **se rendre compte**.

PB: **Oh ça c'est difficile.**

Mark: **C'est bien difficile surtout au passé.**

PB: Ok. We all know that **se rendre compte** means to...?

Mark: To realise.

PB: To realise. Ok, or to take into account something. But in the past, because it has got the verb **être** you would think that you would have to ...?

Mark: Agree.

PB: But what's happening here, Mark?

Mark: Well, the **compte** actually becomes the indirect object because here we're saying **se rendre compte** to yourself. You're rendering account to yourself, and therefore it's an indirect expression. It's similar to **se parler**: **elles se sont parlé**.

PB: E acute.

Mark: No -ES at the end there. They spoke to the girls. They spoke to each other; **elles se sont parlé**. No agreement. It's exactly the same here; **quand tu t'es rendu compte**. There's no -

E in the **rendu** even though Matthieu is speaking to Gabrielle; **quand tu t'es rendu compte qu'il te trompait** because of that indirect nature of this. However, if we're thinking about the verb **se rendre**.

PB: That's different.

Mark: It is different. Here we're not talking about **se rendre compte** with our indirect object, but **se rendre** because it is a beautiful verb that means the same as **aller**.

PB: To get somewhere, to go somewhere. So, **je me suis rendu à Glasgow le week-end dernier**. If I were a woman saying that **rendu** would have the -E at the end.

Mark: Because the object of that **se rendre** is yourself. In this case, I would say **je me suis rendu, je me suis rendu à Glasgow**. But, if we're talking about Sylvie, **elle s'est rendue à Epinal**.

PB: You put the -E at the end.

Mark: So, I hope you understand the difference there between **se rendre compte**, which in the perfect tense does not have an agreement and **se rendre** which does have an agreement. **Se rendre** does have an agreement.

PB: And I think our listeners need to know that a lot of French people would make that mistake, would put an -S in there.

Mark: An S in there. So, don't worry if you were wondering about that whether there should be an -S in there. In this case there is no -S.

PB: Even if it looks a wee bit funny.

Mark: Let's think also about the way in which this phrase is constructed. Let's listen again to the whole thing.

PB: Souviens-toi dans quel état tu étais quand tu t'es rendu compte qu'il te trompait?

Mark: Now. I would suggest here that this is probably, again, quite spoken French. It's a spoken construction.

PB: Yes, there would be a better one. I think you could actually say, souviens-toi de l'état dans lequel tu étais. That's nice!

Mark: Souviens-toi de l'état dans lequel tu étais. So, do you remember the state in which you were; L'état dans lequel tu étais. Souviens-toi de l'état dans lequel tu étais quand tu t'es rendu compte qu'il te trompait?

PB: Super.

Mark: OK now all of that just from one phrase. Let's go on and look at the next one. Perhaps it's as rich too.

PB: Rappelle-toi comme tu es tombée de haut.

Mark: Intéressant parce qu'ici on utilise le verbe "tomber" qui est aussi un verbe qui doit s'accorder au passé.

PB: Rappelle-toi comme tu es tombée de haut.

Mark: So, a literal translation here would be

s'accorder
to agree

remember how you have fallen from a height, from on high. There must be a better way of saying that in English though.

PB: How you hit rock bottom.

Mark: Excellent! How you hit rock bottom. It's interesting there how the English expression is focussing on the landing, but the French maybe focuses more on the descent.

PB: The descent. It looks more on the end of the action.

Mark: So the final sentence here is...?

PB: [Veux-tu vraiment repasser par là?](#)

Mark: So, do you really want to revisit that whole thing again? Do you really want to go through all that again?

PB: [Très bien.](#)

Mark: Literally, do you want to pass by that again? [repasser par là?](#) OK, let's have a listen to our second paragraph.

PB: [C'est parti!](#)

S'il te plaît, réfléchis encore un peu avant qu'il ne soit trop tard et que tu le regrettes.

Comment arrives-tu à lui refaire confiance aussi rapidement ? Enfin je ne suis pas là pour te juger mais plutôt pour te soutenir. Peu importe ce qui se passe entre vous, je serai toujours là, à tes cotés. Tu peux compter sur moi. Promets-moi juste d'être prudente.

Mark: OK. Now there are a couple of phrases in here that we have already discussed in our previous episode and there's lots in those phrases, so we'll get through this paragraph quite quickly, I think.

PB: *S'il te plaît, réfléchis encore un peu avant qu'il ne soit trop tard.*

Mark: Please, reflect again a little, before it is too late.

PB: *Et que tu le regrettes.*

Mark: And before you regret it. Now, of course, we've already spoken about that *avant que +* the *ne* and the fact that the second one is missed out, but we'll let him go this time.

PB: This is why I split them.

Mark: And he goes on:

PB: *Comment arrives-tu à lui refaire confiance aussi rapidement ?*

Mark: How do you manage to trust him again so quickly? It's interesting there because the again is in the *refaire*. But the *faire confiance* is to trust. So, how do you manage to trust him again so quickly?

PB: And I like the *arrives-tu* as well.

Mark: Yes. To succeed or to manage to do something.

PB: To manage to do something is *arriver à +* infinitive.

Mark: So, he goes on:

PB: *Enfin je ne suis pas là pour te juger mais plutôt pour te soutenir.*

Mark: At the end of the day I'm not here to judge you, but rather to support you.

PB: *Peu importe ce qui se passe entre vous, je serai toujours là, à tes côtés.*

Mark: It doesn't matter what happens between both of you. I will always be there, by your side.

PB: *Oh la la! mais c'est vraiment du roman à l'eau de rose Mark.*

roman (m) à l'eau de rose
romantic novel

Mark: It is indeed Mark. It's like one of these romantic novels, with lots of flowery, romantic language. It doesn't matter what happens between you two. I will always be there by your side. He goes on:

PB: *Tu peux compter sur moi.*

Mark: You can count on me.

PB: *Promets-moi juste d'être prudente.*

Mark: Just promise me that you'll be careful; *promets-moi juste d'être prudente.* Interesting because *promets-moi*, promise me, *juste* just promise me, *d'être...*

PB: *...de + infinitive.*

Mark: So *promets-moi de venir demain*, promise me that you'll come tomorrow.

PB: *Promets-moi de me téléphoner.*

Mark: Promise me that you'll call me.

PB: *Et c'est parti pour le troisième paragraphe.*

Mark: And hopefully this will be a little less romantic.

Sinon, pour changer de sujet, je dois te dire que Sylvie m'a envoyé un SMS vendredi soir

pour me demander si j'étais toujours d'accord pour notre rendez-vous le week-end prochain. Ne t'inquiète pas, je lui ai répondu dans l'heure qui a suivi ! J'ai beaucoup appris de mes erreurs, je ne compte pas les faire une deuxième fois ! Nous nous retrouverons donc samedi, devant la station de métro, à 11h. Il me tarde vraiment d'être à samedi pour la connaître un peu mieux. Merci beaucoup pour ta proposition de balade. Je l'adore ! Je ne connais pas trop le Quartier Latin mais un de mes collègues m'en parle sans arrêt. Ceci me donne bien envie de le découvrir un peu mieux. Tu as aussi raison, c'est plus attirant que d'aller voir les monuments de Paris.

Mark: So, thankfully, Matthieu is changing the subject here.

PB: Sinon, pour changer de sujet, je dois te dire que Sylvie m'a envoyé un SMS vendredi soir pour me demander si j'étais toujours d'accord pour notre rendez-vous le week-end prochain.

Mark: That's quite a long sentence. Let's split it up a little. So, otherwise, pour changer de sujet, to change the subject, je dois te dire que Sylvie m'a envoyé un SMS vendredi soir, I have to tell you that Sylvie sent me an SMS, a text message, vendredi soir, on Friday evening, pour me demander, in order to ask me.

PB: Yes, **demander** does not mean to demand.

Mark: Indeed and it's **demander à quelqu'un de faire quelque chose**, as we know, **pour me demander si j'étais toujours d'accord**, if I was still ok, **pour notre rendez-vous le week-end prochain**, if I was still ok for our date or meeting next weekend. So, although it's quite a long sentence, it does all make sense. Now, Matthieu goes on:

Ne t'inquiète pas, je lui ai répondu dans l'heure qui a suivi !

Mark: I think this is nice!

PB: Nice, **qui a suivi**. I like that!

Mark: So, **ne t'inquiète pas**, don't worry; **je lui ai répondu**, I answered her, **je lui ai répondu**.

PB: And **répondre** in French is different from **répondre** in English. Because in French **répondre** is...?

Mark: Well we say **répondre à quelqu'un** so it must be indirect.

PB: **Bravo! Oui très bien.**

Mark: But in English we've got to answer someone. It's direct. So, **je lui ai répondu**, I answered her; **dans l'heure qui a suivi!**

PB: That's nice!

Mark: We understand what it means. It means in the hour which has followed. Or in the hour which

followed. But, of course a better translation in English would be, Pierre-Benoît?

PB: Within the hour, Mark.

Mark: Within the hour, *dans l'heure qui a suivi!*
Within the hour.

PB: *C'est amusant parce que moi je pensais qu'il aurait dit: dans la minute qui a suivi, dans la seconde qui a suivi! Mais non: dans l'heure qui a suivi !*

Mark: *Oui tu as raison. C'est vrai, si on est amoureux il faut le montrer n'est-ce pas?*

PB: *Exactement. Ou alors il joue à un double jeu...*

Mark: *Oui, peut-être qu'il ne voulait pas paraître trop désespéré.*

PB: *Oui c'est ça. Il ne voulait pas que ce soit trop facile.*

Mark: *Il voulait être cool.*

PB: *Voilà c'est ça.*

Mark: *OK donc il a répondu à Sylvie dans l'heure qui a suivi. Bravo. Il continue:*

PB: *J'ai beaucoup appris de mes erreurs, je ne compte pas les faire une deuxième fois!*

Mark: So, I think here he's probably getting a little bit of a dig in at Gabrielle. He's saying, I have learned from my mistakes. I am not going to make them a second time. So, perhaps on a previous occasion he's let too much time go by before getting back to someone. I don't know. We'll never know I guess. But he's certainly making the point here with Gabrielle.

jouer à un double jeu

to be playing a double game

désespéré(e)

desperate

PB: Or is it, Mark, that he didn't give enough time?

Mark: Perhaps he appeared too keen in the past by responding *dans la minute qui a suivi*.

PB: *Exactement! Et maintenant il prend une heure. Je crois que c'est ça plutôt.*

Mark: *On se moque un petit peu de Matthieu cette fois-ci.*

se moquer de qn
to make fun of someone

PB: *Oui c'est bien.*

Mark: *Désolé Matthieu. On va continuer quand même.*

PB: *Nous nous retrouverons donc samedi, devant la station de métro, à 11h.*

Mark: So, they are going to meet up on Saturday in front of the Métro station at 11 o'clock.

PB: *Il me tarde vraiment d'être à samedi pour la connaître un peu mieux.*

Mark: He can't wait for Saturday and to get to know her a bit better.

PB: We've seen that expression many times, *tarder. Il me tarde.*

Mark: *Et oui!*

PB: *Merci beaucoup pour ta proposition de balade. Je l'adore!*

Mark: We remember that Gabrielle made a suggestion as far as the walk that they are going to do, Sylvie and Matthieu in Paris and he loves this suggestion.

PB: *Je ne connais pas trop le Quartier Latin mais un de mes collègues m'en parle sans arrêt.*

Mark: Matthieu doesn't know the [Quartier Latin](#) particularly well, but one of his colleagues speaks to him about it all the time.

PB: [Sans arrêt](#).

Mark: [Sans arrêt](#), without stopping.

PB: Yeah, it's lovely, without cease, or whatever.

Mark: Just talking about [arrêt](#) and when you sometimes see the sign [arrêt](#) when you're driving.

PB: It's a stop.

Mark: You also see the sign *stop* from time to time. I discovered the other day, that in Paris, there is only one stop sign in the whole of the city of Paris.

PB: Wow. [Arrête!](#)

Mark: A little bit of completely useless information there! Ok, so let's get back to this. [Un de mes collègues m'en parle sans arrêt](#).

PB: Hold on there - how would you translate in English [arrête](#) the way I used it there?

Mark: Stop! Stop it!

PB: You need the it. Good.

Mark: Let's get back to this, We're getting too carried away here. He goes on to say:

PB: [Ceci me donne bien envie de le découvrir un peu mieux](#).

Mark: So, the fact that one of his colleagues never stops talking about it or never shuts up about the [Quartier Latin](#) gives him a desire to discover it a bit better.

PB: He's very keen.

Mark: It makes him want to discover the [Quartier Latin](#) more.

PB: [Tu as aussi raison, c'est plus attirant que d'aller voir les monuments de Paris.](#)

Mark: So, you're also right. It more attractive, more interesting than going to see the monuments of Paris. Ok, it's time for our final paragraph.

Je viens de regarder sur Internet pour voir si je trouvais un petit café ou restaurant très tendance en ce moment. Je trouve que cela pourrait être sympa de discuter autour d'un verre. J'ai trouvé un café branché sur l'île Saint Louis. De plus, il est près du glacier Berthille, un glacier très réputé dans le coin donc on pourrait savourer une petite glace en terrasse du café si le temps le permet bien sûr ! Je vais en parler avec mon collègue demain et voir si il peut me conseiller un petit resto, au cas où on veut y prolonger la journée ! Je t'enverrai un message dès le dimanche matin pour te tenir au courant. Bonne semaine. Bises, Matthieu

PB: Oooh nice! Nice expressions, Mark in this final paragraph.

Mark: Some very nice expressions for places that are cool or switched on, popular. We'll get to

them. Let's listen to that first sentence once more.

Je viens de regarder sur Internet pour voir si je trouvais un petit café ou restaurant très tendance en ce moment.

Mark: So, he's already looked on the internet to see if he can find a little restaurant or café. And then he uses the first of these nice expressions.

PB: Très tendance en ce moment.

Mark: So, even if we don't know what this means, we can probably work it out. Très tendance.

PB: Well, let's have an example, un café très tendance, un film très tendance ou même un cinéma très tendance, the people would have a tendency to go to a place, so I think we could work it out there.

Mark: So, there's a tendency to go somewhere, meaning that it's a popular place. It's very à la mode at the moment. We might even use the French expression!

PB: Another one we might use; it's actually an English expression, c'est très in.

Mark: En français on dit: "c'est très in"?

PB: Oui c'est très in!

Mark: A café or a restaurant is very "in" at the moment. Ok, so he goes on:

PB: Je trouve que cela pourrait être sympa de discuter autour d'un verre.

Mark: So, I think it could be nice to have a chat with a glass, with a drink, over a drink, **autour d'un verre**.

PB: Over a drink is very good, yes. **J'ai trouvé un café branché sur l'île Saint Louis**.

Mark: So another nice word here for popular. Although it's switched on, it's turned on, it's cool, it's happening. I probably sound very untrendy when I say it's a happening café.

PB: **Branché** here, would that mean that all the young people tend to go there?

Mark: The kind of cool types go there. I found a really cool café on the **île Saint Louis**. One thing that's worth saying just when we're talking about cool cafés and places that are very in, yes, trendy. Obviously these words are kind of time-dependent. Words go out of fashion, just like fashions go out of fashion very, very quickly. So while we are using words and expressions here, if you are listening to this five years, ten years, fifteen years down the line then you never know, maybe we'll sound like two old-fashioned old men using trendy words of the time.

PB: This is a very, very good point, Mark, because the expression **être in** like I used earlier is something I used all the time. I think it's a bit **dépassé**, or even just **passé**. Whereas **tendance**, is kind of new.

Mark: And also when something is **branché** that is theoretically quite time-independent. So just keep that in mind when you are learning any kind of cool colloquial phrases then they are probably going to date quite quickly. Let's go on because the next part is where he is talking about a **glacier**, an ice cream maker.

PB: **De plus, il est près du glacier Berthille, un glacier très réputé dans le coin.**

Mark: So... furthermore, **de plus, il est près du glacier Berthille** the café that he's found is near the **glacier Berthille**, which is a very well known **glacier**, ice cream maker in the area.

PB: Yes, Mark. We have a here a final word to mean trendy and in. It's **réputé**.

Mark: So, we would know the word in English, reputation. Reputation in English can have a slightly negative sense, because we tend to talk slightly more about a bad reputation.

PB: **Une mauvaise réputation, une bonne réputation.**

Mark: This **glacier** that they are talking talking about has a particularly good reputation. It's very known, or there's another word in English...?

PB: Renowned.

Mark: Yes, so it's a renowned ice cream maker in the area.

Berthille

This fictitious ice-cream we've used in the story is actually referring to **la Maison Berthillon**. There are, of course, other ice cream makers in Paris!

On pourrait savourer une petite glace en
terrasse du café si le temps le permet bien
sûr !

Mark: So, they could enjoy, they could savour a little
ice cream on the terrace of the café, *si le
temps le permet bien sûr!* So, we've got two *le*
in here. Let's listen carefully to it.

PB: *Si le temps le permet bien sûr!*

Mark: If time allows, but in French you have to say if
time allows it. *Si le temps le permet.* Matthieu
goes on:

PB: *Je vais en parler avec mon collègue demain et
voir si il peut me conseiller un petit resto, au
cas où on veut y prolonger la journée !*

Mark: So, I'm going to speak to my colleague
tomorrow and and see if he can advise me or
suggest to me a little restaurant if we want to
extend our day there. And we've already
spoken about that sentence. He finishes off by
saying:

PB: *Je t'enverrai un message dès le dimanche
matin pour te tenir au courant.*

Mark: So, as soon as the date is over on Sunday
morning he will send Gabrielle a message to
keep her abreast of things, to keep her up-to-
date with things.

PB: *Bonne semaine. Bises, Matthieu*

Mark: *Et voilà, il finit son mail de cette semaine.*

PB: Et il l'a fini dans l'heure qui a suivi ou dans la minute qui a suivi... on ne sait plus.

Mark: Je n'en sais rien! Bon c'est tout pour aujourd'hui, merci beaucoup.

PB: Merci à toi Mark, merci à nos auditeurs qui nous ont écouté.

Mark: Tout à fait. Allez, salut!

PB: Au revoir!

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.



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