



WE ARE ALL GOING ON A SUMMER HOLIDAY!

by Sue Burgess

Les Grandes Vacances the summer holidays are coming. Most primary schools finish for the long summer holidays on 5th July, older children will have finished earlier as classes in secondary schools and high schools often stop once the exams start. **La rentrée** (back to school) will be on the 1st September. Some students try to get a summer job **un boulot d'été/un travail saisonnier** for part of the holidays.

Some people go on holiday in July **les juilletistes** and others wait until August **les aoûtistes**. A lot of places are closed for two or three weeks for the annual holidays **fermeture pour congés annuels**.

It used to be very common for French families to have a holiday home **une maison secondaire/une maison de vacances** and lots of children went away to holiday camp **les colonies de vacances/les colos**. Nowadays families seem to prefer to send their children to activity centres **centres de vacances** which mainly just operate during the day. The children return home to sleep although there are sometimes short camps.

Some families prefer a seaside holiday **les vacances au bord de la mer** whilst others prefer the mountains **les vacances à la montagne** or the countryside **les vacances à la campagne**.

Camping **le camping** is popular. You can stay in a tent **une tente** or in a static caravan **un mobil-home** or a chalet **un bungalow/un chalet**. There are **chambres d'hôtes** B&B and hotels **les hôtels**. You can **louer une maison/un gîte** rent a house or a gite.

You can **faire un stage** go on a course and learn something new or practise a skill.

Children who have been struggling at school might **faire un stage de remise à niveau** go on a revision course or at least **travailler les cahiers de vacances** do the holiday workbooks that are available.

Whatever families decide to do they will probably **se reposer** rest and **faire la grasse matinée** have a lie in, **traîner** and **flaner** take it easy, do very little.

Bonnes Vacances à tous. Profitez-en.

Happy holidays everyone. Make the most of it.

VOCABULARY / VOCABULAIRE:

une station balnéaire	a seaside resort
une station thermale	a spa resort
une station de ski	a ski resort
une station verte	a country resort
la haute saison	high season
la basse saison	low season



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le dépaysement	a change of air/routine
prendre un coup de soleil	to get sunburnt
changer d'air	to travel
partir avec armes et bagages	to take everything you need
Faire route vers	to go towards
Partir à l'aventure	to set off into the unknown