



# PODCAST TRANSCRIPT

Episode 69:

Title: Don't OFFER a False Friend at Christmas!

Duration: 13:36

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 Déclic 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>) that 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 in the description of this episode, or go to <a href="http://www.declicananglais.com/podcast">www.declicananglais.com/podcast</a>.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
01:02	<p>Hello there everyone. This is Tom, your teacher from Déclic Anglais. Thank you for joining me for episode 69 of <i>The Déclic Anglais Podcast</i>.</p> <p>This is the final episode before Father Christmas comes in his sleigh (<i>son traîneau</i>) and brings us all lovely presents (<i>des cadeaux</i>). I'm sure that you all have certain wishes for Christmas this year. Personally, I'm looking forward (<i>j'ai hâte</i>) to spending Christmas with my family back home in Wales (<i>le Pays de Galles</i>). For me, Christmas all is about people, spending time with our loved ones (<i>avec nos proches</i>) our loved ones.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
02:04	<p>Christmas is usually a very simple affair in my family. On Christmas Eve (<i>la veille de Noël</i>), we either stay home and have a nice aperitif. Or perhaps we will go to our local pub and have a little drink or two there.</p> <p>As in most of France, British people open their Christmas presents on Christmas Day, usually in the morning. Perhaps you noticed that I said "MOST of France", not "ALL of France". That's because I live in Alsace on the border with Germany. And Alsace still has some cultural similarities with Germany and Switzerland. Here in Alsace many families open their presents in the evening of the 24<sup>th</sup> December, much like in Germany. My wife and her family (<i>my family-in-law</i>) are good Alsatians, and therefore open their presents on Christmas Eve.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

03:21	<p>Now, in today's episode I would like to tackle (<i>s'attaquer à</i>) a common false friend (<i>un faux ami</i>), that I often hear my francophone students using when they speak English. What is a false friend (<i>un faux ami</i>)? When we talk about false friends in languages, this is when we have two words that look the same in both languages, for example "<i>demander en français</i>" and "<i>to demand</i> in English".</p> <p><i>Demander</i> and <i>demand</i> look really similar, don't they? But they don't mean the same thing.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
04:19	<p><i>En anglais, si je "demand" quelque chose, ceci ne veut pas dire que je fais une demande polie. Si je dis "I demand a coffee" je ne suis pas en train de demander, je suis en train d'exiger! "I demand a coffee!" Donnez-moi ce café, tout de suite !</i></p> <p>By the way, this is also very important to remember at Christmastime. Because if you demand presents (<i>des cadeaux</i>) from Father Christmas, well you might be disappointed on Christmas morning!</p> <p>So you see? False friends are two words that look similar, but can have very different meanings.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
05:07	<p>The false friends that we will be looking at today are <i>to offer</i> in English, and <i>offrir</i> in French (<i>offer en anglais, et offrir en français</i>).</p> <p>And the reason why I chose these words for today's episode, is because at Christmas we exchange presents (<i>des cadeaux</i>), or gifts, don't we?</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

05:37	<p>So this is a little bit of a complicated one, because actually <i>offer</i> and <i>offrir</i> sometimes mean the same thing in both languages. Let's imagine someone comes to your house, and you say: "Can I offer you a coffee?" (<i>Je peux vous offrir un café ?</i>). You see? Here <i>offer</i> and <i>offrir</i> are the same.</p> <p>It's usually when we want to give something to someone. For example:          "I offered my seat to the elderly lady on the bus."  <i>"J'ai offert mon siège à la vieille dame dans le bus."</i></p> <p>See what I mean?</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
06:28	<p>Now, dear listeners, this is where it starts to get a bit complicated. In French, when we talk about presents, gifts, we say <i>offrir un cadeau à quelqu'un</i>. Yes?</p> <p>Well, in English we do not <i>offer</i> presents, we GIVE presents. Ok? GIVE presents. (<i>En anglais, nous n'offrons pas de cadeaux, nous DONNONS des cadeaux</i>). So when talking about presents, use the verb <i>to give</i>, do not use the verb <i>to offer</i>.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
07:10	<p><i>Mais Tom, pourquoi ? Est-ce que "offrir" ne marche pas du tout alors ?</i></p> <p>Well, dear listeners, it's not so much a question of "<i>est-ce que ça marche ou pas ?</i>". In this case, it's more a question of wanting to sound less French when you speak English. If you are listening to this podcast, I can safely assume that you wish to speak English more naturally, more like a native speaker.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

07:44	<p>Yes, you can certainly say “I offered a present to my friend.” Grammatically, it’s correct. And everyone knows what you mean. However, it’s not what a native speaker says. We don’t offer presents, we GIVE presents.</p> <p>Therefore, this Christmas, always keep in mind that in English we GIVE presents, we do not OFFER them.</p> <p><i>D’accord Tom, mais quand est-ce que je peux utiliser le verbe offer en anglais ?</i></p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
08:22	<p>Alright so, <i>to offer</i> is a great verb to use, and I don’t want you to be scared (<i>avoir peur</i>) to use it. So, let’s look at some examples of when you <i>can</i> use it.</p> <p>So, our first use we saw already:</p> <p>Someone comes to your house or to your office and you offer them a drink. You can say:</p> <p>“Can I offer you a coffee?” (<i>Je peux vous offrir un café ?</i>)</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
09:00	<p>Ok, use number two:</p> <p>Advice (<i>des conseils</i>). You can offer someone advice. Imagine you have a problem at work, you want to improve something. So you ask a colleague:</p> <p>“Could you offer me some advice?” (<i>Pouvez-vous me donner un conseil ?</i>)</p> <p>Please note, dear listeners, that <i>advice</i> in English is an uncountable noun. We DO NOT say <i>advices</i>, ok? <i>Advices</i> does not exist. We say “advice, some advice”, it is always singular. “Could you offer me some advice?”</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

09:57	<p>And finally, in a professional context, we say that a company or person offers services. For example:</p> <p>“Our company offers accounting services.” (<i>Notre société propose des services de comptabilité</i>).</p> <p>Once again, please note, dear listeners that we don't really say that a company “proposes a service”. <i>En français on dit qu'une société propose un service</i>. But in English, it's better to say that a company OFFERS a service. Ok?</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici)</i>.</p>
10:45	<p>So, to summarise those points, dear listeners:</p> <p>This Christmas, avoid (<i>évit</i>ez) saying “offer a present”. Say that you GIVE presents or GIVE gifts.</p> <p>But don't worry, you can use <i>offer</i> for a number of different things.</p> <p>Number one: When you want to offer someone something to eat or drink. “Can I offer you a coffee?”</p> <p>Number two: When you want to give or receive advice. “Could you offer me some advice?”</p> <p>And finally: When you want to describe the services offered by a company. “Our company offers accounting services.”</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici)</i>.</p>
11:51	<p>Well, that's the end of this episode, dear listeners. And this is the final episode of 2022. What a great year this has been for the Déclis Anglais Podcast! And it's all thanks to you, our dear listeners. <b>**Applause**</b> Thank you so much for supporting this podcast, and for all of your kind words.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici)</i>.</p>

12:22

The Déclic Anglais Podcast will continue very soon in January 2023, with more interesting and practical episodes that will help you to continue improving in English.

And don't forget, dear listeners, that you can always suggest future topics for our episodes. I am always looking for interesting new topics, so please let me know if you have a great idea for this podcast. Just send me a message! Go to:

[www.declicananglais.com](http://www.declicananglais.com).

Alright then dear listeners, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas (*Joyeux Noël*), have a wonderful time. Eat, drink, and be merry! And I look forward to seeing you in January. Bye for now!

*(Ecrivez vos notes ici).*

## 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:**

1.

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