



PODCAST TRANSCRIPT

Episode 77:

Title: Don't Make this "Important" Mistake

Duration: 11:20

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

<p>00:00</p>	<p>You are listening to <i>The Déclic 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.declicananglais.com/podcast.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
<p>01:03</p>	<p>Hello there, dear listeners. Welcome to another episode of <i>The Déclic Anglais Podcast</i>. This is Tom, your teacher from Déclic Anglais. Now, the title of today's episode is "Don't Make this "Important" Mistake?" and, have you noticed that the word "important" is between inverted commas (<i>des guillemets inversés</i>)?</p> <p>Well, that's because in today's episode, we are talking about the word "important", which can sometimes cause problems for francophone learners of English. Why? Well, let's look at a French example:</p> <p><i>"une somme importante d'argent."</i></p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
<p>02:05</p>	<p>Now, how can we translate this sentence into English? Well, we cannot say: "an important sum." **make buzzer noise** Nope! Incorrect!</p> <p>So, the word "important" came to English from French. However (<i>cependant</i>), like so many other French words, when "important" arrived in English, the meaning changed slightly (<i>la définition a changé un petit peu</i>). And this is true of many, MANY other words. So, how can we translate: <i>"une somme importante d'argent"</i>?</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

02:55	<p>Well, in this context, there are a lot of options. We could say:</p> <p>"a large sum of money."</p> <p>"a significant sum of money."</p> <p>"An enormous sum, a huge sum..." You get the idea, dear listeners.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
03:17	<p><i>"Très bien Tom. Mais, le mot important alors... Quand est-ce que je peux l'utiliser?"</i></p> <p><i>En français, "important" peut signifier essentiel, ou très élevé, une grande quantité de quelque chose. Mais en anglais, "important" veut toujours dire "essential", que nous ne pouvons pas faire sans quelque chose.</i></p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
03:48	<p>So, the word "important" is always s linked to significance, in the sense:</p> <p>"how essential is something?"</p> <p>For example,</p> <p>"Doctor's play an important role in our society." Here, important means that, if there were no doctors, we would have a big problem!</p> <p>Let's take another example,</p> <p>"Childhood (<i>l'enfance</i>) is an important step in a person's life." Here, important means that childhood (<i>l'enfance</i>) is an essential step.</p> <p>Ok, one last example:</p> <p>"It is important to pay your taxes on time." (<i>il est important de payer ses impôts à l'heure</i>). So again, it is important - essential, to pay your taxes on time. If you're late, you're in trouble!</p> <p><i>(So remember: "important" en anglais veut toujours dire "essential", que nous ne pouvons pas faire sans quelque chose).</i></p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

05:08	<p>Alright then, dear listeners. Let's play a little game. I will now give you some sentences in French, you translate them for me into English. Ok? Now, don't worry about creating perfect English sentences. It's really not that important. The objective here is that you translate the word "important" correctly, and that you don't use it like in French.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
05:42	<p>Ok, so the first sentence: "<i>La Chine a une population importante.</i>"</p> <p>How would you translate "important" here? (Pause).</p> <p>Answer: "China has a big/large population."</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
06:16	<p>Ok, now for the second sentence. Ready?:</p> <p>"<i>Il est important qu'on arrive avant le début du film.</i>" Ok, how would you translate "important" here? (Pause).</p> <p>Answer: "It's important that we arrive before the start of the film."</p> <p>So here it's fine to use the word "important". In this context, it means "it would be much better" or "it is essential" even.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

06:58	<p>Alright, now for the third sentence, ready? "<i>Le premier ministre est quelqu'un de très important dans la société britannique.</i>" So, how do we translate "important"?</p> <p>(Pause).</p> <p>Answer: "The Prime Minister is an important person in British society." So we can use the word "important" here, because we are not saying that the Prime Minister is a physically large person. It might be the case one day, the British Prime Minister might be three metres tall, and weigh 300 kilos. But even then, "important" only refers to their role, their significance, NOT their physical size.</p> <p>For those of you who don't know, dear listeners, in British society, the Prime Minister is pretty much the president of the United Kingdom. It is the highest position in the British government, therefore we can definitely say it's important.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
08:21	<p>Ok, dear listeners let's look at one final example:</p> <p><i>"Il y a un risque important d'incendie en été."</i></p> <p>How would you translate "<i>important</i>" here? (Pause).</p> <p>Answer: "There is a high/significant risk of fire in summer."</p> <p>We wouldn't use "important" here, because in this sentence we are not saying "the risk is essential". No, we are saying that the risk is very high, significant. You see?</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

09:09	<p>So, there you have it, dear listeners. Let me finish today's episode by saying that, these false friends (les faux amis) are a real problem for learners of English. It's funny, because all of this French vocabulary makes English much easier for French-speakers to learn. But at the same time, when a lot of that vocabulary is used just a little bit differently, it means that there are a lot of traps (des pièges).</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
09:46	<p>The good news is that the list of these false friends is not getting longer. No one is inventing a list of new false friends every day. When you learn one, well, that's it. The challenge is just remembering them. So, keep up the good work, dear listeners.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
10:12	<p>That concludes this episode of <i>The Déclis Anglais Podcast</i>. If you would like to do some online interactive exercises based on episodes of this podcast, consider joining the Déclis Anglais Club. The Déclis Anglais Club is our e-learning platform. Here you can find lots of fun, interactive exercises that will help you remember the vocabulary you learned in this episode. If you're interested, just go to www.declisanglais.com for more information.</p> <p>Have a good week, everyone! And 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:

1.

2.

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