



Students of English at Bon Repos.

Jon: So, Alistair, what is your function with this school?

Alistair: Well, actually I'm here on a working holiday visa, and I actually taught at this school about seven years ago as an assistant and we're back in the region looking for jobs again. I've known Colette, the teacher here, for a while and we were in the area, and she invited us along today. So that's why we're here.

Jon: So most of your day, could you explain what you do generally.

Alistair: I'll tell you what I did seven years ago when I actually taught 'coz I'm not doing that right now. So it was being a teaching assistant, so you were in the classroom with the teachers and you were helping them, eventually given a little bit more liberty and you get to run your own classes, so I used to do a lot of quizzes, fill in the blanks, listen to music, watching films and doing some role-playing, that sort of stuff so it's quite fun and you're there to give a bit of liberty in the English classes...

Jon: So what kind of quizzes? Give us a sample question.

Alistair: Oh, sample question. How many sheep are in New Zealand? a:15,000,000; b:20; c: 25; d:30

Jon: I'd say 30 million.

Alistair: Yes you're right. And, bonus point, how many people in New Zealand?

Jon: Five million?

Alistair: Oh! Wow! Bang on. So you'd probably win.

Jon: Okay, we'd probably better go and catch up with the others before we lose them. Well, thank you very much.

Alistair: You're welcome.

Jon: Right, so I'm now here with Esther, who's Alistair's wife, and are you here just for one year as well, or does it depend on whether you can find employment?

Esther: Yes, we're looking for jobs at the moment. We're hoping we can be English teachers here in Brittany. So this is an experience to learn French and explore Europe.

Jon: How good's the French at the minute?

Esther: Not too good at the moment. But I went shopping yesterday, and I ... it was a success. So you've got to enjoy the small moments when you can actually converse, yes.

Jon: So what is the most difficult part of this job, do you think?

Esther: I think being understood, and with students, and you want their respect, of course. So you want to make sure you can have a conversation with them, and not have things lost in translation.

Jon: Mmm, sure. And generally speaking, are they quite respectful?

Esther: Yes, no so far I've only done it so far for one minute, so it's my first time today.

Jon: Yeah. Well enjoy your day ...

Esther: Thank you.

Jon ... and thank you very much.

Esther: Cheers. Thanks, Jon.

Jon: Okay, so now I'm with Chantelle, who's a teaching assistant from Jamaica. Chantelle, how long have you been here.

Chantelle: I've been here for five days now.

Jon: Right, so this is your very first week with the students.

Chantelle: My very first week here now.

Jon: You know French already?

Chantelle: Yes, I've been studying French in Jamaica for about five years now. I went to Sam Sharpe (?) Teacher's College, that's where I did Modern Languages, and I specialised in French and Spanish. So now, I'm a trained teacher to teach French and Spanish at the secondary level.

Jon: So why did you choose French and Spanish in the first place? Did you have a family connection or something?

Chantelle: No, it wasn't a family connection, it was just the fashion. I loved French since high school and so I decided to continue.

Jon: Well good luck. I hope you enjoy your stay and thank you very much.

Chantelle: Thank you.

Jon: Right, I'm with Luga and Doyan, two students at Bon Repos. They're from a school in ...

Luga: Eh, St Brieuc, Jean Moulin.

Jon: What are you doing here today? What's the purpose of the visit?

Luga: To improve our English skills and to learn more about English people.

Jon: So, Doyan, you're studying English as well?

Doyan: Yes.

Jon: And how long have you studied English?

Doyan: Five.

Jon: This is your fifth year?

Doyan: Yes.

Jon: Could you explain, Luga, where all your different teachers and teaching assistants are from?

Luga: She come from Jamaica, and our professor come from St Brieuc.

Jon: Yeah. A very cosmopolitan group. Anyway, lads, enjoy your day. Thank you very much.