

Talk Abroad #1

For TalkAbroad #1 I spoke to Ametefe Kpodo from Togo. In thirty minutes we covered formal greetings, our studies, our works, families, friends, and daily lives. I think it was an interesting conversation. I think, like usual, there were ups and downs in my French speaking. I think the basic kernel of meaning existed the whole way through our conversation and was never quite lost despite a few small misunderstandings and mistakes on my part that we nonetheless plowed through. Ametefe spoke very deliberately and distinctly which helped me immensely. I think we were able to stay within the bounds of the paper very well, maybe too well; but I did try to explore within the bounds of the guide.

My strengths I think lay in the very basics, covering greetings, comprehending and being able to build on what my conversation partner was saying. My issues definitely stem from my compulsion to directly translate the syntax of my English thoughts to my French speech. This can certainly lead to a bounty of mistakes of the careless and easily amenable sort, especially my tendency to mix up gendered articles which I for the most part notice the moment I do it.

I think also I fared much better this time around with my listening but that was probably more to my partner's credit than mine. Like last time I found myself going on too long and needing to retract certain statements that unfortunately lead out of the bounds of my ability. I think the outstanding thing was my ability to speak in the past tense, though I think my attempt at using an "être" verb rather than an "avoir" verb was a little hamfisted.

I think that my greetings went well, my discussions about school were nicely put, I think that talking about my family went well, and I just wish that I had more to say about myself not just in French but in English too! It was hard to think of things to bring up about myself that weren't somewhat redundant or difficult to convey over the border of the French language.