

En Réunion

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Meetings in France

Meetings do not always start crisply on the hour, but gather momentum as people arrive in the moments before and after the scheduled start-time.

Before a meeting in the UK we warm things up with a quick chat about the weather, traffic or football. The French tend to make less small-talk.

They do not drink as much tea or coffee during the day (but enjoy a large cup at breakfast).

They all shake hands, and maybe kiss.

English is often used as the language of meetings but people will switch to French when things need clarifying or get more keenly debated.

You may hear different conversations go on at any one time.

They will answer their phones and do emails in the middle of your presentation.

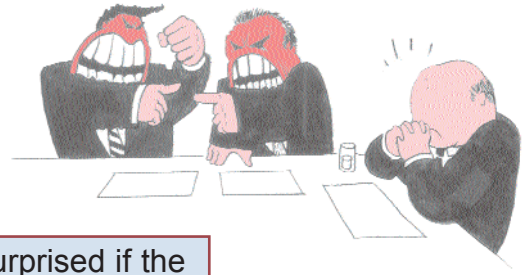
Don't be surprised if they disagree more openly and emphatically.

They have a more openly hierarchical approach to management and less of the consensus-driven team leadership in the UK.

They will wait for a nod from their boss before committing to action.

Introduce yourself to a group of people in a meeting. Say who you are, where you are from, your job title and function. Then say you will be giving your presentation in English.

Your teacher is talking in French to a group of people including yourself. Ask him/her tactfully to explain what she is saying in English.



‘ Don't be surprised if the French disagree more openly and emphatically. ’

Translate:

Je vous remercie de votre présence.

Je ne suis pas d'accord.

Oui, peut-être.

Est-ce que je peux vous emmener manger ?

Je m'en occupe.

Tout à fait d'accord.

Merci de votre attention et avez-vous des questions ?

Ça me plaît beaucoup.

J'ai rendez-vous avec M. Pau.

Qu'en pensez-vous ?

Excusez-moi de vous interrompre.

Je suis désolé d'être en retard.

Svp, répétez en anglais.

Pouvons-nous conclure ?

You bring a meeting to an end. Say you are all agreed, and thank people for coming. Then invite your colleagues out for lunch.

Qu'en pensez-vous ?

“Le Royaume Uni devrait se mettre à l'Euro.”
“Les criminels sont surprotégés par les Droits de l'Homme.”
“Les athlètes sont trop payés.”
“On devrait avoir de plus longues vacances.”

ça me plaît beaucoup I really like that
je suis entièrement d'accord I agree entirely
entendu understood
bien sûr of course
je suis d'accord I agree.
vous avez bien raison you are right
c'est acceptable it is acceptable
jusqu'à un certain point up to a point
peut-être maybe, perhaps.
il y a des avantages et des inconvénients there are pros and cons
ce n'est pas tout à fait ça not exactly
je ne suis pas d'accord I don't agree
je suis franchement contre cette idée I'm totally against this idea

Je suis d'accord.

A mon avis ...

Je ne suis pas d'accord.



Translate:

Il est important de prendre une décision aujourd'hui, Mesdames et Messieurs. Ce projet doit avancer. Merci à tous pour votre participation, on a bien avancé. Maintenant c'est l'heure du déjeuner, on se revoit cet après-midi pour finaliser les décisions.

Translate into French:

Duglos Thank you for coming. Let's begin. Monsieur Pau, please put us in the picture.
Pau Excuse me interrupting, Monsieur Duglos, but Monsieur Morand is not here.
Morand Sorry I'm late.
Duglos Let us begin, gentlemen. The Euro - what's your view on this.
Pau In my opinion, it's very good.
Duglos I understand. Monsieur Morand?
Morand I do not agree.

Start a meeting. Welcome everyone.

Introduce the following

Jean Lacombe
the sales manager

Hélène Lapierre
the finance manager

Guy Thomas
the HR manager

Open the discussion and explain you are going to speak in English.

Now wind up the meeting and suggest lunch.

commençons let us begin
expliquez votre position, svp please put us in the picture
qu'en pensez-vous ? what's your view
à mon avis in my opinion
ça dépend that depends
je vais y réfléchir I will consider this
je m'en occupe I will attend to/look after/sort out this
c'est important de it is important that
en revanche... on the other hand...
sans aucun doute without doubt
c'est que... the thing is...
pardon de vous interrompre excuse me interrupting
avez-vous des questions ? do you have any questions?
merci de votre attention thank you for your attention
merci de votre contribution thank you for your inputs/contributions

Tout à fait d'accord ?

There is French executive in Toulouse who leaves important decisions until after a good lunch when his English colleagues are getting a little drowsy in the hot sun !!

