



PODCAST TRANSCRIPT

Episode 157:

Title: “Expressions About Chocolate”

Duration: 24:24

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 Décl'ic 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 everyone, and welcome to another episode of <i>The Décl'ic Anglais Podcast</i>. For those of you who don't know me already, my name is Tom, I'm your guide to the English language. I'm very happy that you're here for our second episode this month about chocolate. In our last episode, we learned about the history of chocolate and where it comes from. Today, we're going to have some fun learning English expressions that use the word "chocolate."</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
01:52	<p>Yes, English has many colourful expressions (I'm sure you know that already, dear listeners!) and of course, some of them involve chocolate! By the end of this episode, you will know three chocolate expressions that native English speakers use everyday.</p> <p>As always on this podcast, these are common, everyday expressions that you can safely use in your everyday English conversations.</p> <p>So, are you ready? Let's dive in!</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

02:45	<p>Expression 1: AS USEFUL AS A CHOCOLATE TEAPOT</p> <p>Ah, this has to be one of my favourite expressions, and one that I love to use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "As useful as a chocolate teapot" <p>Translated to French: <i>Aussi utile qu'une théière en chocolat.</i></p> <p>The image here is very clear. Imagine you have a teapot made of chocolate. What would happen if you tried to make tea in it? Well, when you pour hot water into it, the chocolate would melt! The teapot would be destroyed, and your tea would be ruined. So, a chocolate teapot is completely useless (<i>une théière en chocolat est complètement inutile</i>), isn't it?</p> <p>That's exactly what this expression means. When we say something or someone is "as useful as a chocolate teapot," we mean they are completely useless or ineffective.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
04:23	<p>Here are some examples of how to use this expression:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. "My umbrella broke, so now it's as useful as a chocolate teapot." <i>(Mon parapluie s'est cassé, alors maintenant il est aussi utile qu'une théière en chocolat).</i>2. "This app doesn't work properly—it's as useful as a chocolate teapot." <i>(Cette application ne fonctionne pas correctement, elle est aussi utile qu'une théière en chocolat).</i> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

05:16	<p>This expression is a humorous way to say something is useless. It's quite informal, so perhaps it's better to use it with friends or in casual situations, not in formal business meetings.</p> <p>Interestingly, some engineers actually tested if a chocolate teapot is really useless.</p> <p>No really, dear listeners! They really made a chocolate teapot and discovered that if you make the walls thick enough—about 15 millimetres—you can actually brew tea in it before it melts!</p> <p><i>(Les ingénieurs ont découvert que si l'on fabrique une théière en chocolat dont les parois ont une épaisseur d'environ 15 millimètres, il est possible d'y faire infuser du thé avant qu'elle ne fonde).</i></p> <p>That's a lot of chocolate! But of course, the expression is still true: a chocolate teapot is basically useless.</p> <p><i>(Écrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
06:41	<p>Expression 2: CHOCOLATE BOX</p> <p>Our next expression "chocolate box" (<i>boîte de chocolats</i>), has a fascinating history!</p> <p>In Britain, especially during the 1950s and 1960s, chocolate boxes often had pictures on the lid (<i>les boîtes de chocolats avaient souvent des images sur le couvercle</i>). These pictures showed very pretty, perfect scenes—like charming cottages with roses growing on the walls, beautiful English villages with green grass and blue skies. Everything looked absolutely perfect and lovely.</p> <p>The chocolate company Cadbury was famous for putting these idealized, picturesque scenes on their chocolate boxes. But often, the images showed places that looked too perfect to be real.</p> <p><i>(Écrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

08:00	<p><i>It's difficult to translate this expression into French. (On pourrait peut-être dire que « c'est comme une carte postale »).</i></p> <p>Today, when we describe something as "chocolate box," we mean it's pretty in a conventional, but artificial way. It looks perfect, but maybe it's not very deep or realistic. It can also suggest something is a bit old-fashioned (<i>un peu démodé</i>) or overly sentimental.</p> <p><i>Pour moi, l'expression « chocolate box » évoque quelque chose de tellement parfait que cela en devient écoeurant à regarder, cela semble tout simplement faux ou artificiel. Un peu comme certaines images générées par l'IA.</i></p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
09:01	<p>We usually use this expression before a noun, like this:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. "The movie had chocolate box scenery, but the story wasn't very interesting." <i>(ce film montrait des décors de carte postale mais l'histoire n'était pas très intéressante).</i>2. "I don't want to live in a chocolate box town—I prefer somewhere with more character and diversity." <i>(Je ne veux pas vivre dans une ville de style carte postale, je préfère vivre dans un endroit qui a plus de caractère et de diversité).</i> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

10:06	<p>It's important to note that calling something "chocolate box" isn't always negative. Some people love chocolate box villages because they're charming, while others find them boring because everything looks the same. Context is important, dear listeners.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
10:31	<p>Alright, are we ready for expression number 3: LIFE IS LIKE A BOX OF CHOCOLATES</p> <p>This expression became incredibly popular because of the 1994 movie "<i>Forrest Gump</i>". Ah, <i>Forrest Gump</i>, dear listeners, this is one of my all-time favourite films. If you haven't seen Forrest Gump before, stop listening to this podcast and go and watch it...</p> <p>In the film, the main character Forrest, played by Tom Hanks, sits on a bench (<i>il s'assoit sur un banc</i>) and he's holding a box of chocolates. Forrest says: "My mama always said life was like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get."</p> <p><i>(« Ma maman disait toujours que la vie c'est comme une boîte de chocolats. On ne sait jamais sur quoi on va tomber. »)</i></p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

12:00	<p>In the film, Forrest Gump has a strong Alabama accent, from the southern United States. But, I won't try to do an impression of the accent here !</p> <p>But what does this mean? Well, think about a box of assorted chocolates—one box contains many different chocolates, and they might look similar on the outside. Some might be filled with caramel, some with nuts, some with cream, and some might even have flavours you don't like. When you pick a chocolate without knowing what's inside, it's a surprise! Sometimes it's delicious, and sometimes it's not what you expected.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
12:50	<p>The box of chocolates is a metaphor for life. Life is unpredictable and full of surprises. You can't always know what will happen next. Sometimes good things happen, sometimes challenging things happen, and you have to accept whatever comes your way.</p> <p>Let me give you an example from my own life, dear listeners. Back in 2014 I completed a Masters degree in translation (<i>la traduction</i>) – I was training to become a translator, and so I looked everywhere for some work experience, for an internship (<i>un stage en entreprise</i>). One day, I was looking on a job website, and found an advert for an internship at a translation company. I thought 'Oh great !' and I clicked on the link, but disappointment (<i>déception</i>)... the position was for the wrong language for me.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

14:17	<p>I was just about to close the window (<i>j'étais sur le point de fermer la page, vraiment le curseur était sur le petit X prêt à fermer la page</i>), when suddenly I thought : Wait... Take a look at the company itself (<i>l'offre d'emploi était publiée sur un site destiné aux demandeurs d'emploi, et non sur le site web de l'entreprise elle-même</i>). So, I went directly to the translation company's website – and what did I see ? They were hiring translators in MY language pair (<i>ils recrutait des traducteurs dans ma combinaison linguistique</i>). WOOHOO !</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
15:13	<p>So, I applied for the position and took a short internship IN GERMANY.</p> <p>But, dear listeners, that's not the crazy part... On my first day at the translation company, I was introduced to a certain young lady from Alsace, France. I didn't know it at the time, but I had just met my future wife, the women with whom I would start a family! And here I am, 11 years later, living in France and married to a beautiful Alsatian girl, when initially I was only going to do a short internship in Germany.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

16:05	<p>And to think : I can follow it back to the day in 2014 looking at the job offer (<i>l'offre d'emploi</i>) on the internet. Like I said, I almost closed the webpage, the curser was on the X to close the page. Just half a milisecond sooner, and I might not have gone to Germany, I might not have met my wife, and you would not be listening to this podcast, dear listeners. Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you are going to get !</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
16:51	<p>Ok then, dear listeners, let's now look at one bonus expression for today...</p> <p>Now, I should say that apparently this expression is mostly used in Wales, where I come from. (<i>Je dois dire que cette expression est apparemment surtout utilisée au Pays de Galles, d'où je viens</i>). I say "apparently" because some of my English friends have never heard it. But it's still a great expression, and it's easy to understand what it means – so I simply MUST share it with you.</p> <p>Alright then, today's bonus expression: "to THINK YOU'RE CHOCOLATE" (<i>se prendre pour du chocolat</i>).</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

17:55	<p><i>Tom, qu'est-ce que ça veut dire ?</i></p> <p>Ok, let me explain this expression.</p> <p>Have you ever met someone who thinks they are so beautiful, so handsome that they just don't have time for anyone else?</p> <p><i>(Avez-vous déjà rencontré quelqu'un qui se trouve tellement beau ou belle qu'il ou elle ne s'intéresse à personne d'autre ?)</i></p> <p>"Oh, I'm so amazing. I'm the most beautiful, the most intelligent, the funniest... Other people? HA! Not interested, thank you."</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
18:45	<p>Well, when you have someone who is in love with themselves (<i>quelqu'un qui est amoureux de lui-même</i>), we can say:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "He thinks he's chocolate!"• "She thinks she's chocolate!" <p><i>(Il ou elle se prend pour du chocolat).</i></p> <p>Imagine it, dear listeners... If they were made out of chocolate, they would eat themselves! (<i>S'ils étaient faits de chocolat, ils se mangeraient eux-mêmes !</i>)</p> <p>So, if we say:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "Robert thinks he's chocolate."• "Julie thinks she's chocolate." <p>...it means that Robert or Julie have a big ego! They are very self-centered, self-absorbed.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

19:54	<p>Now, as I said, dear listeners, I'm not sure that this expression is as common as I thought it was. But that's also a good reminder for you, that as learners of the English language you will encounter expressions and words that are not common everywhere. Remember that the English-speaking world is enormous, with hundreds of dialects and different ways of talking. You will encounter regional expressions and regional words that are unique to certain areas. But that's OK, dear listeners, it's all a part of the fun.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
20:44	<p>A good way to overcome this problem is to have a large repertoire of synonyms! Earlier, when I explained this expression (<i>to think you're chocolate</i>) I gave you many synonyms – were you listening?</p> <p><i>To think you are chocolate...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>It means to be in love with yourself.</i>- <i>To have a big ego.</i>- <i>To be self-centered.</i>- <i>To be self-absorbed.</i> <p>If you have a large repertoire of synonyms waiting in reserve, you will never have a problem expressing yourself.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

21:31	<p>Alright then, dear listeners. Let's review those expressions one more time:</p> <p>Expression no.1: "as useful as a chocolate teapot."</p> <p>If something is as useful as a chocolate teapot, it means that it is useless (<i>inutile</i>)!</p> <p>If you have a phone that cannot make a call, it's as useful as a chocolate teapot.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
22:05	<p>Expression no.2: "chocolate box."</p> <p>Used as an adjective, "chocolate box" means that something is "picture perfect", like a postcard. For many people, "chocolate box" means that something looks beautiful but in an artificial way. For example: "a chocolate box village".</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
22:35	<p>Expression no.3: "life is like a box of chocolates."</p> <p>Made famous by the film <i>Forrest Gump</i>, this expression refers to how life can be unpredictable and full of surprises. "Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know which one you're going to get!"</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

22:57	<p>And finally, our bonus expression: "to think you are chocolate" (<i>se prendre pour du chocolat</i>). Which means that someone is very self-centered, self-absorbed. They think that they are amazing, and spend hours looking at themselves in the mirror every day!</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
23:22	<p>Well, that brings us to the end of today's episode.</p> <p>Remember, expressions like these are an important part of natural English conversation. When you use them correctly, you sound more fluent and natural. But it takes time to learn when and how to use them, so don't worry if you don't remember everything today. Just keep listening and practicing!</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
23:51	<p>Thank you so much for joining me for this sweet episode about chocolate expressions. I hope you enjoyed it! If you did, please give us a like or a comment on Spotify or Apple Podcast, and don't forget to share this podcast with your friends who are also learning English.</p> <p>Until next time, dear listeners, keep practicing, and have a nice week.</p> <p>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: