

Elaine interviewing Antoine, a student in the Premiere Class at College St Charles in St Brieuc

Elaine: So, Antoine, I understand that you spent Christmas away. Where did you go, and why?

Antoine: So, I went to Boston in the U.S. for Christmas with my mother, and I went there because I wanted to do a language learning trip and my mother went with me because she wanted to spend Christmas and the New Year's eve with me. But, actually for the whole trip I was mostly all alone even though I was in a dorm room and I had roommates who were with me to, like to socialise and not to be always alone in the U.S. So I went there to learn English. I already had a nice level but I wanted to improve my speaking skills and I went to a language learning campus, in Boston, which is called EF International Language Campus.

Elaine: Okay, and so how long, you were there for three weeks, I believe?

Antoine: Yes.

Elaine. As we said before, and so what did the course, what happened every day on the course? How did it work.

Antoine: So, most of the week we had the course either in the morning or during the afternoon and we had three hours of lessons and sometimes we also had what they call spin classes which were lectures. And, so mine was public speaking and I also went to a class for C2 level people because the classes are divided by levels so that people can learn with better efficiency. And we went to the class, we like told how we did exercises with the teacher, and afterwards when we had in classes we, like mine was public speaking so maybe it's...

Elaine: It's very brave.

Antoine: It's a bit different from other ones because there were cultures of the U.S. or history, etc., but mine was really focused on speaking and debating. So we talked about many social issues like abortion, or like a topic that's really important in the U.S. right now which are drugs, etc., and afterwards when we had the afternoon we mostly went to Boston and we were basically free to do whatever we wanted until 10.00 p.m.

Elaine: That's a very busy, it's a very busy city, very important city too.

Antoine: Yeah.



Elaine: So how many students were there and where did they come from?

Antoine: There were, I went there during the holidays so at first there weren't so many people, like we were, I don't know, maybe 70, and classes were less divided than the like at other times because students were, like there were much less students and we were eight, I believe, in the like in my first week we are eight in our C2 class but like the last week, the third week, we were, I know maybe 250 and...

Elaine: Goodness.

Antoine: And classes were divided, even with C2 level, we had three classes and also there were people from around the world. There were many French people, actually like almost 40, and mostly southern American people – so Chileans, Peruvians, Brazilians, etc. And when you were in the corridors it was funny because like you could hear English when people were communicating like outside of their group, but also Spanish and French and like me and some other people who really wanted to learn English we really tried to only speak English. We were always telling them to stop and to speak proper English.

Elaine: It's a very strong discipline you did there, isn't it? Because it's very tempting to talk your native language.

Antoine: Um, yeah. I believe I didn't have that much problem because I guess as you can see, I hope, um my English level is actually okay.

Elaine: Yes. It's very, very competent. It's important I think now isn't it in terms of a career to have a good command of spoken English.

Antoine: Yeah, I think it is really important because today in the world, even, even if you work in a, I don't know, in a Spanish or French corporation, you have to speak English because you'll always have to manage with people on the international level and English is the easiest language to do with them. So, of course you can learn the language but there is too many languages to learn so it is better to have a single language everyone speaks.

Elaine: An international language.

Antoine: Yes.

Elaine: As it were. So what are your career plans when you leave school? Any thoughts?

Antoine: So, I want to do an Ecole Préparatoire in French to maybe, it really depends on the school I have and I obtain after the contests, the different contests,



and, but I would like the most to be in the research or in teaching in university and college or maybe I could become an engineer because I really like physics and math actually. So, yeah.

Elaine: Well, I am sure that now with your, as I can hear, your very strong hold or grasp on English, that the doors will be open in many directions for you. And it's been great to catch up with you and thank you very much and I wish you all the very best of luck in future, Antoine.

Antoine: Thank you very much.