

Coffee Break **French**

Season 4, Episode 18

Language Study



CoffeeBreak
French

SEASON 4

Mark: Bonjour à tous et à toutes et bienvenue à
Coffee Break French !

PB: Bonjour ! J'espère que tout le monde va bien.

Mark: Tout à fait. Donc on va continuer directement
avec notre premier paragraphe du texte de
cette semaine. Allez, c'est parti.

Salut Maman, Comment allez-vous tous les
trois ? Bon, je me dépêche de te répondre car
j'ai une bonne nouvelle. Je t'avais dit que nous
avons le lundi 20 mai de férié pour la
Pentecôte. De plus, j'ai demandé à mon chef
et j'ai le droit à des RTT, encore un sacré
avantage de la boîte ! On ne me l'avait pas
précisé avant mais je peux avoir un vendredi
après-midi de récupération tous les quinze
jours. Donc, j'ai deux jours à récupérer depuis
que j'ai commencé. J'ai aussi droit à ce
vendredi après-midi. De ce fait, j'ai posé mon
mardi. J'arriverai donc vendredi en fin d'après-
midi et je repartirai mardi dans l'après-midi.

Mark: Il faut dire que Sylvie aime bien ces détails.

PB: Oui.

Mark: Dans le deuxième paragraphe nous allons voir ça encore plus.

PB: Elle est vraiment précise, hein ?

Mark: Donc elle commence avec comment allez-vous tous les trois ? How are you, all three of you? tous les trois. How are you, how are all of you, in a sense? Tous les quatre, tous les cinq, tous les huit, tous les cent...

PB: Oui.

Mark: Just all hundred of you, all ten of you; tous les plus the number. She goes on...

PB: Bon, je me dépêche de te répondre car j'ai une bonne nouvelle.

Mark: Of course, we've already spoken about this. Se, dépêcher de faire quelque chose. So, to hurry up to do something, she's getting straight to the point here, je me dépêche de te répondre car j'ai une bonne nouvelle. She wants to share her good news already.

PB: Je t'avais dit que nous avions le lundi 20 mai de férié pour la Pentecôte.

Mark: So, here she's starting her precise explanation of what's happening with her time off, which I suppose any daughter would do, writing an email to her mother about the arrangements. So, that's absolutely okay. She's using a pluperfect tense here of course, je t'avais dit que

un jour de férié
a day off

nous avons le lundi 20 mai de férié. So I had told you that we had Monday, the 20th of May off, de férié, a holiday day, pour la Pentecôte, for Pentecost. Now, again we've spoken about that before.

PB: La Pentecôte, Mark.

Mark: Oh ! désolé.

PB: Sauf si tu viens du sud de la France.

Mark: C'est dans le sud où j'ai habité donc, peut-être, c'est pour ça.

PB: Bonne explication.

Mark: Donc, la Pentecôte, Pentecost. She goes on:

PB: De plus, j'ai demandé à mon chef et j'ai le droit à des RTT, encore un sacré avantage de la boîte !

Mark: Now of course we've already mentioned this avantage, un sacré avantage de la boîte in our other episodes. But here she says, I've asked my boss and it turns out that she does indeed have the right to taking these time off in lieu days, les RTT. And RTT stands for ?

PB: Réduction du Temps de Travail.

Mark: Tout à fait. So, these are time off in lieu days. And she's allowed to take them; Elle a le droit à des RTT.

PB: Oui.

Mark: And she goes on to say:

PB: On ne me l'avait pas précisé avant mais je
peux avoir un vendredi après-midi de
récupération tous les quinze jours.

Mark: So, on ne me l'avait pas précisé avant. Literally,
one had not it precised before, it hadn't been
fully explained.

PB: Yeah, or people had not made it clear.

Mark: Of course.

PB: Yeah, to make something clear, precise. Yeah.

Mark: So, it hadn't been made clear to me before,
but I can take one Friday afternoon of
recuperation, I can take a Friday afternoon off,
tous les quinze jours, literally every fifteen
days. But, of course, we know that fifteen days
is the same as a fortnight. It's interesting that
there's a philosophical discussion there is to
why you count the 15th day when in English
we really talk about fourteen nights, a
fortnight.

PB: Same for tous les huit jours.

Mark: Tous les huit jours ?

PB: Oui, tous les huit jours, Mark.

Mark: Every eight days, of course, is a week, but in
English, of course, we say seven days.

PB: I know, but do you know why Mark?

Mark: I'm sure you're going to explain.

PB: Well, it's basically if you count the day you
leave, if you leave on a Sunday and come back
on a Sunday, yes, its a week, its technically

seven days. But when you count the Sunday you leave, it makes it eight days.

Mark: It does indeed, you're absolutely right. Now let's just ... before we go on, I want to talk a little bit about the word for eight because I have been seeing eight in a particular way all my life. And I have just been told by Pierre-Benoît that I am not saying it correctly. So, let's hear the word for eight in French.

PB: Huit.

Mark: So, I will try saying this, huit.

PB: Ah ! c'est mieux Mark.

Mark: Previously I think I was saying huit. And there is a very very subtle difference between huit and huit.

PB: Especially when the T disappears before a word, yeah, like days, it's got a consonant to start with.

Mark: Yeah, so like "days".

PB: Yeah, so it has consonant to start with. Okay so huit jours actually should be pronounced huit jours.

Mark: Huit jours.

PB: And that's maybe what's difficult here because the huit comes back here, it's not "oui" it's huit, huit jours.

Mark: So, let's hear, let's hear the word for yes.

PB: Oui.

Mark: So, and let's hear the word for eight days

PB: Huit jours.

Mark: Oh, so its more a huit jours.

PB: So let's try it. Let's hear again the word for yes,
Mark ?

Mark: Oui.

PB: And the word for eight days?

Mark: Huit jours.

PB: Excellent Mark. Il apprend vite l'animal, hein ?
He's fast, he's quick! Sacré Mark !

Mark: Now think the key thing here is that if we look
at the word for yes, it starts with O-U-I, and of
course the first sound in there O-U is Ou.

PB: Exactement, ou.

Mark: So OUI becomes O-U-I, Oui and then if we
were looking at the word for eight, its H, H is
silent obviously. But in U-I there is no O and
that's why we are looking at this different
sound which I had never ever been taught.

PB: Eh bien ! C'est fait Mark.

Mark: Tout à fait. Donc huit jours.

PB: Super. Huit jours. Oui.

Mark: OK. On va continuer quand même.

PB: Donc, j'ai deux jours à récupérer depuis que
j'ai commencé.

Mark: So, I've two days to make up since I started,
from when I started.

PB: J'ai aussi droit à ce vendredi après-midi.

Mark: So, I also have the right to this Friday afternoon; *J'ai aussi droit à ce vendredi après-midi.*

PB: *De ce fait, j'ai posé mon mardi.*

Mark: This is nice, *de ce fait*, as a result, *j'ai posé mon mardi.* That's nice. *J'ai posé mon mardi.*

PB: Poser un jour, poser une semaine.

Mark: Donc c'est demander la permission de prendre ce jour de congé.

PB: Voilà, exactement Mark. Exactement.

Mark: Poser un jour. Poser.

PB: What would it be in English then? It's quite tricky!

Mark: You could book a day.

PB: You could book a day.

Mark: Or you could request a day perhaps

PB: Or take a day off. You take it because obviously it does imply that you've asked for it.

Mark: If you take it, if you "*poser*" it. *Si j'ai posé mon mardi, est-ce que ça veut dire que quelqu'un me l'a accordé ?*

PB: Oui. Pour moi, oui.

Mark: *D'accord, donc j'ai posé mon mardi* - I've requested to take my Tuesday off and I've been granted that request.

PB: Yes.

Mark: OK d'accord. OK, elle continue.

PB: *J'arriverai donc vendredi en fin d'après-midi et je repartirai mardi dans l'après-midi.*

accorder

to agree, grant

Mark: So a couple of nice future tenses here:

J'arriverai donc vendredi en fin d'après-midi.

So, I'll arrive in the end of the afternoon, on

Friday, et je repartirai mardi dans l'après-midi.

And I'll leave again, I'll leave once more on

Tuesday in the afternoon.

PB: Quite nice, j'arriverai which in spoken French could become j'arriv'rai. We skip over the E from the V into the R, dite assimilation progressive. It's nice.

dite

(here) defined as, so-called

Mark: J'arriverai.

PB: J'arriverai.

Mark: OK nous allons continuer maintenant avec le deuxième paragraphe.

Je partirai directement du boulot, cela ira plus

vite ! Je vais prendre le métro à Levallois, la

station est à seulement 10 minutes à pied. Là

je vais prendre la ligne 3 jusqu'à Opéra où je

prendrai la ligne 7 jusqu'à Gare de l'Est.

Comme je finis le boulot à midi, je loupe le

TGV qui part à 12h13 donc j'ai pris mon billet

pour le train suivant. Il part à 13h43. Par

contre, je dois attendre 45 minutes à Nancy

pour prendre le suivant. J'arriverai à la gare

d'Epinal à 16h58. Est-ce que quelqu'un pourra

venir me chercher ? Je repartirai le mardi par

le TGV direct d'Epinal. Le train part à 16h27 et

je serai à Paris à 18h46. C'est bien car en cette

saison il fait jour plus tard et je n'aime pas

prendre le métro et RER de nuit ! Ivry de Gare de l'est, ce n'est pas non plus la porte à côté !

Mark: So, if anyone was planning to travel from Paris to Epinal, you now have a full itinerary that you can use and follow literally from door to door because we've got all the details here in Sylvie's email.

PB: Or if you want to plan a future trip and you don't know how to put it in good French, that's very good.

Mark: Absolutely, yeah. Indeed, I mean this is one of the reasons why this is in here, because we've included this kind of thing because it's important to be able to explain your travel details: that's exactly why it's in here. Ok, let's go through French in detail.

PB: Je partirai directement du boulot, cela ira plus vite !

Mark: So, she leave directly from work, *du boulot*. Of course, she could have said *du travail*, but she just used the slightly, slightly more colloquial word, *du boulot*. *Cela ira plus vite!* It's funny because *du boulot* is quite a colloquial word, and then she says *cela ira plus vite*, as opposed to *ça* but nonetheless we all understand what it means.

PB: Je vais prendre le, la station est à seulement 10 minutes à pied.

cela ira plus vite

it'll be quicker; (literally) that will go more quickly

Mark: So, here she begins her detailed description. She's going to take the **métro** at **Levallois**. And this station is only ten minutes away on foot. Remember, when you're talking about where something is, if it's ten minutes away or ten metres away you have to have an **à** in there. **La station est à seulement 10 minutes à pied**, or **la station est à 1km à pied**.

PB: **Ou aussi pour l'heure : Glasgow est à 1h en voiture**.

Mark: **Exactement. Donc à, il faut utiliser à. Moi je pense toujours que c'est "it's at a distance of ..."** by car or ten minutes by foot or a kilometre away or whatever.

PB: **Là je vais prendre la ligne 3 jusqu'à Opéra où je prendrai la ligne 7 jusqu'à Gare de l'Est**.

Mark: So she will take line 3 to Opéra from Levallois and then she'll take line 7 from Opéra to Gare de l'Est.

PB: **Comme je finis le boulot à midi, je loupe le TGV qui part à 12h13 donc j'ai pris mon billet pour le train suivant. Il part à 13h43**.

Mark: Sylvie finishes her work at midday and that means that she's going to miss the TGV which leaves at 12:13. Of course she couldn't get from her work all the way to Gare de l'Est in thirty minutes so she says **je loupe le TGV qui part à 12h13** so **louper**, the verb to miss, to miss a mode of transport. If we were talking about

missing a person, that's something different of course.

PB: Manquer.

Mark: Manquer of course

PB: Which can be used as well for a train or for a bus, like in this context it would work.

Mark: J'ai manqué le bus.

PB: Oui, j'ai manqué le bus.

Mark: Mais le bus ne m'a pas manqué.

PB: Ah ! non parce qu'il y avait déjà beaucoup de personnes dans le bus.

Mark: Yeah, can you use *rater* as well?

PB: *Rater*. Très bien.

Mark: So *rater*, *louper*, *manquer*. Which would your preference be?

PB: *Louper* and *rater* are a bit more colloquial. *Manquer* is, I would say, the standard one.

Mark: OK. So *je loupe le TGV qui part à 12h13 donc j'ai pris mon billet pour le train suivant*. So, I've taken my ticket, I've booked my ticket for the following train, the one which leaves at 13:43. *Il part à 13h43*.

PB: *Par contre, je dois attendre 45 minutes à Nancy pour prendre le suivant*.

Mark: Now she's got to, to wait for forty-five minutes in Nancy in order to take the next train. So she's got a change to make at Nancy and there's forty-five minutes between the trains.

PB: J'arriverai à la gare d'Epinal à 16h58. Est-ce que quelqu'un pourra venir me chercher ?

Mark: So, I will arrive in Epinal station at 16:58. Can someone come to pick me up? And of course we've got that **chercher** again because we looked at it earlier.

PB: Venir chercher quelqu'un.

Mark: Tout à fait. Est-ce que quelqu'un pourra, will someone be able to, future tense of **pouvoir**, **venir me chercher**? Come to fetch me as opposed to "look for me".

PB: Quite interesting, Mark, here, the **me** is between **venir** and **chercher**. Not **quelqu'un pourra me venir chercher** but **quelqu'un pourra venir me chercher**.

Mark: Me chercher. Exactement.

PB: Très important ça.

Mark: Okay, then she starts to talk about her return journey.

PB: Je repartirai le mardi par le TGV direct d'Epinal.

Mark: So, this time there's no change at Nancy, she'll be able to take the TGV directly from Epinal to Paris.

PB: Le train part à 16h27 et je serai à Paris à 18h46.

Mark: So, this train leaves at 16:27 and I will be in Paris at 18:46.

PB: C'est bien car en cette saison il fait jour plus tard et je n'aime pas prendre le métro et le RER de nuit !

Mark: Of course, we've already spoken about this and indeed the aspects of *il fait jour* and *il fait nuit*, so it's good because at this time of year the days are longer and I don't like taking the *metro* and *RER* at night when it's dark.

PB: Ivry de Gare de l'est, ce n'est pas non plus la porte à côté !

Mark: And of course, when she arrives at *Gare de l'est* in the centre of Paris, she's got to get back at *Ivry* and that, that's not exactly just on the doorstep of *Gare de l'est*. So she's got quite a journey still to make when she gets back to Paris at 18:46 in the evening.

PB: Indeed.

Mark: But it's daylight so that's fine, she'll be able to make it back to *Ivry* safely. Of course we should say here it's perfectly safe to travel around Paris at night. But if you are travelling on your own at any time in any city in the world, make sure you are doing so safely, especially if you are listening to Coffee Break French while you are doing so! Okay. Let's move on to our third paragraph.

Il me tarde de vous voir, et surtout de revoir
Guillaume ! Comme je te disais dans un de
mes mails précédents, il me manque
énormément ! En parlant de lui, comment va-t-
il aujourd'hui ? Il s'est remis de son voyage ?
Fais-lui une bise de ma part ! Je suis contente
que votre séjour à Paris vous ait plu ! Vous
pouvez revenir quand vous voulez.

Mark: Did you spot the subjective in there? I hope
you did! We'll get to it in a moment. However,
let's look at this first phrase. She said: *Il me
tarde de vous voir, et surtout de revoir
Guillaume !* Let's listen to it again:

*Il me tarde de vous voir, et surtout de revoir
Guillaume !*

Mark: Now this is something we've heard before; *il
me tarde de faire quelque chose*. But I was
actually reading something this weekend, I
saw an expression that I had not seen in a
long, long time. And it was using another word
which means the same as *il me tarde* and it
wasn't an impersonal expression like *il me
tarde*. In this case it was a personal expression
and the expression was... actually... I wonder
if Pierre-Benoît can guess what this expression
was..?

PB: Is it reflexive ?

Mark: It's reflexive

PB: Se languir.

Mark: Ah bravo, bravo ! Se languir is the same as il me tarde de faire quelque chose. Je me languis de faire quelque chose. However, as Pierre-Benoît's indicating here with his hand rising above suggesting that it is indeed a very much higher register of language, he's quite right. Se languir is somewhat more literary.

PB: On dirait : c'est le langage châtié.

Mark: Ah ! châtié. Très bien.

PB: Je pense.

Mark: Donc se languir, je me languis de vous voir.

PB: Oh ! eh bien, je suis là maintenant. Vous êtes donc satisfait et content.

Mark: So, se languir is an alternative. However it is a little bit more "high register".

PB: Yes.

Mark: Okay. Now she goes on, we've got this phrase here as well, let's listen:

châtié(e)

refined, polished

Comme je te disais dans un de mes mails précédents, il me manque énormément !

Mark: And I wanted to ask Pierre-Benoît about this, because I'm sure it's something that our listeners might well be wondering about too.

There's two questions I have here. First of all, *comme je te disais*. So as I told you, or as I was telling you, and I'm wondering, perhaps we can put a *le* in there: *comme je te le disais*. As I was telling you (it) in one of my previous emails *il me manque énormément !* He is missing to me enormously, I really miss him. Could we say : *comme je te le disais*?

PB: Yeah, both are acceptable. But I do believe that the *le* is more like redundant if you want, its more like rhetorical if you want and because you're actually saying it after that *il me manque énormément!* So, *comme je te disais, il me manque énormément!* *Comme je te le disais* is still making reference to what's coming after.

Mark: Okay, so it's not required.

PB: No, but it's nice. It's nice, I would say. It's nice, yeah.

Mark: OK.

PB: I would say without the *le*, again, it's more spoken French.

Mark: OK.

PB : OK, if I was writing it, I think a *le* would be nice there.

Mark : OK, so my second question also refers to a *le* but it's a different type of *le*, because my second question here is *comme je te disais dans [l']un de mes mails précédents*, because we've come across this, *l'un de mes amis*, the

one of my friends, one of my friends but referring to L apostrophe (L'). Again, a little bit redundant here.

PB: Yes.

Mark: Could we say, *dans l'un de mes mails précédents?*

PB: Both again are acceptable. And again if you put the L apostrophe (L') here, I would say a small kind of a written register

Mark: Okay, good stuff, let's continue.

PB: *En parlant de lui, comment va-t-il aujourd'hui ?*

Mark: We're of course talking about Guillaume. Speaking of him, how is he today? Because he's just returned, or he's just arrived back from Japan.

PB: *Il s'est remis de son voyage ?*

Mark: Has he recovered from his journey? Although by the sound of things, Sylvie's journey might be as...

PB: ...As hectic.

Mark : As hectic as Guillaume's from Japan.

PB: I love that expression Mark, *se remettre de quelque chose.*

Mark: Okay, give us some other examples.

PB: *Par exemple, mon cousin est rentré de l'hôpital et il se remet de son opération.*

Mark: Okay, so he's, he is recovering daily from his operation.

PB: *Se remettre de*. There's a nice expression, *se remettre de ses émotions*.

Mark: Okay, I don't know that expression. I'm guessing it means to, to recover from your emotions but in what context?

PB: Well, or to regain your composure.

Mark: Your composure ? OK.

PB: Yeah. It could be positive or negative. And let's say you've got a surprise birthday party, and you know, like when the person walks in and suddenly you've got all the guests: *joyeux anniv... oh!* and you get kind of a..

Mark: Flustered?

PB: Yeah, that's it. And then, *Oh merci beaucoup! Donnez-moi deux minutes*, give me two minutes, *il faut que je me remette de mes émotions. Donnez-moi deux minutes que je me remette de mes émotions*.

Mark: So, give me two minutes so I can regain my composure, or I can get over my, my flustered ...

PB: Yeah, just give me two minutes to recoup or to...

Mark: To come to.

PB: Yeah, to get back to normal basically. It could also be a negative. It could be like after a, okay, let's say you're driving and the car just swerved towards you and you just manage to basically avoid the car, you stop and, phew, for two minutes, and *tu te remets de tes émotions*.

Mark: So, in that sense, I suppose it's kind of like you're 'coming to'. In English we have an expression that 'to come to' and that can mean, to come to after perhaps you've been into a coma or something like that and you come to, you regain consciousness, but I think even in the car scenario or even in the party scenario, um, if you're just, you know if you're finding your emotions once more, you're "coming to". Perhaps our listeners can suggest some other translation of that, that's not coming into my mind right at the moment.

PB: Yeah, they can put that in the we blog, leave us a message.

Mark: Absolutely, leave us a message on Facebook or something like that.

PB: Super.

Mark: Okay, so *Il s'est remis de son voyage*? Has he recovered from his journey?

PB: *Fais-lui une bise de ma part !*

Mark: Give him a kiss for me. Give him a hug for me or something like that.

PB: It's quite interesting to see that French people say *faire une bise*.

Mark: Yeah, to do, I guess *faire une bise*.

PB: Okay, even at night you can say *donne-moi un bisou* but it's not as nice as *fais-moi un bisou*.

Mark: And *bisou* and *bise*.

PB: Bisou is kind of kiddies' vocabulary; un bisou, un bisou!

Mark: Okay, there was a wonderful thing that was doing the rounds on Facebook this week about a survey that has been done all throughout France, about the number of kisses that you give in different regions and they've been asking people in different regions how many kisses you do when you are greeting someone. So if you're ever wondering how many kisses you do, then this map will tell you how many you should do where you are

PB: So do you know now Mark ?

Mark: Plus ou moins.

PB: Parce que normalement Mark, ils donnent toujours le maximum de bises.

Mark: C'est pas vrai ! C'est pas vrai !

PB: À Pornic, à Nantes, sur la côte ouest c'est quatre.

Mark: Quatre.

PB: Quatre bises. À Paris c'est deux je crois, ou une, je ne sais plus j'ai oublié.

Mark: Il y a des parties du pays où on en fait trois.

PB: Oui c'est ça, plus dans l'est, je crois.

Mark: En Suisse aussi.

PB: Oui dans l'est. C'est ça, dans l'est.

Mark: En Suisse, on en fait toujours trois

PB: C'est marrant.

Mark: Bref, on parle des bises et on doit continuer à parler du français.

PB: Oui. Je suis contente que votre séjour à Paris vous ait plu !

Mark: Ah! voilà notre subjonctif. Here is lovely subjunctive, I am happy that your stay in Paris pleased you, that you enjoyed your stay in Paris. Now, here's my question. If Sylvie had said, I am happy to hear that your stay in Paris pleased you, what would she say ?

PB: Are you asking me or the listeners Mark?

Mark: I'm asking both of you. You and all our listeners.

PB: We've seen that before and our listeners will say at the same time as I am saying it now. It would not be a subjunctive.

Mark: Absolutely! So, je suis content or contente in Sylvie's case, de savoir...

PB: ...que votre séjour à Paris vous a plu.

Mark: Because in that case, it's the savoir, it's the direct subject of being happy. Je suis content que votre séjour à Paris vous ait plu. Je suis content de savoir que votre séjour à Paris vous a plu. The wonders of the French language. Okay and the final statement here.

PB: Vous pouvez revenir quand vous voulez.

Mark: You can come back anytime you like, or vous pouvez revenir quand vous [le] voulez, peut-être ?

PB: Très bien. You can even have here a future, couldn't you?

Mark: Oui : vous pourrez revenir quand vous le voudrez.

PB: Oh! ça c'est beau. Ça c'est du bon français
Mark, bravo!

ça c'est du bon français
that's good French

Mark: OK. Dernier paragraphe !

Sinon, concernant mon projet, tout se passe bien, cela avance doucement mais sûrement ! Je suis encore sur l'étude de marché. Ne t'inquiète pas si tu ne comprends pas tout, c'est un peu compliqué ! Quant à l'homme du RER, comme tu l'appelles, je l'aperçois tous les matins mais rien de spécial ne s'est passé. De toute façon, je pense que tu te fais des idées! Enfin, si par hasard il se passe quelque chose, je te le ferai savoir ! Bon, vivement ce week-end. Cela va faire bizarre de se retrouver tous les quatre, il y a bien longtemps que cela n'est pas arrivé ! Bon je te laisse. Bises, Sylvie

Mark: Okay, so in the final paragraph, she is just updating her Mum in various things. First of all, about her work, **concernant mon projet, tout se passe bien**. Everything is going well about her project and then she says things are going slowly but surely.

PB: I love that **doucement**.

Mark: **Doucement**.

PB: **Doucement** is used so much in French. It's the wrong use of the word but it's accepted now.

Mark: So **doux**, the word **doux/douce** means sweet.

PB: Yes, sweet or smoothly.

Mark: Uhuh.

PB: And we should use **lentement** but it's quite interesting that for a level of noise you would say : **allez, plus doucement, plus doucement**.

Mark: So more quiet.

PB: Yeah, yeah, okay. Also when you speak very fast, people don't say **lentement**, they still say **doucement**.

Mark: **Doucement. Pouvez-vous parler plus doucement s'il vous plaît ?**

PB: You should just say **lentement**.

Mark: **Plus lentement**.

PB: The thing is just a misuse of **doucement** in French.

Mark: I think in phrasebooks or dictionaries, you might see the expression **pouvez-vous parler plus lentement s'il vous plaît? En fait, en français on dit beaucoup plus souvent : pouvez-vous parler plus doucement s'il vous plaît ?**

PB: Indeed, it's the wrong use of the word.

Mark: **Et il se peut que là, tu aies des problèmes**.

PB: **Bien sûr**. If the person starts speaking too fast,

ça c'est du bon français
that's good French

allez!
(here) come on!

il se peut que là, tu aies des problèmes!
it's quite possible that you have some problems in that case

you know, for you. Instead of saying *lentement* you say *doucement*. And if the person wants to make a joke at your expense, they might just use the same pace, but in a very faint voice.

Mark: They might end up speaking more quietly than more slowly. Okay, so *faites attention à ça s'il vous plaît*. Just watch that one, *doucement* is a very, very common word to use in that sense of slowly, but also means, in its natural state, quietly or faintly. And here *cela avance doucement mais sûrement!* It's going slowly but surely.

PB: *Je suis encore sur l'étude de marché.*

Mark: She's still on her market research, she's doing market research.

PB: *Ne t'inquiète pas si tu ne comprends pas tout, c'est un peu compliqué!*

Mark: So don't worry if you don't understand everything. It's a little bit complicated. Of course last time, Sylvie's Mum was saying that she's not quite sure that she understood everything about her job.

PB: *Quant à l'homme du RER, comme tu l'appelles, je l'aperçois tous les matins mais rien de spécial ne s'est passé.*

Mark: As far as the RER man is concerned as you call him, well I see him every morning *tous les matins mais rien de spécial ne s'est passé.*

Nothing special has happened, nothing interesting has happened. And I think we actually need to say 'yet' here. Nothing interesting has happened - yet.

PB: Elle continue en disant : de toute façon, je pense que tu te fais des idées !

elle continue en disant
she continues by saying

Mark: Again another phrase from the last episode, I think you are blowing it out of proportion.

PB: Or imagining things.

Mark: Yes.

PB: Enfin, si par hasard il se passe quelque chose, je te le ferai savoir !

Mark: Anyway, if something does happen, I will let you know, je te le ferai savoir!

PB: Bon, vivement ce week-end.

Mark: I'm looking forward to the weekend!

PB: Cela va faire bizarre de se retrouver tous les quatre.

Mark: Let's listen to that again

Cela va faire bizarre de se retrouver tous les quatre, il y a bien longtemps que cela n'est pas arrivé !

Mark: Cela va faire bizarre de se retrouver tous les quatre. We've already heard tous les trois. So it's going to be a bit weird all being back

together and that's nice because it's : **cela va faire** plus an adjective **de** plus an infinitive.
Cela va faire bizarre de se retrouver tous les quatre. Can we have some other examples?

PB: **Cela va faire bizarre d'être en vacances vendredi, pour moi.**

Mark: Yeah, it's going to be weird being on holiday on Friday. **Pour toi.**

PB: **Pour moi.**

Mark: **Moi je bosse, toi tu es en vacances.**

PB: **Eh oui !**

Mark: **OK.**

PB: **Pas encore ! Vendredi.**

Mark: **Tu seras en vacances.**

PB: **Oui. Pour huit jours ou pour quinze jours ?**

Mark: **Pour quinze jours, je pense. Veinard ! OK. Il y a bien longtemps que cela n'est pas arrivé !** So it's a while since that's happened. I noticed that in French, you turn it around and you say it in the negative. It's a long time since that hasn't happened. **Il y a bien longtemps que cela n'est pas arrivé!** In English we just keep it in the affirmative.

PB: I have a question for you Mark.

Mark: **Je t'en prie.**

PB: In the previous sentence, we had, we felt we had to add 'yet'. You know what I'm trying to say here.

Mark: **Rien de spécial ne s'est passé.**

veinard!

lucky devil!

je t'en prie

carry on, please

PB: Here, il y a bien longtemps que cela n'est pas arrivé!

Mark: I see where you're going with this. Is it it's a long time since that last happened, since that happened last, the last time that it happened. Yeah, I think you could get away without the "last". It's a long time since that's happened. But maybe there, because I'm using now a perfect tense, it's a long time since that has happened. Whereas, if we use a past tense, a preterite, it's a long time since that *last* happened.

PB: Yeah, interesting. J'adore les langues !

Mark: OK. Bon, c'est presque fini.

PB: Bon je te laisse. Bises, Sylvie.

Mark: Et c'est maintenant l'heure de vous laisser. On vous laisse.

PB: Oui. On vous laisse et on vous laisse vous remettre de vos émotions.

Mark: Exactement. Merci beaucoup comme d'habitude.

PB: Et nous vous souhaitons une très bonne quinzaine, et moi je sais déjà que je vais passer de sacrées bonnes vacances !

Mark: Alors, bonnes vacances Pierre-Benoît et à très bientôt ! Au revoir !

PB: Au revoir !

