

BBC Languages E-Mail Club Newsletter 31

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Buongiorno Italia!

Published in 1982, *Buongiorno Italia!* has proved to be immensely popular with language tutors over the years and is still as successful as ever!

We are now planning to update the course, in the same way we have our other popular courses, such as *The French Experience* and *España Viva*. Below is an outline of the proposed update – we would be very interested to hear the opinions of tutors who have used or are using the course.

Please email your opinions to melanie.kramers@bbc.co.uk

Buongiorno Italia! update

General

Retain general content and structure, but:

- replace lire with euro and update cultural aspects
- update and re-record dialogues in the book and on the audio material

Book

New design, illustrations and photos

Update and/or re-write some of the reading passages (even if this means they no longer reflect the content of the TV programmes)

Audio

Material available on CDs and cassettes

New and wider range of practice exercises, including interactive and pronunciation activities

TV programmes

Unfortunately, we are unable to update the TV programmes, so it would be helpful to know to what extent these are relied upon in the classroom, and how much of an effect it will have if the updated dialogues in the book and audio material no longer match the programmes.

Any other opinions and/or suggestions for the update would be gratefully received, as would other general feedback on how the course and the components are used in your classroom.

What 's New in www.bbc.co.uk/languages and BBC TWO's Learning Zone for November 2004

Announcement - All the audio/video files for *Deutsch Plus*, *German for Business* and *Italianissimo* are now working. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

If you have any comments or suggestions on our site please send them using the form to 'Contact Us' at the bottom of this page: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/feedback/>

• *Accents d'Europe* New Look - You can now search our comprehensive collection of audio reports via grammar point or topic. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/news/index.shtml>

• *Better@Listening* - We've added German and Italian to our *Better@Listening* feature to help language learners improve their listening skills.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/listening/index.shtml>

• FRENCH

Learning - Accents d'Europe New Look / In the news - Beleaguered UK hunters head to France / Titbits - Oh, la vache! / TV - Bitesize Revision & The French Experience 2

• GERMAN

Learning - German Steps / In the news - Thousands protest at GM job cuts / Titbits - Mind Your Language / TV - The Princess and the Warrior

• ITALIAN

Learning - Italian Steps / In the news - Sampdoria goal is football survival / Titbits - Italian Steps / Finish the story / TV - Italian programmes

• SPANISH

Learning - Spanish Steps / In the news - The Spanish Portrait / Titbits - Look at my plants / TV - Spanish programmes

• OTHER

Learning - Better@Listening / In the news - Learning languages 'boosts brain' / Titbits - Rest in peace / TV - Japanese & Chinese programmes

FRENCH

*Learning - *Accents d'Europe* New Look - Our comprehensive collection of articles has got a new look. Now you can search through the whole collection by Language Focus or Topic Focus. All of the content has also been matched to the A/AS level syllabus. Practise your French today with Accents d'Europe.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/news/index.shtml>

*In the news - Beleaguered UK hunters head to France - As Britain debates when and how to ban hunting with hounds, the hunting season has opened in France, a country with more hunters per head of population than any other in Europe... Read more at BBC News Online.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/3740566.stm>

*Titbits - *Oh, la vache!* - "I've spent a year in Brest which meant having to actually use all that French language I'd been learning at the taxpayer's expense for years. Even though it was something of a concrete nightmare thanks to unsympathetic post-war rebuilding, I really quite enjoyed myself... Find out what Dan's most useful phrase was."

http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/community/amitie/entry_39.shtml

*And on TV - Record "Bitesize Revision" (Broadcast in Scotland Only), 26 November at 2:00 a.m. - "The French Experience 2", 14 December at 1:00 - 3:30 a.m. on BBC Learning Zone, BBC Two. Don't forget to set your video the night before!

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/index.shtml>

GERMAN

*Learning - *German Steps - Take German Steps* - an online course for beginners featuring Berliner Andrea Hoffmann. Follow the topics in order or take the fast-track challenges, if you already know some German. Try German Steps today.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german/lj/>

*In the news - Thousands protest at GM job cuts - Tens of thousands of General Motors employees in Europe are taking part in protests at the auto company's plans to cut 12,000 jobs... Read more at BBC News. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/3755040.stm>

*Titbits - Mind your language - Did you know that the word for coffee substitute in German is ...? Find out what the word is and why it is an eye-opener.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/community/fun/entry_114.shtml

*And on TV - *The Princess and the Warrior* - Watch "The Princess and the Warrior", Saturday 27 November at 9 - 11:15 p.m. on BBC Four. Potente plays Sissi, a sweet but solitary nurse at a psychiatric hospital who appears almost angelically devoted to her patients. Find out more about the film at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbcfour/cinema/features/princess.shtml>

ITALIAN

*Learning - *Italian Steps* - *Italian Steps*, an online course for beginners. Learn practical spoken Italian with the help of Italian teacher Giovanna Vaccaro in just 24 manageable steps. Find out all about the special features in *Italian Steps* by clicking on the user guide. Or just start straight away. Get started on the Steps course today.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/italian/lj/>

*In the news - Sampdoria goal is football survival - Filippo is a die-hard fan of Genoa's Sampdoria football club and he has the flag to prove it. On match days he stands deep in the home terrace, surrounded by other Hell's Angels ultras, waving a giant banner that unfurls to more than twice his height... Read more at BBC News.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/3723014.stm>

*Titbits - *Italian Steps/Finish the story* - We asked you to make up your own ending for an *Italian Steps* slideshow. A public vote has chosen the most popular alternative endings. Take a look and find out how the story ends.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/italian/lj/tickets/slideshow/question.shtml>

*TV - Italian programmes - Record "*Talk Italian*" on 7 November at 2:00 a.m., "*Eurografters, Italy*" at 3:30 a.m., "*Make Italian Your Business, Part 1*" at 4 a.m., "*Make Italian Your Business, Part 2*" at 5 a.m. Record "*Buongiorno Italia 1-12*" on 9 November at 1 a.m. Record "*Buongiorno Italia 13-20*" on 16 November at 1 a.m., "*Italian Journey, Part 1*" at 4:20 a.m. and "*Jeremy Clarkson Meets the Neighbours Italy*" at 5:20 a.m. on BBC Learning Zone, BBC Two. Don't forget to set your video the night before!

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/italian/index.shtml>

SPANISH

*Learning - *Spanish Steps* - ¡Hola! I'm Kevin Duala, your guide to *Spanish Steps*. Based on my trip to vibrant Madrid, it's a beginners' course in practical, spoken Spanish in just 24 short steps online. Enjoy the interactive slideshows and learn the 10 key words for each step in about 20 minutes online. Find out all about the course by clicking on the user guide, or start straight away. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/lj/>

*In the news - The Spanish Portrait - Madrid's Prado Museum is launching a major new exhibition called The Spanish Portrait: From El Greco to Picasso. The 87 examples of portraits span 500 years and include a number of works that have never been shown in Spain before... See some of these works at http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_pictures/3753912.stm

*Titbits - Look at my plants - "I'm currently studying in Spain. Recently I was waiting in a friend's flat for my lift home. My friend called me to say that he'd arrived to pick me up. My friend is a plumber, and as the owners of the flat had a problem with the tap I asked him to come upstairs..." Find out why Lizzie went wrong.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/community/lost_words/spanish_40.shtml

*TV - Talk Spanish - Record "*España Viva 13-15*" at 1:00 a.m., "*Sister Wendy's Grand Tour: Madrid*" at 2:15 a.m., "*Make Spanish Your Business, Part 1*" at 2:30 a.m., "*Make Spanish Your Business, Part 2*" at 3:30 a.m., "*Working with the Spanish*" at 4:30, "*Work Talk: Spain*" at 5:00 a.m. on 2 November on BBC Learning Zone BBC Two. Don't forget to set your video the night before! <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/index.shtml>

OTHER

*Learning - *Better@Listening* - Do you want to get better at listening? Discover five top strategies for understanding the locals. Do five listening activities and then see if you can improve your score. Try it out in French, German, Italian and Spanish.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/listening/>

*In the news - Learning languages "boosts brain" - Learning a second language "boosts" brain-power, scientists believe. Researchers from University College London studied the brains of 105 people - 80 of whom were bilingual. They found learning other languages altered grey matter - the area of the brain which processes information... Read the rest of the report at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/3662928.stm>

*Titbits - Rest in peace - How not to upset your new mother-in-law: After my first visit to Denmark to meet my future in-laws, I thought it would be nice to write a simple card to my partner's mother, who had been a wonderful host, to say 'Thanks for everything'.

Find out what Daniel wrote.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/community/lost_words/other_10.shtml

*TV - Japanese & Chinese - Record "*Japanese Language and People*" on 23 November at 1 a.m. Record "*Real Chinese 1-10*" on 30 November at 1 a.m. and "*China Close Up, 1-10*" at 3:30 a.m. on BBC Learning Zone, BBC Two. Don't forget to set your video the night before!

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/other/index.shtml>

Vocational Importance of Language Skills Overlooked in Curriculum Squeeze

The move towards a more diverse curriculum for 14–19 year olds has left only a third of schools now requiring students to learn a language in Key Stage 4 (down from 57% this time last year), according to a new report published today. Schools in the state sector have been freeing up the curriculum to include 'vocational' subjects without consideration of the crucial vocational relevance of languages in today's world.

'This will leave school leavers short of vital skills and affect the competitiveness of British business', says Isabella Moore, Director of CILT, the National Centre for Languages. 'With 70% of businesses now involved in some form of international activity the idea that languages are just for 'academic' pupils is shortsighted and damaging to the economy. Languages combine perfectly with options such as Leisure and Tourism, and Business Studies, yet our report shows it is precisely these subjects which are squeezing them out. There is an urgent need to rethink language provision in the 14–19 sector and disseminate some of the positive new approaches which our survey has identified.'

Language Trends 2004 presents the results of a survey carried out by CILT, the Association for Language Learning and the Independent Schools Modern Languages Association. The report shows a growing gap between state and independent schools, with 97% of independent schools considering languages an essential element in the curriculum up to at least 16.

Language skills overlooked in curriculum squeeze

However, many schools are already responding to the challenges of 14–19 reform, offering new qualifications, fast-track GCSEs, and more unusual languages to motivate pupils. Later this month Professor Mike Tomlinson will address a conference organised by CILT to disseminate new models of language provision. As part of its support for the National Languages Strategy, CILT has also launched the 'Languages Work' campaign. Funded by the DfES, the Languages Work website and careers materials are aimed at improving information and guidance on the usefulness of languages in working life.

The full report is available at www.cilt.org.uk/key/trends2004.htm.

Summary findings

- Less than one third of state schools now require students to learn a language up to 16, whereas the vast majority of independent schools regard a foreign language as essential.
- The fall out from languages is happening very rapidly; only 30% of schools which are not Specialist Language Colleges require pupils to study a language for more than 3 years, compared with 57% of all schools this time last year. The move to optional status is greater in schools with a high proportion of pupils with free school meals, those with lower GCSE scores, and more marked in the North of England than in the South.
- In those schools where languages have been made optional, on average around 54% of pupils are studying a language in Year 11 and 41% in Year 10.
- German and French are the languages most adversely affected, whereas the overall impact on Spanish has been negligible. The independent sector is reporting a sharp decline in German but a strong growth in Spanish.
- Schools in both the state sector and the independent sector are experimenting with a much wider range of languages, including Chinese, Russian, Japanese and community languages.
- The perception that languages are not a 'vocational' subject is harming languages and schools may find themselves in a weakened position to deliver the 'entitlement' in future or to respond to the provisions of the 14–19 reforms. The introduction of new options is squeezing languages out except where there is very strong support at Senior Management level.
- There is particular pressure on languages in schools which are (or hoping to become) specialist colleges in other subjects.

The full report is available from www.cilt.org.uk/key/trends2004.htm.

For more information, contact:
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Events at Canning House

Tuesday, 16th November, 6:30pm at Canning House

Screening: Central do Brasil / Central Station (Brazil, 1998)

Central do Brasil takes us on a moving journey through Brazil, and "aims", as Walter Salles, the Director says, "to talk about a country searching for its own roots, about a boy wanting to find his own identity, and about people striving to maintain a contact with their past."

Wednesday, 24th November, 6:30pm at Canning House

'The Success of Cinema Novo and Brazilian Film' with Adriana Rouanet

Following the screening last week of one of the most popular Brazilian films ever made, we are delighted that Adriana Rouanet, Lecturer on Brazilian Culture and Cinema at Queen Mary, University of London and Brazilian Contemporary Arts, will join us. She will discuss the Brazilian cinematic movement *Cinema Novo*, which began in the early sixties, reached its apex toward the end of the decade and ended in the early seventies. However, many critics also agree that films such as *Central do Brasil*, *Cidade de Deus* and *Carandiru*, examples of Brazil's post-nineties film 'renaissance' also bear classic hallmarks of the movement. Why do directors still reference Cinema Novo? Is it out of reference or because they know that poverty and violence in Brazilian film is synonymous with box office success?

Tuesday, 30th November, 6:30pm at Canning House

Screening: María, Llena eres de Gracia / Maria Full of Grace (Colombia, 2004)

This Colombian film was winner of the Dramatic Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival 2004 and two major awards at the Berlin Film Festival. Directed by Joshua Marston, the film follows the journey of a young Colombian women's travels from rural Colombia into the world of international drug trafficking.

For further details, please contact:

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020 72352303 ext. 222
<http://www.canninghouse.com>

Children in Need

The BBC Children in Need Appeal is 25 years old this year. Since the first televised Appeal in 1980, the charity has raised a staggering £355 million pounds!

This year's Appeal is on Friday 19th November but you can always get your fundraising pack now to start collecting money for Children in Need. You can get ideas for fundraising events and order your fundraising pack from the website. There's also a list showing how donations were spent in areas all over Scotland last year and a chance to make an online donation for this year.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/pudsey>

Bitesize Revision GCSE SOS Teacher

Please visit

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/sosteacher/french/browse.shtml>,
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/sosteacher/german/browse.shtml> and
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/sosteacher/spanish/browse.shtml> for further help and encouragement!

For GCSE students, the *Bitesize* interactive TV service will be re-broadcast during November for students preparing for Mocks. With fourteen interactive quizzes and revision notes on six subjects, it's a great way to get started.

BBC Languages Catalogue

If you would like to be sent up-to-date information on our courses, please contact <mailto:tony.hammond@bbc.co.uk> specifying which languages you would like to see.

<http://www.institut-francais.org.uk/general/actu.php>

Please visit this website for up-to-the-minute information on what the Institute français offers in the way of cine programmes, talk programmes, French courses, library catalogue & resources, the Youth Festival, wine tasting and music.

That's All For Now

We hope that the above information will be of real use to you. Remember that we want the E-Mail Club to provide you with the opportunity to let us know what you think about anything to do with us or language learning in general - and we look forward to hearing from you.