



# PODCAST TRANSCRIPT

Episode 39:

Merry Christmas: Don't be a Scrooge!

Duration: 09:24

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>Hello there, dear listeners! I hope you're all well, thank you for joining me today for this episode of <i>The Déclic Anglais Podcast</i>. You have found THE podcast for intermediate, francophone learners of English. My name is Tom, I'm your teacher from Déclic Anglais. Welcome! Don't forget that a free transcript is available for every episode of this podcast. You can find the link in the show notes for each episode, or simply go to <a href="http://declicanglais.com/podcast">declicanglais.com/podcast</a>, to download your free PDF.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
00:50	<p>Well, here we are, dear listeners. We are already in mid-December, Christmas is just around the corner. I recently discovered a word that really made me laugh. Ready? <i>Christougeniiatikophile</i>. Well, I think that's how it's pronounced: <i>Christougeniiatikophile</i>. So, you know how we use Greek words to describe a person who loves or hates something? Like how someone who loves books is a bibliophile, or how someone who is scared of spiders is an arachnophobe. Well apparently, a <i>Christougeniiatikophile</i> is someone who loves Christmas. And I'm guessing that someone who hates Christmas is therefore a <i>Christougeniiatikophobe</i>!</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
01:48	<p>Now, I need to make clear, we do not call people <i>Christougeniiatikophiles</i> in English. No, absolutely not. That's far too long. But you could say that someone is a Christmas-lover, or a Christmas-hater. Do you know any Christmas-haters? Do you know anyone who is always grumpy (<i>grognon</i>) over Christmas? Do you know anyone who refuses to take part in the celebrations? Or especially someone who is very stingy (<i>radin</i>) giving Christmas presents? Well, there is a great name that we give these kinds of people: Scrooge. We call these people a Scrooge.</p> <p><i>Tom, qu'est-ce que cela veut dire, un Scrooge ?</i></p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

02:47	<p>Well, it's actually the surname (<i>le nom de famille</i>) of a fictional character: Ebenezer Scrooge. Ebenezer Scrooge is the main character in a book called <i>A Christmas Carol</i>, by Charles Dickens, a British writer from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Charles Dickens wrote some really great, famous stories such as <i>Oliver Twist</i>, <i>A Tale of Two Cities</i> and <i>Little Women</i>. I really recommend you check out some of his work, even if you only read a French translation. But one of his most famous and beloved stories is <i>A Christmas Carol</i>.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
03:32	<p>In <i>A Christmas Carol</i>, Ebenezer Scrooge is a rich businessman in London, he's very wealthy indeed and does business with banks and finance. And despite all his money, he's described as a hard, cold-hearted, miserable, covetous man who seriously underpays his workers. He's a very unpleasant individual. And most importantly, he hates Christmas, he <i>loathes</i> Christmas, he hates it with a passion. As far as Scrooge is concerned, Christmas is a waste of time and money.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
04:17	<p>In <i>A Christmas Carol</i>, Scrooge famously says:  <i>"Every idiot who goes about with 'Merry Christmas' on his lips, should be boiled with his own pudding, and buried with a stake of holly through his heart."</i></p> <p><i>En français : tous les idiots qui fêtent Noël devraient être cuits avec leur propre gâteau de Noël et puis enterrés avec leur cœurs percés par une branche de houx.</i>  <i>Hmm... Sympa !</i></p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

04:48	<p>I won't tell you too much about the story, I don't want to give away any spoilers. But during the night of Christmas Eve (<i>le Réveillon de Noël</i>), Scrooge is visited by three ghosts who take him on three journeys in an effort to make him a better person. That's all I will say about the story, but it's a really nice story with a happy ending. And even though it was written about 180 years ago, you will still be able to understand Charles Dickens' writing. It's not like Shakespeare.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
05:24	<p>This story is so famous in the English-speaking world, that today we call anyone who hates Christmas, or who is intentionally stingy and miserable at this time of year 'a Scrooge'. Let's imagine you say to a friend, "hey, come over to my house. I've decorated my house and Christmas tree with pretty lights, I've done some Christmas cakes. Come over and celebrate with me. We'll have a drink and enjoy ourselves."</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
05:54	<p>And now, let's imagine that this friend replies: "No, I hate all of that. Christmas is stupid. Call me in January." And then they abruptly put the phone down. Dear listeners, that friend is a Scrooge. And you can even say to someone: "don't be such a Scrooge! Come and celebrate Christmas with us! Don't be a Scrooge."</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

06:24	<p>Now, in <i>A Christmas Carol</i>, Ebenezer Scrooge is well known for using a certain expression: humbug! Bah, humbug!</p> <p>The word humbug is an old, old word and it doesn't really exist in modern English. It's considered very old-fashioned today. But in the time of Charles Dickens, if you said <i>humbug</i>, it meant something like "nonsense, whatever, n'importe quoi!" And if you called a person "a humbug" it meant that they were false, hypocritical.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
07:03	<p>Ebenezer Scrooge is famous for using this expression. Here is a short excerpt from the book, where Scrooge is talking to his nephew, and calls Christmas a fraud:</p> <p>"Bah, humbug!"</p> <p><i>"Christmas a humbug, uncle!" said Scrooge's nephew. "You don't mean that, I am sure?"</i></p> <p><i>"I do," said Scrooge. "Merry Christmas! What right have you to be merry? What reason have you to be merry? You're poor enough."</i></p> <p><i>"Come, then," returned the nephew gaily. "What right have you to be dismal? What reason have you to be morose? You're rich enough."</i></p> <p><i>Scrooge having no better answer ready on the spur of the moment, said, "Bah!" again; and followed it up with "Humbug."</i></p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

08:00	<p>As I said earlier, we don't really hear the word <i>humbug</i> in today's everyday English. However, we do hear it more often around Christmastime because of <i>A Christmas Carol</i>. Today, people generally don't know what the word means but if you say "humbug" to someone today, they almost always think of Ebenezer Scrooge. Today it's used to make fun of people who dislike Christmas. You can say to someone: "bah humbug!" And it's a way of saying "don't be so miserable, it's Christmas!"</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
08:39	<p>So, there you have it, dear listeners. If you know anyone who is vehemently anti-Christmas, say "don't be a Scrooge!" And if they protest, tell them "Bah humbug!" But, I won't be held responsible if they don't give you a Christmas present as a result!</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
09:01	<p>And on that note, would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays. However you celebrate the festive season, have a great time. Eat, drink, be merry and stay safe.</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](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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