

Welcome to the 77th BBC Active Tutors' Club Newsletter!

I'm sure that you are well back into the swing of things by now, but hopefully can still take time out to plan your trip to this year's Language Show at the end of October. I have a stock of free tickets to give away, so don't forget to email me at susanna.jones@pearson.com, your contact address and the number of tickets you would like. We will be offering our annual Show discount of 30%, so it really is worth dropping by, for a chat and a free pen if nothing else.

We also have free downloadable tutors' notes for units 1-5 of *Talk Mandarin Chinese* available now to download from our website, with more on the way. Plus we need your help with the creation of *Talk Arabic*; help us make it as useful as possible by telling us what sort of Arabic you teach. Read more in the 'News from BBC Active' section.

Aside from that, the newsletter is packed with the usual array of ideas, events and information to support you in your jobs and get the term off to a flying start. I hope you enjoy it! Don't forget to send your ideas, feedback and of course your Tips of the Month to me at susanna.jones@pearson.com.

Susie

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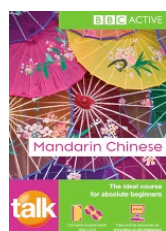
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NEWS FROM BBC ACTIVE



New *Talk Mandarin Chinese* tutors' notes

Free, downloadable tutors' notes to accompany our brand new *Talk Mandarin Chinese* are now available for units 1-5!

Telling you how each chapter links to the BBC *Real Chinese* videos and packed full with great ideas to get the most out of using the course in the classroom, you

can download the activities as Word documents and the worksheets as PDFs at <http://www.bbcactive.com/languages/other/83.asp>. Simply click on the unit you want to download from the list on the left hand side.

Notes for units 6-10 will be available to download by the end of the month.

Don't forget that free downloadable tutors' notes are still available for our other *Talk* courses at www.bbcactive.com/languages/talk.

Tutors of Arabic

We're looking to extend the *Talk* range to include Arabic and would be very interested to hear what you're teaching in terms of syllabus and regional variation of the spoken language. Please email debbie.marshall@pearson.com. Thank you very much for your help with this.

Latest offer from Waterstone's

Until 8 October, Waterstone's are offering 50% off on all the book and CD packs in our entire *Get By* range, and 50% off on the brand new *Quickstart* courses.

Also, from 25 September-5 November, Waterstone's will be offering all *Talk* and *Talk 2* book and CD packs at £5 off the recommended retail price. Our classic course language packs - the book and CD packs of *The French Experience 1 and 2*, *Sueños, España Viva*, *Italianissimo*, *Buongiorno Italia!* and *Deutsch Plus* - will be available at £10 off their recommended retail price, as will the language packs of our award-winning *Get Into French* and *Get Into Spanish*.

You can find out more about any of these courses by exploring our website, or by going into Waterstone's to see for yourself! You can find your nearest Waterstone's store by going to: <http://www.waterstones.com/waterstonesweb/displayFindBranch.do>

Tip of the Month

This month's winner is Laverne Martin, Vice-Principal at Tandragee Junior High School. She has chosen a BBC Active Spanish Phrase Book and Dictionary as her prize.



"Find Fred" game

This can be used at any level with all oral questions. While pupils learn their answers for each oral question, e.g. 'Où habites-tu?'; 'J'habite à Belfast'. Start the game by selecting a volunteer to be the referee/scorekeeper. The game can initially be between two teams. The referee selects one member of each team to go outside the classroom with them and practise asking the oral question really quickly, e.g. 'Où habites-tu?'. The teacher will tell them that Fred's answer is going to be 'J'habite à Paris'. The referee will make sure the two pupils do not look into the classroom. While the three pupils are outside the teacher selects one pupil to be Fred and they must be the only one to use the 'Fred' answer, e.g. 'J'habite à Paris!'.
Now the competition begins as the teacher opens the door for the two competing pupils to come in and ask every pupil in the class the question and find Fred. The pupil to find Fred first wins the game. Then another model question and answer can be set for the next pair, and so on.

Twist in the game: you, the teacher, can be Fred which takes a while for the two competitors to work out! Pupils do not even realise that they are improving their oral skills, especially their oral questions.

NEWS FROM THE BBC

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

***Mi Vida Loca* - final episodes 16-22**

Gripped by the suspense and excitement of this Spanish thriller? Not long now 'til all is revealed! <http://www.bbc.co.uk/mividaloca>

New look *French Steps*

We've revamped the popular course for beginners and given it a fresh new look.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/lj/> and <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/steps/>

Languages on TV - BBC TWO Learning Zone

21 Oct: set video on the evening of Mon 20 Oct
04:00-06:00 Italianissimo 1-8
22 Oct: set video on the evening of Tue 21 Oct
04:00-06:00 Italianissimo 9-16
23 Oct: set video on the evening of Wed 22 Oct
04:00-05:00 Italianissimo 17-20
23 Oct: set video on the evening of Wed 22 Oct
05:00-06:00 Italy Inside Out 1 & 2
24 Oct: set video on the evening of Thu 23 Oct
04:00-05:30 Italy Inside Out 3-5
24 Oct: set video on the evening of Thu 23 Oct
05:30-06:00 Eurograffers: Italy
28 Oct: set video on the evening of Mon 27 Oct
04:00-06:00 Sueños 1-8
29 Oct: set video on the evening of Tue 28 Oct
04:00-06:00 Sueños 9-16
30 Oct: set video on the evening of Wed 29 Oct
04:00-05:00 Sueños 17-20
30 Oct: set video on the evening of Thurs 29 Oct
05:00-06:00 Spain Inside Out 1-2
31 Oct: set video on the evening of Thurs 30 Oct
04:00-05:30 Spain Inside Out 3-5
31 Oct: set video on the evening of Mon 30 Oct
05:30-06:00 Eurograffers: Spain

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

NATIONAL NEWS

Learn languages or lose out

The EU Commissioner on languages has announced that UK teenagers will be losing out on jobs unless they learn a language.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2008/sep/21/languages.eu>

Teenage dreams beaten by lack of languages

Following on from a story in last month's newsletter, a recent survey has shown an overwhelming desire on the part of teenagers to live or work abroad, in spite of the fact that the majority have little or no language skills.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/education/article4625380.ece>

Far afield and having fun

Schools are sending their pupils to more exciting destinations, and linking it all back to the curriculum. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/schooltrips/exploring>

Translation tool to be used by police

A wristwatch-based translation device is being trialled by police in Derbyshire to help them communicate with their local community.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/derbyshire/7616496.stm>

A blogger writes...

...on why he finds learning another language so incredibly difficult. Particularly at his age...
http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/peter_foster/blog/2008/09/12/why_i_finded_learning_languages_so_tricky

The new language of love...?

Forget French. Based on a sample of people taking evening classes at Cardiff University, Polish is now officially the language of romance.
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/7585974.stm>

The other side of the coin...how English is faring in France

An opinion piece on Sarkozy's new policy to make French students fluent in English
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/sep/04/france.teachershortage>.
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2008/sep/19/tefl.france>

Bad French prolongs the pain in Eastern Europe

The conflict between Russia and Georgia has been worsened by badly-translated French, France's foreign minister admitted on the eve of crucial talks in Moscow between the European Union and the Kremlin.
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/russia/2700177/Bad-French-prolongs-Russia-Georgia-conflict.html>

Javier Bardem sparks Spanish ire

Some heated remarks about the Spanish in a recent interview with the Oscar-winning actor Javier Bardem have caused all sorts of controversy both in Spain and further afield.
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/film/filmblog/2008/sep/11/javierbardem>

Il weekend? Non è cool...

It's Italy's turn to start protesting at the number of English words 'invading' their mother tongue. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/7608860.stm>

EVENTS



Free tickets to the Language Show 2008

The Language Show 2008 will be taking place in London Olympia from 31 October until 2 November. You can read more about it and plan your day in advance here: <http://www.thelanguageshow.co.uk/>, but if you would like to receive free tickets to the Show, then email susanna.jones@pearson.com with your address and the number of tickets you would like to receive. Don't forget to come and see us on stand 134, where we will be offering 30% off all BBC Active language courses ordered from the stand, plus the chance to have a nice chat.

Caravaggio and the beginning of Baroque painting in Italy

A workshop in central London organised by Succeed in Languages for intermediate to advanced speakers of Italian will take place on Thursday 16 October 2008, 6:30 to 9pm, at Living English, 1st Floor, 218 Strand WC2R 1AT. It is taken by Emilia Maggio, an art historian and linguist who has been teaching Italian to English-speaking adults for over 20 years. Her speciality is teaching Italian to art historians. Emilia has a degree in Modern Languages from Palermo University and an M.A. in Art History from Birkbeck College, London. For further information phone: 0208 874 5819 or 07976 564 50, or email: info@succeedinlanguages.com.

Regional training days for community language teachers

Just to remind you all, CILT are offering a range of free full-day training sessions for teachers of community languages, at venues up and down the country. You can see the full list here: http://www.ourlanguages.org.uk/features_events/events/Event183.

Isle of Wight Conference 2008

The news you've all been waiting for! Be amazed by the range and quality of sessions at this year's Isle of Wight conference and consider for a moment the networking opportunities of spending just a couple of days on the Isle of Wight in October for your future career.

For more information and to book now, go to:

http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating_ict_into_the_/2008/09/book-now-for-th.html.

CILT support for KS2-3 transition

CILT have launched a new website to smooth the transition between KS2 and KS3. Take a look at <http://www.cilt.org.uk/transition/>.

CILT Primary conference 2009

6-7 March 2009, Liverpool ACC. More details and a chance to book are available on the CILT website, at <http://www.cilt.org.uk/pls/index.htm>.

Success in language teaching and learning 14-19

Friday 5 December 2008, National College for School Leadership, Nottingham. For more details, and to book now, see:

http://www.cilt.org.uk/cpd/14_19/14to19_conference051208.htm.

Helen Myers' ICT workshop days

Helen says: As we're still getting very positive feedback from people who attend our Language-College funded free ICT workshop days, we are continuing to hold them at The Ashcombe School, Dorking, Surrey - opposite Dorking station which is about 40 mins from Waterloo or Victoria.

From 9.45-11.30 I do an overview of management/resource/planning/pedagogy issues and take you to see the three different ICT lay-outs we have in the school (including the duo desks which 'unfold' to become a computer ... magic!), then from 11.30 onwards (with break for light lunch) we are based in an ICT room and you can either follow a guided tour through the management system (NetSupport, eventually Fronter), and types of resources (CD ROMs, authoring software e.g. TaskMagic and Fun with texts, applications including Comic Life, Sanako Media Assistant) or you can try things out independently.

More information at: http://www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk/LangColl/presentation_days.htm.

Japanese workshops

The Japan Society's upcoming workshops for primary and secondary teachers are taking place in Norwich on 7 October and Newcastle on 31 October. For further information please contact Anna Davis at the Japan Society on 020 7592 7039 or email

anna.davis@japansociety.org.uk.

National Conference on Mentoring - Training teachers of community languages

1 December 2008 at CILT, the National Centre for Languages, London (n.b. date changed - previously 15 October). This is the first one-day National Conference on Mentoring for community languages which is being held as part of the DCSF-funded Our Languages project. This conference will explore good practice in school-based mentoring for ITE and seek to create opportunities to support Initial Teacher Education in community languages.

Register now at http://www.cilt.org.uk/cpd/sup_conference011208.htm.

This conference is part of the extensive [programme of CPD](#) offered by CILT, the National Centre for Languages and its Comenius network.

RESOURCES

Inspire them with Arsène Wenger

The Arsenal Double Club (www.cilt.org.uk/eal/doubleclub.htm) have produced some great clips of Arsène Wenger talking positively about learning languages.

Clip 1:

<http://privatweb.arsenal.com/languages/wenger1.wmv>

<http://privatweb.arsenal.com/languages/wenger1.mov>

Clip 2:

<http://privateweb.arsenal.com/languages/wenger2.wmv>
<http://privateweb.arsenal.com/languages/wenger2.mov>

The most addictive site on the web...

You have been warned...this fantastic site, recommended by Catriona Oates from SCILT, tests your vocabulary in French, Spanish, Italian and German whilst donating grains of rice through the UN Food Programme. There are a range of other subjects available - just go to the 'subjects' tab and have a browse. <http://www.freerice.com/index.php>

Le Dictionnaire

This site has been recommended by a Linguanetter as an effective online French dictionary. See what you think at: <http://www.le-dictionnaire.com/>.

French and German resources

These Australian websites have been recommended by members of the Linguanet forum:
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/languagesonline/french/french.htm>
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/languagesonline/german/german.htm>.

French TV

A linguanetter writes: you can find short news clips (national and local news) from most French television channels on this new website: <http://tinyurl.com/656ntp>. Useful for A level as it is also listed by topic.

Primary French stuff for teachers

Linguanetter Cathy Bailey has drawn attention to the database of resources she is compiling for teachers of French at primary level. Have a look at her blog here: <http://stuffforteachers.blogspot.com/>.

Helen Myers and su Vida Loca

Helen has posted photos from the launch of *Mi Vida Loca* here, if you would like to have a look: http://www.all-london.org.uk/mi_vida_loca_launch.htm. The programme itself is available here: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/mividaloca/>.

Links and news from Joe Dale

Joe Dale is back, with a wealth of links and resources for you to peruse.

First off are the Go! Animate site and morphing your voice in Audacity:

http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating_ict_into_the_/2008/08/go-animate-your.html
http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating_ict_into_the_/2008/09/morph-your-voic.html.

He also did a couple of interviews over the summer (Joe Molloy, Andrew Grenfell and Steve Collis) and also published the IOW conference 2007 film. There is also the CILT project on effective use of ICT that he was involved in. Here are the links:

http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating_ict_into_the_/2008/08/andrew-grenfell.html
http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating_ict_into_the_/2008/08/stephen-collis.html
http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating_ict_into_the_/2008/09/joe-molloy-on-t.html
http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating_ict_into_the_/2008/09/cilt-video-case.html
http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating_ict_into_the_/2008/08/isle-of-wight-c.html.

For details of this year's Isle of Wight conference, see the Events section.

Check your Dutch spelling online

If you ever need to know the spelling of a Dutch word then check out the official Dutch spelling website at: <http://woordenlijst.org/>. The website lists over 100,000 key words in the Dutch language and gives the type of word, gender of nouns, and how the word is divided into syllables.

This is the official Dutch spelling as defined by 'De Nederlandse Taalunie', the organisation set up in 1980 by the Dutch, Belgian, and Suriname governments to promote a uniform grammar and spelling across the three main Dutch speaking countries.

Dutch news websites

If you want to keep in touch with the latest happenings in the Netherlands, or find out the latest world news from a Dutch perspective, then check out some of the following Dutch news websites:

<http://www.nos.nl/nosjournaal/>

<http://www.nos.nl/jeugdjournaal/>

<http://www.volkskrant.nl/>

<http://www.telegraaf.nl/>

<http://www.nrc.nl/>

<http://www.dutchnews.nl/>

For more great Dutch news and resources, why not subscribe to the Dutch Language School's e-newsletter, at <http://www.dutchlanguageschool.co.uk/>.

New specialist language guides from RLN London

RLN London has helped to create a brand new range of publications which give importers and exporters tips and advice on how to take advantage of language and cultural skills and services. Commissioned by UK Trade & Investment and sponsored by RBS, these new 'I want to' business guides are concise and accessible, covering a range of specialist areas including [language training and recruitment](#), [translation and interpreting](#), [branding and communications](#), [intercultural skills](#), [websites](#) and [international communication planning](#). To download or order these guides now, visit their [Publications](#) area.

SURVEYS AND COMPETITIONS

Young people's attitudes to London 2012

The DCSF has released a report into how young people feel about involvement in London 2012, and what form this involvement may take. You can download the report from here <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=15196&type=5&resultspage=1>, but of particular interest is p.68 where young people express concern over the teaching of sport in a foreign language, and also p.83 where a World Cultural Festival is discussed.

Routes Into Languages: request for help

Judi Clark, Assistant Programme Manager, Routes into Languages, has issued the following plea for help. Please contact her directly on judi.clark@SOTON.AC.UK if you are in a position to do so:

Routes into languages is a government funded programme which aims to increase the take up of languages from KS4 to university and works with universities and state schools throughout England to promote language learning. The programme is in its second year and has already received excellent feedback from teachers and schools involved. We also have two national networks who are working to promote translation and interpreting and we have commissioned three research reports into Languages and International Events, Languages and Enterprise and Community Languages in Higher Education.

We are looking for ways of promoting the work of Routes into Languages and raising awareness of the importance of languages in schools and would like to set up a focus group or support group of head teachers who are supportive of languages. In addition, we would also like to gather film footage of head teachers promoting languages as well as some quotes on why languages are important which we could then use on our website or in our newsletter. If your head teacher is supportive of languages, or you are a head teacher yourself who may be able to help us in this way, please email judi.clark@SOTON.AC.UK.

Language Learning Journal special issue - 'Languages of the Wider World': Valuing Diversity - call for papers

This special issue will focus on the learning and teaching of 'Languages of the Wider World', defined as less-commonly taught languages that do not have a large presence in UK Higher Education (i.e. at tertiary level), either in terms of student numbers and/or spread and range of provision. The geographical area covered is wide and includes the languages of the Middle East, Africa and Asia, Russian and other Slavonic and East European languages, Hebrew, Yiddish, Dutch and Scandinavian languages. Amongst these are many minority and

community languages in the UK as well as languages considered to be of 'strategic importance'.

Email: S.Holdom@soton.ac.uk; Tel: 02380 599637; Fax: 02380 594815.

All submissions must be received no later than 1st February 2009.

Contributors are advised to consult the 'Notes for contributors' for guidance on the length, organisation and format of articles. These can be found at:

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t779637218>.

PORTUGUESE WEBSITES

A language tutor has contacted me and asked for useful links to Portuguese learning resources online. You can of course have a look at those included in Newsletter 47 by the Great Tony Hammond - investigate the Newsletter Archive at <http://www.bbcactive.com/languages/tutors/newsletters.asp>. I have included some other links below that I also hope you find of interest. Don't forget that if you have a special request for this section, you can email me with your ideas at susanna.jones@pearson.com.

Portuguese resources, including video clips from *Talk Portuguese*, are available on the BBC Languages website at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/portuguese/>.

This website appears to have quite a few free resources to help get to grips with the Portuguese language: <http://www.learningportuguese.co.uk/>.

Brazilian Portuguese grammar resources are available here:

http://br.geocities.com/helcio_domingues/.

A comprehensive history of the Portuguese language is available online here (in Portuguese):

<http://www.linguaportuguesa.ufrn.br/>.

An intriguing database of English and Portuguese parallel texts are available here:

<http://www.linguateca.pt/COMPARA/>.

These and many more websites in English and in Portuguese are available from the INTUTE website at <http://www.intute.ac.uk/artsandhumanities/cgi-bin/browse.pl?id=201319>.

A curious resource offering health and safety leaflets in both English and Portuguese can be found here: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/languages/portuguese/>.

A fabulous list of Portuguese resources from the University of Hull are well worth exploring here: <http://www.fredriley.org.uk/call/langsite/portuguese.html>.

London's marvellous Canning House and all that it offers has its website here:

<http://www.canninghouse.com/content/>.

Links to Portuguese news sites, online dictionaries, university resource pages and more can be found here: <http://people.pwf.cam.ac.uk/cjp16/portlang/portlang.htm>.

Andrew Quilley's resources for Portuguese language learners are available here:

<http://www.vocab.co.uk/links/portuguese.htm>.

Don't forget to consider using BBC Active's brand new Portuguese audio-only course, *Quickstart Portuguese*, <http://www.bbcactive.com/languages/other/100.asp>. Your students can put the audio on their iPods and other MP3 devices, and use the enhanced features to access the transcripts and key language. Other options are *Talk Portuguese*, *Get By In Portuguese* and the *Portuguese Phrase Book and Dictionary*, all available from www.bbcactive.com/languages.

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.