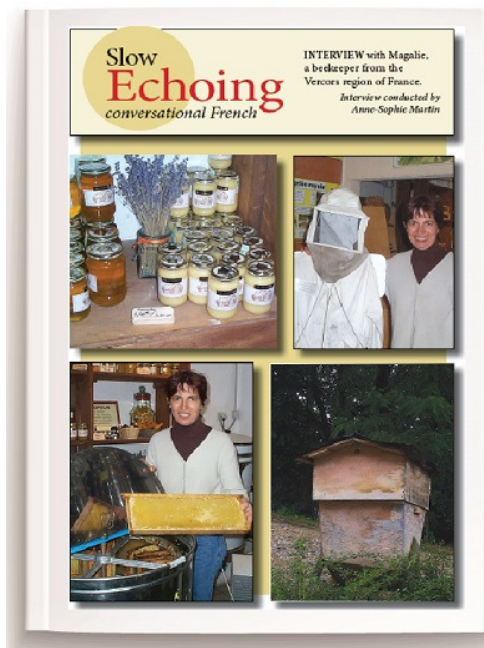


Sample from an interview with a French Beekeeper



Get the lesson:

<http://www.fluentfrench.com/beesample04a.html>

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MP3 track 4

(Slow echoing version is track 13)

En ce moment, c'est une des périodes

Right now, this is one of the periods (which is),

les plus intenses, c'est la récolte du miel, c'est ça ?

the most intense, this is the harvest of the honey, is that right?

Donc vous êtes très occupée, en ce moment ?

So you are very busy now?

Voilà, c'est ça. Ben c'est là¹ que tout se joue,² un peu,
Yes, that's right. Well, success depends on this period, in a way,

hein ? Aujourd'hui, on n'a pas une météo³ très favorable,
you know? Today, we do not have a very good forecast,

c'est vrai qu'on espère que ça [ne] va pas durer parce que
it is true that we hope that it is not going to last because

c'est vrai que c'est à cette époque-là que les abeilles...
it is true that it is at this period-now that the bees...

récoltent les plus grosses quantités de miel, c'est là que
gather the largest quantities of honey, it is now that

se joue ou non la récolte. Mais en fait, elle a été préparée
the harvest is made or not. But in fact, it has been prepared

déjà bien en amont.⁴ C'est ce qu'on fait au mois d'avril et
already well in advance. It is what we do in the month of April and

au mois de mai, pour s'assurer d'avoir dans nos ruches
in the month of May, to assure ourselves of having in our hives

¹ It can be surprising for students, who learn that **ici** means "here" and **là** means "there," but the French often use **là** to express "here" or "now." See other examples of **là** used to mean "now" on pages 9 and 20 and an example of **là** used to mean "here" on page 33. See also the foot on **là** on page 28.

² **c'est là que tout se joue**: It is right now that everything is playing out, from, **c'est là** (it is now) + **que** (that) + **tout** (everything) + **se joue** (is decided, literally, is played, is wagered). **jouer** = to play; to gamble.

³ **la météo** : from **La prévision météorologique** (the weather forecast.) Je n'ai pas vu la météo = I didn't see the weather forecast.

⁴ **en amont** = in advance, beforehand, literally, upstream. Compare **en amont** (uphill, upstream; in advance) to **en aval** (downhill, downstream.) To help you remember these, note that **amont** is related to "mountain" and **aval** is related to "valley."

des¹, de bonnes reines en bonne santé etc.,
good queens in good health, etc.,

pour profiter au maximum de la saison d'été.
in order to benefit to the maximum from the Summer season.

¹ **des, de bonnes reines...** If you wonder why the speaker backs up here and replaces "**des**" with "**de**," here is an explanation: the speaker was going to say "**des reines**" but then decided to add the word "**bonnes**" in front of "**reines**" which required her to back up and change from "**des**" to "**de**." Here is why: one cannot say, "**des bonnes reines**." You only need one indicator that the noun is plural, not two. So if you have an adjective in front of the noun telling you that "**reines**" is plural, you must change your choice of particle. Another example: "**des enfants**" but "**de grands enfants**."