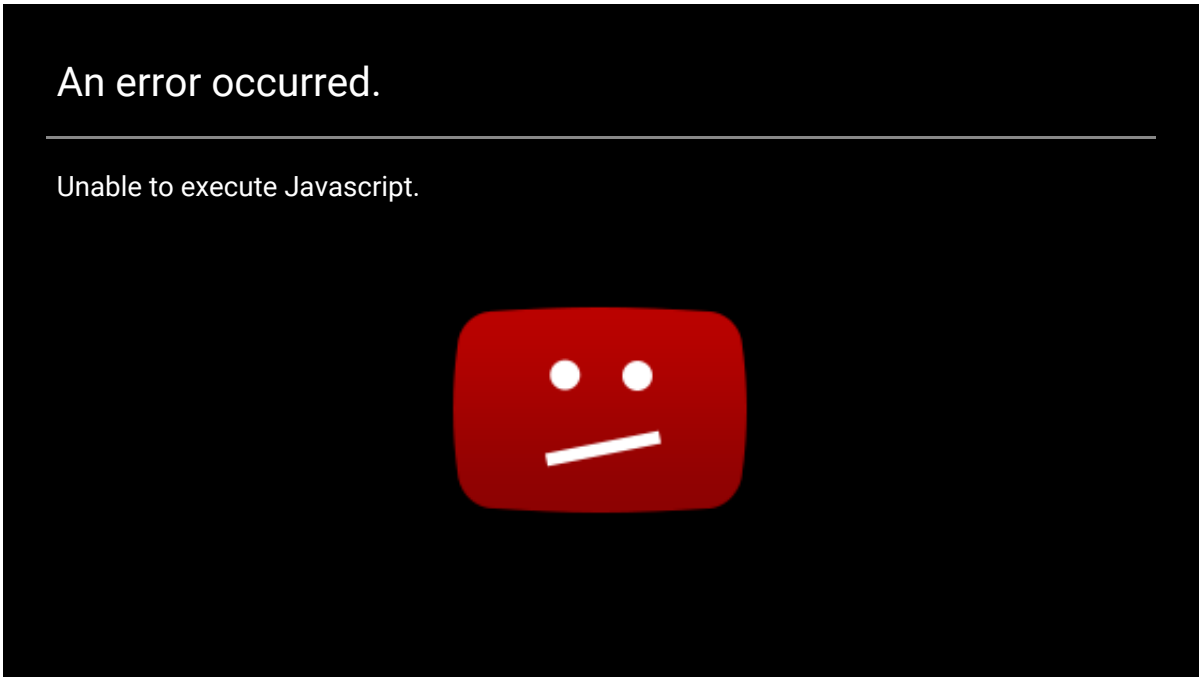
Practical example: adding subtitles to a video

INTRODUCTION

We will look at a simple example. First, you need to have a video on one of the formats/codecs supported by the browsers you target. A recommended codec is `H264`, but other formats, such as webm, may have some advantages if the browser supports them. For example, `webm` allows to start playing the video after a much shorter buffering time. In other words, try to provide the video encoded with more than one codec, if possible.

For this, do use any sort of open source, free or commercial video encoding software, such as Handbrake (free, open source) or Super (free). There are also online video encoding services, and you can even upload your video to YouTube, let it encode your video in several resolutions and codecs, and use a browser extension like VideoDownloadHelper (for Firefox) to download the video in the formats you like.

So, let's suppose you have a video like this one below (we included it on YouTube for practical reasons):



And you've got it also in `mp4/H264` and in `webm` formats. Here is how you can embed it in your page using the video element:

```
<video id="myVideo" width=500 controls>
 <source
    src="videos/SameOldSongAndDanceRogerLathaudPart1MidRes.mp4"
    type="video/mp4">
 <source
    src="videos/SameOldSongAndDanceRogerLathaudPart1MidRes.webm"
    type="video/webm">

 <track src="videos/subtitles.vtt"
       kind="subtitles" srclang="en" default>
</video>
```

At line 9, we added a `<track>` element to add english subtitles, as the guitar teacher there is speaking in French. We will now explain how we created this subtitle track.

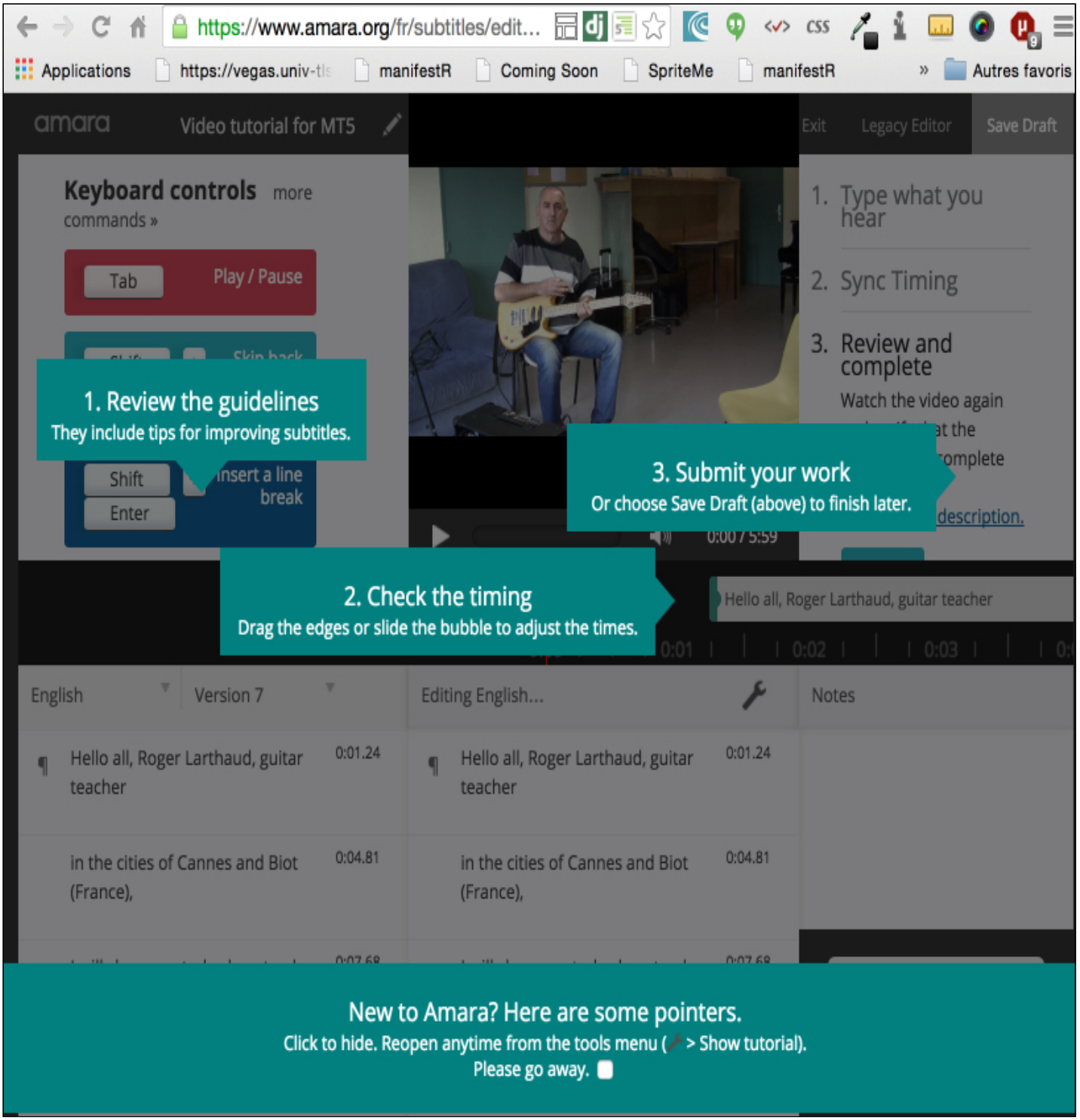
ADDING SUBTITLES TO THE VIDEO

Now, we need to create a WebVTT file for this video. How can we synchronize an English

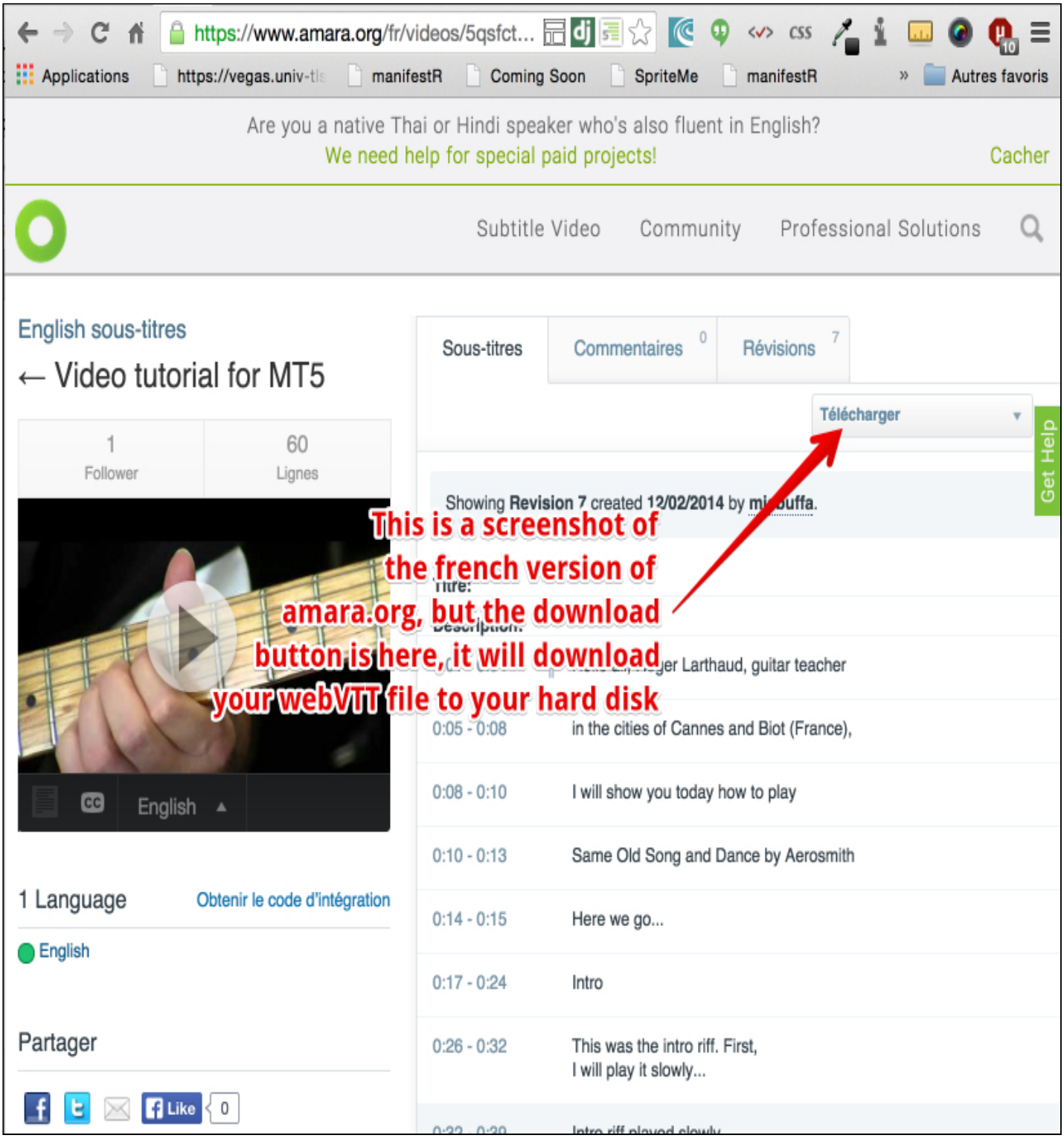
translation of what the guitar teacher says in French?

There are many tools available to add subtitles to a video, free and commercial ones. Most of them are native applications you need to install on your computer. However, it exists a free and very practical tool for doing this 100% in a Web browser: http://www.universalsubtitles.org, also known as http://www.amara.org.

Go to this Web site, click on the "subtitle a video" link, then follow the different tutorials/instructions. It will ask for a YouTube URL, so it's better to first upload your video to YouTube (even in private mode). Once you entered in the URL of your video, you will have an online subtitles/caption editor. Enter your subtitles and sync them until you are happy with the results.



Once your subtitles/captions are ok, you will be able to upload them to YouTube, or -this is what we wanted first- download them as WebVTT format:



TRY YOUR SUBTITLED/CAPTIONED VIDEO

Subtitles
Captions
Small solo slowly bars 5-8
2:09
CC