



PODCAST TRANSCRIPT

Episode 41:

“Giving Years in English”

Duration: 14:07

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

Well hello there dear listeners, welcome to episode 41 of *The Déclis Anglais Podcast*. You are listening to THE podcast for francophone learners of English.

This is the first episode of 2022, so let me begin by saying “Happy New Year” to you all! I wish you all good health and happiness in this new year. I hope you all had a great festive season and New Year celebration. In the blink of an eye (*en un clin d’oeil*) in the blink of an eye, we are already in January. And now for many of us, it’s time to jump back into work, eat more vegetables, eat less chocolate and get more physical exercise (well, that’s certainly the case for me!)

(Ecrivez vos notes ici).

01:01 So yes, we are in 2022 (two thousand and twenty-two). Hmm, “two thousand and twenty-two” or “twenty twenty-two”? Just how do you read a year in English? If you’re not sure, don’t worry. This presents a problem for many, many learners. I have even heard many advanced learners of English, (French people who speak great English) make this mistake when speaking. So, you are not alone. The good news is that this is such an easy problem to overcome. It’s like I have always said: you never need to look far in order to improve your English. Don’t worry about mastering complicated grammar structures, focus on correcting the smaller, more manageable aspects of your everyday English.

(Ecrivez vos notes ici).

<p>02:01</p>	<p>Ok, so when it comes to giving the year in English, it's actually very easy, probably easier than in French. But there are some things to consider, so listen closely. Don't forget that there is a transcript (<i>une transcription</i>) available for this episode that you can download from the show notes. Use the transcript to help you, if necessary. Ok?</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
<p>02:33</p>	<p>So, let's take a famous year for my listeners in France: 1789. What happened in 1789? The beginning of the French Revolution, of course. So, the biggest thing to remember is that we don't say the year like in French. We don't say "one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine". If you <i>were</i> to say "the French Revolution started in one thousand seven hundred and nine" we would understand what you mean, but we would look at you like you were a little crazy. So, what do we do?</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
<p>03:13</p>	<p>We divide the date into two parts, we separate the first two digits from the two final digits. So, 1789 this gives us 17 and 89. And therefore to give the year, we stick the two numbers together and simply say 1789. (<i>1789 en anglais "seventeen eighty-nine"</i>).</p> <p>You understand? We sort of break the number apart and then stick it back together. It's actually quite easy, but perhaps it you need to get used to it (<i>il faut s'habituer</i>) you need to get used to it.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

04:07	<p>Alright, let's look at another example, then. "France first won the FIFA World Cup in... 1998". Ok, how should way say this date in English? So, same as before, we divide it into two parts, the 1 9 9 8. This gives us 19 and 98. And then we put them together: 1998 "nineteen ninety-eight". Alright? So, "France first won the FIFA World Cup in nineteen ninety-eight".</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
05:00	<p>And this works for pretty much all years, dear listeners. Let's try a little test. I will say the year in French, you repeat it in English. Ok? So our first example:</p> <p>Neil Armstrong landed on the moon in... 1969. What do you think? Ok, so we have 1 9 6 9. Cut it in two, we get 19 and 69. Therefore: Neil Armstrong landed on the moon in nineteen sixty-nine.</p> <p>OK, one more example:</p> <p>The United Nations was founded in... 1945. What do you think? Ok, so we have 1 9 4 5. Cut it in two, we get 19 and 45. Therefore: The United Nations was founded in nineteen forty-five.</p> <p>See, it's not so difficult, is it?</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
06:45	<p>Alright now there's one thing that you should keep in mind when saying years at the beginning of each century. <i>(Par exemple, de 1900 jusqu'à 1909).</i></p> <p>The first year of each century is called "something-hundred". For example, 1900 is "nineteen hundred", 1800 is "eighteen hundred", 1700 is "seventeen hundred". You see? That's easy enough, isn't it?</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

07:22	<p>Alright, listen to this sentence?</p> <p>Napoleon Bonaparte was crowned emperor in 1804.</p> <p>Ok, so what do we say? We have 1 8 0 4. So, do we say “eighteen four?” Almost, we need to say “eighteen oh-four”. We don’t say “zero four”, we say “oh four”. Ok? So, the sentence again:</p> <p>Napoleon Bonaparte was crowned emperor in eighteen oh-four.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
08:12	<p>Let’s try another one:</p> <p>The Wright Brothers flew their first aeroplane in 1903.</p> <p>So we have 19, and 0 3. Remember, we don’t say “zero three”, we say “oh-three”. Therefore, the sentence would be:</p> <p>The Wright Brothers flew their first aeroplane in “nineteen O three”.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
08:47	<p>As for years in the first millennium, it’s even easier, as we simply read them as we see them. For example, you could read 950 as “nine hundred and fifty”. It’s just like in French, isn’t it?</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

<p>09:05</p>	<p>Ok so, we are currently in the 21st century (<i>siècle</i>) 21st century. In English, this century began with the year 2000 “two thousand”. Alright, this century has been a little strange so far, because from 2000 to 2009 we only had one way of expressing these dates: two thousand, two thousand and one, two thousand and two, two thousand and three, two thousand and four... You get the idea!</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
<p>09:44</p>	<p>From 2010 to 2022, it has become a little more interesting, because here you can play with two systems, depending on your preference. Some people have continued the trend from the early 2000s, saying “two thousand and twenty, two thousand and twenty-one, two thousand and twenty-two”. But other people have gone back to using the old system. So today we can also hear “twenty twenty, twenty twenty-one, twenty twenty-two”.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
<p>10:22</p>	<p>Is one better than the other? Not at all, dear listeners. The choice really is yours. As for me, I still say “two thousand and twenty-two”. It’s longer, but for me it has become a habit. Perhaps I’ll change... Perhaps not. It doesn’t make much of a difference. And for you dear listeners, pick whichever system works best for you.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

10:48	<p>Ok, before we wrap up today's episode, here is a little bonus point that you may find interesting. So, as you know English is a West Germanic language and is related to modern languages such as Dutch (<i>le Néerlandais</i>), German (<i>la langue allemande</i>). That said, over 60% of our modern English vocabulary is of French and Latin origin (you can thank a gentleman from Normandy for this, a guy called William... You might know him as <i>Guillaume le Conquérant!</i>)</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
11:30	<p>Well, if ever you have read a book on history you might sometimes see the abbreviation A.D. written after certain dates. For example:</p> <p>"The Roman conquest of Britain began in 43 AD."</p> <p>Hmm, any idea what the AD might mean? It is actually Latin and means <i>anno domini</i>. The approximate English translation is "in the year of Our Lord" (here the term "Our Lord" refers to Jesus Christ). So, it's the English way of saying "après Jésus".</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
12:25	<p>So, another example for you:</p> <p>"The earliest written example of English dates to around 700 AD."</p> <p><i>D'accord Tom, très intéressant. Comment dit-on « avant Jésus » alors ?</i></p> <p>Well, we have another abbreviation for this: B.C. For example:</p> <p>"Julius Caesar died in 44 BC". Or, "The Great Pyramid of Giza was built around 2600 BC."</p> <p>Now, I'm afraid that I have to disappoint you: the abbreviation BC isn't some fancy, Latin term. It simply means "Before Christ". Ta-dah! Nothing special. BC simply means "Before Christ".</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

13:33 Ok then, dear listeners. I won't torture you any more with talk of years and dates! If it wasn't already clear, I hope that giving the year in English has become clearer to you. It is, after all, absolutely essential to be able to give the year correctly in English!

On that note then, I wish you all a great week. And I look forward to seeing you all at our next episode.

Bye for now!

(Ecrivez vos notes ici).

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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