

Where is Brian?

by International Mountain Connection

Hi, this is Michelle with International Mountain Connection. And if you've already seen one of our videos, you've heard me say, "Because Brian isn't in the kitchen. He's in the mountains!" But what does that mean, anyway? Let me explain.

And remember if I'm speaking too fast, if you'd like to see captions or if you'd like to download the transcript, all of that information is available in the description box below.

So, who is Brian and what is he doing in the kitchen? Well, in France in the 1980's, 1990's there was a textbook to learn English and in this textbook the students would learn about Brian and his family in this house. And you had to learn where each member of the family was. So, the students would be asked, "Where is Brian?" And they learned how to respond, "He's in the kitchen!"

This phrase was absolutely drilled into their heads. And now when I meet new French people, they understand right away that I'm not French. Even though my name is Michelle, I have a really big accent. They are very quick to tell me, "Oh, I'm sorry I don't speak English, but what I can say is, 'Where is Brian? He's in the kitchen!'" And then they laugh. So, it's kind of like the French community's own private joke.

Basically, anyone who went to school in the 80's and 90's and was learning English, they know these phrases. And there was a comedian who made this really popular or really famous because he did a skit.

He talks about how he learned English as a child at school and how he was traumatized, and he knows he's not the only one who was traumatized. Because if you wanted to learn English, you needed to know where Brian was in this house. You needed to know where Brian's family was in this house. It was absolutely hilarious, so this is like a point of reference in French culture.

So after being stuck in the kitchen for more than 35 years, we're trying to liberate Brian so he can go into the mountains and learn some new vocabulary. Because when you're learning a new language, often you learn the basics, which is great, but you don't learn about mountain activity vocabulary. You don't learn about technical vocabulary.

We're trying to help Brian expand his horizons a little bit. And we're having fun with that.

Speaking of having fun, I hope you're enjoying the videos. I promise they'll continue to get better! And if there's a particular subject that you would like to learn more about, just let us know in the comments or you can send us an email.

Thank you for joining us today, and if you want to make sure you know when our next video comes out, hit the subscribe button and the bell. And if you haven't visited our website yet, you should do that!

We have a blog that talks about some of our adventures in the mountains.

We also have an account on Instagram where we introduce two new vocabulary words every week. So you see an image, you see the word, and then you hear three different sentences. This is not only good for pronunciation, but also to see the words being used in context.

So now you know why Brian isn't in the kitchen and why he's in the mountains.

I'll see you soon!

Bye!