

Welcome to the 78th BBC Active Tutors' Club Newsletter!

Well, the month of October has rattled by at alarming speed, and we are once again facing another Language Show. I am looking forward to meeting a lot of you there, as usual, and would also like to welcome new Club members who joined at the SSAT conference at the beginning of October. Why not kickstart your new membership by emailing in your top tips for teaching languages for our Tip of the Month section where you could win a phrase book, or email me with any resources or events you would like to share with other members? Just drop me a line at susanna.jones@pearson.com.

We are asking for feedback from Arabic tutors this month, with a view to helping us develop *Talk Arabic* in the new year. Continuing with the exciting *Talk* news, we now have all the tutors' notes for *Talk Mandarin Chinese* available to download from our website, and the *Talk 2* tutors' notes should be available from the end of the month. Read on!

Susie

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NEWS FROM BBC ACTIVE



Tutors of Arabic - we need your help!

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.

New *Talk Mandarin Chinese* tutors' notes - now all available online!

The rest of the free, downloadable tutors' notes to accompany our brand new *Talk Mandarin Chinese* are now online and available for you to download from the BBC Active languages website.

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 *Talk Mandarin Chinese* 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.

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

Coming soon: *Talk 2* tutors' notes!

In response to overwhelming popular demand, free, downloadable tutors' notes for *Talk French 2*, *Talk Italian 2* and *Talk Spanish 2* should be available to download by the end of November. These notes will be in the same vein as the notes for *Talk* level one, with ideas and activities to help you and your students make the most of using *Talk 2* in the classroom.

When these notes become available at the end of November, you will be able to download them from the following pages:

Talk French 2: <http://www.bbcactive.com/languages/french/72.asp>.

Talk Italian 2: <http://www.bbcactive.com/languages/italian/73.asp>.

Talk Spanish 2: <http://www.bbcactive.com/languages/spanish/74.asp>.



Primary French is Fun : new resources and new edition

Many of you will already be familiar with *Primary French is Fun 1: Let's Begin*, our pack for interactive whiteboard that helps take children through the first half of KS2, making French fun every step of the way.

To support teachers delivering the new QCA scheme of work, BBC Active has launched some exciting new resources to use away from the whiteboard: the colourful pupil book and photocopiable teacher's book use the same fun characters and lively approach, and are designed around both the Framework for Languages and the new QCA scheme of work.

The interactive whiteboard pack has also been revised, with audio-visual examples of all the language covered. There are additional activities on pocket money, time, the life cycle of the bean, and transport as well as stories on Jack and the Beanstalk, and the Four Friends. Every activity on the disk has also been tagged to the QCA scheme of work, as well as the Framework for Languages, so you can instantly find the relevant activity to support the objective being taught.

You can download FREE sample pages of the above books at:

www.bbcactive.com/schoolshop by following the links on the homepage.



French and Spanish At Your Fingertips: see what all the fuss is about online

We have some brand new captivating walkthroughs for our exciting interactive courses *French* and *Spanish At Your Fingertips*. Available at basic and intermediate levels, these courses are designed to be delivered via your intranet and used in class or as a fully supportive resource for your students. Find out more by following the links below, and then clicking on the 'Watch a demonstration online!' link in the 'Resources' box.

French Basic: <http://www.bbcactive.com/languages/french/81.asp>.

French Intermediate: <http://www.bbcactive.com/languages/french/95.asp>.

Spanish Basic: <http://www.bbcactive.com/languages/spanish/82.asp>.

Spanish Intermediate: <http://www.bbcactive.com/languages/spanish/96.asp>.

If you want any more information, just drop me an email on susanna.jones@pearson.com.

NEWS FROM THE BBC

'As long as a language lives, the people will not perish.' Czech Proverb

Mi Vida Loca - vote

We hope you've enjoyed the riveting final episodes of the immersive Spanish learning adventure, but have you voted for which character you think was the most suspicious yet? If not, watch the videos and vote now! <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/mividaloca/>

Chris's Diary

Having worked in China for a year as an English teacher, Chris from London fell in love with the country and decided to return as a student and study Mandarin Chinese.

Read all about his experiences in his diary:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/yoursay/chris_china_diary.shtml.

Pick up some Chinese: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/chinese/>.

Conferences this month - The Language Show

Join us from 12.45-13.30 at The Language Show at Olympia, London on Friday 31st October. Don't miss the UK's biggest event for language learners, language teachers, linguists and anyone with a passion for languages. See you there!

<http://www.thelanguageshow.co.uk/page.cfm/link=30>

Languages on TV - BBC TWO Learning Zone

Languages programmes are now on a winter break and will resume in early 2009.

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

NATIONAL NEWS

Department for
**Innovation,
Universities &
Skills**

Informal Adult Learning - *Shaping the Way Ahead*

Following the Informal Adult Learning Consultation lead by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, the Consultation Response Analysis Report is now out and available to download from the dedicated DIUS website. You can download it here:

<http://www.adultlearningconsultation.org.uk/download/>. The consultation ran for six months and received 5,500 responses. How it now goes on to inform Government policy on IAL remains to be seen, but we will watch this space with much interest. Congratulations to everyone who managed to get in a response and have their say - hopefully it will make a real difference.

Don't go back to compulsory language learning

Controversial words in the *Independent* over the Government's languages policy, from Kate Board, Chief Executive of CILT:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/keep-languages-courses-optional-urges-head-of-national-centre-942818.html>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/schools/leading-article-broad-appeal-947914.html>

Positive words from Kathryn Board: <http://www.independent.co.uk/student/career-planning/getting-job/kathryn-board-we-know-there-is-more-work-to-be-done-but-the-general-mood-is-excitement-and-enthusiasm-969232.html>.

It's good to talk: How being multilingual can boost your career

In the multilingual, globalised workplace, knowledge of another language can provide a wealth of opportunities - and boost your salary by as much as 20 per cent.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/student/career-planning/getting-job/its-good-to-talk-how-being-multilingual-can-boost-your-career-969235.html>

Value-added employees

Why the talents of Britain's speakers of community languages should be exploited more effectively. <http://www.independent.co.uk/student/career-planning/getting-job/familiar-voices-why-the-linguistic-heritage-of-britains-ethnic-groups-should-be-tapped-969234.html>

'Eurovision' comes to Scotland...

...for minority languages in 2010. Liet Lavlut (<http://www.liet-lavlut.eu/>) is to be hosted in Scotland in 2010, showcasing singers and bands who speak minority languages. http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/highlands_and_islands/7669759.stm

Move over Esperanto - Makaton provides common linguistic ground

A primary school in Brighton where children speak an incredibly wide range of languages has decided to teach them all sign language in order to help them communicate. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/sussex/7645132.stm>

From 'Good' to 'Outstanding' with Teachers TV

Teachers TV challenges secondary language teacher Rebecca Wills to up her game and see if she can go from 'good' to 'outstanding'. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/video/2008/oct/29/languages-teacher-training>

Cross-curricular conservation conversations

How one school in Glasgow is working French lessons into a green agenda. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2008/oct/21/sustainable-schools>

Use it or lose it

A recent survey shows that, contrary to popular belief, UK adults have forgotten the languages they learned at school. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/7635396.stm>

The captivating power of Arsenal's 'Double Club' shows no signs of waning

Another article on the EAL-winning Double Club and how their policy of combining football icons and language learning has captured their members' (and the press's) imagination: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/a-new-goal-for-football-stars-to-spread-love-of-languages-954593.html>.

Funding produces dividends for science, but MFL 'a much slower burn'

HEFCE's programme to boost the take-up of 'vulnerable' subjects such as maths, chemistry and physics at university is already making a marked difference, with some encouraging trends developing in MFL. <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/education/article4988276.ece> and <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/news/hefce/2008/sivs.htm>.

Le Petit Robert provokes a grand scandale

'Schoolchildren are celebrating, commentators are astonished and purists are fuming over what they describe as a scandalous attack on 500 years of French history.' Find out why at: http://entertainment.timesonline.co.uk/tol/arts_and_entertainment/books/article4922834.ece

Spanish is fun when you're young

How one primary school got to grips with Spanish. <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/schools/sound-start-how-one-primary-school-got-to-grips-with-spanish-969236.html>

EVENTS

The Language Show - last chance to go

This is your final call to go to The Language Show, running Friday 31 October-Sunday 2 November at London Olympia. Visit their website to plan your visit, and don't forget to drop by for a chat at the BBC Active stand. <http://www.thelanguageshow.co.uk>

Helen Myers: free Chinese Day

You are invited to a Chinese Day (free of charge) for managers and teachers involved in developing Chinese language and culture in their school curriculum, on Friday, 7 November 2008, 9.45am-3pm at The Ashcombe School, Ashcombe Road, Dorking, RH4 1LY. Tel: 01306 886312. Further details at:

<http://www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk/LangColl/documents/ChinaDayNov2008.pdf>.

Helen Myers: Spanish ICT workshop

You are invited to a Spanish ICT skills workshop on using PowerPoint and the interactive board in the Spanish lesson Saturday, 15 November 2008 at James Allen's Girls' School, East Dulwich Grove, London SE22 8TE (www.jags.org.uk). Further details are available at:

http://www.all-london.org.uk/spanish_event_nov_2008.htm.

Inter-Cultural Crossings Conference

The Scotland-Russian Foundation has sent through notice that this conference will be held at the University of Glasgow from the 14-16 November 2008. Details of all events on the CRCEES website at: <http://www.gla.ac.uk:443/departments/crcees/winterfestival.php>. For further information please contact Dr Margaret Tejerizo at:

M.Terjerizo@slavonic.arts.gla.ac.uk.

London Greek Film Festival

From 13-16 November 2008, London celebrates Greek culture through the art of moving image and digital technology. CosmoCinema, supported by the Hellenic Centre, brings you the First London Greek Film Festival, which takes place at The Hellenic Centre, 16-18 Paddington Street, in Marylebone, in the heart of the West End of London. See:

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

ICT workshops for teachers of community languages

These are whole-day workshops which combine short presentations with hands on practice and enable participants to develop skills in a friendly and supportive environment. This year workshops will focus on three areas: PowerPoint, interactive whiteboard and digital video. The workshops will take place on Saturdays from 9.30 - 4.00pm in the Department of Educational Studies at Goldsmiths and there is a charge of £20 for the day including lunch. Workshops are run with support from 'Capital L' by the London Routes into Languages Consortium, Goldsmiths, on the following dates:

Sat 1 November 2008 - Tamil - PowerPoint/IWB - Tutors: Siva Pillai and Marina Shaftoe

Sat 29 November 2008 - Chinese - PowerPoint/IWB - Tutors: Siva Pillai and Wei Martin

Sat 24 January 2009 - All languages - Digital video - Tutors: Siva Pillai and Doha Kudsi

Sat 28 February 2009 - Panjabi / Urdu - PowerPoint/IWB - Tutors: Siva Pillai and Narinder Kaur

Saturday 25 April 2009 - All languages - PowerPoint/IWB - Tutors: Siva Pillai and Doha Kudsi

Saturday 20 June 2009 - All languages - Digital video - Tutors: Siva Pillai and Doha Kudsi

You are advised to book early as places are limited.

For a programme and booking form please contact: Laura Cattell, Widening Participation, RHB 131, Goldsmiths, University of London, New Cross, London SE14 6NW. T 020 7919 7114 F 020 7919 7379. l.cattell@gold.ac.uk

These and other events can be found on the Our Languages website event listings at

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

10th Language Diversity Conference: Developing Teaching and Learning of Community Languages

November 8 2008 1000-1530; Jennie Lee Centre, Lichfield Road, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton WV11 3HT. This conference will include information updates on developments in languages, nationally, regionally and locally, as well as a range of practical workshops, focusing on creative ways of maximising pupil interaction and achievement in the classroom, including:

- The National Languages Strategy and Community Languages (DCSF)
- Our Languages Project (SSAT)
- The new GCSE Specifications (AQA)
- The new A Level Specification (AQA)
- Asset Languages (OCR)

Programme and registration forms can be obtained from the [Our Languages website](#). For further information, please contact Naresh Chandla on 01902555915 or at Naresh.Chandla@wolverhampton.gov.uk.

Comenius London Community Languages Network Autumn Seminar

Wednesday 26 November 2008, 16.45-19.30 at CILT, 111 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7HR. Session title: Learning to read and write with dual language books. Come along for an evening of practical classroom ideas and networking over supper, together with the opportunity to view the CILT library collection. Registration is free, but places are limited so please book your place early.

These free termly seminars are designed for all those involved in the teaching of community languages, either in mainstream or supplementary/complementary schools. The seminars take place at CILT, the National Centre for Languages, Waterloo. For a map of our location please see <http://www.cilt.org.uk/where.htm>. To register please contact comenius.london@cilt.org.uk or telephone 020 7395 5101 ext 274 giving your name, organisation and contact details.

Meaning and Interaction - i-Mean - call for papers

The Department of Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies at the University of the West of England, Bristol invites you to attend its first three day conference on Meaning and Interaction. i-Mean will be held at the University of the West of England, Bristol on 23-25 April 2009. The conference aims to disseminate cutting edge, multi-disciplinary research in the area of meaning in interaction. It is unique in bringing together scholars working on meaning in interaction and others working on the impact of interaction on language structure. Papers are invited which draw on empirical data to elucidate the relationship between function and form, as it is played out in interactions. Abstracts of no more than 250 words (max and including references, if necessary) are invited. The deadline for receipt of abstracts is the 5 January 2009. Abstracts should not include the name and affiliation of the author(s). Further details and a submission form will be published on the i-Mean website soon and details will be circulated. Abstracts should be sent to imean@uwe.ac.uk. Registration and Accommodation details will be circulated in November 2008. For further information please contact Dr Jo Angouri (Jo.Angouri@uwe.ac.uk) or Dr Kate Beeching (Kate.Beeching@uwe.ac.uk).

AFLS conference 2010

The evidently organised Nigel Armstrong has sent through notice that the 2010 conference for the Association for French Language Studies will take place 1-3 September, at Peterhouse, Cambridge.

RESOURCES

Cheshire Network free online resources

A selection of great free resources are available to download from Cheshire Network, a virtual staffroom for MFL AE tutors, run by the indefatigable Alwena Lamping. You can click on the 'bright ideas' tab for a whole host of suggestions to bring MFL alive, including 'A Step or Two More', providing exercises and material linking to the BBC 'Steps' courses. See <http://www.cheshirenetwork.org.uk/>.

Boîte à mots: identification

A Linguanetter has recommended this fun French game. You can get stuck straight in at: <http://boggle.sensagent.com/boggle-tv5/solo.jsp>, or else read the rules at: <http://boggle.sensagent.com/boggle-tv5/regles.html>.

Marie-France Perkins's blog and resources

You can access this here: <http://mmeperkins.typepad.com/>. Down the left-hand side are all the resources that Marie-France has bookmarked: a veritable goldmine of French and teaching resources. In particular, she has recently recommended <http://www.esclavage-martinique.com> as useful as a cross-curricular resource for teaching the imperfect tense.

Notre planete

A contributor to Linguanet has recommended the following website to aid discussions on green issues in class: <http://www.notre-planete.info/ecologie/devdurable/ecocitoyen.php>.

Illusions optiques

Danièle Bourdais has again come up trumps with a great cross-curricular website mixing French and geometry...click on the link for some impressive optical illusions: <http://illusionoptique.5sens.fr/illusions.htm>.

French songs

A great website, linked to from the Ashcombe School and flagged by a Linguanetter: <http://platea.pntic.mec.es/~cvera/hotpot/chansons/index.htm>. Select your class' topic and level, then choose from a range of fill-in-the-blanks exercises.

English-French-Chinese Olympics and sporting vocab

One of the authors of our very own Primary French is Fun, Danièle Bourdais, has come across the following website: <http://www.lexique-jo.org/beijin/disciplines.cfm?lang=anglais&rub=1COM&the=>. You may need to cut and paste the full link into the address bar on your browser, as it is being a bit awkward about loading when clicked.

German worksheets

David Wilson was contributing to a debate on teaching colours on the Linguanet forum when he posted a link to some wonderful worksheets for teaching German. They are available on his website, which is here: <http://www.specialeducationalneeds.com/Index.html>.

Latest links and information from Joe Dale

I've published the audio of the session Francisco Villatoro and Andrew Balaam from The Royal Grammar School gave last week at the SSAT Annual Languages Conference where Francisco talks about using video in MFL and Andrew talks about using Hot Potatoes in Moodle. Hope you find it useful:

http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating_ict_into_the_/2008/10/creative-and-co.html.

Also on my blog is the session Louise Crossley and Chris Fuller gave about blogging and podcasting as well as my own. See links:

http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating_ict_into_the_/2008/10/thinking-outsid.html

http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating_ict_into_the_/2008/10/new-tools-new-c.html

By the time this newsletter goes out, the Isle of Wight conference will be over...so don't forget to regularly check out Joe's blog for links to relevant resources and sessions you may have missed at the conference.

SURVEYS AND COMPETITIONS

CILT's Secondary eZine - call for articles

Carmel O'Hagan has put out a call for 'good and exciting copy from schools and colleges for the next edition of the secondary eZine. You could write an article based on a project or programme with which you are involved, a new or well-established initiative, a CILT course that you have attended...you will probably be able to think of lots of other things too. You may 'just' want to share some thoughts or ideas about language teaching. We welcome photos too!.

The deadline for copy is Wednesday 5 November, but feel free to contact Carmel before then with pledges of work or any queries: Carmel O'Hagan, Head of Secondary, CILT - The National Centre for Languages. 020 7379 5101 Ext 251; Mobile no: 0782 484 6866.

Canning House 2009 essay competition

17-19 year-olds can enter this competition to write an essay in Spanish or Portuguese on 'The Latin American I most admire'. The deadline is 9th January 2009, and you can read more about it here: <http://www.canninghouse.com/content/culture/schools/competition2009>.

European Award for Languages 2009

Hot on the heels of the last EAL ceremony come the nominations for the 2009 awards. You can read more and apply online at <http://www.cilt.org.uk/eal/>. The deadline for applications is 30th January 2009. All enquiries to eal@cilt.org.uk, or 020 7379 5101.

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.