

Welcome to the 75th BBC Active Tutors' Club Newsletter!

I do hope that the majority of you are enjoying the sunshine and the downtime of July and August, and have a lot more to come! To keep you ticking over, and to help out those of you who are private tutors or who teach Summer schools, this month's newsletter is full of the usual excitements. There is a great Tip of the Month (don't forget to keep sending them in to susanna.jones@pearson.com), news about our exciting new *Quickstart* courses, some new research from the DCSF and links to some great Turkish websites. And lots more besides!

Enjoy the rest of the Summer, and I'll be back with another update at the end of August. In the meantime, don't forget to send in your tips, ideas and feedback!

Susie

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NEWS FROM BBC ACTIVE

Tip of the Month

Valeria Malandra, an Italian teacher from the University of Surrey, is this month's winner, with another fun game for playing in class. She wins a BBC Active Italian Phrase Book and Dictionary.



Students write eight sentences saying what they have done in the past (for instance: I've been to Australia, I've swum with dolphins! etc.). Then they read them aloud. One of the sentences must be untrue; the other students will have to guess which one.

Alternatively, students write eight sentences saying how they imagine their lives in ten years' time, using the future tense. As before, one of the sentences must be untrue and the other students need to guess which one it is.

One student thinks of a time, the other students try to guess. To help, the student in charge

can say: Un po' prima/molto prima (a bit before/a lot before), un po' dopo/molto dopo (a bit after/a lot after) translated in the target language...

Quickstart

Some of you may remember the original *Quickstarts*, available in French, German, Italian and Spanish; these are new and updated versions that cover both the original four languages and four completely new languages - Arabic, Chinese, Greek and Portuguese. This series has also been iPod enhanced, to give your students the option to access the scripts and key phrases on their iPod, should they so desire. Perfect for listening practice between lessons.



If you have already purchased *Quickstart* in your language of choice, additional instructions and technical support are available via our website at www.bbcactive.com/languages (follow the guidance on the home page or go to the individual product pages).

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

www.bbcactive.com/languages/talk

Now you have some time to relax over the Summer, perhaps you would like to think about your own great ideas for using *Talk* in the classroom? 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.

A reminder of the WH Smith in-store offer

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

£5 off *Talk* - the following CD packs from our best-selling *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/>.

NEWS FROM THE BBC

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

New! A Touch of Japanese

Try your hand at the quiz to see if you can avoid social embarrassment, pick up essential phrases and learn some fascinating facts about the language:

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

Chinese - Olympics phrases

Jiā yóu! Get set for the Olympic Games in Beijing with some printable, downloadable Chinese phrases:

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

Mi Vida Loca - new episodes

Keep up with the latest episodes of *Mi Vida Loca*. Have you experienced the drama in the adventure thriller yet? As the central character in this action-packed language course, you'll feel as if you're actually in Spain!

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

New-look Ma France

Ma France has a brand new look! Improve or brush up your basic French with the help of interactive videos filmed in Lyons, the Alps and Provence:

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

Sue's Spain Diary

After two years, Sue is back... and she has some good news! Read her diary:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/yoursay/200806/19736.shtml>

Language Zone

The Language Zone is taking a break for the Summer holidays.

NATIONAL NEWS

Informal learning - Government consultation

Well done to all of you who took the opportunity to respond to the Government's consultation, *Informal Adult Learning: Shaping the Way Ahead*. Apparently they received over 4,000 responses from individuals and organisations, which they are duly sifting through as we speak. They should come up with a full report in September, to be published on their website <http://www.adultlearningconsultation.org.uk/>. We will wait with baited breath...

You can read NIACE's response to the consultation at

<http://www.niace.org.uk/Organisation/advocacy/DIUS/Informal-AL.htm>. It obviously covers all aspects of AE, not just language learning, but they come up with some interesting overarching proposals and seem keen to promote language learning as a significant subject in the AE sector, and have some useful statistics that highlight how popular language learning is across the age groups.

Weak speaking skills still worrying

Speaking skills remain a weakness for students studying languages at secondary schools, according to an Ofsted report. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/7483034.stm> and

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newsttopics/politics/education/2222821/Ofsted-Foreign-languages-pupils-struggle-to-hold-conversations.html>

Language boom at primary level

More primary school children than ever are learning languages, according to Government research. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/7475422.stm> and <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/education/article4218502.ece> and <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/2200787/Foreign-languages-for-seven-year-olds.html>

It's that time of year again...

...when results come in, and the debate about the decline in numbers of students taking languages flares up once more.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/jul/21/modernlanguages.gcses>. You can read a recent comment piece about America's battle with MFL here <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/jul/18/languages.barackobama>.

Language of the month

One school's groundbreaking scheme of allowing children to become teachers and educate their classmates in the basics of their mother tongue.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/global/main.jhtml?xml=/global/2008/07/09/noindex/falessons05.xml>
!

Getting them globalised

A programme getting young adults to experience cultures from all over the world.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/7480676.stm>

The universal language?

An interesting experiment that found that gesticulation crosses more language barriers than you may think.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/main.jhtml?xml=/earth/2008/07/01/scigesture101.xml>

French government to push MFL angle

The Sarkozy government are proposing a rash of new educational reforms, including an increased emphasis on teaching foreign languages...

http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/jon_doust/blog/2008/06/24/nicholas_sarkozys_emphasis_on_foreign_languages

Au revoir to success?

Aberdeen Council's education budget deficit puts groundbreaking French programme at risk.

<http://www.scilt.stir.ac.uk/news/2008/07/11/au-revoir-to-success/>

Political fútbol

The Spanish victory in Euro 2008 has been heralded by some as an event to unify an increasingly fragmentary state (see for example

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/jun/29/spain.spain>), but are things really that simple?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/jul/01/spain.euro2008>

Policing the Portuguese in their own language

An encouraging initiative from Suffolk where two community support officers policing a Portuguese area of Ipswich are being encouraged to learn the language. Similar activity is being undertaken in Lambeth by Met officers seeking to build bridges with the communities they police. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/suffolk/7516828.stm>

Why speak Esperanto?

Following a Littlewoods advert based on Esperanto, the BBC ask what the point is of learning this little-spoken but universal language <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/magazine/7505820.stm>

Sick at heart?

An amusing exercise outlining the perils of relying too heavily on online translation packages:
http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/ceri_radford/blog/2007/03/16/ar_goll_i_mewn_chyfieithiad

The word on the 'strity' is 'Ponglish'

The Polish equivalent of 'Franglais', 'Ponglish' is proving popular from London to Warsaw.
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/global/main.jhtml?xml=/global/2008/07/03/noindex/nponglish.xml>

Vietnamese vs. French

How is the ongoing competition between the French teacher and the Vietnamese pupil to learn each others' languages progressing, as we hurtle towards results time?
<http://education.guardian.co.uk/egweekly/story/0,,2290750,00.html>

EVENTS

'Our Languages' project: free regional training days for community languages teachers

In September, CILT are offering eight full-day seminars across England for teachers who are teaching community languages. Read more here:

http://www.ourlanguages.org.uk/features_events/events/Event183 .

EUROVOLT Language Teacher Training Course 2008/2009

Time schedule: 13th October 2008 until 16th May 2009 (18 working weeks). CLOSING time of application by 1st SEPTEMBER 2008.

Target group:

- Experienced language teachers/trainers who wish to develop and offer online vocationally oriented and/or language courses for professional purposes.
- Trainers of language teachers from different vocational/professional fields.

See <http://www.eurovolt.net/products/volt/coursedescription>.

Initial Teacher Education Conference

A focus on culture, progression and the content of language teaching in primary and secondary education, on Friday 12 & Saturday 13 September 2008, Burleigh Court Conference Centre, Loughborough. For more information about presenters and programme and to register, please visit <http://www.cilt.org.uk/cpd/ite.htm>.

The following events have been 'sourced' and recommended by the Japan Foundation, although they are by no means all exclusively Japanese:

Languages of the wider world: valuing diversity (SOAS, London, 15-16 Sep)

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

This includes workshops by teachers of Japanese: Kazumi Tanaka (SOAS) and Miyuki Nagai (University of Sheffield).

Celebrating languages and cultures in Yorkshire and The Humber (The Deep, Hull, 24 Sep)

This event is not directly related to Japanese, but it is part of the Routes into Languages project. It is open to parents, pupils, language teachers, head teachers, heads of sixth form, curriculum managers, exam board representatives, careers advisers, G and T coordinators, LEA representatives, local business people, and anyone who has an interest in languages and cultures.

http://www.hull.ac.uk/routesyorkshire/events/forthcoming/consortium_launch.html

Enquiry-based learning in languages (University of Manchester, 26 Sep)

<http://www.llas.ac.uk/events/llaseventitem.aspx?resourceid=2916> "The University of Manchester's Centre for Excellence in Enquiry-Based Learning (CEEEL) has been supporting the introduction of EBL in several disciplines, and most recently, in languages (notably in French, Japanese, Spanish)."

Engaging creatively with modern languages (University of Portsmouth, 24 Oct)

<http://www.llas.ac.uk/events/llaseventitem.aspx?resourceid=3042> This includes an afternoon workshop for all participants called "Japanese Creative Kickstart: a hands-on workshop introducing words and sounds to complete/near beginners", taught by John Cross.

RESOURCES

Critical Skills in the languages class

Ewan McIntosh has drawn attention to a new case study that has been published on Learning and Teaching Scotland's Modern Foreign Languages Environment (MFLE). Read more here <http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/mfle/sharingpractice/criticalskills/introduction.asp>.

Voyage website - new features

Ute Paetzig, UK-German Links Adviser to the British Council and the German Embassy and Director, UK-German Connection, wishes to draw attention to the brand-new community area of the Voyage website, which includes blogs (bilingual and binational), podcasts, videos and fora. Users can create their own accounts and profiles and establish their own "myvoyage" areas, with content and updates tailored to their individual areas of interest.

Community area: http://www.ukgermanconnection.org/cms/?location_id=20&language=en

Interactive area: http://www.ukgermanconnection.org/cms/?location_id=21.

Japanese studies in HE

Detailed information about UK universities that offer Japanese Studies/Language is available at www.jfjssurvey.org.uk. If your students are considering studying Japanese at university either as a degree or as a partial credit, you might find this website useful.

Resources from Helen Myers - Tour de France

While watching the race on and off today, I've put together a page of ideas for exploiting Le Tour de France ... many thanks to lots of people for links and ideas, and apologies in advance for not acknowledging contributors! Feel free to use this thread to lay claim to them!!!! Would be grateful for any corrections/additional resources etc ... I adapted some from last year and there may be some incorrect details/links still left. I'm hoping that this page will be there for next year and that I can adapt links slightly ... have always been meaning to do this.

Here's the link: http://www.mflresources.org.uk/fr_c_le_tour_de_france.htm

The background + powerpoint quiz + TaskMagic games seemed to go down OK with my Y9 set 4 of 5 yesterday.

More Olympic resources

The Routes Into Languages website has a number of useful links relating to language teaching and the Olympics at <http://www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/resources/olympics.html>, a few of which were not in the last newsletter.

The TES have also drawn attention to the number of Olympics resources they have in their Resource Bank - just go to <http://www.tes.co.uk/resources/Home.aspx> and search for 'Olympics'.

Business Language Champions from RLN London

RLN London has used funding from the DCSF and a partnership with CILT, Comenius London and Education Business Partnerships to launch the Business Language Champions programme. This 'aims to highlight the importance of language learning, by inspiring businesses to work in partnership with schools and colleges. Every party involved benefits, as the programme helps students understand the importance of languages at work, helps teachers grasp the business need for languages [and] helps businesses see how languages can give them competitive advantage.'

Read more about the programme and download an interesting PDF including some classroom exercises amongst other things at <http://www.rln-london.com/Employers/champions.aspx>.

Cliffhanger Studios

'The Quality Improvement Agency's (QIA's) interactive language teaching resource, Cliffhanger Studios, has won the prestigious Innovation in Education prize at the Royal Television Society's (RTS) 2007 Educational Television Awards. Cliffhanger Studios, produced for QIA by Illumina Digital, supports teachers, tutors and trainers in delivering inspirational and modern foreign language learning sessions. It uses video clips of a specially filmed soap opera in French, Spanish, German and English as a stimulus for role play.

Each soap opera clip ends on a 'cliffhanger', allowing learners to imagine possible outcomes. An interactive storyboard creator is provided to enable learners to build and record the remaining dialogue between the characters.'

Find out more and download the CD-ROM and the supportive booklet from

http://teachingandlearning.qia.org.uk/teachingandlearning/downloads/default.aspx#mfl_cliffhanger.

There are lots of other MFL resources on their website at

<http://teachingandlearning.qia.org.uk/teachingandlearning/downloads/default.aspx#mfl>.

Spanish quiz

This may have missed your end of term, but how about keeping this up your sleeve for future fun and games? Another resource from the TES Resource Bank.

<http://www.tes.co.uk/resources/Resource.aspx?resourceId=13980>

Japanese podcasting - EAL success

Follow this link to see the Jinrikisha - How We Learnt Japanese' podcasting project:

<http://www.soas.ac.uk/languagecentre/learners/projects/jinrikisha/>

You might also be very interested in the 'How We Learn Languages' page, with information from students of different languages on the best ways to learn:

<http://www.soas.ac.uk/languagecentre/learners/projects/hwll/how-we-learn-languages.html>

SURVEYS AND COMPETITIONS

Do you have a story to tell about languages? Case studies for DCSF

The DCSF have sent round a call for case studies, saying the following:

'To increase the number of young people selecting a language at GCSE it is crucial that they see the short and long term benefits languages can bring. Real life case studies are a great way to illustrate clearly how young people can use languages now and in the future. As a result, the DCSF has so far collected a range of case studies from organisations specifically recruiting candidates with languages skills.

'But for some young people thinking about their future job prospects can be too far removed from their every day lives so this is why gap year students, school leavers, career advisors, teachers and head case studies are also in the process of being secured. If you or your partners have case studies illustrating the benefits of learning languages to young people, parents or teachers please send them to MFLTeam@bbpr.com with your suggestions.

To give you an example of the types of case studies we would be interested in, someone:

- * Planning to or have taken a gap year and used their GCSE language skills
- * Who now has an exciting career in languages
- * Who has lived or moved abroad and used their language skills in doing so
- * Who has gone back to learning to take a GCSE/A level in language as they regretted not doing this at an earlier point.'

DCSF research

Three new reports from research into languages teaching and learning in English schools, commissioned by the DCSF, are now available on the DCSF website.

The first two are briefs from ongoing research examining Key Stage 2 language learning across England - the full timescale of research is 2006-2009.

1. The quantitative part of the survey - This research brief follows from an interim report published in June 2007 on the 2006 findings. The findings for the 2007 survey indicate an increase in the number of schools teaching languages at Key Stage 2 - up from 70% in autumn 2006 to 84% in autumn 2007.

[Language Learning Provision at Key Stage 2: Findings from the 2007 Survey](#) (pdf, 67.2 KB) by NFER, The National Foundation for Educational Research

2. The qualitative part of the survey - This is the first research brief from this investigation, which is tracking pupils and teachers in case study schools - amongst other things, the research is examining motivation, progression, attainment and the impact of languages on learning and standards across the curriculum.

[Language Learning at Key Stage 2: A Longitudinal Study: Interim Findings from the First Year](#) (pdf, 66.8KB) by Christ Church University Canterbury, the Open University and the University

of Southampton

3. The third report is interim findings from research examining the impact of the KS3 Framework and changes to the KS3 curriculum. This is part of a 2-year study by the University of Cambridge, commissioned by the DCSF. [Language Learning at Key Stage 3: The Impact of the Key Stage 3 Modern Foreign Languages Framework and changes to the curriculum on provision and practice](#) (pdf, 84.4KB) by the University of Cambridge

The DCSF press release regarding the new research includes comments from the Schools Minister Jim Knights and can be found on the [DCSF press releases pages](#).

The [CILT statistics pages for primary](#) have breakdowns of data from the 2008 and 2007 NFER reports (which would be useful for making comparisons with the new figures released last week) and further information on other primary languages research.

The [CILT statistics pages for secondary](#) includes a recent addition: details of GCSE languages uptake by local authority for 2007, compiled by CILT from DCSF sources.

14-19 case studies needed by CILT

CILT are seeking further case studies for the 14 to 19: Reshaping Languages area of the CILT website. 'If you think you are doing some interesting work in your school or college we would love to hear from you. We are particularly looking for good examples of differentiation and inclusion in 14-19 languages but would also welcome case studies on any of the themes on the site. These include: GCSE, AS and A level, alternative accreditation, ICT, use of target language, further education, languages ladder, intensive and immersion courses. Adding a case study about the excellent work that **you** are involved in will raise the profile of your school or college by sharing this good practice nationally. Please download the case study template from the bottom of our front page: www.cilt.org.uk/14to19/.

We are adding to the site all the time and have recently added further case studies and video clips. Do visit the web pages and fill in our online questionnaire to let us know what you would like to see on the site.'

The McInally Cup - Nominations invited

Each year the Institute of Linguists (IoL) Educational Trust presents prizes to candidates and Centres for outstanding performance in its examinations. The prizes which have, over the years, been presented to the Trust by a range of institutions and individuals include the McInally Cup, which recognises and rewards innovation and leadership in the field of interpreting.

Open to individuals or institutions, in 2007 the McInally Cup was won by The Better Trials Unit of the Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

The McInally Cup winner is chosen by a panel who now invite nominations; previously unsuccessful nominations can be resubmitted.

Forms can be downloaded from the website at <http://www.iol.org.uk/>. *Please do remember to include your contact details* Nominations should be received by September 1st 2008.

For more information visit the website or contact Sarah Heaps at Sarah.Heaps@iol.org.uk or 020 7940 3105.

TURKISH WEBSITES

I have had a special request for Polish and Turkish websites from an interested newsletter reader ... so this month, here are a list of Turkish websites of interest. Do feel free to email me with any other websites you use and would like to share with fellow Club members, or with your own requests for what you would like to see here. Next month, Polish!

Quick Fix Turkish phrases and audio files from the BBC - downloadable as MP3 files - are here <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/other/quickfix/turkish.shtml>. There is also an interesting chunk of the BBC's 'Multilingualism' section devoted to Turkish, which has some useful links here <http://www.bbc.co.uk/voices/multilingual/turkish.shtml> including a link to the BBC World Service in Turkish <http://www.bbc.co.uk/turkish/>.

Manisa Turkish - a website with lots of free resources for learning Turkish and practising grammar etc. - is available here <http://www.turkishlanguage.co.uk/>

An article about the Turkish language, along with a free mini language lesson and some links to online dictionaries <http://www.turizm.net/turkey/info/lesson.html>

The 100 most useful words in Turkish are apparently available here http://www.turkeytravelplanner.com/details/LanguageGuide/100words_lessons/
What appears to be a very comprehensive website offering links to poetic and literary offerings from Turkey <http://www.columbia.edu/~sss31/Turkiye/literature.html>
This website has a downloadable Turkish dictionary and a forum for Turkish learners <http://www.turkishclass.com/>
There are some free Turkish language lessons on this site, which also has exercises e.g. 'fill in the blanks' <http://cali.arizona.edu/maxnet/tur/>
A page about the Turkish language, with some useful links to linguistic, historical and cultural pages <http://www.turkishnews.com/DiscoverTurkey/culture/language/>
Turkish language resources to help with reading and comprehension. The newspaper articles were not posted when I checked, but they are apparently coming soon...
<http://www.princeton.edu/~turkish/>

Do you have a language or topic you would like this feature to cover? If so, let me know at 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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If you'd prefer not to go on receiving the email 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.