

Un canard dit à sa cane :

« Ris, cane, ris, cane. »

Un canard dit à sa cane :

« Ris, cane. »

Et la cane a ri.

English

A drake said to its female (duck):

“Laugh, female duck, laugh, female duck.”

A drake said to its female (duck):

“laugh, female duck.”

And the female duck laughed.

As I attempt to explain in the video, this song really makes me giggle because of the 1st play on words: ris, cane (laugh, female duck) sounds like “ricane” (giggle, chuckle); and also the 2nd one: cane a ri (female duck laughed) sounds like “canari” (canary bird). You just HAVE to smile when you sing it!!

You and your child(ren) can come up with your own actions for this song, of course, as ever. I am lucky to own duck puppets, but if you don't, you can choose what you have to do when you all listen and hear the words “canard” and “cane”. Alternatively, you can make duck finger puppets - or draw duck faces on paper that you roll around 2 fingers and sellotape!

This song is great to practise the vowel sounds “a” and “i” in French. It can also serve as a reminder that the 3 letters “d, t & s” tend to be silent at the end of French words.

We can hear the “t” at the end of the word “dit” (said” because it is followed by a vowel, and sometimes in this case we can do what is called a “liaison” (“linking” together of the 2 words).

It is also good to practise the French “r” sound as in “canard” (quite quiet) and “ri” (really prominent).

This is so short that your child(ren) will pick it up really quickly, and you can sing it even when you have very little time.

If you know a little more French... you may want to rewrite it and make it about other animals – it would be ok to forget about the play on words... or be really creative and try to find others!

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