



The French Toast

The newsletter for the Europeans Toastmasters Club n° 8018
Meeting of June 11th, 2014

Opening

President **Alice** opens the meeting telling us there is only one meeting left before the summer break: those who wish to renew their dues (85€) for 2014/15 should bring their checkbook next time.



She reminds us that the list of TM manuals to be given or sold (1€, a real bargain!) was sent to all members last week: those who are interested should contact Alice as soon as possible and no later than June 20.

A satisfaction questionnaire is distributed to each one of us and we are asked to answer right on the spot and give it back to VP Ed Paolo G.

We have no guest tonight, but Alice tells us that we do have "digital guests" (6 visitors on the website).

The meeting

Toastmaster of the evening Peter K distributes to each member a copy of the contest judge ballots for both speech and evaluation, a good way for each of us to get used to the form.

Florence a ensuite pris la parole pour porter un toast en l'honneur de **Viviane de Beaufort** de l'ESSEC.

Puis **Dan** a succédé à Florence en faisant une blague sur la blague officielle des européens.





Timekeeper Christian recalls the rules of time management: the green card shows you are reaching minimal time, the yellow one shows when the second milestone is reached and the red shows when the third one is reached. The speaker has then 30 seconds to stop speaking.

English Grammarian Alain: "I'll be listening to your language and to your use of the word of the day "**sensible**" which means 1) reasonable, 2) practical or 3) notable. For French people it is a "faux ami"
La grammairienne française Odile nous a expliqué qu'elle allait noter les belles tournures de phrases et corriger les mauvaises. Le mot français du jour était « **fastidieux** » (ennuyeux)

Table Topics





La parole est ensuite passée à **Sean** qui a animé les discours improvisés. Sean a joué le rôle du capitaine d'une équipe de foot (c'est de saison !). Chacun devait expliquer pourquoi il ou elle devait avoir sa place dans l'équipe, tirant sa question sur des petits papiers fichés dans un ballon rond ouvert en deux comme un melon !

-  **Florence** a parlé de son point faible (le fait qu'elle fume) et de la façon dont elle comptait arrêter.
-  **Yassine**, qui est attaquant, nous a parlé de sa peur des penalties et de la manière dont il comptait surmonter cela.
-  **Philippe L.** a ensuite dit qu'il pensait être le meilleur de son équipe mais les autres membres de son équipe le détestent donc il a expliqué comment il allait changer ça.
-  **Alain** nous a expliqué qu'il est très physique et qu'il récolte des cartons. Il nous a expliqué comment il comptait garder son calme sur le terrain.
On a ensuite voté pour le meilleur discours improvisé.


Prepared speeches

Michel gives his speech n°10: *'Do you have a good driver?'* from the Competent Communication

Manual - Inspire Your Audience.  Michel was on a bus in the Chinese mountains; just after lunch he fell asleep and when he suddenly awoke, all passengers were sleeping, including the bus driver himself! He shouted in his bad Chinese accent but nobody understood; he explained through gestures to his old bus neighbor, who shrieked and woke up the driver. Michel had made a swift decision which saved all passengers' lives. Michel tells us that life is like this bus: you have to make decisions at the right time. In his personal life, regrets and fear often have prevented him from making decisions. But one day he heard about M. Amato, a table tennis player who didn't let his handicap ruin his passion: after losing both his arms in an accident, he decided he would play holding the racket in his mouth and he succeeded. This exploit taught Michel what is a good driver in one's life: it helps you focus with all your energy toward your purpose, no matter how hard and perilous the path leading to it. In his conclusion, Michel urges us to have a purpose, which in turn will provide us with a good driver.

Le discours de Lenny, était intitulé « *Merci la France pour le 4 juillet* ».  Il s'agit du n°2 du manuel « Savoir communiquer » dont l'objectif est de structurer le discours- Il a remercié la France pour l'aide des français pendant la libération des États-Unis, a souligné l'importance du rôle diplomatique joué par Benjamin Franklin et s'est demandé si la France agissait vraiment en faveur des États Unis ou plutôt selon ses propres intérêts.

Paolo G presented his 10th speech from the Competent Communication Manuel - Inspire your

audience - "*Mindset*"  Some time ago, Paolo had a big fight with his girlfriend who told him with anger: "You will never change!" This made him wonder whether in fact he was able to change or not. He did some research and studied the theory of a psychologist called Carol Deeper about "mindset". She says there are two types of people the fixed mindset kind, which avoid challenges and doesn't like changes, and the growth mindset, which is adaptable to all kind of situations, curious and open minded. The good news is that we can work on our mindset and it is possible to change from fixed to growth mindset! And if Paolo did it (he gave us a few examples), so can we all!

Evaluation session

Alice is the general evaluator.

Jean evaluates the table topics: Sean's subjects were sensible and appropriate!

- Florence: you confessed that you were a smoker, and you asked for a coach to help you.
- Yassine you are a very ambitious player, you want to be a champion like Zizou...
- Philippe you reminded me when I was a kid and I played soccer, but no case is desperate, everything is possible...
- Alain, you hadn't practiced soccer because you were shortsighted and then you came back to the field; you became violent and collided with people and you ended up in some kind of homosexual kiss.

Philippe P. a évalué Michel. Il a aimé la métaphore du conducteur de bus, a pensé qu'il pourrait améliorer la structure de son discours et il a avoué qu'il était un peu perdu dans les idées qui avaient été exprimées.

Béatrice a évalué Lenny. Elle a aimé l'utilisation d'un vocabulaire recherché et le bon contact visuel de Lenny avec le public ainsi que la structure de son discours. Elle a pensé qu'il pourrait améliorer son accent français et lui a suggéré de travailler la phonétique.

Patrick a évalué Paolo G. Il a aimé la manière dont il a accroché l'auditoire sur un sujet qui nous concerne tous et a trouvé que son sujet nous donnait envie de progresser. Il a pensé que l'orateur pourrait améliorer ses comparaisons et a expliqué qu'il n'avait pas compris la référence à La belle au Bois Dormant.

English Grammarian **Alain**: « *Sensible* » has been used twice by Jean and once by Alice. Many "s" weren't audible at the end of the words, as well as verb endings (miss / missed; wish / wished). He appreciated some beautiful sentences: 'the essence of football' and 'Philippe tamed the ball'.

Odile la grammairienne française annonce que le mot du jour "*fastidieux*" a été utilisé par Sean, Alain et Alice. Odile a aimé la métaphore d'introduction de cette dernière, subtile mais puissante et l'expression : « *malgré les bruits de fond* ». Elle a remarqué que Dan avait un problème avec les liaisons. Par exemple, il a prononcé le s dans 'les hollandais'. Lenny a du mal avec les genres (par exemple, les mots indépendance et ville).

Stumble Catcher **Ivo** reported on ahs and hums produce by each and every speaker of the evening.

Christian our Timekeeper announced that almost all speakers were on time.

In her general evaluation, **Alice** recommended that evaluators should say "I think, I found..." because they are expressing their own opinion; and doing so they should never apologize. An evaluation is like a mini speech and should be structured and get to the point quickly.

Regarding the meeting's preparation, she thinks communication beforehand needs to be improved. For instance, Toastmaster of the Evening Peter should've sent the judge ballots to all members prior to the meeting, explaining why he wanted to introduce this form.

Peter came back to the lectern for the award "ceremony".

Who won the ribbons?



Best table topic: **Philippe L.**

Best speech: **Michel**

Best evaluator: **Patrick**



Paolo G. et **Michel**, les deux nouveaux **Competent Communicators**,
ont été félicités par des applaudissements nourris !

Next meeting June 25: register for a role on EasySpeak!

Note Takers: **Dan** and **Yassine** - Edition and Illustration **Odile**