

Welcome to the 55th BBC Active Tutors' Club Newsletter!

First of all, a huge thank you for all your messages with feedback and words of support; they are all greatly appreciated. Please do feel free to keep either/both coming! It was lovely to see so many of you at the Language Show earlier this month. We had a great time and I hope you did too. It's all downhill to Christmas from now on, and this month's newsletter features a special section on Christmas language websites instead of a featured language. Fear not – the featured language item will be back in the New Year.

I do hope everyone has a very restful break, and I look forward to sending you the next newsletter in the New Year!

Susie

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To make the newsletter easier to read, I have inserted internal links, so when you press ctrl and click on a subject heading in the contents, it should take you straight to that section.

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NEWS FROM BBC ACTIVE

Are you interested in **Primary French**?

2007 sees the launch of BBC Active's Whiteboard Active products, including two levels of Primary French is Fun. Ideal for non-specialist teachers as well as language specialists, Primary French is Fun is carefully designed to provide the support needed to implement the Framework for Languages.

Would you, or one of your colleagues, be interested in hearing more about Primary French is Fun, or maybe in some free sample material? If so, please contact me at susanna.jones@pearson.com.

Perfect **Christmas gifts** for the language learner in your family!

Stuck for ideas of what to get your nearest and dearest this festive season? Well fear not! BBC Active has come to the rescue with 20 % off the following popular products:

FRENCH IS FUN! with Serge, the Cheeky Monkey!

This entertaining and effective introduction to French for children aged 5-10 years old is based around the animated characters of Serge, a lovable but cheeky monkey, and his clever friend Pascale the parrot.

The pack contains DVD, activity book, audio CD, picture cards, song sheets and a parents' guide.

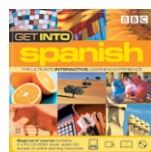


RRP £24.98

OFFER PRICE: £19.98

SAVE £5.00!

Get Into French and Get Into Spanish



Get Into French and Get Into Spanish are engaging and fully interactive courses that immerse you in real-life situations in a virtual town to help you learn and speak with confidence. Offering complete freedom to choose a path and style of learning that fits your personal preferences and interests, Get into French and Get Into Spanish are engaging, immersive and interactive new language courses for people on the go.

The full pack for either Get Into French or Get Into Spanish contains CD Rom, coursebook and audio CD, and both languages are also available as just a CD Rom. Visit <http://www.getinto.com/> for a free sample!

Each full pack RRP £34.99

OFFER PRICE: £27.99

SAVE £7.00!

Each CD Rom RRP £24.99

OFFER PRICE: £19.99

SAVE £5.00!

Excuse My French!

Having to cope in foreign situations can make even the bravest of us feel out of control. Excuse My French! will help you develop the confidence to speak French, and to get over your fear of making mistakes. As well as teaching you the language you need to get by in France, it will help you work out a learning style that suits you. For complete beginners or those returning to French after a break, this book shows that learning a language can be a positive and potentially life-transforming experience.



The pack contains a course book and DVDs of the entire BBC TWO series.

RRP £16.99

OFFER PRICE: £13.59

SAVE £3.40!

All you need to do is go online to <http://www.pearson-books.com/voucher/> and enter voucher code **VR001B** to receive your 20 % off these items and free postage and packing on orders anywhere within Europe.

The offer runs until December 25th 2006.

NEWS FROM THE BBC

Christmas Special

From *Le Père Fouettard*, Father Spanker in France, to *las uvas de la suerte*, the lucky grapes in Spain, get into the Christmas spirit with our festive quiz and discover some of the more unexpected Christmas customs and traditions across Europe.

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

Languages on TV - BBC TWO Learning Zone

Languages programmes are on TV throughout the night. Set your videos to long play mode as the complete session of programmes will last approximately 5 hours.

05 Dec: set video on the evening of Mon 04 December
0100 - 0230 Talk Portuguese
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/other/portuguese/talk/>

05 Dec: set video on the evening of Mon 04 December
0230 - 0500 Brazil Inside Out
http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/brazil_insideout/

05 Dec: set video on the evening of Mon 04 December
0500 - 0600 Brazil 2000
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/other/>

12 Dec: set video on the evening of Mon 11 December
0100 - 0300 Talk Greek
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/greek/>

12 Dec: set video on the evening of Mon 11 December
0300 – 0600 Mediterranean Cookery

Programmes will resume on Tue 09 January

See the full schedule: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/langtravel/>

Next year's Learning Zone schedule has also been slightly modified:

Tuesday, 9 th January	02.00 – 06.00	<i>Ma France (1-4)</i>
Tuesday, 16 th January	02.00 – 06.00	<i>Talk Spanish (1-6); Spain Inside Out (1-5)</i>
Tuesday, 23 rd January	02.00 – 06.00	<i>Talk Italian (1-6); Italy Inside Out (1-5)</i>
Tuesday, 30 th January	02.00 – 06.00	<i>Talk German (1-6); Germany Inside Out (1-5)</i>
Tuesday, 6 th February	02.00 – 06.00	<i>Sueños World Spanish (1-16) (subtitled)</i>
Tuesday, 13 th February	02.00 – 06.00	<i>Sueños World Spanish (17-20) (subtitled); Eurografters: Spain; Working with the Spanish; Make Spanish Your Business (1-2)</i>
Tuesday, 20 th February	02.00 – 06.00	<i>Real Chinese (1-10); Talk Portuguese (1-6)</i>
Tuesday, 27 th February	02.00 – 06.00	<i>The French Experience (1-16) (subtitled)</i>
Tuesday, 6 th March	02.00 – 06.00	<i>The French Experience (17-20); Eurografters: France; Working with the French; Make French Your Business (1-2)</i>
Tuesday, 13 th March	02.00 – 06.00	<i>Deutsch Plus (1-16)</i>
Tuesday, 20 th March	02.00 – 06.00	<i>Deutsch Plus (17-20) (unsubtitled); Deutsch Plus II; Make German Your Business (1-2)</i>

NATIONAL NEWS

CILT survey finds Dearing Review has much to do

Two new surveys of languages in schools and FE colleges highlight the urgency of Lord Dearing's work to review policy on languages and see what more can be done to encourage 14–16-year-olds to continue a language course leading to a recognised qualification.

Responses to a questionnaire sent to secondary schools this autumn show that a majority of maintained schools now have less than 50% of pupils studying a language in Key Stage 4. In nearly a third (29%), fewer than 25% of students continue with a language after 14. The report shows that few schools have as yet set the 'benchmark' of between 50% and 90% of Key Stage 4 pupils studying a language, requested in a letter to schools last January by the then Schools' Minister Jacqui Smith. Only 17% of schools where not all pupils study a language have so far set a benchmark and this declines to 5% in schools where dropout from languages has been the most severe.

Research in the FE sector shows that students who study vocational courses such as Travel and Tourism or Business are unlikely to be offered the chance to study a language. Fewer than half of UK FE colleges offer languages with vocational courses and this proportion is declining. It is estimated that students studying a language represent less than 1% of all students on vocational courses.

Report summaries and statistical data are available on-line at www.cilt.org.uk/key/languagetrends/2006

For further information contact Tamzin Caffrey, tamzin.caffrey@cilt.org.uk 020 7395 0822
Read about the review here:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/6103922.stm>
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2005/11/04/nedu04.xml>
<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2-2433041,00.html>
<http://education.guardian.co.uk/schools/story/0,,1936751,00.html>
<http://www.fenews.co.uk/newsview.asp?n=2017>

Mandarin Chinese to be compulsory at independent school

The Head of Brighton College seeks to stop the languages freefall with compulsory Mandarin Chinese. Read about it here:

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/newspaper/0,,2766-2437546,00.html>

Language conundrum over gender of 'président'

News of the debate in France over how to address the President should the post go to a woman: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2006/11/20/wsego120.xml>

Further Education and Training Bill published

As the new Parliament trundles into being, a new raft of bills and publications are proposed by the government. One of these is the Further Education and Training Bill, which is starting in the Lords. The Bill includes provisions to allow colleges to award qualifications, but stops short of bridging the funding gap between schools and colleges. You can read the Bill here <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200607/ldbills/006/07006.i-ii.html> or read NIACE's comments here <http://www.niace.org.uk/news/current.htm#fe>.

TES survey finds teachers want freedom to teach

A recent survey by the TES has shown that of those surveyed, two out of three teachers think the national curriculum is too prescriptive and over half believe classroom discipline would improve if teachers had the freedom to set their own curriculum. However, over 40 % also believe that MFL should be compulsory at GCSE. Read more at http://www.tes.co.uk/search/story/?story_id=2308499 have your say at

http://www.tes.co.uk/section/staffroom/thread.aspx?story_id=2308749&path=/have+your+say/&threadPage=1

Language barrier leaves children lost for words

How we need to get children enthused about learning a foreign language and what Dearing needs to do <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/newspaper/0,,176-2455153,00.html>

Increasing demand for Mandarin

An article in the FT and the results of a recent language survey show how the demand to learn Mandarin Chinese is on the increase: http://www.ft.com/cms/s/c1e1f222-78b5-11db-802c-0000779e2340_i_rssPage=5aedc804-2f7b-11da-8b51-00000e2511c8.html and <http://www.trainingreference.co.uk/news/bp061122.htm>

EVENTS

St Andrew's celebration sets tongues wagging

On **Thursday, 30th November at 7.30 pm**, an evening of entertainment and light refreshment from Greece, Romania, Russia and Scotland is taking place at St George's West Church, Shandwick Place, Edinburgh (not far from Haymarket Station).

Contact M. Romanis at 30 East Trinity Road, Edinburgh, EH5 3DJ for tickets (£8 each) – please send cheque payable to Christian Aid and SAE – or you can buy them on the door on the night. All proceeds go to Christian Aid.

At Home in Renaissance Italy – an Italian Christmas

The Victoria and Albert exhibition *At Home in Renaissance Italy*, which showcases works by Donatello, Carpaccio, Botticelli, Titian and Veronese, has a special late view planned on **Wednesday 20th December**. You will be able to enjoy Renaissance dance, music, wine tasting and other festive delights. In the Renaissance, Christmas festivities were followed by Carnival celebrations and you can take part in a demonstration of Venetian Carnival feather headpieces at this very special Wednesday Late View. Entry is free. See http://www.vam.ac.uk/vastatic/microsites/1487_renaissance/events_dec.html#italianchristmas or simply turn up at the Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Rd, London SW7 2RL.

ISMLA is coming

It might seem a long way off, but now is the time to start thinking about the 2007 conference of the Independent Schools Modern Languages Association (ISMLA). The conference will be held on **Saturday 3rd February** at the **City of London Boys' School**, and a full programme of events is available here <http://www.ismla.co.uk/>.

If you wish to attend the conference, please download and complete the form available on the website with the invitation letter, enclosing a cheque to cover the conference fees payable to ISMLA, to **Marie-Claire Byrne, 22 Mossman Drive, Caddington, Bedfordshire, LU1 4EX** as soon as possible. Details of conference fees can be found in the invitation letter on the website.

ELT conference in Barcelona

Spend some time in the beautiful city of Barcelona and find out the latest on ELT at the IH Annual ELT Conference 2007! Held on **February 9th-10th**, more details of the conference including details of how to enrol can be found at <http://www.ihes.com/bcn/tt/conference.html>. The deadline for speakers to enrol is December 1st.

Language Skills Make Business Sense: CILT conference

On **12th December** CILT is hosting the chance to 'debate the international challenges facing business and employment in all sectors', challenges which include increased international competition and new emerging markets abroad. The event is to be held at **Cranfield Management Development Centre, Bedford**. For more details, see <http://www.cilt.org.uk/cpd/294cr1206lsa.htm>

19th Annual Georgian Studies Day

The Embassy of Georgia, University of Westminster South Caucasus Project and the co-founder and convenor of the Annual GSD - Dr. Tamara Dragadze - are pleased to invite you to the me-19 yovelwliuri qarTvelologis dRe - 19th Annual Georgian Studies Day.

Held on **Monday 4th December 2006** at the **University of Westminster (115 New Cavendish Street, London W1W 6UW. Nearest Tube: Google Street)** – please contact p.lydyard@ucl.ac.uk for further details.

RESOURCES

Vocational Languages Resource Bank (VLRB) updated

CILT's Vocational Languages Resource Bank (VLRB), accessible at www.vlrb.org.uk, has recently been updated to include the following features:

Add your own resource. Contributors can now add their own resources directly to the VLRB website. All contributors are acknowledged on the website.

Feedback questionnaire. Let CILT know what you think of the VLRB by filling in their online feedback questionnaire.

Comment on this resource. You can now comment on particular resources (button located at the top of each individual resource page). You will also be able to read user reviews which CILT will publish on the site.

Special call for resources! Teachers interested in developing resources in preparation for the pilot of the first 5 new specialised Diplomas (ICT; Creative and Media; Construction and the Built Environment; Engineering; Society, Health and Development) please contact Natasha at natasha.ricot-gomez@cilt.org.uk or on 0207 395 2503.

The Skype's the limit with Joe Dale's 12th blog

MFL teacher Joe Dale's 12th blog contribution 'How to use Skype to help with language lessons' is now live on the TES website at <http://www.tes.co.uk/blogs/blog.aspx?path=/ICT/&post=2305597>. He invites you to post a comment if you have been involved in using Skype or Speak 2 ME in the classroom.

Joe has also written a post about Lynne Horn's recent discussion with David Noble on **the use of mobile phones in the classroom** at:

http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating_ict_into_the_/2006/11/mobile_phones_i.html

Recommended Japanese website

The following website has been recommended by a teacher on the Linguanet forum as particularly useful. It features lots of useful information about Japan, particularly on Japanese culture and history.

http://casls.uoregon.edu/mosaic/JPN_mosaic.php

Language Learning featured in BBC's Learning Curve

On Monday 6th November, the BBC's programme on educational issues, The Learning Curve, focussed on MFL in schools, and in particular the impact of the Government's decision to make languages optional at 14. If you missed this programme, you can listen again at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/factual/learningcurve.shtml>.

Asset Languages helps you climb the Languages' Ladder

The latest update from Asset Languages, the assessment element of the DfES' Language Ladder scheme. This newsletter includes links to new resources added on the Asset Languages website, such as information for inset-day presentations and assessing skills in the classroom.

<http://www.assetlanguages.org.uk/UserFiles/File/updates/assetupdate3.pdf>

Guardian and British Council invite you into the Global Classroom

The Education Guardian, in conjunction with the British Council, have launched a Global Classroom feature on the Education Guardian website, based on the extra supplement that came with 14th November's Guardian. Tackling such thorny issues as foreign exchanges, how

Government policy on MFL teaching is affecting primary schools and how to make pupils more aware of global issues, the website is available here <http://education.guardian.co.uk/globalclassroom>.

QCA studies delve into pupils' attitudes to languages

The following studies were flagged on the Linguanet forum as being of particular interest, following on from the QCA talk at the CILT 14-19 conference.

Pupils' views on language learning: <http://www.qca.org.uk/17309.html>

Maximising take up at KS4: <http://www.qca.org.uk/17308.html>

Je Suis Un Célébrité

Ideas of how *I'm a Celebrity...* and *Strictly Come Dancing* can help engage pupils in language learning: http://www.tes.co.uk/search/story/?story_id=2311093

SURVEYS AND COMPETITIONS

Tell Lord Dearing what you think!

Lord Dearing's review into languages policy, to establish what needs to be done to encourage more teenagers to get a languages qualification, was launched last month.

Have your chance to tell Lord Dearing what needs to be done to turn the situation of language learning around at KS4Language.REVIEW@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

What is your ideal route into languages?

There is a call for bids for [Routes into Languages](#), the major programme funded by HEFCE to stimulate demand for language study and to enhance the role of languages in civic and economic regeneration. The Programme Steering Group invites bids for research in three areas:

- The current map of HE provision in community languages
- The role of HE language departments in high profile international events
- How HE languages departments enhance enterprise skills in their students

Up to £40, 000 is available to fund each project. Work should begin in February/March 2007 and should be completed by 30 November 2007.

Deadline for submissions: 18 December 2006.

Calling all Welsh speakers

Linguascope are currently working on Welsh versions of their worksheets and are looking for someone willing to do proofreading. If you are interested, please get in touch with Mr Stephane Derone, Linguascope, Westwood Park, London Road, Little Horkesley CO6 4BS
Tel 0870 042 7580 . Fax 0870 042 9085 . E-mail stephane@linguscope.com
www.linguascope.com

Submit to Language Teaching!

The journal **Language Teaching** is for the first time inviting submissions of academic studies which replicate a previous sound study. They are inviting submissions of previously unpublished articles based on literal, approximate or constructive replication of a previous study or studies. In keeping with the survey characteristics of **Language Teaching**, they also encourage submissions of meta-analyses which attempt to combine or synthesise a series of comparable research replications. Papers can be based on a broad range of topics.

The details of this permanent Call for Papers can be found in the Instructions for Contributors at: <http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayMoreInfo?jid=LTA&type=ifc>

FEATURE ON CHRISTMAS

In a slight departure from the usual format, I have put together a list of websites that focus on Christmas. These include details of how Christmas is said in various languages and also how Christmas is celebrated in a variety of countries.

How Merry Christmas is said around the world

<http://www.santas.net/howmerrychristmasissaid.htm> <http://www.flw.com/christmas.htm>

<http://www.factmonster.com/ipka/A0877712.html>

<http://www.omniglot.com/language/phrases/christmas.htm>

Information on what Christmas is like in

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

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

Germany <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german/christmas/index.shtml> and

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

A list of websites featuring information on how people round the world celebrate Christmas

<http://www.santas.net/aroundtheworld.htm>

Details of Christmas in Poland, Egypt and Mallorca at

<http://www.christmasarchives.com/index.html>

Useful database of links to Christmas website and ideas for activities for French, German, Spanish and Italian students at the Modern Foreign Languages Environment site:

<http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/mfle/creativeteaching/christmasideas/index.asp>

Information and Christmas recipes from Denmark, Mexico, Sweden and Switzerland available here <http://www.thecookingginn.com/tcirecipes/xmasworld.html>

Resources on Christmas in France and Mexico available on the TES Resources database at <http://www.tes.co.uk/resources/Resource.aspx?resourceld=1286> and

<http://www.tes.co.uk/resources/Resource.aspx?resourceld=1140> respectively

Do you have a language or topic you would like this feature to cover? If so, let me know on susanna.jones@pearson.com! All suggestions gratefully received.

What do YOU think?

We want to make this newsletter as useful as possible, so your opinions matter! What would you like to see in the newsletter? If you have any comments or feedback (good or bad!) then please let me know at susanna.jones@pearson.com. It is **your** newsletter – have your say!

NB You can unsubscribe at any time

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