

April 30th 2026

My second TalkAbroad conversation took place on April 29th at 10:00 a.m. with my partner, Marie Garlih Anozar. Overall, I would describe the conversation as successful, even though there were a few minor challenges at the beginning. Similar to my first TalkAbroad experience, I experienced some connectivity issues at the start, which made it difficult to begin the conversation smoothly. At times, the audio lag caused us to repeat ourselves, but once the connection improved, the conversation became much more natural and easier to follow.

Marie is 26 years old and currently lives in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. One of the most interesting parts of our conversation was discovering that we shared a cultural connection, as I previously lived in Haiti and attended school in Delmas. This immediately made the conversation feel more comfortable and engaging. I also shared that my father's job required my family to travel frequently, which influenced my decision to pursue a career in business. Marie explained that she is currently studying economics and is taking two classes, including international marketing. Even though I did not fully catch the name of her second class, we were still able to have a meaningful discussion about our academic interests and goals.

Throughout the conversation, I felt that one of my strengths was my ability to keep the conversation going by asking follow-up questions and responding with complete thoughts rather than short answers.

Compared to my first TalkAbroad conversation, I was more confident speaking in French and less worried about making mistakes. I focused more on communication rather than perfection, which helped the conversation flow better. However, one area I still need to improve is my listening skills, especially when dealing with accents or technical issues. There were a few moments where I had to ask Marie to repeat herself, which showed me that I need more practice understanding spoken French in real-time.

We also discussed our families, including how many siblings we have and our relationships with them. Marie shared that she has three sisters, one older and two younger. Additionally, we talked about our

experiences at our current schools. She mentioned that she enjoys both her classes and her friendships, while I shared that I appreciate the opportunities my school provides for my future career. We also compared personal preferences, such as weather, where I expressed my preference for warm weather and she shared that she prefers colder weather.

This conversation also helped me gain a better cultural understanding. Hearing about Marie's life in Haiti today gave me a different perspective compared to my own past experiences there. It reminded me that even though we share a connection to the same country, our current realities can be very different.

Overall, I believe I made noticeable improvements from my first TalkAbroad conversation. I was more confident, more engaged, and better at maintaining the flow of the conversation. While I still have areas to improve, especially with listening comprehension, this experience showed me that I am making progress and becoming more comfortable communicating in French in a real-world setting.