



The French Toast

The newsletter for the Europeans Toastmasters Club n° 8018 Meeting of June 24th 2015

Opening

Paolo introduces the meeting: tonight is the last official TM meeting of the financial year, before the new executive committee takes over on July 1st.

A lot of things happened since the last TM meeting:

- The new officers got trained during the officers' training last June 13th;
- The last Executive Committee meeting of the year took place on June 16th.

Paolo asks guests to introduce themselves: **Fleur, Sophie, Marion, Amy, Nadia, Sarah, Simon-Pierre, Cécile, Johannes, Aly.**

Puis Paolo G. fait le bilan éloquent de cette année sous sa présidence : 103 visiteurs, 19 réunions, 10 nouveaux membres, organisation de 2 concours de secteur, notre club a obtenu le statut de President Distinguished club avec 9 points sur 10 pour la seconde année consécutive. Ce fut une année très riche et pleine d'énergie !

Enfin, les retours de l'enquête de satisfaction sont très positifs, avec quelques voies d'amélioration possibles. Paolo tient à souligner le rôle de toute son équipe : Patrick E. Akiko, Alice, Yacine, Lenny, Michel. Bravo à eux !!!

The meeting




Toastmaster of the evening **Odile** starts by giving us a preview of what we will hear and see: impromptu speeches, prepared speeches, and after a short pause, we will come to the most important part of the evening, namely the evaluation session. Odile reminds us of the theme of the evening: « **Summer is here!** » and invites speakers to tell us what summer means for them.

Peter - *When he came to France to stay, Peter realized that between May and August, French people are not very active. « On verra ça à la rentrée », he kept hearing.* He gives a **toast to a real summer** because temperatures keep varying too much, especially on the cold side!



For **Jean**, *summer means a real break; it is also the opportunity to start something new.* Jean's **joke** is about logic in madness: Jimmy consults a psychiatrist, because he thinks he is a worm. The psychiatrist tells him: "I already came across such a case. And it can be cured" At the end of the treatment, the doctor says to Jimmy: " Well, now you know that you are not a worm". Jimmy answers: "Yes I do, but hens don't".

 Timekeeper **Christian** explains his role, which is to show green, yellow and red cards, so that all speakers are aware of their allotted time. Christian concludes: "Please respect the time today"

English grammarian **Alicia's** advice is to **pronounce all the letters at the end of words**. Then she introduces the word of the day "**heyday**", which means a period of greater success.

Le grammairien français **Olivier A.** nous propose le mot du jour: **JUDICIEUX**, qui a beaucoup de jugement, ou qui reflète un bon jugement.

Alain M. gives us the speaking tip. What an audience usually remembers most is the opening and the conclusion of a speech. The first impression is based on the opening, so a strong opening will catch the attention of the audience. For example, a good way to start is to ask a question ("Do you know that...") or to describe an image ("Once upon a time..."). With such a hook, you will have a long lasting effect on your audience.

Table Topics

Table Topics Master Yamina *associates summer to the time she spent at her grandfather's farm as a child.* She explains the theme of the table topics, which has to do with summer.



- *In France, there are people who take their holiday in July (« juilletistes ») and people who take their holiday in August (« aoûtistes »).* Are you a "juilletiste" or an "aoûtiste"? **Alain** is a fervent "juilletiste"! Still, he is not against « aoûtistes ». As a retiree, he doesn't have to choose between July and August. Previously, he was working for an American company, IBM. At that time, he had nothing to do apart from pleasing his manager; so he had 9 weeks of holidays and was off from the 1st of July to the end of August!





- **Paolo** *passes ses vacances à Paris au mois d'août : comment le vit-il ?* Bien qu'il n'y soit jamais au mois d'août, cette perspective d'un Paris tranquille le tenterait bien ...



- *Some people like to spend their holidays in a relaxing atmosphere; others like more active holidays. What type of holiday do you prefer?* **Gaëlle** likes active holidays. She doesn't like to relax during her holiday, just staying at the beach, sunbathing or reading. When she plans her holidays, she starts even before the trip to prepare a program with activities from 6 a.m. until late at night (including sports, visiting museums, walking in the surroundings, or buying some local specialties). Then she is wondering why none of her friends wants to go on holiday with her. Finally, she thinks that she can make some new friends when she is on holiday.
- *Quelles sont tes plus mauvaises ou meilleures vacances passées ?* **Philippe L.** veut plutôt parler de ses prochaines vacances en Corée (du sud, indique-t-il à Alain), vacances qui pourraient s'avérer les meilleures comme les pires à cause d'un méchant virus ... la suite à la rentrée !

Prepared Speeches

1.  **Nadia:** Icebreaker - "My Mongrel Identity" - Mongrel, often associated with German Shepard dogs, is the name her father gave to her and her mother. Nadia speaks about her mixed identity, as she is simultaneously British, French, and Italian. Her mother tried to teach her and her brother French and Italian. As she grew up in the UK, she was influenced by British values. But she never felt more British than when she lived abroad. She doesn't know the French TV, or the French music. Thus, although she works in France, speaks French, and has a French passport, she doesn't feel completely French either. She feels hybrid. And this also influenced her choices.

2.  **Patrick:** Persuasive Speaking n°5 - « Pour une Europe Fédérale » - La scène se passe il y a 40 ans alors qu'il est en Allemagne dans une famille ; le père leur propose d'aller visiter le grand père, qui n'aime pas les français à la suite de la dernière guerre. D'ailleurs ce vieil homme l'interpelle dès son arrivée en signifiant son hostilité aux français. Patrick lui répond : son grand-père lui dit la même chose

à propos des allemands. Puis Patrick décrit cette construction extraordinaire qui empêchera à jamais les guerres en Europe et cite ses pères fondateurs comme Robert Schuman. Non, la commission, cible de toutes les critiques, n'est pas ce qu'on croit ... Elle n'obéit qu'au conseil européen constitué des chefs d'états ! Patrick décrit ces institutions européennes et souligne les bienfaits économiques de cette grande communauté. Paix, droits de l'homme, environnement, prospérité, n'est-ce pas l'échelle européenne qui convient le mieux à l'application des traités pour les faire respecter ? Oui à une Europe Fédérale respectueuse des particularités de chaque pays !



3. **Ivo** : Discours n°5 du manuel Savoir Communiquer - Le langage corporel - « *Etre intelligent est différent depuis 1983* ». Petite fille, Ivo rêvait de devenir intelligente et ingénieure... pour changer le monde. Mais aujourd'hui, malgré sa réussite professionnelle, elle s'interroge sur la façon de proposer ses projets, car ils n'ont pas toujours le succès escompté. Alors Ivo s'est intéressée aux 7 formes d'intelligence, différentes de celle basée sur la seule logique et les mathématiques, si bien décrites par H. Garner, qui pourraient l'aider à mieux faire passer ses idées ... Ivo décrit ces sept formes d'intelligence - linguistique, logico-mathématique, spatiale, musicale, physique, sociale et intra-personnelle - en les illustrant d'exemples. Puis elle conclut que ces dernières peuvent s'acquérir : utilisez vous-même l'éventail de "vos intelligences"!!!

Evaluation session (led by Christiane)

Alain P. évalue Yaming et les improvisateurs. Les sujets étaient des modèles de simplicité et bien adaptés.

- Alain s'auto évalue sur le mode de l'autodérision. Comment Alain n'a-t-il pas répondu à cette simple question : choisir entre les vacances en juillet ou en Août !!!?
- Paolo aurait pu imaginer ses vacances passées à Paris en août et nous donner quelques rêves de rencontres avec de belles suédoises blondes...
- Philippe n'a pas répondu à la question mais nous a fait rêver à ses futures vacances en Corée, pays aux mille temples bouddhistes.
- Gaëlle a fait une excellente entrée en matière sur ses vacances, qu'elle imagine forcément (hyper)actives, mais tout cela ne lui apporterait-il pas aussi beaucoup de plaisirs ? Soyons positifs !

Lenny evaluating Nadia's speech: Nadia's speech gave a lot of details about her. She covered all the basics of the Icebreaker. She had a good voice, good gesture, and good eye contact. Lenny's advice is to slow down in order to let the ideas sink in the audience's head. Lenny also speaks about the shake hands ritual, a way to hand over the stage to the next speaker. Over all, Lenny appreciated a good speech!

Alice évalue Patrick. Très bonne introduction, car personnelle, mais après, pourquoi ne pas souligner ce qu'est l'identité européenne, qui ne s'est pas construite uniquement grâce aux institutions ? Et Alice lui propose aussi en conclusion de faire passer l'auditoire à l'action et au vote.

Michel evaluating Ivo's speech: Michel wants to comment on how Ivo used her body to empower her message.

Michel concentrates on the 5 aspects of body language:

- Stance: the speech starts before you start speaking, so you have to show confidence straight ahead. Ivo did show confidence up from the beginning.
- Movement: Ivo moved for each new type of intelligence; it was very clear.
- Gestures: notes were a drawback. In the conclusion, Ivo had no notes (because she knew it by heart) and made some nice gestures. Next time, avoid reading, just use a small card if necessary.
- Facial expressions: good, smile, nicely done.
- Eye contact: try to maintain eye contact with one listener and then another one (explain one idea, then turn to another person).

English grammarian **Alicia** presents her report, quite happy with the general quality of the English used tonight. She corrects a few mistakes and report on who used "heyday".

Olivier A, notre grammairien français, est extrêmement bref : seul Alain a employé « **judicieux** » et pour le reste, il n'a rien trouvé à redire !

Stumble catcher **Peter** points out some filler words (OK especially!) and hums and ahs, advises Odile not to say "Come here!" to any speaker, who is no dog indeed! He also tells Yamina that "I'm gona..." is not elegant at all.

Christian a noté les temps : beaucoup de retard pris au départ, mais Olivier a contribué à le rattraper par ses interventions éclairs !

General evaluator **Christiane** likes the audience which is full of energy, while still listening carefully.

- Yamina: As a table topic master, it is better not to ask the table topic evaluator to speak during table topics; there are enough other people who can be called upon;
- Alain: good and humorous way to evaluate himself;
- Lenny: very soft voice; could have spoken also to the whole audience, not only to Nadia;
- Alice: very good and deep analysis, another time try to keep it shorter;
- Michel: excellent technical part; good advice on the use of notes;
- Alicia: reminds people to pronounce endings of words, very useful;
- Olivier: as a French grammarian, if French has been little used during the evening, it is still possible to pick up some nice expressions (a way to reach the green card);
- Peter: next time, make sure to know where the timekeeper is!

Who won the ribbons?



Best Table Topic: **Gaëlle**

Best Speech : **Nadia + Ribbon for the Icebreaker**

Best Evaluation : **Alice**

Conclusion

Alice gives Paolo a bottle of Moët & Chandon to thank him for his year as a President and for the energy and enthusiasm he demonstrated.

Paolo shares his impressions about his role: he learnt a lot during this year as a President, it has been an amazing occasion to experience things and improve himself!

To wrap up the meeting, Paolo asks guests for their feedback. **Cécile** makes the comparison to her club in Barcelona: she finds that at the Europeans we have a good variety of topics, but that the meeting is a bit long; however she appreciates the fact that TM is like a large family.

Note taking **Gaëlle** and **Philippe L**, edition and illustration: **Odile**

Next meeting: July 8th, 2015