

Welcome to the 74th BBC Active Tutors' Club Newsletter!

First of all, a big welcome to everyone who signed up to join the Club either at CILT AE or at the Chinese SSAT Network conference. I hope you enjoy receiving your newsletters, and encourage all members, old and new, to feel free to contact me at any time with feedback, ideas or recommendations on susanna.jones@pearson.com.

I know that many of you will be looking forward to the end of term if it hasn't arrived already, but there's still plenty going on in the world of languages. I'm hoping to meet many of you at CILT's HE conference at the beginning of July in sunny York, and we also have our Talk competition for you to tackle - these hampers must be won!!

Our last bit of Summer publishing is out this month - the *Quickstarts* and the wonderful *Talk Mandarin Chinese* - plus there are some great BBC Active offers on in the bookshops for you and your students.

Susie

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NEWS FROM BBC ACTIVE



Talk tutors' website - there's still time to send in your ideas and win

www.bbcactive.com/languages/talk

As you will have seen in the last newsletter, we are updating the *Talk Tutors'* site this Summer and we'd like you to be involved.

If you have used the *Talk* activities in the classroom, tell us about your experience: which activities work well, which would benefit from some changes. What would you like to see added to the site?

COMPETITION: Send us any successful ideas or activities you've developed yourself for using *Talk* in the classroom, and we'll share them with other tutors. The best three win a fabulous Fortnum and Mason Strand hamper! The Strand hamper contains a delicious range of high-class consumables, all in a Fortnum and Mason wicker hamper, which is perfect for taking on long Summer picnics.

Email your feedback and ideas to our publisher Debbie Marshall, at debbie.marshall@pearson.com.

Tip of the Month

Carol Pilch from Norwich is this month's winner, with another fun game for playing in class. She wins a BBC Active Spanish Phrase Book and Dictionary.



This idea developed from a game we used to play using quick fire questions which must be answered without saying 'yes' or 'no'. I ring a bell if these words are used. This encourages the use of full sentences with the correct verb form and for more advanced students extends ways of agreeing/disagreeing - of course, absolutely, impossible, not at all. It can be used as a simple revision exercise at the beginning of a lesson or a light-hearted way to summarise.

You can make it competitive by losing a turn or playing until only one person is left.

Great offers in store from WH Smith

From July-September, WH Smith have the following offers available in store:

£5 off *Talk* - the following CD packs from our bestselling *Talk* series will be available to buy for £9.99: *Talk French*, *Talk Spanish*, *Talk Italian*, *Talk German*, *Talk Greek*, *Talk Portuguese*, *Talk French 2*, *Talk Spanish 2*. The CD packs include the compact course book and two audio CDs.

Get By for £7.99 - the following travel packs from our gorgeous *Get By* series will be available to buy for £7.99 (that's £2 off the 2007 titles and £3 off the 2008 title *Get By In Polish*): *Get By In French*, *Spanish*, *German*, *Italian*, *Greek*, *Portuguese*, *Polish*. The travel packs include the book and audio CD.

To find your nearest WH Smith, go to <http://www.whsmith.co.uk/Support/StoreFinder.aspx> or phone 0870 444 6 444 and select option 5. To read more about any of the titles in this offer, visit our website at <http://www.bbcactive.com/Languages/>.



Talk Mandarin Chinese

Don't forget that our new Chinese course for absolute beginners, *Talk Mandarin Chinese*, is out in July. Based on the best-selling format of our existing *Talk* courses, it takes learners step by step through the basics of Mandarin Chinese. Free online tutors' worksheets are being written to accompany this course, so you can have all the great classroom support you would normally expect from a *Talk* course.

You can pre-order your copy now by clicking 'buy' at <http://www.bbcactive.com/languages/other/83.asp>.

Give your students a multimedia learning experience, with *Talk Mandarin Chinese's* book and audio CDs, free tutors' notes and the BBC's *Real Chinese*, a selection of clips and videos divided into ten topics and available here http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/chinese/real_chinese/.

Also out this month: **Quickstart**

The updated and iPod-enhanced *Quickstarts* are also out in July, available in Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Greek, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish.



New Primary French is Fun resources from BBC Active

New pupils' books and photocopiable activity books are available in July from the School Shop, to accompany the Primary French is Fun packs for interactive whiteboard. A CDROM pack of French stories for your interactive whiteboard is also available from

December. Click on <https://www.bbcactive.com/schoolshop/> and scroll down to the link to find out more.

NEWS FROM THE BBC

"I personally think we developed language because of our deep need to complain." - Lily Tomlin

Mi Vida Loca - your comments

Teachers in adult education are recommending *Mi Vida Loca* for students to use as a refresher over the summer break. Let us know what YOU think about the new interactive thriller for Spanish learners, a course that follows the Asset languages "Breakthrough" criteria and can be used in schools as a very different and entertaining approach to language learning. Episodes 5-8 of the interactive thriller are now available, with episodes 9-16 following in mid-July, while the full syllabus will be published at the beginning of July. Send us your comments and let us know how you are using 'Mi Vida Loca' by emailing us at languages@bbc.co.uk. See more at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/mividaloca>.

Quick Fix Summer Phrases

Whether it's a cultural city break in Rome, sunbathing on the Spanish Costas, partying in Portugal or sampling Greek gastronomy, don't forget to pack your printable, downloadable Quick Fix phrases:

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

Spanish: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/quickfix/>

Portuguese: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/other/portuguese/quickfix/>

Greek: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/other/greek/quickfix/>

Le Tour de France vocab & games/Bastille Day Crossword

Sucer les roues...? La voiture-balai...? Pick up some cycling slang and tour terminology and try your hand at quizzes and other fun activities. Intermediate to more advanced levels can try a challenging crossword with a French Revolution theme:

Tour de France: http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/mafrance/html/tour_de_france/

La Révolution Française Crossword:

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

Languages on TV - BBC TWO Learning Zone

01 July: set video on the evening of Mon 30th Jun

04:00-06:00 Real Chinese 1-8

http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/chinese/real_chinese/

02 July: set video on the evening of Tues 1st July

04:00-04:30 Real Chinese 9-10

http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/chinese/real_chinese/

02 July: set video on the evening of Tues 1st July

04:30-06:00 China Close Up

03 July: set video on the evening of Wed 2nd July

04:00-06:00 Japanese Language and People

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

04 July: set video on the evening of Thurs 3rd July

04:00-06:00 Japanese Language and People

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

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

Advanced BBC TWO Learning Zone schedule for Autumn 2008

German

Tuesday 2nd September 0400-0600 *Deutsch Plus 1-8*

Wednesday 3rd September 0400-0600 *Deutsch Plus 9-16*

Thursday 4th September 0400-0600 *Deutsch Plus 17-20; Deutsch Plus 2*

Friday 5 th September	0400-0530 0530-0600	<i>Germany Inside Out 3-5</i> <i>Eurografters: Germany</i>
French		
Tuesday 9 th September	0400-0600	<i>The French Experience 1-8</i>
Wednesday 10 th September	0400-0600	<i>The French Experience 9-16</i>
Thursday 11 th September	0400-0500 0500-0600	<i>The French Experience 17-20</i> <i>The French Experience 2 1-4</i>
Friday 12 th September	0400-0600	<i>The French Experience 2 5-10</i>
Italian		
Tuesday 21 st October	0400-0600	<i>Italianissimo 1-8</i>
Wednesday 22 nd October	0400-0600	<i>Italianissimo 9-16</i>
Thursday 23 rd October	0400-0500 0500-0600	<i>Italianissimo 17-20</i> <i>Italy Inside Out 1-2</i>
Friday 24 th October	0400-0530 0530-0600	<i>Italy Inside Out 3-5</i> <i>Eurografters: Italy</i>
Spanish		
Tuesday 28 th October	0400-0600	<i>Sueños 1-8</i>
Wednesday 29 th October	0400-0600	<i>Sueños 9-16</i>
Thursday 30 th October	0400-0500 0500-0600	<i>Sueños 17-20</i> <i>Spain Inside Out 1-2</i>
Friday 31 st October	0400-0530 0530-0600	<i>Spain Inside Out 3-5</i> <i>Eurografters: Spain</i>

NATIONAL NEWS

Make the case for languages in HE-business consultation

The DIUS are running yet another consultation: Higher Education at Work: High Skills, High Value. The consultation is focusing on what skills the workforce need to provide us with a flourishing and competitive economy. The RLN London are urging providers (and others) to put the case for languages on their website at <http://www.rln-london.com/News/default.aspx#high>.

The deadline for responses is Monday 7th July 2008. You can read the report and respond at http://www.dius.gov.uk/consultations/con_0408_hlss.html.

Brits abroad - tongue-tied and to be avoided? Not any more

Apparently Brits abroad are well dressed and even make a fair stab at the local language, according to a new survey. Or at least, this is the case outside Europe...

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2070721/Britons-are-%27the-worst-behaved-tourists%27.html>

Boys off target for languages

Only half of boys have reached the expected level in foreign languages by the age of 14, new statistics show. http://www.tes.co.uk/search/story/?story_id=2628654

Belfast nursery takes a leaf out of continental book

European children are taught to speak other languages at a very early age and now a nursery in Belfast is following the continental example.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/northern_ireland/7451830.stm

Lord Adonis' 'straight-through schooling'

Including plans to give primary children 'secondary style' lessons in a range of subjects including languages.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/politics/education/2100172/Lord-Adonis-plans-all-through-schools-for-children-aged-five-to-18.html>

Row over language teaching in Scotland

A study by the Scottish Funding Council found university and college language departments believe that the way subjects such as French, German, Spanish and Italian are taught actively discourages pupils from going on to study them at university because they focus too much on passing exams.

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2303826.0.Row_over_way_languages_are_taught_in_Scots_secondaries.php

Business heads criticise diploma plans

The CBI raises its concerns over the 'unnecessary distraction' of the Government's proposed new diplomas, one of which would be in languages.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/7468444.stm>

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/schools/story/0,,2287001,00.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/politics/education/2176362/CBI-attacks-new-diploma-plans.html>

Team up to get them talking

An article in the TES promoting 'Our Languages', and the need to team up to teach community languages more effectively. http://www.tes.co.uk/search/story/?story_id=2635238

Speaking their language

How using video, in this case in a French lesson, can help energise and enthuse your class.

http://www.tes.co.uk/search/story/?story_id=2635287

What are you saying?

A report on what issues language teachers are discussing on the TES forum.

http://www.tes.co.uk/search/story/?story_id=2635285

Fighting for survival in Scotland

An article voicing the concern that, with more subject choices available to Scottish pupils, language tutors could soon be fighting to keep their classes.

http://www.tes.co.uk/search/story/?story_id=2635317

The French film industry - boom or gloom?

An article on the French directors who are bemoaning a supposed boom in French cinema, which many feel is lowering standards. <http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/film-and-tv/features/meet-the-french-directors-bemoaning-the-gallic-film-boom-810827.html>

Local language recognition angers French academy

Something to be celebrated or silenced? As the French parliament recognises regional dialects, there are concerns over the 'purity' of the French language...

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/jun/17/france>

Un Film de Almodóvar

A provocative article in the Guardian about the difficulty non-Almodóvar Spanish films have in breaking the international market...so provocative, in fact, that it sparked an unhappy letter from Almodóvar himself.

<http://film.guardian.co.uk/features/featurepages/0,,2286072,00.html> and the response:

<http://film.guardian.co.uk/features/featurepages/0,,2287181,00.html>.

Yellow Mountain poetry festival

A festival that 'unites English poets with the Chinese language'.

http://entertainment.timesonline.co.uk/tol/arts_and_entertainment/books/poetry/article4079887.ece

Facing the future

Facebook launches new Chinese language edition.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/digitalife/main.jhtml?xml=/connected/2008/06/23/dlfacebook123.xml> or <http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2008/jun/23/facebook.chinathemedia>

We must focus on China

Dr Anthony Seldon gives his assessment of how schools are tackling the increasing importance of China through integrating intercultural awareness into their teaching.
http://www.tes.co.uk/search/story/?story_id=2628680

EVENTS

Online hot seat for languages

Kathy Wickstead from ALL has drawn attention to an online hot seat for languages that went live on Monday 23rd June and is live until 4th July at www.newsecondarycurriculum.org. Kathy says: 'On the site there is a video clip, a 'think piece' and a forum for questions and comments. The video of me speaking is terrible! But I hope it won't put people off taking this opportunity to take forward the debate about the new curriculum.'

To access the pages, go to www.newsecondarycurriculum.org and log in, then choose the subject area from the Library section and follow the link to the page where you can join the web cast.

Japanese Film Festival

The BFI are running a season of post-war Japanese films 3rd-31st July. Read more at: http://www.bfi.org.uk/whatson/bfi_southbank/film_programme/july_seasons/japanese_gems.

Japanese conference 2008

This is a British Council conference taking place on Monday, August 18th and Tuesday, August 19th at Keio Plaza Hotel (Shinjuku, Tokyo). You can read more about it here: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/montagejapan-notice-conference.htm>.

Dates of 2nd Russian Film Festival announced

According to the Rossica website, these will be 18th-28th September in London, so book it into your diaries now! <http://www.academia-rossica.org/en/all-events/2nd-russian-film-fest>.

Isle of Wight conference - more details now available

As flagged in the Guardian, the Isle of Wight Conference will be taking place 25th-26th October at Nodehill Middle School. Read more about the conference including the speakers attending at http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating_ict_into_the_/2008/06/the-isle-of-wig.html.

RESOURCES



Free poster of Dali's *Muchacha en la ventana*

I have been sent a copy of the above by the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía. It includes a discussion of the painting (in castellano) on the reverse. Would anyone like it for their classroom? I am willing to send it to the first person who emails me at susanna.jones@pearson.com.

I've tried to include a thumbnail of the painting, but you can also see it online at a number of websites, including <http://www.artcyclopedia.com/feature-2005-03-Dali-Figure.html>.

Welcoming the World

This guide has been produced by RLN London for businesses welcoming foreign visitors to London, with a particular eye on the Olympics. However, it also provides an interesting discussion of how to greet people from other cultures and countries, with a particular focus on a number of countries: http://www.rln-london.com/pdf/WTW_customer-service.pdf.

Tips from Helen Myers

'I can't remember whether it was in Linguanet or mflresources that someone asked for tips about places to visit etc. I have just seen a short video on YouTube which I feel gives a good summary of ways in which it could be exploited, and has some references to areas at the end. This may be useful for anyone who doesn't know what Second Life is about and wants a

5 minute intro. <http://fr.youtube.com/watch?v=qOFU9oUF2HA>. Personally, I feel it has many possibilities for adult learners (including professional learning) and if we had a similar extremely well-moderated set up for young people, there are many possibilities!

Teacher Resource Exchange

I am sure that many of you will already be aware of this 'swap shop' for MFL resources, but if not then why not have a look at

[http://tre.ngfl.gov.uk/server.php?request=c2i0ZS5zZWFyY2g%3D&sf\[categoryId\]=00100100e](http://tre.ngfl.gov.uk/server.php?request=c2i0ZS5zZWFyY2g%3D&sf[categoryId]=00100100e). Catering for a wide range of languages and levels, the resources are free to download, plus you can reciprocate and add your own.

European Day of Languages Resources

I'm sure you're all looking forward to the 26th September already, but why not start preparing today with your CILT resource pack, available to order at

<http://www.cilt.org.uk/edl/resources.htm>? They also have lists of where you can get some great free resources to celebrate the EDL.

EU languages portal

Regular Linguanetter Graham Davies has recommended the following page on the EU website as being full of useful resources for teaching languages:

<http://europa.eu/languages/en/home>. Apparently this website is also available in French, German and Spanish.

Linie E

An interactive online quiz in German focussing on the languages of the EU:

<http://www.goethe.de/lrn/pro/linie-e/deutsch/start.html>

Online Russian dictionaries

The SRF has received the following recommendations, which link nicely with our feature on online dictionaries in last month's newsletter:

- <http://www.multitran.ru>
- <http://www.lingvo.ru/lingvo/Translate.asp?from=main>
- http://slovari.yandex.ru/?st_translate=1
- dictionary of abbreviations - <http://www.sokr.ru/>

SURVEYS AND COMPETITIONS

Languages from the Cradle

A brief update on the progress of the Languages from the Cradle Lingua project. This project is collecting lullabies in the original European languages, with their translations and for families, schools and children to use. Lullabies in multiple languages will be motivational resources to introduce new languages into a family setting.

1. The first samples of our lullabies can now be found on the project website at:

<http://www.lullabies-of-europe.org/>

2. A Wiki space has now been launched, where subscribers can add lullabies in all languages, with translations and information. <http://lullabiesofeurope.wetpaint.com/> called the Languages from the Cradle Education Project.

We invite you to contribute or use the resources.

If you have any questions or need help, please feel free to ask on the Languages from the Cradle Wiki forum.

Any questions, please contact Dr. Figen Sat Yilmaz, info@lullabies-of-europe.org.

Languages Work survey - and chocolate

CILT want to make sure that our Languages Work materials are providing you with what you need to ensure young people are informed about the benefits of languages, so they've set up a short questionnaire so you can tell them what you think. They love chocolate and thought that the chance to win a big box of gorgeous chocolates would help you find the time to

complete the online form. It's on the Languages Work website at www.languageswork.org.uk/feedback.

People's Vote on LAFTAs - have your say

CILT asked young people aged 13 to 21 to send in two-minute videos showing why languages are important as part of the Languages and Film Talent Awards (LAFTAs). CILT received over 160 entries from all across the UK, showing why we need languages: from being lost in a foreign country, to meeting the love of your life, to being attacked by sharks, cannibals or dragons...

The LAFTAs celebrity judging panel - which includes broadcaster Sir Trevor McDonald and comedian Eddie Izzard - have now cast their votes and we will be announcing the winners at an awards ceremony in September.

If you haven't taken part yet this year, there is still a chance to get involved. Multilingual Vacancies are hosting a People's Vote, giving you and your pupils the chance to vote for your favourite short-listed clips. The winner of the People's Vote will receive a special prize sponsored by Multilingual Vacancies at the LAFTAs awards ceremony.

To rate your favourite clips, visit www.multilingualvacancies.com/videos.php.

Threlford Memorial Cup

Nominations are now open for the Threlford Memorial Cup, awarded by the Institute of Linguists to an individual or organisation that has done most to 'foster the study of languages'. Please do have a think about nominating as the award means such a lot to the winner(s) and the scope of nominees is huge; past nominees have included football teams, community groups, schools and business/education partnerships.

You can read more at http://www.iol.org.uk/news/news_article.asp?r=N3TYCM30747.

WEBSITES OF INTEREST ON THE OLYMPICS

In honour of the impending Beijing Olympics, not to mention the rollercoaster ride towards London 2012, this month's feature is on the Olympic Games. A great opportunity to focus on language learning and a fun topic for the end of term.

Activities on the BBC Languages website are available at

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/chinese/quickfix/olympics.shtml>

A story about the rules and regulations that have been drawn up for visitors to Beijing

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/jun/04/china.olympicgames2008>

An article from 2005 asking 'Will the Olympics Help Languages?'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/4665411.stm>

An article from 2006, investigating how the Olympics will help with the HE languages drive

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/higher/news/story/0,,1880676,00.html>

A resource from the TES Resource Bank on teaching the Olympics

<http://www.tes.co.uk/resources/Resources.aspx?start=search&root=&subjectId=0&typeId=0&keyStageId=0&keywords=olympics>

A 'Team GB' website with information on the Beijing Olympics, and links to London 2012

<http://www.olympics.org.uk/beijing2008/>. The section of the site with downloadable

educational resources is available here <http://www.olympics.org.uk/education.aspx>.

The official page of Beijing 2008, including a section on 'Olympic Culture' and 'Olympic Education' <http://en.beijing2008.cn/>

DCSF 'global gateway' to Beijing 2008

<http://www.globalgateway.org/default.aspx?page=2447>

CILT's pages on the Olympics, and 'Why we need a multilingual Olympics'

<http://www.cilt.org.uk/sport/olympics/index.htm>

An article in Italian focussing on environmental concerns of Turin hosting the 2006 Winter Olympic

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/languageresources/italian/story/0,,1320298,00.html>

The official website of London 2012, including news of how to get involved in your area

<http://www.london2012.com/index.php>

How the RLN London will approach London 2012 <http://www.rln-london.com/Partners/olympics.aspx>

The DCSF give their spiel on London 2012 <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/L2012/>

An official London 2012 'education resource' site, with factsheets, pictures and teaching ideas <http://onyourmarks.london2012.com/>

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>.

NB You can [unsubscribe](#) at any time

If you'd prefer not to go on receiving the e-mail club newsletters, please e-mail me at susanna.jones@pearson.com with your full name and educational institution with the message 'Unsubscribe' - or write to: Susie Jones, BBC Active Languages, Mezzanine, 80 Strand, London WC2R 0RL