



# NEWSLETTER

## A New Website for Version Originale

### News & Info

#### Christmas Markets

##### Place Carnot:

The Christmas market located at Place Carnot near Lyon's Perrache train station opened on 23 November and will run until December 24th. From Sundays through Thursdays, the market is open from 10:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and on Fridays and Saturdays until 10:00 p.m. Here you can find local and regional products, original gift ideas, toys, food, and hot drinks.

##### Croix-Rousse:

Every year the place de la Croix-Rousse hosts a friendly and festive Christmas market, complete with farm animals, local and regional handcrafts, and refreshments. This year's market, with its timeless spirit of Christmas, is open from the 4th to the 23rd of December.

#### Light Festival of Lyon

From the 5th to the 8th of December, the streets, squares and monuments of Lyon will once again host the world famous festival of lights. From the Presqu'île district to the Old Lyon and the slopes of the Croix-Rousse hill, 65 light attractions will pay homage to the city's architectural heritage. You can find more information about the festival [here](#).

The VO website recently got a new makeover to better reflect the variety of services we offer our clients. Here are a few highlights.



Who are we? Language services Business coaching Newsletter Blog Contact  



#### Business Coaching

Since VO's Kirsty Voisin began her business coaching activity, she has been helping professionals to improve performance, develop leadership skills, and adapt to changes in their careers (new role, new project, etc.). She also works with teams, helping them to clarify and meet their shared goals. And all of this from a multi-cultural background...in French and English!

#### FREE English Essentials Pocket Guide

On the Language Services page of the new website, you can open — and download — a brief pocket guide that covers some of the stickier grammar points that often challenge English language learners. Other practical items include common phrases, language for meetings or emails, and more. Click [here](#) to download your Free pocket guide today!

#### Trainer Profiles

And finally, you can click on the [Who are we?](#) tab to find out more about VO's trainers. For example, there you can find out (if you didn't already know) who has an infectious laugh, who comes from Scotland, and who has a keen eye for administrative and organisational details.

## VOCABULARY

quintessential - the most typical example of something  
to gear up for (something) - to equip or prepare oneself for something

to kick off - to begin, or cause something to begin

besiege - to be inundated by large numbers (of people)

to coin (a term) - to invent a new word or phrase

sales - a period during which a shop sells goods at a reduced price

eager - strongly wanting to do or have something

frenzied - wildly excited or uncontrolled

helter skelter - involving disorderly haste or confusion

trample - to tread on and crush

hassle-free - without inconvenience



## Black Friday Madness

Thanksgiving, which falls on the fourth Thursday of November, is probably the quintessential of all American holidays. But before anyone has even had time to digest their turkey and potatoes and pumpkin pie, another event moves in to take its place, one which retailers and shoppers the world over have spent weeks gearing up for — Black Friday.

### The name

For many decades now, the Friday following Thanksgiving has been acknowledged as the largest shopping day of the year. It's what kicks off the Christmas shopping season in North America and now in many countries around the world. Today Black Friday is synonymous with shopping, but it wasn't always the case.

Some sources suggest that the name Black Friday originated in the city of Philadelphia in the United States, and refers to the heavy traffic that would besiege the city the day after Thanksgiving. Others say Black Friday refers to the moment during the year when shops began making a profit, thus going from "red" to "black". But whoever was the first to coin the term, it is now unequivocally associated with the beginning of the Christmas shopping season.



### The Madness

And that means sales, pretty much everywhere, which also means lots of eager shoppers rushing to be first through the door to grab that TV or game console. It's not uncommon to hear stories of a frenzied crowd of shoppers bursting helter skelter through the shop doors, only to trample other shoppers, sometimes to their deaths. There have also been incidents of customers wielding knives, pepper spray, or even guns. Fortunately these cases are the exception, but if you're looking for a crowd-free, hassle-free Christmas shopping experience this year, there is one place you can always turn to — the Internet. **HAPPY BLACK FRIDAY — Friday 29 November 2019**