

Sample from an interview with a French Pediatrician

Pronunciation tips for this sample:

<http://site.fluentfrench.com/samples/DrG04BTips.mp3>

Download the Slow-echoing mp3:

<http://site.fluentfrench.com/samples/DrG04BEchoing.mp3>

Download the original interview mp3:

<http://site.fluentfrench.com/samples/DrG04BInterview.mp3>

Buy the whole recording:

<http://www.fluentfrench.com/slowedrg.html>

Accurate Pronunciation exercises

<http://www.fluentfrench.com/pronunciation.html>

**Et vous êtes sensés vous reposer<sup>1</sup> à un moment,**

And you are supposed to rest at some point,

**quand même... rentrer chez vous,<sup>2</sup>**

nevertheless... to go back home,

**prendre une douche ?**

to take a shower

Alors, les gardes<sup>3</sup>, c'est un exercice

So, the nightshifts, it is an exercise (which is)

un peu particulier et un peu sportif<sup>4</sup>, en effet, où on peut

a bit unusual and somewhat grueling, indeed, where one is able

<sup>1</sup> **se reposer** = to rest. Literally, to rest oneself. **Paul se repose.** = Paul is resting. **Reposez-vous.** = Rest; Get some rest. Compare **se reposer** (to rest) to **reposer quelque chose** (to set something back down.)

<sup>2</sup> **chez vous** = to your place. If you are unfamiliar with the word "**chez**" and want to know more, see the footnote on **chez l'enfant**, on page 2.

<sup>3</sup> **les gardes** = night shifts. See page 4 for an example of "**être de garde**" (to be on night shift.)

<sup>4</sup> **sportif** = 1) athletic, grueling ; 2) requiring lots of energy and attention. If a person is described as "**sportif**", it means

très bien, de dix-huit heures à huit heures le matin, s'arrêter  
very well, from 6PM to 8 in the morning, to stop (only)

un quart d'heure pour manger et ne pas dormir, sachant qu'on  
a quarter of an hour to eat and not to sleep, knowing that one

a travaillé la journée avant.  
has worked the day before.

Maintenant, c'est vrai que depuis<sup>1</sup>... maintenant...

Now, it is true that since... now...

je dirais une petite dizaine d'années<sup>2</sup>, il y a  
I would say almost 10 years, there are

des...<sup>3</sup> une législation qui a été mise en place  
some... a piece of legislation which has been put into place

pour obliger les médecins à s'arrêter. C[e n]'est pas que  
to oblige the doctors to stop (working). It is not that

les médecins [ne] voulait pas s'arrêter ; c'est que le système  
the doctors didn't want to stop; it is that the system

they are athletic; but you can also describe an activity as being "**sportif**." If a cyclist describes climbing a certain hill as being "**sportif**," he means that climbing that hill is not easy. A middle school teacher might come home after a hectic day and say, "**C'était sportif !**"

<sup>1</sup> **depuis une dizaine d'années** = for about 10 years, now. The French use **depuis** to express something that has been going on for a period of time. **Je vis ici depuis 10 ans.** = I've been living here for 10 years. You can also use **depuis** to say that something has been going on since a certain moment in time. **Je suis marié depuis 1999.** = I've been married since 1999. See other examples of **depuis** on pages 10 and 11.

<sup>2</sup> **depuis une dizaine d'années** : for... about ten years. The speaker adds "**une petite**" to mean, "almost." This is common with quantities and durations in French : you will sometimes hear, "**une petite demi-heure**" which means "slightly less than a half-hour" or "almost a half-hour."

<sup>3</sup> The speaker was probably going to say, "**des lois**" before deciding to say **une législation**. The **une** cannot be heard on the tape but it was probably intended by the speaker.

exploite un petit peu les gens<sup>1</sup> et que on pouvait rester  
exploits people somewhat and that one was able to stay

trente-six heures d'affilé<sup>2</sup> à l'hôpital à continuer à travailler,  
36 hours straight at the hospital continuing to work,

ce qui n'est... humainement pas souhaitable<sup>3</sup> et,  
which is not... humanly desirable and,

professionnellement, potentiellement dangereux. Donc  
professionally, potentially dangerous. So

ce sont des pratiques qui, avec l'évolution de... de la législation  
these are practices which, with the evolution of... of legislation,

tendent à se diminuer.<sup>4</sup> Cela dit, le médecin hospitalier,  
tend to decrease. That said, the hospital doctor,

en particulier dans la période de sa carrière où il fait  
in particular in the period of his career when he does

beaucoup de gardes, a une charge de travail<sup>5</sup> qui est,  
lots of night shifts, has a workload which is,

quand-même, assez exceptionnelle  
nevertheless, fairly exceptional

sur le plan professionnelle<sup>6</sup>.  
professionally speaking / on the professional level.

<sup>1</sup> Here, **un petit peu** it is modifying **exploiter**. Literally, **le système** (the system) + **exploite** (exploits) + **un petit peu** (somewhat) + **les gens** (the people).

<sup>2</sup> **d'affilée** = in a row. **un fil** = a thread, a line. **en file indien** = in a single-file line.

<sup>3</sup> **souhaitable** = desirable. Compare to **un souhait** = a wish.

<sup>4</sup> **se diminuer** = to wane, to decrease.

<sup>5</sup> **une charge de travail** : a workload. **La charge** = the load; the charge.

<sup>6</sup> **le plan** = the plane (in the geometric sense). **sur le plan...** = from the standpoint of...; as far as.... The meaning is similar to the oft-heard "**au niveau...**" (on the ... level.)

Copyright 2015 [www.fluentfrench.com](http://www.fluentfrench.com)

You can get more samples like this in our email newsletter.

Visit [www.fluentfrench.com](http://www.fluentfrench.com)

Never heard of echoing?

David explains learning in your car with echoing:

<http://www.fluentfrench.com/echoing.html>

Would you like to help us spread the word about echoing?

Email this PDF to your friends.

Thank you for listening,

David Tolman

[dtolman@fluentfrench.com](mailto:dtolman@fluentfrench.com)

Echoing recordings since 2001