

UOW College Hong Kong / Community College of City University  
Student English Enhancement Unit (SEE U)  
Daily English Practice

Week 2

## #59 What is Déjà Vu?

**Skills/ Objectives: Listening and speaking**

### PART 1: Before you watch...

#### Preparatory questions

1. What is this odd feeling that you have experienced something before, but, in reality, the experience is brand new?
2. Déjà vu, or **deja** vu, (written without the accent markers above the letters “e” and “a”) is, as Cambridge Dictionary defines it, “the strange feeling that in some way you have already experienced what is happening now.” When was the last time you had this feeling?
3. From the vocabulary list below, can you find one word that best completes this sentence?  
*New data that showed any signs of economic recovery might fuel further \_\_\_\_\_ on the stock market.*

#### Vocabulary

1. Choreograph (verb): to combine movements into a dance
2. Manifestation (noun): a sign of something happening
3. Speculation (noun): the act of guessing
4. Prevalent (adjective): common; happening often
5. Conscious (adjective): aware; knowing what is happening around you

*Answer(s) to the relevant questions above will be provided in the next exercise.*

**Answers to relevant questions in the preceding set of exercises:**

#### **Question 4:**

*The word is “vision.”*

### PART 2: Video

This video highlights a few explanations of how déjà vu happens to us.

**What is Déjà Vu?** (click the link below to watch the video)

<https://ed.ted.com/lessons/what-is-deja-vu-what-is-deja-vu-michael-molina#watch>

(Source: TED Ed)

### **PART 3: Speaking**

In French, “déjà vu” literally means “already seen.” The unfamiliar sight of the letters “é” and “à” might pose difficulty to some Hong Kong students. It is useful if we can pronounce the term as if it were an English expression. Notice the /ei/ sound in “é”:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r7Ft9nSKtS8>

Now learn how to pronounce “debris” and “Des Voeux Road” (a place name in Central, Hong Kong Island):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CJE1Y8QoWCs>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5uBLe6ZD0\\_Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5uBLe6ZD0_Y)

### **PART 4: Learn further**

1. Read about a man “trapped in a time loop,” in his article “A Strange Case of Deja Vu, Again and Again and Again”:

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/a-strange-case-of-deja-vu-again-and-again-and-again/2015/01/05/0229ed1e-8adf-11e4-8ff4-fb93129c9c8b\\_story.html?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.0e77b7f02966](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/a-strange-case-of-deja-vu-again-and-again-and-again/2015/01/05/0229ed1e-8adf-11e4-8ff4-fb93129c9c8b_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.0e77b7f02966)

2. “You look into a face of a stranger, and you feel you've known her all your life. Déjà vu is believed by many to be a trick of the mind...”

*Déjà Vu* (2006) is a crime thriller starring Denzel Washington.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uxdS8TP37I4>