# **English Project Workshop**

### Thomas Harcharick

#### Levels B2+ - C2

"Ever dreamed of being a Robinson Crusoe, on your own, yet with nature as a companion, stranded yet with limitless freedom, having the leisure to dwell into the unfathomable depths of introspection yet always busy enough not to feel bored? Tired of the overcrowded amphis, the dictatorship of the profs, and of never having time for yourself? Or else want to leave the grey mornings of individual(-ist?) work and ride toward the grand soir of group work?

The Project Workshop is for you!

Remember though Robinson Crusoe knew what he was doing... "

#### **Format**

The workshop aims at considering each student individually. Indeed, the advantage of autonomous work, is to focus on each student's particular goals. Students are free to work on an individual project or in groups. The teacher serves as a tutor to guide you in your work.

Last year students chose to work on a group project, which was the publication of a student newspaper (two issues); one student who was particularly interested in improving his listening comprehension, however, decided to devote himself to watching (without French subtitles) and commenting the US TV series, the *Walking Dead*.

This course is intended for motivated students who are interested in designing their own learning goals and strategies.

## **Evaluation**

Students are evaluated on their progress in achieving their original goal and the quality of their work.

Here is a student's commentary from last year:

"Why I would recommend the course

The principle of this course is original and comes out of the monotony of the classical lessons of English, and broadly of other language lessons. Which is quite good for pupils who are just leaving the 'classes préparatoires' and are a little fed up with this kind of system.

Indeed, the two parts of the course were both interesting and are both much more helpful to improve our skills in English. The first part, discussing the news, really helps the student to complete his vocabulary on the hot topics without learning pages and pages of words which is quite indigestible. The second part, the project, completes the first one by improving our written skills. Of course it depend on the project chosen. But I think that this kind of work is much closer to what will be asked of us in our work life than a grammar exercise for instance. Moreover, the freedom of action is really nice after all those years of almost slavery.

At least, the fact that we had a small group this year was very pleasant. It turns this course in a very friendly hour and it really helps the student who is a little shy and who is not used to speaking in front of a large audience, and moreover in a foreign language."