

## **Welcome to the 104<sup>th</sup> BBC Active newsletter**

A warm welcome to 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 May 2012.

In the meantime, please enjoy this one!

Jo

### **Contents**

#### **News from BBC Active**

Advance notice of the new titles coming in July.

#### **News from BBC Languages**

Learn Italian on iPlayer and Facebook plus check out some French rugby phrases.

#### **National News**

Read more about why there is no such a thing as correct grammar, and what does make Germans laugh? And find out how we can trade our way out of a recession and how languages can help...

#### **Events**

Language World 2012 comes to Manchester at the end of March – an unmissable event for language teaching and learning.

#### **Resources**

Lots of resources to take a look at including: careers information, Spanish puzzles, Spanish TV, French magazine articles and German video clips.

#### **Surveys and Competitions**

Find out more about the French Film Competition 2012.

#### **News from BBC Active**

Take a look at these new titles from BBC Active – all available in July.

##### **Talk German 2 Pack**

Building on the popularity, simplicity and straightforwardness of the highly successful Talk range, this new post-beginners course will take learners' understanding to a whole new level.

##### **Talk German 1 & 2 Box Set**

Includes the popular Talk German 1 and the brand new Talk German 2. Featuring interactive audio and a wealth of enjoyable activities, this set will quickly develop your language skills and encourage you to make genuine progress right from the start.

##### **Talk German Grammar**

The ideal way to learn German grammar, with lots of examples and activities to help you along the way.

#### Complete Talk – the new definitive packs

The complete Talk course pack with everything a beginner needs to learn and develop their language skills for work, for travel or just for fun. Includes Talk 1, Talk 2 and Talk Grammar.

Available in German, French, Italian and Spanish.

More details to follow in the next newsletter.

WHSmith is running a £5 off Talk Packs promotion in selected stores during March and April 2012. Includes French 1 and 2, Spanish 1 and 2, Italian, German, Portuguese, Russian and Mandarin Chinese.

Amazon's BBC Active Languages Store is open all year round:

[http://www.amazon.co.uk/Language-Books/b/ref=amb\\_link\\_156975627\\_22?ie=UTF8&node=429978031&pf\\_rd\\_m=A3P5ROK L5A1OLE&pf\\_rd\\_s=left-8&pf\\_rd\\_r=0EWQS8GB8Y958JN0GN39&pf\\_rd\\_t=101&pf\\_rd\\_p=282984467&pf\\_rd\\_i=266239](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Language-Books/b/ref=amb_link_156975627_22?ie=UTF8&node=429978031&pf_rd_m=A3P5ROK L5A1OLE&pf_rd_s=left-8&pf_rd_r=0EWQS8GB8Y958JN0GN39&pf_rd_t=101&pf_rd_p=282984467&pf_rd_i=266239)

#### News from BBC Languages

Sun 11 Mar - France vs England

As the teams face off on the field in the Six Nations tournament, brush up on your French with [essential rugby vocabulary](#).

Test your knowledge of [French and rugby](#) with our quiz, crossword and solitaire card game - and learn phrases to wind up your French friends.

Go social: Learn Italian on Facebook

Now you can share more than pizza!

Visit our [new Facebook page](#), meet others like you and start learning together. Practise, ask questions, compare notes and share the experience. Discover the many different ways you can learn and practise Italian with the BBC.

Watch Italian programmes on iPlayer

Enjoy the sights and sounds of Italy in detective drama series [Il commissario Montalbano](#). Now on BBC iPlayer in Italian with English subtitles.

Inspired to learn Italian? Try our interactive video drama [La Mappa Misteriosa](#)

#### National News

All children who started at council-run schools in Surrey this academic year are to have their language skills screened.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-surrey-16795390>

Secondary league tables 2011: the 200 schools in England that have highest scores for the English Baccalaureate.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-16729801>

Education watchdog Ofsted wants to toughen the language of inspections in England – changing the "satisfactory" rating to "requires improvement".

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-16579644>

What makes Germans laugh – and why is it so different from what amuses the British? The answer may lie in a slapstick English comedy that became a TV favourite in Germany.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/feb/12/whats-german-for-funny?INTCMP=SRCH>

Sorry, there's no such thing as 'correct grammar'. Martin Gwynne may have fun telling people the rules of grammar, but language is owned and controlled by everybody.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2012/mar/02/no-correct-grammar-martin-gwynne?INTCMP=SRCH>

Talking the talk – trading our way out of recession

The many ways in which languages can boost growth – who's saying what:

[http://www.all-languages.org.uk/news/news\\_list/learning\\_to\\_talk\\_the\\_talk\\_trading\\_our\\_way\\_out\\_of\\_recession](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/news/news_list/learning_to_talk_the_talk_trading_our_way_out_of_recession)

UCAS has recently released their final application figures for 2012 university entry. There has been an overall decrease of 7.4%, but this figure conceals differences across countries, ages and disciplines.

[http://www.all-languages.org.uk/news/news\\_list/ucas\\_release\\_application\\_figures\\_for\\_2012\\_university\\_entry](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/news/news_list/ucas_release_application_figures_for_2012_university_entry)

People should not be put off speaking Welsh if their grasp of the language is less than perfect, a new strategy says.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-politics-17220657>

The number of fluent Welsh speakers is in steady decline, according to the organisation set up to promote the language.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-17035118>

English has been the dominant global language for a century, but is it the language of the future? If Mandarin Chinese is to challenge English globally, then it first has to conquer its own backyard, South East Asia.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-17105569>

Many people want to speak a second language, but for some people two can never be enough. Welcome to the world of the hyperpolyglot.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-17101370>

Firefighters in Hertfordshire have been taught basic sign language.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-17099623>

A project teaching basic sign language skills gets under way in Cornwall to improve communication between staff and people with learning disabilities.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cornwall-16963791>

Thanks to changed regulations, Braille is spreading but do most blind people actually use the language of dots?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-16984742>

Facebook, YouTube and even texting will be the salvation of many of the world's endangered languages, scientists believe.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-17081573>

Basque and Welsh: fighting to keep languages alive

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-17069724>

All local dialects of Gaelic will die out except two, according to research by a University of Edinburgh academic.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-16983134>

Latvians have resoundingly rejected the option of making Russian the country's second official language, results from a referendum indicate.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-17083397>

Lewis Carroll's classic children's book Alice in Wonderland is being translated into Jersey's native language, Jèrriais.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-jersey-17069656>

The government is hoping to save £18m a year by changing how interpreters are provided for court hearings - but it is said the new system is causing chaos and costly delays.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-17009115>

Is second-language English an issue for children?

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/2009/20090929.stm>

## **Events**

How to achieve 'Outstanding' from OFSTED

24 March 2012

Manchester Grammar School, Old Hall Lane, Manchester, M13 0XT

How to ensure that you present your department and your teaching at its best during inspection.

[http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/how\\_to\\_achieve\\_outstanding\\_from\\_ofsted](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/how_to_achieve_outstanding_from_ofsted)

Language World 2012!

30 to 31 March 2012

University of Manchester, Sackville Street Campus

Language World is a conference, two days of non-stop CPD, an exhibition, a social event, and a chance for teachers from all over the country to meet up with their subject community to celebrate language teaching and learning.

[http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/language\\_world\\_2012](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/language_world_2012)

Smatterings: Why Languages Matter

26 to 27 March 2012

Cumberland Lodge, The Great Park, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 2HP

<http://www.cumberlandlodge.ac.uk/programme/Forthcoming+Events/smatterings>

Life and work in academia: event for new and aspiring lecturers in languages, linguistics and area studies

Conference Aston, Aston University, Aston Triangle, Birmingham, B4 7ET

12 April 2012

<http://www.llas.ac.uk/events/6398>

The LOC tool for teachers: authoring your own online learning materials

The Language Space, University College London, 1-4 Malet Place, London, WC1E 7JE

17 April 2012

<http://www.llas.ac.uk/events/6495>

The English language in Europe: debates and discourses  
20 - 22 April 2012

University of Sheffield

[http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/events/otherevents/headline\\_487774\\_en.html](http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/events/otherevents/headline_487774_en.html)

Research in and for languages

27 April 2012

University of Strathclyde (Glasgow)

[http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/events/otherevents/headline\\_586053\\_en.html](http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/events/otherevents/headline_586053_en.html)

Essential e-Learning Skills for Teachers of Non-Latin Languages

8 May 2012

Manchester Metropolitan University

[http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/events/otherevents/headline\\_587980\\_en.html](http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/events/otherevents/headline_587980_en.html)

Top teaching and contented customers

12 May 2012

University of Leicester

[http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/top\\_teaching\\_and\\_contented\\_customers\\_3](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/top_teaching_and_contented_customers_3)

Learning Spanish through cinema

19 May 2012

Birmingham

A training day that explores the potential for enhancing language education through the use of existing audio-visual media from cinematic sources.

<http://www.leaponline.eu/storage/TD%20CinemaEnglish%20Final%20A4%20Flyer%2019th%20May%202012.pdf>

Classroom behaviour management

19 May 2012

Manchester Grammar School, Old Hall Lane, Manchester, M13 0XT

Helen Wyton will be giving us a fresh new take on managing the MFL classroom – prepare to leave with lots of new ideas!

[http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/classroom\\_behaviour\\_management](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/classroom_behaviour_management)

ALL German day

7 July 2012

Goethe Institute, London

A celebration of all things German, with plenty of new materials, initiatives and (hopefully) a slam poet from Germany!

[http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/all\\_german\\_day](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/all_german_day)

## **Resources**

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

Language Assistants host schools applications scheme: applications for host schools for the next cohort of Foreign Language Assistants are now open.

[http://www.all-languages.org.uk/uploads/files/Corporate%20Members/British%20Council%20FLA\\_flyer-A5-13.pdf](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/uploads/files/Corporate%20Members/British%20Council%20FLA_flyer-A5-13.pdf)

Year 9+ German – 33 short video episodes from the Deutsche Welle site: Deutsch lernen mit Jojo: about what happens to Jojo when she arrives in Cologne from Brazil. Lots of lovely authentic language with interactive exercises, handouts, etc.

<http://www.dw.de/dw/0,,13121,00.html>

The CILT Languages Work site with case studies of careers that use languages.

<http://www.languageswork.org.uk/home.aspx>

And some further careers videos that mention languages.

<http://icould.com/stories/tags/life-themes/languages-theme-tags-tags/>

Lots of Spanish shape puzzles and dominoes, mostly the work of Marie Connolly.

<http://www.sunderlandschools.org/mfl-sunderland/resources-startersplenaries-sp.htm>

Magazine articles for Year 9 French from this website. It costs 10 euros for a 10-week subscription and you can print off a variety of articles on politics, animal life, scientific discoveries, La chandeleur, leap years, La galette, festivals, space, etc. There is a cartoon at the end of each article and sometimes a mini-crossword.

<http://www.playbacpresse.fr>

Spanish TV programmes and reality shows (e.g. El Cubo) that are great for A-Level students.

There is also a link to feature films but you have to pay to view them.

<http://www.mitele.es/programas-tv/>

Help with teaching and learning GCSE French conditional perfect tense

<http://french.about.com/od/grammar/a/conditionalperf.htm>

Comprehensive information about el flamenco

<http://ares.cnice.mec.es/flamenco/>

## **Surveys and Competitions**

Calling all budding cinéastes! French Film Competition 2012

The Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages at the University of Oxford is looking for budding film enthusiasts in Years 10–11 and 12–13 to show their imaginative engagement with the world of French cinema.

For full details, please see <http://www.mod-langs.ox.ac.uk/news>

European Language Label 2012

The European Language Label is an award for innovative language-learning projects. It rewards creative ways to improve the quality of language teaching, motivate learners and make the best of available resources. For more information and an application form, visit:

[http://www.cilt.org.uk/home/valuing\\_languages/european\\_language\\_label1.aspx](http://www.cilt.org.uk/home/valuing_languages/european_language_label1.aspx)

The British Academy is launching a new scheme offering cash awards to secondary schools across the UK who can demonstrate innovative and creative language teaching.

[http://www.britac.ac.uk/policy/Schools\\_Language\\_Awards.cfm](http://www.britac.ac.uk/policy/Schools_Language_Awards.cfm)