



PODCAST TRANSCRIPT

Episode 159:

Title: "Wenglish"

Duration: 31:26

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>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>
01:06	<p>Hello, dear listeners! This is Tom here – your teacher from the Déclic Anglais Podcast. I hope you are all well, and ready to learn some more English.</p> <p>Today's episode is all about Wenglish.</p> <p><i>(Qu'est-ce que c'est que le Wenglish ?)</i></p> <p>Ah, Wenglish is my native language, dear listeners (<i>ma langue maternelle</i>).</p> <p>As many of you know already: I am Welsh (<i>je suis gallois</i>). Wales is a small country to the west of England. Wales is one of the four countries that constitute the United Kingdom (<i>le Royaume-Uni</i>). In Wales, we have two languages living side by side: Welsh (<i>la langue galloise</i>), and English (<i>la langue anglaise</i>).</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

02:25	<p>In the last episode of this podcast, we explored the Welsh language in detail. We learned that Welsh is a Celtic language (<i>une langue celte</i>), and is closely related to the Breton language, spoken in Brittany (<i>La langue galloise est étroitement apparentée à la langue bretonne, parlée en Bretagne</i>).</p> <p>In the last episode, we learned that Welsh is a LIVING language – it’s not a language that is disappearing. Oh no, on the contrary – Welsh is the first language of many hundreds of thousands of people in Wales – and it’s possible to watch TV in Welsh, listen to Welsh music, read Welsh books. And most public services are also available in Welsh.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
03:44	<p>In Wales, almost everyone can speak English, but not everyone can speak Welsh (<i>au Pays de Galles, presque tout le monde sait parler anglais, mais tout le monde ne sait pas forcément parler gallois</i>).</p> <p><i>Alors, si les habitants du Pays de Galles parlent anglais ou gallois, qu'est-ce que c'est que ce « Wenglish » que TOI tu parles, Tom ?</i></p> <p>Ah-hah! Well, Wenglish is a “portmanteau” word (<i>en français “un mot valise”</i>). That is, it’s a word composed of two other words.</p> <p>If you take the word Welsh add the word English, you get Wenglish - (Welsh plus English equals Wenglish!)</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

04:57	<p>Wenglish is not a scientific term, dear listeners! It's a fun nickname that Welsh people give the dialects of English that we speak in Wales. (<i>Wenglish est un surnom rigolo que les Gallois donnent aux dialectes anglais qu'on parle au Pays de Galles</i>).</p> <p>And please note that I said “diaclectSSS” – plural! As is the case with most dialects, there can be big variations between regions, towns, and cities. Wenglish is no exception! The form of Wenglish that I speak with my family in my hometown sounds quite different to the Welsh English spoken in the mountains of North Wales.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
05:58	<p>Yes, so I jokingly say that Welsh English (or Wenglish) is my native language. Indeed, it's my natural way of talking. That is, it's the dialect of English that I speak with my friends and family back home in Wales – it's not the way that I speak with you here on this podcast.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
06:23	<p>What does Wenglish sound like? Well, as I said, it can vary a lot. But my objective today is to give you a little taste of Wenglish, to give you an idea of what it sounds like – especially in my corner of Wales. Don't worry, you don't need to travel to Wales to learn Wenglish – with the miracle of Spotify, Deezer, or Appe Podcasts, I will bring Wenglish <i>to you</i>. We will explore the sounds of Wenglish, and I will also share a few fun Wenglish words.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

07:08	<p>Alright then, dear listeners – let's begin with a little background - a little history:</p> <p>The most important thing to remember about Wenglish is that it is fundamentally English, but it is a form of English that is heavily influenced by the Welsh language (<i>Le « Wenglish » est de l'anglais, mais c'est une forme d'anglais fortement influencée par la langue galloise</i>).</p> <p>The original language (the ancestral language) of Wales is Welsh – the Celtic language that we spoke about earlier. Until quite recently in our history, English was the foreign language in Wales! (<i>Jusqu'à très récemment dans notre histoire, l'anglais était la langue étrangère au Pays de Galles !</i>)</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
08:14	<p>A long time ago, England annexed Wales, and the English authorities wanted to anglicise Wales – they wanted to make Wales totally English. The Welsh language was discouraged – even banned (<i>forbidden</i>) in some cases. This created a situation where English was the official language – English was the language of the monarch, the government, and your employers. English was the language of social mobility – if you wanted to advance in life, to become a politician or a big manager at a factory, well, you needed English. But Welsh was still the language of intimacy, of your home life, the language you spoke with your family and friends, or at church. So, in the factories, the workers spoke Welsh but the bosses spoke English.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
09:23	<p>Today, we take language learning for granted (<i>nous considérons l'apprentissage des langues comme acquis</i>), don't we? Today, it's so easy to learn a language - we have podcasts, books, magazines, classes, applications for our phones... But in the past, my ancestors in Wales had none of those resources – and on top of that, there was no official school system either. And so, people had to learn English without the help of a teacher. This created a unique dialect of English in Wales, a form of English heavily influenced by the Welsh language – Wenglish was born!</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

10:19	<p>If you want to hear how the Welsh language has influenced the way we speak English in Wales, look no further than our accents, or our intonation. (<i>Si vous voulez savoir comment la langue galloise a influencé notre façon de parler anglais au Pays de Galles, il suffit d'écouter nos accents, notre intonation</i>).</p> <p>Slowly but surely, English came to replace the Welsh language in many regions – my hometown included. But even though the language has changed in many places, the accent clearly hasn't! (<i>Mais même si la langue a changé, l'accent, lui, n'a clairement pas changé !</i>)</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
11:15	<p>The intonation of a typical Welsh accent in English is almost identical to the intonation of the Welsh language itself. (<i>L'intonation d'un accent gallois typique en anglais est presque identique à celle de la langue galloise elle-même</i>).</p> <p>If you go to the South Wales Valleys, especially to towns like Merthyr Tydfil or Aberdare, you will hear people **imitating accent: “talking in a very bouncy way, the accent is like the valley's, you see? It goes up and down – and this is the same intonation of the Welsh language itself.”</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
12:02	<p>**Returning to normal accent:</p> <p>Another example of Wenglish is in the phonemes, that is, the sounds that we use.</p> <p>So, dear listeners: <i>Comment dit-on « tu » ou « vous » en anglais ?</i></p> <p><i>Eh bien, “YOU”, bien sûr !</i></p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

12:23	<p>Well, that sound “IOU” is not very present in the Welsh language. And so, it’s not very present in some forms of Wenglish. (<i>Le son « IOU » n’est pas très présent dans la langue galloise, et donc ce son n’est pas très présent dans certaines formes de Wenglish</i>).</p> <p>And so, when you listen to Welsh people speaking English (or speaking Wenglish) you might hear them pronounce “you” as “iw” or “yiw”...</p> <p>So, it’s not that we <i>CAN’T</i> pronounce this sound today – of course we can, it’s 2026! It’s just that in Wenglish, our pronunciation is sometimes closer to the Welsh language than the English language.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
13:23	<p>This sound is present in other words:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>beau ou belle</i>: en anglais “beautiful”, mais en wenglish “biwtiful”- <i>mignon-ne</i> : en anglais “cute”, mais en wenglish “ciwt”.- <i>pur</i> : en anglais “pure”, mais en wenglish “piwer”- <i>sûr</i> : en anglais “sure”, mais en wenglish “shiwier” <p>Recently, the French president Emmanuel Macron was the subject of a lot of internet memes because he said “For sure!” It made me laugh, because if Emmanuel Macron spoke Wenglish, he would have said: “Fo shiwier!”</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

14:29	<p>Depending on the area, you might also hear Welsh people “rolling their Rs” (<i>vous entendrez peut-être aussi les Gallois « rouler les R »</i>). Again, this is the Welsh language having a direct influence on the English language – in Welsh, the letter “R” is rolled “RRRR!” like in Spanish.</p> <p>However, this really depends on your area. In my hometown, we don’t really roll our <i>Rs</i> very much.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
15:06	<p>Alright then... So, dear listeners, talking of pronunciation...</p> <p>Listen to these French words, how do we say them in English? <i>Année, oreille, entendre, et ici.</i></p> <p>So, <i>année</i> – a year, <i>oreille</i> – ear, <i>entendre</i> – hear, and <i>ici</i> – here. Of course!</p> <p>Now, people: in Wenglish all of these words have the exact same pronunciation: “Yer!”</p> <p><i>Année – yer! Oreille – yer! Entendre – yer! Ici – yer!</i></p> <p>See, Wenglish is easy, isn’t it?!</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

16:12	<p>Let's try a little Wenglish pronunciation exercise. I will give you a sentence in Wenglish and "normal" English. Try to repeat it with me:</p> <p>Alright, sentence 1:</p> <p>"I can hear you, for sure!" (<i>Je t'entends, bien sûr</i>).</p> <p>Sentence 2:</p> <p>"A cute girl with a beautiful smile." (<i>Une jolie fille avec un beau sourire</i>).</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
17:17	<p>But, dear listeners, the most interesting part of Wenglish is certainly the vocabulary. In Wenglish we have a lot of words that come directly from the Welsh language. And dear listeners, I would love to share some of these words with you today.</p> <p>So, word number one:</p> <p>- cwtsh – (<i>spelled "C-W-T-S-H"</i>).</p> <p>I can hear you saying: "Tom, there are no vowels, where are the vowels?!"</p> <p>Well, in the Welsh language, a W is indeed a vowel. It makes a "OU" sound. So, this word is pronounced <i>K-OU-TSH</i>.</p> <p>What is a cwtsh? A cwtsh is a hug! (<i>un calin</i>). If a Welsh person says: "Give me a cwtsh!" they are saying "fais-moi un calin".</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

18:37	<p><i>Cwtsh</i> also has a few other meanings. It can mean “to hide something” (<i>cacher quelque chose</i>). For example, if someone says: “Cwtsh that money in your bag, before someone sees it!” they are saying: “HIDE that money!”</p> <p><i>To cwtsh</i> can also mean to snuggle (<i>se pelotonner</i>). Imagine a cold winter’s evening, you cwtsh under a blanket on your sofa with a cup of hot chocolate. And perhaps your cat or dog will also cwtsh with you on the sofa.</p> <p>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</p>
19:24	<p>Alright then, let’s look at our second word:</p> <p>- twp (spelled “T-W-P”).</p> <p>Again, dear listeners, a “W” is pronounced “OU” in Welsh.</p> <p>So, this word is pronounced “T-OU-P”.</p> <p>What does <i>twp</i> mean? <i>Twp</i> is an adjective, and it means stupid or idiotic.</p> <p>Let’s imagine that you drive to Wales in your car. Of course, in the United Kingdom we drive on the left (<i>à gauche !</i>) Well, if you forget and start driving on the right <i>à la française</i>, you might hear a lot of people calling you <i>twp!</i></p> <p>- “Are you <i>twp</i>? Drive on the left!”</p> <p>Yes, if you destroy a Welshman’s new car, it will take a lot of <i>cwtshes</i> before he stops calling you <i>twp!</i></p> <p>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</p>

20:29	<p>Next, we have a Wenglish expression – again, this one comes directly from the Welsh language. The expression is:</p> <p>- “Ych y fi!”</p> <p>Meaning: <i>“Ew! That’s disgusting! Gross! Blurgh!”</i></p> <p>It’s really difficult to translate this literally into French, so just remember it means “disgusting!”</p> <p>Let’s imagine that you bite into an apple and find a worm living inside it – in Wales we would shout: “Ych y fi!”</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
21:19	<p>An interesting part of Wenglish is that certain English words have different meanings. Let’s take the examples of “bad” and “tidy”.</p> <p><i>“Bad” en français veut dire mauvais, méchant, nul...</i></p> <p>In Wenglish, it has another meaning: ill, sick (<i>malade</i>).</p> <p>Let’s imagine you have a Welsh colleague who says: “I can’t come to work today because I’m bad.”</p> <p>They are not saying:</p> <p><i>“Je ne peux pas travailler aujourd’hui parce que je suis nul.”</i></p> <p>No, no! They are saying: <i>“Je suis malade!”</i></p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

22:10	<p>Let's look at the other word "tidy". <i>En français "tidy" veut dire bien rangé, propre.</i></p> <p>Well, if you talk to a Welsh person you might hear them say "tidy" a lot – not because they are maniacs for tidyness. No, it's because in Wenglish, "tidy" means "good, great, that's cool."</p> <p>For example: "The film was tidy!" (<i>le film était génial</i>).</p> <p>In Wenglish, "tidy" can also mean "decent" or "proper".</p> <p>For example: "You should eat a tidy breakfast before going to work."</p> <p>(« <i>Tu devrais prendre un petit-déjeuner copieux avant d'aller travailler.</i> »)</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
23:11	<p>Finally, let's look at probably the most famous Wenglish expression: "now in a minute".</p> <p><i>"Comment ça Tom : now in a minute – maintenant dans une minute ? Ça veut rien dire..."</i></p> <p>Ah-ha! Yes, I know – to an uninitiated person, this expression "now in a minute" is a bit confusing. What you need to know, is that in Wenglish, "now" doesn't always mean "<i>maintenant</i>". (<i>En wenglish, « now » ne signifie pas toujours « maintenant »</i>). Depending on context, it can also mean "very soon but not yet" (<i>très bientôt mais pas tout de suite</i>).</p> <p>So, let's imagine that your Welsh friend is late to a meeting. You call him or her to ask "where are you?"</p> <p>If they reply: "I'll be there now in a minute!" what they mean is "I will be with you very soon."</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

24:26	<p>When Welsh people use an expression like “now in a minute” (<i>maintenant dans une minute</i>) it really sounds like we don’t care about time, doesn’t it? Perhaps it sounds like we are procrastinators – “I’ll do it later, in a minute, tomorrow...” But in general, I think that the Welsh are very good at keeping time (<i>we are quite punctual</i>) – if the meeting is at 2 o’clock, well, I think you can rely on us to arrive at 2 o’clock.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
24:58	<p>Ok then, dear listeners. The problem with Wenglish is that it’s very easy for me to sit here and explain it to you, but you won’t really know what it’s like until you properly experience it. It’s a bit like trying to explain the taste of vanilla ice cream to someone who has never tasted vanilla or ice cream! (<i>C’est un peu comme essayer d’expliquer le goût de la glace à la vanille à quelqu’un qui n’a jamais goûté ni la vanille ni la glace !</i>)</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
25:32	<p>The best solution is simply to TRY it, to TASTE the Wenglish dialect for yourselves. And so, in the description of this episode, you will find some links to videos on YouTube. These YouTube videos are all comedy programmes that take place in Wales, with people speaking Wenglish. The BBC TV series <i>High Hopes</i> was shot in my region of Wales – the South Wales Valleys. The accents in this TV programme (<i>High Hopes</i>) are probably the closest example of my “native English”:</p> <p><i>Les accents que vous entendez dans la série télévisée « High Hopes » ressemblent vraiment à l’accent de chez moi, dans les vallées du sud du Pays de Galles. Les expressions, les intonations, les tournures de phrases... Voilà l’anglais avec lequel j’ai grandi, pas celui du roi Charles !</i></p> <p>I really recommend that you watch a video - don’t worry about understanding everything, that’s not the point. It’s just to give you an idea of what Wenglish sounds like.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

26:53	<p>To finish off then, dear listeners, I would like to give you an idea of my own way of speaking. So, I will now break away from my usual “teacher English” – and I will speak like how I usually speak with friends and family.</p> <p><i>Je vais vous raconter une blague à propos d'un homme qui roule à travers la campagne et il découvre un étrange poulet à trois pattes. Comme je l'ai déjà dit, je vais parler avec mon accent habituel, sans vraiment suivre un script. Il est normal que vous ne compreniez pas tout. N'hésitez pas à utiliser la transcription pour vous aider à comprendre, mais ne vous attendez pas à ce qu'elle corresponde mot pour mot à ce que je dis.</i></p> <p>Ok then, are you ready? Let me warn you (<i>je vous préviens</i>) I didn't invent the joke – I can't take the credit. And it's certainly not the joke of the century. But anyway, let's hear the joke:</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
28:05	<p>There was a man driving in the countryside, and as he's driving down road he just happens to look out of his car window, and he sees this chicken running alongside his car. Now, he's driving down the road at like 30 kilometres per hour, mind. And this chicken is still running at the same speed as the man's car. The man looks at the chicken, he looks closely, and what does he see? Well, the chicken has got three legs – it's a three-legged chicken, like!</p> <p>The man puts his foot down, car speeds up, 50 kilometres an hour, 60, 70 kilometres per hour... The chicken is still there, keeping up with his car. And all of sudden the three-legged chicken overtakes the car, goes running on down the road in front of the car, and turns into this farm on the side of the road.</p> <p>The man thinks to himself: “Bloody hell, I've got to look at that – something isn't right, there, is it? Three-legged chickens running faster than a car, like! It isn't normal.”</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

29:06	<p>So the man follows this chicken into the farm, stops the car, and there's the farmer stood on the gate. The man gets out of his car, says to the farmer, says: "Hiya! Did a three-legged chicken just come running through here at like, 80 km/h?"</p> <p>The farmer said: "Aye, it's one of mine."</p> <p>Man says "Oh right. Am I going mad, or did I see it had three legs?"</p> <p>"No, you aren't going mad. I breed three-legged chickens, it's my speciality, like."</p> <p>The man was shocked, he said "What? You breed three-legged chickens?"</p> <p>"Aye, you heard me. I breed three-legged chickens."</p> <p>The man, he's stood there, absolutely amazed. He asks: "Well, if you don't mind me asking... WHY? What on earth do you breed three-legged chickens for?"</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
29:58	<p>Farmer says: "Well, the thing is, see... I live here with my wife and my son. On a Sunday we love a roast chicken for dinner. But we all want the same part, we all want a leg. Of course, a normal chicken has only got a two legs, hasn't it? Two legs, three of us - so, we always end up arguing, don't we? So, I thought to myself, 'right, why not breed chickens with three legs? Then everyone's got a chicken leg for dinner, and everyone's happy, like – isn't it?"</p> <p>The man says: "Wow that's amazing, that is! What do they taste like, then?"</p> <p>The farmer says: "Don't know – I've never been able to catch one!"</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

30:45

I did warn you dear listeners, it's not the best joke! ***laughs***

Well, there you are then. I hope you have enjoyed learning about my "native language" - the Wenglish dialect. It has been a pleasure teaching you about this important part of my identity.

And hopefully, I haven't discouraged you from visiting beautiful Wales one day.

Thank you very much for listening, everyone. I look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Bye for now.

(Ecrivez vos notes ici).