

Sample from Fluent Listener's "Interview with a French magician."
Available at www.FluentFrench.com
MP3 name : [Fluent_Listener_sample_magician02.mp3](#)

How to "Understand every word"

1. Start with a finger-follow. It may take you 10 times before you can follow along with the speaker. That is okay, you are learning to recognize the sounds and rhythms of spoken French!
2. Learn what everything means. Turn off the sound and read through the French.
3. Listen without the transcript. If you forgot what some words mean, go back to step 2.



Est-ce que n'importe qui¹ peut acheter ?

Is anyone able to buy?

N'importe qui peut acheter des tours de magie, mais il convient² de montrer patte blanche³.
Anyone can buy magic tricks, but it is a good idea to show credentials.

C'est-à-dire que quand vous entrez dans un magasin de prestidigitation, si le vendeur vous dit :
That is to say that when you enter into a magic shop, if the sales person says to you,

« Qu'est-ce que vous avez comme FP ? »⁴ Vous, qui n'y connaissez rien,⁵ vous ne savez pas ce qu'est le FP.
"What do you have as an FP?" You, who know nothing about it, you don't know what an FP is.

Un magicien sait tout de suite ce qu'est un FP. Donc, il saura que vous n'êtes pas un magicien.
A magician knows right away what an FP is. So, he (the salesman) will know that you are not a magician.

C'est quoi, le FP ?

It's what, the FP ?

Allez, je vous le dis !⁶ C'est un faux pouce. C'est un pouce magique couleur chair dans lequel on met
OK, I will tell you! It's a "false thumb." It is a magic thumb, skin colored, in which you put

toutes sortes de petits objets. Et on arrive⁷ comme ça à les faire disparaître.
all sorts of small objects. And you succeed, like that, in making them disappear.

¹ **n'importe qui** = anyone. **n'importe quoi** = whatever; anything.

² **il convient de...** = 1) it is proper, right, fitting; 2) it is a good idea, it is desirable. **Il convient de fermer la porte à clé.** = It is a good idea to lock the door.

³ **montrer patte blanche**, literally, to show (a) white paw : a reference to a line in a fable by La Fontaine. It means "to give a password, to show credentials."

⁴ **comme** = like; as. Here it means "as far as" or "in the form of."

⁵ **y connaître quelque chose** = to know something about it.

⁶ The French often use the present in situations that call for the future or past in English.

⁷ **arriver à faire quelque chose** = to succeed in doing something, to manage to do something.