

Le Dîner de Cons

Lesson pack by Stuart Fernie

The first film we will look at is “Le Dîner de Cons”, a French comedy made in 1998 starring Thierry Lhermitte and Jacques Villeret. This is the story of a group of men who seek out “idiots” and invite them to a meal so they can have a laugh at their expense. However, things don’t go according to plan when Monsieur Brochant invites Monsieur Pignon to his flat ...

“Le Dîner de Cons” is a tale which is at times hilarious and at other times quite sad and touching.

Monsieur Brochant, a successful publisher, is in the habit of seeking out “idiots” and inviting them as guests to regular dinner parties, which he attends with several friends. The purpose of these evenings is quite simply to have a laugh at the expense of their guests as they discuss their hobbies and passions – such as boomerang throwing or building intricate models out of matchsticks.

Monsieur Brochant makes a grave error, however, when he invites Monsieur Pignon as his arrival triggers a series of events and misunderstandings which will eventually cause M. Brochant to review the whole direction of his life

While wonderfully entertaining, “Le Dîner de Cons” also provides for reflection on the ways in which we look on and judge people, and emphasises the importance of tolerance and respect for others in our everyday dealings with them.

Nobody is perfect, but perhaps we should make more effort to see beyond the surface, and to consider the fairness of our own attitudes toward others.



The Writing Task

You should aim to produce 150 – 200 words. To help structure your writing, you should use the following bullet points:

- Give a brief outline of the story
- Describe the main character(s) in some detail
- Say what happened in your favourite scene
- Choose a theme from the film and discuss it
- Give your general opinion of the film

When you come to write about “Le Diner de Cons”, apart from making use of the vocabulary lists provided, you should pay attention to the structures and vocabulary contained in the questions, and use some of them in your answers.

In giving an outline of the story it might be a good idea to use the present tense. This is often used in French to describe events in a book or film.

When describing characters, you should be aware of a variety of possible responses to them, and use a selection of adjectives to describe them. Avoid simple lists and you might want to provide a brief account of some events.

The description of your favourite scene could be written in the perfect tense.

Discussing themes and your general response to the film provides the opportunity to develop your own ideas and your own language to communicate these ideas. Remember to express yourself as clearly as possible.



Questions

- 1) Pourquoi est-ce que Monsieur Brochant et ses amis invitent des "idiots" à dîner?

Se moquer de

Un passe-temps

Une passion

Discuter de

- 2) Comment est-ce que les choses se compliquent?

Avoir mal à

Un malentendu

Finir par

Se tromper de

Quitter

Un numéro de téléphone

Essayer de

Une série de

Aider

Devoir

Considérer comme

Voir



3) Comment est-ce qu'on peut décrire les personnages principaux?

<i>J'ai trouvé</i>	<i>intelligent</i>
<i>À mon avis</i>	<i>rusé</i>
<i>Il faut avouer/dire que</i>	<i>séduisant</i>
<i>Idiot</i>	<i>sûr de lui</i>
<i>Bête</i>	<i>prospère</i>
<i>Enfantin</i>	<i>insensible</i>
<i>Altruiste</i>	<i>égoïste</i>
<i>Honnête</i>	<i>cruel</i>
<i>Obsessionnel</i>	<i>méchant</i>
<i>Sensible</i>	<i>spirituel</i>
<i>Compatissant</i>	<i>superficiel</i>
<i>Anxieux</i>	
<i>Ouvert</i>	
<i>Peu intéressant</i>	
<i>Peu attrayant</i>	
<i>Pas méchant</i>	

4) Quelle était votre scène préférée?

Ma scène préférée était celle où ...

Person + avoir/être + past participle



5) Choisissez un thème et discutez-en.

Plusieurs

tenir compte de

Il ne faut pas

la personne en entier

On ne doit pas

regarder au-dessous de la surface

Juger

comment on traite les gens

Se moquer de

faire réfléchir à



6) **Comment avez-vous trouvé ce film en général?**

J'ai trouvé ce film

(peu) intéressant

ridicule

(peu) amusant

décevant

rigolo

touchant

hilarant

émouvant

divertissant

exagéré

dans certaines scènes ... dans d'autres ..

c'était

à la fois

ce film m'a amusé

déçu

diverti

touché

fait rire

fait réfléchir

c'était trop ...

simple

compliqué

Je ne peux pas dire que

Je le recommanderais à mes copains

Je crois qu'ils le trouveraient

