

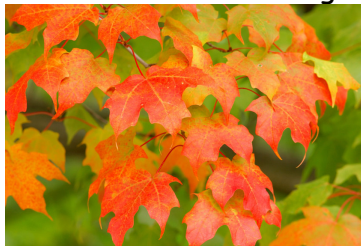


# The French Toast

The newsletter for the Europeans Toastmasters Club n° 8018  
Meeting of November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Opening: **Alice**, our president, welcomes the guests: **Akiko, Teddy, Katell, François, Lenny, Gaëlle** and **Philip** (who is a new member as of tonight, welcome to the club!).

TM of the evening **Odile** gives the theme of the meeting: *Fall/Autumn*.



**Christian** proposes a toast to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the "Haber" process, which allows the preparation of ammonia. This chemical product is the basis for many fertilizers, thus feeding approximately 1/3 of mankind.

**Jean** tells a joke... which is much too subtle for the audience, for nobody gets it !


**Beatrice** explains her role as the English Grammarian and proposes the word of the day "*thankful*"

**Christian**, le grammairien français, donne le mot du jour « *fertile*. » Se dit d'un sol ou d'une région qui donnent d'abondantes récoltes : « *une région fertile en blé* ». Se dit d'une période de temps pendant laquelle la terre produit beaucoup : « *une année fertile* ». Se dit d'un esprit riche, fécond, inventif : « *imagination fertile* ».

## Table Topics

Table Topic Master **Alice** asks questions related to the evening's theme:

- *What is the symbol of autumn for you?*  For **Florence**, it is the maple leaf, because of the many colours maples can take in that season.
- *What is the typical Irish fall menu?*  **Sean** explains the subtleties of the Irish beef stew.

- *What is the best place to go to in autumn?*  Pour Philip c'est, sans hésiter Giverny, le musée Monet et le délicieux jardin qui l'entoure.
- *Do you fancy the man painted by Arcimboldo entitled "Fall"?* Beatrice doesn't fancy him at all, but all those vegetables and fruit remind her of her husband, who likes good food.

### Educational session

Jean-Paul gives an educational session entitled: "*Feed yourself and Feed forward*" about **Feedback**.

The prerequisite for any feedback is that the person receiving it must have a goal and something to improve. Otherwise the feedback is unsolicited and amounts to annoying noise. There is no possible feedback on facts that can't be changed. The focus of a feedback must be on the future and on something that can be done. This "feed forward" mindset characterizes both great evaluations and great speakers.

Here below is **Jean-Paul's own summary**:

1. Feedback only works with two conditions:

- The person really wants to improve or change something.
- He/she has asked you for it, or the environment cultivates that kind of mindset.

2. Stop giving feedback on the past, because the person cannot change it. Give your feedback for the future, **for the next time** the person will deliver that speech or use that technique. This mindset shift makes it easy to be 100% positive and supportive.

3. To do that, start preparing your feedback as you would do normally. Look for anything that looks like or sounds like a feedback and transform the phrasing:

From "You could have" ... to ... "Next time you can" ...


From "You should have" ... to ... "Next time you will" ...

From "You might have" ... to ... "Next time you may" ...

4. Do that several times and you end up being very positive: and now you are giving a "feed forward" 😊

### Prepared speeches

1 - **Antoine** nous présente son discours numéro 4 - Les mots pour le dire » intitulé « *Un Outil Révolutionnaire* ! » dont les objectifs sont « utiliser des mots et phrases pour communiquer clairement ses idées avec précision, sans jargon ni mots inutiles ». Imaginons que c'est l'année 1974 et qu'Antoine doit passer un entretien d'embauche avec une boîte australienne. Comment le faire sans prendre l'avion ? A l'époque, il aurait été contraint d'utiliser le téléphone. Mais, à notre époque, nous avons un outil révolutionnaire : Skype ! Pour nous préparer à un entretien par Skype, il nous propose quelques conseils : 1. Se préparer techniquement (batterie, caméra, micro) 2. Préparer son argumentation d'embauche en faisant des recherches sur la boîte, sur le poste, et en expliquant comment on peut utiliser ce poste pour le plus grand bénéfice de la boîte en question. 3. Préparer son environnement (lumière, son). Avec un entretien Skype, on garde la chaleur humaine et une fois dans le nouveau poste, on peut toujours communiquer avec sa famille !

2 - In his speech "*Glitter and color of gold*"  (advanced manual "speaking to inform"), **Philippe L.** introduces us to the world of nanotechnologies. He exemplifies it with samples of gold solutions, which have different colors depending on the position of the atoms, and shows us how to identify nanoparticles. The use of nanotechnologies is very old (Roman Empire, middle age) but it is only since the invention of the Scanning Tunneling Microscope 20 years ago that one can understand what is happening. Nanotechnologies now are used in self-cleaning devices, as catalysts or in cosmetics, but may raise safety concerns.

### Evaluation session

General Evaluator Alain introduces his team.

**Sean** évalue les improvisations. Il a aimé les sujets variés, et il aurait préféré qu'Alice ne propose pas à l'évaluateur des improvisations (lui !) de faire une improvisation lui-même ! Florence, en parlant des feuilles d'érable, a bien répondu à la question. Sean a parlé d'un « beef stew/bœuf bourguignon- miam ! » - Philip nous a décrit une jolie scène à Giverny. Béatrice a parlé de la cuisine et de son mari.

**Patrick** évalue le discours d'Antoine dont il a commencé par rappeler les objectifs. Ensuite, il souligne qu'Antoine a peu utilisé ses notes. La prochaine fois, il peut mettre les mots clés sur des pense-bêtes pour pouvoir s'écarter du pupitre. Patrick le félicite pour sa clarté et sa précision. La prochaine fois, Antoine pourrait raccourcir l'introduction, parler davantage des différences entre un entretien téléphonique et un entretien vidéo, et il peut suggérer l'utilisation des pense-bêtes pendant l'interview par Skype.

**Michel** évalue le discours de Philippe L. Il note que c'était un défi de rendre compréhensible ce sujet. Il apprécie les deux grands outils de Philippe : Questions/Réponses et Démonstration. Dans un prochain discours, Philippe pourrait rendre plus précis ses mouvements, nous laisser voir davantage la réaction chimique, et définir les mots techniques. Il pourrait aussi jouer sur la voix.

**Beatrice** thanks Odile who used « thankful » several times. She is happy to be part of a good club where people speak with few mistakes; those she nevertheless takes the time to correct for our benefit. She loved "morsels" and "futurizing the feedback". [*Although "futurizing" is Jean-Paul's creation and doesn't exist in the dictionary © NDLR*]

**Christian** remercie Alice et Patrick pour l'utilisation du mot du jour. Il relève quelques fautes de prononciation comme le « u » dans « couleur » et le « c » dans « estomac. Il y avait quelques fautes de genre, comme un/UNE photo, et UN/une thème.

Stumble catcher Jean's report is very precise, detailed and accurate as usual!

**Florence** was a happy time keeper tonight, for very few of us went overtime and the meeting is on tracks.

General evaluation by Alain: he remarks that the meeting started at 8:00 PM sharp and that we are still very much on time thanks to TME Odile.

He reminds Alice that the Table Topics master should ask the question first, THEN - and

only then - designate a speaker. To Sean, he says that he has to give a suggestion for improvement to each impromptu speaker.

He congratulates Jean-Paul for an outstanding educational session on feedback which was clear, easy to follow, showed the speaker's conviction and had tremendous value for us all. From time to time his voice was perhaps too low for the back of the room to hear him properly, beware of that!

He praises both Patrick and Michel for their good and useful speech evaluations. He recommends to Jean to speak much louder and to put more life in his report. Finally, he congratulates Florence on her first report as timekeeper: well done!

### Who won the ribbons?



### Best Table Topics: BEATRICE

Jean-Paul comes back to the lectern wearing the hat of our 2013/2014 area governor. Our area is made of 4 clubs: The Europeans, Busy Professionals, TM 75 and OECD. Next April 2014, our Division contests will take place in Paris and he is looking for 1) a volunteer to be conference chair and 2) members to be part of the organizing team. If you are interested, contact him. [Pham.tmi@gmail.com](mailto:Pham.tmi@gmail.com)

In November 2014, Lyon will be the host city for the District conference: here again, help is wanted. To be part of this exciting project, contact conference chair **Carol Bausor**: [carol.bausor@iltc.lyon.fr](mailto:carol.bausor@iltc.lyon.fr)

**Alice** asks our guests for some comments: François learned a lot. Akiko liked Jean-Paul's speech. Teddy liked the variety of speeches. Katell liked the bilingual aspect. Lenny est "très content". Gaëlle is particularly interested in the table topics.



Next meeting December 11<sup>th</sup>. We will celebrate Christmas together: bring a small wrapped gift (under 5 €) and help Beatrice, who will be our TME, decorate and animate the meeting 😊

Note takers: French, **Beatrice**; English, **Patrick** - Editor: **Odile**