



# PODCAST TRANSCRIPT

Episode 67:

Title: Useful Christmas Presents

Duration: 20:39

How to use this transcript:

1. Print this transcript:

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

2. Write on it and take notes:

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

3. Listen first **without** the transcript:

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

4. Listen again **with** the transcript:

Listen a second time with the transcript, pausing whenever you want to

00:00	<p>Welcome to <i>The Décl'ic Anglais Podcast</i>, THE podcast for intermediate, French-speaking learners of English. If you would like to improve your English comprehension skills, you have come to the right place. This podcast is like a steppingstone (<i>un tremplin</i>) which will 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 from the notes for this episode, or go to <a href="http://www.decl'icanglais.com/podcast">www.decl'icanglais.com/podcast</a>.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
01:04	<p>Hello there, dear listeners. Welcome back to <i>The Décl'ic Anglais Podcast</i>. Yes, here we are in December 2022, Christmas time is already here. The decorations are up in all the towns and cities, and some people are already putting up their Christmas trees at home. Here in Alsace, the Christmas markets have also started.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
01:41	<p>This year I have been quite organised with buying presents for friends and family. Yes, not all men buy Christmas presents the day before Christmas – I'll have you know that I started Christmas shopping even in November. However, I must confess that I often forget important everyday things... Like every Thursday, I forget to put the blue bin (<i>la poubelle bleue</i>) out on the roadside for collection. Oh, and the laundry (<i>le linge</i>), I often forget about the laundry. Don't worry though, dear listeners, I promise that I am currently wearing clean clothes!</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

<p>02:35</p>	<p>So, let me ask you a question, dear listeners: What do YOU want for Christmas? What would you like Father Christmas (<i>Père Noël</i>) to bring you for Christmas? Personally, I don't consider myself a materialistic person. I take more pleasure in GIVING presents than in RECEIVING them. This makes me a very difficult person at birthdays and Christmas, because there's rarely something that I actually WANT. Honestly, just ask me: "Tom, what do you want for Christmas?" I really don't know. If I really MUST choose something, it's usually something that I need. For example, this year, my wife kept asking "what do you want for Christmas?" I finally replied that I need new slippers (<i>de nouveaux chaussons</i>). I know, I know: I'm a romantic devil.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
<p>03:51</p>	<p>Now something that I have always been passionate about is self-improvement, personal development. And the highest form of personal development is learning. I have always very firmly believed that learning is not something that ends when you finish school, or finish university. I believe in lifelong learning (<i>l'éducation permanente</i>). From this very day today, to the day that I die, I will learn something, because I believe that if someone wishes to become a better person day by day, then learning is the highest expression of this.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
<p>04:48</p>	<p>And you know, this is one of the reasons why I love my job: teaching English as a foreign language. I feel that I am blessed, I am very lucky to have this job which allows me to help people improve themselves, to get better day by day. My job forges new neurological connections, breaks down language barriers, breaks down confidence barriers, builds people's confidence.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

<p>05:29</p>	<p>And not only does my job allow me to help other people grow. My job also allows ME to grow. Dear listeners, you wouldn't believe the things I learn every day from my students and from creating content for this podcast. In a word, it's COOL!</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
<p>05:55</p>	<p>So, if you don't know what you would like for Christmas, why not ask for growth, for development! Ask for something that will help you improve yourself in 2023. This could be anything relevant to your current goals in life:</p> <p>You could ask for a subscription to a gym (<i>une salle de sport</i>), to finally get fit, to improve your health.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
<p>06:32</p> <p>06:58</p>	<p>Would you like to eat better in 2023? Why not ask for cooking classes. Today you might not know how to even cook pasta, but by December 2023 you might be able to cook wonderful, three-course meals for all your friends.</p> <p>Like I said, what you ask for really depends on your objectives. Now, if you're listening to this podcast, I think I can safely assume that ONE of your objectives is to improve your English. So, what could you receive as a Christmas present, that will help you speak English more confidently?</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

<p>07:27</p>	<p>Well, I recently had a conversation with some of my students in the Déclis Anglais Club, where we were talking about books that help you to learn English.</p> <p>We talked about how you can now find English novels (<i>des romans</i>) that are designed for francophone learners of English. In these novels adapted for French people, you can find annotations, little notes where you can find French translations for the most complicated words. Imagine a sentence like:</p>
<p>08:13</p>	<p>“The policeman watched the criminals from behind a hawthorn bush.”</p> <p>Well, you might not know the word <i>hawthorn</i>, <i>hawthorn</i> isn't a word that you see very often. Well, in this annotated novel you would find a little note explaining that <i>hawthorn</i> means <i>aubépine</i> in French.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
<p>08:47</p>	<p>Another type of book that you may find very useful are parallel translations. Parallel translations go one step further (<i>elles vont encore plus loin</i>) because here you have on one page the story in English. And then directly opposite, parallel, you have the entire story in French. So you have the same story in two texts parallel to one another. When I was at university studying German and French, I used some of these parallel translation books and I found them useful.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
<p>09:42</p>	<p>Unfortunately, these books aren't usually in ordinary bookshops. If the owner of your local bookshop is very kind, perhaps they will order this book for you. Alternatively, look online at bookshops that also sell English-language books.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

10:02	<p><i>Bon Tom, je n'aime pas vraiment lire des romans, même en français.</i></p> <p>Well, that's not a problem, either. There are magazines available in your local supermarket that can help you improve your English. Magazines like "<i>Vocabulaire</i>" (<i>écrit V O C A B L E</i>), or "<i>Go English</i>". If you can't find them in your local shops, you can find them online and buy a monthly subscription. They talk about interesting things like the news and current events. So, there is something there for everyone.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
10:50	<p>Ok, so what else can your friends or family give you at Christmas?</p> <p>How about English classes? Certainly, you can take English classes with Déclis Anglais, all online, remotely (<i>à distance</i>) – let me know if you're interested, by the way. But if you prefer face to face, in-person classes, I recommend that you check your local <i>Université Populaire</i>, or perhaps even your local <i>MJC (votre maison des jeunes et de la culture)</i>.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
11:34	<p>These classes can be great, they're usually not very expensive, they are quite affordable (<i>abordable</i>). But there is just one minor disadvantage: they usually take place as a group. As a result, perhaps you don't get to practice speaking as much. But this really depends on the class, the teacher, and your level.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

12:06	<p>If you really want to build confidence speaking, I recommend 1-on-1 English classes, where it's just you and your teacher. Again, I also give 1-on-1 classes (<i>des cours particuliers</i>), 100% online via Zoom. Just let me know if you're interested at <a href="http://www.declicananglais.com">www.declicananglais.com</a>. Alternatively, if you prefer to be really face-to-face, in-person with your teacher, just go online and search for English teachers in your local area. English is the number 1 language to learn in France, and there are lots of good, private teachers all over the country.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
13:05	<p>Just a short note on selecting an English teacher:</p> <p>I hear many French people say things like “<i>ouais il me faut absolument un professeur natif qui vient d'un pays anglophone.</i>” But please, be careful, because this is actually a bit of a trap (<i>un piège</i>). Just because someone speaks English as a first language does not mean that they are a good teacher. For example, let's imagine a teacher called David. David is 19 years old, he's British. He speaks no French, except for “<i>bonjour, merci, une bière s'il vous plaît</i>”. He just arrived in France and wants to earn some extra money teaching English, so he asks €10 per hour. He has very little previous experience teaching, no formal qualifications in teaching. And he has no intention of being a professional teacher in the future.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
14:22	<p>Now, let's imagine a second teacher called Maurice. Maurice is 50 years old, he is French and comes from Paris. Maurice studied English at university, lived in the USA for 5 years, and had a great career for 20 years working as a teacher. His English is excellent, as good as native speaker (<i>aussi bon qu'un anglophone natif</i>) if not better! He is also sensitive to the needs of francophone learners, and is actually really passionate about teaching and helping people. All of his knowledge and experience is reflected in his hourly tariff: €40 per hour.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>



<p>18:12</p>	<p>Something to remember when it comes to reaching your objectives, is that there is no magic bullet, no miracle remedy. No resource or teacher will transform you into a confident speaker in just one day. Sorry, there just isn't.</p> <p>So, when you are thinking... <i>“Hmm, que dois-je faire en 2023 ? Est-ce que je prends des cours, est-ce que je m'abonne à un magazine en anglais ? Est-ce que je fais même un séjour linguistique ?”</i></p> <p>Just remember that the best resource, the best strategy IS THE ONE THAT YOU FOLLOW. <i>(La meilleure stratégie EST CELLE QUE VOUS SUIVEZ, que vous menez à bien).</i></p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
<p>19:01</p>	<p>You can spend hours selecting the perfect book, finding the perfect teacher, finding the best language study holiday. Hours and hours! But what use is that (<i>à quoi ça sert</i>) if after all that effort, you never actually do anything? Find something that works for you and then give it everything you have, maximum effort.</p> <p>Like I said earlier, no matter what path or strategy you take, your future self in December 2023 will be very grateful for the decisions you make today.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
<p>19:49</p>	<p>That's it for today's episode, dear listeners. Remember that I, Tom from Déclis Anglais, am always here to help you on your learning journey. I can help you through the Déclis Anglais Club, our online learning platform with group classes. And also through 1-on-1 classes. If you would like my help in 2023, don't hesitate to get in touch, to contact me. Just go to <a href="http://www.declicanglais.com">www.declicanglais.com</a> for more information. Have a great day, everyone, and see you next time. Bye for now!</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

## How did it go?

Take a moment to revisit the notes that you took.

List here 3 words or expressions (minimum) that you would like to remember from this podcast. We recommend that you consult a free, online dictionary like [www.wordreference.com](http://www.wordreference.com) to ensure that you have the correct definition and context.

### **WORDS/EXPRESSIONS THAT I WANT TO REMEMBER:**

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