Are the French and British Good Mates?

Activity One – With your partner make a list of common stereotypes you think French people have about the British.

Activity Two – Here are some things that some Brits say about the French :



- French people are always on strike.
- French people are rude.
- French people are smelly.
- French people ride bicycles with a onions around their necks.
- French people are very flamboyant.
- The French don't respect rules.
- « Love France but hate the French ».

Activity Three – Watch the video and answer the questions.

New Yougov poll on British and French stereotypes

http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xeaxt3_new-yougov-poll-on-british-and-fren_news#.UYykACtNsjo

1. Why do people believe stereotypes?
2. Who was interviewed?
3. Which stereotypes about the British are discussed in this video?
4. What are the French and British united about according to this video?
5. What does Gyles Brandreth regret?
6. What is valued in Britain and in France according to this video?

Activity Four – Role Plays.
Act out one of the following role plays to illustrate Anglo French Relations.

- You are Napoleon Meeting Nelson to tell warn him off!
- You are a British soldier chatting up Jeanne d'Arc.
- You are a French man approaching a British girl.
- You are a British man approaching a French girl.

Activity Six – French and English stress patterns.
In French when you speak or read you place stress at the end of each rhythmic group of words. In English we stress syllables in each word and also put stress on important words. We use word stress, intonation, pitch and syllabic stress. Pitch is the rising and falling of your voice at the beginning and end of a sentence. Pitch can also be used to emphasise a group of words or an expression. Intonation and stress is saying a word louder or more slowly when we want to emphasise it. In word stress, some syllables are stressed rather than others. (Read more about this on our intonation and stress sheet).

Activity Five – Read the article, paying attention to your **intonation**.

France And England Best of Friends

As King Edward VII said, France and Britain need to be friends ;"I know of no two countries whose prosperity is more interdependent." Victor Hugo was of the opinion that a little healthy rivalry was a good thing : "There has never been an antipathy between them, only the desire to surpass. France is the adversary of England as the better is the enemy of the good."

There are 21 miles of Channel separating the Brits from the Frogs and we seem to have the same kind of relationship as many neighbours, alternating between an 'entente cordiale' in the face of a common enemy, and regular day to day bickering and 'keeping up with the Jones' mentality.

The Brits have some good nicknames for their neighbours and vice versa. 'Roast Beef', 'Frog' etc. and stereotypes are common in both countries where people love to hate each other but also share a mutual affection.

Nowadays hundreds of thousands of French people live in Britain (mostly in London) and hundreds of thousands of British people live all over France.

However both countries find it hard to forget the old rivalries, which have been characteristic of Franco-British relations for almost 900 years. Everything started in 1066, when the Normans claimed the English throne and between 1337 and 1453, the French and English almost never stopped fighting. The two countries also fought all over the world, In America, for the control of Ohio and Canada, in India…

Of course the last Franco-British war was Napoleon's idea. After he had triumphed on the European continent against the major powers, Napoleon thought about invading Britain. However he went off the idea when he was defeated in Trafalgar in 1805. In response, Napoleon tried to isolate Britain from the rest of Europe but the Brits put an end to the Napoleonic era at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815 and shipped Napoleon to St Helena.

Over the next hundred years the neighbours started to become friends again, faced with the common threat of Prussia who were throwing their weight about and steeling bits of France (Alsace Lorraine). After the Franco Prussian war in 1870 France Britain also started to feel under threat from the new German who had big expansion plans ! This eventually lead to the famous 1904 'Entente Cordial' which resolved the differences between France and Britain about their colonies in Africa, America and Asia. Of course although France and Britain fought together in the two world wars, their relationship was still strained at times to say the least. The sinking of the French fleet at Mers el Kebir in 1940 was a good example.

*« After the Second World War, old rivalries came back. The best example is probably the famous veto of Charles de Gaulle as French president on the proposal that Britain join the Common Market. Asked in 1963 and 1967 to agree to London joining the group of nations, the French president simply said: "Non".

And even if De Gaulle's successors were more conciliatory, and more inclined to improve their relations with the United Kingdom, quarrels did not stop there. The list is long. There was the one over the intervention in Iraq, the 2012 Olympic games that London won over Paris, the European Constitution Treaty, mad cow disease… For some French, English people are still hypocrites, badly dressed, drink too much beer…would be perhaps better if they drank wine instead of beer, and put mint jelly sauce on everything they eat. According to some Brits, the "Froggies" are arrogant, dirty, rude, and always on strike. Do you recognise yourselves or anyone you may know? »*

**Quoted from 'France In London'.*

