

Welcome to the 81st BBC Active Tutors' Club Newsletter

This month's newsletter is crammed with lots of exciting information about the latest publishing from BBC Active, tutor's guides for French Experience and Sueños being posted online and also details of Language World. And much more besides, of course!

I would also like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has emailed me about your ideas for posters. I will be looking at them all after we have our new website up and running. For those of you who don't know, we are in the process of updating our current website and bringing all our free resources together in a far more user-friendly and useful way. It should be all ready to go in May, so watch this space...

Susie

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Latest publishing from BBC Active, French Experience and Sueños tutors' guide now available for free online.

News from the BBC

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National News

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Surveys and Competitions

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NEWS FROM BBC ACTIVE



Sueños World Spanish and The French Experience - tutors' guides now available online

The teachers' notes for *The French Experience* and *Sueños World Spanish* are now available to download from our website.

There have been numerous requests for the now out-of-print *French Experience Tutor's Guide* and the *Sueños World Spanish Instructor's Manual*. As a result, we have made these guides available to download for free from our website. You can access these resources to help you make the most of these classic courses in the classroom from the BBC Active website at the following locations:

The French Experience: <http://www.bbcactive.com/languages/french/5.asp>
and

Sueños World Spanish: <http://www.bbcactive.com/languages/spanish/22.asp>.

New for 2009: latest publishing from BBC Active

Talk Grammars

Using the tried-and-tested principles of the bestselling *Talk* and *Talk 2* series, *Talk Grammars* de-mystify grammar and guide your students through the key structures of the target language in a way that's really easy to follow even if they have no experience at all of grammar and grammatical terminology.

With their straightforward approach and attractive layout, the *Talk Grammars* promote a real understanding of how the language works and how it relates to English. They contain clear explanations, hundreds of useful examples, learning tips and strategies, and interesting practice activities to reinforce the language patterns and help your students to remember them.

The *Talk Grammars* are the perfect companion to our bestselling *Talk* and *Talk 2* courses, but you can also use them alongside any relevant learning materials.

Available June 2009 in French, Italian and Spanish.



Talk Arabic

The latest addition to our best-selling *Talk* series will be published in July 2009. *Talk Arabic* follows the same clear, straightforward structure and systematic approach as the other *Talk* courses, taking you and your students through the basics of Arabic at a steady, manageable pace. This is the perfect course for absolute beginners, focusing on speaking and listening and giving your students the skills they need to get by in Arabic with confidence.

Available July 2009 as a course book or as a pack containing the course book and two audio CDs.



Primary French and Spanish - new resources for KS2

The following will all be available to buy from the BBC Active School Shop from July 2009, either by calling 0845 313 9999, or by ordering online at: www.bbcactive.com/schoolshop:

Dual Language Stories

A new range of stories told in English and French, and English and Spanish, with teacher's notes and pupil activities for both literacy and MFL.

The literacy notes focus particularly on helping deliver specified genre units, and APP.

The combination of English and French or Spanish versions are ideal for cross-curricula work across literacy and MFL.

All priced £39.99 plus VAT

Greek Myths

French/English DVD Plus Pack

New BBC animated stories presented in both French and English. Stories are: *Midas*, *Narcissus*, *Jason* and *Medea*.

Traditional Stories

French/English DVD Plus Pack

New BBC animated stories presented in both French and English. Stories are: *Town Rat and Country Rat*, *The Hare and the Tortoise*, *Sun and Wind*.

Stories from other Cultures

French/English DVD Plus Pack

New BBC animated stories presented in both French and English. Stories are: *Frau Holle*,

Anansi, The Boy and his Drum, Butterfly Lovers.

Life in France and Spain

Children are our guides to life in France and Spain in these engaging new programmes.

Being Spanish

Ruby and her friends show us around their hometown, Valencia, in this superb resource for delivering oracy and intercultural understanding. We learn about their typical day, see them eating, playing, at school, at home, doing their homework and enjoying a birthday party, as well as taking trips to a farm, a fiesta, the seaside and a museum. Language covered includes greetings, descriptions, ages, school subjects, food, rooms, directions, colours and numbers.

Being French

We visit Marseilles and meet a wide range of the children who live there, in this engaging and accessible resource for oracy and intercultural understanding. We visit a car boot sale, a sporting event, go fishing and to a beauty spot, visit a traditional village and an inner city estate. Language covered includes greetings, money, sport, directions, counting, fishing, clothes, school subjects, likes and dislikes.

£39.99 each including VAT.

NEWS FROM THE BBC

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

Seeking teachers' opinions...

BBC Online Languages are looking into the ways that language teachers use online resources in (or beyond) their classes. If you are teaching adults or secondary school pupils, we would be delighted if you could fill in this ten-minute survey. It will be used to improve our products and to share best practice. The survey is at:

<http://ecustomeropinions.com/survey/survey.php?sid=821269648>.

Six Nations Rugby

Que le meilleur gagne! Get set for the big game, France v. England on 15 March. 'Try' your hand at an interactive crossword and games, picking up useful French vocab and rigger terms, as well as some handy wind-up phrases, along the way:

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

Test your kicking skills with our 'Kicking Kings' game, 'Les Rois du Coup de Pied':

http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/mafrance/html/rugby/kicking_kings_french.shtml.

Mi Vida Loca - email tips - *new*

Have you subscribed to the new weekly email tips for this immersive video mystery course yet? Enjoy the drama throughout this story of corruption and intrigue, learning basic Spanish in just 12 weeks: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/mividaloca/>.

Languages on the iPlayer (only for 7 days) - *new*

You can now catch up with the Learning Zone's languages programmes on the BBC iPlayer. Enjoy *Eurografters*, a practical guide to working in Italy and Germany and *Talk German*, a short, practical course for beginners, based in Munich and the Bavarian Alps:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/search/?q=eurografters> and

http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b0078p4q/Talk_German_16/.

Greek Independence Day

25th March marks Greek Independence Day, so why not give your students a taste for the lingo? Try *Talk Greek*, a gentle introduction to basic Greek featuring slideshows, video clips as well as useful phrases with tips on pronunciation and grammar. Go on, give Greek a go!: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/greek/talk/>.

Languages on TV - BBC TWO Learning Zone

Languages programmes on the Learning Zone are now on a break but the following Schools programmes will be broadcast in March (please note the times):

Mon 2nd March:
 11:10 Telling Tales - English & French
 Tues 3rd March:
 04:00 Telling Tales - English & French
 Fri 6th March:
 04:00 Key Stage 3 - French Shorts
 05:00 Being French
 05:30 Telling Tales - French
 Mon 9th March:
 11:10 Telling Tales - English & French
 Tues 10th March:
 04:00 Telling Tales - German & Spanish
 Fri 13th March:
 04:00 Key Stage 3 - German Shorts
 05:00 Being German
 05:30 Telling Tales - German
 Mon 16th March:
 11:10 Telling Tales - English & French
 Tues 17th March:
 04:00 Being Chinese
 04:30 Telling Tales - English & Mandarin
 11:20 Telling Tales - English & French
 Fri 20th March:
 04:00 Key Stage 3 - Spanish Shorts
 05:00 Being Spanish
 05:30 Telling Tales - Spanish
 11:30 Telling Tales - English & Spanish
 Mon 23rd March:
 11:10 Telling Tales - English & French
 Tues 24th March:
 11:20 Telling Tales - English & French
 Fri 27th March:
 11:30 Telling Tales - Arabic
 11:40 Primary Arabic and Culture

NATIONAL NEWS

Schools receive MFL boost from abroad

A scheme reminiscent of the French assistantes is helping to make a difference in language lessons in deprived areas: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/foreign-recruits-boost-language-learning-1623000.html>.

Truancy drive claims MFL victims

The scrapping of compulsory MFLs at GCSE was apparently a direct result of the truancy crackdown: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/7867323.stm>.

Unesco - Migration threatens 2,500 languages

Unesco's first comprehensive database of endangered tongues shows that modern life is taking its toll on the diversity of languages:
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/feb/20/endangered-languages-unesco>;
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/feb/20/endangered-languages-unesco>;
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/france/4732952/Unesco-2500-languages-at-risk-of-extinction.html>.

Cornish branded 'extinct'

UN linguists have branded the Cornish language 'extinct', sparking fierce protests from those who believe that its demise has been greatly exaggerated:
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/cornwall/7900972.stm>;
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/this-britain/cornish-language-declared-extinct-by-un->

1628244.html; <http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/leading-articles/leading-article-tongue-in-cheek-1628189.html>.

Tories claim 1m evening classes cut

The Conservative Party claim that 1.3 million places have been removed in the last five years: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/4601839/More-than-one-million-evening-classes-cut-say-Tories.html>, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/7886765.stm>.

Local UK languages 'taking off'

An article discussing the spread of Welsh, Gaelic and Irish in UK schools: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/7885493.stm>.

Jim Knight says: let's learn from Confucius

Schools Minister Jim Knight suggests that the teachings of Confucius could soon be taught in schools to enrich pupils' understanding of education, including through teaching them Mandarin Chinese: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/4780843/Chinese-culture-to-revive-English-education-says-minister.html>.

MFL success with BBC School Report

How MFL teachers have been using BBC News School Report to help their students with their language learning: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/school_report/7879291.stm.

English becoming lingua franca in Brussels

The EU Commission has reported a change in the language of choice in the corridors of power, as French is being edged out by English: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/brussels-seeks-recruits-for-an-english-victory-1627071.html>.

The Language of Others

Britons are becoming increasingly reliant on the kindness of foreigners to make up for their linguistic shortcomings: http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/leading_article/article5741122.ece.

Tunisia's take on teaching

Tunisia has recently taken up with the British Council to help them implement a new strategy to boost English language skills: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2009/feb/06/tunisia-tefl>.

BSL exam body

'On 5 January 2009 CACDP became Signature – excellence in communication with deaf people. At that time we launched our new website www.signature.org.uk. This email is to let you know that the address for BSL101 Online Support Package is now: <http://bslsupport.signature.org.uk>. We have been asked by many users of BSL101 Online Support to produce more online support materials for learners studying our qualifications and would appreciate your views. We would be grateful if you could [go to http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=V8QTJMQteFw8YFoVnYohyQ_3d_3d] and take a couple of minutes to answer a few very short questions to help us offer a better service to you.'

EVENTS

Language World 2009

Why not come along to Stand 16 for a chat at this year's Language World? This year's conference is in Leicester, and as usual I will be there and looking forward to meeting Club members! As if that weren't enough, Linda Parker has issued the following message about this year's conference to try persuade you further:

Where under one roof and over just two days can you find top thinkers in languages education speaking on topics close to their hearts, leading practitioners sharing their latest

work, policy makers explaining the thinking behind recent developments, passionate teachers ready to exchange ideas and views? Where can you visit one of the biggest annual exhibitions dedicated exclusively to language teachers, with special offers for teachers, competitions and social events?

There's all this and more in Leicester, in April, at the Association for Language Learning's Language World 2009!

This unique annual event, with 60 sessions over two days, brings together the great and the good, the leading lights and the newest recruits, the old hands and the fresh young teachers – all finding ways to make language teaching even more enjoyable and even more effective. Whatever your role in languages education, and whatever sector you work in, don't miss this essential event in the languages calendar.

Language World 2009, with its emphasis on facing challenges and tackling difficulties head-on, in other words grasping the nettle, is at Leicester University from 3-4 April 2009. The most up-to-date programme can be found on the ALL website at www.all-languages.org.uk with an application form and full registration details, or call us on 0116 229 7454 or email Sheila James, at: sheilaj@all-languages.org.uk.

Thanks to generous sponsorship from DCSF, we have 100 free one-day places to offer to PGCE students and NQTs. Contact us today for more details.

Conference: Multilingualism, Regional & Minority Languages: Paradigms for 'Languages of the Wider World'

The following conference is being held from 16 to 17 April 2009, at the School of Oriental and African Studies (www.soas.ac.uk). Registration is now open for this international conference organised jointly by the Languages of the Wider World CETL www.lww-cetl.ac.uk (LWW CETL) at SOAS and UCL in the UK, and the MERCATOR European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning at the Fryske Akademy in the Netherlands www.mercator-research.eu.

All people have the right to learn and use their mother-tongue, and to learn a second and third language. This formal right is often absent and its use in practice is often less well guaranteed and less developed than should be the case, especially for speakers of smaller languages variously labelled as 'regional', 'minority', 'immigrant', 'community' (including sign languages), 'heritage' languages, etc. The conference will focus on theoretical and empirical work in research and implementation of teaching and learning models and strategies for language learning.

The conference will combine the fields of interest of the partner institutions. The LWW CETL focuses on languages of Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Eastern Europe, Scandinavia and the Netherlands. The focus of MERCATOR and the Fryske Akademy is on language learning and language transmission of Regional and Minority Languages and smaller state languages in Europe. This conference will bring together researchers and practitioners from these various fields to define, analyse and explore new directions and paradigms for 'Languages of the Wider World'. It will also provide opportunities for further research and future collaborations. To register, please visit the conference website: http://www.lww-cetl.ac.uk/part_7/International_Conference_registration.htm.

Interfaces in Language II

This conference will be held at the University of Kent, Canterbury, 5-7 May 2009. Within language studies we are constantly confronted with boundaries and interfaces: for example, between languages, between countries, between dialect areas, and between various aspects and components of linguistic study. This conference aims to examine where these occur, to see whether boundaries can and need to be drawn or grey areas declared, and to map out further areas of investigation.

Further information will be available soon at:

<http://www.kent.ac.uk/secl/researchcentres/cils/index.html>.

Association for Language Learning Spring Meeting and AGM

This is taking place on 21 March 2009 at Norton Knatchbull Grammar School, Ashford. For details and to book, please contact Glynis Rumley by 14th March at glynis.rumley@btinternet.com. If you would like to read more about the conference, then visit http://www.nks.kent.sch.uk/?page_id=293 for more details.

ALL Kent are also seeking new members for their committee, so please contact Glynis if you are interested.

MFL GCSEs: Edexcel presentation

The Japan Foundation London have flagged the following online presentation about the new MFL GCSEs: https://admin.emea.acrobat.com/_a49419191/gcsemfl/.

They have also flagged their related event for Japanese GCSE, held in conjunction with Edexcel, held at the Japanese Foundation on 11 May 2009: GCSE 2009 – Delivering the New Specification in Japanese. These full day events are designed for teachers who will be delivering the new specification for first teaching from September 2009.

To register:

- 1) Go to Edexcel's website at <http://eiewebvip.edexcel.org.uk/TrainingBookingsPublic/>
- 2) Next to "subject" select "Japanese" and click "search". A list of upcoming events will appear. (Please note this includes events aimed just at teachers of Japanese, as well as events aimed at language teachers generally.)
- 3) Next to the event you are interested in, click on "more details".

CHILDES Workshop

This will be held on 26th March 2009 at Newcastle University. The overall purpose of the workshop is to provide practical, hands-on experience of the CHILDES database and its tools for researchers working in any field of language acquisition. In particular, we aim: a) to introduce researchers unfamiliar with CHILDES, but planning to do empirical work, to the basics of transcription and coding of new and existing material and to the tools available to analyse data; b) to help researchers who have a basic knowledge of the database and programmes but need help in addressing specific research questions within CHILDES (e.g. use of part-of-speech tagger, searches on morphosyntactic lines, etc). The workshop will be led by Prof Florence Myles & Dr Annabelle David. Registration for this workshop is free. Researchers and postgraduate students are welcome to attend the whole of the workshop or selected sessions. In addition, a number of travel bursaries for postgraduate students will be available. For more information, visit:

<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/linguistics/news/events/item/childes-workshop>. This workshop is held in conjunction with **The 4th Newcastle Postgraduate Conference in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics**, taking place on 27 March 2009, in the Percy Building, Newcastle University.

The programme is now online, and can be accessed at:

<http://conferences.ncl.ac.uk/pglinguistics/>. Registration is £15, either payable online or on the day. All attendees are requested to register for catering purposes. A conference meal is organised for the evening at just £15. Registration is available at:

<http://conferences.ncl.ac.uk/pglinguistics/registration.php>.

Community Cohesion through Community Languages

This is an "Our Languages" Project Dissemination Conference that will take place on 3 March 2009, 1000-1500 at The Showroom Cinema, Sheffield. It is a free event and free resources will be available. It is aimed at language teachers in mainstream primary and secondary schools, teachers and leaders of complementary schools and school leaders and decision makers.

The 'Our Languages' project is funded by the DCSF in order to encourage community cohesion, celebrate pupil achievement and promote plurilingualism:

<http://www.ourlanguages.org.uk>. For booking information and how to join email Eva Lamb on: evalamb@hotmail.com.

ITT MFL seminar

CILT is organising a TDA-funded seminar on ITT in MFL for new tutors. It will be on 26 March, 10.30 am-4 pm at CILT, the National Centre for Languages. Experienced tutors are also very welcome. For detailed information on the seminar, please go to www.ittmfl.org.uk.

RESOURCES

Italian blog

Valeria Malandra of the University of Surrey has been in touch to share her Italian blog. A great resource for students to practise their reading, or for you to catch up on Valeria's latest news: <http://italianoecc.blogspot.com/>.

UCML website

The UCML website www.ucml.org.uk has been updated and should give you up to date information on UCML activity.

Japanese website

Christopher Shone of the Japan Foundation, London, recommended the following site: <http://www.japanese-society.org.uk/>.

French sites of interest for GCSE

Danièle Bourdais has recommended some more French websites. At <http://www.navigaia.com/fr/country/FR/france-carte-videos.html> there are videos 'that might be of interest to illustrate certain GCSE topic areas...In particular, look at these about Paris, keeping in mind: OCR Topic Area 1: Home and local area and Topic Area 2 : Food and drink as aspects of culture and health: <http://www.navigaia.com/fr/poi/1086/france/paris/belleville-visite.html> and <http://www.navigaia.com/fr/video/409/france/paris/passage-brady-r-quartier-hindous.html>'.

IWB guidance

For those who are using interactive whiteboards and want some hints and tips, a Linguanetter from Leeds has recommended the following site: 'José Picardo's excellent blog www.boxoftricks.net'.

Scottish CILT's new wiki

Scottish CILT have created a 'build it yourself' website, in the form of a wiki. You can access it at: <http://scottishcilt.wetpaint.com/>, and read articles from other users or change and update things yourself.

Mardi Gras

I know this will come to you a little late, but Vermillio Parish Schools has posted some interesting resources on Mardi Gras Louisiana here: <http://www.vrml.k12.la.us/curriculum/holidays/mardigras/mardigras.htm>.

French resources for NZ teachers

This site has been recommended on the MFL Resources forum, in particular their resources to be used with French films. Have a look at: <http://www.french.ac.nz/index.php?section=68>.

SURVEYS AND COMPETITIONS

Anglo-Omani Society: sponsorship for students to spend a gap-year period in Oman

For a number of years the Anglo-Omani Society has sponsored students, who have studied Arabic at school, to go to Oman for a period of three months to further their studies in the language and gain experience in an Arab country. The Sultan's School in Muscat has hosted the students and this has proved most successful and beneficial to both students and also the school.

To qualify a student must fulfil one or more of the criteria shown below:

1. To have a proven interest in the Middle East, particularly the Sultanate of Oman, its history, development, architecture, geology and place in the world.
2. Interested in conservation/ endangered species in Oman and the Middle East, eg Yaluni.
3. To be considering future employment in the private sector in the Middle East.
4. To be considering joining the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, British Council or the Armed Forces.
5. To have learned Arabic at school and to wish to continue studying the language either at

University or elsewhere.

6. The study period in Oman should be for a minimum period of three months, although in exceptional circumstances this can be less. The best time to go to Oman is in the beginning of autumn to the end of spring, but this is not a limiting factor. Final dates are dependent on The Sultan's School calendar.

In general terms the Society will pay for: return economy class airfares, adequate pocket money to cover living expenses, medical insurance, car hire and motor insurance.

Applications should be made in writing or by email to:

The Secretary, The Anglo-Omani Society,
September Cottage,
29 Chipperfield Road,
Bovingdon, Herts
HP3 0JN

Email: richard@rjowens.plus.com

by 1 June of the preceding year in which the student wishes to go to Oman. The letter, which should be accompanied by a CV, should say why the student considers that he/she is eligible. Students will be called for interview prior to being selected to go to Oman. On return the student should furnish a report on their time in Oman and may be asked to give a presentation to the Society on their experiences.

Best young translator - winner announced

Sabrina Vashisht has been named the best young translator in Britain after winning a prestigious prize from the European Commission. Sabrina, who attends the North London Collegiate School in Edgware, is one of 27 winners of the Juvenes Translatores competition across Europe. Read more:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/191&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN>.

USEFUL LINKS

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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