



PODCAST TRANSCRIPT

Episode 165:

Title: “Baby Expressions”

Duration: 22:45

How to use this transcript

Print this transcript:

- We try to reduce our paper consumption, but we really recommend that you print out this document.

Write on it and take notes:

- Circle, highlight and note anything that you want. We have even provided space for you to do so!

Listen first without the transcript:

- Don't worry about understanding every single word. Just focus on training your ears to the sound of English.

Listen again with the transcript:

- Listen a second time with the transcript, pausing whenever you want to take notes in the spaces provided.

Enjoy! :-)

00 :00	You are listening to the Déclic Anglais Podcast, THE podcast for intermediate, French-speaking learners of English. This podcast is like a steppingstone (<i>un tremplin</i>) to help you understand more advanced materials in English. There is a transcript (<i>une transcription</i>) available for this and every episode of this podcast. You can download the transcript for free from the link in the description of this episode. Or go to www.declicanglais.com/podcast. <i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i>
01:05	Hello there, dear listeners, and welcome back to <i>the Déclic Anglais Podcast</i> — the podcast for French speakers who want to improve their English in a relaxed and enjoyable way. My name is Tom, and I'm delighted that you're joining me again today. If you listened to our last episode, you'll remember that we explored some fascinating facts about babies — the science of how they grow, how they learn language, and a few other surprising facts along the way. I hope you enjoyed it. <i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i>
01:54	Today, dear listeners, we are staying with the theme of babies — but this time, we're not talking about actual babies. Instead, we're going to look specifically at words and expressions that use the word <i>baby</i>. You might be surprised at how often "baby" appears in everyday English — not just to describe infants (<i>that is, small children</i>), but to talk about people's personalities, the way someone looks, the way someone behaves, and the way we make progress in life. <i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i>

02:44	In today's episode, I have FOUR expressions for you, dear listeners. As always on this podcast, these expressions are ones that you can use in your everyday English conversations, and all will help you sound like a more confident speaker of English. So, let's get started. <i>(bell sound effect)</i> <i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i>
03:16	EXPRESSION 1: BABY-FACED <i>Baby-faced</i> is an adjective. Literally translated into French: <i>avoir un visage de bébé</i>. So, what does it mean? If someone is baby-faced, dear listeners, it means that they have a face that looks young and innocent — even if they are actually an adult. Think of a 30-year-old man who still looks like a teenager (<i>Imaginez un homme de 30 ans qui a toujours l'air d'un adolescent</i>). Or a woman in her forties who is constantly mistaken for someone twenty years younger. (<i>Ou encore une femme d'une quarantaine d'années que l'on prend sans cesse pour une personne de vingt ans plus jeune</i>). We would say they are baby-faced. <i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i>
04:43	It isn't too difficult to imagine where this expression comes from, is it? When you look at a baby they have soft, round, smooth features – large eyes, chubby cheeks (<i>joues potelées</i>) and no lines or wrinkles (<i>des rides</i>). So when an adult has similar features, we say they are <i>baby-faced</i>. <i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i>

05:18	Now, dear listeners, is this a compliment? HA... That's the question! It certainly can be – but not always. As with many expressions, it depends on the context and the tone of voice. Let's imagine a friend who says: "Oh, you're so baby-faced — you never seem to age (<i>on dirait que tu ne vieillis jamais</i>)!" Well, that's clearly a compliment. But if someone says: "Robert is too baby-faced to be taken seriously in that role", here it suggests that looking young is a disadvantage in that situation.
06:29	Here's another example for you: "Paula is forty (40), but she's so baby-faced that people always think she's twenty (20)!" (<i>Paula a quarante ans, mais elle a un visage si jeune que tout le monde croit toujours qu'elle a vingt ans</i>). One more point about this expression: In English, we often use "baby-faced" as an adjective before a noun: – a baby-faced actor – a baby-faced politician. You can also use it after a verb: – "he looks baby-faced". – "she is baby-faced". Both are fine! <i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i>
07:25	Alright then, let's move on to our next expression. (<i>bell sound</i>) Expression 2: A CRYBABY So, 'crybaby' is one word, spelled C-R-Y-B-A-B-Y. ('Cry' like the French '<i>pleurer</i>'). Who or what is a crybaby? <i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i>

08:05	A crybaby is a person — usually an adult or older child — who complains or cries too much, especially about small or unimportant things. (<i>Un pleurnichard est une personne — généralement un adulte ou un enfant plus âgé — qui se plaint ou pleure trop, surtout pour des broutilles ou des choses sans importance</i>). (Ecrivez vos notes ici).
08:37	So, a crybaby is when someone is being overly sensitive (<i>trop sensible, trop susceptible</i>) or when some overreacts (<i>quand quelqu'un réagit de manière excessive</i>) – small problems are like disasters! So again, in French you could say: “<i>un pleurnichard, une pleurnicharde</i>”. (Ecrivez vos notes ici).
09:11	For example: Let's imagine you have a colleague who complains every single day. (<i>Maybe you don't need to imagine, dear listeners – maybe you work with this person already!</i>) The coffee isn't right, the walk to the office is too far, the meeting is too long, the office is too cold. You feel like saying: “Oh my god, stop being such a crybaby!” (<i>Mais enfin, arrête de pleurnicher !</i>) (Ecrivez vos notes ici).

10:01	It's important to note that "crybaby" is informal. You would not use it in a professional or formal setting. It's the kind of thing you say to a friend, or perhaps a child, but not to a colleague. Maybe you want to say it your colleague (<i>peut-être que vous voulez le dire à votre collègue</i>), but it's better to avoid it. A more polite, diplomatic way of saying "crybaby" is <i>overly sensitive / too sensitive</i>. <i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i>
10:51	Let's see some more example sentences: 1. "Stop being such a crybaby – it's just a bit of rain!" (<i>Arrête de faire le pleurnichard, c'est juste un peu de pluie</i>). 2. "She called me a crybaby just because I didn't want to watch a horror film." (<i>Elle m'a traité de pleurnichard juste parce que je ne voulais pas regarder un film d'horreur</i>). <i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i>

11:37	Alright then, dear listeners, now it's time for the third expression. <i>(Bell sound)</i> Expression number three: BABY STEPS Ah, I like this expression – and it's very useful! 'Baby steps' means making small, cautious, gradual progress towards a goal. <i>(Littéralement : « des petits pas de bébé »)</i>. So, dear listeners, instead of trying to do everything at once, you do a little bit at a time. You move forward slowly and carefully — just like a baby who is just learning to walk. Think about it: when a baby learns to walk, they don't simply stand up and run. No! They take tiny little steps. They fall down. And then they try again. That's baby steps for you! And in English, we use this expression to describe any kind of careful, gradual progress in any area of life. <i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i>
13:09	Let's look at our expression "<i>baby steps</i>" in some example sentences: 1. "I've just started learning Chinese. I'm taking baby steps, but I'm making progress." <i>(Je viens de commencer à apprendre le chinois. J'avance à petits pas, mais je fais des progrès).</i> 2. "Don't try to change everything at once. Just take baby steps." <i>(N'essayez pas de tout changer d'un seul coup. Allez-y petit à petit).</i> <i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i>

14:06	Now, dear listeners, this expression is usually very positive and encouraging. When you say someone is taking baby steps, you're not criticising them (<i>en anglais, l'expression « baby steps » n'est pas une critique</i>). When we say "baby steps", it's acknowledgment that progress, however small, is still progress. (<i>« Baby steps » : c'est reconnaître que tout progrès, aussi minime soit-il, reste un progrès</i>). It's a kind and motivating thing to say. <i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i>
15:04	Alright then, dear listeners, let's move on: <i>(bell sound)</i> Expression number 4: TEETHING PROBLEMS Ah, this is a great expression, dear listeners. Now, I know this expression doesn't use the word "baby" – but I can assure you that it is still within today's theme. And if there is one expression that I want you to remember today it's THIS one! <i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i>
15:46	What is a teething problem? Let's deconstruct this expression... Well, <i>teething</i> is the process where babies first start growing their teeth (<i>teething - le processus par lequel les bébés commencent à faire leurs premières dents. En français, on dit "le bébé fait ses dents. Mais il existe un verbe pour cela en anglais</i>). We say that a baby "teethes" or that a baby "is teething". <i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i>

16:32	Teething usually starts at around six months of age, and it can be quite uncomfortable — even painful — for the baby. I'm sure that many of you, my dear listeners, will already have experienced teething children! During this time, babies often cry more than usual, they sleep badly, and generally seem unhappy. It's a difficult period, but it's also completely normal and temporary. <i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i>
17:08	And so, coming back to our expression: “a teething problem”: In everyday English, <i>teething problems</i> means the small difficulties and setbacks [<i>setbacks — the obstacles</i>] that occur at the beginning of a new project, system, or situation. Teething problems are not serious, permanent problems — they are the kind of early difficulties that you expect when something is new (<i>l'expression « teething problems » désigne le genre de difficultés initiales auxquelles on s'attend lorsque quelque chose est nouveau</i>). <i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i>
18:01	Think of it this way, dear listeners: just as a baby's discomfort during teething is temporary — the teeth come through, and the pain passes — teething problems in a project or organisation are also expected to pass once things are properly up and running. This expression is very common in everyday English, particularly in professional and business contexts. It's a very natural and reassuring expression when something new isn't working perfectly yet. <i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i>

18:41	Now, let's see this expression used in some example sentences: 1. "The new software has a few teething problems, but the team is working on them." <i>(Le nouveau logiciel connaît quelques problèmes initiaux, mais l'équipe s'efforce de les résoudre).</i> 2. "Don't worry — every new business has teething problems. It doesn't mean anything is seriously wrong." <i>(Ne vous inquiétez pas : toute nouvelle entreprise connaît des difficultés au début. Cela ne veut pas dire qu'il y a un problème grave).</i> <i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i>
19:44	Please note, dear listeners, my calm and reassuring tone. <i>(Remarquez que j'utilise un ton calme et rassurant)</i>. A teething problem isn't serious. When you describe something as a teething problem, you're saying: this is normal, this is expected, and it will get better. It's a very useful phrase for managing expectations and keeping people calm: • "The new software has a few teething problems, but it's nothing we can't handle!" <i>(« Le nouveau logiciel a quelques petits pépins, mais rien que nous ne puissions gérer ! »)</i> <i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i>

20:35	Alright then, dear listeners, we are coming to the end of today's episode. Before we finish, let's do a quick recap/summary: 1. baby-faced — having a young, innocent-looking face, even as an adult. (<i>En français : avoir un visage poupin, un air juvénile.</i>) 2. a crybaby — an informal word for someone who complains or cries too much about small problems. (<i>En français : un pleurnichard, une pleurnicharde.</i>) 3. (to take) baby steps — making small, careful, gradual progress towards a goal. (<i>En français : avancer petit à petit, y aller pas à pas.</i>) 4. teething problems — the small, temporary difficulties that arise at the beginning of something new, like a process or business. (<i>En français : les problèmes de démarrage.</i>) (Ecrivez vos notes ici).
22:23	That's it for today's episode, everyone! I hope you have enjoyed learning these four expressions, and that they will help you on your way to speaking better English. Have a lovely day, and I look forward to seeing you in the next episode. Bye for now! (Ecrivez vos notes ici).