

# Talk Abroad Reflection #2

My talk abroad partner was David Gouger. He is a very nice man who lives in Portugal. He is an athletic man who enjoys walking, running, and swimming. However, his diet is lacking. He says he needs more fruits and vegetables. He thinks that drug use, alcohol abuse, and poor diet negatively affect youth. He does plan to start eating healthier in the future. I ran out of time before we could talk too much about his vacation habits.

This reflection felt a little bit more awkward than ones in the past. I think he was expecting me to ask the questions, and I was expecting him to ask the questions, which led to a lot of awkward silence. About halfway through, it started to go better once I realized I should be asking more questions. It was still very enjoyable, honestly. I found it fascinating comparing his accent to the accent of my talk abroad partners so far. He was the first French native speaker whom I have spoken to. It was shocking just how similar his accent was to the ones in the CMU program, as well as ImerseMe.

I found that when I was not exactly sure what I was going to say or how to say it, I could still piece it together. Even though in total I only know a small number of French verbs, I can still piece together understandable sentences with them. I think will be able to help me converse in French in the future. While for now I am not fluent, I am still very surprised by just how much I know and how much I can say. There were a few difficulties, including me not knowing the proper way to say my major, cybersecurity. Luckily, David was able to piece together what I was trying to say and taught me how to correctly say it. Overall, while I wouldn't say this was my best talk abroad session, I think I still learned a lot from it, and I am honestly quite confident in my abilities to how a semi-understandable conversation in French now. I have gained so much

more from French 101 and 102 than I thought I was going to, and I appreciate all the thought, care, and passion that was put into this course.