



PODCAST

TRANSCRIPT

Episode 66:

Title: Scotland

Duration: 20:15

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 from the notes for this episode, or go to www.declicananglais.com/podcast.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
01:03	<p>Hello there, dear listeners. I hope you are all doing well, and it is my pleasure to have you back here for another episode of <i>The Déclic Anglais Podcast</i>. This month's theme is all about Scotland (<i>l'Ecosse</i>). Why is this? Why have I chosen Scotland? Because this month, 30th November is St Andrew's Day. St Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland, and therefore the 30th November is celebrated as the national day in Scotland.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
01:54	<p>Now, if you are thinking to yourself: "Ah oui, l'Ecosse! Cette région au nord de l'Angleterre"... No, no, no. Let me stop you right there. It's true that for many people in France, the words England (<i>l'Angleterre</i>) and the United Kingdom (<i>le Royaume-Uni</i>) are synonymous. Many people think that England means the United Kingdom, and the United Kingdom means England. No, that really is not correct.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

02:32	<p>In fact, I could write an entire episode called: “Comment énerver un ecossais en trois mots: Êtes-vous anglais ? Are you English?” Oooh, really dear listeners, please don’t make the mistake of calling someone from Scotland, Wales (<i>le Pays de Galles</i>) or Ireland, English! But I understand perfectly why French people make this mistake.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
03:05	<p>The United Kingdom is one big country, but it’s one country composed of many countries. The United Kingdom is like four countries that live together in the same house, (<i>nous sommes quatre pays qui sont colocataires</i>). You can say that the United Kingdom is just the name of our house where we all live. But the four housemates (<i>les quatre colocataires</i>) are England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland (<i>l’Irlande du Nord</i>). England is the biggest country, the richest with the most influence. Indeed, England was the country that drove the unification of Great Britain. England was also the most at war with France. The kings and queens of France and England were constantly fighting for some reason.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
04:12	<p>But in the year 1707, the kingdoms of England and Scotland unified. They became one country with the government located in Westminster, London. Since that time, the terms English (<i>anglais</i>) or Scottish (<i>ecossais</i>) as a real nationality do not exist. Because from 1707 everyone became British (<i>britannique</i>). Today you will not find the terms English, Scottish, Welsh, Northern Irish on our passports. You will just see the words: “British Citizen”.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

05:06	<p>Furthermore, it doesn't help that the main language of the United Kingdom is English. English comes from... England! So, I understand why French people might find it all very confusing. Scotland lies in the north of the United Kingdom. It has its own rich culture, its own traditions, and Scottish people are immensely proud (<i>fiers</i>) of their country. That's why it's important to be careful to call them either Scottish or British, it's a question of respect.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
05:55	<p>You might recognise some Scottish traditions already. Perhaps you have already seen a man wearing a kilt, a traditional skirt (<i>une jupe</i>) worn by men. It's totally normal to see men wearing a kilt with pride, dignity. Perhaps you have also wondered if Scottish men wear underwear (<i>des sous-vêtements</i>) under their kilts. I'm sorry, I can't answer that question. You should go to Scotland and ask a Scotsman yourself!</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
06:43	<p>And certainly, you would recognise the sound of the bagpipes (<i>la cornemuse</i>), a traditional musical instrument of Scotland. It's a wind instrument, where the musician blows into a kind of bag. They weren't invented in Scotland; many countries and cultures have something similar. But the Scottish are famous for their variety of bagpipe music. The distinctive sound can be heard across the country. Some people love the sound of the bagpipes, some people hate it. Personally, I quite like it. But I wouldn't want to listen to it for longer than, let's say 30 minutes.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

07:42 As I mentioned earlier, the main language of the United Kingdom is English. But in Scotland they are famous for their strong, Scottish accents. Personally, I love hearing Scottish accents, but depending on the region it can be VERY difficult to understand – even for me, a native-speaker of English. In Scotland they also speak a language called Scots. Basically, Scots is a variety of English that developed in Scotland. There's a bit of an argument between linguists if Scots can be considered a true language, like French or English. Or if it's more of a dialect of English, but that's not for me to comment on. Some wonderful Scots words are:

“Braw” meaning excellent, pleasant, really good. “Braw”.

“Cooie” meaning to cuddle (*faire un calin*), “coorie”.

And finally, “dreich”. This is when the weather outside is grey, and wet, and cold. In Scotland you can say the weather is “dreich”.

(Ecrivez vos notes ici).

09:09 And yes, talking about the weather, Scotland is not known for good weather. But there is a Scottish saying (*un dicton*): “There's no such thing as bad weather, only the wrong clothes!” So, bad weather doesn't exist, you just need to dress correctly.

(Ecrivez vos notes ici).

09:40 It's true that Scotland receives a lot of rain, but so does the rest of Great Britain. And actually, the climate varies enormously across the country. The east of Scotland receives as much (or even less) rain than Rabat in Morocco! In the west of Scotland, the Gulf Stream (an important air current that crosses the Atlantic Ocean) brings warm winds to the west coast. This creates a kind of microclimate, and in some places you can even find palm trees (*des palmiers*). So indeed, don't believe the stereotypes you hear about Scottish weather. In my personal experience, I have visited Scotland twice in the summer. Both times the weather was lovely and warm, and I even got sunburned.

(Ecrivez vos notes ici).

10:45 But in the winter, Scotland is the only place in the United Kingdom with outdoor ski slopes (*des pistes de ski en plein air*). In Wales where I come from, we also have mountains like in Scotland. But unfortunately, we have very little snow. Scotland however has the mountains and the snow. There are even avalanches in Scotland, sometimes fatal ones. But before you plan a skiing holiday in Scotland, be aware that it's not like skiing in the Alps. There aren't enormous ski resorts like Chamonix. In Scotland, it's more like skiing in the Vosges and it's really only in the winter.

(Ecrivez vos notes ici).

11:42	<p>Another famous region of Scotland are the Highlands, which dominate the northwest of Scotland. This region is famous for its natural beauty, it's absolutely stunning (<i>or magnificent</i>). These are the highest mountains in Great Britain, and this area is a true wilderness (<i>une région sauvage</i>). In some areas of the Highlands you can walk for miles and miles and miles, and never encounter another human being. Here you may also find people who speak Scottish Gaelic, a Celtic language related to Irish Gaelic, and more distantly to Welsh (<i>le gallois</i>) and Breton, in France. The people native to the Highlands originally came from Ireland many hundreds of years ago. This is one reason why the Scottish Highlands is culturally distinct, even within Scotland.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
13:00	<p>If you love wildlife (another word for animals), then here you can see the golden eagle (<i>l'aigle royal</i>), puffins (<i>des macareux</i>), and the Scottish red deer (<i>un cerf élaphe</i>) native to that region.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
13:30	<p>And maybe, if you're very lucky, Nessie. Who or what is Nessie? Nessie is the nickname (<i>le surnom</i>) of the Loch Ness Monster. The Scottish Highlands are full of full of lochs, large lakes sometimes connected to the sea. And most famous of these lochs is Loch Ness. The Loch Ness Monster is a creature from Scottish folklore that apparently lives in the deep, deep depths of Loch Ness. There have been legends of a monster in the loch for centuries, but interest exploded in the twentieth century when many people claimed (<i>beaucoup de gens prétendaient</i>) to have seen a monster in the water. Is Nessie real? Or a hoax? Maybe that's a topic for another episode.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

<p>14:49</p>	<p>If you are not a fan of the countryside (<i>la campagne</i>) or the wilderness, Scotland also has some great cities which you should definitely visit. Edinburgh is the capital city of Scotland, it's the seat of the Scottish government. The skyline (the horizon) of Edinburgh is dominated by Castle Rock, an extinct volcanic vent where now sits Edinburgh Castle. This is an important place for Scotland, culturally and historically. In fact, it is the second most-visited tourist attraction in the entire United Kingdom!</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
<p>15:43</p>	<p>Edinburgh is also the focus of many cultural events and festivals throughout the year. One of the most famous celebrations is Hogmanay, the Scottish New Year's Eve celebration. Four days of processions, concerts and fireworks (<i>des feux d'artifice</i>) with an enormous street party, people just having a great time. It's great fun!</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
<p>16:18</p>	<p>As I mentioned earlier, Edinburgh is also the seat (<i>le siège</i>) of the Scottish government and Scottish parliament. Since 1997, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland voted for devolution (<i>en français, la dévolution du pouvoir</i>). This means that the central British government in London agreed to decentralise power, establishing regional governments, in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Scotland therefore has a lot of autonomy from the British central government. Scotland can create much of its own legislation, and therefore manages a lot of its own affairs. This includes healthcare, education policy, justice, environmental policy, and even some taxation policies.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

17:26	<p>There are growing demands in Scotland, that the country should leave the United Kingdom and become an independent country. Indeed, Scotland held a referendum on independence in 2014. 44.7% of the population voted FOR independence. Not quite half, but very close! Brexit (the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union) was very unpopular in Scotland. In 2016, 62% of Scottish voters wanted to remain in the European Union. Indeed, the Scottish government in Edinburgh still flies the European flag outside of their building.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
18:32	<p>The main ruling party in Scotland (the Scottish National Party) is now campaigning to have a second independence referendum soon. Their objective is for Scotland to leave the United Kingdom and then re-join the European Union as an independent state. It's difficult to know what will happen, and the topic of independence and Brexit remain very divisive topic across the country.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
19:12	<p>Honestly, dear listeners, I could sit here and talk to you about this fascinating country for hours and hours and hours. There is SO much about to learn about Scotland, it's truly a wonderful place. But I'm also conscious that you are listening to this episode, which is getting longer and longer, and maybe you have some things that you need to do today. So perhaps I should end this episode here.</p> <p>But don't worry, I will be releasing more episodes on Scotland in the future. Perhaps I could even interview a real Scottish person for you, so you can hear what they sound like! Would you like that?</p> <p>Have a great day everyone, and I look forward to seeing you at our next episode. 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 to ensure that you have the correct definition and context.

WORDS/EXPRESSIONS THAT I WANT TO REMEMBER:

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