



PODCAST

TRANSCRIPT

Episode 78:

Title: Tom's Skiing Trip

Duration: 19:19

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>You are listening to <i>The Déclis Anglais Podcast</i>, THE podcast for intermediate, French-speaking learners of English. If you have an intermediate level in English and you want to understand more advanced materials, this is THE podcast for you. There is a transcript (<i>une transcription</i>) available for this and every episode of this podcast. You can download the transcript for free in the description of this episode, or go to www.declisanglais.com/podcast.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
01:04	<p>Hello dear listeners e, and welcome. My name is Tom, I'm your teacher from Déclis Anglais. Thank you very much for joining me today.</p> <p>In today's episode, I would like to talk about a personal experience I had recently. Back in January I went skiing (<i>j'ai fait du ski</i>) in Austria (<i>en Autriche</i>). Austria is a beautiful country, by the way. If you haven't visited Austria already, I seriously recommend you visit one day.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
01:48	<p>Anyway, I went skiing in Austria. Now, dear listeners... I learned to ski when I was about 13 years old. When I was in secondary school (<i>en français – au collège</i>), I was very fortunate to travel to the USA, to Vermont, in New England. We had a great time, it was a wonderful trip. And after about 10 days of constant skiing, I was quite confident. I could ski – my way of skiing wasn't beautiful. Oh no, I was like a hippopotamus on roller-skates (<i>j'étais comme un hippopotame en rollers</i>), I wasn't elegant. But, I could ski. I could begin at the top of the mountain, and arrive at the bottom of the ski station safely. And I had fun!</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

03:03	<p>After my skiing trip in the USA, I didn't touch a pair of skis for, ooh... 11 years. My home country Wales (<i>le Pays de Galles</i>) has mountains but no snow. So there aren't any ski stations. And no one in my family can ski, or is even interested in skiing. So, there was no question of ski trips to the Alps or the Pyrenees.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
03:36	<p>Then I met Charlotte, my wife. Charlotte is French, and even as a little girl she was used to skiing (<i>elle avait l'habitude de skier</i>) every year. Indeed, we live near Mulhouse in the Haut-Rhin. We are about 40 minutes away from the ski stations in the Vosges, there are ski stations about an hour away in the Black Forest (<i>en Forêt Noire</i>) in Germany. And we can even go skiing in Switzerland, but it's a little further again (<i>c'est encore plus loin</i>). Basically, Charlotte is very comfortable skiing.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
04:30	<p>So, as I mentioned earlier, I didn't go skiing for a long time after my trip to the USA. My skiing lessons go back twenty years ago: 2003, 2004. And it is only thanks to Charlotte that I ski today. But I don't have much confidence. I have been skiing with her maybe 5 times in the Vosges, but not very often.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

05:03	<p>Now, let's fast forward to 2023, to our skiing trip in Austria. January 2023 was the first time I had skied for about 3 years because of Covid, because of work etc. etc. So, I was a little nervous about skiing again. And on top of that, dear listeners, I don't own a pair of skis (<i>je ne possède pas de skis</i>). I borrow everything (<i>j'emprunte tout</i>) the skis, the sticks, the jacket, the salopettes. I have good friends who let me borrow their skiing things!</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
05:55	<p>So, we get to the ski station in Austria. Everyone is wearing their wonderful, designer skiing apparel. Oh yes, lots of chic people, wearing very chic jackets, and expensive skis. Everyone looked so experienced, so... Professional, almost. And then there was Tom, the lost Welshman (<i>Tom le gallois perdu</i>) wearing borrowed salopettes, thirty-year-old skis... I think the only thing that was mine was my underwear! So, already when we arrived at the ski station, I felt a bit lost with all these stylish, experienced-looking people all around me.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
06:55	<p>We got on the ski lift (<i>le télésiège</i>) and we were going up, up, up this mountain in Austria. My wife Charlotte said: "<i>On commence par le sommet de la station.</i>"</p> <p>I replied: "Well, are you sure? I haven't skied for a while."</p> <p>Charlotte said: "<i>Mais oui, ça va aller. La première piste est bleue – pas difficile, de toute façon. Je serai avec toi tout le temps. Juste prends ton temps.</i>"</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

<p>07:31</p>	<p>So, up, up, up we went. And finally we arrived at the top of this mountain and I thought: "Oh dear, this looks really steep (<i>très raide</i>). Oh my god, I'm going to make a complete idiot of myself!" (<i>Je vais me ridiculiser</i>) "And especially in front of all of these other people in their stylish ski jackets!"</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
<p>08:09</p>	<p>But then, I said to myself: "Tom, get a hold of yourself, calm down. You have skied before. Sure, your lessons were a long time ago, you don't feel confident, but so what? (<i>et alors?</i>) So what? Take your time, there is no pressure. And those people in their stylish jackets? Who cares what they think? You're not in school anymore. Grow up! (<i>Grandis un peu!</i>). I'm here on holiday, to have fun. And I will enjoy myself here!"</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
<p>08:55</p>	<p>So, I started skiing, slowly. And, it was ok. I skied a few metres just to test myself. And I didn't fall over, I didn't feel unsafe. I found that the slope wasn't as steep as I thought (<i>la piste n'était pas aussi raide que je le pensais</i>). I remembered some of my skiing lessons from years ago. I went slowly, I took my time. Yeah, I was absolutely fine. I realised that earlier on the ski lift, I was giving myself a complex! My initial nervousness, my initial anxiety was unjustified.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

09:54	<p>Then I stopped. I turned around to look back at the ski lift (<i>Je me suis retourné pour regarder le télésiège</i>). Dear listeners, what I saw can only be described as chaos (<i>le chaos</i>). You remember all of those stylish people in their new jackets and salopettes? With their posh new skis? Well, I looked back at a group of those professional-looking people... Dear listeners, I kid you not (<i>je ne plaisante pas!</i>), some of them were falling over, some of them were on the ground, some of them were colliding with other people. It was chaos. It was like a class of beginners, people who had never skied before.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
10:55	<p>And so I thought to myself (<i>je me suis dit</i>): “Seriously? All of this time I was nervous, I was scared of looking like an idiot in front of those people. And THEY ski worse than me (<i>ils skient plus mal que moi</i>)! All of their expensive, stylish ski equipment looked very intimidating. But in the end, they were terrible skiers. Here I am in my borrowed, 30-year-old ski equipment, I haven't skied for YEARS, and I'm the one who can ski!”</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
11:42	<p>In French you have a nice expression: “<i>l'habit ne fait pas le moine</i>”. The equivalent expression in English is: “Don't judge a book by its cover.” “<i>Ne jugez pas un livre à sa couverture.</i>”</p> <p>Appearances are not everything. Just because someone LOOKS experienced, does not mean that they ARE experienced.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

12:17	<p>Now, this little story of mine from the Austrian Alps also has a connection to your experience learning English. Dear listeners, every week I hear students saying: <i>“Tout le monde parle mieux l'anglais que moi. Je me sens tellement gêné de parler anglais devant les gens. Je suis tellement mauvais !”</i></p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
12:43	<p>But when they open their mouths to speak English to me, their English is absolutely fine. Ok, maybe they have a strong French accent, maybe they must pause to find the correct vocabulary. And maybe some verbs aren't conjugated correctly. But do you know what? I still understand them perfectly. Their English is just like my skiing. My skiing is not beautiful, it's not elegant. But I can go from the top of the mountain to the bottom safely, and have fun in the process.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
13:30	<p>Similarly, my student's English is not beautiful, it's not elegant, but I can still understand them just fine. They can go from point A to point B in English, and communicate effectively. And that's the most important, isn't it? That's the entire point of learning a language. You need to communicate, to go from point A to point B.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

<p>14:04</p>	<p>But... but, but, but... They have this kind of little voice in their head that whispers to them (<i>qui leur chuchote</i>): “<i>T’es nul... Ton anglais est pourri.</i>” And it’s such a shame, because most of the time, their English is fine. They keep telling themselves that their English is bad, and as a result they don’t enjoy themselves in English. Speaking English becomes a chore (<i>une corvée</i>) for them.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
<p>14:48</p>	<p>Unfortunately, it seems that being with other people, makes this problem worse. We are always scared of judgement (<i>d’être jugé</i>). But the fact of the matter is, we have no idea what the person in front of us thinking. We could be sat thinking: “<i>Oh mince, cette personne doit penser que je suis un idiot...</i>” When the other person might be thinking: “<i>Oh wow, this person speaks English really well. Hmm, I wish I could speak French as well as they speak English!</i>”</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
<p>15:31</p>	<p>You know, this is one of the reasons why I do the group conversation classes. Many of you know already, I organise group conversation classes via Zoom. And in these classes, the objective isn’t to speak perfect English. It’s really just to practice speaking, using the English language.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

<p>16:00</p>	<p>My objective for the classes is that the participants can prove to THEMSELVES that they CAN speak English. It's not to prove to anyone ELSE that they can speak. It's to prove to THEMSELVES. And in doing so, we reduce these little voices that make us doubt ourselves. The conversation classes are a safe environment. If you make mistakes with grammar, with vocabulary it's not a problem. And it's to show yourself that, yes, you CAN hold a conversation for 30 minutes in English. It's to show yourself that, YES, you're English is not SO bad.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
<p>16:53</p>	<p>And furthermore, the classes are also to bring a little fun to your study of English. During the classes, students usually talk about things that are interesting to them. They talk about their families, children, their hobbies, their work.</p> <p><i>Les sujets abordés par les élèves pendant les cours de conversation ne sont pas si importants, tant qu'ils font de leur mieux pour s'exprimer en anglais. Et qu'ils s'amuse.</i></p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
<p>17:25</p>	<p>Alright dear listeners, I'm starting to become conscious of the time here. But let me leave you with a little homework (<i>les devoirs</i>) for this week. I would like you to think about your experiences with English. Do you have this little voice that keeps saying "boo! T'es nul en anglais !"? If so, I would like you write down three reasons why that voice is wrong.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

18:04	<p>Naturally, you can write this in French, it doesn't need to be English.</p> <p>You could begin each sentence with:</p> <p><i>"La petite voix a tort parce que..."</i></p> <p>For example:</p> <p><i>La petite voix a tort parce que... Même si je parle lentement, j'arrive à me faire comprendre en anglais.</i></p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
18:25	<p>This exercise is even better if you can give real examples from your own experience.</p> <p>For example,</p> <p><i>"La petite voix a tort parce que..."</i></p> <p><i>Hier, j'ai parlé avec mon fournisseur en Angleterre. Il était difficile à comprendre, mais j'ai quand même réussi à passer une commande pour mon entreprise. Mission accomplie, donc!"</i></p> <p>Try it, dear listeners. And see if you can silence that little voice. Because let me tell you, that little voice is definitely not your friend!</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
19:05	<p>Alright everyone, that's it for today. Have a great week, and I'll see you all at the next episode.</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:

1.

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5.