



PODCAST TRANSCRIPT

Episode 160:

Title: “Earth Month Expressions”

Duration: 24:55

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	<p>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.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
01:06	<p>Hello there, dear listeners. I hope you are all doing well! This is Tom, your teacher from Déclic Anglais.</p> <p>This episode is being released in April 2026, and it's all about something very important – and very current: the environment (<i>l'environnement</i>). Every April is Earth Month (<i>le Mois de la Terre</i>).</p> <p>Very simply, April is a month where institutes, organisations, and everyday people try to raise awareness for environmental issues. (<i>Le mois d'avril est une période durant laquelle instituts, organisations et citoyens s'efforcent de sensibiliser le public aux questions environnementales</i>).</p> <p>And so, dear listeners, in this episode we will explore some key vocabulary relating to the environment.</p> <p>Are you ready? Let's begin!</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

02:49	<p>Key term number one: climate change (<i>le changement climatique</i>).</p> <p>What is climate change? Climate change refers to long-term changes in temperatures and weather patterns (<i>des tendances météorologiques</i>). Today, we often use this term <i>climate change</i> to talk about changes caused by human activity.</p> <p>Be careful, dear listeners: it is possible to say <i>climatic change</i> in English. So, instead of <i>climate change</i>, we say <i>climatic change</i> – <i>climate</i> (a noun) becomes an adjective: <i>climatic</i>. This makes it sound more like French.</p> <p>However, <i>climatic change</i> is much less common than <i>climate change</i>.</p> <p>Let's hear <i>climate change</i> in an example sentence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Climate change is one of the biggest challenges today.” (« <i>Le changement climatique est l'un des plus grands défis de notre époque.</i> ») <p>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</p>
04:37	<p>Term number two: carbon footprint (<i>empreinte ou bilan carbone</i>).</p> <p>What is a carbon footprint? A carbon footprint is the total amount of greenhouse gases (<i>la quantité totale de gaz à effet de serre</i>) produced through an activity. The term “carbon footprint” is named after carbon dioxide (<i>le dioxyde de carbone</i>) – CO₂. However, it also includes other greenhouse gases such as methane (<i>le méthane</i>) – CH₄.</p> <p>In 2024, France had a carbon footprint of around 8.2 tons per person. (<i>En 2024, l'empreinte carbone de la France était d'environ 8,2 tonnes par personne</i>).</p> <p>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</p>

06:17	<p>This brings us to our next term: the greenhouse effect (<i>l'effet de serre</i>).</p> <p>A greenhouse is the kind of glass house that you put in your garden to help certain plants grow. The glass captures sunlight, converts it to heat, and makes a nice cosy environment for your tomatoes and cucumbers.</p> <p>But certain greenhouse gases (<i>les gaz à effet de serre</i>) capture too much of the sun's energy, they stop heat (<i>la chaleur</i>) escaping into space. This means that the Earth's atmosphere becomes like a giant greenhouse – the greenhouse effect. The result is the first term that we saw in this episode: “climate change” (<i>le changement climatique</i>).</p> <p>The greenhouse effect leads to climate change.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
07:45	<p>Ok, and now our final term: global warming (<i>le réchauffement climatique</i>).</p> <p>The greenhouse effect leads to a specific kind of climate change: global warming.</p> <p>This means that the global climate here on Earth gets warmer. Even if the planet's average temperature gets just 3°C warmer (<i>just 3 degrees!</i>) – well, dear listeners, the consequences will be catastrophic for the environment.</p> <p>An interesting fact for you: the opposite of global warming is “global cooling” (<i>le refroidissement global</i>). Earth has indeed experienced very cold periods in its history caused by natural processes. A good example is an <i>ice age</i> (<i>une ère glaciaire</i>). When the first humans arrived in Europe, much of the continent (including Great Britain and Ireland) were under ice caps (<i>des calottes glaciaires</i>) which were hundreds of meters thick.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

09:33	<p>Alright then, dear listeners. Let's now look at some words and expressions about saving the environment! These are all words and expressions that you can use in your everyday English conversations. Are you ready? Ok... Let's go!</p> <p>Expression number one: “to go green”.</p> <p>There are lots of ways to translate this into French, but it basically means <i>“devenir écolo, adopter une approche plus écologique”</i>.</p> <p>If you <i>“go green”</i> you take public transport (<i>les transports en commun</i>) instead of your car to work. If you <i>“go green”</i> you try to reduce your consumption of single-use plastics (<i>votre consommation de plastiques à usage unique</i>).</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
11:02	<p>Our next expression for today is: eco-friendly (écologique).</p> <p>If something is <i>‘eco-friendly’</i> it is friendly to the environment, it respects the environment – it's green! We can also say <i>‘environmentally friendly’</i>. But <i>‘environmentally friendly’</i> it's longer to say – so, you can just say <i>‘eco-friendly’</i> if you prefer.</p> <p>Let's go back to the single-use plastics (<i>les plastiques à usage unique</i>) that we mentioned earlier. Some of these take years, decades (<i>des décennies</i>) to break down, to decompose. For example, did you know that a plastic straw (<i>une paille en plastique</i>) can take two hundred years to break down! 200 years! A paper straw (<i>une paille en papier</i>) is a much more eco-friendly option.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

12:34	<p>And finally, dear listeners, our last word for today: sustainable (durable).</p> <p><i>Sustainable</i> is one of the most important words in the English language. If something is sustainable, it can continue for a long time, perhaps indefinitely. For example, renewable energy (<i>les énergies renouvelables</i>). Solar power is sustainable, because the sun will be here for billions of years – it's not going anywhere. On the other hand, coal (<i>le charbon</i>) is unsustainable (<i>ce n'est pas viable</i>), because there is only a finite quantity of coal on the planet, and it causes terrible pollution.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
13:50	<p>The word <i>sustainable</i> is often used with <i>development</i>: <i>sustainable development (le développement durable)</i>. Sustainable development is all about promoting eco-friendly economic growth, that is, economic growth that respects the planet and its delicate ecosystems.</p> <p>English also has the word '<i>durable</i>' which comes from French. But in English, <i>durable</i> does not necessarily mean <i>sustainable</i>. If something is <i>durable</i> it means that it is strong and resistant. For example, a cup made of metal is more durable than a cup made of plastic (<i>une tasse en métal est plus résistante qu'une tasse en plastique</i>).</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

15:03	<p>Alright then, dear listeners, good stuff! We have seen quite a lot of interesting vocabulary today. Let's recap (<i>récapituler</i>) those words quickly.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. climate change (<i>le changement climatique</i>)2. carbon footprint (<i>empreinte ou bilan carbone</i>)3. the greenhouse effect (<i>l'effet de serre</i>)4. global warming (<i>le réchauffement climatique</i>)5. to go green (<i>devenir écolo</i>)6. eco-friendly (<i>écologique</i>)7. sustainable (<i>durable</i>) <p>(<i>Ecrivez vos notes ici</i>).</p>
16:21	<p>Ok, let's try a little quiz! I will give you the French words, you give me the English. I will pause after each French word so that you can have time to answer. Are you ready?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>le changement climatique</i> (pause)... climate change.2. <i>l'empreinte ou bilan carbone</i> (pause)... carbon footprint.3. <i>l'effet de serre</i> (pause)... the greenhouse effect4. <i>le réchauffement climatique</i> (pause)... global warming5. <i>devenir écolo</i> (pause)... to go green6. <i>écologique</i> (pause)... eco-friendly7. <i>durable</i> (pause)... sustainable <p>(<i>Ecrivez vos notes ici</i>).</p>

19:04	<p>Good! Well done, people!</p> <p>Now, do you have time for another little quiz? This time I will give you the definition of each word (<i>cette fois-ci, je vais vous donner la définition de chaque mot</i>). Listen carefully to the definition, and give me the correct word. Again, I will pause to give you time to answer. Are you ready?</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
19:44	<p>Definition one:</p> <p>“This is when the temperature on the planet increases.” What do you think? (<i>pause</i>)</p> <p>Answer: global warming.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
20:12	<p>Definition two:</p> <p>“This is an adjective, and it means that something can continue for a long time, especially when it respects the environment.” What do you think? (<i>pause</i>)</p> <p>Answer: sustainable.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

20:51	<p>Definition three:</p> <p>“This is when the temperature of the planet changes, usually because of human activity.”</p> <p>What do you think? (<i>pause</i>)</p> <p>Answer: climate change.</p> <p>(<i>Ecrivez vos notes ici</i>).</p>
21:28	<p>Definition four:</p> <p>“This term refers to the quantity of greenhouse gases (like carbon dioxide and methane) that a person produces.” What do you think? (<i>pause</i>)</p> <p>The answer: a carbon footprint.</p> <p>(<i>Ecrivez vos notes ici</i>).</p>

<p>22:08</p>	<p>Definition five:</p> <p>“This term refers to when those gases (<i>like methane and carbon dioxide</i>) capture the sun’s heat, stopping the heat from escaping into space, which results in global warming.” What do you think? (<i>pause</i>)</p> <p>The answer: the greenhouse effect.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
<p>23:00</p>	<p>You’re doing very well, dear listeners! We’re almost finished.</p> <p>Definition six:</p> <p>“This term is an adjective that means that something respects the environment.”</p> <p>What do you think? (<i>pause</i>)</p> <p>The answer: eco-friendly.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

23:36	<p>And finally, definition seven:</p> <p>“We use this expression if a person or organisation decides to become more eco-friendly.”</p> <p>What do you think? (<i>pause</i>)</p> <p>The answer: to go green.</p> <p>Well done, everyone! Bravo!</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
24:17	<p>Well, that’s it for today, dear listeners. Thank you very much for listening to <i>The Déclic Anglais Podcast</i>. As always, don’t forget to leave us a “like” on Spotify or Apple Podcasts, and to share us with your friends who are also learning English.</p> <p>Have a lovely day, everyone – take care of yourselves! I look forward to seeing you all again for our next episode.</p> <p>Bye for now.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

