

Welcome to the 71st BBC Active Tutors' Club Newsletter!

I know that many of you will be gearing up to go to Language World on 11th and 12th April. We'll be there as usual, so do come round to stand N38 to say hello. We should also have more information about our new *Talk Mandarin Chinese* course, which is due out in July, and a chance for you to see *Languages At Your Fingertips* and *Primary French is Fun* up and running.

This newsletter has a number of announcements about the great new publishing we've got coming out this year, and how you can use it in the classroom with your students. The latest BBC Active Tutors' Catalogue for languages is also hot off the press, so you can request your FREE copy today by emailing me at susanna.jones@pearson.com.

Don't forget to send in your latest tips of the month, and enjoy the newsletter.

Susie

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NEWS FROM BBC ACTIVE

Tip of the Month

This newsletter we have another two Tips of the Month. The first comes from Julie Tortajada, who wins a BBC Active Portuguese Phrase Book and Dictionary. Her top tip is:



Corner Game: 1 pupil in each corner of the room. First pupil to translate a word or sentence correctly (given by the teacher or a pupil) moves up one corner, going clockwise. The pupil in that corner is eliminated and sits down. Eventually, only one pupil is left standing and is the winner. The whole class watches and listens and some pupils sometimes help their friends. It's quick

and engaging and a great activity at the end of a lesson to recap new vocabulary or to end on a fun note. In about five minutes, half the class can have a go! Use it as a reward/carrot for good work/behaviour. It always works for my pupils, they always ask for the game!

The second comes from Michelina Alfieri-Adams, who wins a BBC Active Italian Phrase Book and Dictionary. Her top tip is:



I ask my students to listen to a burst of conversation and answer some questions on it orally and as a multiple choice exercise and also to use their own words to say what they have understood. Eventually, I play back the piece breaking it down into very small manageable chunks and ask them to repeat back what they have heard - this sharpens their listening skills but above all it consolidates and throws up any grammatical points when they say what they think they heard in not quite the correct order. I invite the whole group to suggest what is not quite right and why. A lot of differentiation: non-intimidating and stretching respectively.

If you have any tips of your own, then please do get in touch. Don't forget, as well as sharing your brilliance with your fellow Club members, you also get a free BBC Active phrase book of your choice. Email me at susanna.jones@pearson.com with your tip by Thursday 20th March, so it can be included in the April newsletter.

How to help your students *Get By In* the classroom, with new publishing from BBC Active

The *Get By In ...* series is already available in French, German, Greek, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish. Chinese, Japanese, Latin American Spanish and Polish will all be available in May 2008. The following article is to give you an idea of how to incorporate these gorgeous packs into your teaching. The published titles are available to buy at all good bookshops, or you can order or pre-order any in the series from www.bbcactive.com/languages.



Get By In... reincarnated.

by Derek Utleby

The recent re-launch of the *Get by In ...* series offers teachers a double tool: a handy travel pack to recommend to students, and a source of short, accessible audio and text activities for the classroom.

The new edition is currently available in 6 languages, with more on the way this May, and builds on the successful experience of two previous versions, and consists of:

A book of 160 pages, pocket-size with lots of colour and illustration, containing

- 8 sections each focusing on a recognisable topic such as eating out or shopping,
- a straightforward guide to pronunciation,
- *Language builder*, a down-to-earth explanation of how grammar helps you to understand and build sentences,
- a 2-way dictionary.

A CD containing selected pieces of language and some new activities

Each section follows a regular pattern:

- key information to help the traveller make the most of their stay,
- essential language presented in short gobbets, with regular check-up activities to summarise progress made,
- focus on some key sounds found in the section,
- a summary of structural features which underpin the language of each section,
- round-up activities to check progress made

Comments from satisfied users include: 'colourful and attractive', 'clear guidelines in booklet', 'essential and understandable explanation of basic grammar', 'helpful Link-up section summarising key phrases'.

To watch out for: the CD contains a selection of the contents of the book, so may best be used as a stand-alone listening tool, rather than trying to follow it in the book. However, all the language presented on the CD and the dialogues do appear in the book. Tutors can request transcripts if required.

Learning a language is never as easy as students think. This pack helps with its versatile yet down-to-earth non-specialist approach which will encourage learners to get and stay involved.

*A teacher for some 40 years of Spanish, French and English as a foreign language, **Derek Utley** has also written a range of publications, including the BBC Spanish TV and radio course, España Viva. He was series editor of the Get By In ... series and its recent re-edition.*

'Although this book is not aimed at the classroom, anyone teaching a short, holiday course in Portuguese would find it a good basis for a six to ten week course. It has plenty of relevant, practical language, and ready-made exercises, plus the CD as a starter for pronunciation guidance...It would also be a handy addition for classroom tutors who need access to a quick reminder of holiday language...a good, colourful book to recommend to students'.

Sue Tyson-Ward, reviewing Get By In Portuguese in the ALL Journal Vida Hispanica.



Other great reviews for *Talk* and *Talk 2*

Talk German and *Talk Italian 2* also received fantastic reviews from the ALL Journals *Deutsch: Lehren Und Lernen* and *Tuttitalia*. Here are some short extracts from both reviews:

<http://www.bbcactive.com/languages/german/50.asp>

'A good purchase not only for anyone looking to learn basic communication in German but also for teachers looking for useful listening material for KS3 German classes'.

Victoria McNaney, reviewing Talk German in Deutsch Lehren Und Lernen

'This course has indeed been well planned and carefully structured...the steady, orderly, systematic approach is maintained throughout. The language portions the learners are fed are small and easily digestible. All these positives should ensure that confidence is boosted, a sense of progress is achieved, and linguistic ability is enhanced.'

Derek Aust, reviewing Talk Italian 2 in Tuttitalia

You can buy *Talk* and *Talk 2* from any good bookshop, or online at www.bbcactive.com/languages.

New Tutors' Catalogue now available

Our brand new Tutors' Catalogue is here, hot off the press. If you would like to receive a (free) copy, then email me at susanna.jones@pearson.com with your name and delivery address. The catalogue contains details of new publishing and resources from BBC Active, and tells you how you can order evaluation copies.



Request your new catalogue today!

NEWS FROM THE BBC

"Usage is the best language teacher." Marcus Fabius Quintilianus

A Touch of Polish

Do Polish ex-pat, Bogdan and English divorcee, Sarah live happily ever after? Find out what happens in the final episode of the online soap, where the storyline is down to you!

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

Talk German

Links, rechts, geradeaus? Find your way in German with a lively introduction to the language in ten short parts. Try the online topics with audio, video and quizzes and you'll be talking

German in no time! <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german/talk/>

French and Spanish Crosswords

Ready to take your French or Spanish to the next level? Try your hand at our Crosswords for intermediates:

French: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/news/crossword/flash/>

Spanish: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/news/crossword/flash/>

A Guide to Urdu

Why learn Urdu? Because the Urdu community in the UK numbers around one million speakers and it's a practical, living language spoken by 490 million people around the world!

Find out about the history of this major world language and take the first steps to learning it with some basic key phrases: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/other/guide/urdu/>

Conferences this month

11-12th April - Language World ALL conference in Oxford - join us there! BBC Active will be at Stand N38 - why not drop by and say hello?

Languages on TV - BBC TWO Learning Zone - new format

GCSE Bitesize Revision: French 1

Friday 4th April

0400-0600

With writing, speaking and listening exercises, this programme looks at everyday experiences and personal and social life.

GCSE Bitesize Revision: French 2

Friday 11th April

0400-0600

This looks at the world around us, the world of work and the international world.

GCSE Bitesize Revision: German

Friday 18th April

0400-0600

An education programme aimed at students revising for GCSE German. Narrated by Jenny Éclair. Includes 'Happening Hints' sections featuring students, examiners and celebrities giving anecdotes and tips.

GCSE Bitesize Revision: Spanish

Friday 25th April

0400-0600

This includes everyday experience, personal and social life, the world around us, the world of work and the international world.

The Learning Zone will resume with a new format (four nights a week) from 16th June - 4th July:

Tuesday 17 th June	0400-0600	<i>Talk Spanish, 1-6; Eurografters: Spain</i>
Wednesday 18 th June	0400-0600	<i>Talk French 1-6; Eurografters: France</i>
Thursday 19 th June	0400-0600	<i>Talk German 1-6; Eurografters: Germany</i>
Friday 20 th June	0400-0600	<i>Talk Italian 1-6; Eurografters: Italy</i>
Tuesday 24 th June	0400-0600	<i>Talk Greek 1-6</i>
Wednesday 25 th June	0400-0600	<i>Talk Portuguese 1-6; Brazil Inside Out 1-5</i>

Thursday 26 th June	0400-0600	<i>Ma France 1-2</i>
Friday 27 th June	0400-0600	<i>Ma France 3-4</i>
Tuesday 30 th June	0400-0600	<i>Real Chinese 1-8</i>
Wednesday 1 st July	0400-0600	<i>Real Chinese 9-10; China Close-Up 1-6</i>
Thursday 2 nd July	0400-0600	<i>Japanese Language and People 1-4</i>
Friday 3 rd July	0400-0600	<i>Japanese Language and People 5-8</i>

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

NATIONAL NEWS

Cambridge drops GCSE language requirement

Cambridge University are dropping their requirement that all applicants need to have a GCSE in a foreign language, in the hope of attracting more state schools.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/cambridge-drops-need-for-foreign-language-796256.html>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/7297143.stm> and

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/higher/news/story/0,,2265585,00.html> and

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2008/03/15/nedu315.xml>

French is not enough

We need more teachers of community languages, according to the *Guardian*.

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/schools/story/0,,2266120,00.html>

Footballers should be learning the lingo

A consideration of what extra skills apprentice footballers should be learning during their scholarships. <http://football.guardian.co.uk/comment/story/0,,2266686,00.html>

Mind my language? I wish I had

Tim Hames in the *Times* laments his lack of language skills in a ringing endorsement of language learning

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/tim_hames/article3564472.ece

Language skills - the truth is out

A study suggesting that young girls learn language skills more completely than boys.

<http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=are-women-really-better-with-language&sc=rss>

Ladder to languages success

News of the country's best learners and how they climbed the Languages Ladder

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2008_0038

MFL tragedy

What one blogger on the TES thinks about making languages non-compulsory at GCSE. You have the opportunity to leave comments...

<http://www.tes.co.uk/blogs/blog.aspx?path=/Speakers'%20Corner/&post=2571146>

A-Levels to lose literary greats

Foreign language A-Levels are to axe some 'classic' European texts in a move to more contemporary writing.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/education/article3466757.ece>

Forty languages

An article on the primary school where pupils learn the basics in forty different languages

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/the-primary-school-where-every-child-learns-to-speak-40-languages-793716.html>

Je Ne Parle Pas Français

I bet you never thought you'd see the day when this newsletter contained a link to Heat, but this is apparently a clip of popular beat combo Girls Aloud and their new single - in French. <http://www.heatworld.com/Article/Channel/Music/4554/Girls+Aloud/Girls+Aloud+CAN+Speak+French>

Must try harder: epic journey runs aground at Calais

A walker who had intended to walk all the way from Bristol to India relying solely on the kindness of strangers has had to give up in Calais, as his lack of French created too much of a barrier. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/bristol/7270401.stm>

The Pink Panther and his role in language lessons

Biddy Passmore learns to make languages fun at a college in Cambridgeshire http://www.tes.co.uk/search/story/?story_id=2583992

All together now, say 'SzcZ'

Help is at hand for teachers struggling with Polish names on the register, in the form of a Polish tutor in Grantham, who is running classes for teachers. <http://www.tes.co.uk/2587397>

Panic in Beijing over Chinglish

Beijing is frantically trying to get ready for the Olympics, but has yet to iron out its signage issues... <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/global/main.jhtml?xml=/global/2008/03/19/noindex/wchinglish119.xml>

Confucius classrooms opened in Scotland

A network of classrooms to help boost cultural links with China are opening across Scotland <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/7306273.stm>

EVENTS

Language World

This is your last reminder for ALL Language World! The conference will be held in the Oxford Examination Schools again this year, from 11th-12th April. There are some great sessions to attend, as well as some fascinating stands to see in the publishers' exhibition...come and say hello! Read more at <http://www.languageworld.org.uk/home/>

Languages of the Wider World: Valuing Diversity

15th - 16th September 2008. Organised jointly by the Subject Centre for Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies (LLAS) and the SOAS-UCL Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning Languages of the Wider World (LWW-CETL), this conference will bring together teachers, researchers, educational developers and policy makers to discuss practical and strategic issues relating to languages of the wider world in UK higher education.

You can see more details on SOAS' conference website at

<http://www.llas.ac.uk/events/llaseventitem.aspx?resourceid=2936>.

CALL FOR PAPERS: To submit a proposal, please complete the form provided on the website <http://www.llas.ac.uk/events/llaseventitem.aspx?resourceid=2936#callforpapers> and send to S.Holdom@soton.ac.uk.

Deadline: Friday 2nd May 2008

Call for Papers - SLanguages 2008

Linguanetter Graham Davis has posted the following announcement from Gavin Dudeney, Project Director, The Consultants-E <http://www.theconsultants-e.com>.

'Following on from last year's inaugural SLanguages conference, we are pleased to announce a call for papers for this year's bigger and better event, to be held 23rd May 10:00 PST to 24th May 10:00 PST on EduNation II and III.

'The conference aims to bring together practitioners and researchers in the field of language education in Second Life for a 24-hour festival celebrating languages and cultures in Second

Life, and will include a variety of social events as well as an exciting mix of plenary and simultaneous sessions throughout.

'We would like to invite speakers to submit proposals for seminars, workshops, discussions, demonstrations and poster displays on all aspects of language learning and teaching in Second Life. Sessions should be a maximum of one hour, and you should be prepared to do your session twice over the 24-hour period in order to maximise audience participation globally.

'Presentations (in any language) should be voice and text (ask us for tools to facilitate this) and, where possible, include handouts and summaries for the seminar archive, which will be made available shortly after the live event itself.

'If you would like to participate, please contact Dudeney Ge in world (please use a notecard as IMs are often capped), or write to me off list at gavin.dudeney@theconsultants-e.com.' Alternatively, you can go to their website at <http://www.slanguages.net>.

CILT's 'Our Languages' project

CILT have been holding a cyber-conference to give community language speakers the opportunity to voice their opinions about learning and speaking their language(s). The blog is now closed, but you can read more about the project behind this at http://www.cilt.org.uk/commlangs/our_langs/. The project website will be launched at the National Community Languages Conference in Sheffield on 11 June.

UKFCS

This year's conference from the UK Federation of Chinese Schools has the theme of interactive teaching and learning, sessions on drama, ICT, teaching GCSE/A Level and Asset Languages, songs, games and crafts and collaboration between Chinese community and mainstream schools, it looks like an exciting programme.

The 14th Teachers Training Conference will be held on 5-6 April at the University of Reading . To enquire, email education@ukfcs.info or look at the News page on the website for programme and booking information: <http://www.ukfcs.info>.

Japanese speech contest

The ALL Japanese Language Committee has posted the latest news about this year's Japanese Speech Contest. You can read all about it here www.jlcweb.org.uk.

RESOURCES

Free maps and resources

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the EU with some free maps, wallcharts and other resources for schools, available from their website here http://www.ukgermanconnection.org/microsites/?location_id=557&PHPSESSID=a7582cc34cce2415f8cafe6eb369a1fa.

CILT Cymru resources

CILT Cymru has recommended the following sites: http://taka.unimedia.fr/~brindille/jeux/jeu_verbe/menu.php?class_id=2, that features an exercise on verbs, and <http://www.takatrouver.net/>, that can be used at home or in class.

Chikara for reading now available online

The online CHIKARA resources for GCSE Japanese have been updated to include Chikara for Reading. This is a new fourth topic entitled 'Life & Culture in Japan' which corresponds with the GCSE topics 'Media, Entertainment & Youth Culture' and 'In the UK and abroad'. This new resource is designed to help students of GCSE Japanese to practise reading at the level of structures in GCSE Japanese, practise GCSE grammatical structures and learn basic facts about life and culture in Japan. As with all CHIKARA resources, this new material is completely free to download from the Japan Foundation London Language Centre [website](http://www.jpf.org.uk/language/index.php), <http://www.jpf.org.uk/language/index.php> . The updated CHIKARA webpage can be found here http://www.jpf.org.uk/language/teaching_chikara.php.

A great tip from Helen Myers

These are the role plays which my year 10 are preparing for their Y10 exam in 2 weeks' time ... they go with Edexcel 2006. <http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=33LtZi175I> How I did it:

http://www.mfresources.org.uk/Idea_audio_files.htm.

This time I tried to see how quickly I could do it, so it's not as well thought out / timed .. it took me about an hour and a half, (including mistakes!) ... did not take time to change my voice or count out the bars beforehand, and the rhythm is really not that straightforward, so I'm not convinced it's going to be as helpful! So my 'learning points/self evaluation' are:

- (1) Choose something with a clear beat from the start ..not just one I like ...!!! (It gets into the rhythm with the quantities!)
- (2) Count up the bars so you can work out how many you can fit in (I had to leave out 6 phrases)
- (3) Type the text first before putting into the program (there were mistakes and this wasted time)
- (4) Type out a 'how to' so that you don't have to keep on looking up the help!
- (5) find a 'frame' which is a real frame rather than one with a cat at the side which blocks the text! OR modify the picture to make it transparent (as in GCSE role play rap part 1)
- (6) allow time to give the entire phrase rather than just parts of it
- (7) don't breath so loudly!
- (8) work out what the pictures mean first so that you don't have to repeat 'des pommes' ...!!!
- (9) Try to forget how stupid you sound while you are saying e.g. 'a pair of trousers' .. it can show in your voice
- (10) Don't shout

African Animals - website in French

Scottish CILT have recommended the following website as of interest:

<http://www.africanimo.com/>.

Free Metro in many languages

They have also recommended this great website, where you can download a copy of the *Metro* in a large number of different languages, absolutely free

<http://www.metropoint.com/cgi-bin/WebObjects/Metro.woa>

The latest from Joe Dale

In response to concerns over the lack of news emanating from the Joe Dale blogosphere, Joe has sent through a comprehensive update as to what delights we can currently see on his blog:

Languages LP Celebration Meeting:

http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating_ict_into_the_/2008/03/languages-lead.html

CILT Video Case Study Project:

http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating_ict_into_the_/2008/03/cilt-video-case.html

Portsmouth Primary Languages Conference:

http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating_ict_into_the_/2008/03/portsmouth-prim.html

Bringing the Bayeux Tapestry Alive:

http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating_ict_into_the_/2008/03/bringing-the-ba.html

Bucharest eTwinning Conference 2008:

http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating_ict_into_the_/2008/03/bucharest-etwin.html

Dans vingt ans je serai ...?:

http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating_ict_into_the_/2008/03/dans-vingt-ans.html

From Gorseville to Campville in one stop:

http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating_ict_into_the_/2008/03/from-gorseville.html

Adding atmosphere to your podcast with SoundTransit:

http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating_ict_into_the_/2008/03/adding-atmpsphe.html

SURVEYS AND COMPETITIONS

Languages from the Cradle (Lullabies of Europe)

The Languages from the Cradle is a European Union Lingua project that is compiling the most common lullabies in seven European languages, Czech, Danish, English, Greek, Italian, Romanian, and Turkish in order to promote language awareness at a young age.

As part of the project, these lullabies will be available from the project website. They will also be available very soon as a DVD, CD, and a book, with relevant language awareness activities, translations, and explanations, which can be used within schools and Kindergartens or by individual families with babies. Information on using the lullabies will be included in the project products.

Further information can be found on the project website at <http://www.lullabies-of-europe.org/>. If you would like to contribute to the project or sign up to their newsletter, write to Dr. Figen Sat Yilmaz at fyilmaz@lullabies-of-europe.org.

What do you think of the SSAT Community Languages site?

Saleem Qureshi, who runs the SSAT Community Languages site, has asked for your thoughts on their website - what is available, what is needed, what is not needed and what should be there. You can contact Saleem with your thoughts at

qus@MOSELEY.BHAM.SCH.UK. The website is here:
<http://www.schoolsnetwork.org.uk/specialismsandvocational/specialisms/languages/community/default.aspx>

BILINGUALISM WEBSITES

A member emailed me and asked me for some useful websites about bilingualism - how to approach teaching bilingual children, and some tips for raising bilingual children. I hope the following websites are of some use. Most of them are very much in favour of encouraging bilingualism in children via whatever means, so not all of them offered a balanced picture. If you have a topic you would particularly like to be included here, then drop me an email.

A pretty comprehensive website with a range of articles on how to raise bilingual children
<http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/talktoyourbaby/Bilingual.html>

A voluntary group's website for anyone who wants to pass on their mother tongue to their children
<http://www.mothersongmatters.com/>

The Waltham Forest Bilingual Group offers help and support to anyone interested in bilingual issues
<http://www.wfbilingual.org.uk/>

A journal on multilingualism, Multilingual Matters, has its site here
<http://www.multilingual-matters.net/beb/>

There is a forum here
<http://lists.becta.org.uk/mailman/listinfo/eal-bilingual> for teachers of English as an additional language, specialist classroom assistants, and others involved in teaching and supporting pupils from ethnic and linguistic minority backgrounds

A NFER study on bilingual learners in primary schools can be found here
<http://www.nfer.ac.uk/research-areas/pims-data/summaries/raising-the-achievement-of-bilingual-learners-in-primary-schools-evaluation-of-the-pilotprogramme.cfm>

The British Council have a webpage about bilingualism available here
<http://www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglish-central-magazine-bilingualism.htm>

Some more technical linguistic information about bilingualism can be found here
<http://www.blss.portsmouth.sch.uk/typesofbil.shtml>

The Bilingualism and Literacies Education Network
<http://www.blen-education.org.uk/>
An American website, suggesting some useful websites for teachers of bilingual children
<http://www.easternct.edu/depts/edu/textbooks/bilingual.html>

And to finish, here are some past news stories on bilingualism:

Being bilingual protects brain
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/3794479.stm>

Bilingual classes raise results
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/6447427.stm>

Bébé, you're bilingual

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/main.jhtml?xml=/education/2008/02/09/fafrench109.xml>

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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