

Contents

New *Get Into French* and *Get Into Spanish* Interactive Courses from BBC Languages and the Cambridge University Language Centre
What's New in www.bbc.co.uk/languages
Adult Learners Urged to Speak Up for Languages
The BBC's Digital Curriculum Service
Embedding & Integrating Literacy, Language and Numeracy
Primary Spanish
New Franco-British Council School Sport Partnership Prize
Japanese Study Resources
Spanish & Italian Resources
Education & Educational Research in France
Portuguese Language Websites
Greek Language & Culture Websites
Voices – the Ways We All Speak in the UK Now
Crisis in Teaching of Arabic & Other Middle Eastern Subjects
LearnEnglish
BBC Chatguide

From January 6th You Can Help Your Learners to *Live* the French or Spanish Language!

Before your learners go on holiday, you can help them to really **Get Into French** and **Get Into Spanish** with these exciting new interactive courses for beginners from **BBC Languages** and **Cambridge University Language Centre** that **publish on 6th January 2005**. Designed for anyone with access to a computer, their flexible approach will help you to put them firmly in control of how, when and where they learn – and they'll have fun too!

Get Into French and **Get Into Spanish** recreate typical holiday situations in animated locations around a virtual town. Their focus on real language means your learners will be communicating in French or Spanish right from the start. Complete self-study courses on CD-ROM – supported by a book, audio CD and website – they offer an innovative and enjoyable new way to live the language!

If your school/college/university/language centre is equipped with computers with the following system requirements: Windows 98, ME or XP, Pentium II 500 MHz or fully equivalent processor, 64 MB RAM, 128 MB for Windows® XP, DirectX 9 compliant graphics card running at 800 x 600 with 24 bit colour, DirectX 9 compliant 16 bit sound card and 8 speed CD-ROM drive or equivalent DVD-ROM drive – then you can adopt this exciting new course.

The course consists of the following components:

2 x PC CD-ROM

- ▶ Your learners can take part in fully-animated interactive dialogues and pick up the skills and confidence to communicate.
- ▶ Choose a way of learning that suits them: familiarise themselves with new language in the **Learn It First** activities – or jump straight in to **Have A Go** at speaking.
- ▶ Record their voices and compare themselves to native speakers.
- ▶ Access instant learning support via the comprehensive built-in **Phrase Book, Basics** section and concise pop-up grammar notes.

144-PAGE FULL COLOUR COURSE BOOK

- ▶ They can use this handy ten-unit book whenever they'd like to revise and refresh the

language they have met on the CD-ROM. They can dip into it in the classroom, at home, on the move or on holiday!

70-MINUTE AUDIO CD

- ▶ They can build on the language they've learned by listening to the adventures of Simon Martin, a young British web designer, as he touches down in Nice or Alicante in search of new horizons.

WEBSITE

www.getinto.com/french and www.getinto.com/spanish

- ▶ They can access games, activities and opportunities to learn about francophone and Hispanic culture around the world with their own password to our dedicated website – with handy tips on learning a new language, as well as advice on the most effective methods of self-study.

Available at all good bookshops and software retailers from January 6th 2005, the complete [Get Into French](#) and [Get Into Spanish](#) course packs (2 x PC CD-ROM, book, audio CD & website) retail at £34.99 each (CD-ROM £24.99 each) – or you can order by calling 08705 210292 stating ISBN and product name or e-mailing <mailto:bbclanguages@twoten.press.net>.

ISBN 0563 47242 1 Get Into French Course Pack
ISBN 0563 47244 8 Get Into French CD-ROM

ISBN 0563 47243 X Get Into Spanish Course Pack
ISBN 0563 47245 6 Get Into Spanish CD-ROM

Get Into French and Get Into Spanish Site Licenses

Full details of site licences – ranging from five students to unlimited user coverage - will be posted on our website, www.bbclanguages.com, in time for the new term, or please contact <mailto:debbie.marshall@bbc.co.uk>.

What's New in www.bbc.co.uk/languages

Costa Amor - A new soap from bbc.co.uk/languages - Will Dave & Carmen get together? It's all up to you. Vote for your favourite line and next week's episode will be based on your choice. Have some fun and pick up some Spanish at the same time.

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

Christmas Quiz - From Le Père Fouettard, Father Spanker, in France, to las uvas de la suerte, the lucky grapes, in Spain, try your hand at this quiz and find out about some of the more unexpected festive traditions across Europe. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/christmas/>

TV - How to Learn a Language - Record Wednesday 15 December on BBC 2 "How to Learn a Language" at 3 a.m. Exploring the most effective ways to learn a new language, including a section about online learning. Don't forget to set your video the night before.

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

In the news - Children create new sign language - A new sign language created over the last 30 years by deaf children in Nicaragua has given experts a unique insight into how languages evolve...Read the rest of the report at

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/3662928.stm>

In the news - Britain and France: 'l'amour violent' - President Chirac's description of relations between France and Britain as an "amour violent" reflects the fact that the old rivalry has not ended...Read more at BBC News Online.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/4019175.stm

Learning - Working with the Germans - Elisabeth Marx is a trained psychologist from Germany, working for a global executive research firm. She comments on the accounts of

people with different experiences of working with the Germans - dispelling some myths and providing some expert advice. Find out what it's like to work in another culture.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/languages/german/forwork/beingthere/>

In the news - German arms firms muscle in - The BBC's Ray Furlong in Berlin examines Germany's emergence as the world's fourth largest arms exporter and the heated debate this has triggered...Read more at BBC News.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/4021881.stm>

In the news - Italian judge orders Mafia sweep - Anti-Mafia judges have ordered the arrest of 52 people suspected of having links to extortion and money-laundering rackets in a southern region of Italy...Read more at BBC News.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/4033091.stm>

In the news - Spaniards hammer out work stress - A Spanish scrapyard has come up with a smashing way of helping people take out their frustrations on modern living. For 40 euros (£25), they can pick up sledgehammers and bash away on anything from cars and computers to mobile phones and even photos of the boss...Read all about it at

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/4030795.stm>

Learning - Languages Across Europe - Here we present a snapshot of 40 main European languages. Travelling from Andorra to Ukraine, you can find out who speaks the diverse languages of Europe, where they can be found, and how they are related. You can also listen to a few essential words in most of them. Take a look today.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/european_languages/

Adult Learners Urged to Speak Up for Languages

Young graduates learning Swahili for a development project in Africa. Retired nurses learning some French for their first trip to Paris. Bed and Breakfast owners doing a course in German to give a more friendly service to tourists. Export managers getting to grips with Chinese. Whatever their motivation, all adults learning languages are being urged to put themselves forward for an Adult Learners' Week Award by 21 January 2005. Friends, family, neighbours and teachers can also nominate a learner they feel deserves national recognition for their achievement.

CILT, the National Centre for Languages is supporting Adult Learners Week, which highlights the successes and excellence of adult learners, by encouraging students to take pride in their language skills and apply for an Award. All winners receive a certificate of achievement and are invited to a national award ceremony in London during the Week, 21-27 May 2005.

Isabella Moore, Director of CILT said: 'All over the country there are adults learning different languages in different ways for different reasons. We want them to come forward and share their success, and overturn the misconception that the British are bad at languages and have no interest in learning them'.

Alan Tuckett, Chief Executive of NIACE, the organisation behind the campaign said: 'In a country that has a poor record for speaking foreign languages, we're keen to encourage adults who are learning languages to be nominated for the Awards, so that they receive the full credit they deserve. We are delighted that CILT is supporting Adult Learners' Week'.

There are awards for individuals, families and groups of learners as well as the organisations that support them. Further details, including how to apply can be found at

www.niace.org.uk/alw

This release is available on-line at

<http://www.cilt.org.uk/news/pressrelease/2004/PR04ALW0812N.pdf>

Notes to Language Teachers

1. CILT, the National Centre for Languages

CILT, the National Centre for Languages seeks to promote a greater national capability in languages, supporting and developing multilingualism and intercultural competence in all sectors of society.

CILT serves education, business and the wider community with

- specialised and impartial information services
- high quality advice and professional development
- expert support for innovation and development
- quality improvement in language skills and service provision

www.cilt.org.uk

2. NIACE

NIACE (The National Institute of Adult Continuing Education - England and Wales) is a non-governmental organisation, which aims to promote the study and general advancement of adult continuing education.

www.niace.org.uk

3. Adult Learners' Week

Adult Learners' Week (ALW), which takes place every year in May, is the key national campaign to highlight the successes and excellence of adult learners and the organisations that support them. Organised annually by NIACE, ALW 2005 takes place from 21 to 27 May and includes the following events:

- 21 May Cultural Diversity Day
- 23 May Adult Learners' Week Launch
- 24 May Policy Conference
- 25 May Parliamentary Reception
- 26 May Learning at Work Day
- 27 May Silver Surfers' Day

Please visit www.niace.org.uk/alw

The BBC's Digital Curriculum Service

The BBC's digital curriculum service is planned for launch in January 2006. It will be a free, curriculum-based, online service for 5-16 year olds, designed to stimulate learning both at home and through school, and will be particularly aimed at those least likely to succeed through more conventional educational approaches. The Secretary of State for Culture, Media & Sport approved the service in January 2003. It is expected to be available from 2006 after extensive piloting. Visit www.bbc.co.uk/info/policies/digital_curriculum.shtml for a useful BBC information site about the Digital Curriculum.

Embedding and Integrating Literacy, Language and Numeracy - Wednesday 9th February 2005, Leeds

Embedding or integrating literacy, language or numeracy in another subject or learning programme is increasingly talked about. This approach is seen as a way of attracting more and different learners to develop their skills. It is perceived as a purposeful and relevant approach, which builds an interest, motivation and wider goals. But how should learning be organised, do learners prefer such approaches, is learning effective and how do we convince and attract new learners? The National Research and Development Centre, as well as NIACE, have carried out research in this field that is on-going. Many providers have developed their own approaches, often in partnership. Northern College recently received a Beacon Award for its embedded basic skills work.

NIACE is partnering Northern College in this participative event, that aims to offer opportunities to share experiences and practices, explore issues and identify key messages, including further research and development.

This conference will be of interest to any literacy, language and numeracy tutors and providers who wish to share experiences, learn from each other about how an embedded approach works; Policy makers who want to encourage more development of this kind; Anyone interested in researching this approach

For further information look up:

<http://www.niace.org.uk/Conferences/ELLN05.htm><http://www.niace.org.uk/Conferences>

Contact Gurjit Kaur on Tel: 0116 2042833; <mailto:gurjit.kaur@niace.org.uk>

Primary Spanish

Find out how people celebrate Spanish fiestas and practise talking about them. Featuring an interactive question and answer game, a drag and drop vocabulary activity, a 'Hop to it' game and more. Activities are suitable for individual, paired or whole class work.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryspanish/>

New Franco-British Council School Sport Partnership Prize 2005 of £5,000 to mark President Chirac's visit and the Entente Cordiale

In 2005, prizes totalling £5,000 will be awarded to primary or secondary schools, including special schools, to carry out a **sports project** with a partner school in France. The project should be planned for the academic year 2005/2006 and can involve any sport. Prize money can be used to create a real or virtual link between schools, perhaps including a visit to France or an exchange.

After the many celebrations on both sides of the Channel for the 100th anniversary of the 'Entente Cordiale' in 2004, it is important to continue making links, to build upon Anglo-French collaboration and to appreciate the value of sharing and combining efforts with the other country, as well as to explore the importance of other languages and cultures.

For the past seven years, the Franco British Council has administered a similar school prize on environmental projects. Sylvie Guillem, Principal Guest Artist with the Royal Ballet, presented the 2004 prizes and is shown here signing autographs for the prizewinners of Tile Hill Wood School. Over the years, hundreds of children have enjoyed working with French schools and making new friends in France. We are now starting this new prize on a **sports project** and we hope that hundreds more children will benefit in the same way from the discoveries of a new culture, new language and new friendships.

Teresa Christopher of Penzance Junior School said the following about her school's success in winning a previous prize:

"I was absolutely delighted to hear that we had won the award. The children were over the moon and really excited to get started on the project. This money has meant I can do so much with my class who would never usually be able to afford many trips, especially the planned trip to France in conjunction with our partner school in Brittany. The children have been having French lessons in preparation."

Since the Prize's inception, some thirteen British schools have collaborated with a partner school in France, providing many pupils with the opportunity to experience a different culture.

Applications for projects in the academic year 2005/2006 should be submitted to the Franco-British Council to arrive by **11 February 2005**

For further information, guidelines and an application form, please visit:

www.francobritishcouncil.org.uk or contact Catherine Rawlinson, Franco-British Council, 16-18 Strutton Ground, London SW1P 2HP. Tel.: 020 7976 8380. Fax: 020 7976 8131.

E-mail: catherine@francobritishcouncil.org.uk

Franco-British Council

The Council's purpose is to work for better understanding between the British and the French and to contribute to the development of new policy thinking or joint action on issues of common concern as members of the EU. The Council's main activities are seminars bringing together leading representatives of the worlds of government and administration and academia; culture, science, and the arts; business, industry and the voluntary sector. The Council also commissions publications and works with partners on special projects such as the school partnership prize.

Invaluable Japanese Studies Resources

If you visit Cardiff University's excellent website <http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/schoolsanddivisions/divisions/insrv/bysubject/business/subjects/japanese.html>, you will find a host of invaluable information about finding Japanese journals and newspapers, online news sources, printed and online reference sources, Japan company handbook, Japan economic almanac, statistical yearbook for Asia and the Pacific, information gateways and websites and Japanese organisations. Dō itashimashite!

Another Very Useful Link to Spanish and Italian Resources on the Net from CILT

If you visit the following website, <http://www.linguanet.org.uk/websites/spanwww.htm> and <http://www.linguanet.org.uk/websites/resource.htm>, you will find links to a host of Spanish and Italian websites including organizations, media, press, various web resources and Spanish search engines. De nada and divertitevi!

Another on Education and Educational Research in France

If you visit the University of Oxford Department of Educational Studies website on http://www.edstud.ox.ac.uk/Library/webpage_FRANCE.htm#News, you will find useful information on education in France, Educational Research in France, links to French newspaper websites and French search engines. De rien!

Another on Interesting Portuguese Language Sites

If you visit CALL @ Hull's website <http://www.fredriley.org.uk/call/langsite/portuguese.html>, you will also find a host of links to various Brazilian and Portuguese language websites that contain a veritable mine of fascinating information. Adeus!

And One More on Useful Greek Websites

If you visit Professor Thomas Sienkewicz's webpage at Monmouth College - <http://department.monm.edu/classics/Courses/GREK200/GreekLanguageWebsites.htm> - you will discover some more interesting links to Greek language and culture.

VOICES

The ways we all speak in the UK now

BBC Nations and Regions **celebrate the diverse languages, dialects and accents** of the UK. From black Londoners in Peckham to farmers in the Glens of Antrim, from Treorchy to Taunton, the geography of the UK can be mapped in accents and dialects. The diversity of the country is reflected in the many languages – both indigenous and immigrant – now spoken here.

We want people to tell us about the languages, words, accents they use, their styles of talk and how the way they talk has shaped their lives. Importantly, we aim to include the perspective of a bilingual Britain which is largely unexpressed in mainstream culture.

Please visit <http://www.bbc.co.uk/voices/>

The Crisis in the Teaching of Arabic and Other Middle Eastern Subjects

Recently the BBC Radio 4 Today Programme had a report on the crisis in the teaching of Arabic and other Middle Eastern subjects:

Scroll down to '0844' on this page

http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/today/listenagain/ztuesday_20041123.shtml

Or try the Today audio help section:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/today/help/>

Kate Clark reports:

- * Chronic underfunding (generally expensive to teach). British youngsters are not getting chance to learn this language.
- * The army are recruiting undergraduates to translate in Iraq (as there is a shortage of Arab speakers coming through the education system in the UK).
- * Nowhere in Britain to study Pashtu. Persian & Turkish, are just about clinging on as endangered languages.
- * Speaking to DfES there is no apparent sense of urgency. Senior specialists want the strategic importance to be recognised. Would think, given global politics, that these would be seen as strategically important subjects.

It's now a year since the British Society for Middle East Research warned of a crisis facing Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies in British Universities:

<http://www.dur.ac.uk/brismes/ME%20studies%20-%20seminar%20report.htm>

What is LearnEnglish?

If you are a **learner** or **teacher** of English, LearnEnglish has something for you. LearnEnglish comes to you from the [British Council](#), the United Kingdom's international organisation for educational and cultural relations. If you are a **learner**, LearnEnglish has free materials to practise your English in three main sections:

- **LearnEnglish Central** - English for everybody
- **LearnEnglish Kids** - English for children, their parents and teachers
- LearnEnglish zones for working people who need English for business and other professional purposes. The first of these is [LearnEnglish Military](#) - English for armed forces, police and border guards so that they can take part in international peacekeeping operations

You can also find out about:

- [learning English where you live now](#),
- [learning English in the UK](#), or
- taking an [internationally recognised exam](#).

If you are a [British Council member](#), you can access LearnEnglish Professionals, with multimedia materials for those learning English for studies or career, and Global Village, a community platform which enables you to communicate across the globe.

If you are a **teacher**, LearnEnglish has free materials to help you with your teaching at whatever stage of your career. We can also give you access to teacher networks and professional development opportunities.

Free teaching ideas and materials from:

[Language Assistant](#) - tips, lesson plans, and links for new and inexperienced teachers

[teaching English](#) - articles, lesson plans, for more experienced teachers

Research, Networks, and Professional development:

- [SearchEnglish](#) - teachers wishing to update their knowledge of ELT and educational technology and to network with colleagues all over the world
- **Teacher Networks** - develop skills and share knowledge with over 10,000 teachers through the [English language Teaching Contacts Scheme](#) (ELTeCS)
- Professional Development - regional workshops with the [Hornby trust](#)

Section 1: Learning English

Section 2: British Council Services

Section 3: Studying in the UK

Section 4: Materials and Resources

Section 5: Exams

Section 6: Questions from teachers

Copyright, privacy policy, and terms and conditions of use

Note for website owners

Contact:

The British Council
 ELT Group - LearnEnglish website
 10 Spring Gardens
 London SW1A 2BN
 T +44 (0) 207 930 8466
 F +44 (0) 207 389 6347
learnenglish@britishcouncil.org
www.britishcouncil.org
[Map](#) or in [your country](#)

Chatguide

ChatGuide is the BBC's educational and informational service teaching children how to interact with others safely on the internet and via mobile phones. It's a website, a BBC Schools television series, a booklet for parents and two teaching packs. Both the Key Stage Two and the Key Stage Three packs contain a video, notes for teachers giving ideas for whole class activities and preparation for a session on Internet Safety.

If you would like your school to receive a copy of either of the teaching packs email <mailto:chatguide@bbc.co.uk>. Supplies are limited, so we will compile a list and send out the packs in the spring to schools on a 'first come, first served' basis. Please indicate whether it is the Key Stage Two or the Key Stage Three pack you wish to receive.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/chatguide>

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.



HAPPY CHRISTMAS!