

Welcome to the 76th BBC Active Tutors' Club Newsletter!

This month's newsletter is slightly shorter than usual, due to this beautifully quiet time of year...but there's still plenty of news about the latest A Level and GCSE results and, more cheerily, news of the latest free BBC Active tutors' worksheets, to accompany the new *Talk Mandarin Chinese*. The latest tutors' catalogues, listing the whole of our brand new Quickstart series, are available now, so if you would like to receive your copy then just drop me an email at susanna.jones@pearson.com.

And don't forget to keep those Tips of the Month rolling in...we are spoilt this month with a great tip on involving the community in language teaching, as well as the winning tips from our *Talk* competition, showing how other tutors use *Talk* in the classroom. You can send your new tips for a new term direct to me at susanna.jones@pearson.com, and be in with the chance of newsletter-wide fame and winning a BBC Active phrase book of your choice.

Susie

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NEWS FROM BBC ACTIVE

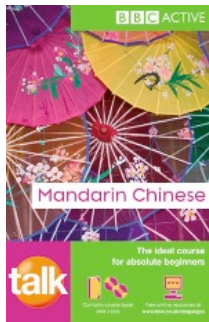
Tip of the month

Dawn Archibald, a teacher from Strathmore Primary School, is this month's winner, with an excellent tip for teaching Chinese through building links with the local community. She wins a BBC Active Phrase Book and Dictionary of her choice.



'Involve the local Chinese Community. Taking the pupils out to meet local community members, inviting them in to school to talk with the children captures the essence of the language whilst making it real and relevant for the children. Our pupils have loved learning about all things Chinese and have worked with our Chinese Tutor to create their own masks and Chinese dragon

dances.'



NEW free downloadable resources for *Talk Mandarin Chinese!*

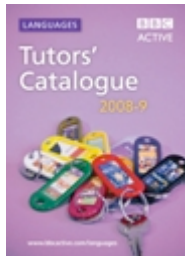
Talk Mandarin Chinese, the latest edition to our best-selling *Talk* series, was published in July. Like all other courses in the *Talk* series, it is accompanied by free downloadable tutors' notes. These notes will tell you which *Talk Mandarin Chinese* chapters relate to the episodes of *Real Chinese* (http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/chinese/real_chinese/), as well as giving you some great ideas for using *Talk Mandarin Chinese* in the classroom.

These notes will be available to download by the end of September on the BBC Active website, in a slightly different place from the other *Talk* resources: they will be available at:

<http://www.bbcactive.com/languages/other/83.asp>, listed by chapter under 'resources' on the left hand side under the book jacket. Just click on them to download them as PDFs.

The resources for other *Talk* courses will still be available at www.bbcactive.com/languages/talk.

Latest tutors' catalogue available



The latest edition of our tutors' catalogue is now available.

It has details of our brand new Quickstart series, reminds you where all the relevant online support can be found for all our courses and carries details of our ongoing offer on cassette packs (remember, it's only while stocks last!).

If you would like to receive your copy (free of charge, of course), then please email me with your contact address at susanna.jones@pearson.com.

Latest offer from Waterstone's

From the beginning of September, Waterstone's will be running some great offers instore on our new *Quickstart* courses and our beautiful *Get Bys*. Once details have been finalised, they will be posted online at <http://www.bbcactive.com/languages/newsandspecials.asp>, so do keep checking back for updates.

You can find your nearest Waterstone's store by going to: <http://www.waterstones.com/waterstonesweb/displayFindBranch.do>.

Updated Bitesize websites

The BBC Bitesize websites have had a bit of an overhaul, and the French website has been updated with a new grammar section. You can access the new sites using the same URLs as before, at:

French: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/french/>

German: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/german/>

Spanish: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/spanish/>



You can buy the accompanying books online, or see a captivated walkthrough of the new Bitesize Interactive Revision Tutors, at:

<http://www.bbcactive.com/languages/French/88.asp>

<http://www.bbcactive.com/languages/spanish/90.asp>

<http://www.bbcactive.com/languages/german/89.asp>

Talk competition winners

The results from our recent *Talk* competition are finally in, and we are delighted to announce the three lucky winners of the gorgeous Fortnum and Mason 'Strand' hampers, along with their tips for using *Talk* in the classroom:



Elsbeth Wardrop

'I gave each group a set of cards with colour pictures of foods and they had to match them to the right Italian name card, then turn them upside down in random order and play the memory game. Each player in turn will turn up two cards then turn them face down again if they don't make a pair, and everyone tries to remember their position so they can make pairs. Finally, for each pair they had, they made a sentence, e.g. "Mi piacciono le fragole, ma preferisco i lamponi. Non mi piace il cetriolo".'

Jenny Lewin-Jones

'I use the *Talk German* tutor materials with my students. I tried an adaptation of the suggestion on the *Talk Tutor* site for booking hotel rooms (it's section 8.2 on the

site). Instead of giving the students made-up German names, I gave them all a name of a famous person (e.g. George Bush, Catherine Zeta-Jones, David Beckham). There was much hilarity as they went round asking each other when they wanted to reserve a room and what their names were, and I also added in extra details (e.g. must be a room with a balcony, does the hotel have a bar?). It seemed to give the task more purpose, as they were genuinely interested in finding out what celebrity they'd each been given, and the more confident/proficient students started making up extra information and reasons about their booking.'

Shona Thomson

'The first activity is a simple charades activity for revision of *Talk Italian*. Students play in small groups. Each group gets a copy of the sentences cut up (upside down). The first student takes a strip of paper and 'acts out' the sentence. The student who says the complete sentence exactly as it is written gets the paper. The game continues until all the sentences are finished. The student with the most papers wins. This activity is effective for the practice of specific grammar items such as verbs in the present tense as it makes both the students who have the correct version and those trying to produce the correct version focus on the problem areas. At the same time they have a lot of fun.

'The second activity is also for focus on accuracy. It is specifically for use with unit 9. Some teachers may not see the need for such accuracy but the students I am currently teaching like to be engaged in this type of activity as well as those of the communicative type. Students play in pairs and have a set of cards. Students take it in turns to read out the English sentence and the other student must translate the sentence as it appears on the card. There can be as many attempts as it takes. If the student succeeds they get the card. If not it goes back in the pool. The student with the most cards at the end is the winner.'

Congratulations to all three, and thank you as well to all the other entrants. Your ideas will prove most useful in updating the existing *Talk tutors'* notes, and helping us to continue to provide great free content to support you in your teaching.

China Now in Scotland competition winner

We also have the winning entry from the competition for Scottish schools we ran with China Now in Scotland, which took place in June-July this year. The winner was Dongjie Chen, of the Edinburgh Chinese School, who submitted the following tips:

'My top tip for teaching Mandarin Chinese is to let students watch your lips when they are not sure or struggling to pronounce certain words. Pronunciation is often difficult for them, because they are not used to the correct positioning of their tongue, teeth, lips and muscles.

'If you teach children, let them watch some videos such as cartoon films in Mandarin only. They might not understand the dialogue, but they can follow the story, which will help them pick up the Chinese words. After a few sessions, you will find their listening skills in Chinese are better and that they pronounce words more accurately.'

NEWS FROM THE BBC

'Those who know nothing of foreign languages, know nothing of their own.' Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.

European Day of Languages - Quick Fix

Celebrate the European Day of Languages on 26th September with printable, downloadable Quick Fix phrases in no less than 36 languages:

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

Mi Vida Loca - new episodes

Gripped by the suspense and excitement in this Spanish thriller? Not long now 'til the new drama-filled episodes...and you'll learn some Spanish! Coming in September - watch this space: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/mividaloca>.

Oktoberfest

Beer, beer, we want more beer...how much do YOU know about German beer? With the annual Oktoberfest festival running from 20th September to 5th October, there's plenty of drinking time to pick up some interesting facts with a quiz:<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german/oktoberfest/>.

Languages on TV - BBC TWO Learning Zone

02 Sept: set video on the evening of Mon 01 Sept
04:00-06:00 Deutsch Plus 1-8

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german/dplus/>

03 Sept: set video on the evening of Tue 02 Sept
04:00-06:00 Deutsch Plus 9-16

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german/dplus/>

04 Sept: set video on the evening of Wed 03 Sept
04:00-06:00 Deutsch Plus 17-20/Deutsch Plus 2

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german/dplus/>

05 Sept: set video on the evening of Thurs 04 Sept
04:00-05:30 Germany Inside Out 3-5

http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/germany_insideout/

05 Sept: set video on the evening of Thurs 04 Sept
05:30-06:00 Eurografter: Germany

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german/forwork/gettingthere/>

09 Sept: set video on the evening of Mon 08 Sept
04:00-06:00 The French Experience 1-8

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

10 Sept: set video on the evening of Tues 09 Sept
04:00-06:00 The French Experience 9-16

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

11 Sept: set video on the evening of Wed 10 Sept
04:00-05:00 The French Experience 17-20

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

11 Sept: set video on the evening of Wed 10 Sept
05:00-06:00 The French Experience 2, 1-4

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/experience2/>

12 Sept: set video on the evening of Thurs 11 Sept
05:00-05:30 The French Experience 2, 5-10

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/experience2/>

12 Sept: set video on the evening of Thurs 11 Sept

05:30-06:00 Eurografter: France
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/forwork/gettingthere/>

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

NATIONAL NEWS

Dramatic decline in foreign languages at university...

Research from SOAS shows a steep decline in numbers taking languages at HE level, with German the worst hit. <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/dramatic-decline-in-foreign-languages-studied-at-university-901855.html>

Comment <http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/leading-articles/leading-article-adrift-in-a-polyglot-world-901787.html> and <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/richard-garner-hoping-that-someone-speaks-english-is-not-enough-in-a-globalised-world-901850.html>.

...And dramatic decline in numbers taking languages at GCSE

The number of French and German candidates is significantly down, but those taking Spanish have climbed slightly.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/education/article4579012.ece> and

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/7574794.stm> and

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2008/aug/22/gcse.schools3> and

Calls of 'class divide', as 'languages North-South divide' opens up

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/education/article4576794.ece>.

Businesses blamed for drop in language learning

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/business-blamed-for-slump-in-foreign-language-entries-905436.html>.

A disappointing denouement to a doomed dare

A rather tragic end to the story of the French teacher who accepted a challenge from a boy in his class to learn Vietnamese in three months, while the student sought to improve his grade in French. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2008/aug/26/schools.languages>

Oxford to team up with BA to provide new 'academic' diplomas

The latest announcement from the DCSF about the new 'academic' diplomas.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2008_0171

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/politics/education/2541211/Oxford-University-to-help-Government-with-controversial-diplomas.html>

The young dream of escape from UK...

...but most do not have a second language to support these dreams.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/7584662.stm>

Specialist foreign language teachers serve up a few tips

An article from TES Cymru on how MFL is faring in Wales, including students refereeing football matches in three languages. <http://www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storycode=6000772>.

Scottish schools get set for Spanish takeover

Spanish is poised to overtake German as the second most popular language in Scottish schools. <http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Spanish-set-to-trump-German.4397500.jp>

A national embarrassment

The debate gets into full swing: just why are we such a nation of monoglots, and does it matter? A report in the Observer.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2008/aug/03/languages.schools1>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/aug/03/languages.schools>

Keeping French afloat

One woman's mission to enable a captive audience of Brits to get by in French.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/magazine/7541115.stm>

Beijing pushes for language victory

How the Olympics influenced Chinese policy on MFL.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2008/aug/08/chinglish.olympics>

Top 10 endangered languages

The linguistics professor Peter K Austin provides a window on the world of disappearing languages. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2008/aug/27/endangered.languages>

EVENTS

SSAT languages specialism conference 2009

This will take place 9-10 October in Stratford-Upon-Avon, and feature a dazzling array of talks and exhibitors. Come and see us on the first day of the exhibition - 9th October - in the Holiday Inn, Stratford-Upon-Avon. See more at

<http://www.schoolsnetwork.org.uk/Article.aspx?NodeId=0&PageId=239667>.

Languages Show 2009

It's nearly that time of year again...the Languages Show is coming to town. From 31st October-2nd November, London Olympia will play host to the biggest languages event of the year. We will be offering free tickets as usual through the newsletter - hopefully next month - but you can start planning your visit at <http://www.thelanguageshow.co.uk/> right now. Don't forget to factor in a visit to us at stand 134!

The Japanese Fashion Contest

The Japan Foundation is sponsoring Marui's Japanese Fashion Contest, for anyone studying Japanese or interested in Japan, to design a Japan-inspired fashion outfit. There are some great prizes available - go to http://www.jpj.org.uk/language/learning_courses.php#fashion for further information.

2nd Russian Film Festival

According to the Rossica website, this will be 18-28 September in London, at the Apollo West End cinema. There is also the offer of film introductions, Q&A sessions, talks, panel discussions and master classes. <http://www.academia-rossica.org/en/all-events/2nd-russian-film-fest>.

RESOURCES

European Day of Languages 2008 - some useful links

Are you ready for 26th September 2008? If not, then why not have a look at the links below, and make your European Day of Languages one to remember.

Primary Languages. <http://www.primarylanguages.org.uk/Leaders/planning/European-Day-of-Languages/>

Some ideas from Sheffield. <http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/education/services-to-schools/learning--achievement-service/sheffieldslanguages/primary-languages-/european-day-of-languages->

Quiz and other information at:

<http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/libraries/index.cfm?articleid=19486>.

The Council of Europe website on EDL is here <http://www.ecml.at/edl/Default.asp?l=E>.

And of course the CILT website - crammed with free resources and information:

<http://www.scilt.stir.ac.uk/promoting/edl.php> and: <http://www.cilt.org.uk/edl/>.

Guardian readers can 'Get by in Chinese'

The Guardian has produced a series of short videos with the rather wonderful name 'Get by in Chinese'...to help you learn the basics to get by in Beijing'.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/travel/series/getbyinchinese>. Please note that these videos are nothing to do with the new BBC Active resource, *Get By In Chinese*, new for May 2008 and available to buy online or in all good bookshops...

<http://www.bbcactive.com/languages/other/94.asp>.

The Japanese Language Proficiency Test

From December 2010 the JLPT will exist in a new format, with five slightly-realigned levels. Go to <http://www.jpff.org.uk/language/exams.php#jlpt> for all the information on this and other changes.

Russian books and toys

The Scotland-Russia Foundation has recommended the following website, which features toys designed for Russian-born children adopted into US families to help keep them in touch with Russian culture. A fascinating showcase. <http://www.adoptedfromrussia.com/index.html>

French broadcasts

A regular Linguanetter has recommended www.tv-francophonie.com (launched by the magazine «Espace francophone»), a site that apparently offers 700 broadcasts from around the francophone world, covering a period of 25 years.

French teaching ideas

Another suggestion from a Linguanetter, this time for the following website:

<http://tatoufaux.com/>.

Try life in another language

An initiative by Channel 4 that has been recommended by someone on the TES website. It focuses on how young and trendy adults cope in young and trendy situations (foreign music festivals, keeping rock bands happy on tour and the like), accompanied by some adverts in French, Spanish and German. <http://www.channel4.com/entertainment/t4/advertorial/try-life-in-another-language/index.html>

Goethe Institut's Second Life island

The Goethe Institut has its very own island in Second Life, where you can chat with others in the café, explore videos and exhibitions and have a taster language lesson. Read more here: <http://www.goethe.de/frm/sec/enindex.htm>.

Europolar - European crime website

Europolar (<http://j2i.com/europolar/>) is a site in several languages for fans of European crime fiction, covering current news of the literary genre mainly from Germany, Belgium, Spain, France, UK and Italy. It showcases the work of European writers and through debates and discussions opens out the topics covered to broader contemporary social issues.

SURVEYS AND COMPETITIONS

Languages: a key player in London 2012

A report has just been published highlighting the importance of languages in welcoming the world for the 2012 Olympics. It was flagged on the SCILT website:

<http://www.scilt.stir.ac.uk/news/2008/08/21/languages-a-key-player-in-the-2012-games-report-published/>. The full report is here:

<http://www.podium.ac.uk/pdf/usefuldocs/C6BB9FA4-BE0D-AFF6-74C48608E438A3BF.pdf>.

Step Into German

The Goethe Institut also offer a competition for secondary-school students called 'Step Into German'. The next contest is in January - you can read more about it here:

<http://www.stepintogerman.org/>.

Adult Learners' Week Awards - nominations open

The nominations for the Adult Learners' Week Awards 2009 are already open! If you know an individual, group, family or project whose remarkable learning achievements could inspire others, then nominate them for an Adult Learners' Week Award. Closing date is 21 January 2009. <http://www.niace.org.uk/ALW/nominations/default.htm>

POLISH WEBSITES

Following a request from a reader, I have compiled a list of Polish websites that I hope you will find of interest. Some of them are repeats of the list of Polish websites of interest I compiled in Newsletter 54, which you can download from our website at: <http://www.bbcactive.com/languages/tutors/newsletters.asp>. Remember, if you have any requests for what you would like to see in this feature, then just drop me an email at susanna.jones@pearson.com.

Articles, events and even some free online language lessons to get you started are available at: <http://www.polishculture.co.uk/>.

Resources and a list of cultural events are available at the Polish Cultural Institute's website here: <http://www.polishculture.org.uk/>.

A very whizzy website on the Polish regions, with an interactive map and plenty of pictures and information can be found here, in a variety of languages including English: <http://regiony.poland.gov.pl/>.

The official government website of Poland, with plenty of information on the culture, heritage and traditions of Poland, together with some maps <http://www.poland.gov.pl/>.

A YouTube offering entitled 'The Best of Polish Idol'...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KWP0xLkmS0g>.

A page of resources on Polish cinema http://www.kinoeye.org/archive/country_poland.php.

A feature in the Guardian from February, where an author selects his top ten Polish books <http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2008/feb/15/top10s.polish.books>.

Cracow-Life, a website that has a number of resources including a little article on the Polish language and a brief pronunciation guide: <http://www.cracow-life.com/language/language.php>.

Free downloadable worksheets from Project HappyChild are available here

<http://www.happychild.org.uk/freeway/polish/index.htm>.

A couple of articles about learning Polish, together with pronunciation guides:

http://www.polishnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=102&Itemid=347.

A glorified vocab list can be found here <http://www.polish-dictionary.com/>, along with a few links to articles about learning Polish.

A useful-looking website with links to Polish language fonts, Polish materials and a Polish grammar can be found here <http://www.seelrc.org/webliography/polish.ptml>.

A great website on Polish literature available in English and much more

<http://www.polishwriting.net/>.

And a rather fun website on the history and development of Polish Jazz is available here

<http://www.polishjazz.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>.

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