

Stage de déblocage linguistique / English Communication Training
02-08 November 2014
- Comments from your questionnaires -

Note 1: When application forms in English ask for "Surname" that is your family name. (A surnom in French is a nickname in English, for example "Prince Harry" for Prince Henry Charles Albert David Windsor).

Note 2: When application forms ask for your "date of birth" or "DOB", except for astrology or gifts the most important thing is the year - so it could be a mistake for an applicant to state only the day and month.

Incorrect	↔	Correct
I have been working here since 5 years.		I have been working here for 5 years. (Use "since" for time after a specified date, so "I have been working here since 1999". Use "for" for a period of time, so "for 5 years")
english, french, german, european		English, French, German, European
I've learn English at school during 10 years.		I learned English in school for 10 years. (Ask yourself "Is it finished?" If it is finished, use the past simple tense. If it is not finished, use the present perfect tense.)
... we prepare the young for we prepare young people for ... youngers youngs the young (only in poetry or philosophy) the youth youth people the youths a youth = a male teenager We do use "youth" as an adjective, for example in <i>international youth exchanges</i> , <i>youth worker</i> or <i>youth organisation</i> . The safe expression is "a young person" or "two/three/four young people". The collective noun is "young people". For example, we can say "I work with young people aged 16 to 25".
I organised youth exchange between youths from Montreal (French) and youths from North (English)		That's perfect if they were all male. If not, you need to say "... I organised a youth exchange between young people from Montreal (French) and..."
We created some project to insert younger in a true life.		We created some projects to place young people into real life [work] situations, <u>or</u> ... to arrange work placements for young people, <u>or</u> ... to arrange work experience for...
My job consist to inform the young people about the employment and formation.		My job consists of informing young people about employment and training. (" <i>Formation</i> " in French is usually " <i>training</i> " in English)
... international programs for the youth people welcomed by our organisation.		.. international programs for the young people our organisation works with.

<p>Note: <i>to welcome</i> is very limited, often no more than 2 seconds to say "Hello, welcome to France". If you <i>host</i> somebody they lodge with you or with your organisation; if you help them but they lodge with a different person, we could say that you <i>support</i> them or simply that you <i>work with</i> them.</p>		
My team take care of the 1 500 young people we host every year.		My team takes care of the 1,500 young people we support <u>or</u> assist <u>or</u> look after <u>or</u> work with every year.
My international partners help my students to find places to train, and I receive their students back in my region.		My international partners help my students to find places to train, and I welcome (<u>or</u> host <u>or</u> support) their students in my region. (This time we can say <i>welcome</i>).
... they meet young Danish.		... they meet young Danish people. <i>A Danish is a Danish pastry (pâtisserie danoise)!</i>
... young project initiators ...		This is not incorrect, but it's a bit ... telegraphese (style télégraphique). It's OK if the reader already knows what you are talking about. Otherwise I suggest "... young people who are starting projects" or "... launching projects".
Actually we have three projects.		Presently we have three projects. (<i>Actually means "in fact". It never means "now" or "presently" or "at the moment".</i>)
We develop several new actions every year.		We develop several new projects every year. ("Actions" is Europeak, not normal English)
I developed 2 youth exchanges.		I organised <u>or</u> arranged <u>or</u> set up 2 youth exchanges.
Before that I've worked for 1 year in an office.		Before that I worked for 1 year in an office. (<i>Present perfect tense? Ask yourself "Is it finished?" If it is finished, use the past simple tense.</i>)
I try my best to make students meet around there project.		I try my best to make students share information about their projects <u>or</u> ... <i>liaise</i> about their projects.
I'm responsible of mobility in my structure		I'm responsible for youth mobility in my organisation. (<i>We need to be specific, because mobility has many meanings</i>)
... cultural structure and a communautary radio.		... cultural organisation and community radio.
I deal with many organisms.		I deal with a lot of organisations. (<i>Many is OK but "a lot of" or "lots of" is more idiomatic. An organism is a bacterium, an amoeba or some other little animal you can only see with a microscope!</i>)
We develop partnerships with European organisms.		(<i>Heavens, I really hope not! Again, the correct work is organisations, NOT organisms.</i>)
I teach for apprentices		I teach apprentices
I took part to Comenius		I took part <u>in</u> Comenius
My job consists in administration and liaison.		My job consists <u>of</u> administration and liaison.
We are working about the following questions:		Working <u>on</u> . (<i>It could be "questions", but these alternatives are more likely: We are working on the following subjects: or ... working on the following topics:</i>)
professional project		This exists only as horrible Europeak created by

		lazy translators! In different contexts you can say: career goals, career plan <u>or</u> vocational plan
We help young people with fewer opportunities to work their professional project.		We help young people with fewer opportunities to work towards <u>or</u> to achieve their career goals.
I help them to find a job or a training.		... or training. ... or a training course.
trainings informations transports advices travels		training, transport, travel, information (<i>these words are non-countable like money and water</i>)
week end		weekend
They need to travel for discover another culture.		They need to travel to explore another culture (<i>If découvrir = "trouver" then we can say "to discover" but if découvrir = "explorer" then it's better to say "to explore"</i>)
We have the chance of being supported by X organisation		We are lucky that we are supported by the X organisation (<i>"Luck" is good fortune. "Chance" can be "opportunity", which is a good thing but is usually hasard, in fact usually a bad thing.</i>)
I want practice oral English		I want to practice speaking English, <u>or</u> I want to practice my spoken English. (<i>You can say oral English but it's unusual.</i>)
I am beginner in international work.		I am a beginner at international work.
ten persons		1 person, 2 people, ten people (<i>except perhaps in lift instructions - "Max. 10 persons"</i>)
I'm teacher in French.		I'm a French teacher.
I feel satisfy when they are self-sustained		I feel satisfied when they are self-sustaining.
We are specialised in landscape formation		We specialise in landscape work training <u>or</u> landscape design training
I fill in the forms to get purses for the European work experiences for our pupils.		I fill in the forms to get grants <u>or</u> bursaries <u>or</u> subsidies <u>or</u> funds for European work experiences for our pupils.
We have to find other solutions so as business angels, foundations, crowdfunding		We have to find other solutions <u>such</u> as business angels, philanthropic foundations <u>or</u> crowdfunding. (<i>In English, if a list is complete we put "and" or "or" before the last item, and if it is incomplete we put "etc" after the last item</i>)
During the exchange, we visited enterprises, training centers.		During the exchange, we visited businesses and training centres.
I manages several structures on employment, training, integration.		I manage several ?initiatives? on employment, training and integration
We visited school training, firms the objective was to be able to find places for our professional students.		We visited training schools and firms. The objective was to be able to find places for our professional students.
It's long to impulse the "mobility spirit" in my school.		It's taking a long time to introduce the "mobility spirit" in my school.
... the people who participated at this exchange		... the people who participated <u>in</u> this exchange
I've participated to meetings to inform myself about this topic.		(<i>We use participate for exchanges and projects but not for meetings.</i>) I've been to meetings to find out about this topic, <u>or</u> I've attended meetings to learn about

First, we do X. In a second time, we do Y.		First, we do X. Next / then / after this we do Y.
In a first time, we do X.		First, we do X.
It's concerns with methodology of project.		It's concerned with the methodology of the project.
I want to be / I am a DNL teacher.		???
It's the best cursus valorization for them.		(<i>Cursus ... curriculum?</i>) It's the best way to prove what they have done. (<i>Try to avoid the word valorisation; it's a horrible bit of European jargon. Think of another French word you could use instead, then translate that into English.</i>)
We already have partnerships with German secretary with Dusseldorf.		We already have partnerships with a German ??? in Dusseldorf. (<i>secretariat, possibly?</i>)
I teach economics, law, trade and how to sale.		I teach economics, law, trade and how to sell. (<i>Maybe "commerce" or "retail" instead of "trade"?</i>)
... and is essential to make sensitive young peoples at this current situation.		... and it is essential to make young people aware of this current situation, <u>or</u> to make young people realise / understand this current situation.
They seem to be agree to go abroad to discover their job.		They seem to want to go abroad to find out more about their job, <u>or</u> They seem interested in going abroad to find out more about their job.
More and more students accept to try this experience.		More and more students want to try this experience, <u>or</u> More and more students are interested in trying this experience.
I announce all the students that they have an opportunity to try this ...		I announce to all the students that they have an opportunity to try this ... <u>Or</u> I tell all the students that ...
I want to find news tools.		I want to find new tools. (<i>Adjectives in English don't change to agree with a singular / plural noun.</i>)
... pedagogical tools for my institute		... teaching tools for my institute. (<i>The word "pedagogic" or "pedagogical" does not exist in normal English.</i>)
... pedagogic projects educational projects ...