

Welcome to the 68th BBC Active Tutors' Club Newsletter!

A slightly shorter newsletter this month as a result of the fast-approaching Christmas break, but I hope you still find the information useful.

First of all, everyone at BBC Active languages would like to say a huge thank you for your brilliant response to the competition we ran last month. It was wonderful to receive so many competition entries, and the results will make fascinating and useful reading. The results are announced below, and the information from your feedback forms will help inform our future publishing.

Susie

Contents

[News from BBC Active](#)

Competition results; a great offer on our *Get By In* series

[News from the BBC](#)

Ma France posters up for grabs; latest Learning Zone schedule

[National News](#)

Government makes money available for language learning in schools; numbers of children with English as a second language are increasing whilst numbers of monoglot English children are also increasing; language war in Belgium; the great story of the Liverpudlian Canto-crooner; and much more...

[Events](#)

Book now for ISMLA and CILT Primary 2008; ALL secondary events; Japanese events and more...

[Resources](#)

The latest resources from Helen Myers; more Christmas resources; French listening exercises; Kanji Box on Facebook

[Surveys and Competitions](#)

European Award for Languages; Franco-British Council short story competition; LAFTAs

[Scots websites of interest](#)

Find out what Hogmanay is really about!

NEWS FROM BBC ACTIVE

Thank you for a great response

We had a brilliant response to the request for information last month, so a big thank you to everyone who took the trouble to write in. The information you gave us will be invaluable for looking at our future publishing.

We had a little prize draw in the office, and the lucky winner of the FortMason Hamper was Val Marsden of Franklin College. So congratulations! Your hamper should be winging its way towards you as I type. I do hope it adds a bit of extra sparkle to your Christmas.

Get By In the New Year at Borders

If you are looking for extra resources for your students, then why not try our *Get By In* series? Currently available in six different languages, these pretty packs contain an audio CD and a book to help your students cover all the language they will need for a trip abroad, as well as a handy reference guide covering vocabulary and key phrases.

They are available to buy for £9.99 each, although between 3rd January and 27th February 2008 Borders is offering a **£3 discount** so they can be yours for **£6.99 each**. You can find your nearest Borders store by going to www.borders.co.uk and clicking on the 'Borders Stores' link near the top of the page.



Bitesize Interactive Revision Tutor - walk-throughs now available online

The brand new Bitesize Interactive Revision Tutors, available in French, German and Spanish at GCSE level, are now available to sample on our BBC Active website (www.bbcactive.com/languages). Just go to the links below and under 'resources' you can gain access to sample pages and a captivated walk through, guiding you through all the new guides have to offer.



NEWS FROM THE BBC

"Who knows the language is at home everywhere."
Dutch Proverb

Steps

Help your students kick off the New Year by taking their first steps in French, Spanish, German or Italian with interactive, online courses for beginners.

- . Receive a weekly email with tips and encouragement
- . You'll learn the basics, a little at a time, in your own time
- . Complete the course and get a BBC certificate

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

Ma France

Brush up your rusty French with this entertaining, interactive broadband video course. Enjoy the exercises along with 24 short films shot in Provence, the Alps and Lyons. Watch it on the Learning Zone on BBC Two 8th January at 02:00:

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

If you would like a **Ma France poster** please email languages@bbc.co.uk.

Languages on TV - BBC TWO Learning Zone

08 Jan: set video on the evening of Mon 07 Jan

02:00-06:00 Ma France
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/mafrance/>
15 Jan: set video on the evening of Mon 14 Jan
02:00-03:30 Talk Spanish
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/talk/>
03:30-06:00 Spain Inside Out
http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spain_insideout/
22 Jan: set video on the evening of Mon 21 Jan
02:00-03:30 Talk Italian
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/italian/talk/>
03:30-06:00 Italy Inside Out
http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/italy_insideout/
29 Jan: set video on the evening of Mon 28 Jan
02:00-03:30 Talk Portuguese
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/other/portuguese/talk/>
03:30-06:00 Brazil Inside Out
http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/brazil_insideout/

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

Bonne Année ! ; ¡Feliz Año Nuevo! ; Frohes Neues Jahr! ; Felice Anno Nuovo!

NATIONAL NEWS

Schools to get £340 m for languages

Primary schools in England will receive about £340 extra each next year to support compulsory languages teaching.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/7151521.stm>
<http://education.guardian.co.uk/schools/story/0,,2229748,00.html>

Sign of the times: councils urged to translate less

Councils are being advised to consider investing in English classes rather than translating street signs, to encourage integration.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7131768.stm
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2007/12/07/ntranslate107.xml>
http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,,2223839,00.html

Schools refuse to set targets

Only 17% of secondary schools have so far acted on the government's requirement to set a benchmark for participation in language learning after age 14.

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/schools/story/0,,2210974,00.html>

Multiplying monoglots

The Independent's leader muses the ongoing decline in language learning

http://comment.independent.co.uk/leading_articles/article3253100.ece
and the article that sparked the editorial
http://news.independent.co.uk/education/education_news/article3253071.ece

Multiple multilingual pupils

The number of pupils with English as a second language has risen by 73 % in a decade

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/7147954.stm>
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/global/main.jhtml?xml=/global/2007/12/17/noindex/nschool117.xml>

The 'death of French culture' or the death of US interest in France?

An article that argues that the downturn in French cultural dominance is actually linked to the decline in US interest in France.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/comment/story/0,,2221904,00.html>

Nativity in French

A primary school has been performing the Nativity play in French to encourage pupils in their language lessons. <http://news.independent.co.uk/education/schools/article3245495.ece>

Belgian beauty becomes tongue tied

Controversy strikes as a Belgium beauty reveals an inability to speak Dutch, highlighting the tension in the 'divided nation'.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/europe/article3065554.ece>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2007/12/18/wbelgium118.xml>

How educating Fabio could be a lesson to us all

The Indy discusses the best means for the 'saviour of English football' to master his new team's native tongue. <http://sport.independent.co.uk/football/internationals/article3263515.ece>

And Glen Hoddle tells him to put learning English on the backburner

http://football.guardian.co.uk/News_Story/0,,2229610,00.html

Russia's Cold War

An article about the British Council's experience in Russia

http://women.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/women/the_way_we_live/article3063948.ece

Former shelf-stacker turns Canto-crooner

How an ambitious Liverpudlian left school at 16 to learn Chinese and become a pop sensation.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2007/12/04/nsing104.xml>

New leader's Spanish connection

A brief article on Lib Dem leader Nick Clegg's Spanish wife.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7150476.stm

Latin has makeover as it hits city streets

'As Latin is introduced to inner-city schools, we can finally stop thinking of it as a 'posh language' <http://education.guardian.co.uk/schools/comment/story/0,,2224997,00.html>

Ethiopia goes mobile

Ethiopians have the chance to text each other using a new range of phones that can send texts using the Geez script. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/7138128.stm>

EVENTS

Scotland-Russia Foundation Russian Ball

The SRF New Year Ball is on 12th January 2008. If you wish to make a donation or buy tickets, please contact: Anastasia, Russia Travel, 103 St Leonard's Street, Edinburgh EH8 9QY, Tel: + 44(0) 131 662 0930 or Fax: + 44(0) 131 667 8921 or e-mail: edinburgh@ruvisa.co.uk.

The SRF have also flagged the following Russian events in London in 2008:

13 Jan: Russian Winter Festival in Trafalgar Square

26 Jan - 18 April : Royal Academy "From Russia: French and Russian Master Paintings from Moscow and St Petersburg 1870-1925" (although please watch the news reports on this one)

7 March - 27 April : Hayward Gallery "Alexander Rodchenko Photography"

13-17 May : Boris Godunov IN RUSSIAN, Barbican Theatre

ALL secondary event

These free one-day ALL conferences are for Heads of Languages and other languages professionals and are funded by the DCSF. They will provide information about the new secondary curriculum and clarify what languages departments need to do. The day

includes practical examples from practitioners, group planning activities and time for questions and discussion.

Booking is online at www.cfbt.com/nsc (follow the link in purple at the bottom of the page) and we recommend that you book your place as soon as possible. The dates and venues are:

Tuesday 15 January	South East	Gatwick
Wednesday 23 January	South West	Bristol
Thursday 31 January	West Midlands	Birmingham
Monday 4 February	East Midlands	Leicester
Tuesday 19 February	Eastern	Cambridge
Friday 14 March	Yorkshire & Humberside	Sheffield
Tuesday 18 March	London	tbc
Wednesday 26 March	North East	Newcastle
Wednesday 9 April	North West	Liverpool

If you have any queries about these events, please contact Kathy Wicksteed on kathywicksteed@tiscali.co.uk.

Language over time: a symposium on Anglo-Norman in the context of medieval French language use

Edgbaston Campus, Birmingham City University, Saturday, 19th January 2008 9.00 am-5 pm.
For further information, contact richard.ingham@bcu.ac.uk.

CILT courses abroad - Spanish and German for the primary and secondary school - all deadlines extended

The following courses:

Spanish for the primary classroom - Tordesillas, Valladolid - 25 - 31 May 2008

German for the primary classroom - Goethe-Institut, Schwabisch Hall: 5 - 12 April 2008

Spanish for the secondary classroom - Universidad Publica de Navarra, Pamplona - 25 May - 7 June 2008

Berlin Aktuell - Goethe-Institut, Berlin - 10-18 April 2008

have all had the deadline for grant applications extended to **31 January 2008**. For further information please call 020 7379 5101 or email conferences@cilt.org.uk.

Edexcel/Japan Foundation events

Edexcel Japanese GCE (AS and A2 level) Feedback and Guidance Day will be held on Wednesday, 16th January 2008 (10am - 3:30pm) at the Japan Foundation London Language Centre.

Please note that these days are run by Edexcel, with cooperation from the Japan Foundation. The trainer for each day is the chief examiner. If you would like to apply, please do so through the Edexcel website (see link below). The Japan Foundation cannot accept applications.

<http://www.edexcel.org.uk/sfc/training/event-listing/gce/japan/-19526042246/dates>

Also, Edexcel will also be holding a one-day "GCE Implementation & Getting Ready to Teach" Event about the new specification for the Japanese GCE (AS and A2 level).

<http://www.edexcel.org.uk/sfc/training/event-listing/gce08/japanese/> This event is planned for 25th April 2008.

Kim Woodruff, from the Japan Foundation London Language Centre, has suggested that, if you attend these events, you might be interested in joining or using the Japan Foundation Library. Read more at <http://www.jpf.org.uk/language/library.php>.

Primary Languages Show 2008-registration now open

The 12th annual CILT Primary Languages Show takes place on Friday 29 Feb - Saturday 1 March 2008 at the Manchester Conference Centre. The show offers a full and varied programme to support languages in the primary school, with advice and suggestions for those offering languages for the first time as well as for those who wish to build on existing foundations.

Booking is now open, so don't forget to reserve your place to avoid disappointment! <http://www.cilt.org.uk/pls/>

ISMLA 2008

If you are at an independent school, don't forget to book your place for ISMLA 2008. Taking place on 2nd February at University College School, Hampstead, London, the conference is an opportunity to listen to talks and swap ideas with other MFL teachers. Download your invitation letter and further information from the ISMLA website here <http://www.ismla.co.uk/conference/main.htm>.

The Nature and Development of L2 French - call for papers

A call for papers has gone out from the University of Southampton, who will be hosting the above event in July 2008.

Proposals for papers on any aspect of the nature and development of French as an L2 are invited. Individual papers will be 30 minutes (20 minutes for presentation plus 10 minutes for discussion). Submissions for papers should include the following: title of the paper; name and affiliation of the author(s); abstract of 300 words maximum (excluding references and the title); first author's postal address; first author's e-mail address.

All submissions will be confirmed by e-mail. Please send all submissions to:

liz.o'sullivan@ncl.ac.uk

Deadline for abstract submissions: 29 February 2008

Notification of acceptance: end of March 2008

Conference website: <http://www.filoc.soton.ac.uk/conferences.html>

RESOURCES

French listening material

Daniele Bourdais, Linguanetter and BBC Active author, has recommended the Radio France Internationale site because 'it has, among other things, lots of good listening material (which you can download) in simple French on topical issues - with extensive comprehension tasks'. http://www.rfi.fr/lffr/statiques/accueil_apprendre.asp

Helen Myers' latest resources

The latest suggestions from MFL-meister (or maîtresse) Helen Myers:

"Thanks to the mflresources forum which collectively compiled the transcript of the latest Pigloo offering. [WARNING: It's addictive] I have put together a tentative literal translation (and stand to be corrected by you native speakers / bright people out there!) ... I've uploaded them here: <http://www.mflresources.org.uk/french.htm#Songs>

"The video is in various places including the TF1 site to which the hyperlinked picture goes .. another source is here: <http://www.kewego.co.uk/video/iLyROoafSOI.html>."

Also, a resource for French Christmas songs:

<http://www.csdraveurs.qc.ca/musique/noel/calendrier2006a.html>

Christmas resources from Scottish CILT

A brilliant selection of Christmas resources from Ewan McIntosh, the National Adviser at Learning and Technology Futures Learning and Teaching Scotland, are available at <http://tinyurl.com/ysffpy> in a variety of languages.

Stillenacht

Some German Christmas resources <http://www.stillenacht.info/>

Kanji Box on Facebook

The Japan Foundation London Language Centre has recommended this application for you and your students:

There is an application for Japanese learners on the popular Facebook site, called Kanji Box. You can use this to do drills or quizzes, and it seems quite fun. To try it out:

1. Log in to Facebook (if you don't have an account you will need to sign up)
2. Go to <http://apps.facebook.com/kanjibox/> and add this application.

The levels available are either based on Japanese school grades or on the four JLPT levels. You can choose to test yourself on kana, kanji or vocab. If you choose kanji or vocab, you can choose either drill or quiz. The discussion board is quite helpful if you get stuck.

Get creative kids on the web

Kim Woodruff from the Japan Foundation has also flagged the following message from Claire Eastaugh, a French Co-ordinator at Staines Preparatory School who has just set up a website called Create&Wait, a non-profitable educational website for creative work of 7-11 year olds. She says:

'We would particularly welcome work that you can send in on any languages - there are sections for French, Spanish and Other Languages. Work is rewarded with a free certificate and the chance to display work on the site's gallery. www.createandwait.com or www.createandwait.co.uk. Please take a look at the site and please do feel free to reply to me with any feedback or suggestions on the above address.'

SURVEYS AND COMPETITIONS



**European
Award
for Languages
2008**

Could your project win the European Award for Languages?

The European Award for Languages recognises creative ways to improve the quality of language teaching, motivate students and make the best of available resources. If you are involved in an innovative language-learning project, which could benefit others, you may be eligible for an Award.

The Award is a Europe-wide initiative supported by the European Commission. CILT, the National Centre for Languages, assisted by an advisory group, is the UK co-ordinator of the initiative which has recognised over 600 innovative projects across Europe since the end of its pilot phase in 1999. Eligible projects can be based around any language other than English and are expected to have an international dimension. Award-winning projects provide a potential source of inspiration for others, in different languages, contexts and even different countries, underlining the importance of the criteria that the project be replicable. To date, over 100 UK projects have proved that such criteria can be met and that creative thinking can lead to improved teaching provision and learner achievement.

Applications for EAL 2008 are now open. For further details and information please contact: eal@cilt.org.uk. Application form: <http://www.cilt.org.uk/eal/application/index.htm>

Application deadline: 1 February 2008

Franco-British Council: short story prize

The Franco-British Council and *Prospect* magazine announce a short story prize, with the support of novelists Julian Barnes and Ian Rankin, both of whom are on the jury. Sixth formers and undergraduates are invited to write a short story inspired by France and/or the French. The best stories will be published in an anthology, and the very top prize winners will see their work appear in *Prospect* as well as receiving trips to France and cash prizes. The prize aims to raise the profile of French teaching, in order to combat the alarming trend which has seen the number of pupils taking the language at GCSE plummet by 30% since 2004.

Stories should be no longer than 1000 words, should be written in English and signed off by a teacher or course tutor and must arrive by 1st April 2008. Further information on the prize and application forms can be obtained at www.francobritishcouncil.org.uk

LAFTAs for language learning

The LAFTAs (Languages and Film Talent Awards) are organised by CILT, the National Centre for Languages. Your students can take part by submitting videos they have made, which show why learning another language is important and how it can improve their lives. There are prizes for group and individual entries. Find out more at <http://www.languageswork.org.uk/laftas/index.htm>.

Russians in Britain - survey

Russians of all ages, singles, couples and families, who currently live in the UK (no matter for how long), are invited to take part in an interview, as a part of ETHNOGRAPHIC RESEARCH conducted by the University of Oxford.

The research is on the cultural identities of Russians living in Britain. It focuses on family ties, memories and traditions: <http://www.ehrc.ox.ac.uk/>

People who have already taken part say it's interesting and fun!

For more information, or to volunteer, contact: Dr Andy Byford on enquiries@ehrc.ox.ac.uk

SCOTS WEBSITES

In honour of the New Year, and to help you wish A Guid New Year to Ane An A, enjoy these links on the Scots Language!

The lyrics to A Guid New Year to Ane an A are available here <http://www.scotslanguage.com/articles/view/702>, along with some great You Tube footage so you can start your own singalong. This site also includes the Christmas story being read in Scots <http://www.scotslanguage.com/books/view/20/726/The%20Christmas%20story>. Information about the origins of Hogmanay, including traditions and derivation of the name itself can be found here <http://www.rampantscotland.com/know/blknow12.htm> and on the BBC website here <http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/h2g2/A10358165>, along with the lyrics to Auld Lang Syne.

To get you started, there are Scots dictionaries, texts and guides available here <http://www.scots-online.org/>, or a Scots dictionary, or dictionar o the Scots Leid, is available here <http://www.dsl.ac.uk/dsl/> and comprises electronic editions of the two major historical dictionaries of the Scots language.

A Scots vernacular dictionary is also available here http://www.firstfoot.com/scottish_dictionary/glossword/index.php.

For the more serious-minded, you can find a collection of papers on the Scots language here <http://www.arts.gla.ac.uk/SESL/STELLA/STARN/>. This site also includes examples of Scots poetry dating back to 14th century, plays and prose.

An informal guide to Scots, including pronunciation of place names, is available on this site <http://www.cs.stir.ac.uk/~kjt/general/scots.html>. Another collection of poems and stories can be found here <http://www.scotsindependent.org/features/scots/>.

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 subscribe at any time - it's absolutely free!

If you are reading this newsletter and are NOT yet a member of the BBC Active Language Tutors' Club, then you can contact me at susanna.jones@pearson.com with your full name and educational institution with the message - or subscribe online at <http://www.bbcactive.com/languages/tutors/emailclub.asp>.

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