

A Second Date with a Lithuanian Woman

English learning resource · FR

Key words & expressions · English + French

10 learning entries

Study task: Listen again and notice the expressions you studied.

1

to read between the lines

lire entre les lignes · comprendre les sous-entendus

DEF

to understand what is really being communicated in a message beyond the literal words — to perceive hidden or implied meaning

Read between the lines is the art of inference — understanding not just what is said but what is meant. Critical for advanced English, where much is implied rather than stated. Particularly important in British English, which relies heavily on indirectness.

FR

Comprendre ce qui est vraiment communiqué dans un message au-delà des mots littéraux.

Lire entre les lignes est essentiel pour saisir les significations cachées dans une conversation.

She didn't say she was upset — you have to read between the lines of what she actually wrote.

Elle n'a pas dit qu'elle était contrariée — il faut lire entre les lignes de ce qu'elle a réellement écrit.

Reading between the lines is an advanced language skill — it is how you understand culture, not just words.

Lire entre les lignes est une compétence linguistique avancée — c'est ainsi que tu comprends la culture, pas seulement les mots.

2

to be on the same wavelength

être sur la même longueur d'onde · avoir les mêmes idées

DEF

to think in the same way as someone else; to have the same ideas, values, or way of understanding the world

On the same wavelength is radio/physics metaphor applied to human connection — two minds tuned to the same frequency.

Feeling on the same wavelength with someone is one of the most comfortable feelings in any language.

FR

Penser de la même manière que quelqu'un d'autre.

Être sur la même longueur d'onde crée une connexion agréable entre les personnes.

They were on the same wavelength about everything — humour, values, and what they wanted from life.

Ils étaient sur la même longueur d'onde à propos de tout — humour, valeurs et ce qu'ils voulaient de la vie.

Being on the same wavelength with your English teacher makes the lessons three times as effective.

Être sur la même longueur d'onde avec ton professeur d'anglais rend les leçons trois fois plus efficaces.



3

subtext*sous-texte · signification implicite*

DEF

the implied or unstated meaning beneath the surface of what is being said — what is communicated without being spoken

Subtext is the literary and communication concept. It is what makes sophisticated communication rich — the meaning that exists between the stated words. Being able to detect subtext in English requires both linguistic competence and cultural knowledge. 'That's interesting' often means 'I disagree'. 'We'll see' often means 'no'.

FR

Le sens implicite ou non déclaré sous la surface de ce qui est dit.

Le sous-texte enrichit la communication en ajoutant des significations entre les mots.

Pay attention to the subtext in professional English conversations — what is not said is often as important as what is.

Fais attention au sous-texte dans les conversations professionnelles en anglais — ce qui n'est pas dit est souvent aussi important que ce qui est dit.

She missed the subtext of his polite response for months before a colleague explained what he had actually meant.

Elle a manqué le sous-texte de sa réponse polie pendant des mois avant qu'un collègue n'explique ce qu'il voulait vraiment dire.

4

to get your point across*faire passer un message · communiquer une idée*

DEF

to communicate an idea successfully — making sure the other person has understood what you intended to say

Get your point across is the communication success phrase. Many English learners know what they want to say but struggle to make sure it has been received as intended. Getting your point across means not just speaking but checking for understanding, reformulating if needed, and adapting to the listener.

FR

Communiquer une idée avec succès.

Faire passer un message implique de s'assurer que l'autre personne a bien compris.

Getting your point across matters more than saying it perfectly — clarity beats eloquence.

Faire passer un message est plus important que de le dire parfaitement — la clarté l'emporte sur l'éloquence.

She found it hard to get her point across in meetings until she started using concrete examples instead of abstract explanations.

Elle a eu du mal à faire passer son message lors des réunions jusqu'à ce qu'elle commence à utiliser des exemples concrets au lieu d'explications abstraites.

5

to spell something out*expliquer clairement · détailler*

DEF

to explain something clearly and in detail — leaving nothing implied or assumed, so there is no room for misunderstanding

Spell something out is the explicit communication verb. In some cultures and contexts, people prefer to spell everything out — be direct, be clear, leave nothing to inference. In others, spelling everything out is considered blunt or condescending. For English learners, knowing when to spell things out versus when to trust the listener is a cultural and communicative skill.

FR

Expliquer quelque chose clairement et en détail.

Expliquer clairement est essentiel pour éviter les malentendus.

Spell out your expectations clearly at the start of a project — assumptions cause more misunderstandings than disagreements.

Exprime clairement tes attentes au début d'un projet — les suppositions causent plus de malentendus que de désaccords.

She had to spell out exactly what she needed because vague requests always led to the wrong result.

Elle a dû expliquer exactement ce dont elle avait besoin car les demandes vagues menaient toujours au mauvais résultat.



6

to bridge a gap*réduire un écart · combler un fossé*

DEF

to reduce or eliminate a difference — in understanding, knowledge, culture, or communication

Bridge a gap is the connection-building phrase. In language learning, the most relevant gap is the communication gap: the distance between what you intend to say and what is actually understood. Bridging that gap requires vocabulary, clarity, cultural awareness, and the willingness to check and rephrase.

FR

Réduire ou éliminer une différence dans la communication.

Comblant un fossé nécessite de la patience et de la clarté dans la communication.

Bridging a communication gap requires patience and willingness to rephrase — not just louder repetition.

Comblant un fossé de communication nécessite de la patience et la volonté de reformuler — pas seulement de répéter plus fort.

She used visual aids to bridge the gap when words alone were not conveying the concept clearly.

Elle a utilisé des supports visuels pour combler le fossé lorsque les mots seuls ne transmettaient pas clairement le concept.

7

to mean well*avoir de bonnes intentions · vouloir bien faire*

DEF

to have good intentions — even if the result or the expression of those intentions is not perfect

Mean well is the charitable interpretation phrase. It is used to give someone the benefit of the doubt — to say that their intention was good even if the outcome was clumsy or unhelpful. 'She means well' is both a defence and a mild criticism: yes, the intention is good, but there is an implied 'but'. Understanding this nuance is advanced English.

FR

Avoir de bonnes intentions, même si le résultat n'est pas parfait.

Avoir de bonnes intentions est souvent utilisé pour défendre quelqu'un malgré un résultat maladroit.

He means well — his phrasing was awkward but his intention was genuinely helpful.

Il a de bonnes intentions — sa formulation était maladroite mais son intention était vraiment utile.

She knew her mother meant well but the constant advice felt more like criticism than support.

Elle savait que sa mère avait de bonnes intentions mais les conseils constants semblaient plus être des critiques que du soutien.

8

to put it differently*reformuler · expliquer autrement*

DEF

to restate what you have said in a new way — using different words or an analogy to improve understanding

Put it differently is the clarification phrase. When you realise your explanation has not landed — the listener looks confused, or simply says 'I'm not sure I follow' — putting it differently means trying another angle: a simpler word, a concrete example, an analogy. It is an essential communication repair strategy.

FR

Reformuler ce que tu as dit d'une nouvelle manière.

Reformuler est une stratégie essentielle pour clarifier la communication.

If someone looks confused, put it differently instead of repeating the same words more slowly.

Si quelqu'un a l'air confus, reformule au lieu de répéter les mêmes mots plus lentement.

She put it differently each time until she found the analogy that made the concept click for the group.

Elle a reformulé chaque fois jusqu'à ce qu'elle trouve l'analogie qui a fait comprendre le concept au groupe.



9

to talk at cross purposes*malentendu · parler de manière confuse*

DEF

to be in a conversation where both parties are misunderstanding each other — often because they are discussing different things while thinking they are discussing the same

Talk at cross purposes is one of the most precise communication failure phrases in English. It describes the specific situation where both speakers believe they are on the same topic but are actually discussing different aspects, assumptions, or definitions.

Recognising this is the first step to resolving it — by naming it: 'I think we may be talking at cross purposes.'

FR

Être dans une conversation où les deux parties se malentendent.

Parler de manière confuse décrit une situation où les interlocuteurs croient discuter du même sujet alors qu'ils parlent de choses différentes.

If a conversation feels frustrating, you may be talking at cross purposes — stop and define your terms.

Si une conversation semble frustrante, tu parles peut-être de manière confuse — arrête-toi et définis tes termes.

They talked at cross purposes for twenty minutes before realising they had different definitions of the deadline.

Ils ont parlé de manière confuse pendant vingt minutes avant de réaliser qu'ils avaient des définitions différentes de la date limite.

10

to come to an understanding*atteindre un accord · trouver un terrain d'entente*

DEF

to reach a shared agreement or mutual comprehension after a process of communication or negotiation

Come to an understanding is the resolution phrase. After disagreement, miscommunication, or a difficult negotiation, coming to an understanding means both parties have found enough common ground to proceed. It is softer than 'reaching an agreement' — it suggests the process was collaborative rather than adversarial.

FR

Atteindre un accord partagé après un processus de communication.

Atteindre un accord suggère un processus collaboratif plutôt qu'adversarial.

After a long discussion, they came to an understanding that worked for both sides.

Après une longue discussion, ils ont atteint un accord qui convenait aux deux parties.

She came to an understanding with her manager about flexible hours that she had not thought was possible.

Elle a atteint un accord avec son manager sur des horaires flexibles qu'elle n'avait pas pensé possibles.

