



PODCAST

TRANSCRIPT

Episode 142:

Title: “The Four Skills Connection”

Duration: 22:45

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 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>
01:07	<p>Hello everyone, and welcome to another episode of <i>The Déclic Anglais Podcast</i>. As usual, it's a pleasure to have you with me here today. I'm your host Tom, and today we're going to explore something really fascinating - the connection between reading, listening, speaking, and writing in English.</p> <p>Does listening more help you speak better English? Does reading more in English make you a better writer? Let's discover together!</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
02:00	<p>First, I want to tell you something funny. As many of you know already, I love learning languages. I studied two languages at university, and learning more languages is a kind of hobby for me.</p> <p>When I was a student learning German, I thought I could learn just by watching German movies or German TV shows. I watched so many movies that I knew some of them by heart (<i>par coeur !</i>)</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

02:44	<p>But when I tried to have a real conversation in German... I froze! I could understand everything, but speaking was still difficult. This taught me an important lesson - understanding a language and producing language are different skills (<i>comprendre une langue et produire une langue (c'est-à-dire parler et écrire) sont des compétences différentes</i>).</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
03:25	<p>Let's talk about listening and speaking first. Here's something interesting: scientists have been studying the connection between our listening and speaking skills for a long time. When it comes to learning languages, they have found that people who listen to lots of English usually become better speakers.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
03:56	<p>There are many advantages to listening to lot in a foreign language. When you listen a lot, you learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural speech rhythm • Correct pronunciation • Common everyday phrases • Different accents <p>...and all that's great!</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

04:25	<p>But - and this is very important - just listening isn't enough! Imagine you want to become a tennis champion. You can watch all the tennis matches in the world, you can study the players, study the rules, become an expert... but at some point, you need to pick up a racket and play tennis!</p> <p>If you want to become a good speaker (of English or any other foreign language), you need to actually practice speaking. Just listening is not enough.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
05:15	<p><i>Et pourquoi pas, Tom ? Ce serait génial d'écouter ces épisodes et de parler immédiatement mieux l'anglais que le roi Charles !</i></p> <p>Yes, it would be nice dear listeners! But you see, speaking also needs physical training. Speaking is also about training your mouth muscles to make new sounds! My wife Charlotte (who has also spoken on this podcast) speaks wonderful English <i>(je ne dois pas le dire trop souvent devant elle, sinon elle va prendre la grosse tête !)</i> But she really does – and I'm not just saying that because we're married!</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
6:06	<p>At home, Charlotte and I usually speak a combination of English and French. But when she visits my family with me in Wales, Charlotte is obliged to speak English all the time (my family don't speak French). After a day speaking exclusively in English, Charlotte often says: <i>"J'ai mal à la mâchoire!"</i></p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

06:36	<p>And this is because there are differences between how anglophone mouths and francophone mouths move! There are sounds that are more common in one language than the other, and even the tongue is positioned differently in the mouth (<i>et même la langue est positionnée différemment dans la bouche</i>). Languages are not just mental training. There is a degree of physical training, too. And the only way to get this physical training is by speaking, speaking, and speaking some more!</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
07:35	<p>Now, what about reading and writing? So these two skills are the written “cousins” of listening and speaking. Reading is the receptive skill (just like listening is a receptive skill), and writing is a productive skill (just like how speaking is a productive skill). And just like the connection between speaking and listening, there is also a strong connection between reading and writing.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
08:17	<p>Reading has a lot of great advantages for learners. Dear listeners, read in English, you will not regret it! The most obvious advantage of reading is that when we read, we can go at our own speed, at our own rhythm. If we don’t understand something, it’s very easy to stop, consult a dictionary, take our time and come back. Reading is cool, it’s relaxed.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

09:00	<p>Furthermore, when you read in English, you are like a sort of detective (like Sherlock Holmes) learning all the clues (<i>les indices</i>) for writing good English. When we read, we unconsciously learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to build sentences • How English grammar works • New vocabulary in real contexts • And if you read a lot, you can also learn the difference between formal and casual writing. <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
09:44	<p>Here's a real example: My student Dominique read English books for just 30 minutes every day for three months. It doesn't sound like long per day. But 30 minutes for 90 days totals 45 hours of English reading! At the end of three months, not only could Dominique write better, but she told me something surprising - she actually started "thinking" in English when writing!</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
10:30	<p>Now, maybe you are thinking: <i>C'est vraiment cool ! Je vais commencer à lire en anglais tous les jours, et bientôt j'écirai de la prose anglaise mieux que Shakespeare.</i></p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

10:42	<p>But, dear listeners, please remember:</p> <p>When Dominique was regularly reading, she was also regularly writing in English. Just like speaking, the only way that you can practice writing is by doing it! Reading will help your writing, but only if you sit down with pen and paper (or a phone) and actually start writing in English.</p> <p><i>La lecture ne vous aidera à écrire que si vous vous asseyez et écrivez pendant 5 à 10 minutes par jour. Mais croyez-moi, si vous lisez ET écrivez un peu chaque jour pendant 90 jours, vous verrez des résultats !</i></p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
11:45	<p>Now, dear listeners, I have been asked the question many times before:</p> <p><i>Alors, Tom... qu'est-ce qui est le mieux pour apprendre une langue : la lecture ou l'écoute ?</i></p> <p>Well, dear listeners, it's a bit like saying "which is better for living: food or oxygen?" Of course, you need both of these things to survive!</p> <p><i>Cette question est souvent posée par des élèves qui veulent justifier leurs mauvaises habitudes - par exemple, un étudiant qui veut éviter de lire en anglais et qui cherche des raisons pour lesquelles « l'écoute est supérieure à la lecture ».</i></p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
12:34	<p>When it comes to learning English, reading and listening go hand in hand. It's not a question of "either/or" (<i>l'un ou l'autre</i>). They are equal partners!</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

12:55	<p>But I will say this, dear listeners: when we first begin learning a foreign language, reading is a fantastic tool for getting the feel of a language – it gives us an idea of how the language works. As I mentioned earlier, reading is much less stressful than listening. The learner can slow down and take their time.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
13:31	<p>Now, if you ask me, one of the best ways of learning at an elementary or intermediate stage is to combine listening and reading simultaneously (like reading a transcript while listening to a podcast).</p> <p>« Hé Tom, c'est ce que je fais en ce moment même ! »</p> <p>Yes, well done, dear listeners!</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
13:57	<p>Reading and listening helps us to better identify individual words. Sometimes in a foreign language it can be difficult to identify where one word ends and another begins. I remember when I first started learning French (I was about 12 years old), I had a lot of difficulty identifying individual words when someone spoke. But having the text (the transcript) really helped me.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

14:38	<p>That's why, dear listeners, there is no shame (<i>il n'y a pas de honte</i>) in having subtitles (<i>les sous-titres</i>) when you watch an English TV programme or movie. Just make sure that the subtitles are in English.</p> <p>Reading and listening simultaneously also allows us to make the essential step of connecting the spelling of a word to its correct pronunciation (<i>la lecture et l'écoute simultanées nous permettent de faire le lien entre l'orthographe d'un mot et sa prononciation correcte – c'est par exemple la raison pour laquelle nous fournissons toujours les transcriptions dans la barre de description de nos épisodes !</i>).</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
15:41	<p>Alright then, dear listeners, what about the connection between speaking and writing? Ah, very interesting! I have spoken about this before on the podcast. But I will mention it again.</p> <p>So, many listeners and students have said to me: <i>J'aimerais parler davantage l'anglais, mais je n'ai personne avec qui pratiquer.</i></p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
16:12	<p>Yes, I understand the problem. But did you know that writing often in English can help you speak better English. How?</p> <p>Speaking and writing are both productive skills, they both need you to think deeply about the language (<i>ils nécessitent tous deux une réflexion approfondie sur la langue</i>).</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

16:51	<p>So, if you can't practice speaking in English, write! Writing still makes you think about vocabulary, it still makes you think about grammar, about word order. And one lovely thing about writing is that you can take your time. If you don't know a word, you can look it up in a dictionary.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
17:20	<p><i>Mais Tom, à quoi bon écrire s'il n'y a personne pour corriger mes erreurs ?</i></p> <p>Ah-ha! Well, have you ever heard of ChatGPT? Or artificial intelligence?</p> <p>AI (Artificial Intelligence) is a wonderful tool for learning.</p> <p><i>N'ayez pas peur d'utiliser des outils comme ChatGPT pour corriger votre anglais. Au début, cela peut sembler une courbe d'apprentissage, mais c'est seulement parce que c'est inhabituel - pas parce que c'est difficile.</i></p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
18:02	<p><i>Très simplement, vous donnez à ChatGPT les instructions suivantes : « Corrigez mes phrases en anglais » - vous la tapez simplement dans la boîte de dialogue. Ensuite, vous prenez vos phrases d'anglais, vous les copiez et les collez dans la boîte de dialogue, et ChatGPT vous dira exactement où vous vous êtes trompé.</i></p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

18:29	<p>Dear listeners, it works! I personally use AI to help me with my French. I still have some problems writing in French, and I don't always want to bother Charlotte with my sentences. So I use AI tools like ChatGPT. Of course, this technology does have its limitations. But for my purposes (for my needs), I have found it to be a great tool.</p> <p>The only thing that writing in English cannot do is help you you're your pronunciation - but that's no excuse not to write.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
19:25	<p>Ok then, dear listeners, one final thought before we finish for today:</p> <p>Learning a foreign language is like growing a beautiful garden. Your garden needs sun and water to flourish, to be beautiful. It's not either/or (<i>l'un ou l'autre</i>), it's both!</p> <p>When it comes to learning a foreign language, all of the skills are connected. Strengthening one skill can indirectly strengthen another (<i>le renforcement d'une compétence peut indirectement en renforcer une autre</i>).</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
20:20	<p>The majority of students that I meet have problems with their productive skills (that is, speaking and writing). And that is because speaking and writing are clearly the more difficult skills to master, because they require that you think about the language. But it's exactly here – practicing your speaking and writing skills – that you can build the most confidence.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

20:55	<p>So, dear listeners, don't just absorb English – produce it!</p> <p><i>Ne vous contentez pas d'absorber la langue anglaise, utilisez-la vous-même ! Après avoir lu quelque chose, essayez de rédiger un petit résumé : 3 ou 4 phrases sur les informations les plus importantes. Cela vaut aussi pour les podcasts !</i></p> <p><i>Après avoir écouté quelque chose, essayez de répéter ce que vous avez entendu. Vous avez une chanson préférée en anglais ? Chantez-la ! Ne vous souciez pas de ce que pensent vos voisins, chantez à tue-tête ! Le plus important est que vous produisiez de l'anglais, que vous entraîniez vos compétences productives.</i></p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
21:56	<p>And on that note, dear listeners, I will leave you for today. Remember that <i>the Déclic Anglais Club</i>, our online learning platform, is designed to help you practice all of your language skills! You can practice writing with dictations and translations, you can practice speaking in our group conversation classes. And hundreds of interactive exercises will help you learn and internalise new vocabulary.</p> <p>If you're interested, just go to www.declicanglais.com for more information.</p> <p>Have a lovely day, dear listeners. I look forward to seeing you all next time. 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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