Today, the topic is a fairy tale about this small French company that made it recently by bringing the espadille – this fun cloth shoe – back to life. Get the script and translation in the companion worksheet, as well as review patterns terms, different types of shoes, this funny verb – FAIL-LIR – and the how to use the infinitive mode in French. Wow! Finish up the worksheet with the fun exercises to check if you got it.

Anne is bringing you today’s French, with authentic and useful expressions. Merci et thank you for listening to FRENCH ETC. I hope you found this helpful, and if you want more, please visit www.frenchetc.org. I love questions, comments, and suggestions. Feel free to leave a reply in the post. Now, it’s time for you to make progress in French with this worksheet.

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anne@frenchetc.org

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http://www.frenchetc.org/about/contact/
### vocab in context

Écoutez la baladodiffusion [frenchetc.org](http://www.frenchetc.org) et répétez

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>f</strong></td>
<td>espadrille</td>
<td>espadrille, cloth shoe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>m/f</strong></td>
<td>prisé/e</td>
<td>popular, sought-after</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>m</strong></td>
<td>Pays Basque</td>
<td>Basque Country, in the South West of France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>m</strong></td>
<td>berceau</td>
<td>cradle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ø</strong></td>
<td>démarrer</td>
<td>to start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ø</strong></td>
<td>avoir la satisfaction</td>
<td>to be happy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ø</strong></td>
<td>jusque</td>
<td>all the way to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>m</strong></td>
<td>chiffre d’affaire</td>
<td>sales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ø</strong></td>
<td>exploser</td>
<td>to rocket, to soar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>m/f</strong></td>
<td>uni/e</td>
<td>solid (color)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ø</strong></td>
<td>se décliner dans</td>
<td>to come in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>m</strong></td>
<td>motif</td>
<td>pattern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ø</strong></td>
<td>primer</td>
<td>to privilege, to focus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>f</strong></td>
<td>matière première</td>
<td>raw material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ø</strong></td>
<td>justement</td>
<td>precisely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>m</strong></td>
<td>savoir-faire</td>
<td>know-how</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>f</strong></td>
<td>bouffée d’air (pur)</td>
<td>breath of (fresh) air</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>m</strong></td>
<td>cauchemar(d)</td>
<td>nightmare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ø</strong></td>
<td>faillir + infinitif</td>
<td>to almost + infinitive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>f</strong></td>
<td>concurrence</td>
<td>competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>m/f</strong></td>
<td>acharné/e</td>
<td>fierce</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Kapok, une boutique presque comme les autres à Hong-Kong. Sauf qu’ici, on vend un accessoire de plus en plus **prisé** par les fashionistas chinoises : l’espadrille ‘made in France’. C’est à 10 000 km de là, en plein **Pays Basque** que tout a commencé. Mathieu et Julien, deux amis d’enfance, ont choisi Mauléon, le **berceau** de la sandale en France pour produire une chaussure qu’ils veulent de qualité.

-Alors voilà, c’est c’est ici, au cœur de la Soule, au Pays Basque à Mauléon à Mauléon, qu’on fabrique nos nos espadrilles. Et voilà, on a **dépassé** y a cinq ans donc sur les marchés au Pays Basque et aujourd’hui, on a la **satisfaction** de voir que le travail qui est accompli ici, il s’exporte jusqu’en Chine, jusqu’au Japon et, et toute l’Asie, on espère très bientôt.

Depuis la création de leur entreprise, leur chiffre d’affaire a **explosé**. Il est passé de 35 000 à 600 000 euros. Noir bleu rouge, des couleurs **unies** qui ont fait le succès de l’espadrille. Mais aujourd’hui, elle se **décline dans tous les motifs**, même les plus excentriques. Un vrai accessoire de mode réalisé dans la plus pure tradition Mauléonnaise.

- On a toujours **prisé** sur [sic] la qualité de toutes les matières premières qu’on prend. **Justement**, et c’est ça qui fait que l’espadrille française est reconnue mondialement mondialement grâce à une [sic] savoir-faire et à une qualité qui est restée de génération en génération.

Pour cet atelier, c’est une réelle **bouffée d’air**, une production en augmentation et surtout le **cauchemar** des années 90 qui s’éloigne lorsque la production d’espadrilles dans la région avait **failli** disparaître face à la **concurrence acharnée** de la Chine ou du Bangladesh.

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**French espadrilles**

Kapok, a boutique that’s almost like the other ones in Hong Kong. Except that her, we sell an accessory that more and more **popular** with Chinese fashionistas : the espadrille that’s ‘made in France’. It’s at more than 100,000 km from there, in the **cradle** of the sandal in the Basque Country that everything started.

-So here, it’s it’s here, in the heart of the Soule region, in the Basque Country, **in Mauléon, in Mauléon**, that we make our espadrilles. And here we are, we **started** five years ago okay, on the markets in the Basque Country and today, we’re happy to see that the work that’s done here, is exported **all the way to** China, to Japan and to Asia in general we hope soon.

Since the beginning of their company, their sales have **rocketed**. They went from 35,000 to 600,000 Euros. Black blue red, **solid** colors that made the espadrille successful. But today, it **comes in** all kinds of **patterns**, even the craziest ones. A true fashion accessory made with the most traditional fashion of Mauléon.

-We always **privileged** on [sic] the quality of the raw material we use. **Precisely**, and it’s that that makes it so the French espadrille is recognized all over the world all over the world [sic] thanks to a **know-how** and to a quality that has remained from generation to generation. For this workshop, it’s a true **breath of air**, a soaring production and above all, the **nightmare** of the nineties that goes away when the making of espadrilles **almost** disappeared in the region because of the **fierce competition** from China and Bangladesh.
Vocabulary Point

“...des couleurs **unies** qui ont fait le succès de l'espadrille.”

**Patterns and textures**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>French</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>checked</td>
<td>ô à carreaux</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dot</td>
<td>m pois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>felted</td>
<td>ô feutré, feutrée</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fluid</td>
<td>ô souple, fluide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lace</td>
<td>f dentelle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>laces</td>
<td>mp lacets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lined</td>
<td>ô doublé, doublée</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pattern (design)</td>
<td>m motif</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pattern (template)</td>
<td>m patron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>polka-dotted</td>
<td>ô à pois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rough</td>
<td>ô rugueux, rugueuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>silky</td>
<td>ô soyeux, soyeuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>smooth</td>
<td>ô lisse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>soft</td>
<td>ô doux, douce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>solid</td>
<td>ô uni, unie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stiff</td>
<td>ô rigide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stripe</td>
<td>f rayure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>striped</td>
<td>ô à rayures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>texture</td>
<td>f texture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>thick</td>
<td>ô épais, épaisse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>thin</td>
<td>ô fin, fine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Word Search
Find the words hidden in this puzzle. The answers are at the bottom of the page. You can use the word bank for easier find. Don’t peek and bonne chance !

Banque des mots – Word bank
doux motif patron pois lisse soyeux fin rugueux dentelle lacet

Solution – Answers
### Vocabulary Point

“...la production d’*espadrilles* dans la région” - Different types of shoes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>French</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ballet-style shoe, not necessarily for dance</td>
<td><em>ballerine</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>basket shoe</td>
<td><em>basket</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>boot (ankle boot)</td>
<td><em>botte</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>boot (high top)</td>
<td><em>bottine</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>buckle</td>
<td><em>boucle</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cleats</td>
<td><em>crampons</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>clog</td>
<td><em>sabot</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>felt slipper (closed)</td>
<td><em>charentaise</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cowboy boot</td>
<td><em>santiag</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>espadrille, cloth shoe</td>
<td><em>espadrille</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fancy shoe</td>
<td><em>soulier</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>flat shoe</td>
<td><em>chaussure plate</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>flip-flop</td>
<td><em>claquette, tong</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>heel</td>
<td><em>talon</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>high heel shoe</td>
<td><em>chaussure à talon</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>inside shoe</td>
<td><em>pantoufle</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>insole</td>
<td><em>semelle intérieure</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lace</td>
<td><em>lacet</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>laced shoe</td>
<td><em>chaussure à lacets</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>leather shoe</td>
<td><em>chaussure en cuir</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>loafer</td>
<td><em>bateau</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mary jane</td>
<td><em>baby</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>moccasin</td>
<td><em>mocassins</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>old shoe with wooden sole</td>
<td><em>galoche</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pattern leather shoe</td>
<td><em>chaussure vernie</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>platform shoe</td>
<td><em>semelle à plateforme</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pump</td>
<td><em>escarpin</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rubber</td>
<td><em>caoutchouc</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sandal from Saint-Tropez</td>
<td><em>tropézienne</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>slipper</td>
<td><em>chausson</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>slipper with no heel</td>
<td><em>babouche</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sole</td>
<td><em>semelle</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>strap</td>
<td><em>bride</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tennis shoe</td>
<td><em>tennis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>toe shoe</td>
<td><em>pointe</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>top of the shoe</td>
<td><em>coup-de-pied</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wader, thigh boot</td>
<td><em>cuissarde</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walking (laced) shoe</td>
<td><em>brodequin</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wedge heel</td>
<td><em>semelle compensée</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mots Croisés – Crossword Puzzle
Les chaussures - Shoes
Print out this page and fill out the puzzle in French with the clues provided. The answers are at the bottom of the page. Don’t peek!

Définitions – Clues

Horizontal
2. clog
4. wader
5. moccasin
7. cloth shoe
8. cleats
9. buckle

Vertical
1. toe shoe
3. ankle boot
4. felt slipper
6. heel

Solution – Answers

Horizontal
2. sabot
4. cuissarde
5. mocassin
7. espadrille
8. crampons
9. boucle

Vertical
1. pointe
3. bottine
4. charentaise
6. talon
Grammar Point

“...la production d’espadrilles dans la région avait failli disparaître...”

FAILLIR etc.

FAILLIR is a funny verb. I’d say it’s more of an auxiliary, a helping verb as it’s almost never used on its own. It relies on another verb in the infinitive form.

• J’ai failli t’appeler.
  • I almost called you.

FAILLIR doesn’t have a translation per se, it means something like ‘to almost do or have done something’, or ‘to be about to (by mistake)’. It does not have a command form – that’s called a ‘verbe défectif’ – and is used mostly in a past tense.

   j’ai failli + infinitive
   tu as failli + infinitive
   elle a failli + infinitive
   il a failli + infinitive
   on a failli + infinitive
   nous avons failli + infinitive
   vous avez failli + infinitive
   elles ont failli + infinitive
   ils ont failli + infinitive

Sometimes, FAILLIR is followed by the preposition À and a noun. It means ‘to fail at’

• Ils ont failli à leur devoir.
  • They failed at their duty.

However, there is an idiomatic use of FAILLIR (intransitive form)

1. faillir -> to flinch, to fall, to not resist
   a. Vous avez appris la nouvelle sans faillir.
   b. You heard the news without flinching.
Practice

Translate from French to English

1. J’ai failli ne pas arriver à l’heure.
2. Tu avais failli perdre ta montre, tu te souviens ?
3. Elle aurait failli tomber.
4. Il a lu son échec à l’examen sans faillir.
5. On a failli te perdre.

Or translate from English to French for more challenge

1. I almost didn’t arrive on time.
2. You (tu) had almost lost your watch, remember ?
3. She would almost fall.
4. He read the negative result for his exam without flinching.
5. We almost lost you.
Grammar Point

“...la production d’espadrilles dans la région avait failli disparaître...”

The infinitive form

Present infinitive mode – L’infinitif (présent)
The present infinitive mode is used to define a verb as a non-conjugated form. It has two tenses: present and past. In English, the infinitive form always uses ‘to’: to speak. In French, it is at the end of the verb that you see the infinitive form. It has one of the following endings: –ER, –IR, –OIR, –RE.
The infinitive mode is used as a subject, after an auxiliary verb, after a preposition, and in order to avoid the subjunctive mode.

The present infinitive is a one word ending in –ER, –IR, –OIR, –RE. The past infinitive mode is used with ‘avoir’ or ‘être’ and expresses an action that happened before in the past.

Negative infinitive adverbs come before the verb – except for ‘personne, nul/le and aucun/e’ – and are often used as a command. Sometimes ‘pas’ is omitted in order to get a more formal statement.

as a subject
• Speaking (To speak) French is nice – Parler français est sympa

after an auxiliary verb
• I like to speak (speaking) French – J’aime parler français
• I hear through the grape vine* – J’entends dire
• It’s better to speak French – Il vaut mieux parler français
• I can/want to/must/know how to speak French – Je peux/veux/dois/sais parler français

after a preposition, a pronoun
• It’s nice to learn with Fetc. – C’est sympa d’apprendre avec Fetc.
• I’m speaking to you in vain because you don’t understand. – J’ai beau te parler, tu ne comprends pas.
• I almost talked to you – J’ai failli te parler
• I’m becoming a Fetc member in order to speak French before I go to Paris without buying a grammar book so that I can learn every day French and understand people from Paris. – Je m’inscris à Fetc pour parler français avant de partir à Paris sans acheter de livre de grammaire afin d’apprendre le français quotidien pour m’habituer à comprendre les Parisiens.
Negative infinitive form

• I can’t say. – Je ne peux (pas) parler.
• I don’t know what to say. – Je ne sais que dire.
• Do/To not speak too loud – Ne pas parler trop fort
• Speak with no one. – Ne parler à personne.
• To mean no harm. – Ne penser à aucun mal.
• To see no problem. – N’y voir nul inconvenient.

Past infinitive mode – infinitif passé

• After having studied with Fetc, I’m able to speak French. – Après avoir étudié avec Fetc, je peux parler français.

*‘entendre dire’ is an idiomatic expression

Exercice - Practice

In the boxes below, match the number for the first column with the letter for the fourth column.

| Faire de la natation est bon pour la santé. | 1 | A | Even though we keep on writing to them, they never call. |
| Ils n’aient pas beaucoup rentré tard. | 2 | B | He’ll be relieved after he’s gone to the dentist. |
| Tu feras faire la peinture ? | 3 | C | I’ll go to Bordeaux after having booked a hotel room. |
| Nous avons beau leur écrire, ils n’appellent jamais. | 4 | D | It’s ideal to not do anything on vacation. |
| Vous ne pouvez pas marcher si loin. | 5 | E | It’s very important not to use the cell phone in the plane. |
| J’irai à Bordeaux après avoir réservé un hôtel. | 6 | F | She’s reading this book to know Congolese ethnic groups. |
| Ne rien faire en vacances, c’est le rêve. | 7 | G | Swimming is good for your health. |
| Elle lit ce livre pour connaître les ethnies congolaises. | 8 | H | They don’t really like coming back late. |
| Il sera soulage après être allé chez le dentiste. | 9 | I | Will you have the paint done? |
| Il est très important de ne pas se servir du portable dans l’avion. | 10 | J | You can’t walk that far. |
Solution – Answers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>J</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faire de la natation est bon pour la santé.</th>
<th>Swimming is good for your health.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ils n’aiment pas beaucoup rentrer tard.</td>
<td>They don’t really like coming back late.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tu feras faire la peinture ?</td>
<td>Will you have the paint done?</td>
</tr>
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<td>You can’t walk that far.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>She’s reading this book to know Congolese ethnic groups.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Il sera soulagé après être allé chez le dentiste.</td>
<td>He’ll be relieved after he’s gone to the dentist.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Il est très important de ne pas se servir du portable dans l’avion.</td>
<td>It’s very important not to use the cell phone in the plane.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

des espadrilles