

because we all have something to share!

The Paris Savannah Connection

One of the most beautiful words in English is very difficult to translate into French.

That word is Care. Capital C.

To my mind, caring means putting others in the forefront while relinquishing some of our own ego-centric impulses, attitudes and behaviors.

Caring is active generosity. It is respect and consideration and ... has such a high cost that only those who have hearts of gold seem to be able to afford it! Because, precisely, it comes from the heart, maybe the soul, with an ounce, or a gram or even less – of reason.

You don't have to be rich to care. Just human.

Caring is welcoming. It is hospitality of the highest order. It is opening and giving, donating without a tax-deductible receipt. It is Inviting. It is Sharing.

Caring is giving. Not lending. There's no tangible payback to caring. Even though miraculously, unexpectedly, we're often paid back in a time of need. And if we aren't, it doesn't matter anyway!

How powerful are the words, once pronounced: « I care. »

And how insensitive the negative.

Caring is dialogue. It is listening and speaking in return. It is questioning. Not knowing all the answers. It is being attentive to the needs of the other. How extraordinary it is to witness two people fight over how much they have to give to one another! Caring is a private affair.

Caring is devotion. To someone. To a community. To a cause. It's a human thing ... and maybe that's where the term 'humanitarian' – Caring in the public sphere – comes from. Caring is a public affair, too.

The English verb « to take care of » has evolved over the years, decades and centuries. While it retains some of the essence in some uses, it's meaning has been transformed into others. It now has additional uses, practical impersonal uses – and sometimes even murderous ones, believe it or not! Read [Marleen Dowd's editorial](#) in the IHT if you're curious about that one!

Hearts talk and actions speak.

Take care,

And take care of those you care for. You won't regret it.

For more, go to ... [The Paris Savannah Connection!](#)

Mark

PS. By the way, the most frequent translations of the noun into French are [« soïn »](#) and [« soïns »](#) - not the same thing! And the verb [« soigner »](#) can have lots of meanings ...!

PSS. If you're receiving my newsletter for the first time, it's because I ~~thought~~ felt you might be interested in it. If you don't want to receive any others, I won't be offended!! Just send me a message saying unsubscribe, please!!

PSSS. There's lots of innovation happening in language learning. I've got solutions you didn't know existed. If you're interested in learning more ... you know what to do!

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[Eli \(Paperboy\) Reed, New-Old Soul](#)

The singer-guitarist performs the title track from his new album.

[Newsletter November 10, 2010](#)

Backgrounds! What a word! What ideas! What comes to mind when you hear this word? Do you think in terms of a figurative painting or photograph and see what is “behind” the subject? Do you see the landscape rather than the tree in the ... forefront? Do you see perspectives going back far to the [...]

[In 1989 ...](#)

[The tea leaves say ...](#)

From The New Yorker ... quite a while back, still true.

[... making a mountain out of a molehill ...](#)

One of my students is finally getting over a real complex about using “for” and “since” ... sound familiar? She’s very, very fluent and native speakers admire her agility and culture in English. Right now, we’re doing memory work. English teachers in France have traumatized millions and millions of their students over the years with [...]

[The Gift of Liberty](#)

You probably know that the BIG Statue of Liberty is on Ellis Island. Here’s a refresher of its history! This is a photo of the original sculpture which is in the Luxembourg Gardens in Paris. The Luxembourg (or Luco, as it’s called by the neighbors and kids who

go to school nearby) is one of [...]

Private Paris

It takes the New York Times to let us in on our own secrets! If you'd like a taste of secret Paris, here's the first course.

The Frugal Traveler

There's e.t.a., eta, ETA and E.T.A. ...

When S. used the abbreviation "e.t.a." the other day, it took me a minute to catch on. "What's your "e.t.a.?" she asked her mom on the phone. Well over in France and in Spain, those initials refer to a Basque separatist movement. In travel-intensive North America, it does not, to my knowledge, refer to a [...]

soup and slang

On our bi-monthly hike through the countrysides and forests outside of Paris, Géraldine asked: "What's the word for "oseille" in English?" One of the hikers immediately remembered Woody Allen's 1969 film "Take the money and run" via its French title: "Prends l'oseille et tire-toi" ... Allen used the word "money" though he could have said [...]

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