AMERICA TODAY (2)

II. George W. Bush's Term

1. 09/11/01
2. The 2000 Election
3. Current policy: from the "State of the Union" speech to the war in Iraq

Notes typographiques

. *Le vocabulaire thématique en gras ; je vous recommande de vous constituer des FICHES THEMATIQUES de vocabulaire. L'enrichissement de votre vocabulaire passe nécessairement par l'apprentissage par cœur de telles listes. Toutefois, il peut être plus facile de retenir le vocabulaire en contexte, d'où son inclusion ici au sein de phrases rédigées.*

. *Les informations les plus importantes sont soulignées.*

. *Le vocabulaire en italique est utile pour les essais (mots de liaison, connecteurs logiques etc)*

Les notes de bas de page :

. *les notes en rouge concernent la civilisation et l'histoire*

. *les notes en vert concernent le vocabulaire, les questions de langue, la grammaire*

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II. George W. Bush's Term

1. 09/11/01

There is nothing I can –nor want to- "teach" about what happened that[1] day in New York; we all witnessed the event and have our own political as well as personal feelings and reactions about it. Should the topic come up in the discussion you are having with the jury, do not hesitate to express opinions and feelings. Nothing is more frustrating in an oral examination than when the candidates are unable to take a stand[2].

What I am about to do is provide you with an account of the tragedy so that you have the lexical tools to develop your own account[3] and then your personal opinion about the meaning and fallouts[4] of the event.

First, please be careful with the way you say the date: "September Eleven" or "September the Eleventh"; more often, the day is now referred to as "**Nine Eleven**".

The place where the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center – also known as the WTC- used to[5] stand is now called "**Ground Zero**"[6], and is partly open for the public to see, as a memorial.

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[1] Valeur temporelle THIS / THAT
THAT day fait forcément référence à un jour éloigné du moment où on parle = passé ou présent
THIS day, exemple dans l'expression « to THIS day » (=jusqu'à ce jour) fait référence à aujourd'hui.

Valeur spatiale THIS / THAT
THIS pen is mine (fait référence à un objet proche de soi) and THAT pen is yours (ce dernier est plus éloigné)
Par exemple, j'entends souvent « In THIS country, they are more religious than in Europe » pour parler des Etats-Unis : c'est impossible. THIS country est celui qui est proche de vous donc la France.
La France = in THIS country
Les US, La GB = in THAT country

Valeur affective THIS / THAT
I love THIS woman / I hate THAT man (valeur péjorative de THAT)

THIS => la proximité temporelle, spatiale et affective THAT => l'éloignement temporel, spatial et affectif

[2] To take a stand : donner son opinion, prendre parti.

[3] An account : un récit

[4] The fallouts : les conséquences
The aftermath [uncountable] : les suites, les conséquences.

[5] Used to : à utiliser pour l'imparfait, strictement lorsqu'il y a un sens de rupture avec le présent. Vous devez pouvoir ajouter, « and it no longer is the case », et cette information doit être pertinente. N'en abusez pas.

I used to smoke => sous entendu « I no longer do »

[6] Ground : le sol mais aussi le rez-de-chaussée.

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On that day, two planes flew or **crashed** into the towers. The towers then **collapsed** one after the other, leaving only **rubble** where some of the highest towers of the world, and a symbol of American capitalism, once stood. You may remember that a bombing had already occurred in the lower levels (the parking lot) in 1993; the WTC was indeed a symbolical target for those who wanted to attack the American hegemony. The Pentagon, in Washington was also hit, and another plane crashed in the countryside in Pennsylvania.

Keep in mind that Americans in general and New Yorkers in particular have experienced an unprecedented trauma as it was the first time they had been attacked and wounded on American territory. The closest was Pearl Harbour, the Japanese bombing of a United States military camp during World War II. This time however, civilians were targeted and killed; the casualties rise up to more than 5,000. Needless to say that this is bound to influence the American Foreign policy thereafter. Whether you consider this is justified or not, **America does feel threatened**.

During the crisis, the New York fire fighters emerged as heroes: they lost heavy casualties at the feet of the towers when they collapsed, and they relentlessly searched for survivors in the days that followed. Mayor Rudolph Giuliani[7] also became a powerful public figure and gained a huge popularity from his exemplary management of the aftermath. President Bush's popularity increased as well, while it had been rather mediocre after his close election.

Following the 9.11 attack, was the **Anthrax crisis**. Anthrax spores were found in some mail, politicians and newspapers were targeted.

George W. Bush developed a strong answer to the attack: his speeches mentioned a battle between "good and evil"[8]. He promised that America would "track down" Osama bin Laden and take him "dead or alive". Military action was taken in Afghanistan, along with humanitarian action –what is America is also planning for Iraq this year. It was called "the war on terrorism" or "the war on terror". Osama bin laden was not found, but several al-Qaeda prisoners are held at the Guantanamo camp, an American military base in Cuba. Important figures around the president are Secretary of State Colin Powell, National Security Advisor Condoleeza Rice, and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

Attention, parfois au Etats-Unis, on commence par : the first floor = le rez-de-chaussée. Il peut donc y avoir confusion.
Alors qu'en Grande Bretagne : the ground floor = the rez-de-chaussée / the first floor = le premier étage

7 Giuliani, a Republican, was the then Mayor of New York. In November 2002, having served two terms, he could not run for reelection, though New Yorkers would have plebiscited him. The Mayor of New York today is Michaël Bloomberg, also a Republican. He is a media millionaire. He ran against, Mark Green, for the Democrats.

8 THe American President is a very religious man. His speeches are even more heavily connoted with religious references than those of his predecessors.
This expression to describe Foreign Policy is interesting to remember.

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