

Transcript of the recording

- Et la docteure Danielle Perreault est justement avec nous maintenant pour nous expliquer la cirrhose du foie mais juste avant, dans l'actualité récemment, on apprenait¹ que le grand, le magnifique² Rafael Nadal avait eu³ un genou qui...bonjour Danielle...
- bonjour
- avait (eu) un genou qui s'était complètement bloqué⁴ mais vraiment complète... bloqué, il ne peut plus déplier le genou-là,
- c'est ça.⁵
- le replier.
- oui
- et vous avez une opinion là-dessus.
- c'est-à-dire.
- une thèse.
- j'ai entendu à la radio lundi matin et on parlait de Nadal qui avait été, bon,⁶ paralysé, pouvait plus plier sa jambe...était⁷...avait sa jambe toute droite, et l'on parlait de paralysie, un mal mystérieux, et je vous dis pas⁸ que j'ai le diagnostic, mais vous savez, moi⁹, j'ai toujours voulu être agent double
- (rires)
- ...à seize ans j'étais agent double et donc...les¹⁰.. avec les indices que j'ai pu avoir je me suis dit "tiens, tiens"¹¹ voici ce qui a pu arriver et c'est donc une suggestion mais on verra..han¹²..,au cours des prochaines semaines si mon diagnostic est bon.
- et ce que j'aime c'est que ça touche les souris, on vient¹³ de parler des souris dans le bulletin des nouvelles, mais là¹⁴ c'est autre chose.
- c'est ça. alors je suggère que Monsieur Nadal a probablement une souris articulaire¹⁴ et pour comprendre de quoi il s'agit¹⁵—et plusieurs d'entre vous probablement allez vous reconnaître—c'est ce genou qui peut barrer à l'occasion- donc on parle de mécanisme qui...qui...qui est tout à fait anatomique...Regardez bien votre genou. Vous avez l'os de fémur au-dessus et.. le tibia en-dessous et entre les deux des structures qui sont à base de cartilages.
- oui
- comme des espèces de petits caoutchoucs

- oui
- alors, il s'agit d'un petit ...
- des minisques
- d'un petit traumanisme¹⁶ ...d'un petit traumanisme...
- (rires)
- d'un petit traumatisme des ménisques ou du cartilage à cause de l'arthrose pour qu'une petite partie se détache.¹⁷

Technical commentary

1. Here "on apprenait" means "we learned". The "on" pronoun is extremely common in French and can take on many different meanings. In this case, it's "we." Note the imperfect verb form "apprenait." The compound past "on a appris" probably would have worked just as well. The imperfect was perhaps used here because it refers to a rather recent past.
2. Note the inflection of the voice in the pronunciation of "magnifique." Note as well that whereas the adjective "grand" usually precedes the noun (Nadal), "magnifique" usually comes after. Here the speaker puts it in front to emphasize how "magnifique" Nadal is.
3. The "avait eu" verb form here, called the past perfect, pluperfect or plus-que-parfait is used here because the speaker is referring to an incident that occurred to Nadal prior to something else which is not really mentioned here. In the following "avait," there doesn't seem to be a "eu." So, we are probably back to the imperfect form.

There is actually quite a bit of flexibility in the use of tense forms in French. In many cases the present form can be interchanged with the other tenses

4. The "s'était...bloqué" is again the plus-que-parfait form because it is referring to an event (the locking of the knee) that took place in a past defined by the previous verbs "avait" and "avait eu." Notice that the same speaker uses the present form in "il ne peut plus déplier le genou-là." She could just as well have used "pouvait," but a lot of times the present tense form can be used instead of other tenses.
5. The "c'est ça" is extremely common in conversations. In addition to meaning "exactly" or "that's it," it's main function is to keep the conversation going. This is also called a conversation marker.
6. "bon" is another perfect example of a word being used as a sort of conversation marker. Here it really has nothing to do with its usual meaning "good."
7. The speaker starts out with "était" and realizing her mistake, switches to "avait."
8. Notice how "je ne vous dis pas" become "je vous dis pas." In rapid spoken speech, this ne has all but disappeared.
9. This "moi, je" or "moi, j'ai" is a common grammatical structure where the pronoun, in this case I, is repeated in a different form for emphasis.
10. The speaker starts off with "les" then realizes her mistake and continues with "avec les."
11. This "tiens, tiens" is a stylistic device meaning something like "well, well" or "hmm, hmm."

12. This "han" or "hein" is here to fill a pause while the speaker is formulating the rest of the sentence.
13. In "on vient de parler," note again the "on" meaning "we" and also how "vient de" from "venir de" followed by a verb is used to mean "to have just." So, "on vient de manger" means "we just ate."
14. "là" has many uses in French. In this context, it means "this." The whole phrase "mais là c'est autre chose" means "but this is something else."
15. "il s'agit" is the most common form of the verb "s'agir" that is used only in the third person. Other forms would include "il s'est agi," "il s'agira" and "il s'agissait." It can usually be translated by "it's about."
16. "traumamisme" is a pronunciation mistake that the speaker immediately realizes. There was a bit of confusion with "minisques." Notice how the speaker repeats the error to show that she is aware of it and makes fun of herself. Note as well the intonations of the voice.
17. "se détache" is a subjunctive form of the verb "se détacher" because of the preceding preposition "pour que" that always requires the subjunctive. Note that in this case there is no difference in form between the indicative (se détache) and the subjunctive (se détache). Had the speaker used "pouvoir" (to be able), she would have said something like "...pour qu'une petite partie puisse se détacher" (a small piece can detach itself).

Translation

- And Dr. Danielle Perreault is with us right here to explain cirrhosis of the liver, but just before that, in the news recently, we learned that the great, the handsome Rafael Nadal had a knee ... hi Danielle...
- Hi
- had a knee that was completely jammed ... but really stuck, he couldn't unbend the knee
- that's it.
- or bend it.
- yes
- and you have an opinion on this.
- that is to say.
- an idea.
- I heard on the radio Monday morning that Nadal was, well, paralyzed, couldn't bend his leg ... his leg was jammed straight, and there was talk of paralysis, a mysterious ailment, and I'm not saying that I have the diagnosis, but you know, I've always wanted to be a double agent (detective)
- (laughter)
- At sixteen ... I was a double agent and therefore the with the clues I had I thought "well, well" here is what could have happened and this is a suggestion but we'll see .. ah .. in the coming weeks if my diagnosis is right.
- and what I like is that it touches mice, we just talked about mice in the news, but this is something else.
- That's right. Here then I suggest that Mr. Nadal probably had a joint loose body (*souris is the term in French*) and to understand what it is--and many of our viewers will probably see themselves here—a knee may lock-up occasionally, so we are talking about something anatomical. Look at your knee. You have the femur bone above ... the tibia below and between the two are structures based on cartilage.
- yes
- sorts of small rubber pieces.
- yes
- then it is a little ...
- of miniscuses
- a small ... a small traumanisme ...
- (laughter)
- a small trauma of the meniscus cartilage or a small piece becomes detached due to osteoarthritis.