

LESSON TRANSCRIPT

Lower Intermediate S2 #1

Travelling Through Time in France!

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#1

INTRODUCTION

Gabriella: Salut! Je m'appelle Gabriella. Travelling Through Time in France!

Jeremy: Moi, c'est Jeremy.

Gabriella: Let's get started. Quel est le sujet de la leçon d'aujourd'hui ?

Jeremy: In this lesson, you'll learn how to use past tenses to talk about what was done during the day. Le petit Marc va raconter sa journée à sa mère, Laure.

Gabriella: Ok, donc c'est une conversation familière ?

Jeremy: Oui, familière, mais polie.

Gabriella: Ok, now let's listen to the conversation.

DIALOGUE

Marc: Ce matin, avec la classe, nous sommes allés visiter les grottes de Lascaux.

Laure: Comment c'était ? Ca t'a plu ?

Marc: C'était chouette ! On a vu des peintures préhistoriques, et ensuite, on a mangé des plateaux-repas dans le parc. C'était une bonne journée !

Laure: Je vois ça, tu as sali ton pantalon !

Marc: Mais il y avait de la terre partout...

Gabriella: Now let's hear it with the English translation.

Marc: Ce matin, avec la classe, nous sommes allés visiter les grottes de Lascaux.

Marc: This morning, with the class, we went to visit the Lascaux caves.

Laure: Comment c'était ? Ca t'a plu ?

Laure: How was it? Did you enjoy it?

Marc: C'était chouette ! On a vu des peintures préhistoriques, et ensuite, on a mangé des plateaux-repas dans le parc. C'était une bonne journée !

Marc: It was great! We saw prehistoric paintings. Then we ate tray meals in the park. It was a great day!

Laure: Je vois ça, tu as sali ton pantalon !

Laure: I reckon—your pants are dirty.

Marc: Mais il y avait de la terre partout...

Marc: But there was dirt everywhere...

POST CONVERSATION BANTER

Gabriella: Wow, les Grottes de Lascaux! I went there when I was a child too.

Jeremy: Moi aussi, j'y suis allée avec ma classe ! D'ailleurs, la Dordogne est très belle.

Gabriella: They're old caves, right?

Jeremy: Oui ! Elles ont plus de 18000 ans et on été découvertes en 1940. They're known for their wonderful animal friezes, like the one with the black horses. But you can also see cows, bears, or even human hands!

Gabriella: That's why all the children in the southwest of France go there to visit.

Jeremy: I remember I painted in the prehistoric way after my visit! C'est un endroit passionnant quand on aime l'histoire de France.

VOCAB LIST

Gabriella: Ok! Now let's take a look at the vocabulary for this lesson.

Gabriella: The first word we shall see is...

Jeremy: grotte [natural native speed]

Gabriella: cave

Jeremy: grotte [slowly - broken down by syllable] grotte [natural native speed]

Gabriella: Next

Jeremy: plateau-repas [natural native speed]

Gabriella: tray meal, TV dinner

Jeremy: plateau-repas [slowly - broken down by syllable] plateau-repas [natural native speed]

Gabriella: Next

Jeremy: c'était chouette! [natural native speed]

Gabriella: It was cool!

Jeremy: c'était chouette! [slowly - broken down by syllable] c'était chouette! [natural native speed]

Gabriella: Next

Jeremy: classe [natural native speed]

Gabriella: class

Jeremy: classe [slowly - broken down by syllable] classe [natural native speed]

Gabriella: Next

Jeremy: préhistorique [natural native speed]

Gabriella: prehistoric

Jeremy: préhistorique [slowly - broken down by syllable] préhistorique [natural native speed]

Gabriella: Next

Jeremy: salir [natural native speed]

Gabriella: to dirty

Jeremy: salir [slowly - broken down by syllable] salir [natural native speed]

Gabriella: Next

Jeremy: plaire [natural native speed]

Gabriella: to like, to enjoy

Jeremy: plaire [slowly - broken down by syllable] plaire [natural native speed]

Gabriella: And last, we have

Jeremy: terre [natural native speed]

Gabriella: soil, dirt

Jeremy: terre [slowly - broken down by syllable] terre [natural native speed]

KEY VOCAB AND PHRASES

Gabriella: Let's take a closer look at the usage of some of the words and phrases from this lesson.

Jeremy: Le premier est une expression courante, "c'était chouette". "C'était" est le verbe être à l'imparfait et "chouette" est un mot familier qui signifie "great, cool".

Gabriella: C'était chouette de se revoir!

Jeremy: "It was great to meet again!" Yes, it's been a long time, (laughs). You can also replace chouette with énorme, but it's very casual and mainly used by young people. For example, Ce concert était énorme!

Gabriella: "This concert was awesome!" I can't imagine my mother speaking like that!

Jeremy: Another common one among young people is ça déchire, which stands for "it rocks".

Gabriella: Oui, mais les Français disent aussi "ça rocks". It's a loanword. You can use for any great occasion.

Jeremy: Mais faites attention, c'est très familier et jeune.

Gabriella: Got it! What's the other word?

Jeremy: C'est "plateau-repas". In English, it has two translations, "TV dinner" or "tray meal." En français, on l'utilise pour toutes les occasions où on ne mange pas à table.

Gabriella: I often eat TV dinners while watching TV shows.

Jeremy: "Je mange souvent un plateau-repas en regardant des séries." Ce n'est pas très bon pour la santé !

Gabriella: Yes, I know, but I love TV shows! The French use other words too, don't they?

Jeremy: Oui, on dit aussi bento, un mot japonais, ou lunchbox. Especially if people are bringing their meals outside.

Gabriella: Good to know! Now, let's move on to the grammar.

GRAMMAR POINT

Gabriella: In this lesson, you'll review past tenses and their usages.

Jeremy: Nous avons déjà étudié le passé composé...

Gabriella: the "compound past..."

Jeremy: et l'imparfait.

Gabriella: the "imperfect tense." So, what's the use of the compound past?

Jeremy: On l'utilise pour parler de quelque chose qui s'est passé dans le passé, et qui est terminé quand on parle.

Gabriella: So we can use Le passé composé to express a punctual event or action done in the past.

Jeremy: Je suis allée prendre un café chez mes amis.

Gabriella: "I had a coffee at my friend's house." Saying that, we know I'm home already.

Jeremy: Dans le dialogue, Marc est allé faire une visite aujourd'hui et il raconte sa journée à sa mère à la maison. He says, On a vu des peintures préhistoriques, et ensuite, on a mangé des plateaux-repas dans le parc.

Gabriella: "We saw prehistoric paintings, then we ate tray meals in the park."

Jeremy: Since he's back home, and everything's done already, he uses the compound past.

Gabriella: I think I get it. Another example?

Jeremy: Elle a mangé tous les gâteaux préparés par Mamie.

Gabriella: "She ate all the cookies baked by Granny." What a bad girl! I wanted some too!

Jeremy: (laughs) I'll bake you some.

Gabriella: Chouette ! Merci ! Et comment on utilise l'imparfait ?

Jeremy: The imperfect tense

Gabriella: It's almost the same as the compound past, so listen carefully. At a precise time in the past, the action had not ended yet.

Jeremy: But it's finished when the speaker is speaking, right?

Gabriella: Exactly. That's a bit confusing, but you'll get it easily.

Jeremy: Let's take the first example of the grammar point. Imagine someone asked you why you didn't answer when he called you. You can say, A 17h, je prenais un café chez mes amis.

Gabriella: "At 5 p.m., I was having a coffee at my friend's house". But I'm back already.

Jeremy: It's used to talk about a precise time or period.

Gabriella: Do you have an example of a period?

Jeremy: Quand j'étais étudiant, j'allais souvent prendre le café avec les professeurs.

Gabriella: "When I was a student, I often had coffee with the professors."

Jeremy: "When I was a student" is a period, and it's over now. People implicitly know I'm working now, or doing something else.

Gabriella: Finally, it's not so hard!

OUTRO

Jeremy: Okay, that's all for this lesson.

Gabriella: If you need to review anything you've learned in this lesson, take a look at the lesson notes. And if you have any comments or questions, leave us a post on the lesson page. Ok, thank you for listening everyone, and we'll see you next time.

Jeremy: Salut!