



# The French Toast

The newsletter for the Europeans Toastmasters Club n° 8018  
Meeting of June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014

## Opening

Theme of the meeting: the beach



**Alice** opens the meeting: she suggests protecting your skin this summer. This is our last meeting of the season.

This year the club spent about 3000€ in membership fees, area contests, officer training, bank fees, exchange rates. Plus we bought a screen and a video-projector. But we are not bankrupt! There are 661€ left, 146€ on our bank account and a deposit of 1.900 € today.

There will be a picnic for TM clubs in the Jardin des Tuileries on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

We have two guests this evening: **Mark** who would like to join our club even though he belongs to 3 other clubs -TM75, Speechmasters and Busy Professionals, and **Jade**, Dan's wife.

Vice-President Education **Paolo G.** told us about the officer training session which took place on Saturday June 14<sup>th</sup>. The newly elected vice presidents, secretary and treasurer for next season had then the opportunity to learn about their roles.

- There was a first meeting of the new Club Executive committee on Wednesday June 18<sup>th</sup> that was very productive. In the future, we are going to work on mentoring, welcoming guests and providing them as well as new members with more information. Our vision: work on increasing native English speaking members; organize fun and dynamic meetings. Be visible and improve the club website.

There is a new initiative, *the speaking tip*. Each evening someone will present an idea to improve speaking.

## The meeting



C'est **Sean** notre animateur ce soir, il a choisi pour thème la plage.

C'est lui qui porte le **toast à l'équipe sortante et à celle qui va prendre ses fonctions le 1<sup>er</sup> juillet.**

**Philippe P** nous amuse avec une histoire drôle.






**English Grammarian Lenny:** the word of the evening is "**vacation**". It is a faux-ami, the French word "vacation" meaning "attendance, sitting (of officials)". The correct French word for vacation is *vacances*.

**Le grammairien français Philippe P.** présente le mot du jour « **exquis** » (très agréable, délicat, d'un charme particulier).

Speaking Tip Provider **Daniel** speaks of the use of intonation, or varying the tone of the voice. Intonation is used to indicate attitudes, emotions and sense. There is a rising intonation, a rising of pitch as in forming a question. There is also a falling intonation, a falling of pitch.

## Table Topics

**Paolo G** anime les discours improvisés autour du thème du jour : la plage.

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 Yassine a essayé de convaincre sa compagne qui ne veut pas passer ses vacances à la plage. Pour lui, voir la mer, c'est la meilleure façon de se reposer : se baigner, entendre les vagues, les mouettes, c'est la meilleure façon de s'évader.
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 Vous voilà à la plage ! Mais les enfants qui jettent du sable et crient gâchent ton paradis. Que faire ? First, Akiko asks them to draw the beach and then she invites them to a Japanese tea ceremony to calm them down.
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 Vous rentrez complètement « cramé », vos amis se moquent de vous. Comment réagis-tu, Dan ? Il aime bien ressembler à un homard, rouge, c'est toujours mieux que blanc. Il demande des glaçons, un verre d'eau, va prendre un bain froid. Ce n'est pas grand-chose, finalement, d'être un « rouget » !
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 Plage, été, mini-jupes, bikini, discothèques, quelle est ta technique de drague ? Lenny se présente comme un « retraité de la drague ». Une discothèque est le pire endroit pour draguer, car on ne te voit pas - il fait sombre - on ne t'entend pas. D'ailleurs, la meilleure technique est de faire parler les filles, de les écouter, et de les faire rire !
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 Faut-il que je rentre travailler à Paris ou vais-je rester à la plage et changer carrément de vie ? Mark is just coming back from Monte Carlo where he lost 550€ at the casino. He will have to stay in Paris during summer because he rents his flat in the South to make some money.

### Prepared speeches

**Patrick** starts with an educational session called "*Going beyond the Club*" from the Successful Club Series. This is our last meeting for 2013/14. Some have decided to renew their membership next year; others are hesitating. To convince them to come back, Patrick tells them there are many activities in which one can participate: contests, emcee or TM of the evening, evaluations (help us learn what makes a good speech), timer etc. Even just being in the audience is enriching. Toastmasters offer many leadership activities and opportunities inside and outside the clubs. Don't hesitate for your own good!



**Ivo** gives her speech n°2 (Organize your speech) about communication in Madagascar with the title: « *Ny Kabary* » In Madagascar, a speech (Kabary) always starts with an apology. The speaker apologies before starting to speak to show that he is humbled in front of his audience. Ivo gave us several examples in her mother tongue to explain the techniques of the art of public speaking in her native country.



**Alain** "*Beyond the Pictures*" - Project n°7: Research your Topic. He shows us three types of pictures:

- 1) Deceptive pictures that show something in a strange way - example Escher the Dutch Painter;
- 2) Fallacious pictures that can hide details - example publicity pictures;
- 3) Insufficient pictures that do not contain enough information.

He suggests that you exercise extreme caution when looking at pictures. What words are lying behind the picture? What hidden message?

### Evaluation session led by Odile

**Jean** evaluates the Table Topics: congratulations to **Paolo G.** on the choice of the subjects, which were very good. You did a good job of weaving a story around the speakers.

- Yassine: very nice but there are seagulls in Paris as well. Remember that even if an impromptu speech lasts only 2 minutes, it is a speech that must have an introduction, a body and a conclusion.
- Akiko: you chose the diplomatic way. Your speech was too short and lacked structure.
- Daniel: very good, very realistic answer. I liked your gestures. Unfortunately you had no introduction or conclusion.

- Lenny: I liked your experience. You seemed to know what you were doing. I liked your advice: look for a woman who seeks you and not whom you seek.
- Mark: as usual, your improvisation was very structured. Try and speak a bit slower next time!

\***Michel** a évalué Patrick. Il pense que l'objectif a été atteint et que son discours a été très structuré (introduction - développement - conclusion). Par rapport au sujet, il pense que son discours aurait été plus convaincant s'il avait ajouté un élément émotionnel à l'introduction (ex. histoire d'une personne ayant quitté le club).

\***Alice** for Ivo's speech: your objective was to organise your speech and you succeeded. We could follow your story. You totally achieved your goal. Try using your notes less; it is not nice for the audience when you read them, you lose eye contact with us.

\***Philippe L** a évalué Alain. Il a aimé son utilisation des supports visuels. Il a aussi aimé le message qu'il nous a transmis : parfois l'image remplace le mot. Il pense que les images avaient été bien choisies mais qu'Alain aurait pu nous regarder un peu plus au lieu des images qu'il présentait. Le discours a été parfaitement structuré et Alain nous a donné une remarquable analyse des images.

#### **Technical reports:**

English Grammarian Lenny: Pronounce your endings, s and ed. To improve you might try recording your voice. Listening to yourself is a painful experience. Also continue to do what you are doing, come to the Toastmasters meetings. Two thoughts on foreign accents: you have to be who you are...keep it but you must pronounce correctly to communicate.

Grammairien français : **Philippe P** annonce que le mot du jour « exquis » a été utilisé une seule fois par Paolo G. Il a remarqué que Philippe L avait tendance à dire « je dois dire que... » (au lieu de « je pense que », « je trouve que ») dans son discours.

Stumble catcher Akiko heard many ahs this evening!

Time keeper Yassine gave timings for the evening.

General evaluator Odile congratulates and thanks TM of the evening Sean for an outstanding preparation and a very good introduction to each speaker.

Speaking tip provider Dan should maybe speak a bit slower and look at his audience.

Jean is a great listener; he made precise remarks to each person. Good analysis, thank you.

Michel had a difficult task evaluating Patrick for there is no evaluation guide for educational presentations; he did a great job telling Patrick to introduce some life and colour in his speech.

Alice did a great evaluation full of empathy. Her analysis was accurate and her counselling was useful. I like the way she looks into Ivo's eyes with a smile: she was very encouraging.

Philippe L.: Good analysis, please stop telling systematically "What I saw, what I heard, what I felt." Don't give us the plan of your evaluation. Try smoother transitions.

All technical reports were to the point. I am sorry that Lenny had to do two jobs (Grammarian and Note taker) which are not very compatible.

### Who won the ribbons?



Best table topic: Lenny

Best speech: Alain

Best evaluator: Philippe L.

**Alice** asks our guests for their comments. **Mark** had a great evening; he is going to attend a French school before joining the Europeans. **Jade** a aimé sa soirée.

**Last words of Alice as our president:**

- I still have a big bag of manuals at home. Please pick the ones that you want.
- Send you **renewal check** to me (she will be next year treasurer): **85€** for former members and **105€** for new members.

**Philippe L.** has been a Toastmaster for 10 years this year. Congratulations!

Please bring you Leadership Manual with you to the meetings!

We achieved many goals this year.

I want to thank those who helped me.

I encourage people to take leadership roles.

It's time to close the curtain and we will meet in September.

Note Takers: **Akiko** and **Lenny** - Edition and Illustration **Odile**

**Have a nice summer, see you in September!**