



LEISURE ACTIVITIES

by Sue Burgess

Summer is here. *L'été est arrivé.* Time for a day or two on the coast *sur la côte / à la mer.*

It's *la Rentrée* Back to School time, and time to sign on for clubs and activities *des clubs et activités de loisirs.*

The three most popular sports in France are cycling *le vélo*, swimming *la natation* and walking *la marche*. These activities are appreciated by all generations because they are easy to adapt to different needs and possibilities. You don't need to be a member of a cycling club *posséder une licence de la Fédération Française de Cyclisme* to go out for a bike ride *une sortie en vélo!*

Very popular on TV, team sports *les sports collectifs* like football *le football*, rugby *le rugby*, basketball *le basket* and even handball *le handball* are mainly practised by youngsters. These team sports come after skiing *le ski* or fishing *la pêche* if you consider the number of people who practise them. According to l'INSEE (the National Institute of Economic Statistics), 15% of the population practise skiing and 10% play football.

As far as outings *les sorties* and cultural visits *les visites culturelles* are concerned, the French favour the cinema *le cinéma*, visiting historical monuments *la visite de monuments historiques* and exhibitions *les expositions*. Approximately 25% of the population go to the museum *le musée* at least once a year. Then there are concerts *les concerts*, outings to the theatre *les sorties au théâtre* and shows *les spectacles*. The circus *Le cirque* which has changed a lot over the last thirty years is not as popular as it was.

The TV is still top of everyone's list for leisure activities. The computer *l'ordinateur* comes second and the book *le livre* is in third place. The smartphone *le smartphone* is the main companion for the under 35 year olds.

Listening to the radio *Écouter la radio* is the first leisure activity for one French person in 4. Youngsters *les jeunes* prefer listening to music *écouter la musique* whereas older people prefer a newspaper *un journal* or a book.

Internet *l'internet* is the invention which has had the most influence on daily leisure activities. The smartphone *le smartphone* or the tablet *la tablette* follow on closely. Digital photography *la photographie numérique* completes the table.

VOCABULARY / VOCABULAIRE:

l'escalade	rock/wall climbing
le tir à l'arc	archery
le patinage à glace	ice skating
le roller	roller blading
la course à pied (le footing)	running/jogging
le ski nautique	water skiing
la natation	swimming
la plongée sous-marine	diving
la voile	sailing
l'équitation	horseback
la marche à pied	hiking
le cyclisme	cycling
le cerf-volant	kite flying
la danse classique	ballet
faire de la gymnastique/de la culture physique	to exercise



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