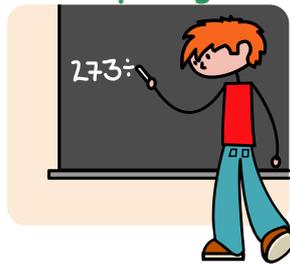




The French Toast

The newsletter for the Europeans Toastmasters Club n° 8018
Meeting of September 10th, 2014

Opening



Dan, acting as President, opened the meeting, saying that he was glad to see old and new faces. The **Theme of the Meeting** was: '*Back to school: tell us one of your best or worse*'. Dan said that there is no accurate translation for la 'rentrée des classes' in English. Perhaps, something like 'the start of school' would be an approximate translation.

The numerous guests - Olivier, Nicola, Angelica, Vielka, Ruta, Cecile, Corina, Marion, Karima - presented themselves.

The meeting

Alice, the **Toastmaster of the Evening**, detailed the different roles. She regretted that only one member had told her online what was his (her) best or worse memory of la 'rentrée des classes'. (Nevertheless, many members had brought in written documents).

Emmanuelle, giving the **Toast**, provided a short history of Toastmasters, briefly mentioned how the 'The Europeans' work and offered a Toast *to all people who created and then operate Toastmasters*.

[Note that in October 2014 we will celebrate Toastmasters International 90th Birthday!]

Ivo delivered the **joke**. She told how she once watched a DVD about a Bollywood performance, but realized that the show was unusually short: of course, she had watched the 'bonus'.

Teddy explained the role of the **Time Keeper**.

Dan announced that '*Pedagogy*' would be the **English Word of the Day**. Serge announced that '*Entame*' would be the **French Word of the Day**.

Patrick gave the '**Tip of the Day**'. Recalling some of his exams in math, he advised to *slow down and breathe out when speaking*.

Table Topics

Alain was the Table Topics Master. He first said that both his parents were teachers and that he had been at school all the time during most of his youth.



'*Do you remember in what state you were when you went back to school?*' **Ivo** said that it was spring in Madagascar and that she loved school.



'*Among your teachers, do you remember someone in particular?*' **Sean** told us how he travelled by bus from his village to school when he was 7, and how enraptured he had been by his first school mistress.'



'*What is the significance of the word 'learning' for you?*' **Teddy** said that learning was to change life and, reciprocally, that any change in life was a teaching ('l'école de la vie').

Prepared speeches



The first Speaker was **Akiko**, who gave a Speech entitled '*Secret Life of Plants: their Consciousness and Social Life*'. Plants appeared on earth much before humans. Some plants are carnivorous. But the most unexpected attribute of plants, which many might not believe, is that they are sentient beings. Based on data provided by a polygraph, plants are able to show signs of emotional stress, for example when a neighbor plant is destroyed.



The second Speaker was **Lenny**. His Speech was entitled '*Our Friends the Satellites and what is a GPS*'. Lenny took us at various heights in the sky, where countless satellites from many countries are orbiting. A complicated set of satellites helps drivers find their way, thanks to receptors called GPS or TomTom. In the future, our feet, our dog(s), will be connected to satellites.

Evaluation session

Jean is our General Evaluator. He remembered that when getting back to school, he very much liked the first two days because there was no teaching, and no work to do!

Patrick is our Table Topics evaluator. He appreciates the theme and questions asked by Alain; they fitted extremely well in the objectives of the role and Toastmasters requirements. **Ivo** gave a good answer, but stayed very general; she could have been more specific with a precise souvenir. **Jean** had a good structure and was original and funny. **Teddy** had the most interesting answer as he managed to turn his answer in an inspirational speech.

Emmanuelle evaluates Akiko. She starts by saying Akiko gave an excellent 2nd speech. Akiko respected the objectives of her speech. The structure was excellent with many references, even scientific ones, it was very well documented. We could even feel her emotion when talking about her capacity to talk to with plants. Emmanuelle's advice for her next speech is to talk without notes in order to better move around and use the space and to time up her speech in order to stay within the limit.

Christian evaluates Lenny. He says that Lenny fulfilled his objectives and that his message was very clear. He gave many details and figures supported by very good materials. Christian advises to improve the clarity of his introduction. He finishes by stressing how good the conclusion was, even humoristic.

English grammarian Dan focuses on using the right verb tense by pronouncing correctly the final syllabi. He also advises Ivo to use the same tense during her speech; she cannot switch from present to past and vice versa.

Serge, le grammairien français, commence par nous raconteur son pire souvenir de l'école quand une fois il est resté enfermé dans sa salle de classe; tout le monde le cherchait mais personne n'avait pensé qu'il pouvait être à l'intérieur de la classe. Son meilleur moment est quand il a été sélectionné pour représenter son école dans un concours de grammaire.

Sean est le compteur d'hésitations, c'est la première fois qu'il fait ce rôle en français. Sean fait remarquer que beaucoup de personnes ont de nombreuses petites hésitations.

Teddy est le maître du temps. Il dit que ça ne va pas, trop de personnes ont dépassé le temps. Il rappelle que quand le panneau est rouge, il faut conclure en quelques secondes.

Jean is the General Evaluator. He starts by saying it's a happy time to get together again after the summer. It's not totally like a regular meeting as many members are missing, but it is very good as there are many guests.

He evaluates his team: Patrick was analytical; Emmanuelle was detailed and clear; Christian was very good.

Jean explains that we like this club, the Europeans, because of its high intellectual level and he remarks that tonight it was very rich. The atmosphere is very smooth and the organisation very good. The only critic he has is the noise of the kitchen which is disruptive.

Who won a ribbon?



Best table topic: **Teddy**

Finally **Dan** thanks the guests and gives them the opportunity to ask questions. Three of them want to know more about our club or the evening organisation. Sean answers to one of the questions by stressing that evaluations are made to help the person improve all the time.

Dan encourages all members to visit other clubs, in order for us to discover new habits and come back to the Europeans to share the experience. He said he would go and visit Val d'Europe.

He concludes by calling on contestants and organisers for our next Club Contest on October 8th: Table topics and Humorous Speech contests.

Note Takers: **Alice** and **Jean** - Edition and Illustration **Odile**