

BBC Active Languages Teachers' Email 101

## **Welcome to the 101<sup>st</sup> BBC Active newsletter**

Welcome to the 101<sup>st</sup> BBC Active Newsletter.

Hello and welcome to all our new members. If you have any comments or feedback on the newsletter, please email us at [bbcactive.languages.admin@pearson.com](mailto:bbcactive.languages.admin@pearson.com)

The next newsletter will be sent out in November 2011.

In the meantime, please enjoy this one!

Jo

## **Contents**

### **News from BBC Active**

Find out about the new Quickstart Apps, great promotions available and read some recent reviews.

### **National News**

Read more about the reactions to this year's GCSE and A Level results. Why is there a slump in pupils taking languages? A new report shows an increased demand for languages from employers. Is Chinese the language we should be teaching?

### **Events**

Find out details of the forthcoming London Language Show plus lots of other language events around the country.

### **Resources**

Check out a selection of free websites for young children learning languages, the largest flash cards and study games website and MYLO, a free KS3 and KS4 language learning resource plus lots more...

### **Surveys and Competitions**

Sign up for the UK Linguistics Olympiad and there is just time for your pupils to enter the SCILT European Day of Languages Competition: Why we love languages!

## **News from BBC Active**

### **Come and see us at the Language Show**

BBC Active will be on the Pearson Stand 110 along with Heinemann and Edexcel and we will be offering a 30% discount on all our products.

### **Quickstart Apps**

We have just launched four apps for the iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad for Italian, Spanish, French and German.

The **Quickstart Italian App** was picked up in 'new and noteworthy' on the App Store and is currently in 'What's Hot!' Here's what *The Bookseller* had to say about them:  
'BBC Active released apps for its introductory Quickstart range this summer in the "big four" languages: French, Spanish, Italian and German. The apps are, rather cheesily, in a narrative of 14 episodes of a weekend away with three friends. But it works, guiding the user through the usual tourist experiences such as finding your way around a new city or ordering food at a restaurant. Quickstart uses the iPhone's functionality a lot better than many language apps—when playing the audio of the friends' conversations, you can choose to have subtitles of the English translation or not; another useful feature is you can record yourself speaking the phrases and play it back to compare against audio of the the native speaker. The flashcard quiz is fun, and the entire app feels like good value for money.'  
Price: £5.99, available to download from the iTunes App Store  
For more information go to: [www.bbcactivequickstart.co.uk](http://www.bbcactivequickstart.co.uk)

The Quickstart apps will be available to download from the iTunes App Store at the special promotional price of £2.99 for the period of the Language Show (21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> October).

#### **Lots of great promotions to look out for:**

Amazon Language Store continues with some great deals  
[http://www.amazon.co.uk/Language-Books/b/ref=amb\\_link\\_156975627\\_27?ie=UTF8&node=429978031&pf\\_rd\\_m=A3P5ROK\\_L5A1OLE&pf\\_rd\\_s=left-8&pf\\_rd\\_r=080NHCE93HAXJ5H9WBN1&pf\\_rd\\_t=101&pf\\_rd\\_p=253237827&pf\\_rd\\_i=266239](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Language-Books/b/ref=amb_link_156975627_27?ie=UTF8&node=429978031&pf_rd_m=A3P5ROK_L5A1OLE&pf_rd_s=left-8&pf_rd_r=080NHCE93HAXJ5H9WBN1&pf_rd_t=101&pf_rd_p=253237827&pf_rd_i=266239)

W H Smith is offering £5 off the bestselling Talk Language Packs in selected stores during September.

The Book Depository is offering great prices on Talk in their "Languages for absolute beginners" promotion  
<http://www.bookdepository.co.uk/dealsAndOffers/promo/id/534>

...as well as "BBC Active Languages promotion" on the 'long' courses or Language 'texts.'  
<http://www.bookdepository.co.uk/dealsAndOffers/promo/id/533>

and finally Waterstone's are also offering £5 off Talk Language Packs from 1st September until 3rd November.

#### **Our new catalogue is available:**

[http://www.pearsonschoolsandfecolleges.co.uk/AssetsLibrary/SECTORS/Trade/Downloads/R329BBC\\_Consumer\\_Cataloguep40web.pdf](http://www.pearsonschoolsandfecolleges.co.uk/AssetsLibrary/SECTORS/Trade/Downloads/R329BBC_Consumer_Cataloguep40web.pdf)

or email [bbcactive.languages.admin@pearson.com](mailto:bbcactive.languages.admin@pearson.com) to have a copy sent to you.

Don't forget that most of our courses have free tutors' notes and classroom activities available within the Teachers' Home section of our website: [www.bbcactivelanguages.com](http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com) and free online resources, including video clips at: [www.bbc.co.uk/languages](http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages).

#### **Take a look at some of our recent reviews:**

***Brilliant French*** reviewed by ***Francophonie***

"The author.... is a passionate advocate of language learning for adults and it shows"

<http://www.pearsonschoolsandfecolleges.co.uk/AssetsLibrary/SECTORS/Trade/Downloads/BrilliantFrench.pdf>

**Talk Italian Grammar** reviewed by **Tuttitalia**

“All the essential ingredients for a solid foundation in the language”

<http://www.pearsonschoolsandfecolleges.co.uk/AssetsLibrary/SECTORS/Trade/Downloads/TalkItalianGrammar.pdf>

**Being French DVD Plus Pack Age 7-11** reviewed by **Francophonie**

“Excellent practice for our young Key Stage 2 and 3 learners”

<http://www.pearsonschoolsandfecolleges.co.uk/AssetsLibrary/SECTORS/Trade/Downloads/BBCActiveDVDplus.pdf>

## **National News**

Read the Association of Language Learning (ALL) new President Bernardette Holmes’s comments on this year’s exam results.

[http://www.all-languages.org.uk/about/all\\_media\\_centre/all\\_press\\_releases](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/about/all_media_centre/all_press_releases)

For detailed information, the full ALL reports on the results, main headlines and links see:

### **2011 A-Level results**

[http://www.all-languages.org.uk/news/news\\_list/alevel\\_results\\_day\\_updates\\_news\\_and\\_comment](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/news/news_list/alevel_results_day_updates_news_and_comment).

### **2011 GCSE results**

[http://www.all-languages.org.uk/news/news\\_list/gcse\\_results\\_day\\_updates\\_news\\_and\\_comment](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/news/news_list/gcse_results_day_updates_news_and_comment).

CILT has been selected as the preferred provider of curriculum support for languages in primary and secondary schools in England, in a DfE contract that will run from 2011 to 2013

[http://www.cfbt.com/pdf/CILT\\_contract\\_winFINAL.pdf](http://www.cfbt.com/pdf/CILT_contract_winFINAL.pdf)

The English Baccalaureate is steering twice as many pupils in England's secondary schools towards core academic subjects, suggests a survey.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-14719986>

Fewer teenagers are choosing to do traditional subjects such as languages, geography and history, the latest GCSE results show.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-14666229>

A further dramatic slump in the number of pupils taking modern-languages GCSEs is alarming exam boards and teachers' leaders

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/alarm-over-decline-in-pupils-studying-languages-2344091.html>

New evidence of employer demand for language skills

[http://www.all-languages.org.uk/news/news\\_list/cbis\\_education\\_and\\_skills\\_survey](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/news/news_list/cbis_education_and_skills_survey)

Creole is the mother tongue in Haiti, but children do most of their schooling in French. Two hundred years after Haiti became the world's first black-led republic, is the use of French holding the nation back?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-14534703>

Most people are exposed to Gaelic through watching and listening to television, radio and music, according to a Scottish government report.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-14574468>

The Iteso people of eastern Uganda and western Kenya are looking for ways to preserve their language Ateso.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-14530839>

Librarians in Australia have launched a three-year project to rediscover lost indigenous languages.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-14503382>

The current generation of Guernsey French speakers may be the last, the Culture and Leisure minister has said.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-guernsey-14307923>

Accademia della Crusca, a leading linguistic institute, is to lose all its funding in the government austerity drive

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/aug/19/italian-language-under-threat-cuts?INTCMP=SRCH>

Schoolchildren in Britain are less likely to learn multiple foreign languages than those in any other EU member state, an international study has revealed.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2031632/Tr-s-embarrassant-Britain-tops-European-table-worst-teaching-foreign-languages.html>

Chinese – the language the whole world wants to learn

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/chinese-ndash-the-language-the-whole-world-wants-to-learn-2351204.html>

Chalk Talk: On science and languages, maybe Gove has a point after all

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/schools/chalk-talk-on-science-and-languages-maybe-gove-has-point-after-all-2317768.html>

The UK is the worst nation in Europe for the teaching of foreign languages following a dramatic collapse in the subject under Labour.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/8729278/UK-pupils-worst-in-Europe-for-learning-foreign-languages.html>

Want an A\* grade: Do Art not French

Leading headmasters have called on ministers to launch an investigation after A-level results reveal it is harder to get the new A\* grade in some subjects than others.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/secondaryeducation/8739422/Want-an-A-grade-Do-Art-not-French.html>

Figures compiled by the Department for Education show that the proportion of pupils taking core academic subjects has increased since the introduction of the English Baccalaureate.

[http://www.all-languages.org.uk/news/news\\_list/the\\_english\\_baccalaureate\\_and\\_gcse\\_choices](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/news/news_list/the_english_baccalaureate_and_gcse_choices)

## Events

Language Show

21 - 23 October 2011

National Hall, Olympia, London

<http://www.thelanguageshow.co.uk>

The Consejería de Educación are organising their Spanish Workshops.

Saturday October 1st: Spanish workshops for Primary teachers

Saturday October 8th: Spanish workshops for Secondary teachers  
Venue: Colegio Español Vicente Cañada Blanch, 317 Portobello Road, London W105SZ  
Programmes and application forms are available at:  
<http://www.educacion.gob.es/reinounido/convocatorias-programas/formacion-profesorado.html>

University of Reading: 'Alternative ways to giving feedback' 23 Sep 2011  
One of a series of workshops, covering research on and the practice of Italian language teaching.  
<http://www.reading.ac.uk/modern-languages-and-european-studies/News-and-events/mles-conference-and-workshops.aspx>

University of Southampton: Hampshire Languages Conference 23 Sep 2011  
A variety of speakers, including Greg Horton. For primary and secondary sector colleagues, in and outside Hampshire!  
<http://www.languagessoutheast.org.uk/events/hampshire-languages-conference-2011>.

Brighton College Confucius Classroom: Taking Mandarin Further - The National Chinese Teaching Conference: 04 Oct 2011  
For more information, contact: Miss C Linzey: [clinzey@brightoncollege.net](mailto:clinzey@brightoncollege.net).

Conference for Gaelic teachers 5 - 6 October 2011  
Drumossie Hotel, Inverness  
[http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/events/otherevents/headline\\_463275\\_en.html](http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/events/otherevents/headline_463275_en.html)

ALL Italian Day 15th Oct 2011  
[http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/all\\_italian\\_day](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/all_italian_day)

ALL North East German Day 15 October 2011  
Gosforth Academy, Newcastle  
[http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/all\\_north\\_east\\_german\\_day\\_2](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/all_north_east_german_day_2)

ALL North East French Day 15th October 2011  
[http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/all\\_north\\_east\\_french\\_day\\_3](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/all_north_east_french_day_3)

CILT is running a series of training events linking languages with food, in collaboration with Le Français en Ecosse. The Food for thought weekend courses provide teachers of French, German and Spanish with cross-curricular materials and ideas through the theme of food and gastronomy.  
<http://www.cilt.org.uk/home/news/news%20items/events/food%20for%20thought.aspx>

Scottish Association for Language Teaching Annual Conference 5<sup>th</sup> November 2011  
University of Strathclyde, Glasgow  
<http://www.saltlangs.org.uk/content/events.htm>

## Resources

Thanks to forum users for some of the resources listed below.

A selection of free websites for young children learning languages. These include English language sites, designed to support children learning a new language, and websites for young native speakers of other languages.

[http://www.primarylanguages.org.uk/resources/online\\_resources/more\\_languages\\_multilingual.aspx](http://www.primarylanguages.org.uk/resources/online_resources/more_languages_multilingual.aspx)

Information and links to good online resources from around the world relating to the teaching and learning of any language.

<http://www.linguanet-worldwide.org/lnetww/en/home.jsp>

MYLO is a free KS3 and KS4 language learning resource developed for the Department for Education and run by RM Education. It offers a new way to learn French, German, Spanish and Chinese.

<http://www.hellomylo.com/>

CILT Plus - a unique community for schools, teachers and languages professionals set up to help inspire and develop language learning across the UK

<http://www.ciltplus.org.uk/>

Quizlet is the **largest flash cards and study games website** with over 6 million free sets of flashcards covering every possible subject. It's the best place to play educational games, memorize vocabulary and study online.

<http://quizlet.com/>

For anyone teaching languages in a Primary school; a place to share worries, successes & resources with supportive colleagues.

<http://primarymfl.ning.com/>

Schoolshape language lab helps teachers improve students' listening and speaking skills by setting multimedia activities for students to do online. Both free and paid for versions are available.

<http://languagelabblog.com/>

Français eXtra provides a huge range of interactive exercises and games to enable users to improve their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in a fun and stimulating way.

<http://www.francais-extra.co.uk/>

Teaching German: Materials for German as a Foreign Language

<http://www.goethe.de/lhr/mat/enindex.htm>

## **Surveys and Competitions**

Juvenes Translatores 2011

The European Commission will run its Juvenes Translatores translation contest for the fifth time in 2011!

[http://www.all-languages.org.uk/news/news\\_list/juvenes\\_translatores\\_2011](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/news/news_list/juvenes_translatores_2011)

The UK Linguistics Olympiad is a competition for students who are still at secondary school, in which they have to solve linguistic data problems. Similar competitions happen in a number of other countries, though it's only recently that they've taken place in English-speaking countries.

<http://www.uklo.org/>

SCILT European Day of Languages Competition: Why we love languages!

Deadline 30 September 2011

[http://www.strath.ac.uk/media/faculties/hass/scilt/edl/edl2011/EDL\\_Competition\\_flyer\\_2011.pdf](http://www.strath.ac.uk/media/faculties/hass/scilt/edl/edl2011/EDL_Competition_flyer_2011.pdf)