

Couics et Couacs à Gogo: Circonlocution en français !

IFLTA, samedi le 3 novembre 2012
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J'ai des gadgets, des trucs
chocs, des trucs chouettes,
j'ai des couics et des
couacs à gogo.
Tu veux un tire-baba ? J'en
ai des tas !
Mais tout ça, m'indiffère...
Et m'ennuie...
Moi je voudrais, parcourir

- When you don't understand
- When they don't understand YOU
- When conversation breaks down

YOU HAVE TO NEGOTIATE MEANING :
Circumlocution

Répétez, s'il vous plaît
Plus lentement, s'il vous plaît
Pourriez-vous l'écrire pour moi?
Comment dit-on..... ?

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Level 1 : work with vocabulary

- **Model word play to teach the meaning of circumlocution**
- **Teach sentence starters that will help students to circumlocute**  
Have students WRITE things, so they don't clue in others!

Je ne comprends pas (.....)  
Qu'est-ce un(e) (.....)  
Cela ressemble à quoi ?

Level 2 : start with a placemat

- **Use activities such as *Describe & Draw*, games (*Mysterious Musical Show & Tell, Silly Situations, Taboo, \$25,000 Pyramid, 39 on a Match*, or *Who Am I?*), ice breakers, paired activities, and wordless stories to help students practice and refine their circumlocution skills**
- **When students get stuck, talk them through the process of breaking sentences down into smaller chunks or simplifying the content of the sentence before they try to say it in the target language**

Errors are okay

Level 3: must ask questions they cannot answer unless they can figure out some new vocabulary....

NO MATTER HOW LONG YOU STUDY A LANGUAGE, you cannot ever learn all the words you might need in a given situation. Without the right word, it can be frustrating.  
BUT.....

If you can learn to explain what you mean, you will be successful, not speechless.

**What to do when you don't know what to do:**

Write down any of the things you remember from your partner's description of the object.

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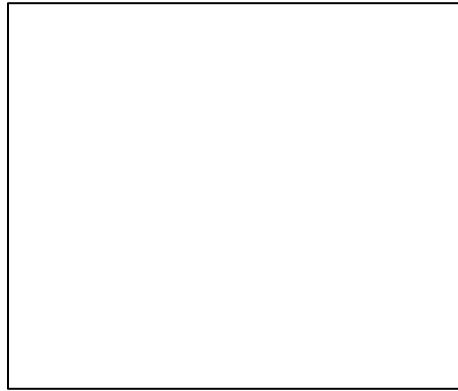
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Make a simple sketch of what you think the object looks like.



WITH YOUR PARTNER, make a list of characteristics that seem to be important when describing concrete objects:

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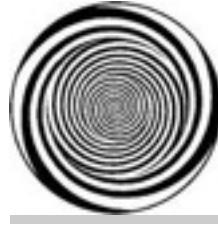
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List a few expressions that were useful in describing your object:

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Did you and your partner use your hands, draw in the air, make faces, or use sound effects to help get your idea across? Is that an important part of communication?



## CIRCONLOCUTION – Termes

C'est une chose qui....

C'est une chose pour....

C'est une chose à (verbe : manger.....)

C'est un objet....

C'est une personne qui....

C'est un animal qui.....

C'est une machine pour....

C'est un appareil pour....

C'est un outil pour....

C'est ce qu'on emploie pour...

C'est un lieu où....

C'est un édifice où....

C'est l'action de....

C'est le processus de.....

C'est quand.....

C'est comme....

C'est

|               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| Rond          | une liquide      |
| Carré         | solide           |
| Triangulaire  | la taille de.... |
| Rectangulaire | la forme de....  |
| Spirale       |                  |
| Irrégulier    |                  |

## **Exercices de circonlocution - A**

**EXPLIQUE LES MOTS DANS LA PREMIERE COLONNE A TON/TA PARTENAIRE,  
EN FRANÇAIS. DANS LA DEUXIÈME PARTIE, ECRIS EN ANGLAIS LES MOTS  
QUE TON/TA PARTENAIRE T'EXPLIQUERA.**

| MOTS A DÉCRIRE    | MOTS A DEVINER |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1) marshmallows   | 1)             |
| 2) doggie bag     | 2)             |
| 3) beanie baby    | 3)             |
| 4) garage sale    | 4)             |
| 5) frosting/icing | 5)             |

## **Exercices de circonlocution - B**

**EXPLIQUE LES MOTS DANS LA PREMIERE COLONNE A TON/TA PARTENAIRE,  
EN FRANÇAIS. DANS LA DEUXIÈME PARTIE, ECRIS EN ANGLAIS LES MOTS  
QUE TON/TA PARTENAIRE T'EXPLIQUERA.**

| MOTS A DÉCRIRE  | MOTS A DEVINER |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1) homecoming   | 1)             |
| 2) pep assembly | 2)             |

|                      |    |
|----------------------|----|
| 3) cheerleader       | 3) |
| 4) hall sweep        | 4) |
| 5) to gyp/skip class | 5) |

#### MOTS A UTILISER

|                   |                      |                     |                 |
|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| grits             | Toilet seat          | Chicken-fried steak | Head line       |
| handkerchief      | Community center     | Air freshener       | Atom            |
| hair dye          | Moving van           | Second hand         | Book ends       |
| hand lotion       | Tyrannosaurus rex    | Felt-tip pen        | Patchwork quilt |
| battery           | Carton               | Password            | Mumps           |
| land run          | Moccasins            | Jello               | Pillow          |
| swashbuckler      | Piggy bank           | Tape measure        | Fried okra      |
| Revolutionary War | Shamrock             | Telephone pole      | Buffalo         |
| Venetian blinds   | Pearl                | Kiwi                | Lamp shade      |
| museum            | Hawk                 | Omelet              | Perm            |
| Nnrsing home      | Pow wow              | Hammer              | Dog leash       |
| straw             | Guacamole            | Electric cord       | Traffic signal  |
| covered wagon     | Kitchen sink         | Sod house           | CD sleeve       |
| spinning wheel    | Stained-glass window | Pottery             | Feather         |
| couch potato      | Beanie Baby          | Brick               | Screwdriver     |
| frozen dinner     | Picture frame        | Locker              | Sewer           |
| teepee            | Braces               | Glasses case        | Jump rope       |
| tablecloth        | Stop sign            | Barbie Doll         | Gutter          |
| church pew        | Beak                 | Instruction manual  | Lace            |

|                       |                  |                 |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| envelope              | Flower pot       | Prairie         | Printer          |
| Civil War             | Pickle           | Baked potato    | Door knob        |
| atomic bomb           | Safety pin       | Battery charger | To peek          |
| to sign               | To tickle        | To graze        | To knit          |
| to sob                | To download      | To log on       | To fence         |
| to change a lightbulb | To boil          | To vote         | To snore         |
| gloomy                | Saltine crackers | Encyclopedia    | Flexible         |
| kindergarten          | Opossum          | Steering wheel  | Lamp             |
| mammoth               | Horizontal bar   | Suggestion      | plumber          |
| bank account          | Canopy bed       | Tennis racket   | Coral reef       |
| pedigree              | Baby buggy       | Linoleum        | Oregano          |
| to irrigate           | Volunteer        | Axle            | Rhinoceros       |
| magician              | Mermaid          | Levee/dike      | Valley           |
| parachute             | Parking meter    | Walrus          | Carnivore        |
| killer whale          | Electrician      | The Mayflower   | Check book       |
| law suit              | Raccoon          | Rock and roll   | Ketchup          |
| taxes                 | Insanity         | Treadmill       | Tail-gate party  |
| metabolism            | Kilt             | Crawfish        | Life boat        |
| steamship             | Hopscotch        | Chaos           | Ice-skating rink |
| thrift store          | Anchor           | Paddle          | Cement           |
| xylophone             | Corral           | Constellation   | Credit card      |
| mayonnaise            | Acrobat          | Bar code        | Glutton          |
| Geiger counter        | Infinity         | Experiment      | Emergency        |
| seal                  | lady bug         | Cotton          | Mustard          |
| pickaxe               | cornbread        | Egg yolk        | Sleep walk       |
| orbit                 | kindling         | Predator        | Water spout      |
| yak                   | artichoke        | Manatee         | Bleach           |

|                  |                                |                             |                   |
|------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| glamour          | canyon                         | Archaeologist               | Door mat          |
| scavenger        | vampire                        | Cell membrane               | Hormone           |
| hummingbird      | emu                            | Intestines                  | Cable             |
| ghetto           | attic                          | Adventure                   | Fish bowl         |
| overalls         | hero                           | Pillow                      | Hard-boiled egg   |
| coupon           | pilgrim                        | Riot                        | iPod              |
| terrorism        | monarchy                       | Spirit week                 | Shoe lace         |
| filig cabinet    | billboard                      | Vicious                     | Freon             |
| oatmeal          | Separation of church and state | Declaration of Independence | Crowd control     |
| scanner          | foam peanuts                   | Mozzarella cheese           | Cupid             |
| explore          | Cranberry                      | Porch                       | Manslaughter      |
| development      | William Shakespeare            | Western civilization        | Fax machine       |
| quicksand        | firehydrant                    | tailgate                    | scab              |
| incompetent      | CD-rom                         | Transportation              | Basement          |
| s'mores          | Arabic                         | Porsche                     | Comedy            |
| tire             | Restraining order              | Gargoyle                    | Fence             |
| eggplant         | Wheat                          | Privacy                     | Football jersey   |
| mail box         | Stew                           | To gargle                   | Hanger            |
| tray             | Yearbook                       | Jury                        | Polar bear        |
| Puritan          | World War II                   | Prosecute                   | Dill pickle       |
| negotiation      | Peace process                  | Dune buggy                  | Defend            |
| courtroom        | Strike                         | Compromise                  | Obituary          |
| driver's license | Paisley                        | Inventor                    | Manuscript        |
| expectation      | Raspberry                      | Law suit                    | Homeland security |
| infinity         | Revolution                     | Tragedy                     | Cast              |
| audition         | Wizard                         | Dictator                    | Opinion           |

|                |                 |                     |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| evolution      | Discrimination  | Rap                 | Origami         |
| escargot       | Wood chuck      | External hard drive | Airplane hangar |
| antipasto      | Champagne       | Baptism             | Bicycle chain   |
| steering wheel | Litigation      | NATO                | suffrage        |
| pot holder     | Self-clean oven | Microwave           | platypus        |
| foreclosure    | Bankruptcy      | debt                | ecstasy         |

Students may not use **any** form of the word in French (e.g. for “dog house” they may not use either “chien” or “maison”).

They may not use gestures.