

Welcome to the 82nd BBC Active Tutors' Club Newsletter

It's nearly Easter, and I'm sure that you are all looking forward to a bit of a rest, if you're not already on holidays. I personally cannot wait, although there's all the fun and excitement of Language World to look forward to first! If you are coming, do come and say hi to us at stand 16, and pick up a copy of our latest catalogue. If you can't make it, then you can still email me to request your copy of the catalogue on susanna.jones@pearson.com.

The catalogue also features details of our new website, which should be launching in May with a great new look and all your favourite free resources in one place. In fact, May will be a big month for languages, as there's our new website to look forward to and, almost as important, EUROVISION!

Susie

Contents

News from BBC Active

Language World; *Vida Hispanica* reviews; *Get By* audio transcripts available online; new language teachers' catalogue.

News from the BBC

New tutors pages; *Bitesize* on the LZ; phrases for your Easter holidays; *Ma France*; Chinese Grand Prix.

National News

EU initiatives; Hollywood broadens its horizons; funding gloom; nattering with Neanderthals; Sarkozy goes too far; and more...

Events

Language World; Our Languages events; film festivals; and more...

Resources

Frère Jacques in many languages; animals and colours; new schemes of work; the magic of Eurovision; and much more...

Surveys and Competitions

A Japanese web contest and a survey on using digital video streaming and multilingualism.

Norwegian Websites of Interest

NEWS FROM BBC ACTIVE

***Get By* audio transcripts available soon from our website**

The audio transcripts for our popular *Get By* courses will soon be available to download from our website! They have proved particularly popular with those of you teaching courses in holiday language, so these transcripts should make them even more easy to use in the classroom.

The *Get By* courses and their transcripts are available in: Chinese, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Latin American Spanish, Polish, Portuguese and Spanish.

You will be able to download the audio transcripts from the relevant pages on our website: www.bbcactive.com/languages. Just select your language of choice to locate the relevant *Get By*, and download the audio transcripts from the 'resources' panel.



New Language Teachers' Catalogue

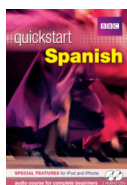
The latest version of our Language Teachers' Catalogue is currently at the printers, to get it ready in time for Language World. If you would like to request your copy in advance, just email me at susanna.jones@pearson.com with your name and address. Feel free to ask for more than one copy if you would like to pass them to colleagues.

We'll be at Language World - will you?

As usual, we will be attending ALL's Language World in Leicester on 3rd-4th April. Come and say hello, see what's new and enjoy Friday night's wine tasting from stand 16! For more details, see: http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events_detail.asp?pid=20090225185003-4.

Vida Hispanica reviews

Get By In Latin American Spanish and *Quickstart Spanish* have both received glowing reviews in the latest edition of the ALL journal *Vida Hispanica*. You can read more about the journal or order your own copy from: http://www.all-languages.org.uk/publications_journals_itemlist.asp?journaltype=Vida%20Hispanica&select=All%20Items.



'This course provides an excellent and practical introduction to Spanish and focuses on the most relevant language for a trip to Spain...This is a fun, accessible and satisfying course for learners on the go who want to prepare effectively for a trip to Spain.'

Hannah Fairbrother, University of Sheffield, reviewing *Quickstart Spanish* in *Vida Hispanica*

'Overall: excellent! This tidy pocket-sized publication is a handy learning aid for a beginner in the language..I found the book very easy to read and informative.'

Hugh Ruiz Robert, Handsworth Grange Community Sports College, Sheffield, reviewing *Get By In Latin American Spanish* in *Vida Hispanica*



NEWS FROM THE BBC

'If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart.' - Nelson Mandela

Easter Quick Fix

Escaping to Europe for Easter? Whether you're off to sunny Seville, roaming around Rome, living it up in Lithuania or skiing the slopes of Switzerland, don't forget to pack your holiday phrases. Print them off or download them to your mobile:

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

Phrases for your mobile or MP3 player: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/mobile/>.

Ski phrases: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/quickfix/ski>.

New Ma France email tips

So you've finished French Steps, printed out your certificate and are ready for a new challenge... Time to move on to Ma France! Enjoy entertaining, short films shot in Provence, the Alps and Lyons before trying the fun, interactive exercises. Look out for the new email tips - coming this month. They're designed to keep you motivated:

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

New Tutors' pages

Keep an eye out, too, for our new-look Tutors' pages, your guide to the resources on our site by topic and grammar point. This one-stop shop will help you find news and TV programmes online, download transcripts for BBC language programmes and discover useful learning tips. Coming early April - watch this space: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/tutors/>.

Chinese Grand Prix - 19th April

Get set for this year's exciting event in Shanghai. A good excuse to pick up some Chinese Quick Fix phrases for starters, practise writing the characters and get an insight into the Chinese language and tones before trying some Real Chinese, a lively introduction to Mandarin with slideshows, pronunciation and grammar tips and fascinating cultural notes: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/chinese/>.

Language World 2009

If you're going to this year's ALL Language World conference at Leicester University join us on 4th April where we'll be talking about what's new in BBC adult languages and our plans for the Languages site this year. See you there!

Languages on TV - BBC TWO Learning Zone

Languages programmes on the Learning Zone are now on a break until 22nd June but the following Schools programmes will be broadcast in April:

Tues 31st March:

04:00 GCSE Bitesize revision - French 1

Wed 1st April:

04:00 GCSE Bitesize revision - French 2

Thurs 2nd April:

04:00 GCSE Bitesize revision - German

Fri 3rd April:

04:00 GCSE Bitesize revision - Spanish

Joyeuses Pâques !

NATIONAL NEWS

European Commission aims for two languages

Four in five secondary school students across the EU ought to be learning two European languages by 2020, the European Commission has said:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/7914701.stm>.

Arts and language subjects miss out on funding

Concern over expertise in languages being lost as universities shift focus to sports and media to keep up with demand: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2009/mar/05/universityfunding-researchfunding>.

Hollywood learns a new film language

Penélope Cruz's Oscar success marks a shift in attitudes towards non-US actors:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/film/2009/mar/01/penelope-cruz-spanish-actors-hollywood...>

...although Spain's relationship with Hollywood is not without its problems when it comes to dubbing:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/film/2009/mar/05/catalan-film-subtitle>.

Shark shocker: West Side gang find their voice

West Side Story has returned to Broadway with a new, bilingual libretto and an Argentinian lead. About time, says Ed Pilkington: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/stage/2009/mar/20/west-side-story-on-broadway>.

Locals tell Sarkozy: don't pick on Picardy

Residents of the historical region of Picardy are outraged by Nicolas Sarkozy's plans to deny them their regional identity: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/mar/05/france-picardy-boundary-changes>.

Making money out of misery

Two Frenchmen are cashing in on international despair with their online outlet for self pity: http://technology.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/tech_and_web/the_web/article5854263.ece.

Conversing with cave men

A "time traveller's phrasebook" that could allow basic communication between modern English speakers and Stone Age cavemen is being compiled by scientists studying the evolution of language: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/science/article5805522.ece>

Scottish CILT is moving

As from 1 April 2009 Scottish CILT will be based at the University of Strathclyde Faculty of Education. They can now be found at: Room C317, Crawford Building, University of Strathclyde, Jordanhill Campus, 76 Southbrae Drive, Glasgow G13 1PP. Tel: +44 (0)141 950 3186/3690.

Facebook in Arabic and Hebrew

The social-networking site Facebook has added Arabic and Hebrew to more than 40 language versions already available to web users:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/7939375.stm and

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2009/mar/10/facebook-launches-arabic-version>.

A common European language

Read about the debates around the Common European Language Bill:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/theguardian/2009/mar/12/1>.

Language no barrier for Polish pupil

A 13-year old Polish schoolboy helps out his fellow Polish pupils beat the language barrier in Lanarkshire: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/glasgow_and_west/7953650.stm.

EVENTS

Language World 2009

There's still time to decide to come along to Language World 2009 and see us on stand 16! It will be held at Leicester University from 3-4 April 2009. Read more at: <http://www.all-languages.org.uk>.

Community Languages National Show 2009: developing practice for the 21st century

This will take place on Wednesday 15 July 2009 at Chilworth Manor, Southampton. This conference celebrates the outcomes of the Our Languages project, a 2 year DCSF-funded project from a consortium of CILT, the National Centre for Languages, the National Resource Centre for Supplementary Education, the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust and the School Development Support Agency. All delegates will receive a free Our Languages toolkit on forging successful partnerships between mainstream and complementary schools and free CDS offering lesson plans, schemes of work and resources across a range of languages. You can find out more at: <http://www.cilt.org.uk/cpd/clshow.htm>.

Russian Literature Week 2009, 20-26 April 2009

Academia Rossica is pleased to announce the second Russian Literature week! At the London Book Fair (20-22 April, Earl's Court, London) Academia Rossica will be hosting a Russian publishers' stand, showcasing leading publishers and the best in contemporary writing from across Russia. Russian Literature Week aims to bring contemporary Russian writing to new audiences in Britain and abroad. Read more at: <http://www.academia-rossica.org/en/literature/russian-literature-week-2009>.

Romanian Film Festival

The 6th international Romanian Film Festival will be taking place in London, 1-4 May 2009. See: <http://www.romanianculturalcentre.org.uk/rcc-events/2009/05/6th-romanian-film-festival-in-london-all-change/>.

Italian film festival

There is also an Italian film festival at various locations throughout the UK, running 17-30 April. Read more at: <http://www.italianfilmfestival.org.uk/>.

Seconda Scuola estiva di Linguistica e filologia romanza/Second summer school in Romance linguistics and philology

The Société de Linguistique Romane, in conjunction with the Istituto Italiano di Scienze Umane (Italian Institute of Human Sciences), is organizing its second summer school on Procida (Bay of Naples), 18-24 June 2009.

The summer school is a remarkable opportunity to meet others working in the discipline (the aim is to have as multinational a group as possible) and to work together in a relaxed but academically serious way. The summer school is intended for doctoral and post-doctoral students in Romance linguistics, and will be taught by leading international experts.

Candidates will be expected to have the support of their supervisors/directors/professors (as the case may be). Working languages will be French, Italian, and Spanish and (in accordance with long-standing Société de Linguistique Romane practice) and participants should anticipate polyglot discussion. It is not necessary to speak all the languages but a willingness to listen to them (and ideally, to understand them) is desirable. The organisers hope to be able to provide financial assistance; the cost of the course is €350 to include accommodation (with breakfast) and midday meal.

For further details and how to apply: see *Revue de Linguistique Romane* 72 (2008), 633-634.

Third Oriental Language and Culture Conference ("Kimono")

On Thursday 2nd July a Kimono, a one day conference, will give approx. 200 students from secondary schools across Leeds the opportunity to be involved in Japanese and Chinese language and culture. Participating students (aged 11-15 years) will take part in workshops such as Origami, Taiko Drumming, Calligraphy, Chinese Lion and Ribbon Dance as well as Chinese and Japanese language taster sessions.

If you are interested in attending, taking part in or supporting the event in any way, please contact Tracy Flanagan for more details, on flanagt02@LEEDSLEARNING.NET.

They are also hoping to set up a website for those students who leave the conference excited and inspired by all things oriental, but who do not have access to any information/resources at their own schools. If you have any information/resources/links that could be used on the website then again, do contact Tracy.

RESOURCES

CILT/LNfE/IBC new schemes of work

Schemes of Work have been developed by CILT in partnership with Language Networks for Excellence (LNfE) and International Business Communication (IBC) to support tutors in developing a language element within the Additional/Specialist Learning component of the new Diplomas. The Schemes of Work are linked to contextualised resources and activities which can be used with any language qualification which can be taught within the additional/specialist component of a Diploma.

Schemes of Work which are currently available for: German for Diploma in Construction and Built Environment; Spanish for Diploma in ICT; French for Diploma in Creative and Media; Chinese for Diploma in Engineering; Panjabi for Diploma in Society, Health and Development; Spanish for Diploma in Hospitality; French for Business Administration and Finance; Chinese for Manufacturing and Product Design. Coming soon are Schemes of Work for German and Environmental and Land Based and Polish for Hair and Beauty.

Read more about the Schemes of Work here: <http://www.cilt.org.uk/14to19/diplomas/sow.htm>, and read more about Diplomas and the Diploma in Languages here: <http://www.cilt.org.uk/14to19/diplomas/index.htm>.

Frère Jacques in many languages

This lovely site has been recommended, featuring Frère Jacques being recited by children in many different languages: <http://demonstrations.free.fr/frere.jacques/>.

Children and international culture

The following site has been recommended, as it includes 'kids songs from around the world': <http://www.mamalisa.com/?p=22>.

French and German film resources

A page dedicated to film resources, inspired by a session given by Mark Reid of the BFI:
http://www.mflresources.org.uk/all_films.htm.

Facebook in French

Marie-France Perkins has recommended the following article on Facebook as a useful reading comprehension exercise: <http://cours.funoc.be/essentiel/>.

Proverbes animaux

A fun site on animal proverbs in French, complete with pictures and an explanation of the meaning of each one: <http://www.linternaute.com/nature-animaux/magazine/dossier/les-animaux-dans-les-proverbes/les-animaux-dans-les-proverbes.shtml>.

Time to get excited about Eurovision...

Helen Myers is already excited about the prospect of Eurovision, and has sent round the following links:

YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/eurovision>;

French entry (Patricia Kaas): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hIZAUSQo-nM&feature=channel_page.

The official site is here: <http://www.eurovision.tv/page/home>, or the BBC Eurovision site can be found at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/eurovision/>. Album covers from past Eurovision entries can be found at: <http://www.eurovisioncovers.co.uk/>, and of course there's always YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/>.

Read about the politics behind the Russian entry:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/7937811.stm>.

AVALON Project on Language Learning in 3D Worlds

Graham Davies has recommended the following: AVALON (Access to Virtual and Action Learning live Online) is a two-year EU- funded project running from January 2009 to December 2010, aiming to explore 3D worlds for language learning: <http://avalon-project.ning.com>.

Fruit and veg faces - a useful revision tool?

These sites have been recommended by the MFL Resources Forum as great tools for making revision of fruit and veg vocab fun! Try the Arcimboldo Art Producer at:

<http://www.brightonline.org.uk/software.htm>, or the similar tool available here:

<http://wsqfl2.westsussex.gov.uk/aplaws/intergames/play/Arcumboldo.swf>.

New websites from ALL

The ALL have launched a couple of new websites recently that you may find of interest.

1. www.all-nsc.org.uk - 'all you need to know about languages in the new secondary curriculum with information, events, web links, advice, planning tools and practical examples.'
2. clil4teachers.pbwiki.com - 'ALL's new collaborative website of CLIL. A growing grassroots practical resource, with great ideas and materials for linking subjects and languages.'

Colours in nature

A lovely looking website in French on the above topic, recommended on the MFL Resources forum. The images can help revise colours and animals in any language: <http://tinyurl.com/bcprx7>.

Children's classics

Danièle Bourdais has flagged that there will be an exhibition about Petit Nicolas in Paris, a film which will come out in the autumn, as well as a series of cartoons on French TV channel M6. Also new stories Anne Goscinnny discovered and published. For a fun trailer: <http://cestoff.com/videos-le-petit-nicolas-teaser-vf-streaming.html>.

'Nicolas portrays quite a different world from his more modern counterpart, Titeuf (and France seems to quite like going back on nostalgia trips to that golden era, especially now!). Titeuf is definitely one to mention in connection to the lives of French children. (He's played a big part

in their sex education for quite a while now! Book and exhibition at the Cite des Sciences et de l'Industrie in Paris, both called Le Zizi Sexuel: http://www.cite-sciences.fr/francais/ala_cite/expositions/zizi-sexuel/). There's also a magazine called Tcho - <http://www.tcho.fr/index.php>.'

New GCSEs

Duncan Byrne has drawn attention to Helen Myers' comparison of the old and new language GCSEs, so you can see where the differences lie: http://www.all-london.org.uk/gcse_specs.htm.

Disney Playhouse in various languages

Original English version: <http://www2.disney.co.uk/DisneyChannel/playhouse/>.

French: <http://www.disney.fr/DisneyChannel/playhouse/>.

German: <http://www.disney.de/DisneyChannel/playhouse/>.

Spanish: <http://disney.es/DisneyChannel/playhouse/>.

Norwegian: <http://www.disney.no/DisneyChannel/playhouse/>.

Swedish: <http://www.disney.se/DisneyChannel/playhouse/>.

Danish: <http://www.disney.dk/DisneyChannel/playhouse/>.

Polish: <http://www.disney.pl/DisneyChannel/playhouse/>.

SURVEYS AND COMPETITIONS

Japanese Web Contest

The Japanese Web Page Contest is a place where teachers and students of Japanese can have fun demonstrating their Japanese language skills and computer skills at the same time. The 2009 Japanese Web Page Contest is open to elementary/secondary schools and Japanese language schools which teach Japanese as a second/foreign language anywhere in the world.

The 2009 Contest Galleries will be open on June 1, 2009. Visit the Contest website to find out more: www.japanesewebpagecontest.com. Entry forms will be accepted online from now until April 24, 2009.

Digital video streaming and multilingualism

Pam Tipping of the Canterbury Christ Church University is involved in a European-funded project which aims to support and help teachers use digital video production as a tool to support multilingualism. One of the first aims of the project was to find out how widely and whether video production is used today in all the partner countries. You are invited to take a look and complete a questionnaire at: <http://danska.khi.is/divis/>.

ARGuing

ARGuing is a Comenius project funded within the European Union Lifelong Learning programme for the promotion of language learning for secondary school students (ages 13-16). It is an innovative project that addresses two needs in European education in a totally new way:

1. How to bridge the widening technological gap between educators and their students.
2. How to motivate students to understand the benefits of learning languages at a level that impacts on their existing personal lives.

The project has created a special collaborative, multilingual game, called an Alternate Reality Game, that has been piloted in 3 schools across Europe, extremely successfully. Language teachers have said, 'The students responded extremely positively and have taken a renewed interest in language learning'. We are now looking for further secondary schools that would like to participate in the final piloting of the project. Every participating teacher and school will receive official certificates of participation from the project. You can read much more about the project on our website at: <http://www.arg-education.eu>.

Places are very limited for the pilot, but educators and teacher trainers can also join the game as Observers. Email Prof Thomas Connolly at Thomas@arg-education.eu and he will send you further information so you can understand how you can be involved. The project will produce a methodology, teacher guides, case studies and use case scenarios so that

educators can understand how similar games can be used in learning.
Contact details: Prof. Thomas Connolly, Coordinator ARGuing EU project, University of The West of Scotland, Thomas@arg-education.eu, <http://www.arg-education.eu>.

NORWEGIAN WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Following a request from a teacher, I am including a list of Norwegian websites of interest this month! If any of you have similar requests, please do let me know at susanna.jones@pearson.com.

The official site of Norway in the UK has a newsletter to keep up to date with the latest Norwegian events, and interesting items on culture and history: <http://www.norway.org.uk/>.

There is also a US version of this site: <http://www.norway.org/>.

The BBC Languages site gives you basic Norwegian phrases as a 'quick fix':

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

The UCL phonetics and linguistics site breaks Norwegian down for you here:

<http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/sampa/norweg.htm>. UCL also tell you more about the

language here: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/language-centre/Self-Access-Centre/norwegian/>.

A fun website to explore Norwegian culture - why not base a class around Norwegian food and cheeses?: <http://www.norwegiancheeses.co.uk/> or

<http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~norway/recipes.html>.

A promising collection of links are available for learners of Norwegian here:

http://www.apronus.com/norsk/norsk_links.htm.

It would be wrong not to include a link to Norway's Eurovision entry, also available on

YouTube: <http://www.eurovision.tv/event/artistdetail?song=24499&event=1468>.

Walk through the 'doorway to Norway' with the Norwegian Post at: <http://www.norwaypost.no/>.

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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