

BBC Active Languages Teachers' Email 106

### **Welcome to the 106<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 September 2012.

In the meantime, please enjoy this one!

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Find out about our new *Talk German* titles – coming soon.

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#### **Resources**

Find out about iPad apps for language teaching and much more...

#### **Surveys and Competitions**

Who inspired you to learn languages? Take part in the survey from the European Commission.

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

WHSmith are running a £5 off Talk packs promotion from 1st July to the end of August in selected stores.

Look out for new *Talk German* titles coming soon – details below:

##### *Talk German 2 Pack – available in August*

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 – available in September*

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 – available in September*

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 – *available in September*

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.

### **News from BBC Languages**

Spain are the champions of Euro 2012! Learn some football phrases in Spanish with TV presenter [Gary Lineker](#) and players from [Newcastle United](#), then try our football-themed [Spanish quiz](#).

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00r1z61>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00r1yv2>

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/nufc\\_lineker\\_football/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/nufc_lineker_football/)

Or why not get ready for the Olympics by learning some new languages? Watch windsurfer [Briony Shaw](#) training in Spain, try our windsurfing-related [Spanish quiz](#) or see diver [Tonia Couch](#) in action and learn some [basic Chinese](#).

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00r1857>

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/bryony\\_shaw\\_windsurfing/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/bryony_shaw_windsurfing/)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00r1y9f>

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/chinese/tonia\\_couch\\_diving/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/chinese/tonia_couch_diving/)

### **National News**

Learning a foreign language will be compulsory from the age of seven in England's primary schools, in an overhaul of the national curriculum unveiled by the education secretary:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-18387702>

Further information and comment about this:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/teachingandlearning/curriculum/nationalcurriculum/b0075667/national-curriculum-review-update>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-18384536>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/primaryeducation/9321651/Foreign-languages-to-be-compulsory-from-age-seven.html>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/schools/back-to-basics-will-goves-national-curriculum-overhaul-prepare-children-for-the-future-7848765.html>.

Association of Language Learning (ALL) press release on 'Languages from Seven: building our future':

[http://www.all-](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/uploads/files/Press%20Releases/Languages%20from%20seven%20-%20building%20our%20future.pdf)

[languages.org.uk/uploads/files/Press%20Releases/Languages%20from%20seven%20-%20building%20our%20future.pdf](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/uploads/files/Press%20Releases/Languages%20from%20seven%20-%20building%20our%20future.pdf)

Schools should keep detailed records of the languages spoken by ethnic minority pupils, according to a report:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-18118114>

Just 9% of 14 to 15-year-olds in England can use their first foreign language independently compared with 82% in Sweden, a study has found:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-18531751>

English schoolchildren are the worst in Europe at speaking foreign languages, research suggests, sparking Government claims that a decline in pupils' communication skills risks damaging the economy:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/9347424/English-pupils-bottom-of-European-league-for-languages.html>

The number of schoolchildren speaking English as a second language has topped one million for the first time, prompting fresh claims that immigration is placing a significant 'burden' on the state education system:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/9347080/More-than-1m-pupils-speak-English-as-a-second-language.html>

Government gives £17 million to 'Connecting Classrooms' scheme:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/expateducation/9358891/Government-gives-17-million-to-Connecting-Classrooms-scheme.html>

A new report has said children in Scotland should begin learning a second language as soon as they start school:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-18102706>

The Welsh language commissioner has launched a consultation on how organisations in Wales should treat and use the Welsh language:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-18106303>

Thinking in a foreign language makes decisions more rational:

<http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2012/04/language-and-bias/>

Can being bilingual make you smarter?

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/expateducation/9267252/Can-being-bilingual-make-you-smarter.html>

Afghan proposal to teach science courses at universities in English:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-18580884>

Italian university switches to English:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-17958520>

A campaign is to be launched to increase the number of Guernsey French speakers in the island:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-guernsey-18492580>

Applications for host schools for the next cohort of Foreign Language Assistants are now open:

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/languageassistants>

The New York Times has launched a Chinese language version of its website in a bid to tap into the world's biggest internet market:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-18621563>

Mandarin language centre opens at Wellington College:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-berkshire-18298110>

While the number of people using the internet in the Middle East is rising rapidly, Arabic still only makes up just 2% of all content on the web:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-18134903>

Anyone for a fartlek? Deciphering some of the weird and wonderful sports jargon...

<http://www.independent.co.uk/sport/olympics/anyone-for-a-fartlek-deciphering-some-of-the-weird-and-wonderful-sports-jargon-7869837.html?origin=internalSearch>

The Queen's English Society, which has railed against the misuse and deterioration of the English language, is to fold:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/this-britain/lack-of-interest-spells-the-end-for-the-queens-english-society-7814791.html?origin=internalSearch>

Google has launched a new website in a bid to save endangered languages from disappearing forever:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/google/9346048/Google-to-save-endangered-languages.html>

### **Events**

Languages in the Globalised World (LGW)

5–6 September 2012

School of Languages, Leeds Metropolitan University, Leeds, UK

[http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/events/otherevents/headline\\_611867\\_en.html](http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/events/otherevents/headline_611867_en.html)

On the Line – Languages in the Northeast

13 September 2012

Howden Room, University of Newcastle

[http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/mfl\\_welcome\\_event\\_in\\_ne](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/mfl_welcome_event_in_ne)

A Taste of Multilingual Europe

15 September 2012

Goethe Institute, Glasgow

[http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/events/otherevents/headline\\_619408\\_en.html](http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/events/otherevents/headline_619408_en.html)

ALL Austrian Day

6 October 2012

Austrian Cultural Forum, London ([www.acflondon.org](http://www.acflondon.org))

[http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/all\\_austrian\\_day\\_3](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/all_austrian_day_3)

Bristol French Drama Festival: Saturday 16 March 2013.

Training workshop on Friday 19 October.

University of the West of England, Bristol

<https://www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/southwest/events/2757>

### **Resources**

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

Lingu@net World Wide is a multilingual centre for language teaching and learning with 4,905 quality assured resources. It contains 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>

Resources from the TES for London 2012 Olympics:

[http://www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storyCode=6243745&s\\_cid=RESadsMPU\\_London2012](http://www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storyCode=6243745&s_cid=RESadsMPU_London2012)

Link to a dictionary of French phrases:

<http://www.expressio.fr>

M Pokora Juste un Instant is a French song which is fairly accessible for KS3.

Lyrics could be a bit difficult so links below to the English translation and to the song on Youtube:

<http://www.lyricsreg.com/lyrics/m.+pokora/Juste+Un+Instant/>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=139d2n-7-ng>

Looking for some good iPad apps to use within MFL teaching?

<http://web2-4languageteachers.wikispaces.com/iPad+apps>

Lots of links to teaching and learning materials for German teachers:

<http://www.goethe.de/lhr/lks/auu/enindex.htm#1677178>

An environment game for Year 13 French – available in other languages too:

<http://honoloko.eea.europa.eu/Honoloko.html>

The e-Arabic Teachers Portal digest is a dedicated monthly newsletter to support anyone involved in the field of ALT and would like to stay up to date with the latest developments.

<http://www.v-arabic.com/>

### **Surveys and Competitions**

MFL Speaking Competition

Closing date: Friday 8 February 2013

<https://www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/southwest/events/2763>

Pop Video Competition:

Closing date: Friday 19 April 2013

<https://www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/southwest/events/2764>